NOTICE OF
57TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society for 1983 will be held in the Museum Education Building, North Terrace Adelaide at

8.00pm MONDAY, 26th November 1983

AGENDA

1. Apologies.

2. Confirmation of minutes of the Annual General Meeting held Monday 22nd November 1982. A copy of these minutes is attached.

3. Annual reports from the Secretary and Treasurer to be received. Copies of these reports are attached.

4. Resolutions or Proposals submitted in accordance with the Rules and By-Laws of the Society. Refer to Notices attached.

5. Election of Officer Bearers for Council for 1984 in accordance with the Rules and By-Laws of the Society. Refer to notices attached.

6. The Presidential Address will be given by Mrs Campbell. The title of this address will be

"Collections and Collectors of the Nineteenth Century"

7. Supper will be served after the meeting.

M.F.Nobbs
Honorary Secretary
213 Greenhill Road,
EASTWOOD SA 5063.
SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPACT OF TOURISM ON ADNAMATANA SITES IN
THE FLINDERS RANGES.

An address to the Society 24th October 1983 by Betty Ross.

At present the widely publicised and popular Aboriginal and Historic Sites, which the public is encouraged and invited to visit in the Flinders Ranges, are neither managed nor protected by any one organisation or group, including the local Aboriginal people the Adnamatana. Nor are the approaches to management, protection or interpretation always adequate, consistent or at times responsible.

One of the many factors contributing to this situation is the variety of land ownership and land titles operating throughout the ranges. Ownership and access to these sites invariably determines the management priorities and practices which are taking place today.

I recently returned to this area as Anthropologist for the 1983 Duke of Edinburgh Expedition to Sturt's Stony Desert. Having worked throughout the Flinders Ranges in different seasons and with many people living between Leigh Creek and Adelaide I was delighted to accept the invitation to organise a week of the expedition. My involvement was to facilitate the opportunity for the candidates to be introduced to Aboriginal culture; that is to 'non-white' view of the land and the skills of survival. My acceptance was conditional in that the people who had taught me about the land and its culture should be invited as hosts; and that the 'bush kids', as a result of this exchange, should have the privilege of access to such schemes and expeditions; and that avenues to self development and achievement should be reciprocal and not just restricted to 'city slickers'.

With the help of Don and Sissie Coulter and many residents of Nepabunna, we set up camp on one of the Red Gum-lined creeks, and from here collected food and visited sites on the surrounding properties. These included Mount Serle, Angepena, Mount Chambers, Balcanacona and Wilpena Pound.

While the Adnamatana today hold freehold title to Nepabunna, there are many other historical settlements in the immediate area which have a bearing on the present settlement at Nepabunna. By the turn of the century, the influx of pastoralism had seriously disrupted the economy and lifestyle of the Adnamatana. Members of the community who had no wish to leave the area gathered at Mount Serle or Attoowarra Pana, a traditional site at which the Government established a camel depot. When the place was sold as a sheephurst in 1920 the people were forced to move about 2 miles south to Ram Paddock Gate, or Minerawuta on Angepena Station. Around 1929 two missionaries from the United Aboriginal Mission arrived, fell foul of the local leaseholder, and the community was forced again to move and resettle at Nepabunna.

Mount Serle has recently been acquired by the Aboriginal Development Commission for the Adnamatana to run as a sheep station. While the actual title to the land is still being negotiated the property is run by the Attoowarra Pana Committee. Although Ram Paddock Gate and some other sites are located on privately leased Angepena Station, relations with the leaseholder are such that no access arrangements are required with regard to Aboriginal interests and places are neither discussed nor open to the public.

The sites at Mount Chambers, Sacred Canyon, Balcanacona and Wilpena Pound come under Government jurisdiction in some form or other and very much outside the control or relative influence of the Adnamatana. Mount Chambers Reserve and Sacred Canyon Historic Reserve are spectacular gorges covered with rock
engravings and are also the sites of mythological stories. Although declared under the Aboriginal and Historic Relics Preservation Act 1965, Mount Chambers and Sacred Canyon are on pastoral leasehold land and are the favourite camping spots for thousands of tourist every year. Government rubbish bins are provided and occasionally Adnamatana Rangers and others take school parties and other groups by arrangement to tell the stories and describe the sites. Vandalism of the engravings is extreme, it happens constantly and unfortunately the damage is permanent. The Adnamatana cannot effectively alter the course of events as they have no actual control over the land nor are they able to restrict access to the sites.

Wilpena Pound and Balcancoona are owned and controlled by the National Parks and Wildlife Service as part of the Flinders Ranges National Park and the Gammon Ranges National Park respectively. This land is held under freehold title and managed according to legislation which is vague with regard to Aboriginal sites. Under these circumstances there is little anyone can do to curb the activities of thousands of visitors who feel entitled to camp, souvenir, decorate, rearrange, alter for photographs and generally overlook the perishable nature and spiritual importance of the sites to Aboriginal people. While dedicated as a National Park visitors are part owners of this land and are often totally indifferent to the responsibilities which are part and parcel of any form of land ownership.

The question this raises is 'where does this leave the traditional owners, the Adnamatana?'

This address was accompanied by a number of slides illustrating the nature of disturbance to sites and various approaches to management and interpretation taking place at Munyi Engraving Site, Gammons National Park, historic graves, camps and initiation grounds at Mount Serle, Ram Paddock Gate and Nepabunna: engravings at Mount Chambers and Scared Canyon; and stone arrangements and mythological sites at Wilpena Pound and along the western slope of the ABC range, Flinders National Park.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Subscriptions for 1984 are due on 1st November 1984. When paying your subscriptions please take note of the proposed increase as mentioned in the Notices above.

From the Treasurer's it will be seen that the total cost of producing the Journal has risen to approximately $10.00 per member per year. The Council sees the Journal as the means of communicating with the membership, containing as it does records of the lectures given during the year and the other activities of the Society.

It is not possible to state at this time - two weeks before the A.G.M - the subscription rate for next year but accounts will be sent out with the March Journal in 1984.