



BOAB BULLETIN

No. 109

April 2012

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS

commencing 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. at
Shenton Park Community Centre, corner Onslow and Herbert Roads

Wednesday, 4 April 2012

Betty Foster (MMA Air Hostess, 1961-1963)

“A Bird’s Eye View of WA in Colour – 50 years Past”

Wednesday, 2 May 2012

Rachel Siewart (Australian Greens Senator)

**“Beyond Boom or Gloom: The Greens on the future of
James Price Point”**

Wednesday, 6 June 2012

Clay Bryce (WA Museum)

“Zoological research”

Wednesday, 4 July 2012

Sandy Toussaint and others

“*Kimberley Stories* (a new book)”

Wednesday, 1 August 2012

Russell & Matt Barrett (Kings Park)

“Working with Kimberley flora”

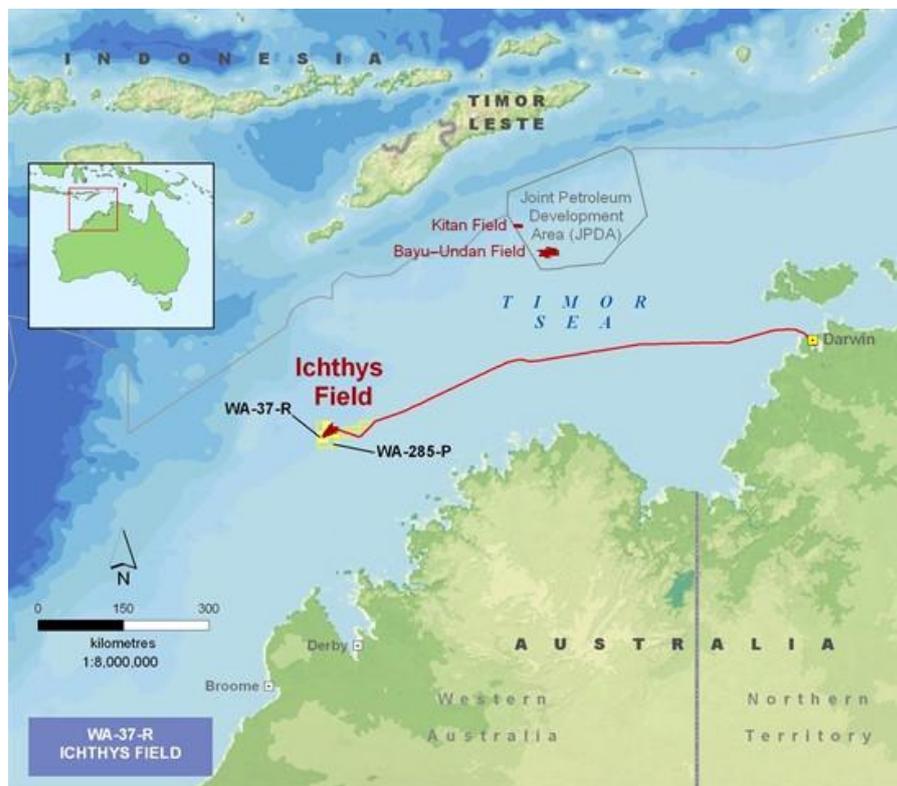
Please note that, with many of our speakers involved in work-related travel, this program may change at short notice. Should a speaker not be available, we try to find a substitute with a similar subject.

Members and visitors are invited to stay for supper after the meetings.
The Society asks a \$2.00 hospitality fee from non-members.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

There have been some recent significant events concerning the development of the major gas fields off the Kimberley coast. Inpex, the majority owner of the Ichthys Field, announced in January that the Final Investment Decision had been taken with regard to developing the field and that construction work had commenced.

The world class potential of the Ichthys Field was demonstrated during 2000 and current resource estimates are 12.8 trillion cubic metres of gas and 527 million barrels of high value condensate. After removal of water and liquids the gas will be pumped through an 885 km long pipeline to a processing facility near Darwin in the Northern Territory.



Ichthys Field and pipeline route. Courtesy of Inpex (www.inpex.com.au)

The field will have an initial capacity of 8.4 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas, 1.6 million tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas and 100 000 barrels of condensate per day at peak. It is the largest resource project ever to be developed in the Northern Territory, will bring significant financial benefits to the community, and will have a production life of at least 40 years. The original concept for the project was to utilise the Maret Islands, located just off the Kimberley coast close to Bigge Island, for the processing facility but delays in obtaining the necessary approvals resulted in the revised plan to locate the processing facility in the Northern Territory.

Work on Woodside's Browse project continues (www.woodside.com.au) and there has been recent speculation that Woodside may be looking to divest part of its equity in the project. However in an announcement to the ASX on 27 January the company indicated that no decision had been taken to reduce its equity in the project at this time. It acknowledged that it is 'conducting a limited process' to assess the possible sale of a minor portion of the company's interest in the project. The Browse project has resources of 14 trillion cubic feet of gas and 370 million barrels of condensate. The gas is planned to be pumped through a 400 km pipeline to the proposed processing facility at James Price Point 60 km north of Broome. There continues to be significant opposition to this development at James Price Point.

The scale of these offshore gas projects, the magnitude of the investment required and the technology utilised in tapping these vast resources never ceases to amaze. The Ichthys and Browse projects will be followed with great interest.

Jeffrey J Gresham

TOAD-ALLY AWESOME! BUSTING KIMBERLEY STYLE

On 7 March 2012, Lee Scott-Virtue informed and entertained the Kimberley Society with a PowerPoint presentation on the work done by the Kimberley Toad Busters. Lee was born in Derby, is a qualified archaeologist and historian, and has spent 29 years recording rock art sites throughout the Kimberley. She is the founder of Kimberley Specialists in Research, a non-profit organisation set up in 1991. This organisation has sponsored 60 independent research projects in the Kimberley, facilitated and run several Environmental Educational Forums and Exhibitions, and in 2005 set up the now highly successful volunteer non-profit organisation Kimberley Toad Busters.

Lee and her husband Dean Goodgame have continued to support and run rock art research, various environmental issues and the cane toad campaign on a full-time voluntary basis. Lee has also been the personal recipient of several major state, national and international awards for her rock art research and environmental volunteer work. Along with that, the Kimberley Toad Busters volunteer organisation is now the winner of 15 major awards, the most recent being (for the second year running) the United Nations 2011 Community Group award for their work in biodiversity education and Indigenous youth.

Lee's presentation provided a brief introduction to the cane toad and showed how to identify one and what to do when you find it. Examples of a male and female toad were on display. The presentation also dealt with the following points: Who are the Kimberley Toad Busters? What is Kimberley Toad Busting about? What do Kimberley Toad Busters actually do? Are community toad busting efforts working? Can we measure the impact the toads are having? What areas of the Kimberley have toads invaded? And what areas of the Kimberley will be invaded by the end of 2012 and in the next decade? The politics of toad busting and the future of toad busting and community efforts!

Details of the Kimberley Toad Busters.

Kimberley Toad Busters is a non-profit tax deductible organisation founded in 2005 with a membership base of around seven and a half thousand volunteers. KTB key objectives are to:

- Keep cane toad population numbers down by removing as many adults from as many eco systems as possible and by destroying any new breeding located.
- Monitor & map progress of cane toads as they move through the Kimberley.
- Sponsor scientific & other research projects that are focussed on finding a solution to stopping the cane toad.
- Energise and engage Indigenous and non-Indigenous community across the Kimberley to undertake biodiversity recording and monitoring before and after toads arrive.
- Record appropriate toad data in order to understand toad behaviour and impact on native biodiversity across the Kimberley.
- Provide cane toad educational programs to schools and community groups throughout WA through visits, distributing educational material, media and regular Newsletters.

KTB are a very proactive environmental group and have successfully:

- Won 15 major state national and international awards.
- Facilitated two environmental educational conferences.

- Launched the community “What’s in your Backyard?” recording and monitoring program into schools and communities across the Kimberley.
- Engaged the Kimberley Indigenous community in toad busting.
- Sponsored and facilitated 13 cane toad research projects.
- Removed over 2.4 million adult toads or 600,000 kilos of biomass from the environment.
- Controlled population numbers of cane toads invading the Kimberley.
- Mitigated the impact of cane toads on native biodiversity.
- Mapped the cane toads’ progress and prepared the community ahead of the front.

While the topic was serious, Lee’s delivery contained some humour and her sense of the ridiculous shone through. For more information, go to www.canetoads.com.au where you will find lots of great photos as well reports, newsletters, statistics and a sound clip of the cane toad call.

BOOK NOTE

***Kimberley Rock Art – Volume One: Mitchell Plateau Area* by Mike Donaldson.** Wildrocks Publications, Mount Lawley (WA), 2012. Case-bound, section-sewn, 27 x 27 cm, profusely illustrated (over 600 images, most in colour), ISBN 978-0-9805890-2-3, RRP \$175 (early-bird Kimberley Society member’s price \$125 + \$20 postage).

Society member and former President Mike Donaldson has produced the first of his planned three volumes that cover the prolific and wonderful rock art of the vast Kimberley region. *Volume One* focuses on the Mitchell Plateau area, particularly the art found along the Mitchell and Lawley Rivers in Wunambal Gaambera Country. Lavishly illustrated, this 528-page large-format book is a major advance in the documentation of the national treasure that is the rock art of the Kimberley. This volume has some preliminary words by Wunambal Gaambera chairperson Cathie Goonack and cultural adviser Sylvester Mangolamara and a foreword by Dr Ian Crawford, well known for his work in documenting the Wanjina art of the northern Kimberley. An introduction details early descriptions of the different art forms and there are brief summaries of geology, archaeology and the importance of past sea level changes in the region. However, the bulk of the volume is a wonderful selection of photographs with brief descriptions of the various art sites that Mike and his fellow walkers have documented over more than 20 years. Images of the landscape and the nature of the environment that the art occurs in add an important dimension in placing the art in the context of the rugged Kimberley landscape. A significant aspect and important contribution of the book is that it records and places in context the different art forms that occur in the region rather than focussing on one specific form. This volume is a major contribution to the documentation of Kimberley rock art and all the images in the volume have been approved for publication by the Wunambal Gaambera traditional owners. We await volumes 2 & 3 with great anticipation and interest.

Appropriately for this important Australian heritage, the book is fully designed and printed in Australia. At the recommended retail price of \$175 the book represents exceptional value. At the discounted early-bird Kimberley Society member’s price of \$125 (plus \$20 postage) it is a bargain.

Jeff Gresham

GOING TO THE KIMBERLEY?

In June, a responsible 33-year-old female ecologist is planning to go on her first Kimberley trip. She is passionate about flora and nature photography and would like to share the trip, and expenses, with one or more people who know the area or would simply like to see more of it.

No specific date has been set for the start, but the trip needs to end before 6 July; ideally in June. Where specific places to be visited are concerned, the ecologist is open to whatever other people plan to do in the way of an itinerary.

If you have a trip planned and can fit in another person, or if you would like to discuss the possibility of planning a shared trip, please contact the newsletter editor (details on the back page) so that you can be put in touch with the ecologist.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM FOR LATE 2012

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
5 Sep	Tom Carlson (Retired OIC Fitzroy Crossing Police)	Police work, 1967-1972
3 Oct	Mark Moore (University of New England, NSW)	Stone tool manufacture
7 Nov	Jay Anderson (Cavers Leeuwin Incorporated)	Kimberley caves and karsts
5 Dec	Kevin Gomm (Helvetica Publishing)	Japanese Air Raids in WWII

CHAIR IN ROCK ART AT UWA

In February 2012, The University of Western Australia announced that the Kimberley Foundation Ian Potter Chair in Rock Art will be set up following a gift of \$1,500,000 from the Kimberley Foundation Australia (KFA). A total of \$4,000,000 will be required to fund the chair on an on-going basis. To reach that goal, the KFA will endeavour to raise a further \$500,000 through philanthropy, and the university will provide matching funding of up to \$2,000,000. Also in the mix is a State Government contribution of \$300,000 pledged by WA Premier Colin Barnett in late 2010 for the study of Kimberley rock art. In all, two and a half years of discussion preceded the celebration of the establishment of the chair. Jim Ross, Director of the KFA, was credited with having worked with UWA Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), Alistar Robertson, to bring the project together. KFA Chairman Maria Myers travelled to Perth for the ceremony. She spoke of her love of the Kimberley and said:

Researching the Kimberley to increase our knowledge of the earliest Australian people, their art and cultures and their relationship with a changing environment is critical to understanding the rock art and its national and international significance.

The aim is to support long term research into the nature and context of Kimberley rock art and thus advance the understanding of the Indigenous cultural heritage of the region. Researchers will work in partnership with traditional custodians, studying and recording rock art, and, at the same time, will educate students and the broader community (world-wide) about its value.

The Centre for Rock Art, which is situated within the discipline of Archaeology, will soon be advertising the position of the Kimberley Foundation Ian Potter Chair in Rock Art.

REST IN PEACE

On 2 November 2011, **Dick Larsen** passed away, aged 90. He left his wife Rema, children Allan, Lynette and Kim, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren. An obituary by Allan Larsen, published in *The West Australian* on 8 February 2012, page 41, mentioned that many were unaware that Dick's name was actually Basil Henry Larsen. His career combined military service with policing, and the latter saw him posted to places that included Wyndham. His military service included joining the 25th Light Horse Regiment Militia after enlisting at 18 and later serving with No. 2 Airfield Construction Squadron RAAF.

Our February newsletter carried a brief obituary for **Father Kevin McKelson SAC OAM** who died in Victoria, aged 85, on 28 November 2011. Since then, various other obituaries have been published and one of our members has asked if we could offer more information about this popular priest.

On 15 February 2012, page 42 of *The West Australian* noted key aspects of his life in an obituary written by Torrance Mendez and Sue Hanson. Ms Hanson, a linguist, helped Fr McKelson to write a book about the Nyangumarta tongue spoken in the Western Desert. That book, *Nganarna nyangumarta karajarrimili ngurranga: We Nyangumarta in the country of the Karajarri* is subtitled *excerpts from field notes in Northern Nyangumarta as told to and translated by Father McKelson and assisted by Tommy Dodd, 1968-1969*. Launched in 2008, it was based on Fr McKelson's 'meticulous journal of conversations' that he and Tommy Dodd—a Karajarri man—had at La Grange Mission in the mid-1960s. Those conversations were only a few of many held in and about Aboriginal languages. In 30 years at La Grange (from 1961) Fr McKelson oversaw about 350 Aboriginal people who belonged to five tribal groups. Each group had its own language, and he became fluent in all five. For another ten years, after becoming resident priest at Notre Dame University in Broome, he strived to preserve their culture through documentation. Some insight into his output can be gained through a catalogue search at the State Library of Western Australia. As well as lessons in Nyangumarta, there are others in Karajarri, Mangala and Yulparija, and studies in Garadyari. The library also holds an oral history interview recorded with Fr McKelson in 1992 and a copy of some of his papers.

A tribute in the March edition of the *Pallottine Family (UAC) Newsletter* (available at www.pallottine.org.au/index_2.htm) drew on information from Fr McKelson's nieces and nephews to tell a little more of his life. It mentions that, in 2003, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Notre Dame for service to Aboriginal language and culture. Also, that St. Brendan's, Flemington, was not just the setting for the celebration of his requiem Mass, but was where his parents—Ollie and Mary—were married. The account of the Mass read in part:

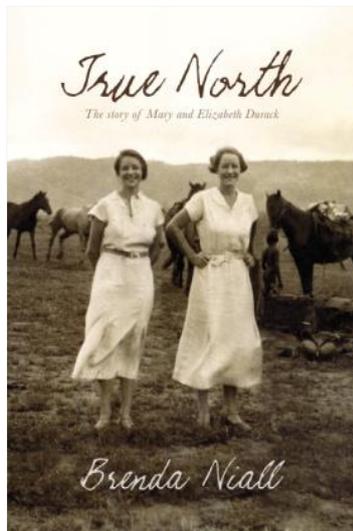
Among the 13 concelebrants, Fr. Eugene San SAC was the main celebrant and Fr. Matt Digges, Parish priest of Broome, the homilist. Fr. Matt spoke about Kevin's arrival in Broome to assist the legendary Fr. Ernst Worms—Pallottine missionary anthropologist—who taught him to 'tread gently on the Kimberley earth because it belonged to another people, many of whom had had their spirit broken'. Kevin listened and was able to learn, live and teach the art of reconciliation. In Broome, he implemented the tried and true pastoral strategies of his youth, building a faith community with social activities and sport.

Among people who had travelled from Western Australia were Madeleine, Rosie and Sr. Johanna Klept from Bidyadanga (La Grange).

After the Mass, the celebration continued at St. Bernard's College Pavilion in Essendon, where Fr McKelson had been inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2010.

BOOK NOTE

***True North: The story of Mary and Elizabeth Durack* by Brenda Niall.** Text Publishing, Melbourne, 2012. Paperback, 291 pages plus ix, illustrated (some colour). ISBN 9781921758928 (or 9781921921421 for Ebook). Recommended retail price \$32.95.



This book is written by a prominent Melbourne-based biographer who was awarded an Order of Australia for ‘services to Australian literature as an academic, biographer and literary critic’ in 2004. Her preface acknowledges the unstintingly generous cooperation of Patsy Millett (Mary Durack’s daughter) and Perpetua Durack Clancy (Elizabeth Durack’s daughter). It also comments on the remarkable archive of Durack papers held by the Batty Library in Perth where the author and her sister, Frances O’Neill, shared the lengthy task of reading just some of those papers. The ‘stimulating exchange of ideas that followed’ can be imagined quite readily given that a key piece of the archive consists of a full set of intimate letters exchanged by Mary and Elizabeth during World War Two.

It was barely five years after the war’s end that their father, Michael Patrick Durack, died. He left behind not just a devastated family but also a priceless trove of personal diaries, letters and company documents. That material would give rise to a number of books about the Duracks—books written by Mary and by others—and would inform numerous articles, documentaries and theses.

The first chapter of the book, as might be expected, positions Mary and Elizabeth within their family. Born in 1913 and 1915 respectively – Mary in Adelaide and Elizabeth in Claremont (WA) – they had four brothers. Reginald Wyndham (Reg) was born in 1911, Kimberley Michael (Kim) in 1917, William Aiden (Bill) in 1918, and David in 1920. Their sweet-natured mother Bess, despite coming from an Anglican family, accepted that her children would be brought up in their father’s Catholic faith, and that he would often be away from home. Their childhood was privileged and their talents were nurtured.

Brenda Niall traces the development of Mary and Elizabeth’s careers, as writer and artist respectively, weaving those stories into their interaction with their parents and siblings, their marriages, motherhood, and their place in the broader community. Another very strong thread is the sisters’ bond with the Kimberley and its Aboriginal people. The result provides an overview of their lives and their creative output; an overview that will appeal both to the reader interested in them as people and to the researcher interested in the bigger picture. The sisters come through as feisty, independent women who found ways around obstacles that would have stilled or stifled lesser beings.

A bonus in the book is the comprehensive index, which thoughtfully identifies the various Duracks in terms of their relationship to one another. But perhaps the nicest part is the carefully chosen selection of photographs that will allow those readers who did not have the privilege of knowing Mary and/or Elizabeth to gain a better sense of who they really were.

Cathie Clement

KIMBERLEY SOCIETY

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 19TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Shenton Park Community Centre on Wednesday 7th March 2012

Opening:

The meeting, attended by 40 members and 11 visitors, was opened by the President, Jeff Gresham, at 7.45 pm.

Apologies:

Jack Vercoe, Hamish & Rosemary McGlashan, Margaret Brown, Kim Rose, Elizabeth Calder, Perpetua Durack-Clancy, John & Loma Toohey, Jim & Norma Anderson

Minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting:

The minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting, held on Wednesday 2nd March 2011 were confirmed as circulated (in the *Boab Bulletin*) and the President was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

Moved: Mike Donaldson

Seconded: Jeff Murray

APPROVED

Matters Arising:

Nil

President's Report:

I am pleased to present my report as President of the Kimberley Society for the 2011-2012 year. It has again been an active year for the Society with much effort devoted to the editing and compiling of the Proceedings Volume from the History Seminar held by the Society in 2010. This task has taken longer than anticipated but I can assure you that the quality of the final product will certainly justify the time taken in finalising the document for publication. The initial design work has been completed and the book will be 240 pages and extremely well illustrated. It will be an important addition to the documentation of the early history of the Kimberley and will soon be available to Society members at a discounted price.

Our monthly meetings continued to be well attended and I would like to thank Jeff Murray for his sterling effort in organising speakers and the program for the year and also those people who assisted in the running of the meetings. The 2011 year culminated with a fascinating presentation by WA's Chief Scientist, Lyn Beazley on "The Amazing Kimberley – A Science Perspective". I would like to thank Lyn and all our 2011 presenters for a series of excellent talks.

The Society's sound financial position is clearly outlined in the Treasurer's report and the Society was pleased to be able to further support publications on the Kimberley by donating \$2000 to the Western Australian Naturalists Club to assist in the publication of their excellent volume about the 1990 expedition to Camden Harbour led by Society member Kevin Coate. Although our financial position is sound the costs of conducting the Society's business continue to increase. An analysis of our operating costs over the past 3 years indicates that membership subscriptions do not cover the basic operating costs of the Society. Meeting these costs has been achieved through the interest we receive for our cash deposits. A substantial portion of these cash reserves will shortly be used in the design and printing of the Proceedings Volume. Consequently Council has determined that a small increase, the first in the 19 years of the Society's existence, will be necessary for 2013. The cost for all membership categories will be increased by \$5.

Another plan for 2013 is for members to be given the option of receiving their copy of the *Boab Bulletin* by email in PDF format. This option will be available to be selected at the time of membership renewal. This will reduce costs, allow for the inclusion of colour images, hasten delivery and is of course more environmentally friendly. You would have noticed we included the EFT option for payment of membership fees in 2012 so we are progressively moving into the digital age.

The election of office bearers for 2012/13 will see a number of changes to the Council membership. Cathie Clement and Kevin Kenneally have chosen to stand down from Council. Cathie has been a Council member since the Society was formed and of course she was inaugural President and is our only Honorary Life Member, being appointed as such in March 2004. Cathie has made a major contribution to the Society over the years and I am sure you will join me in thanking her for her efforts. The good news is that Cathie will continue to compile the *Boab Bulletin* and also be on the desk at our monthly meetings. Kevin has also been a Council member since the founding of the Society, was our second President, co-editor of our two rock art books and is on the editorial subcommittee for the History Seminar Proceedings Volume. We will welcome a number of new members to Council and I look forward to working with the Council to ensure a successful and informative year ahead.

Jeffrey J Gresham

Treasurer's Report:

Our finances remain in a very healthy condition mainly due to Rock Art Book sales and bank interest from the funds accumulated from that source. Otherwise we have begun to live beyond our means as pointed out by our President.

Our total assets amount to some \$53,000 comprised of \$44,000 in our bank accounts, \$2,800 in outstanding payment for Rock Art books, \$4,000 in Rock Art Book stock at cost, (valued at around \$10,000 at selling price), and equipment valued at about \$2,500.

Our liabilities amount to about \$3,000 including about \$2,500 in advanced subscriptions to be transferred to 2012 accounts.

So our net assets amount to \$50,000.

Subscriptions bring in some \$5,000 per year at present. The Newsletter, our major recurrent expense, is costing some \$4,000 per year. Administration, insurance, hall hire, speaker and supper costs (offset by raffle profits) cost about \$3,000 per year.

We recently terminated our term deposit of \$30,000 to have the funds available to print the proceedings of the Kimberley History Seminar. This deposit was bringing in \$2,000 per year in interest. This has kept us afloat without drawing on the proceeds of the sale of Rock Art Books, kept for special projects.

So as detailed by our President we propose to increase subscriptions, which will yield about \$1,000 per year and we need to reduce expenditure. Online payment of subscriptions and electronic receipt of the *Boab Bulletin* will help as mentioned by our President.

As for special projects, during the year we donated \$2,000 to the WA Naturalists' Club to help publish the Camden Harbour Expedition and \$5,000 to help the publication of a Kimberley anthology.

Gilbert Marsh

Moved: Elizabeth Gresham Seconded: Cathie Clement

APPROVED

Election of Office Bearers:

The President advised that the following nominations for Office Bearers had been received:

President:	Jeff Gresham
Vice Presidents:	Jack Vercoe & Jeff Murray
Treasurer:	Gilbert Marsh
Secretary:	Susan Clarkson
Membership Secretary:	Mike Donaldson
Councillors:	Ken Ahmat, Michael Cusack, Hamish McGlashan, Audrey Bolger, Dorothy Perret, Roger Passmore, Frank Woodmore

There being no other nominations all nominations were endorsed.

Moved: Roger Passmore Seconded: Cathie Clement APPROVED

Other Business:

Nil

Closure:

There being no other business the President closed the meeting at 8.00 pm

Signed as a true record.

This day of 2013

Jeffrey Gresham - President



Please don't forget this is your newsletter.

Kimberley news, articles, and items of interest are all most welcome.

COUNCIL 2012-2013

President: Jeffrey Gresham
Vice-Presidents: Jack Vercoe and Jeff Murray
Secretary: Susan Clarkson
Membership Secretary: Mike Donaldson
Treasurer: Gilbert Marsh
Councillors: Ken Ahmat, Audrey Bolger, Michael Cusack, Hamish McGlashan, Roger Passmore, Dorothy Perret and Frank Woodmore.

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