NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

The 3rd General Meeting of the Society for 1986 will be held in

THE CONSERVATION CENTRE, 120 WAKEFIELD STREET ADELAIDE

on

MONDAY 26th MAY 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 28th April 1986, to be confirmed. A copy of these minutes is attached.

3. New Members :
   The following new members were elected to the Society :
   Mr. Mark ELSOM
   Mr. P. ROZITIS

4. Papers and Journals :
   Papers and journals received since the last General Meeting, from other societies and organizations, will be tabled at the meeting.

5. Business :

6. Speaker :
   Mr Steven Hemming, Curator of Australian Ethnology, will address the Society. The title of his address will be :
   "Lower Murray Basketry"

7. Supper will be served.

R. Allison
Hon. Sec.
120 Wakefield St.
ADELAIDE SA 5000

1.
Minutes of the 2nd General Meeting for 1986, held at the Conservation Centre 120 Wakefield Street Adelaide, on Monday 28th April, 1986 at 8.00 pm.

1. Apologies: Philip Jones, Peter Sutton.

2. Minutes of the previous General Meeting held on Monday 25th March 1986 in the Conservation Centre, 120 Wakefield Street Adelaide at 8.00 pm., having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed.

3. New Members: The following new member was elected to the Society:—
   Mr. A.M. Robins

4. Papers and Journals received since the last General Meeting were tabled at the meeting.

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

6. The meeting closed at 9.30 pm and supper was served.

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Drought or Deluge
Man in the Cooper's Creek Region
by H.M. Tolcher

To most of us, Cooper's Creek means Burke and Wills, and little more. There is a great deal more, as we urban dwellers who are exploring the Outback in increasing numbers rightly suspect. Much of it is inspiring, funny or tragic, and writ larger than our common experience.

What are and have been the patterns of human settlement in an area so remote, unyielding, volatile, yet fragile? Helen Tolcher tells the story well. She evokes the country as the Aborigines knew it before white settlement, and notes the irony of the current population of the whole area being 'less than that of one of the Aboriginal camps which Charles Sturt saw in 1845'. The tragic outcome of white man's encounters with the Aborigines, so that now only 'rock faces cryptically engraved' and museum specimens remain, is dealt with uncompromisingly.

The sharp but sympathetic eye is cast upon the often heroic struggles of the pastoralists in what remains a merciless environment. Rabbit plagues, when 'they came in like water through a funnel'; droughts, when camels on the mail run survived on compressed feed imported from India; floods, when boats were moored to the Innamincka police station verandah posts—it is all carefully documented.

And today's brisk, hard-hatted oil drillers, as much as the slow-spoken, enduring cattlemen are still subject to the inevitable pendulum swing between drought and deluge.

Helen Tolcher is a researcher in the Archaeology Section of the South Australian Museum and a successful writer of short stories. She has travelled the Outback during the last twenty years.

(This book is obtainable from Standard Books, Rundle Mall from 15th May 1986.)

216 X 140 mm, cloth, 350 pages (approx.), 24 pages of plates, maps
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