MARREE MAN

and

the Case of the Missing Genitals
WHERE IS IT?

- ON THE OODNADATTA TRACK
- 68KM NORTH WEST OF MARREE
- RESTS ON A PLATEAU ON FINNISS SPRINGS STATION
- ON SOUTHERN SHORE OF KATI THANDA-LAKE EYRE SOUTH
- 7 HOURS NORTH OF ADELAIDE
The evidence suggests Marree Man was created by people with expert knowledge of Aborigines

New clues to mystery desert man

An academic says the huge carving in the South Australian desert is culturally accurate, writes Penelope DeBelle.

Anthropologists in South Australia say they are working on the cultural authenticity of the desert drawing known as the Marree Man, which may be more accurate than was first believed.

A possible source of the drawing has also been identified by an anonymous South Australian academic who discovered similar facial features to the Marree Man.

The facsimiles have been made by the Royal Society of South Australia from the early 1900s.

The figure looks to have been an ancestor of the body of a man photographed in the distinctive bowing stance depicted in the desert drawing and the head of another man wearing a headdress.

The Marree Man, gouged out of clay and set on a rock near Berri, is six kilometres outside of the town of Marree on the Oodnadatta Track, the world’s longest known art work but its authorship is unknown.

It is about four kilometres long and its scale is so vast it has to be appreciated from the air.

The creatures menacingly and accurately portrayed, the man’s facial features are chiselled to resemble the face of a man and the earth where it disintegrated by accident last July. No crime was committed and police investigations have been dropped but forensic experts remain tantalized about who did it and why.

Speaking to the Straits Times, the Marree Man, and ask a question or two, says the Suncoast McNair, proprietor of the Marree Hotel.

The Marree Man is a freak occurrence that listed in the world’s strange and fascinating.

A South Australian anthropologist says the fact that the figure on the ground is the Marree Man (left) and the upright statue of the figure (top, second from left) and the distinctive hairstyle of the man (below, far left) provide clues to who made the drawing.

Travelling from the heartland of South Australia, reprinted in the Royal Society of South Australia.

Seatbelt pioneer dies after long illness

By ANDREAS CARDE

Sir Edward Hargreaves, Australia’s first seatbelt inventor, died yesterday in his Adelaide home.

In the late 1970s, Hargreaves invented the seatbelt in Australia.

The seatbelt that is now standard equipment in motor vehicles worldwide was developed by Hargreaves.

He had been unwell for some time and died suddenly at the age of 95.

Younger generations may not be aware of the contributions of this Australian inventor, but the world is much safer for his work.

A funeral service will be held at St Stephen’s Cathedral on Saturday.
MARREE MAN GOES VIRAL

- 1998 TWO ABORIGINAL GROUPS AT LOGGERHEADS OVER NATIVE TITLE RIGHTS
- LOCAL ABORIGINAL GROUP LODGE AN OFFICIAL COMPLAINT
- THE ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS MINISTER GOES LOOKING FOR THE CULPRITS
- ONE MONTH LATER POLICE FIND NO EVIDENCE OF CRIMINAL DAMAGE
- 2003 THE MARREE MAN IS EXCLUDED FROM THE NATIONAL HERITAGE REGISTER
- 2012 NATIVE TITLE IS GRANTED TO THE ARABANA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
MARREE MAN GOES VIRAL

- 2013 SA GOVERNMENT ESTIMATE RESTORATION WOULD COST $348,000
- AUGUST 2016 MARREE MAN RESTORED BY ‘LOCALS’ FOR $6,400
- NOVEMBER 2016 WARRANTS SERVED ON ADELAIDE ADVERTISER
- WARRANTS ALSO SERVED ON TWO SA PUBLICANS
- LENGTHY INVESTIGATION BY DEWNR COULD RESULT IN FINES UP TO $100,000
- 15th JUNE 2017 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WANTS ‘MARREE MAN’ REGISTERED AS “A PLACE OF SIGNIFICANCE”
- LAST WEEK, FOLLOWING A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT – INVESTIGATION CONCLUDED AND NO CHARGES TO BE LAID
SOON AFTER DISCOVERY,.. THE GENITALS DISAPPEAR
Image of the original promotional T-Shirt, 1998

The only one known to exist.
NATURE FOUNDATION SA AND ARABANA, SURVEY MARREE MAN REGION
- 2012, NATIVE TITLE GRANTED TO THE ARABANA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

- NEW INITIATIVES TO GROW THE REGION ARE SOUGHT

- CONCEPT OF ‘MARREE MAN’ RESTORATION RAISED

- BOARD APPOINTS TWO LOCAL BUSINESSMEN TO INVESTIGATE RESTORATION OPTIONS
2012 AERIAL SURVEY SEES LITTLE OF THE MARREE MAN
02 March 2016 – mysterious file turns up. Source not revealed but the detail incredible.

Inspired with this new ‘intelligence’, the site visited to confirm accuracy.

File supplied in MGA94 Z53 in DXF format.
- FILE CLEANED UP AND ATTRIBUTED TO CAD

- FIRST SITE VISIT WITH A TRIMBLE R8 GNSS.

- THE POINT MARKED TO BE THE CENTRE OF THE GEOGLYPH TURNED OUT TO BE HIS LEFT TESTICAL
THREE IMPORTANT DECISIONS MADE:
- TREAT IT LIKE A WORK OF ART
- REMOVE THE HEAD BAND (AND TOPKNOT)
- PUT THE GENITALS BACK IN
- A base station was set up. The original outline marked with bamboo nursery stakes – pegged on the lines inside and outside with the ground ripped between them.

- The smaller lines – chest scars – were pegged down the middle with one pass going either side.

- The digitised line work had to be adjusted 10m to fit.
- ON DAY ONE.

THE APPROXIMATE COORDINATES WERE ENTERED INTO THE BASE WITH THE ROVER ATTACHED TO THE BUGGY. THE DIGITISATION WAS REMARKABLY ACCURATE – WITHIN 100MM
SETTING UP BASE CAMP ON THE PLATEAU
EVIDENCE:

- **GREEN BAMBOO NURSERY STAKES WERE USED**

- **SEVERAL OLD BITS OF FLAGGING TAPE WERE FOUND BUT NONE ON THE ACTUAL STAKES. WAS IT USED TO MAKE THE STATION SET UPS?**

- **SOME BUSH POLES OR ‘WADIS’ WERE FOUND THAT SEEMED TO INDICATE THE JOB WAS SET OUT USING A THEODOLITE AND THE BUSH POLES USED FOR FORWARD AND BACK SITES.**
SOME MARREE MAN STATISTICS:

- HEAD TO HEEL – 2.65KM
- ELBOW TO WADI – 2.46KM
- PUBIC HAIR TO PENIS – 240M
- PENIS THICKNESS – 66M
- FINER LINE WIDTHS – 10M
- CHEST SCARS – 370M
- CIRCUMFERENCE – outer and inner – 28KM
- GRADE OUTER LINE ONLY – 104KM
- DIESEL – 418LTR
- GRADER TIME – 72HRS
RESTORATION STARTS, AUGUST 2016
PIC COURTESY CHANNEL 10

- ENVIRONMENTALLY CERTIFIED GRADER OPERATOR

- WINDROWS GRADED TO CATCH SURFACE WATER. MINIMISES EROSION AND PROMOTES REVEGETATION

- NO NEW GROUND DISTURBED – RESTORATION TO ORIGINAL WORK ONLY

- 2M GAPS BETWEEN EACH PASS MAXIMISES REVEGETATION
TOES OF RIGHT FOOT
TOP OF HEAD LOOKING TOWARDS THE FEET

NB: NO HEADBAND!
MARREE MAN TAKES SHAPE AT 2,500FT
MARREE MAN – OCTOBER 2017 FROM 4,000FT
HARDEST PART OF THE RESTORATION?

- THE RESEARCH AND SET UP TO BE TRUE TO THE ORIGINAL ARTIST’S WORK

- 3 FULL DAYS TO DO THE GENITALS – A DAY TO MARK OUT, TWO DAYS WALKING WITH THE GRADER – COMPLEX AND DETAILED.
THE TOURISM AND ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE:

- SA NOW HAS A LONG TERM SUSTAINABLE PRODUCT IN THE DESERT

- AN ANSWER TO ‘NO WATER IN THE LAKE’

- $17M INJECTION INTO THE LOCAL ECONOMY

- REVENUE AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARABANA
SO WHO DID IT AND WHY?

- SUSPECT PART OF A PLAN TO ‘CLAIM’ – BRAND THE LAND?

- ABORIGINAL MOST LIKELY TO GAIN – POLITICS WITHIN ARABANA – COMPLEX

- WHY NOT AN ARABANA HUNTER? NEED TO LOOK AT THE INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- THE ARABANA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
- THE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS OF THE ‘MAGNIFICENT 7’
- THE SURVEY TEAM – KNOWLEDGE, SCIENCE AND ADVENTURE
- THE ADELAIDE ADVERTISER AND OTHER MEDIA
THE PARTING SHOT

- GENITALS PROVE THE SURVEY DATA FILE PRE-DATES MARREE MAN DISCOVERY

- THE ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMATION “LOCKED IN A SAFE NEVER TO SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY”. WHY?

- INVESTIGATION OVER BUT THE MYSTERY OF WHO DID IT ORIGINALLY CONTINUES.
THANKYOU

PHIL TURNER
APRIL 2018