NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

The 7th General Meeting of the Society for 1987 will be held in :-

THE CONSERVATION CENTRE, 120 WAKEFIELD STREET, ADELAIDE

on

MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 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 24th August 1987 having been circulated in this journal, to be confirmed.

3. New members :
   The following new members have joined the Society :-
   Mrs E. Caldicott
   Mr M. Williams

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

5. Business :
   Final details for the Excursion to the Lakes and Coorong will be discussed. Final details will be found in this journal.

6. Speaker :
   Dr Roger Leubbers, Archaeologist, will address the meeting and the subject of his address will be :-
   "Cultural diversity in the Lower Murray and Coorong. An Archaeologist's Point of View."

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

R. Allison
Hon. Secretary.
SUMMARY of INFORMATION, REMINISCENCES AND ANECDOTES collected during interviews with the following elderly residents of the Aldinga Scrub area:

Mrs. Blanche E. Norman of Sellicks Beach, Widow of Mr. I.S. Norman.
Mr. Garnet Norman of Aldinga. Nephew of the above.
Mr. F. Croser of Aldinga Beach. Farmer who has lived in the district approx. 60 years.
Mr. William How of Pt. Willunga. Retired fisherman who has lived in the area all his life. Grandfather was publican of the first Pt. Willunga hotel.

EUROPEAN ACTIVITY IN AND AROUND THE SCRUB:

To the south, late last century, Grandma Alice Norman lived on property leased from the Church of England (sections 639, 640, 652) approx. 83 years ago. Grow barley, vegetables, sheep, a few cattle and ran turkeys in the scrub.

Mr. & Mrs. I.S. Norman lived east of the scrub. Grow barley and ran sheep.
Mr. Norman built the straight drain which runs diagonally across section 607. Rabbit trapping.
The Treasure family lived where Kursa camp now stands. Subsequently sold to Mr. Cox who married Alice How. Melons, pear, tomatoes grown in clearings. Turkeys and fowls run in the scrub. Wattle planted near Kursa by Mr. How in 1920.

A.J. Shepherd 1853 then J. Rogers in 1875, and Mr. Culley lived east of the Scrub adjacent to Main South Road.

Mr. Maurice Cliff lived west of Main South Road near the junction with Colvilles Road. To the west on the northern side of Colvilles Road, his nephew Mr. Alf. Cliff lived. They ran stock and grew watermelons, tomatoes and other vegetables. Planted fig, peach and apricot trees in section 741. Native briars were cut and used for grafting roses. Wattle bark collected and used for tanning. Duck shooting. Bee keeping.

North of Aldinga Beach Road, James Pridham and his sons built two houses late last century. These were subsequently sold to Mr. Croser Snr., in 1920. He also built a dwelling further west and south of the Aldinga Beach Road which was later leased to Mr. Polkinghorne. It is now owned and has been restored by June Tanner.

Wakimorah family owned foreshore, now Aldinga Beach.

To the south-west, near the site of the present Silver Sands kiosk, Mr. 'Dolph Way, a fisherman lived and built a lookout in the 1930's. Mr. & Mrs. Hunter (? a sister of Mr. Way) also lived close by and theirs was the first land to be sub-divided. They grew tomatoes and ran fowls in the scrub.

VEGETATION:

There has been very little change in vegetation cover in the past 80 years, apart from clearing for sub-division. Last century the surrounding shooak country was fairly extensively cleared. The scrub area has always been much more dense than the surrounding countryside and since European settlement the dead wood has been regularly collected and sold as firewood.

Hinching and burning of red gums near Colvilles Road. Quandongs and wild apples are found in the scrub.
WATER RESOURCES:

...the whole of the northern and eastern area was subject to extensive annual flooding 6-12 feet deep at times. The eastern area eventually drained into the lagoon.

Mr. Cliffe's water-hole and the N.E. swamp were reliant on seasonal rains - there are no known springs.

Cliffe's water-hole was used by stock in winter but dried up in summer.

Mr. J.S. Norman built the diagonal drain across 607 to alleviate the problem of flooding on his land.

The lagoon used to be 10-20 feet deep but has slowly silted up with soil washed down from the progressively cleared foothills.

There is a waterhole (known locally as Aboriginals or Blackfellows waterhole) in the reserve area near the corner of Wattle St. and the Esplanade. It has permanent fresh water, dark brown in colour.

There was possibly a well in the vicinity of Mr. Ray's dwelling.

There is a freshwater spring in the reef (first reef south of the old Pt. Willunga hotel) which trickles freely at low tide.

VERTEBRATES, BIRDS, REPTILES:

Blue possums, the odd kangaroo, but rabbits and foxes in abundance.

Provision of water birds, ducks, geese, swans, waterfowl, pelicans, etc.

Brown snakes and goannas plentiful.

ABORIGINES:

Mr. Now remembers seeing aborigines at Pt. Willunga. Groups of 20-30 who camped in the dunes behind Snapper Point. They made baskets etc., from reeds and fish with spears from the reefs. They came from and returned to Coolwa.

Mrs. Norman has never seen or heard of aborigines in the scrub since she has been living there (57 years). From hearsay, they used to collect rations from Grandma Alice Norman's house. They were last seen approx. 85 years ago, a group of 9-10. She thinks they went away to the hills.

Mrs. Norman and Mr. Naple have both heard of the murder of a young aboriginal woman in the dunes behind the reef (approx. 1870-80). Buried in Aldinga cemetery.

Mr. Garnet Norman showed me the Aboriginal site near corner of Norman Rd. and Acacia Terrace where he used to trap rabbits as a boy.

Mr. Croser remembers 2 or 3 in the district approx. 50 years ago.

INCIDENTAL INFORMATION:

Mr. Culley had an ostrich farm near Pedlars Creek approx. 1914-18.

Mr. Croser kept two pet emus approx. 1940.

Abundant supply of mullooly 50 years ago, but now quite scarce.

Sand from the vicinity of Silver Sands Caravan Park was removed in very large quantities 10-15 years ago during the construction of the Myponga Dam and pipeline.

Excerpts from "Cyclopedia of S.A. 1907-9" describing Aldinga, Sollicks Hill area in the early 20th Century:

"the first stretch of country (after crossing the Onkaparinga) is over comparatively treeless uplands";

"principal industries are agriculture, dairying, vine growing and wine making";

"savage grandeur of Sollicks Hill";

"back of the sandhills is a lagoon, frequented in the season by wild duck".
from "South Australian", December 16, 1842:

"A large party of natives came up from Encounter Bay on Friday evening to Oxenbury Farm, in this district [Willunga] and offered their services to cut corn. The following morning, Mr. Hewett employed six of them to reap and bind, and we must confess, we found two of them good reapers— one, especially, would surpass some whites that profess to be able hands. There can be no doubt that, with a little instruction, these natives could be made very serviceable in gathering in the harvest".

from an article in the "Adelaide Observer", April 13, 1844.

"Surface water now becomes scarce; and, indeed, this is the great drawback to the Aldinga Plains which now lie before the traveller. In the winter almost every glen or ravine has water in it; but the little rivulets soon run to waste, and after a few warm days, they dry up".

from "South Australian Register", Wednesday, March 26, 1851:

Description of the view from the summit of Loud's Hill.

"Before us lay all the Aldinga Plains, and the whole country north and west, with the Gulf and coast to Holdfast Bay—Mount Lofty and his subordinates bounding our landward view on the right, the glitter of a lagoon below contrasting curiously with the calm shine of the Gulf waters".

OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND EXCURSION (Sat. 9 Oct.—Mon. 11 Oct.)

Schedule:

8.00 a.m. — Meet in the car park of the Burnside Council Chambers.

Sat. afternoon — Visit to the Coorong near Meningie.

Sat. night — Camp on George Trevorrow’s property or at nearby Bonney’s Reserve.

Sun. morning — Examination of the Bonney’s Reserve/ Noonameena area.

Sun. afternoon — Travel along the Coorong towards Kingston with stops at significant sites. Return to Point McLeay with time to set up camp for the evening.

Sun. night — Camp at Point McLeay, using the facilities of the old Hospital.

Mon. — Brief look at Point McLeay and travel to Pt Elliot for lunch. Continue on to Victor Harbor and along the Tjilbruke Track, stopping at several key places. End trip at Kingston park, the beginning of the Tjilbruke Track.

Cost: The cost per person will be $10

Things to bring: Those attending will be expected to provide their own camping and cooking equipment. Transport will be organised according to the number of available vehicles. A couple of spare tents will be available and cooking equipment can also be shared if needed.