NOTICE OF

61ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting for 1987 will be held in the
CONSERVATION CENTRE, 120 WAKEFIELD STREET, ADELAIDE ON

MONDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 1987 AT 8.00 PM.

AGENDA

1. Apologies:

2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting:
Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held in the
Conservation Centre, 120 Wakefield Street, Adelaide on Monday,
14th November 1986, having been circulated in this Journal, to
be confirmed.

3. Annual Reports:
Annual reports from the President, Secretary and Treasurer, will
be offered for acceptance.

4. Election of Officers for 1987:
The election of office bearers for Council for 1988, to be
carried out in accordance with the Rules and By-Laws of the Society.

5. Speaker:
Mr Steven Hemming will deliver a Presidential address.
and show the film "Ngurndjeri".

6. Supper will be served after the address.

R. Allison
Hon. Secretary
120 Wakefield Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

PLEASE NOTE THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS
FOR 1987 ARE NOW DUE.
ABORIGINES OF THE ADELAIDE AREA: EARLY RESEARCH BY THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Advertiser on August 26, 1926 published a short account of the monthly meeting of the Anthropological Society of South Australia. The topic of discussion at the meeting was the Aboriginal occupation of the Adelaide Plains. Those who took part in the discussion included many of the pioneers of South Australian (and Australian) archaeology – Norman Tindale, Charles Mountford, Thomas Campbell and others. Some interesting information concerning both Aboriginal customs and archaeological sites in the Adelaide area is contained in the Advertiser’s report of this meeting which is reprinted in full below.

Aboriginal Occupation of the Adelaide Plains

On Monday evening at the monthly meeting of the Anthropological Society, there was a good attendance. The topic for the evening was “Aboriginal occupation of the Adelaide Plains”. Dr. T. D. Campbell referred to the occurrence of chipped-back flint knives in the sandhills near Adelaide. He traced by means of a map the known distribution in South Australia and stated that they were used, according to the natives of the remote parts of South Australia north of the East-West line, as knives for ceremonial scarification. Dr. Morgan and Messrs. Mountford, Sheard, Stapleton, Hossfeld and Tindale took part in the discussion, and the following details were gathered as to the natives and their habits.

The name of the extinct Adelaide tribe is not yet definitely known; it is generally believed that “Kaurna” is the proper term, although several other names which may have had a local group significance have been placed on record. Pedler’s Creek, Christie’s Creek (near Port Noarlunga), Grange and Glenelg were important camping grounds. There are red-ochre mines near the first named locality and tribes from the lower northern districts were in the habit of visiting the place for supplies. At Sellick’s Hill there are several campsites, where flint chips, knives and pounding stones may be picked up. At Brownhill Creek there was a small camping ground where, after the settlement of Adelaide, natives met for corroborees. The natives apparently did not live permanently in the upper Mount Lofty Ranges; the floor of a small cave in the hills at the back of Glen Osmond, dug out a few years ago, revealed some charcoal hearths and the remains of emu eggshells, showing that it was used on occasions. During warm weather, the natives, as in the interior, wore little or no clothing, but as a protection against the cold they wore sewn kangaroo skin cloaks, fastened at the neck with a stick. In the preparation of these cloaks a special kidney-shaped flat slate implement was used for scraping the skin. This implement has so far only been recorded within the bounds of the Adelaide tribe.

It is certain from the entire absence of stone axes on any of the campsites within about 50 miles of Adelaide that no such implement was known amongst the Kaurna; this is confirmed by the information, gathered from several independant sources, that the native method of climbing trees was to drive wooden pegs into the tree with a hammer stone, not, as for instance the natives of Mount Gambier did, to cut footrests by means of a polished-edge diorite axe. There is some evidence that a stone fish trap was formerly in use in the shallow water at Pedler’s Creek, but the river has changed its course somewhat since then; the roughly aligned stones may
still be seen. Little is known on the use of canoes in South Australia, except on the Murray River. It is of interest to note, therefore, that Mr. Mountford's grandfather, one of the earliest colonists, recollected having seen a canoe on the Port River. There are several "canoe trees" on the banks of the Finniss, and these are the nearest definite records of such to Adelaide, but there is said to have been one near the creek at Hyde Park. It is true that in former times, much of what is now Unley was a swamp, flooded every winter, so it is possible that canoes were used there. Several pounding stones have been picked up on what was the margin of the swamp.

There are many burial grounds along the Torrens River and in the sandhills at the Grange. At the Bowden clay-pits natives buried in a crouching position have been discovered six feet below the present surface of the ground. Very few burials have been met with in the hills. Mr. Stapleton has knowledge of corpses being carried down from Gumeracha for burial at the Torrens near Adelaide. In all these burials no stone coverings were apparently used; in this they differed from the Flinders Ranges tribes, who covered their graves with stones and wood and marked them off with semi-circles of large stones, and from the Murray tribes who built a rough hut over the grave and placed on it mourning caps of pipe-clay.

The chairman spoke of the great gaps in their knowledge of the Adelaide tribe which became extinct very soon after the advent of the white man, and expressed the hope that anyone having authentic knowledge or relics of local tribes, would place them on record at once. Much of the knowledge gained in the past has passed away without being made known.

Dr. Campbell and Messrs. Hossfeld, Stapleton and Sheard exhibited stone implements from the vicinity of Adelaide in illustration of their remarks.

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ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1987.

The Society's finances are in a healthy condition. To some extent, this is a result of an increase in financial membership from 67 in 1986 to 81 in 1987. Another contributing factor is the concerted effort made by Council to make early contact with unfinancial members and subscribers. This has resulted in arrears subscriptions being received from 8 members plus a number of advance subscriptions for 1988.

The Moana and Historic Places Booklet continues to sell steadily, and to date, $2,100 of the original $2,700 publication costs have been recouped. As a result the Kollosche Bequest Account has been restored to its original level. This account also holds the balance of the Conservation Council Grant and some Society general finds, because of the slightly higher interest rate it attracts. The Kollosche Account is being retained as a separate account for any future publishing or other projects the Society may undertake.

Two sets of carbon dates, related to the Moana Project have been paid for partly from Conservation Council Grant and partly from the Society's general funds.

Ron Hewitt
Hon. Secretary.