NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

The 1st General Meeting of the Society for 1985 will be held in:

THE CONSERVATION CENTRE, 120 WAKEFIELD STREET, ADELAIDE

ON

MONDAY 25TH MARCH 1985 AT 8.00 PM.

AGENDA

1. Apologies:

2. Minutes of previous General Meeting:
The Minutes of the previous General Meeting, held at the Conservation Centre, Monday 22nd October 1984, to be confirmed. A copy of these minutes is attached.

3. New Members:
The following new members have joined the Society since the last general meeting:

   Dr Rupert BEST
   Mrs M. BENNETT
   Mrs D. TUNBRIDGE
   Mr Fred. TEAGUE
   Mr J. L. COONEY

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

5. Speaker:

   Mrs Virginia Kennedy will present an illustrated address:

   "A Traverse of the Gibson Desert."

   Mrs. Kennedy's son Ross served as surveyor and navigator for a crossing of the Gibson Desert by a party led by Mr Rex Ellis. Slides illustrating a NW - SE traverse - not previously attempted, will be shown. The party photographed fine examples of rock art.

6. Supper will be served.

Presidential Address given to the 58th Annual General Meeting of the Anthropological Society of South Australia Incorporated.

by Betty Ross
26/11/84

Who is managing our Heritage? An important question to raise but not an easy one to answer. Many agencies are charged under various Acts of Parliament, with the responsibility for heritage management. Not all of these authorities operate under the same policies and priority systems as under the same law enforcement acts or controls over the land and historic sites.

Tonight we will be looking at examples of heritage management in the Adelaide metropolitan as well as examples in country regions. First, let us look at what is happening a mile or two from the Conservation Centre here, along the Port Road in the town of Hindmarsh. The massive redevelopment in the area are a topic of interest to the media. In this weekend's Australian the area is titled 'Adelaide's Pughole District... the industrial and run-down inner-western suburbs of Bowden, Brompton and Ridleyton'.

The first slide illustrates the impact of one culture or historical period upon another. In the background the familiar peaks of Mount Lofty and Mount Bonython are known to the Kaurna people as the ears of the fallen giant Urubilla, whose body forms the Mount Lofty Ranges and separates the Aboriginal people of the River Murray and Lakes area from the Kaurna of the Adelaide Plains.

This slide also contains a typical row of workers cottages in Brompton. While it is the history of European colonisation that is the subject of this talk, we are discussing the same landscape that underwent massive physical changes and affected the lifestyles of the Aboriginal inhabitants.

The Bowden/Brompton/Ridleyton area has hundreds of buildings and structures representing most of the activities of the early village in 1830's, and the growing district and corporation stages of the 19th century as well as the fine examples of early 20th century architecture. These have survived intact as much through intent as through historical accident.

Legislation

In this state there is a total of 10 Acts of Parliament concerned with the preservation and protection of historic sites relating to colonisation. Two of these acts are administered by the Commonwealth Government and have little impact at a state level. These are as follows:


2. The Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975. This act deals with the 'National Estate' and powers under this act are mainly advisory. However the act can be called upon to restrain Commonwealth Ministers from making decisions that may adversely affect the 'National Estate'.

3. The Planning Act 1982 (S.A.). While historic resources are considered in any Environmental Impact Statements stemming from this act, it deals primarily with urban and regional planning in South Australia. Demolition or removal of historic material can be prevented at the discretion of local Councils.

4. The Mining Act 1971-1976 (S.A.) also makes provision for considering historic contents of any area subject to major re-landscaping.

5. The South Australian Heritage Act 1978 is intended to preserve and protect the cultural heritage of South Australia.
6. The South Australian Heritage Amendment Act 1980 provides for heritage agreements, whereby financial concessions and assistance can be given to retain or restore natural or cultural landscapes.

7. The National Trust Act 1955 is aimed at the promotion and preservation of public historic places.

8. The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 is responsible for preserving historic interests and sites on the reserves and parks.

9. The Aboriginal and Historic Relics Preservation Act 1965, although still operating, was intended to be replaced by the South Australian Heritage Act with regard to historic or non-indigenous sites.

10. The Coast Protection Act 1972 is also responsible for the built heritage along the South Australian coastline.

**How have the relevant acts affected the Corporation of Hindmarsh?**

To date only two buildings have been accredited with national historic significance; an example of Victorian civic architecture - the Post Office on Port Road built in 1883 and a domestic garbage incinerator designed by Walter Burleigh Griffin in 1935. Many other sites exist which may be more appropriate as representative of the historic developments in Hindmarsh. For example, the Governor Hindmarsh Hotel, built in 1848 when Hindmarsh was a private township. The hotel provided refreshments and accommodation for colonists travelling between Port Adelaide, Hindmarsh and Adelaide.

Between 1853 and 1874 the District of Hindmarsh (including Woodville) saw the development of the railway line between Port Adelaide and Adelaide. The Bowden Railway Station and the Gas Works were built and operating in the 1860's. The railway Station is registered under the National Trust Act and the South Australian Heritage Act.

The stone facade of the Gas Works seen in this photograph was almost demolished in May this year. Had it not been for the response of angry residents and the immediate actions taken by the Building Inspector, the whole wall would have been lost. Although the Gas Works was nominated for the Register of State Heritage Items in 1982, the full procedure was not completed, so that no protection was afforded under the Heritage Act.

With raising of Hindmarsh to Corporation status in 1874, the township experienced a boom period and one of the most notable examples of church architecture of this time is the Methodist Church in Port Road, built in 1875.

The State Government and Hindmarsh are currently rezoning the area north of the Port Road. A development plan has been prepared under the Planning Act and this has allowed for an increase in residential development and industrial development in a compatible manner. A number of departments and interested local parties have been able to contribute. The key issue in this programme is co-ordinating new buildings and structures with the historic integrity of the existing domestic, commercial and industrial architecture.

With regard to heritage management the plan takes into consideration a number of landscape developments designed to preserve and highlight the historical character of specific locations, such as Station Place, the entrance to Bowden Railway Station, Chief Street, which runs along the boundary of the Gas Works complex and the Port Road.

Many of the finer details of the Port Road buildings are apparent in the slides of cast iron verandah posts (one featuring a horse ring), glass shopfronts, roofing styles, stone building facades and small commercial enterprises like the 1890 Chemist's shop.

Most of the features of historic interest are disguised by garish advertisements and modern architecture. In all, a total of 49 buildings and structures of historic significance are located within the distance of
a kilometre along the Port Road between South Road and the parklands
surrounding the City of Adelaide.

**Summary of the impact of Heritage Acts on Hindmarsh.**

Under the Planning Act local government involvement is substantial
and subject to more direct pressure by residents and developers. Areas
of historic interest can be physically protected and modern developments
can be directed, to some extent, to harmonise with existing characteristics
of the locality. The status of buildings on either the State or Commonwealth
Registers is insufficient under the respective Heritage Acts to ensure
preservation of material for future generations.

**Historic Sites in country regions**

Although the pressures on historic sites in country regions are very
different from those experienced by inner-city developments, the impact of
hundreds of thousands of tourists can be just as destructive.

In addition to the industrial expansions in Hindmarsh in the 19th
century, pastoral development in the Flinders Ranges was having an equally
traumatic impact on the physical landscape and on the Aboriginal people
who live there.

This slide shows Hills Homestead, built of stone, pug, cement and
plaster, prior to the turn of the century in Wilpena Pound. Hills Homestead
is the most popular historic site in the Flinders Ranges National Park. It is
also the most vulnerable site on the Park. The impact of uncontrolled
tourism is evident by the sheet erosion of the soil surrounding the building,
the crumbling verandah, graffiti which has been carved, gouged and drawn on
every available wall and ceiling space, and the inept attempts to grid doors
and windows.

Wilpena Pound is a Historic Reserve, created under the Aboriginal and
Historic Relics Preservation Act. Although declared initially on the basis
of mythological importance to the Adnamatana, all historic relics in the reserve
have protection under the Act. Further, the site has been placed on the
Commonwealth Register of the National Estate and should also be afforded
consideration under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. Wilpena Pound
represents one of the first surveyed pastoral leases on the National Park.
Hills Homestead was the only example of vernacular architecture built with
a combination of materials. The Hills settlement also represents a single
attempt to cultivate wheat in a region dominated by pastoralism.

The historic buildings and associated items are subjected to acute
tourist pressures. Yet no sign has been erected at the site stating its
historic value or the fact that it is protected by legislation. Although
the intention of the National Parks and Wildlife Act is to promote public use,
this should be happening under the umbrella of long term plans which actively
preserve the cultural as well as natural resources for future generations.
The relevant legislation is not being applied in the case of Hills Homestead
nor on other historic sites of the Flinders Ranges Park such as the homestead
at Yanyanna Springs. Perhaps our efforts in conservation may be more readily
felt if they were directed towards education of the tourists.

In the Northern Territory, the Conservation Commission administers the
National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980 and the Commission is also
responsible for the management of historic sites on parks and reserves.
This slide shows the route of the Overland Telegraph from Adelaide to Darwin.
The development of the earliest communication system across the continent is
of interest to South Australians as much as to Territorians.

In Alice Springs, the Conservation Commission has restored and developed
the Telegraph Station of the Todd River as an important venue for visitors to
the Centre.
In contrast with the Hills Homestead in Wilpena Pound, the Telegraph Station, associated buildings, yards and historical items have been restored and reconstructed in a manner more appropriate to the integrity of the place than the old wire beds and fallen stones in the Flinders Ranges. This can be seen in the following slides of the Telegraph Station buildings, inside the Telegraph Office, the stable roof reconstruction, the iron grids on the doors, historic graves and stock yards.

**Summary of the Impact of Tourism in Country Regions**

In summary it is evident that the Cultural Resources of South Australia need to be given a higher priority in State Government policies and management plans. Regardless of the land titles operating over these resources, whether state or privately owned, there is insufficient regard apparent for preserving our historic sites. Further, these historical resources – i.e. the impact of societies upon the landscape – are essential to land management programmes in the country regions as well as the natural environment.

Unless heritage interests are given an improved status within our overall view of conservation, it is unlikely that there will be changes in the legislation that will approach the preservation of historic sites with consistent policies and uniform standards of management.

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**ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF S.A. INCORPORATED.**

Minutes of the 8th General Meeting held in the Conservation Centre, 120 Wakefield Street, Adelaide, on Monday 22nd October 1984 at 8.00 pm.

Mrs Val Campbell chaired the meeting and 14 members and friends were present.

1. Apologies: M. Nobbs

2. Minutes of the previous general meeting, held 24th September 1984, having been circulated prior to the meeting were taken as read and confirmed.

3. Papers and journals from other societies and organizations were tabled at the meeting.

4. Business:

5. Speaker:

   Mr Howard Groome addressed the meeting. The subject of his address was: -

   "A Night with the Kaurna".

6. Supper was served and the meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

The Secretary
c/o 213 Greenhill Road
EASTWOOD S.A. 5063