



# BOAB BULLETIN

No. 114

February 2013

## NEW VENUE FOR MEETINGS

With the City of Subiaco having decided to terminate our hire of the Shenton Park Community Centre, the Society has obtained a new regular booking at **The Palms Community Centre**. Parking there is good, with about forty car bays surrounding the building. Buses run along Nicholson and Rokeby roads and Thomas Street.

**The Palms Community Centre** is in the Nicholson Road Reserve (one of the City of Subiaco's parks). It housed the Subiaco Bowling Club until 1988 and is now part of a cluster that includes the Police and Citizens Youth Club, a skate park facility, and pétanque pitches for the French game of boules.

## NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

commencing 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. at

**The Palms Community Centre, Corner Nicholson and Rokeby roads, Subiaco**

**Wednesday, 6 February 2013**

**Jeff Gresham, Mike Donaldson & Hamish McGlashan**  
**"Bush Walking in remote National Parks of the North Kimberley"**

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

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 20th AGM of Kimberley Society (Inc.) will be held at The Palms Community Centre, corner of Nicholson and Rokeby roads, Subiaco, on Wednesday, 3 April 2013, at 7.30 p.m. The Agenda will comprise: the President's Welcome, Apologies, Minutes of the previous AGM, Business arising from the Minutes, President's Report, Treasurer's Report and presentation of Accounts for approval, Election of Office Bearers and other Councillors, and General Business. The AGM will be followed by a guest speaker and supper.

The draft 2012 AGM Minutes appeared in the April 2012 *Boab Bulletin* (pages 8 to 10).

*Jeffrey J Gresham, President (Perth, 30 January 2013)*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Returning from three weeks overseas on January 15, I bought a copy of *The West Australian* newspaper on that day to catch up with local news. To my surprise there were two interesting articles about the Kimberley.

The first article was about a feature that had appeared in the *New York Times* on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January entitled “46 Places to Go in 2013”. I am yet to understand the significance of the number 46!! The only Australian representative on the list was the Kimberley, listed at number 19 and sandwiched between Vernazza in Italy and Ningxia in China. A beautiful photo of the Berkley River was featured but the article concluded with “The catch? The area is loaded with iron, and mining companies will continue to go after it”. This just reinforced the fact that you should not believe everything you read in newspapers—even the *New York Times*!! The *New York Times* No.1 spot for 2013? Rio de Janeiro.

The second article concerned a paper published by German scientists in a recent edition of *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. They had analysed the DNA of Indians and Aborigines and found there was a substantial gene flow from India to Australia a little over 4,000 years ago. This timing coincides with the earliest dingo fossils in Australia. A change in stone tool technology and food processing also occurred around this time. This rather technical paper was summarised in somewhat more understandable layman terms in the January 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Economist* and can be accessed [here](#).

I am sure that over the next 10 years genetic work will see major advances in our understanding of Australia’s early human history. A lot of this exciting work will be focussed on the Kimberley.

Our program for 2013 commences at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of February at **The Palms Community Centre** at the corner of Nicholson and Rokeby Roads. There will be three brief illustrated talks about 2012 bush walks in three remote National Parks in the North Kimberley. A full and interesting program is being prepared for the remainder of the year.

*Jeffrey J Gresham*

## KIMBERLEY SOCIETY COUNCIL

With several of the Council members retiring from their positions this year, some fresh faces are required. The Council meets every second month, usually at the President’s home. The meetings are never dry, and tasty nibbles are generally available. Once the business matters have been handled, the Council members insert the newsletters in envelopes ready for posting (using mailing labels prepared by the Membership Secretary). No folding is required; that is done when Fineline Print & Copy Service print the newsletters. Minutes are circulated by email.

While nothing is set in stone, the Council has tended to meet at 7.30 pm on the last Wednesday of the month. That timing allows the newsletter to reach members a day or two before the coming meeting, with scope available to include recent news and current announcements.

So, if you can help with the running of our Society, please speak with Jeff Gresham (phone 08 9388 0780) about a nomination.

## COUNCIL NOMINATIONS FOR 2013–2014

The Constitution of Kimberley Society Inc. requires that the Council shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Membership Secretary, a Treasurer, and not less than 3, or more than 7, other persons, all of whom shall be Members of the Society. In the interest of conservation, nomination forms will be available only at the February and March meetings or by request from Jeff Gresham (phone 08 9388 0780). Signed forms must reach the Society by 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday, **12 March 2013**. They can be faxed (08 9272 2087) or emailed (admin@kimberleysociety.org) but will be valid only if the original is lodged with the Society by 7.15 p.m. on Wednesday, 3 April 2013. If insufficient nominations are received to fill all the vacancies, further nominations will be received at the Annual General Meeting. Should any positions remain vacant at the conclusion of the AGM, such vacancies will be deemed casual vacancies and may be dealt with by the Council according to the Constitution.

### PROVISIONAL PROGRAM FOR REMAINDER OF 2013

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
6 Mar	Barry Haase MP (Federal Member for Durack, WA)	To be advised
3 Apr	Denva Ball (Manager of cotton farms on the Ord River 1963-74)	
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)	Mjoberg Expedition 1910–1911
4 Sep	Alan Dench (Winthrop Professor, UWA)	Aboriginal linguistics
2 Oct	Peter Veth (Centre for Rock Art Research, UWA)	Recent archaeology research in the Kimberley
6 Nov	Jay Anderson (WA-based speleologist)	Caves & Karsts in the Kimberley
4 Dec	Kevin Kenneally (Botanist) & others	Exploration and Botany: The W R Easton 1921 Expedition

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.

### AWARDS

Akram Azimi, who spoke to the Kimberley Society in June 2010 about his involvement in a community project at Looma, has been named the 2013 Young Australian of the Year. Recognised for his work with indigenous communities, 25-year-old Akram's activities included mentoring young people at Looma for three years. Inspired by that exposure, he also co-founded a student-run initiative to raise awareness about indigenous issues in universities in 2011.

Akram's award follows the announcement of WA's award recipients. At the ceremony for those awards, the Local Hero 2013 was indigenous health advocate Caroline de Mori, whose Edge of Nowhere Foundation delivers the Thriving Communities Program to nine remote communities across the Kimberley. Based on edible gardens, that program promotes a healthy diet and disease prevention.

## BOOK NOTE

***Red Sun On The Kangaroo Paw : Japanese Air Raids And Attacks On Western Australia During World War II* by Kevin Gomm. Helvetica Publishing, Perth, 2009, 3rd Edition, 2012. Soft cover, A4, 310 pages, illustrated, portraits, maps, ISBN 978 0 9782231 11, RRP \$40 (or \$49.99 if postage is required).**

Revised and reprinted as a 70th Anniversary 1942-2012 Commemorative Edition, this book includes photographs, eye-witness accounts, newspaper articles, descriptions, and technical information. The author notes that his 'study concerning Japanese air raids is constant and ongoing'. Research of that sort inevitably reveals holes in earlier work and it is good that errors detected in the previous editions of the book have been corrected. Unfortunately, as is often the case in coverage of WA's wartime events, others have been missed. Some of those errors clearly derive from the sources used to compile *Red Sun* and some seem to come from the compilation process.



Kevin Gomm is a history enthusiast who specialises in WA's WWII history and heritage. The strength of his book is in its encyclopaedic content and its state-wide coverage. A chronology (pages 304–305) shows the raids beginning at Wyndham and Broome (3.3.1942). Those that followed were at Broome and Derby (20.3.1942); Wyndham (23.3.1942); Port Hedland (30.7.1942 & 17.8.1942); Broome (27.8.1942); Exmouth Gulf (20.5.1943, 21.5.1943 & 22.5.1943); Broome and Port Hedland (16.8.1943); Onslow (15.9.1943); Exmouth Gulf (16.9.1943); and then Kalumburu (27.9.1943, the last WA air raid). The Wyndham chapter expands on the chronology, starting on 20 February 1942 with the bombing and strafing of M.V. *Koolama*, which was heading for Wyndham. That attack was the first to affect WA.

A key point in *Red Sun On The Kangaroo Paw* is that WA towns were the target of more air strikes than those located elsewhere in Australia. A total of 16 strikes killed more than 85 people and damaged airfields, aircraft, and fuel dumps. Most of the dead were Dutch East Indies refugees killed when nine Japanese fighter planes strafed fifteen flying boats moored in Roebuck Bay for refuelling.

In the book, the chapters are presented place by place, in more or less the sequence of the air strikes. Wyndham is followed by Broome, Derby, Port Hedland, Onslow, Exmouth Gulf, and Kalumburu (18 months after the first strike). Later chapters cover Port Gregory (a submarine attack), 'Naval Operations', Corunna Downs (a secret airbase for long range aircraft), 'Local Defences' and 'Other Raids on Australia' (a new chapter written for this edition).

Helpful sketch plans in some chapters show the positions of airstrips and towns, and the path by which the aircraft approached. Samples can be seen online at [Digger Press](#) (formerly Helvetica Publishing). There is also a map on the inside back cover of the book showing the Allied Theatre Boundaries on 2 July 1942.

*Red Sun On The Kangaroo Paw* is available from outlets that include Kimberley Bookshop (Broome), the State Library Bookshop (Perth), the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, and Boffins. If ordering direct from the author, send a \$49.99 cheque or money order to Kevin Gomm at PO Box 2186, High Wycombe, WA 6057.

*Cathie Clement*

## REST IN PEACE

On 20 December 2012, renowned artist **Robert Juniper** died aged 83. Born in Merredin in the WA wheat belt in 1929, he developed a love of art and nature as a child. After the Juniper family returned to England, he studied commercial art and industrial design on a scholarship at Beckenham School of Art.

Juniper made WA his home from 1949, arriving as an assisted migrant and doing unskilled work before he found a niche in graphic design. He taught art in the 1950s and '60s and began to make a name for himself as an illustrator, painter, printmaker and sculptor. He gave his early paintings to friends but, with growing recognition, he was able to pursue a full-time career in art and sculpture from 1974.

The aerial perspective for which Juniper became famous emerged in the late 1960s after he saw Australian landscapes from a plane. Many of those works portrayed North Western deserts to which he added decorative elements that included motifs of plants, leaves and flowers. The Kimberley was incorporated into that body of work with 'Fishing Lesson, Roebuck Bay, 1977' as one of the subjects. Many of Juniper's Broome works were painted in the 1980s and 1990s, e.g. 'Low Tide, Roebuck Bay, 1986', and 'Low Tide Broome'. Over the years he ranged further afield, with his works including 'King Leopold Ranges, 1993'. By the end of the 1990s, his output included works on the Dampier Peninsula and Arnhem Land.

In late 1999, the Art Gallery of Western Australia presented 75 pieces of Juniper's work in a 50-year retrospective that celebrated his evolution as an artist. In the years that followed, Broome and other parts of the Kimberley continued to feature in his work, e.g. 'Prince Regent Waterfall, Kimberley - 2006'. Juniper in his turn also featured in a painting. Rick Colless, whose works embellish the styles of other painters, incorporated Juniper's portrait into a painting of a Pilbara landscape. It was entered in the Archibald Portrait Prize in 2002.

The many accolades that Juniper received during his lifetime included the Wynne Prize (1976 and 1980), a WA Citizen of the Year award (1979), an honorary doctorate from the University of WA (1984), recognition as a State Living Treasure (1998), a Centenary Medal (2003), and the medal for Services to Art from the Painters and Sculptors Association of Australia (2004). In 2011 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for services to the visual arts. His work is seen in all major public collections in Australia and in galleries overseas. His generosity as a donor saw him appointed as a Governor of the Art Gallery of Western Australia Foundation, and, more recently, as its Honorary Arts Patron.

A small private funeral was held for Juniper on Christmas Eve, and a public memorial service will also be held. He is survived by his third wife Patricia and four children – Sato, Ben, Sam and Bec – by his first wife Robin Ann. He also had eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Tributes to Juniper included a feature by Arts Editor Stephen Bevis in *The West Australian* on 22 December 2012 as well as obituaries in major newspapers, art journals, on air, and online.

On 20 January 2013, **David Henwood**, a popular son of a respected Kimberley family and a one-time member of the Kimberley Society, passed away. A full obituary for David will be prepared for the next issue of the newsletter.

*Cathie Clement*

## CONSERVATION IN THE KIMBERLEY

Kimberley Society member Geoff Vivian's *Kimberley Page* was quick to report on new national and marine parks that will extend protection for a marine wilderness area. Announced by the Hon. Colin Barnett MLA (Premier) and the Hon. Bill Marmion MLA (Minister for Environment) on 28 January 2013, this initiative will provide national park status for the famous Horizontal Falls at Talbot Bay. The parks, which will be jointly managed with the traditional owners, Dambimangari, will consist of a national park taking in 160 square kilometres and marine park taking in 3,000 square kilometres. The joint management recognises the Dambimangari obligation and desire to look after their land and sea country and will provide increased employment and training opportunities, including on-country park ranger programs.

Mr Marmion said the Horizontal Falls Marine Park will embrace waters that include Talbot, Collier and Doubtful bays and Walcott Inlet, protecting unique coral reefs, dolphins and extensive mangrove systems. It will be a multiple use park that provides ongoing opportunities for recreational fishing and tourism and, at this stage, its boundaries are only indicative. The final boundaries will be determined after extensive consultation with traditional owners and other stakeholders. The existence of pearling leases has been taken into account. They will remain and should benefit from the marine park helping to preserve the high quality of the surrounding water.

The Horizontal Falls Marine Park will expand the Great Kimberley Marine Park to 26,000 square kilometres, with the protection stretching from the Horizontal Falls to Cape Londonderry. It brings to five the number of marine parks to be created within the State Government's Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy.

See [Kimberley Page](#) for more details and other breaking news.

## BAUXITE IN THE KIMBERLEY

On 10 December 2012, *The West Australian* reported that Premier Colin Barnett had 'told Rio Tinto and Alcoa that "they're dreaming" about developing a massive bauxite deposit in the remote Kimberley, and flagged the possible return of the resource to taxpayers'. His comments related to the two companies wanting a two- to three-year extension and an associated State Agreement in connection with the Alumina Refinery (Mitchell Plateau) Agreement Act 1971, which grants the right to develop the bauxite reserves, as long as they build an alumina refinery in the region.

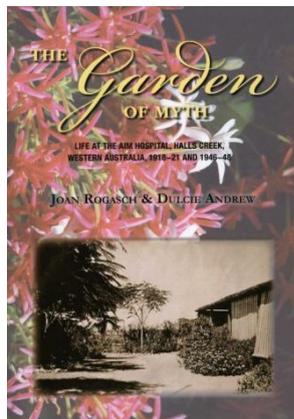
On 29 December, *The West Australian* reported that the government had approved a two-year extension.

## AUSTRALIAN HONOURS

The only Kimberley connection noticed in the Australia Day 2013 Honours Lists was the recognition of **Brevet Senior Sergeant Neville Vernon Ripp**, Officer-in-Charge of the Dampier Peninsular Multi-Functional Police Facility. He received the Australian Police Medal for 'outstanding commitment to building community confidence and trust when communicating and working in partnership with Aboriginal people and other government and non-government agencies in remote areas'. The facility polices 58 Aboriginal communities. Sgt Ripp has also served at Halls Creek Police Station and the Oombulgurri Aboriginal Community.

## BOOK NOTE

***The garden of myth : life at the AIM Hospital, Halls Creek, Western Australia, 1918–21 and 1946–48* by Joan Rogasch & Dulcie Andrew. Peacock Publications, Norwood (SA), 2012. Soft cover, 107 pages, illustrated, portraits, maps, ISBN 978-0-9807855-2-4, RRP \$35.**



In preparing this note, I need to say that I had some involvement in the production of the book. My role was not extensive but, after getting to know the lead author through her earlier works, I looked into some historical anomalies that arose in this one. Before taking that on, I had been invited to write a foreword. So, rather than write a book note, I will let the foreword speak.

The book is available at the RRP from [Halls Creek Visitor Centre](#). Members of the Kimberley Society can purchase a copy post-free by sending a \$35 cheque or money order (made payable to J. I. Rogasch) to 9 Willoughby Street, Klemzig, SA 5087.

### Foreword to *The garden of myth*

Numerous books and articles have documented the work of the Australian Inland Mission (AIM). Some focus on the work of its founder, Reverend John Flynn, while others tell of the nurses, padres and others who helped to deliver a 'mantle of safety' to the inland.

The best known books of the past twelve years have come from Max Griffiths and Ivan Rudolph. Both writers were motivated by a desire to see the AIM nurses receive greater acknowledgement. Their books embrace all of inland Australia in the twentieth century.

Joan Rogasch has also been productive. Her previous book, *Lil's story*, is about Sister Mary Elizabeth (Lil) Rogasch, the first AIM nurse in the far north of Western Australia. Sent there to run the tiny Halls Creek hospital in 1918, she was joined by her sister Beatrice (Dot), who was also a nurse, towards the end her posting. That period was covered by *Memoirs of a nurse*, written by Lil in the 1920s or '30s, edited by Joan decades later, and, like *Lil's story*, published in 2010.

Lil and Dot Rogasch also feature in *The garden of myth* where their time in Halls Creek is compared with that of Sisters Dulcie Peel (now Andrew) and Marjorie McKean who arrived in 1946 and stayed until 1948. Services and infrastructure had improved greatly in the intervening twenty-five years but, in living and working in an isolated settlement that had no resident doctor, the nurses of the 1940s had to be almost as self-sufficient as their predecessors.

In joining Joan in the production of this compact book, Dulcie provided not only another firsthand account of life in Halls Creek but also another set of photographs to draw on. The result is an appealing, well-illustrated account of two periods of nursing in one small part of the inland. Read alone or in conjunction with other books, *The garden of myth* provides insight into the outlook, resourcefulness and stamina of people who enjoyed few of the conveniences that we now take for granted. It adds to our knowledge of both Halls Creek and the AIM, making it a welcome addition to the range of publications that are marking the AIM's centenary year.

*Cathie Clement*

## AWARDS

In December 2012, Cable Beach Primary School teacher **Liz Waldron** was the first winner of the title of WA Premier's early childhood teacher of the year. This new category in the WA Education Department awards reflects the growing emphasis on early childhood education. This year, pre-primary will be the first year of compulsory schooling in WA.

With more than 30 years experience in teaching, Liz has been at Cable Beach for ten years. Sixty per cent of the students there are Aboriginal, and many struggle with developmental issues. In a bid to overcome such problems, Liz has worked with the school's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education officer to create innovative learning programs for Aboriginal students. She already holds a Masters of early childhood education and hopes to use some of her \$25,000 prize for further study.

**Broome Senior High School** was recognised as the best public secondary school in WA. One judging panel member praised the school's 'culture of success which is embedded in high academic standards and respectful relationships'.



**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, and Frank Woodmore.

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Dr Cathie Clement OAM edits this newsletter for the Kimberley Society, which was launched in 1993 with the principal objective of disseminating information about the Kimberley. The content is copyright but may be cited with acknowledgment. Correspondence, including requests to reproduce text or images, should be directed to The Editor, Kimberley Society, PO Box 8471, Perth Business Centre, Perth, WA, 6849 or [admin@kimberleysociety.org](mailto:admin@kimberleysociety.org), with telephone contact available on (08) 9272 3308.

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