



BOAB BULLETIN

No. 111

August 2012

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS

commencing 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. at

Shenton Park Community Centre, corner Onslow and Herbert Roads

Wednesday, 1 August 2012

Russell Barrett (Kings Park & Botanic Garden)

“World-class wilderness – exploring the unknown plant diversity of the Kimberley region”

Wednesday, 5 September 2012

Tom Carlson (Retired OIC Fitzroy Crossing Police)

“Police work, 1967-1972”

Wednesday, 3 October 2012

Mark Moore (University of New England, NSW)

“Stone tool manufacture”

Wednesday, 7 November 2012

Jay Anderson (Cavers Leeuwin Incorporated)

“Kimberley caves and karsts”

Wednesday, 5 December 2012

Kevin Gomm (Helvetica Publishing)

“Japanese Air Raids in WWII”

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

I am writing this much earlier than I normally would because at the time of the deadline for this *Boab Bulletin* I will be travelling back from the Kimberley. This year we have opted to drive rather than fly which will allow us the opportunity to visit the Karlamilyi National Park (formerly Rudall River) in the Pilbara on the way to our objective, the Drysdale River National Park. This large, remote park is located on the Drysdale River south of Kalumburu and is very difficult to access. Currently the only way to access the park by vehicle is through the Carson River Station. This is owned by the Kalumburu Aboriginal Corporation and permits are required. The Department of Conservation (Kununurra office) should also be advised of intended visits. The track from the Kalumburu Road through Carson River Station only takes you to the northern park boundary-there are no tracks within the park. We plan to spend several days walking in the park including getting to the Solea Falls, a significant waterfall on the Drysdale River. It will be a truly remote, wilderness experience. Getting access to the Drysdale River National Park will always pose logistical challenges given its remoteness but it is hoped that the proposed corridors that will link this park with the Mitchell River and Prince Regent National Parks to the west will offer other access opportunities. The parks are separated by privately held pastoral leases and access is currently limited and restricted.

The launch of the Society's new book, *Kimberley History: People, Exploration and Development* was successfully achieved at our June meeting. In launching it, the Hon. Tom Stephens MLA was generous in his praise of the quality of the book and all the contributors. The book will be available for purchase at Society meetings.

Jeffrey J Gresham

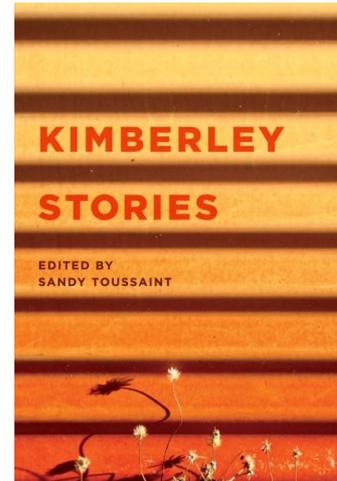
John Bradshaw, who generously provided some of the images used by Kevin Kenneally and Michael Cusack in their contributions to *Kimberley History*, wrote: "Congratulations to all those involved in putting together a thoroughly researched and beautifully presented volume; a most valuable and timely addition to our understanding of this unique part of the continent".



Jeff Gresham makes his introductory comments before Tom Stephens launches *Kimberley History*.
Photo by Jeff Murray.

KIMBERLEY STORIES

On 4 July 2012, Sandy Toussaint, the editor of *Kimberley Stories*, joined other contributors to tell the Kimberley Society about their book. Sandy commenced the evening's discussion by thanking Kimberley Society members for their contribution to its publication. She thanked, in particular, Cathie Clement for her support, and several others present who were not KS members, such as Lynley Tucker and Deborah Denton, and Georgia Richter from Fremantle Press. Sandy explained that the idea for the book evolved on an occasion when she was driving to Broome from Fitzroy Crossing (an area she has worked in for three decades as an anthropologist) about three years ago. She was



keen to develop a book that encouraged writing by new and established Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal authors who could tell stories about the Kimberley in a variety of ways, such as via short stories, poetry, prose, and so on. With the Kimberley as a unifying theme, Sandy was keen to emphasize that the book should resonate with readers who were from or had lived in the Kimberley. It would also be of interest to people who aspired to visit the Kimberley, as well as to readers who simply liked to read good stories that were well told. Sandy also expressed the view that she hoped the book would stimulate interest in how people write or remember a place such as the Kimberley when they were some distance from it. She selected a few works to explain the variety of book content, such as Marminjiya Joy Nuggett's 'Good Luck' story about fishing for barramundi at the Fitzroy River, Pat Lowe's Seagull story about the fragility of Kimberley wildlife, Luisa Mitchell's account of being a 13 year old growing up in Broome, and Kate Auty's opening piece about arriving in, departing from, and never quite leaving, the Kimberley.

Sandy then introduced eight of the twenty-six *Kimberley Stories* contributors who joined her for the presentation: Peter Bibby, Andrew Burke, Cathie Clement, Richard Davis, Kelvin Garlett, Murray Jennings, Donna Bing-Ying Mak, and Bonita Mason. Each person spoke about contributing to the book and/or their Kimberley connection. Several read from their own work. Peter Bibby, for instance, spoke about how he had submitted several works for inclusion in *Kimberley Stories* but that it was a play extract titled *From Escapadia* that Sandy liked most, in part because it had not been published elsewhere (a criteria for publication in the book). She also liked its unusual and playful quality. A former employee of the Broome-based publishing house Magabala Books, Peter read an excerpt from the play, and later fielded questions about how it could be performed. Andrew Burke introduced himself as a former teacher at a Kimberley Community School, which is where his piece titled *By Your Students You'll Be Taught* evolved. Evoking thoughts about the Wanalirri Song around which the work was centred, Andrew read an extract from his piece in a way that stilled the audience plainly impressed by the selection of words, imagery and delivery. Cathie Clement opened her presentation by telling the audience that when Sandy asked her to contribute to the book she thought that the last thing Sandy would need was an historian who preferred research to writing! Cathie later realized that it was the lure of the Kimberley that attracted her to history and that this was the story that could be told – the Kimberley was the 'hook' that encouraged her to be an historian. Anthropologist and poet, Richard Davis, contextualized his poem by commenting on learning to ride horses at Mt Pierre Station and the influence that the Dolby family had on his understanding of the pastoral industry. A superb reading of

the poem that configured this experience concluded Richard's presentation. Richard was followed by Noongar author of *Dugong Dreaming*, Kelvin Garlett, who began by acknowledging Noongar people past and present, and by thanking his two sisters and brother (who attended the meeting), as well as Deborah Denton and Sandy Toussaint, for their support. He also thanked the Kimberley Society. Kelvin explained that he had learned stories from Kimberley men he had met and that as a story-teller himself he was keen to write up stories about Aboriginal life. *Dugong Dreaming* is Kelvin's first publication. Murray Jennings followed Kelvin. Murray, a former journalist and broadcaster with the ABC in the Kimberley, explained his background and how his contribution, titled *Sandy's Sendoff*, had developed. As Murray explained, the piece was based on an account of a funeral in Halls Creek that drew together a range of Kimberley characters, as well as sadness and sorrow, and the myriad of qualities (humour, emotion, awkwardness, cultural misunderstandings) embedded in everyday life. Donna Bing-Ying Mak, whose piece is titled *From Hong Kong To Fitzroy Crossing*, spoke about the profoundly rich way in which her Chinese background had, for a variety of reasons, prepared her for life as a medical practitioner and a community member in locations such as Fitzroy Crossing and Derby. In a definitive account, one not dissimilar in emphases from other contributions, Donna's narrative revealed a number of family connections and an enduring love of and for the Kimberley landscape and its people. The last person to speak was author and journalist, Bonita Mason, who also read an extract from her piece 'Leave it. It's good the way it is'. Bonita explained that she had lived in Broome for five years when working for the Kimberley Land Council and other human rights organizations. She spoke about how *Kimberley Stories* provided an oeuvre to explore contrasting Kimberley experiences, in particular her own life compared with that of those with whom she worked. In Bonita's piece, some of the more complex matters of town life, in this case, Broome are carefully interwoven. These include glimpses into social distress and sorrow, infrastructure problems, and economic inequality that are nonetheless interwoven with the aspiration and inspiration of a place that people call home.

A discussion ensued at the end of the presentations and the question consistently posed related not only to Sandy Toussaint and the other presenters, but also to the audience, which was 'Why the Kimberley ...?'. Discussion about book contents and 'Why the Kimberley' continued during supper and afterward. Many people had similar things to say, whereas others had a variety, echoing the myriad of qualitative contents that constitute *Kimberley Stories*.

Published by Fremantle Press, *Kimberley Stories* is available at some Kimberley visitor centres as well as in bookshops. Recommended retail price is \$24.95. Copies will be available for purchase at the August meeting of the Kimberley Society.

REST IN PEACE

Another Kimberley link was broken when Bill Ward, 90, died in Fremantle Hospital on 23 February. Bill spent part of his childhood in Broome where his parents owned and ran the Roebuck Hotel. His father, also known as Bill, had been in pearling and had owned Broome's Continental Hotel before serving in World War I and earning the Military Cross. Bill junior served in World War II, earning the Military Medal for his 'splendid courage and devotion'. He and Anne Macdonald married in 1946, were in farming and dairying at Waroona, and Bill later became a meat inspector there. His obituary, by Torrance Mendez, appeared in *The West Australian* on 18 July.

HERITAGE LISTING FOR PA NORMAN'S HOUSE

The property now known as Pa Norman's House (47 Walcott Street, Broome) was entered in the Register of Heritage Places on a permanent basis on 12 June 2012. The registration was done under the *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990*.

The association with the Norman family and their prominence in both the pearling industry and North West community life will not surprise those who heard the talk by Kimberley Society members John and Verity Norman ('Journey of a Master Pearler, 1886–1942') in August 2006. A more recent association was with the activities of Lord Alistair McAlpine. His Broome Preservation Society purchased and restored not only this building but also several others saved from demolition. That action enhanced the authenticity of Pa Norman's House when some accretions were removed, and original fabric replaced, during conservation works in 1984.

John and Verity Norman's book, *A Pearling Master's Journey*, provided much of the detail used in the documentary evidence for the heritage listing. John's father, Edgar de Burgh (Ted) Norman, a master pearler, purchased the house from Walter Clarke Hall, a Broome solicitor, in 1925. It was in that year that Ted Norman and Rene Nicholson married and moved into the house. Why and when it became known as Pa Norman's House remains a mystery because it was Ted's father, Hugh, who was known as 'Pa'. He lived on a pearling boat, as did many of the early pearlers, or, when he was in Broome, at the Continental or Governor Broome Hotel. His wife and family lived in Sydney. At no time did he live in the house that carries his name.

Ted Norman, who worked with the family business—Robison & Norman—before and after his WWI service, followed his father's lead in living and working on the pearling boats. He later established his own pearling business, where he was known for his innovations. From 1925 to 1942, he lived in the house with his family. Both Ted and Rene Norman took an active part in community life in Broome, with Rene being a founding member of the Girl Guide movement there. She was Guide Commissioner for the North West until 1942, and the guides used to meet in her garden. Rene and young John were evacuated to Perth after the first air raid on Broome in 1942. Ted stayed on, serving again with the army and then assisting with the post-war reconstruction of the pearling industry. By that time the house had been sold to Mr and Mrs Derm Farrell whose Broome connection was with the meatworks.

Historic and social value alone do not put places on the Register of Heritage Places. As might be expected, this house also ranks highly in aesthetic value. It is identified as 'a fine residential example of the North West vernacular style, as evidenced by the distinctive tropical characteristics of lattice screens, prominent hipped roof, storm shutters, and raised masonry stumps that separate the building envelope from the ground'. Also aesthetically significant is that the house is part of a precinct of large residences built in spacious grounds for pearling masters. That aspect contributes to its representativeness. It is seen to be 'representative of the way of life of the more affluent citizens of Broome who resided in gracious residences during the early 20th century'. A description of that type of residence reads:

The North West Vernacular bungalow style features narrow linear planning to facilitate cross ventilation, extensive shady outdoor spaces surrounded by dense planting, ventilating ridges to release hot air from in the roof, roofs generously extended to shelter verandahs and breezeways, adjustable louvres or lattice for maximum cross-ventilation, and buildings raised to permit maximum airflow.

The information above was drawn from the heritage assessment for place number 299 in the Register of Heritage Places (<http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/public>). It was compiled by Helen Ansell (documentary evidence) and Kelly Aris (physical evidence). The house is thought to have been built in about 1912.

BEYOND BOOM OR GLOOM

On 2 May 2012, Senator Rachel Siewert (Australian Greens spokesperson for the Kimberley and Northern Australia) gave a presentation to the Kimberley Society. Her subject was the Australian Greens' position on the selection of James Price Point as the location for processing gas from the Offshore Browse Gasfield.

The issue of where the Browse gas will be processed is important because there have been on-going protests at the James Price Point site, as well as courtroom dramas between the Traditional Owners of the land and the State Government. The Kimberley Land Council has brokered a billion dollar package of benefits for the local Aboriginal communities, but under the threat of compulsory acquisition. Meanwhile the State Government has promised that this development will help extend the resource boom. Environmentalists and locals are concerned that this is the first move towards industrialisation of the Kimberley. A Federal Heritage Assessment Process has further complicated the picture by deciding that the dinosaur tracks which run along the edge of the site are Heritage protected while leaving the rest of the site open for resource extraction.

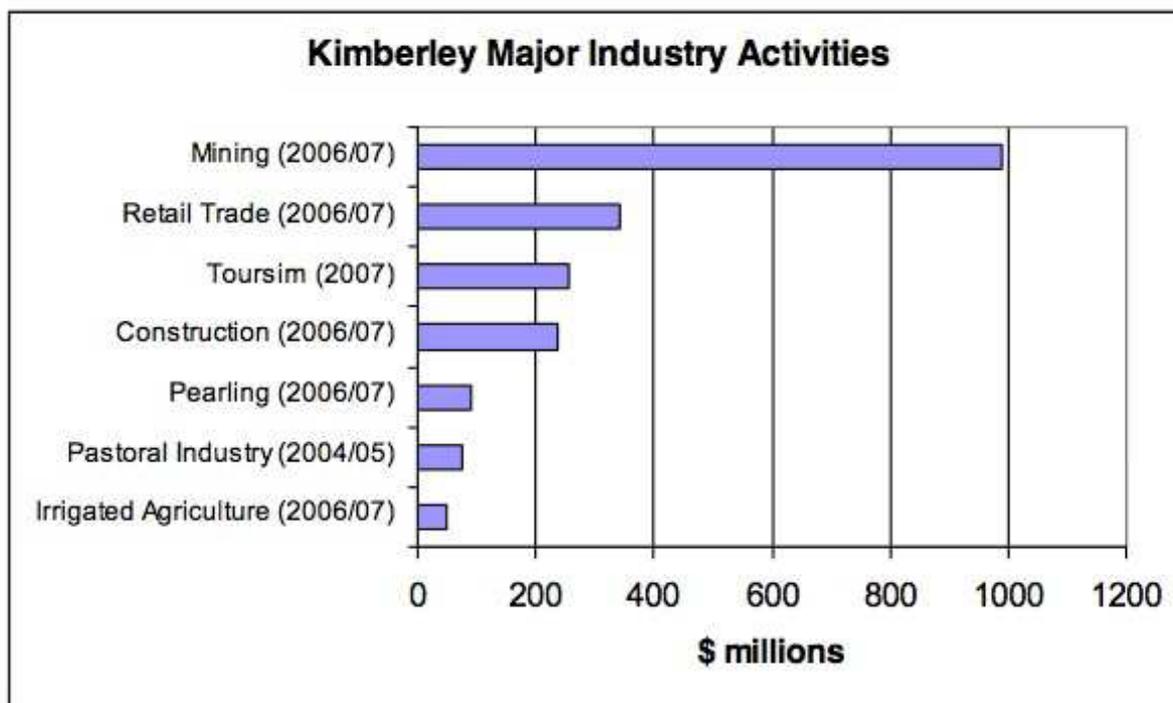
It is within this context that this speech was delivered – it was intended to provide the view from ‘one side of the fence’, with a yet-to-be-accepted invitation also extended to Woodside, the main proponents of the gas hub project. Senator Siewert called her speech ‘Beyond Boom or Gloom – an economic alternative for the Kimberley’. She focused on presenting the Greens’ reasons for opposing on-shore processing of the gas at James Price Point, their concerns about the impacts that wide scale mineral resource exploitation would have on the Kimberley landscape and peoples, and their alternative vision for the economic future of the Kimberley – a future that is neither dependent on the boom, nor destined to be gloomy and depressed.

The speech covered the significant environmental values of the region that have been under-acknowledged in the Strategic Assessment, including the diverse marine life, the bilbies and the monsoon vine thickets. The cultural significance of the area was covered in terms of the continuous song line that incorporates the dinosaur footprints and a rich food bowl for Traditional Owners. Finally the speech outlined the Australian Greens' concerns that the economic benefits of full scale, mining projects such as the gas hub have been overstated.

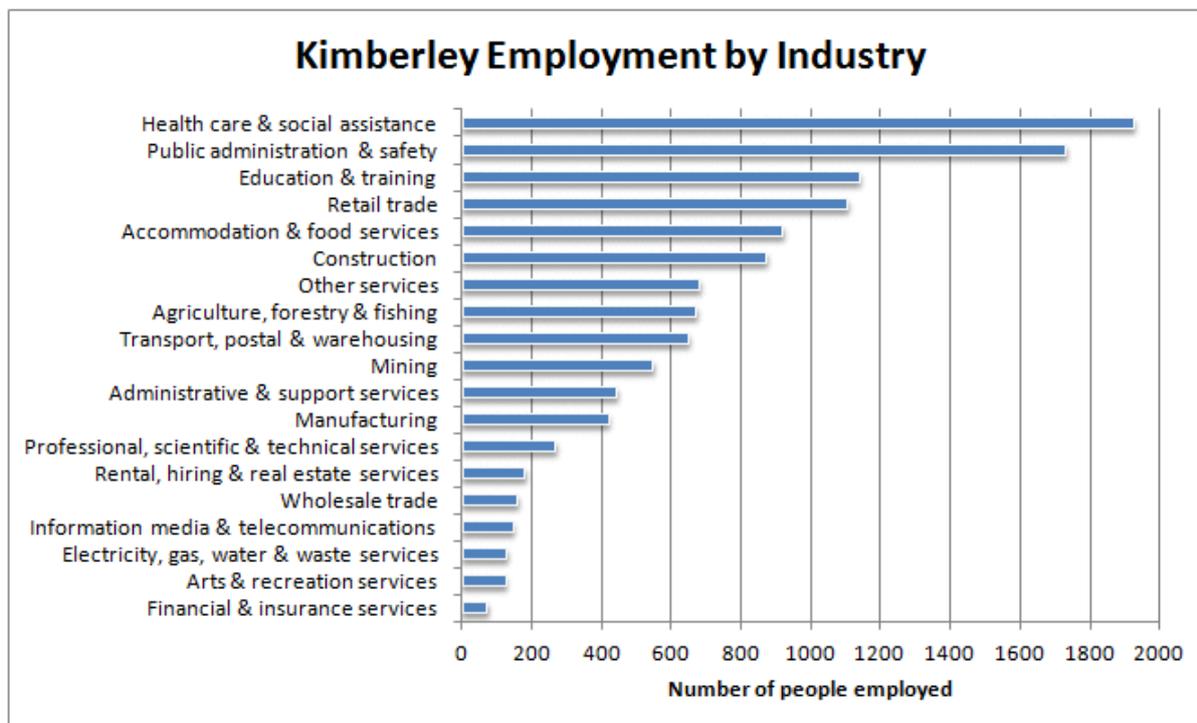
The Greens do not oppose alternative methods of processing the gas, such as a floating platform or piping down the coast, but strongly oppose the way in which the State Government and Woodside have tried to lock in James Price Point as the only possible option. Senator Siewert noted that the threat of compulsory acquisition of the site from the Traditional Owners significantly undermined the principles of free, informed consent, and she argued that there has not been enough discussion with Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley about their aspirations for the region. Noting that the Traditional Owners should benefit from any exploitation of the sea country, regardless of where the gas is processed, Senator Siewert also argued that this shouldn't pay for things that the State Government should already be providing, such as education, housing and healthcare. Another concern noted was the ability of the local Aboriginal people to take advantage of the promised jobs, given the current low levels of training and skills development. She highlighted the evidence from the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research that the economic indicators for Aboriginal people in the Pilbara are no better than they are for Aboriginal people anywhere else in Australia.

Moving to the economic issues, Senator Siewert showed several graphs to demonstrate that, while you see that mining is already a significant economic factor

in the Kimberley that contributes to the Gross Regional Product, it is not a major employer. Also, when the jobs are fly in, fly out, the economic value leaves the region through both returns to shareholders and wages.



Source: Department of Local Government and Regional Development



Applying this to the Draft Strategic Assessment – predicted jobs are very low, and very few of them will last beyond the initial building phase.

From the draft Strategic Assessment Report for the James Price Point gas hub	
Data	Value
Construction time frame	4-6 yrs
Construction jobs	6000
Operational jobs (low estimate)	400
Operational jobs (high estimate)	600
Estimated percentage of Fly-In Fly-Out (FIFO) jobs construction	85%
Estimated percentage of FIFO jobs operational	75%
Estimated local construction jobs	900
Estimated local operational jobs (low estimate)	100
Estimated local operational jobs (high estimate)	150
Employment multiplier	1.5
Estimated local indirect construction jobs	1350
Estimated local indirect operational jobs (low estimate)	150
Estimated local indirect operational jobs (high estimate)	225

The Australian Greens would like to see the same level of detailed planning that has been put into exploiting James Price Point go into thinking about alternatives for the Kimberley. It seems that the Government isn't encouraging Aboriginal communities toward sustainable development. Traditional Owners shouldn't have to exploit their land in order to receive basic services. Policy decisions that de-fund communities, withhold basic services and push people off land into growth towns are a clear example of the way in which the Government is trying to dictate the economic future of the Kimberley and ensure that it copies the Pilbara; rather than recognising that the Kimberley has the potential to be something completely different. The alternative would be to make the most of the natural beauty of the landscape and the rich cultural heritage to strengthen the Kimberly's culture and conservation economy, rather than focusing on just resource extraction.

Rather than seeking a few big ticket projects that contribute to Gross Regional Product, but leave little benefit for real local economic development, Senator Siewert argued that governments should focus much more clearly on those industries that are truly contributing to local economies which build on pre-existing strengths.

Suggesting that we need to examine social indicators, alongside dollars in the pocket, Senator Siewert concluded her presentation by discussing the opportunities to consider a Culture and Conservation Alternative Economic Model for the Kimberley. The types of industries and jobs that thrive in a culture and conservation economy are those that grow out of the unique features of the human communities in Northern Australia and its relatively low productivity landscapes, and integrate conservation of land with development.

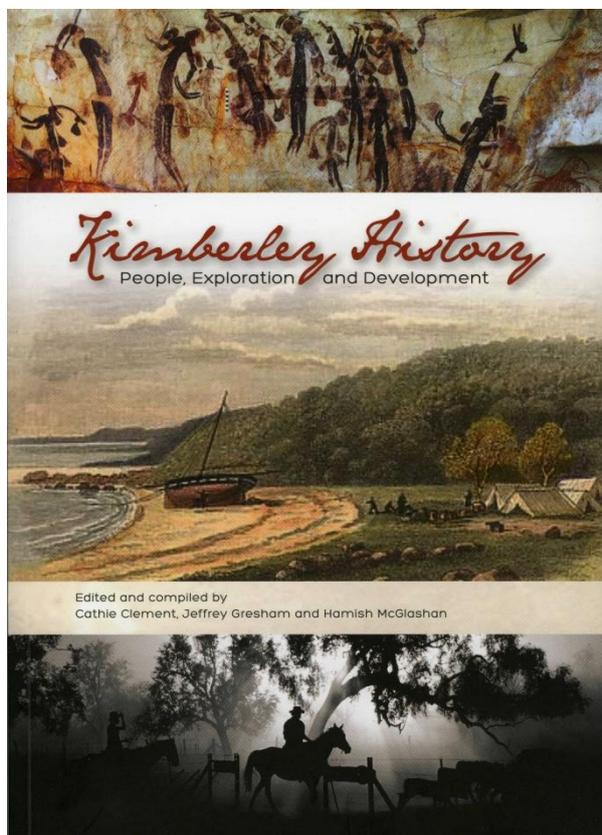
The Australian Greens continue to believe that such a unique region as the Kimberley does not need the kind of industrialisation that has transformed places like the Pilbara into non-stop natural resource factories – at enormous cost to its environment and Indigenous communities.

The above summary is provided courtesy of Rachel Siewert's Office. Further information is available on the Senator's website (<http://rachel-siewert.greensmps.org.au>) where the Campaigns page contains a link for Saving the Kimberley.

BOOK REVIEW

Kimberley History: People, Exploration and Development edited and compiled by Cathie Clement, Jeffrey Gresham and Hamish McGlashan. Kimberley Society, Perth, 2012. Soft cover, 240 pages, illustrated (full colour), maps. ISBN 978-0-9587130-2-3. Recommended retail price \$49.95. Member's price \$35.00.

This volume is a welcome addition to the literature on the Kimberley. In March 2010, the Kimberley Society convened a seminar at the University of Western Australia on the people, exploration and development of the region. The contributions reflect the broad nature of research on the Kimberley by members of the Society, and add considerably to our knowledge about the forces, events and episodes that have shaped the region since colonisation. The editors are to be congratulated for their efforts to turn the proceedings of that seminar into an edited volume and make them available to a wider audience. The history of the Kimberley has attracted a growing literature over the past fifty years, yet there is still much to be told. Earlier Kimberley works by authors such as Bolton, Lowe, Hawke, Pedersen and Woorunmurra, Jebb, Choo, Sickert, and Clement, have illuminated the rich and diverse history of the region and its significance to the many peoples who now share it. This history played a major role in the listing of the West Kimberley as a National Heritage place in 2011 (see the Australian Heritage Commission's 'West Kimberley Place Report' at <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/west-kimberley/index.html>).



This volume considerably deepens our understanding of Kimberley history, particularly the period of exploration and initial attempts to settle and exploit the region. Chapters by Mark Bin Bakar and Mike Morwood establish the long connection of Aboriginal people to the region, pointing the way to a deep history of human occupation. The archaeology of the region confirms what Aboriginal people have always asserted: that their ancestors have occupied the land continuously from ancient times to modern. Apart from the work of archaeologists such as O'Connor, Dortch, Balme, Veth and Morwood, we know little either about the ancient past, or the occupation during the long period of the Holocene. The area's archaeological potential remains enormous, particularly the capacity to illuminate this ancient history of human occupation.

At the time of colonisation, each part of the land was owned and occupied by Aboriginal people who were prepared to defend their ownership. Much of the early contact, as shown in the chapters by Clement, McGlashan, Quinlan, and Bolton, is set against a background of cross-cultural relationships, the uncertainties and suspicions of first contacts which often culminated in violence, and subsequent moves towards the accommodations of a contact zone. Men such as George Grey, a

personal favourite of mine for his vivid account of his Western Australian explorations, and Michael Quinlan, encountered a rough land which they struggled to understand. It was a land clearly defended by its owners, and both men faced the consequences of their unwelcome intrusion, Quinlan meeting his death in an attack by Aboriginal people near Camden Harbour. By contrast, explorers such as Frank Hann, as described by Mike Donaldson and Ian Elliot, were intent on the mining and pastoral potential of the north Kimberley, and kept their distance from the Aboriginal people they encountered. Hann's observations of the rough lands of the Napier and King Leopold Ranges in 1898 were the first step in opening up the land for pastoral exploitation over the following thirty years.

The volume includes articles on little known aspects of early Kimberley history, such as the extractive industries of guano on Browse and other islands as told by Tim Willing and Alison Spencer, and the chapter by Phillip Playford on the gold rushes of 1885 – 6. It is surprising, given the profile of Old Halls Creek as a tourist destination and its rich archival and oral record, that more has not been published about Halls Creek, so Playford's article on the events behind the discovery of gold at Halls Creek and the men who drove its development is welcome. Two articles by Kevin Kenneally present intriguing perspectives of the Kimberley, the first discussing the overland exploits of Joseph Bradshaw and others, and the establishment, with Aeneas Gunn, of a place on Prince Regent River he named 'Marigui'; the second Aboriginal and European perspectives on the contact zone of Marigui. Michael Cusack also writes about the overland exploits. Christine Choo's article on the missions provides important information on an aspect of Kimberley history which had a deep impact both on the Aboriginal people they were designed to help, and the missionaries who went to places such as Beagle Bay, Forrest River, Lagrange and Lombadina. Finally, Bill Bunbury's article on impacts of settlement and development on the people of the region gives an overview of some of the key processes of Kimberley history, particularly the pastoral industry.

I suspect Bunbury's closing remark about the capacity of the Kimberley to own the people, rather than the other way round, applies to many of the contributors, each of whom has grown to know and love the region over many years. This volume will form a key reference for those interested in the history of the Kimberley, as well as those who have swum in the Fitzroy River and have the place in their blood. It gives sound direction for future historical research on the Kimberley, and outlines the breadth and nature of research projects currently underway. The book is presented in an attractive and user-friendly format, and is a pleasure to hold and read. Beautiful illustrations and informative maps complement the narratives, testament to the care and determination of the editors and the willingness of the Society to take on the responsibility of publishing. And it is nicely printed too, care of a Perth based company, Scott Print.

Malcolm Allbrook

This review is reprinted courtesy of the Professional Historians Association (WA). The reviewer is a member of that Association and has had a close connection with the Kimberley since 1985. His time there included periods of residence in Derby (through employment with the then Wanang Ngari Aboriginal Resource Centre (it has been known as Winun Ngari for many years now) and the Kimberley Land Council (1993 – 1998). Malcolm Allbrook continues to research and write on the history of the region and, in 2009 – 2011, he was part of a team of KLC researchers preparing a submission to the Australian Heritage Commission, which then heritage listed the West Kimberley. He goes to the Kimberley whenever he can, even though he is now working with the ANU History Department in Canberra. His most recent visit was last September.

HONOURS

While no Kimberley Society members are known to have been among the recipients named in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, some of the people recognised have a strong connection with the Kimberley. The strongest of all is that of The Honourable Ernest Francis Bridge OAM, who was made a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia – 'For service to the Indigenous community, particularly through support for health management programs, and to the Parliament of Western Australia'. Another very strong connection is that of Mr William Robert Reed who was made a Member (AM) in the General Division – 'For service to business and commerce through the pearling industry, the marketing and promotion of jewellery, to tourism, and to the community of Broome. Years ago, Mr Reed helped with the fundraising for the Society's Old Halls Creek heritage project by creating a pendant setting for a diamond donated by Argyle Diamonds.

Other people with Kimberley connections who received recognition in the Queen's Birthday Honours List included:

- ❖ Dr Thomas Rex Henderson AM – 'For service to rural and remote medicine in Western Australia as a paediatrician and neonatologist, to Indigenous health and welfare, and as a mentor'.
- ❖ Dr Alexander Segger George AM – For service to conservation and the environment as a botanist, historian and author, particularly in the area of Australian flora, and through roles with national and international professional organisations.
- ❖ Dr Neville James Green AM – For service to the community as an historian specialising in native title and Indigenous projects, as an author, and to professional associations.
- ❖ Dr Richard Miln Smith AO – For distinguished service to scientific research in the fields of human nutrition, cardiovascular disease and agriculture, to Indigenous communities in rural and remote areas, and to professional organisations.
- ❖ Mr Richard Woldendorp AM – For service to the arts as an Australian landscape photographer.
- ❖ Mrs Ann Mitchell OAM – For service to nursing through a range of volunteer roles.

Earlier *Boab Bulletins* fell down in their reporting of honours when they missed the recognition of Kimberley Society member Marion Blackwell AM. Marion was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2011 – 'For service to conservation and the environment, particularly through the Australian Native Plants Society, and to the profession of landscape'. Our belated but sincere congratulations go to you, Marion.

KIMBERLEY FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA (KFA)

On 18 June, KFA announced that a \$500,000 donation by INPEX to the Kimberley Foundation Ian Potter Chair in Rock Art has ensured that the Chair (at the University of Western Australia) is perpetual. KFA has links with various academic institutions and, after last year's successful pilot, is again working with Kalumburu Aboriginal Corporation to take local Aboriginal people onto country where they document rock art. The structure of that program, which combines scientific methodology of recording with the traditional knowledge of the elders, assists the students to obtain a Certificate in Conservation and Land Management or Indigenous Cultural Tourism through the Kimberley Training Institute (a KFA partner).

This year's KFA Annual Public Lecture will be delivered by Dr June Ross on Thursday, 15 November 2012 at the University Club at UWA.

SISTERS OF ST JOHN OF GOD HERITAGE CENTRE, BROOME

On 17 April, in the 2012 Western Australian Heritage Awards, the Sisters of St John of God Heritage Centre in Broome won Category 3 – Outstanding contribution to heritage by a community-based organisation. The comment from the judge was: ‘A shining example of a community-based organisation taking the lead in delivering a specialised and unforgettable heritage experience’.

The Centre, located at 9 Barker Street (corner of Weld Street), is open from mid February to mid November, between 9am and 1pm Monday to Friday, and between 10am and 1pm on Saturday. Its permanent exhibition – the Relationships Exhibition – was opened in 2007 to celebrate the Centenary of the work of the Sisters of St John of God in the Kimberley. The exhibition’s popularity is enduring, with 4,500 visitors recorded during 2011. One of the biggest attractions, especially for former residents and their descendents, is a section in which people can search through more than 35,000 photographs on two large screens. The photographs are part of an archival collection that comprises the official records relating to the SSJG Kimberley ministries, and ancillary records that reflect the work of those people the Sisters have associated with, worked alongside and ministered to.

Other temporary exhibitions include artworks, photographs and stories. One titled “100 Years, 100 Stories on Canvas” opens on 2 August and runs until the 18th. The works in it were painted by children and adults of the Djarindjin Lombadina Community for the Centenary of the Lombadina Mission. Another recently closed exhibition was “Gifts for Sisters” in which paintings and stories donated to the SSJG Heritage Centre by individuals and families in 2007 were on display.

More information is available at <http://heritage.ssjg.org.au> and you can send an email to admin@ssjgheritagebroome.com.au if you would like to subscribe to the free Heritage Centre newsletter.

COUNCIL 2012-2013

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