NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

The 5th General meeting of the Society for 1986 will be held in

THE CONSERVATION CENTRE, 120 WAKEFIELD STREET, ADELAIDE

on

MONDAY, 28th JULY 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 23rd June 1986, to be confirmed.
   A copy of these minutes is attached.

3. Papers and Journals:
   Papers and journals from other societies and organisations,
   received since the last meeting will be tabled at this meeting.

4. Business :

5. Speaker :

   Mr Neale Draper - Lecturer in Aboriginal Studies,
   S.A.C.A.E. Underdale Campus, will address the Society.
   The subject of his address will be :

   " The Kartan - Mystery and Myth ".

6. Supper will be served at the end of the meeting.

R. Allison
Hon. Sec.
120 Wakefield St.
ADELAIDE  SA 5000
Notes on Some Interesting Sites on the Southern Coast of the Fleurieu Peninsula.

The southern coast of the Fleurieu Peninsula faces the full force of the southern winds and ocean; it varies from sandy beaches with high backing dunes to steep, densely vegetated hills. Much of its length is difficult to reach and not generally known. This is one of the major reasons why no intensive archaeological work has been carried out in this area. The following notes indicate that the area is one of considerable scope for the archaeologist. Sadly they also demonstrate that the forces of erosion and destruction are taking their toll along this coastline.

The following set of notes are from Aileen Kollosche, based on observations made in the early 1960's, and forwarded to the writer in 1979 when the Fleurieu Peninsula Archaeological Survey got under way.

WAITPINGA SITES

SITE I

1942 Ord. Survey - c. 502 E 986 N.

Take track from road toward Waitpinga Hill, Waitpinga Head. When scrub starts to open out, about level with the east-west coastline, wind eroded sand areas can be found to the west of the track - there used to be large quantities of wind-blasted driftwood here.

Stone artifacts found in this area - more seemed to be uncovered every year. Most interesting was a large grindstone - the two stones together in grinding position, the base c. 12" diameter - found in the early '60s. (Was not exposed the previous season.)

SITE II

From Site I move west along the top of the high sand cliffs - or very steep sand-dunes. Where sand has drifted, bones and skeletons were found, partly exposed, bleached, but in fairly solid condition. A few blowouts down to a hard surface were found, exposing a small number of small artifacts such as microliths, scrapers and flakes, and a few middens.

(1955-1965)
Site Records in the South Australian Museum indicate that sites in this area were well known to the staff. In 1937 Mr Harold Cooper recorded a few few flakes from the high sandhill east of Waitpinga Creek, and other collectors had also visited Waitpinga, but none of these early reports mention the presence of skeletal material.

The writer visited the area in 1977. There was no sign of deposit in either of the locations described close to Waitpinga Creek. However, an apparently unrecorded site was discovered to the west of that stream. The area contained three exposures of campsite debris behind modern frontal dunes. The first consisted of an area of exposed limestone some twenty metres in length, backed to the north and east by dunes eight to ten feet high. The cleared area was littered with cores and flakes, some flakes of low-grade chert, hammerstones and one flaked axe. The larger items were all made from a dark, coarse-grained rock. Some hearth-stones were noted, but no hearths. A sparse scattering of pipi and oyster shell was also noted.

The minimal working, large size, and poor quality
rock employed, coupled with the presence of a flaked axe all pointed to the site as on belonging to the "Kartan" phase. An interesting observation was the presence of quartz cores and flakes. These may belong to a later phase that had been 'dumped' with the "Kartan" or may be a genuine element of that assemblage.

In the next two hundred metres to the west, two further small outcrops of similar material were recorded: the first carried little material on a limestone platform. The second site varied from the first in that the cultural material was in a thin layer of drift sand underlain by dark, heavy soil. This site was marked by a high proportion of quartz implements, including some small scrapers. Dark split pebbles and blocks were also common. This site appeared to bear material characteristic of the "Kartan" also, but again the element of quartz implements was present. Given the ambiguity of the role of quartz implements in the "Kartan" (see Lampert, R. The Great Kartan Mystery.) this situation is a provocative one.

In the 1930's Mr Harold Cooper had collected "chopping" cores, horsehoofs and an unground axe from the one hundred and fifty feet high ridge that rises a few hundred metres from the above sites, and separates Waitpinga and Parsons Beaches. In 1977 one large core was noted from this location. Again the nature of the material suggests affinities with the "Kartan". The elevated position is also characteristic of many "Kartan" sites (eg Hallett Cove ).

Another well-known "Kartan" site is located at Fishery, just east of Cape Jarvis.

Some sites along this southern coast obviously postdate the Holocene sea-levels, and the formation of recent white dunes in the past 6,000 years. Those already described in the vicinity of Waitpinga Creek belong to this phase, and so do sites recorded at Parsons Beach. In the 1940's the Rev. H.K. Bartlett collected small flakes and 1 pirri point from sand-dunes running to the east of the little creek that flow into the sea at the eastern end of the beach. In 1977 such midden material was still visible in blowouts in this dune system.

In 1937, and again in 1944, Mr Harold Cooper managed to investigate the inaccessible Tunkillo Beach. (Access is through private property and permission is essential.) He recorded small irregular flakes and scrapers from an "eroded limestone flat 100 yarde from sandy beach" opposite the Victoria wreck. Two burials were recorded by the South Australian Museum from Tunkillo beach; one on 22.8.38 and a second on 22.2.54. The museum has no other records of visits to this area until 1961 when E. Couper-Black visited the beach. He wrote of that occasion to Aileen Kollosche (nee Pringle) as follows:
Dear Miss Fringle,

I Curt you an apology for not answering you sooner. Thank you very much for your Letter Dec. 27, 1960. Photographs and copies of notes. I have only today got back, photographs. I took on Turned-Lida Beach, the expose had been uncompleted in my camera all to white. I went there on February 1st. with my son Ken and Mr. Stobie. The wind on trouble in recognizing the place shown on sketch plans and photo. Photo II at the western side of the estuary of the creek. In remanis of the stone above and down at high tide level on still they. We noted 10 layers of charcoal. From these uniform small size of charcoal particles and being in layers intermixed with alluvial soil we did not think they were part thereof by man on a camp site. We did not see any quantity chippings among the charcoal. 

Dear. Photo I. My Photo. near of Stobie Standing. was taken at the same spot as nearly as I could judge. But not enough an excavated area. To the east the low cliff recede in a cliff of clay with reddish clay running as in your sketch. Beyond the right hand edge of the excavated part. (looking at the photo) its alluvial soil became less and less as the reddish clay rose, and there was not sufficient. area of alluvial cliff face to see anything such as you sketched as "portion of very fragile skeletons, supine Burials, one back W-E alignment". The photo
was taken late in the afternoon, but on a cloudy day.
It is quite likely that there has been more erosion of the
soft cliff face since you were there. High tide seems
to come within two to three feet of the lower cliff.

So the expedition was negative in any skeletal
remains here, and for any implements in this area.

We reached the flat on top of the lower cliffs to the East,
and the sand hills are far as they go to Tunkhead, and
found only two or three small quartz implements.

I enclose for you, my photo at Tomasalla Beach,
and two of digging out the skeleton at the Anthropological Society's
expedition in November.

I may see you at the Society's next meeting.

Yours faithfully,

Co. Cooper Black.
Tunkillo Beach Burial Site: 2.1.61. Dr Stobie is standing beside a low cliff of alluvium. The extended section shows clearly where the skeleton was excavated.

Obviously the area had received more attention than the Museum Records indicate! There are records of the location of these sites in the form of sketch maps sent to the writer by Aileen Kollosche, in 1979. (Originals of these maps were part of the Kollosche Bequest to the Anthropology Society.)

While the field work in this area has been sporadic, and its recording piecemeal, it seems evident that a good deal of data has been exposed along these lonely shores. It is also clear that much of it has blown away. Given the proximity of this shore to Kangaroo Island, and its orientation to the southern, and now drowned, hunting grounds of the "Kartan" people, the presence of "Kartan" sites along this shore is not surprising. There is a need for some detailed study of these shores for its sites may well hold the key to the nature of the "Kartan" and its relationship to subsequent cultural sequences.

© Valerie M. Campbell.
Beach

SITE 1

SAND BAR

SITE 2

1942 over Securing Rep. 3/5.5 km north of beach, 1.38°35.5' E on section

Go down C. Stop hill

Lead on to Tonkalilla, turn east

Tonkalilla Farm
Blenheim. This camp premises are a few acres of flat ground, the ground rises to form a large basin, protected from winds. Few blocks of 9 yards.
The block allowance at, 0, face to W, feet to E.

The bench, brownish, grayish brown, covered, 20 feet.

Red clay = 0, face block allowance.

Surficial, covered, brown, 8 feet.

End of cliff face.