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
NOTES ON SOME ABORIGINAL CAMPSITES ON SOUTHERN YORKE PENINSULA.

by Ern Carmichael, 1974:

Little has been written of the NARRANGA or NARRUNGA tribe of Yorke Peninsula. The two-masted ketch, used for many years from 1910 by the Point Pearce Mission Station to ferry sheep to Wardang Island, was called the "Narrunna". N.B. Tindale in "Notes on the natives of the southern portion of Yorke Peninsula, S.A.". "Transactions of the Royal Society of S.A. Volume LX, 1936) uses the name Narranga.

The Southern Yorke Peninsula Pioneer, 30th November 1934 contains "Reminiscences" by L.G. Phillips of Strathalbyn. His father, George Phillips, went to Moorowie Station as a boy of 16 in 1858. Lance was born on the station and remained there and at Orrie Cowie until 1920. He said:

"My earliest remembrance of the location of the black's camp was a little north of the homestead and slightly west of the old men's kitchen. When I was a boy I attended many a blacks' corroboree there. They were usually held at night. The men would dance round a fire and imitate kangaroo hunts, fishing exploits, fights with other tribes etc. They used to daub themselves with pipeclay and red ochre. The men would chant a kind of song and the women would sit round in a circle with an oppossum rug in their laps rolled up to make a drum, which they used to beat with their hands and keep excellent time. Each song would represent some event such as the "hunt corroboree". I remember one vividly, "the rain corroboree", or in the native lingo, "the Munga corroboree". The natives had a meeting place for north and south blacks at Minlacowie, somewhere between the Baptist church and the Fingerpost, known as the "Old Chimneys" or Yonglacowie (since named Roger's Corner). Their principal burying place was in the sandhills, near Longbottom's farm. There is a reserve there called "Onegowie", meaning "fresh water in the sand".

Mr. R. Longbottom, who settled there in the very early 1900's remembers the well but says that it has been covered by drifting sandhills. He recollects two natives wheeling their mother, crippled with arthritis in a wheelbarrow to Flaherty's Corner (the junction of the Warooka and Corny Point roads) where she died.

The writer has been able to collect material from the campsite at Onegowie on Hardwicke Bay and has discovered another extensive campsite 4 miles inland, ESE of Onegowie and 3½ miles SW of Yonglacowie. It is situated on the south west side of Cudoorowie lagoon and covers an area of 50 to 60 acres on either side of the soakage outlet from the lagoon. Five abandoned wells and one still in use suggest that it was an important watering place. A natural rock formation, having having the appearance of a garden path, a quarter of a mile north of the campsite, but concealed from it by a slight ridge, suggests that this may have been a ceremonial ground. From Moorowie Station this campsite is in line with the site mentioned by L.G. Phillips as the meeting place of the southern and northern natives, but is five miles closer to the station. Yonglacowie was also a watering place and artefacts have been found there. On the north and east the land rises and there is no other water convenient for a campsite. L.G. Phillips was reminiscing more than 60 years after: the Hundred of Moorowie was first subdivided for closer settlement and neither Cudoorowie nor Yonglacowie were part of the original Moorowie station. If Cudoorowie
was a ceremonial ground it is likely that the natives would have been somewhat misleading as to its actual location.

A study of the artefacts and chips suggests that some of their trading routes, as the area is almost barren of anything but the ubiquitous kunkar. At Onegowie, in the sandhills, are numerous cores of about 1½ inch mesh, larger when the material is quartz. While at Cudoorowie it is unusual to see any cores as large as 1 inch mesh. This suggests that Onegowie rather than Cudoorowie was the general trading place. Among the material found are banded agates, cherts and variegated jaspers, similar to those found at Moonta Bay and Port Hughes, while other jaspers, red and yellow, are similar to those found at Pine Point. This applies to both sites. The lesser number of quartz cores, though larger in size at Onegowie suggests that they were not so highly regarded as trading items. Quartz was available both from the north and south.

The most numerous single artefact found at Onegowie is the bean-shaped concave scraper generally about 1 inch long. The number of Mullaway (Butterfish) ear bones found on the site and the fact that the natives used a spear with a double head, (Tindale Op. cit.) lends weight to the opinion that these scrapers were used in the making of spears.

While the agates, cherts and jaspers were the most used at Onegowie, quartz artefacts were the most numerous at Cudoorowie. As with the cores, so with the chips, they were much smaller here. Points, discoidal and irregular shapes predominate. Though some pirris have been found, of chert, the most numerous are amygdaloid quartz pirris, unfortunately most of them are broken. A few discoidal microliths have been found of banded chert and jasper, but larger articles of this rock type and half-moon types of quartz and quartzite also occur. On the campsite and also over the whole of the writer's farm are scattered hammers and larger scrapers, often of the horsehoof type. Most of these scrapers and some hammers consist of a blue-grey sandstone grading to quartzite that is common in the Permian glacial strata exposed in the cliffs of the southern coast between Port Morowie and Troubridge Hill, where the sea washes up to the cliff face and the cliff top has drifted bare. At these places scrapers of this material are quite common. This rock sometimes cleaved along the sedimentary plane, but otherwise gives a most irregular fracture and the artefacts too are most irregular. Another source of this blue-grey material, sometimes of better quality, are the shores of some of the salt lakes around Yorketown.

The source of most of the quartz is evidently further west on the south coast of the peninsula. At Point Yorke (Kadjarawi, Tindale op. cit.) where the sand has drifted from areas on the headland, is a factory site where the floor is literally covered with quartz flakes and chips. Twenty miles north east from here and ten miles south from Cudoorowie, and a mile from Sturt Bay is Rob's waterhole. In the writer's opinion, this is a native well, possibly untouched since native habitation, but certainly not altered since the early pastoral period. There is another extensive campsite here. This is possibly Tindale's Wurawi (Tindale op. cit.). Here at a site a mile west of Point Yorke and at Yonglacowie, are the only other sites where the writer found fragments of amygdaloid quartz pirris.

On the coast at Point Yorke there is an exposure of Archaen rocks extending for four miles. Similar exposures occur at Cape Spencer, along the western coast of the foot of the peninsula and at Corny Point and Point Soutar. These rocks range from granites to granitoid gneisses with basic plugs and sills, and are the main source of the quartz hammerstones made. Waterwashed stones from the glacial clay east of Port Morowie were
also used but flaked easily. The most durable hammerstones were of finer grained basic rock type. One of these measuring 3½ by 2½ by 2 inches has two striking hollows, averaging ½ inch deep on each of the four sides and both ends are flattened so that it will stand upright on either end. Point Victoria and Point Pearce cannot be ruled out as sources of hammerstones.

On the south and west coasts of the peninsula, where there is a percentage of silica in the Kunkar, this material has been used as scrapers. From a campsite in the sandhills about 10 miles north of Onegowie, A.C. Parsons has collected a number of large hoof scrapers. At Onegowie and other campsites around the south western coast, cores and flakes suggest that this material has been used for points, knives and scrapers, but the absence of secondary working in most cases tends to the view that it was not highly regarded. Inland three or four scrapers, about 2 inches long have been found at Tuckokcowie (Mankara, Tindale op. cit.), about 1½ miles from the coast. A well here, still in use, in which the mid-season water level lies about three feet from the surface, the landing platform at this level, a hard kunkar pavement, has been preserved.

Further investigations of campsites in this area could still be carried out. Most of the pale named recorded by Tindale, and the water reserves marked on the Lands Department maps should reveal much more information and material.

The following notes were collected by Mr and Mrs Visciglio, members of this Society. They are extracts from a taped conversation with John and Betsey Edwards of Coobowie, Yorke Peninsula.

"The Aborigines camp was situated at the corner of the Bluff (Salt Creek Bay, Ed.), where the rocks start. It was sheltered from the winds there no matter which way the wind blow. It was near the mouth of the salt creek.

There were two waterholes there, springs of permanent water. That was where the Aborigines got their water. Their diet was mainly fish and shellfish and kangaroos. They mainly netted the fish. The nets were made from the rushes that you can still find growing around the lagoon beyond the causeway. The rushes grew near the beach then too. They used to chew the rushes and rub them on their legs to make the nets. I never saw any baskets made though.

When the whites came in 1868, settlement was started then - the shepherds fenced the waterholes and chased the Aborigines away and wouldn't let them have any water. My grandfather came with his old horse Star and his dog and his old wagon in 1860. It took a week for him to get here. My old grandad was great friends with the chief - Old Ned White - They took away their Aboriginal names and gave them sarcastic names like that, the settlers did. They were very superstitious people, the Aborigines, if they went out at night they said, "Muldable would get you". The settlers wanted to get rid of the Aborigines so they pulled a dead horse into the camp and buried it. The people left the camp; they went to Edinburgh, they camped under the trees on the Yorketown road. Their cemetery is there, it is fenced off but you can see the mounds.

The last Aborigine lady (in the district, ed.) married a man called Tom Egglington. There are still Egglingtons at Yorketown. She was a little skinny woman and a very good shot. Her husband was a kangaroo shooter."

The following photographs were taken by Mrs Visciglio. There are several freshwater springs near high tide level in Salt Creek Bay, and fresh water bubbles out of rock holes in the limestone rocks.
The beach near Coobowie, with pelicans near the spring.

(Photographs: M. Visciglio.)

A close up of a fresh water spring on the beach at Coobowie.