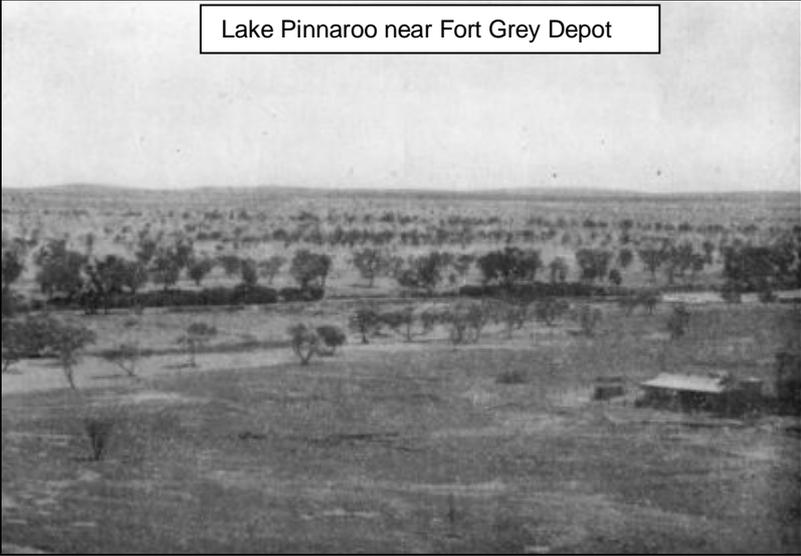


“Immediately in front of the tents there was a broad sheet of water shaded by gum-trees, and the low land between this and the sand hills was also chequered with them. The position was in every way eligible. The open grassy field or plain stood full in view, and the men could see the cattle browsing on it.”



Sturt's Tree, Lake Pinnaroo



Lake Pinnaroo near Fort Grey Depot

Sturt made three forays from Fort Grey and on the last return on 13 November with Lewis, Flood and Joseph, it was discovered that Harris Browne had pulled the remaining party back to Depot Glen due to lack of good water at the Fort. Sturt was forced to accept that without fresh water and vegetables the expedition could not continue. Fort Grey was abandoned and plans made to return to Adelaide.

An archaeological survey will be initiated at Fort Grey to explore the stockade site, The National Parks and Wildlife Service contracted an archaeologist in 2007 to carry out fieldwork to locate the previously unknown location of the Stockade. Unknown as an accurate measurement of longitude had yet to be determined. Using a 2006 geophysical survey the archaeologist discovered mid-1800s ceramic fragments and detected a distinct square outline of the dimensions of the stockade. While the Sturt National Park have developed the Lake Pinnaroo Interpretation trail to give visitors a chance to walk in the footsteps of Sturt, this archaeological survey should provide some useful information to better understand Sturt's central expedition.
