



BOAB BULLETIN

No. 113

December 2012

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS

commencing 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. at

Shenton Park Community Centre, corner Onslow and Herbert Roads

Wednesday, 5 December 2012

Kevin Gomm (Helvetica Publishing)

“The Kimberley Under Attack! Japanese Air Raids in WWII”

Provisional Program for 2013

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
6 Feb	Jeff Gresham, Mike Donaldson & Hamish McGlashan	Bush Walking in the remote National Parks of the North Kimberley
6 Mar	To be advised	To be advised
3 Apr	To be advised	To be advised
1 May	Kevin Coate (Naturalist and former tour leader)	Kimberley Connections (between Kevin and Howard Coate)
5 Jun	Phil Playford (Geologist and Author)	The Kimberley coastline: sculptured by mega-tsunamis
3 Jul	To be advised	To be advised
7 Aug	Kim Akerman (Anthropologist)	To be advised
4 Sep	To be advised	To be advised
2 Oct	Peter Veth (Centre for Rock Art Research, UWA)	Recent archaeology research in the Kimberley
6 Nov	To be advised	To be advised
4 Dec	To be advised	To be advised

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 topic.

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

As the heat intensifies over northern Australia, and with the constant theme of “afternoon or evening thunderstorms” in the weather forecasts for the Kimberley, we know that another wet season is approaching – as is Christmas. Although the tourism season is over, the Kimberley has been in the news recently over a number of different issues. In the *Weekend Australian* of November 10-11 there was an extensive article by Nicolas Rothwell on the battle to save children from the impact of foetal alcohol syndrome in the Fitzroy Crossing area. Although the issue of alcohol restrictions in the town has been a hotly debated topic, there is clear evidence of their beneficial impact in the community. The work of June Oscar and other women in the region in combating the impacts of alcohol abuse and protecting the children is to be admired by all of us.

Last week saw the official launch of the Kimberley Foundation Ian Potter Chair in Rock Art at the University of Western Australia. The chair is jointly funded by the Kimberley Foundation Ian Potter Foundation and the international oil and gas company, INPEX and with their contributions of \$2 million being matched by UWA, the total endowment of \$4 million ensures the chair is perpetual. The inaugural appointee is Professor Peter Veth. Professor Veth is an internationally regarded archaeologist and has worked extensively in the south-east Kimberley, Pilbara, Western Desert and Goldfields regions of Western Australia. Professor Veth’s appointment, together with the recent appointment of Professor Jo McDonald as Director of Rio Tinto Chair in Rock Art Studies will see major advances in the study, understanding and public awareness of the Aboriginal rock art throughout WA and particularly in the Kimberley.

This week has seen the final State environmental approval for the development of the gas hub at James Price Point. The project is still subject to Federal Government approval. This could take some time as Minister Burke indicates he cannot make a decision until he receives further information from the State Government. The onset of the hotter weather has seen a lessening in the onsite protests and the numbers involved but this issue still has a long way to go before being resolved. Recent significant cost blow outs at the Gorgon Project on Barrow Island, the increasing attractiveness of a floating liquefied gas plant and general uncertainty about long term gas prices due to increasing coal seam gas production will all be matters the joint venture partners will have to consider seriously.

For the Kimberley Society we have had a year of excellent and varied presentations at our monthly meetings. The meetings have been very well attended and I would like to thank all those who contributed to their success. We are well advanced in having an even better program in 2013. The year saw the publication of the Proceedings Volume from the history seminar, *Kimberley History : People, Exploration and Development*. This has proved to be very popular and the Society has already recovered its total outlay in producing the volume. Once again I would like to sincerely thank all of those who contributed to the success of this venture.

In closing I would take this opportunity to wish all our members a very happy Christmas and a prosperous and safe 2013.

Jeffrey J Gresham

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Please note the \$5 increase in all subscriptions, the first one since 1994.

THE AMAZING KIMBERLEY: A SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE

On 7 December 2011, Professor Lyn Beazley AO, Chief Scientist of Western Australia spoke to the Kimberley Society. Lyn was appointed Chief Scientist in 2006, awarded Officer of the Order of Australia in January 2009 and became a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering later that year.

With a research career in Neuroscience spanning 30 years, and service on numerous bodies that advise State and Federal Governments, Lyn was well positioned to draw together the disparate threads of the scientific work that is being undertaken in the Kimberley. Her selected topics, which ranged from corals to cane toads, highlighted not only current research activities but also environmental programs and the important work which involves the wider community such as turtle tagging with DEC and the local district high school. Her accompanying PowerPoint presentation made good use of excellent slides provided by scientists who work with fauna and flora, with examples from such studies as those of the water lilies of the Kimberley.

The talk attracted an appreciative audience of more than 50 people. At its conclusion, after Lyn had responded to wide-ranging questions, many of those present adjourned for an animated end-of-year supper.

Although no detailed synopsis of this talk is available, those interested in learning more about science projects and environmental programs in the Kimberley will find coverage of some of those things in "Previous Talks" on the Society's website (www.kimberleysociety.org). Those talks include:

- Expedition to a Forgotten World (Ric How, March 2003)
- WA Museum's Kimberley Collections and Activities (Dawn Casey, October 2005)
- Marine Plants of the Kimberley (John Huisman, October 2006)
- Cane Toads (Sandy Boulter, June 2008)
- Of Oceans, Atolls and Lagoons: A Marine Census (Clay Bryce, August 2008)

The WA Museum (<http://museum.wa.gov.au/explore/videos>) has interesting material online from the 2010 and 2011 field trips in the Marine Life of Kimberley project. The Kimberley Toadbusters website (www.canetoads.com.au) has tabs for "Research Projects" and the "KTB Educational Program". And ScienceNetwork Western Australia (www.sciencewa.net.au) provides a Kimberley Science Portal under its "Explore By Region" tab. The numerous links there include one for the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy.

Cathie Clement

FOOTBALL UPDATE

Correction: Last newsletter I had Stephen Hill playing for West Coast. Of course I meant his cousin, Josh Hill. Thanks to our President Jeff Gresham for pointing this out. I now know that Jeff is a Dockers' supporter.

Gerrick Weedon has been cut from the West Coast list but did play a good game for Claremont in the grand final when they defeated East Fremantle. Alroy Gilligan may have played in the reserves Grand Final. Lewis Broome is playing in Sydney but my "mail" is that the Swans are still after his brother.

Jack Vercoe

REST IN PEACE

On 26 September, **Lindsay James Peet**—a founding member of the Kimberley Society—died from injuries sustained in a fall. His funeral service, held on 4 October at the Saint Thomas Moore Chapel in Crawley, was followed by a private cremation. The death notices published at the time included one from the Society.

Lindsay was one of the Society's first Vice Presidents (1994–1996). He was a strong supporter of our activities, especially the conservation of the mud brick ruins of the original post office at Old Halls Creek. An item on page 10 of this newsletter provides information about the Society's formation and Lindsay's role in that activity.

Already well known for his research into WA's military aviation history, Lindsay's crowning glory was his selection as the historian for an 87-minute documentary drama, 'Shady Lady,' which was filmed in WA, Britain and the USA, and shown at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2012. *Shady Lady* was an American B-24 Liberator heavy bomber that flew a long-distance WWII bombing raid from Darwin to Borneo and, after surviving an aerial battle with Japanese Zero fighters, had a forced landing on the remote Kimberley coast on its off-course return to Australia. The drama, produced by Fact Not Fiction Films Ltd of West Sussex, UK, was based on the research dissertation that Lindsay submitted at Curtin University in 1995 at the conclusion of his cultural heritage studies. A summary of a talk that Lindsay gave to the Kimberley Society on the *Shady Lady* in March 2006 is available on our website.

Other research interests included real estate development in WA (reflecting three generations of the family's contribution to the firm Peet Limited) and early movie photography (tied to his father's hobby, which produced an extensive archive of film). Such interests saw Lindsay join a wide range of organisations, e.g. the Australian Museum of Motion Picture & Television, the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, Friends of Battye Library, the National Trust of Australia (WA) and, in particular, its Defence Heritage Committee, the Art Deco Society of WA, Young Australia League, and the Gliding Club of Western Australia. As well as being a committee member of some of those organisations, his generosity as a benefactor helped them to preserve WA's documentary and built environment heritage.

In 2009, Lindsay was recognised by Friends of Battye Library as a "Gem", and, as only the fourth person to be made both a "Gem" and a Fellow of The Library Board of Western Australia, he was made a Fellow in April this year. On his death, at age 72, tributes from around the world testified to a man who was not only passionate about history and heritage but also generous in his support of it. Lindsay is survived by his wife Laurel and their son Julian. Another son, Nigel, predeceased him. An obituary, written by Patrick Cornish, appeared in *The West Australian* on 19 October.

The October *Boab Bulletin* carried a brief obituary for Kimberley Society member **Harold McComb** who died on 16 August aged 88. A longer obituary by Jeanette Robertson (*The West Australian*, 28 September) filled out the picture of this brilliant and innovative surgeon by providing details of his private life. One interesting piece told of Harold and his wife Athel buying a farm on the Jerdacuttup River, in the Goldfields–Esperance region, where he bred sheep and planted crops. The recreational activities there included landscape and portrait painting and an engagement with astronomy via a magnificent telescope installed in a paddock. Harold also obtained a commercial pilot's licence and did two anti-clockwise air safaris around Australia. All of that was in addition to sailing from Freshwater Bay Yacht Club, playing music, and studying first-year geology at UWA.

Cathie Clement

KIMBERLEY ISLANDS WILDLIFE: Outcomes of the 2006-2010 biological survey

On 6 April 2011, Greg Keighery, Senior Principal Research Scientist at the Department of Environment and Conservation (Science), spoke to the Kimberley Society about work that he, Lesley Gibson and Michael Lyons had been doing. His summary appears below.

The North Kimberley is one of Australia's 15 biodiversity hotspots, where no animal or plant is known to have gone extinct. It is one of the world's last remaining wilderness areas. There are, however, worrying trends indicating that biodiversity loss may occur because of changed fire regimes, overgrazing, predation by feral animals and the arrival of cane toads. However, so far the north Kimberley appears resilient to these threats, because of the high productivity, high rainfall, rugged sandstone country ameliorating fire by creating refugia and a low number of cats and foxes.

Kimberley islands are large and numerous, and islands are highly significant as refuges because they are sheltered from mainland disturbances (no cats, cattle, fewer fires and weeds). They are also microcosms of the mainland and contain many of the plants and animals found in the North Kimberley. These islands have the potential as refuges for fauna threatened on the mainland. They are important for Marine turtle nesting beaches and seabird breeding. They are also culturally important to indigenous communities in the region. Despite this island values are potentially under threat from mining, tourism, gas and oil exploration, fishing and pearl farming.

To protect island (and north Kimberley) values, baseline information on the biodiversity values of these islands is needed to inform policy and management development, in consultation with Traditional Owners to also preserve cultural values and share ecological knowledge.

However, biological information was poor. Of 152 islands between 100 and 999 hectares in size, 122 had no information and 30 had limited information. Of 31 islands over 1,000 hectares, 17 had limited data and only Koolan had comprehensive data.

Survey Aims

The aims of the survey were to:

- Build on existing knowledge of targeted components of biodiversity.
- Identify locations of species susceptible to mainland threats, including cane toads.
- Provide baseline information for future monitoring/survey.
- Provide information that can assist land management decisions.

Species likely to be impacted by mainland threats (incl. cane toads): Mammals, Reptiles, Frogs, Land & aquatic Snails, Plants and Birds were selected for survey.

Twenty-six islands were selected for detailed survey based on size (largest preferred), geological diversity & geographic coverage. Three teams of four field biologists (terrestrial zoologists, botanists and land snail expert) and two Traditional Owners were established and they sampled sites for six days. Teams transferred between sites by helicopter with logistical operations run out of a base camp. There were dry and wet season surveys – with different strategies.

Mammals were sampled using Elliott and cage traps, reptiles with funnel traps, spotlighting was used to record geckos and mammals, general foraging for snails and reptiles, ultrasonic recording for bats, sightings for birds, vocal recording for frogs and vegetation quadrates (50 x 50m) and foraging for plants.

Results

Many new island localities and records for mammals, including Golden-backed tree rat, Northern quoll and Agile wallaby on Adolphus, Red-cheeked dunnart on Sir Graham Moore, Northern quolls and golden bandicoots on Storr Island. Most islands had increases in recordings of 30-90%. Twenty-four of the 25 Kimberley bats were recorded on islands, with up to 11 species recorded on a single island. The Kimberley endemic Yellow-lipped Bat was recorded on seven islands.

Many new reptile records were made including, Taipan (Middle Osborne), Gwardar (Sir Graham Moore), Black-headed Python (Boongaree) and Carpet Python (Mary Island). Many frogs were first records for the islands.

A particular highlight were the land snails. Preliminary results indicate that over 90 species were recorded of which at least 72 are new and there are five new genera. Almost all species are endemic to the islands, i.e. they do not occur on the mainland. Each island tends to support a unique suite of species.

Plants, of course, located hundreds of new records and have greatly increased the flora lists for all islands surveyed. Some highlights are a new species of *Calandrinia* found on Mary Island and a new *Cleome* sp. from Bigge Island. The majority of islands are long unburnt and an additional suite of post-fire taxa remain undetected. Island plant richness driven by diversity of geologies on each and the presence/absence of vine thicket/rainforest patches. The southern islands relatively poor richness, associated with absence of volcanics/basalts and lower rainfall.

Kimberley islands have very few weeds, except for the ubiquitous *Passiflora foetida*. Islands with settlement history have largest numbers of weeds, for example : Sunday Island (23 spp.) – Buffel grass and garden escapes – and Koolan Island (43 spp.).

The Future

All papers recording the results of this survey are being submitted to the Records of the Western Australian Museum for publication. It is producing *Supplement 81, Biodiversity values on selected Kimberley islands, Australia*, in partnership with the Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation. As each paper is completed and edited, it is being published online in downloadable .pdf form. When all papers have been accepted and published online, they will be produced in print form as a Supplement of the Records of the Western Australian Museum. The papers published so far include:

L.A. Gibson and N.L. McKenzie, Identification of biodiversity assets on selected Kimberley islands: background and implementation (pp. 1-14)

L.A. Gibson and N.L. McKenzie, Occurrence of non-volant mammals on islands along the Kimberley coast of Western Australia (pp. 15-40)

L.A. Gibson and F. Köhler, Determinants of species richness and similarity of species composition of land snail communities on Kimberley islands (pp. 41-66)

N.L. McKenzie and R.D. Bullen, An acoustic survey of zoophagic bats on islands in the Kimberley, Western Australia, including data on the echolocation ecology, organisation and habitat relationships of regional communities (pp. 67-108), with separate electronic appendices.

KIMBERLEY MARINE RESEARCH STATION

On 21 November, journalist Flip Prior wrote an article for *The West Australian* on the Kimberley Marine Research Station at Cygnet Bay. Established by James Brown, a third-generation pearler and marine biologist in 2009, KMRS provides low-cost, easy access to three marine bioregions - King Sound, Canning Basin and the Kimberley.

REST IN PEACE

On 17 November, veteran journalist and author **Athol Norman Thomas** died aged 88. Widely known for his daily column in *The West Australian* (25 years from 1962) and thirteen books, he also wrote a column in the *Western Angler* fishing magazine. His books include *Bulls and Boabs : Kimberley people and places* (1977); *90 golden years : the story of the Perth Mint* (1989); *Trembling horizon : the story of an important place-the Fitzgerald Biosphere Project area* (1989); *A Terrace walk & half a rood : a history of real estate in Western Australia since 1829* (1993); *Western anglers simple seafood cookbook* (1994); *A toast to the Kimberley* (1997); *Kalkarni : the Brookton story* (1999); *Second simple seafood cookbook : easy-to-follow recipes for West Australian species* (2001); and *A Catalina called Matilda* (2007).

Athol's professionalism as a journalist was recognised in 1956 when he was one of the first five Australians to win a Walkley – the highest award for journalism in this country. His Walkley was for a feature article on Tom Starcevich, a Victoria Cross winner. Athol himself had seen active service, having joined the RAAF at eighteen and spent three years in Papua New Guinea after training as a radio operator. In the closing months of World War II, he directed air traffic on the Swan River in connection with the Catalina flying boat base at Matilda Bay. After that, he studied at the University of Western Australia and edited *Pelican* – the student newspaper – before becoming a journalist, editor, sub-editor, and author. As a journalist, he wrote on Fleet Street (in the 1950s) and he was the WA columnist for the *Canberra Times* (for more than 20 years from the mid-1960s) while working for WA newspapers. In later years, having finished writing feature articles for *The West Australian* in 1987, he refused to let the onset of Parkinson's disease hold him back. He finalised *A toast to the Kimberley* as he embarked on *Kalkarni : the Brookton story*. As someone who had a hand in the Brookton project, I can say that Athol was not only inspirational as a writer but also a delight to work with.

Married three times, Athol Thomas is survived by his widow Valerie and children Jennifer, Tristan, Shawn, Athalie, and Emma, ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. A Memorial Celebration will take place at Manners Hill Park Pavilion in Peppermint Grove on 1 December. More detail is available in obituaries written by Jack Waterford (*Canberra Times*, 20 November), Bret Christian (*Subiaco Post*, 24 November), and Torrance Mendez (*The West Australian*, 26 November).

Cathie Clement

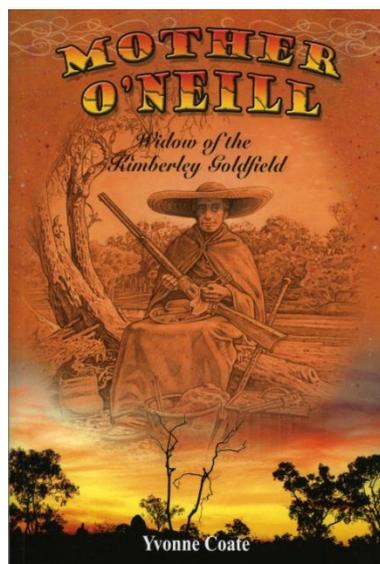
KIMBERLEY SOCIETY WEBSITE

An update of the Society's website is underway, with copies of all the available summaries of past talks being uploaded. Unfortunately, there will still be many gaps because, after Daphne Edinger stood down as our chief scribe, no one else stepped forward. Speakers are being asked if they are willing to provide summaries but that approach, despite follow-up requests, has a low success rate. It would be great to hear from members who are willing to take notes and/or do typing. Perhaps a group of Perth members could share that work so that those who live elsewhere do not completely miss the stimulating presentations from our great range of speakers.

A new website area has been created for book reviews and notes, which will appear after being published in the *Boab Bulletin*. Previously published reviews and notes will be uploaded as your editor finds time to create the pdf documents. Seven have been uploaded so far, as part of a trial to see what works best.

BOOK NOTE

***Mother O'Neill : Widow of the Kimberley Goldfield* by Yvonne Coate. Hesperian Press, Carlisle (WA), 2012. Soft cover, 135 pages, full colour, illustrated, maps, ISBN 978-0-85905-518-5, RRP \$35.**



Here is a book that is full of surprises. Far from the slim volume I expected to see—given how little is known about Mother O'Neill—the book is packed with information about the Kimberley goldfield and the old Wyndham–Halls Creek road. A marvellous selection of photographs gives the reader glimpses of many of the places mentioned.

By packaging her story of Mother O'Neill in this way, Yvonne was able to build on earlier work that she and husband Kevin (both members of the Kimberley Society) have done on East Kimberley burials. Some of that material has been expanded, and many new entries are provided. It is great to have all the entries available in one convenient volume, grouped by the locations of the burials.

The expanded entries add a lot of personal information to the ones published in *Lonely Graves of Western Australia & Burials at Sea* (Hesperian Press, 1986) and in *More Lonely Graves of Western Australia* (Hesperian Press, 2000). That information provides insight into the harsh conditions that prevailed in the East Kimberley during the nineteenth century. Other entries, for burials that occurred up to 1979, tell of people who lived in and around Halls Creek in later decades. One very descriptive entry unfortunately uses pseudonyms as though they were real names, thereby creating people who did not exist. The man identified as Hurst (pages 85–6) is listed under his correct name in a separate entry on page 86; the nursing sister was E M (Lil) Rogasch. The confusion comes from using a book-length story in which Sister Rogasch gave pseudonyms to most of the people she wrote about.

The use of pseudonyms and nicknames in historical writing can be both entertaining and frustrating. It can also lead to the perpetuation of errors. This is especially so when the people concerned were the subject of gossip and oft-repeated yarns. Mother O'Neill fell squarely into that category, and, given that, I would like to have seen this book take a more critical view of the yarns told about her. But every author has to select his or her audience, and, in this case, Yvonne kept her text relatively free of analysis because she was writing primarily for visitors to the Kimberley. The result belies the extensive research that underpins the book but it also gives the impression that some of the more fanciful yarns have been verified. Less indulgence in poetic licence, and more citation of individual sources, might have reduced the likelihood of dubious material being seen as factual. Some future books, articles and websites will no doubt happily recycle it as though it is factual.

The task of sorting fact from fiction is difficult enough when researching any enigma but, in this instance, it is complicated by the variety of nicknames applied to Sarah O'Neill. Pages 61 to 64 deal with this issue under the heading 'Names that caused confusion'. But here, too, there is confusion. Yvonne suggests several possibilities for the origin of the name "Mother Sudden Death" but she classes it only as one of the names 'supposedly describing Sarah O'Neill'. Yet, tucked away in the diary of Trooper James Sweeny (a police farrier on the goldfield), is an entry stating that 'M^{ts}

M^c Neill Known as old Mother Sudden Death' reached Elvire Gorge on 16 December 1886. The misspelt surname can be ignored because Sweeny also mentioned that she was the first white woman on the goldfield and had arrived with a loaded dray.

Sweeny's reference to the dray is important because it points to the weakness of one lot of reminiscences on which Yvonne relies. Written by Charles Edward Flinders, who met Mrs O'Neill in the 1890s and recalled her as "Mother Dead-finish", those reminiscences had her selling her dray at Fletcher Creek and continuing her journey to the goldfield with pack horses. Flinders presumably heard that yarn from someone else, just as he heard that Mrs O'Neill had landed at Wyndham from the barque *Onyx* in June 1886, after embarking at Normanton (Qld). The *Onyx*, however, reached Wyndham at the end of August, heavily laden with cargo and passengers from New Zealand. Did it put in to Normanton en route, taking on Sarah O'Neill, her five horses, dray, poultry, and all the goods she planned to sell?

Another question that exists is whether Mrs O'Neill was a widow when she reached Wyndham. Yvonne asserts that she was—her presumed husband Joe O'Neill having died in Queensland at an unspecified time. Barney Lamond, who met Mrs O'Neill in 1886, said otherwise. In 1935 he wrote: 'She and her old man had come across from Queensland with a dray and two horses and were camped a mile or so away from where we crossed the Denham, at a spring that was afterwards called Dillon's Spring.' Like Flinders, Lamond was far from accurate in his recall of events, but he was one of the few people who recorded seeing Mrs O'Neill on her way to the goldfield. And, like her, he stayed after the rush. As well as mentioning her surname, he recalled her as "Mother Dead Finish". Yvonne states that, although various writers applied that name to Mrs O'Neill, they 'were two different women'. She says the same about "Mother Dead Horse" who came by that name 'because her shanty was located on Dead Horse Creek'. Interestingly, Michael Patrick Durack recorded seeing Lamond at Dead Horse Creek on 26 October 1886, which was a day or two after Lamond met Mrs O'Neill. Could three women – Mrs O'Neill, "Mother Dead Horse" and "Mother Dead Finish" – all have been knocking about the countryside operating shanties at a time when European women were a rarity beyond Kimberley towns?

Another writer who mentioned a husband was the explorer David W Carnegie. He met Mrs O'Neill on the goldfield during the wet season of 1896/1897. Either then or shortly afterwards, he recorded that she was known as "Mother Deadfinish" and had come 'overland from Queensland, accompanying her husband ... in the early days of the rush'. Did that actually happen? With so much conflicting information in circulation it is unlikely that anyone will ever sift the facts from the fiction. One small consolation is that, as Yvonne notes, stories about "The Mountain Maid" do not apply to Mother O'Neill. "The Mountain Maid" was definitely a person in her own right.

When the nitpicking of historians is set aside, we are left with a larger than life character who did reach Halls Creek in late 1886 and then lived in that vicinity until her death in 1903. *Mother O'Neill : Widow of the Kimberley Goldfield* shows us where she travelled with her dray, where she operated shanties on the Wyndham–Halls Creek road, and where she lived and worked on the goldfield. By presenting the earliest of that information in the context of the rush, and adding deaths that occurred during and after the rush, Yvonne has produced a book that is both readable and informative. The combination of historical information, yarns and photographs should not only appeal to a wide range of people but will also enhance their knowledge of the East Kimberley. Copies should be available for purchase at the December meeting of the Kimberley Society.

Cathie Clement

LOOKING BACK

With our subscription rates increasing for the first time since the Kimberley Society formed, it seems timely to present an extract from the piece I wrote as the Society's Convenor in our first *Boab Bulletin*. Published in February 1994, it began:

The formation of the Kimberley Society is the culmination of a dream I have cherished for about six years. The dream would not have become reality without the input of the Interim Councillors who worked with me to create the Society. A full list of their names appears elsewhere in the newsletter. In acknowledging their efforts, I would be remiss if I did not also extend a thank-you for the contribution made by Janine Porter (who produced our logo), Bill Loane, John Long, Lawrie Short and Peter Bridge.

Peter and I discussed the concept of a Society over the years, and then about two years ago Lindsay Peet, David Dale and I held several meetings to decide how to establish one. It was not until October 1992, however, that the Interim Council was at full strength and made the important decision to establish a fund (by paying subscriptions in advance) to cover the costs involved in setting up the Society. The need for this fund reflected our outlook that the Society should be an impartial body rather than one that is supported by corporate sponsorship.

By May 1993, after much work on the part of Mike Donaldson, Ian Elliot and Kevin Kenneally, we adopted a constitution and began the process of incorporation. The design and printing of our brochure and stationery followed, and by 1 October we were ready to begin the recruitment of members. Over 400 invitations were posted to prospective members during October and, by 1 December (the date set for the launch), the Society had 130 members. More than 40 new members have joined since the launch.

Because direct mailing was possible only in cases where Interim Councillors had addresses for prospective members, it was decided that founding membership should be available until 31 March 1994, i.e. after the first Annual General Meeting.

The Interim Councillors not mentioned above were: Terry Bolland, Bob Bowers, Kevin Coate, Ian Crawford, Daphne Edinger, Jeff Murray, Jenny Perceval, Phillip Playford, and Jeremy Talbot. By 31 March 1994, there were 217 founding members.

Cathie Clement

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.

© Kimberley Society Inc. 2012

www.kimberleysociety.org

Dr Cathie Clement OAM edits this newsletter for the Kimberley Society. The material it contains is copyright but may be cited with acknowledgment. Correspondence, including requests to reproduce articles, reports or book notes, should be directed to The Editor, Kimberley Society, PO Box 8471, Perth Business Centre, Perth, WA, 6849; E-mail clement@q-net.net.au; telephone (08) 9272 3308; or facsimile (08) 9272 2087.

DISCLAIMER: The opinions and the information presented in this newsletter are offered solely to inform members about matters that may interest them. The Council of the Kimberley Society accepts no responsibility for the newsletter's content, and it advises readers to obtain appropriate advice before they either apply information from the newsletter to particular circumstances or use it as a basis for formulating decisions.