NOTICE OF ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting will be held in the
MUSEUM EDUCATION BUILDING (Behind the main Museum Bldg.)
8.00 P.M. MONDAY, 28TH JUNE, 1971.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
3. Tabling of Papers and Journals received from other societies.
4. Announcement of new members.
5. Mr. Gordon Young, F.R.A.I.S., A.R.B.A., Senior Lecturer in Architecture and Building, Institute of Technology will address the Society on:

"AN HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY OF MT. TORRENS,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA"

This is a study of the original settlement in the 19th Century and will be illustrated with slides.

6. Antony and James Baldacchino will give a demonstration of didjeridoo playing.
7. Date of next meeting: Monday, 26th July, 1971

R.D.J. Weathersbee.
Honorary Secretary,
C/- South Australian Museum,
North Terrace,
ADELAIDE. S.A. 5000.
THE RECORDING AND MARKING OF ARTIFACTS

by Owen Broughton

People who collect artifacts should clearly and accurately mark each specimen. On each one there should be a clear indication of its locality because of its value to scientific study and research. Marking aboriginal artifacts with inadequate or incorrect information makes it most difficult for later research and in distribution studies unmarked or unlocalised specimens are useless. You may know full well where you picked up the specimen but if something happens to you or when the artifact gets into other hands it will be unlocalised.

The collectors of artifacts adopt different systems of recording. I find the most satisfactory method is to have a number of bags of varying sizes of either cloth or plastic, each bag clearly marked with a number. On plastic bags this may be done by attaching a square of sticking plaster to the outside of the bag and writing on this with waterproof Indian ink. The specimen or specimens from the one locality go into the bag together with a piece of paper giving the bag number and locality. The bag number is also entered in a notebook together with all relevant details, this must be done for all specimens immediately and whilst in the field. It is of no use putting the odd specimen in the glove box of the car thinking to enter it in the note book later, by the time it turns up when clearing out the glove box one will be very uncertain of the locality. To prevent damage to delicate specimens they should be wrapped before they are transported in the bags; I find the best material for this is thin aluminium foil which comes in rolls for cooking purposes, it is shock absorbent and will not unwrap of its own accord. On arrival home the specimens are laid out with the paper slip from the bag with each lot, the specimens are then marked with a register number and the locality using waterproof Indian ink. Some people use white or black ink directly on to the specimen but many types of rocks are absorbent so I find a better, if slower, method is to place a small patch of quick drying white enamel or plastic paint on an inconspicuous part of the specimen. When this is dry the number and locality can be written on this in a much smaller and neater manner than can be used directly on the stone, it is also much easier on the nibs.
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Stuck-on paper labels are unsatisfactory as insects are likely to chew the label and deface it. The information contained in the field notebook is then entered in the register under the appropriate number. This information should be as full as possible as one does not know who will be using it in future or what range of information they will require.

Speaking specifically of cyllons the following would be desirable to have as information and most of this would be also applicable to other types of artifacts.

Locality: The name of the station property as well as the approximate distance and direction of the find from the homestead. Example: - "Approx. 5 miles S.E. of Windale Hmstd." Homesteads are usually marked on maps but some homesteads are right on the edge of properties. This is particularly true of many properties on the Darling and other rivers where the homestead is on the bank of the river but the property extends for many miles away from the river. If specimens are plotted for the position of the homestead they would fall near the river whereas many may have been picked up miles away from it. As a further check the location of the property or homestead should be indicated, example: - '20 miles above Menindee, left bank of river.' There are many cases of more than one property of the same name and in other cases the name has been changed, the spelling is unrecognisable or that particular homestead is not marked on maps.

In some cases collectors, trying to be specific, have defeated their own purpose. Example: - '70 yards from road in sandhill on road from Broken Hill to Pooncarie'. Now no mention is made of which road or how far from either place. Pooncarie is 125 miles from Broken Hill in a straight line and more than 140 miles by several roads so that the specimen could have been found anywhere within an area of some 5,000 square miles.

The test of a locality name is whether it can be located on standard maps without confusion. Marking a specimen "near Oasis bore" is being specific but is useless as this bore does not appear on the regular maps. With the advent
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of the recently published 1:250,000 map series on a military grid system a map reference with the name and number of the map could be used, this would be accurate to within 1,000 yards. Do not use general localities. It is surprising how many clycons have been marked 'Darling River', this flows for some 7,000 miles through N.S.W. so is quite use-less as a locality as also are such broad localities as "Bourke District" or "Wilcannia District".

Collector and Date: The name of the collector and the date collected are useful, especially in the case of properties that have been sub-divided as has happened with many properties in the West Darling area.

Site: Information regarding the site should always be noted, whether it was a camp-site with other implements or an isolated find, what type of soil, the position of the implement, and in the case of a clycon whether horizontal or vertical, distal end or base uppermost. If a hoard of two or more of the one type of artifact is found a sketch should be made of their relative positions, measurements made of their distances apart and each specimen identified as having been found with the other.

If the specimen is a gift or has been bought, as much information as possible should be obtained but it should be made clear on the specimen and in the register if there is any doubt as to the authenticity of the information, no guesses should be made. There have been cases in which specimens, or in fact whole collections, have been given a specific district locality because the recorder knew of a number of similar artifacts from that particular district, this should never be done. All artifacts should be clearly recorded when collected.