NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

The 8th General Meeting of the Society for 1983 will be held in the Museum Education Building, North Terrace, Adelaide on:-

MONDAY 24TH OCTOBER 1983 AT 8.00 pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies.

2. Minutes of the previous General Meeting:
   Minutes of the previous General Meeting held Monday 26th September 1983 to be confirmed. A copy of these minutes is attached.

3. New Members:
   No new members were elected to the Society this month.

4. Papers and Journals:
   Papers received from Societies and Organisations will be tabled at this meeting.

5. Business.

6. Speaker: Betty Ross, Vice-president of this Society will address the meeting. The title of her address will be:-

   "The Duke of Edinburgh Field Expedition to Mount Serle and Nepabunna".

7. Supper will be served and a trading Table will be held.

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Hon. Secretary,
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As most members are aware the Society has applied to the 150th Jubilee Committee for the development of the Moana Sandhills as an Aboriginal Reserve.

Not a lot of progress has been made in this direction despite considerable correspondence on the subject. At present we have an application for funds to produce a field guide about Moana, under consideration. If this application is acceptable we hope to have this published next year, as a summary of work already completed.

The Society has been assisted in this project by a bequest of $2000 from the Estate of Ailene Kollosche. Her enthusiasm for this project was a great incentive and this bequest will help us put shape to the dream.

Another carbon date has been received for Moana, for charcoal collected during the Society's field trip at Easter 1981. This date is from an exposed hearth at the base of the red-brown dunes (M S). This site is about 3 metres from a hearth previously dated to around 3000 years BP. This new sample has been dated to 3010 ± 130 BP or 1060 BC (GAK 10585) confirming the age of the sites in this area. The presence of microliths, small trimmed cores and flakes is consistent with dates of this period. Crab claws and mulloway otoliths are common indicators of some of the foods consumed at this site in the past.

Progress is not always readily assessed in material form and there is a growing groundswell of interest in the site as its existence and significance becomes more widely known. School and college visits to the site are becoming a regular occurrence. A poster display relating to Moana and the south coast was exhibited at the S.C.A.P. Flower Show in September. On Sunday 9th October the Anthropological Society conducted 30 visitors over the site. Many were interested local residents and their enthusiasm to see more work towards the preservation of the area and its restoration was encouraging. Ochre Point was visited on this occasion, underlining the way in which the two areas complement each other for teaching and other purposes.

Erosion continues to be a problem despite encouraging regeneration of vegetation, now that off-road vehicle damage is minimal (some trailbikes still use the area). The erosion of the area of hearths at the northern end of the area (M 2) is especially distressing as this was covered in 1979. The hearth stones are now 10–15 cms above the surrounding sand, and shell and bone debris is scattered over the whole area. This site needs urgent attention to prevent its total destruction.

Archival work has also been going forward and I include a summary of some of the information I have accumulated about Ochre Point. Others have additional information.

In 1884 F.W. Andrews of Aldinga, wrote to the S.A. Museum announcing:

I shall have next week to send you, a block of red ochre which the natives get out of a cave they have made in the cliffs about three miles from here. They used to come once a year a long distance to get it and carry lumps of it on their heads for three or four days journey. They made themselves red all over with it when they turned a youth into a young man, circumcising him.

Sadly there is no record that the ochre was ever sent, although Andrews
visited the site two days later.

European mining occurred at the site in the latter part of the 19th century, many hundreds of tons of clay and ochre being removed before activities ceased in the 1940s. Some of the pigment was shipped to England for pigment to paint British Post Office letter boxes red. The clay overburden was used locally for pottery.

Despite this mining activity, two elderly informants have described to me 'cubby holes', seen in the early 1900s, in the cliffs where Aboriginal mining had taken place. In those days a cliff face remained at Ochre Cove and in this cliff at the southern end of the beach there was a series of 'cubby holes' excavated "all around in a semi-circle" but "up high, two thirds of the way up". (Mrs E. Best, pers. comm.).

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