NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

The fifth General Meeting of the Society for 1981 will be held in the Museum Education Building, North Terrace, Adelaide at

**8.00PM MONDAY, 27 JULY, 1981**

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies.

2. Minutes of Previous General Meeting.
   Minutes of previous General Meeting, held Monday, 22 June, 1981 to be confirmed. A copy of these minutes is attached.

3. New Members.
   There were no new members elected to the Society.

4. Papers and Journals.
   Papers and Journals from other Societies and Organizations will be tabled at the meeting.

5. Business.

6. Speaker.
   MISS B. ROSS, Documentation Officer, National Parks & Wildlife Services, will give an address to the Society entitled:
   "RAM PADDOCK GATE: An Historic Adnamatana Settlement in the Flinders Ranges."

7. Supper.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION - A PERCEIVED ROLE FOR THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING.

SUMMARY - of an address to the South Australian Anthropological Society, 22nd June, 1981, by Mr. C.R. Harris, Director, Conservation Programmes, Department of Environment & Planning.

Mr. Harris began the address by pointing out that he had been Director of the new Division for a very short period of time and that his thoughts at this stage were preliminary impressions only. He saw the main value of the evening as an opportunity to meet with Society members and to exchange views on matters of mutual interest.

He then went on to outline some of his early impressions. One of the more important of these included his belief that there was a tendency in South Australia to think only of cultural heritage; he suggested that this should be replaced by a broader view that includes within its ambit the natural or bio-physical heritage. He also outlined his impression that existing divisions between Aboriginal, European and natural heritage are largely artificial, pointing out that European and Aboriginal cultures have been interacting with each other for at least 200 years and that man and the environment have been interacting in Australia for the last 30 - 40,000 years. He suggested from this that in the future we may simply talk of "heritage" and regard it as a cultural and bio-physical entity.

Mr. Harris then went on to outline some of the organisational detail of the new Department of Environment and Planning, including a resume of legislation relevant to the Heritage Conservation area. In assessing the effectiveness of work carried out on Heritage Conservation to date he argued that in spite of the short length of time, slender resources, and many teething troubles, a great deal has been achieved already. The Aboriginal Heritage Register has some 1200 entries, the European Register 350, there have been in excess of 230 applications for Heritage Agreements in the first 6 months of the scheme, and there has been much valuable liaison with developers, Government Departments and voluntary interest groups. On the debit side, however, he pointed out that our base data is inadequate, many decisions are made in isolation and the brush fire fighting situation is all too common. Mr. Harris suggested that in the future we must drastically and quickly upgrade the quantity and quality of our base data, we must protect our heritage when necessary, but in a balanced and rational way, and we must do much more to raise the level of community appreciation of heritage. In commenting on the latter, he pointed out that the current mood at State and Commonwealth Government levels is towards contraction of the Public Service, and the Environment and Planning Department will suffer more than most Departments because of its recent creation.

For the foreseeable future we will simply not have anywhere near the desirable levels of staff and funding, but in any case even if funds and staff were almost unlimited it would be quite undesirable for any Government to try to do everything that needs to be done in the heritage field. There must be community involvement: people must feel they have a personal stake in heritage conservation if they are to appreciate it. Community involvement can take many forms, but potentially one of the most useful contributions can come from relevant special interest groups such as the S.A. Anthropological Society. They represent a pool of expertise and interest strongly committed to Heritage Conservation.

Cont'd.
Some excellent examples of their co-operation with Government already exist and Mr. Harris ended his address by indicating that as Director of the Government's main arm of Heritage Conservation it would be his aim to ensure that such liaison and co-operation was stimulated and fostered whenever possible.

A selection of slides on South Australian Heritage items then followed and some interesting discussion with Society members took place on the various problems and possibilities presented by the sites shown.