NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

The 3rd General Meeting of the Society for 1988 will be held in:

THE CONSERVATION CENTRE, 120 WAKEFIELD STREET, ADELAIDE

ON

MONDAY 23RD MAY 1988 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 April 1988, having been circulated in this journal, to be confirmed.

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

4. Speaker:
   Mrs Jacqueline Gillen will address the Society. Mrs Gillen has been working on projects which involve the assessment of tourist impact on sensitive environments. The subject of her address will be:

   "The Impact of Tourism on the Innamincka Area."

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

R. Allison
Honorary Secretary
120 Wakefield Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000
A BRIEF HISTORY OF ARCHAEOLOGY ON THE FLEURIEU PENINSULA.

Serious archaeological investigations of the Adelaide area began in 1881, when Walter Howchin arrived in the colony. Although a geologist, Howchin had experience of British prehistoric sites and was soon studying the local stone implements. In 1893 he presented the results of this work to the Adelaide Meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, illustrating the talk with some one thousand artefacts, mainly collected from the Fulham sandhills (Howchin, 1934: iv).

Howchin was very guarded in assigning an age to aboriginal presence in South Australia but concluded that there was little evidence to suggest a Pleistocene antiquity (Howchin, 1934:85-92).

Howchin’s 1893 presentation would have increased the interest in local indigenous people which was already developing in the 1890’s. Dr. Stirling’s arrival at the South Australian Museum saw that institution actively encouraging ethnological collectors and observers for the first time, and by 1898 the Museum had an active acquisition programme.

In 1893 Samuel White found five quartzite cores, and two hammer-stones, on his family’s Reedbeds property whilst excavating for an ornamental pond. An overlying deposit, ten feet thick, was carefully described and sampled and three "clay-lined" basins noted as being associated with the implements (White, 1919: 77-79). Howchin, commenting on this find wrote:

No evidence of aboriginal remains
have been noted, hitherto, in South Australia other than in the most superficial deposits. The case before us appears to have a higher antiquity than any previously noted.... the type of artefacts and the methods of manufacture, are identical with those adopted by the latest representatives of the race (Howchin, 1919: 84).

This appears to have been the first archaeological excavation carried out in the state. Although executed in 1893 the report was not published until 1919. By this time both Stirling and Hale had excavated and reported burial sites at Swanport and the Adelaide Botanical Gardens, respectively.

In 1919 Norman Tindale joined the staff of the Museum as an entomologist, but his interest in anthropology and archaeology was soon evident. In undertaking the famous Devon Downs excavation in 1929 Tindale developed Australia's first "cultural sequences" and defined "artefacts types" (Hale and Tindale, 1930). Devon Downs yielded artefacts from the later periods of Aboriginal prehistory but Tindale was convinced that earlier material existed. His first evidence for this came from the River Murray island of Tartanga (Tindale, 1968: 635.), but he was on much surer ground once he found artefacts on Kangaroo Island, where he located massive core tools along old strand lines of lagoons. He and Maegraith postulated that these implements were of Pleistocene age (Tindale & Maegraith, 1931).

Tindale assigned White's finds at the Reedbeds to this period also. The Reedbeds cores were classic "horse hoof" and Tindale wrote:
In the 1930's I confirmed that the artefacts came from a buried land surface by sinking a line of bore holes across the area and tied the date down to the last Ice Age (Tindale, 1937: v).

In 1934 Harold Cooper took Tindale to Hallett Cove. Tindale realised that this "was the vast campsite of an ancient people and that our belief that they had lived during the Ice Age might now be established (Tindale, 1937: v).

The subsequent thirty years saw both Cooper and Tindale exploring the nature and geographic extent of this early material which Tindale named "Kartan" after the Ramindjeri name, Karta, for Kangaroo Island (Tindale, 1937). Cooper's search took him north into the Flinders Ranges where he recorded campsites bearing Kartan material (Cooper, 1943: 344-369). He also located over twenty-three such sites along the Wakefield River, south of the Flinders (Cooper, 1961: 105-118).

The 1960's saw a period of renewed activity at the Museum. Graham Pretty and Bob Edwards both joined the staff. Edward's active encouragement of public involvement in field recording and collection resulted in a number of new "amateur" collectors reporting to the museum. Aileen Kollosche, Rodney Weathersbee and Dick Kimber all became active during this decade, showing considerable interest in the archaeology of the Fleurieu Peninsula.

Thus over a period of thirty years, and due to the efforts of Tindale, Cooper and other field workers in the study area, a great deal of diverse data became available concerning the archaeology of this area.

V.M. Campbell.
A brief history of Archaeology on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

References:


