NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

The 2nd General Meeting of the Society for 1984 will be held in the S.A. Museum Education Building, North Terrace Adelaide on:

MONDAY 30TH APRIL 1984 AT 8.00 pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies.

2. Minutes of the previous General Meeting:
   Minutes of the previous General meeting, held Monday 26th March 1984 to be confirmed. A copy of the minutes is attached.

3. New Members:
   The following new members were elected to the Society:

Dr PETER SUTTON

CATHERINE LYN MCMAHON

4. Papers and Journals:
   Papers and journals from other societies and organisations will be tabled at the meeting.

5. Business:

6. Speakers:
   The following speakers will address the meeting:

Mr BRIAN KIRK and Mrs MONA TUR will address the meeting. Both are engaged developing the Pitjantjatjara Language Teaching Course at the Aboriginal Studies and Teaching Centre at the Underdale Campus of the S.A.C.A.E.

   Brian Kirk : Aboriginal Language Teaching

   Mona Tur : Memories of the Godnadata area.

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

M. F. Nobbs
Hon. Secretary
C/o 213 Greenhill Road
EASTWOOD SA 5063.
Phone: 3327579
The meeting and parking facilities provided by the S.A. Museum will probably be unavailable in the near future. Accordingly the Council is investigating an alternative venue in the new Conservation Centre, 120 Wakefield Street, Adelaide. Details of any move will be forthcoming in the next Journal.

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Island find sheds light on Ice Age Aborigines

By PETER TERRY

PRIMITIVE artifacts dating back at least 9500 years to the last Ice Age have been discovered on an island 15km off the south coast of Western Australia. The discovery was made by a team of scientists exploring Middle Island, the largest in the Recherche group, about 120km east of Esperance. Their discovery has provided insight into the early Aboriginal tribes that inhabited Australia’s ancient coastal plain before the ice melted and created a new sea.

First news of the discovery was given yesterday by author, Mr Peter Bibby, who had been given permission by the West Australian Museum to accompany the research team. The archaeologists behind the find, Mr Charles Dorch and Ms Kate Morse, are now exploring the mainland coast opposite the island for other evidence of the forgotten tribe.

"They were ecstatic when they made the discovery," said Mr Bibby. "The trip to the island was a bit of a gamble — but it paid off."

The archaeologists have collected about 100 stone artifacts made of either chert or quartz. All of them are primitive hand tools used by huntsmen as scrapers and knives.

Impossible

Similar artifacts have been found on the mainland, but this is the first important discovery off the coast. The discovery is important because it has remained relatively undisturbed. Many other such sites on the mainland are often found mixed with signs of the first white settlers.

The initial dating of the artifacts at 9500 years is also a minimum figure. They could be much older, Mr Bibby said. The archaeologists are certain the stone tools could only have reached the site when Middle Island was part of the mainland.

"We know that some northern Aboriginal tribes of this period used rats, but it would be impossible to cross this sea with anything but a strong boat," he said.

The only way to explain the presence of the artifacts is that the Aborigines who left them walked there. When they did so, Middle Island would have been a rocky hill overlooking a swampy plain, undoubtedly filled with roaming game.

"The archaeologists also know that some of the tools were not made with local stone," Mr Bibby said. "Chert does not exist on Middle Island."

Australian

31st March 1984