NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

The 2nd General Meeting of the Society for 1986 will be held in

THE CONSERVATION CENTRE, 120 WAKEFIELD STREET ADELAIDE

ON

MONDAY 28TH APRIL 1986 AT 8.00 PM

AGENDA

1. Apologies:

2. Minutes of the previous General Meeting:
   Minutes of the previous General Meeting, held in the Conservation Centre on Monday 25th March 1986, to be confirmed. A copy of these minutes is attached.

3. New Members:
   The following new member has been elected to the Society:--
   Mr. A.M. ROBINS

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

5. Business:

6. Speaker:
   Dr. Fay Gale, Professor of Geography at University of Adelaide will address the Society. The subject of her address will be her recent work on the impact of tourism on Kakadu National Park and Ayres Rock.

7. Supper will be served at the close of the meeting.

R. Allison
Hon. Secretary
c/o 120 Wakefield St.
ADELAIDE SA 5000
NOTES ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF SLATE SCRAPPERS

V.M. Campbell

In 1924 T.D. Campbell drew attention to a "hitherto unrecognised type of Aboriginal stone object" (1). He proceeded to describe the kidney-shaped pieces of slate that he had found at Moana. Generally 11 or 12 cm long and only 2 or 3 cm thick, these items immediately created considerable interest. The following year H. Basedow (2) suggested that they had been used in the flensing of skins. For want of any other explanation, this one was accepted and the items became known as reni-form slate scraper.

One of the scrapers' most singular characteristics was their limited distribution. At first they appeared to be restricted to the coastal areas south of Adelaide. Gradually their range has been extended, as indicated by R. Edwards' survey and discussion in 1963 (3). He sited examples found in the northern Flinders Ranges and as far west as Woomera.

In 1985 Mr Maurice Stockdale provided me with the following information, which fills out details of the distribution of the scrapers. At the time of Edwards' research for his paper Mr Stockdale had found six slate scrapers around Port Augusta. Since that time he has continued to find these implements and has now located some thirty-two scrapers within a seventeen mile radius of Port Augusta. This strengthens the evidence for the northerly distribution of slate scrapers, considerably.

All the scrapers located by Mr Stockdale have the classic reni-form shape and all of them bear some kind of marking or striation, although these are very faint in some cases. One that he showed me has quite definite wedge-shaped markings quite deeply incised on both sides.

Another interesting observation by Mr Stockdale is that he generally finds the scrapers in pairs or sets of four. Certainly Campbell's original find at Moana consisted of a pair, with a third being found on a later visit to the same area.


© V.M. Campbell
Slate Scrapers; Port Augusta.

Lightly Incised

Deeply Incised

Unmarked

Items Full Size