NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

The 6th General Meeting of the Society for 1987 will be held in:

THE CONSERVATION CENTRE, 120 WAKEFIELD STREET ADELAIDE

on

MONDAY 24TH AUGUST 1987 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, 120 Wakefield Street, Adelaide on 27th July 1987, having been circulated in this journal, to be confirmed.

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

4. Business:
   Details of the October Long Weekend Excursion to the Lakes and the Coorong, to be announced.

5. Speaker:
   Dr. Roger Leubers, Archaeologist, will address the Society Society and the subject of his address will be:
   "Cultural Diversity in the Lower Murray and Coorong. An Archaeologist's Point of View."

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

R. Allison
Hon. Secretary
120 Wakefield Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000.
Discoveries may rewrite history of Aborigines

By Science Writer
BARRY HAILSTONE

New findings by Australian archaeologists will rewrite textbooks on the history of Australian Aborigines.

Recent archeological discoveries south-west of Alice Springs have revealed that Aborigines lived in central Australia during the last Ice Age — beyond 12,000 to 22,000 years ago.

The curator of Aboriginal history at the SA Museum, Mr Philip Jones, said yesterday this was much earlier than previously thought and dispelled current beliefs that Aborigines exclusively inhabited Australia's coastal regions, migrating inland only in relatively recent times.

He said archeological discoveries made by a doctoral research student at the NT Museum's annex in Alice Springs, Mr Michael Smith, had focused on the Lake Eyre basin as an important new site of Aboriginal prehistory.

The discoveries are being kept secret until Mr Smith has had his findings published in the international journal of science, *Nature*.

Details were given at a special conference organised by SA Museum staff in Marree last week for local and interstate archeologists, historians and Aboriginal representatives from Marree, Birdsville and Port Augusta.

"It was generally believed that Aborigines had not penetrated inland before about 10,000 years ago," Mr Jones said.

He said it was still accepted Aborigines colonised the continent some 40,000 years ago by moving across land bridges linking the Australian continent to Asia in Gondwanaland.

(Geologists accept that the ancient continent of Gondwanaland gradually broke up as continents drifted apart. It comprised India, Australia, Antarctica, parts of Africa and South America during the Palaeozoic, or the fossil era, and the Mesozoic era, the time of the great reptiles.)

Aborigines living in central Australia during the Ice Age would have experienced a windy, arid environment but with an abundance of fresh water from Lake Frome and Lake Eyre.

There would have been no ice, though snow may have been visible in some places.

Mr Jones said Lake Eyre's vast freshwater drainage system could have supported a large population.

In the light of the recent discoveries and the Marree conference, plans had been drawn up for a three-year study at the SA Museum involving Mr Smith and Dr Ronald Lampert of the Australian Museum in Sydney, whose work at Hawker Lagoon in the Flinders Ranges had already provided significant information about Aboriginal occupation of the arid zone.

The researchers would examine areas known to have had fresh water more than 15,000 years ago, the ancient shorelines of Lake Eyre and Lake Frome which were estimated to be older than 30,000 years, and investigate prehistoric land use and settlement.