NOTICE OF ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting will be held in the Museum Education Building, North Terrace, Adelaide at
8.00 P.M. ON MONDAY, 26 MARCH, 1973.

AGENDA

1. Apologies.


4. Tabling of Papers and Journals.

5. Mrs. V. Campbell will give an address entitled:
   "MIDDEN ARCHAEOLOGY IN NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES"

6. Date of next meeting:  Monday 30 April, 1973 -
   Rev. Gowan Armstrong (Maningrida Methodist Mission) "The Gunavidji People of Northern Arnhem Land".

Please Note: Special Meeting (combined Meeting of the Anthropological Society and Royal Geographical Society of South Australia) - Dr. F. Gale on Tuesday, 1 May, 1973.
This is the night following the ordinary April meeting.

R.W. Ellis
Honorary Secretary,
C/- S.A. Museum,
North Terrace,
ADELAIDE. S.A. 5000.
"THE IMPORTANCE OF SHARP TEETH - A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN BEHAVIOUR."

Dr. Every began by explaining that the title of his address was a controversial one because of the current belief that blunt teeth mark an important evolutionary feature of man.

Modern evolutionary theory had accepted this belief and developed the theory that the physical vulnerability of man had considerably influenced the development of his large brain and his capacity of speech. Man's indefensibility, it is claimed, was essential to his unique development of culture and highly organised complex societies. Such a view was coupled with the definition of man as "toolmaker".

Dr. Every drew attention to the case of the dolphin which had developed a large brain and language 20 million years ago.

Biologists and others had underestimated the efficiency of human teeth as a weapon, Dr. Every said. Animals with large canines in many respects were less efficient than man with his short canines, since man's bite could remove large sections of flesh and promote unrestricted haemorrhage. His attention had been drawn to sharpening of teeth by humans during his practice as a dentist. This phenomenon, observed in dental pathology, was called Bruxism and was considered an abnormality. In fact, said Dr. Every, sharpening of teeth, (called by him Thegosis), is an instance of phylogenetic behaviour in man.

Dr. Every explained that the term Thegosis was derived from Homer's description of a trapped boar sharpening its teeth. This description also referred to the emotional state of the animal.

With the aid of coloured slides Dr. Every discussed two case histories from dental pathology illustrating faceting of teeth. He also showed slides of large animal canines and of teeth which functioned as whet stones for the canines. The evolution of short canines in man was discussed and reference made to the advantages of this development.

Finally Dr. Every discussed man's fighting behaviour and cultural restraints placed upon it. He also played a tape recording of thegosis observed in the fighting habits of guinea pigs.

After questions Mr. Pretty moved a vote of thanks and the meeting closed.