



BOAB BULLETIN

No. 88

October 2008

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS

commencing 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. at

Shenton Park Community Centre, corner Onslow and Herbert Roads

Wednesday, 1 October 2008

Michael Cusack (rock art enthusiast)

“Joseph Bradshaw – getting lost in the Kimberley and the art named after him”

Wednesday, 5 November 2008

John Stanton (Berndt Museum of Anthropology)

“Kimberley art: assertion and response”

Wednesday, 3 December 2008

Frank Rodriguez & Cindy Solonec (Rodriguez family)

“Frank Rodriguez - West Kimberley identity”

Members and visitors are invited to stay for supper after the meeting.
The Society asks a \$2.00 hospitality fee from non-members for each meeting other than the one in December when a \$5.00 hospitality fee is asked.

KIMBERLEY EVENTS

Kununurra Apex Barra Bash, 25/26 October, commences Saturday morning and ends Sunday afternoon. It is an open event for people of all ages, with a \$3,000 first prize for a mystery size Barra and many other categories and prizes. BBQ breakfast is available both mornings, organized by the Apex Club. Further details from Mark Furini at kimhyd@bigpond.com or on 08 9168 3222.

Broome Mango Festival, 28 to 30 November, has events that include Mango Quiz Night, Great Bartenders of Broome, Mango Cocktail Party & Cocktail Competition, The Mango Cook Off Brunch, Pearling Masters Mango Tea Party, and Great Chefs of Broome. Further details from the Lions Club of Broome on 0439 963 339.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

When we were living in Derby ten years ago, both there and in other Kimberley communities a sense of neglect and abandonment by the larger Western Australian society was often felt. Decisions were made in Perth, whence also came the funding of government departments. The control of local organisations was taken away to the big city and obviously a small and scattered population of some 30,000 souls was of little significance to the populace of Perth or at the ballot box. (However I must pay tribute to the local MPs, both state and federal who were assiduous in lending a sympathetic ear and speaking on our behalf.) The local media struggled to make its way or to carry impact and apart from the odd crocodile story or lost tourist, we were rarely mentioned nationally. One small triumph I remember was when we managed to get a ten second “bite” on a commercial TV news report concerning our small demonstration in support of the tidal power project; and of course you know what came of that. The port of Derby was closed. There was but one significant though declining mine and the dysfunctional “Aboriginal Industry” seemed to be one of the few enterprises that would persist. Even here it felt like being given a sand iron to blast your way out of the bunker but no clubs to stop you getting into the trap in the first place.

How things have changed! Big money is going in and more will eventually come out with the offshore gas and new mines. The *West Australian* has discovered problems that have existed for twenty years and does not spare column space in allocating blame. Nichols Rothwell in the *Weekend Australian* magazine has just given a comprehensive review of the issues surrounding the onshore gas developments (which I mentioned in the last *Boab Bulletin* so I shall steer clear of that subject for a while). And The Apology of course. The Kimberley is now big news.

Through all these changes, we in the Kimberley Society will quietly pursue our enduring interests in natural history, rock art and history as well as looking at the current passions and problems.

Hamish McGlashan

CAN YOU HELP?

I work as a volunteer botanist at Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary in the Central Kimberley for 3–4 months each year doing veg surveys, collecting plants and maintaining the herbarium.

For this work I need a copy of Wheeler's *Flora of the Kimberley Region* which was published in the early 1990s but which now cannot be found anywhere, new or second hand. So I wondered if any member of the Kimberley Society may have a copy they no longer want. I am happy to pay several hundred dollars for it (I'm sure it would be expensive if I could find it).

(Dr) Helen Dauncey

hdauncey@ozemail.com.au or 02 4997 0040

VALUABLE BUSH TUCKER IN THE KIMBERLEY

An article in *The West Australian* on 17 September told of the efforts that are being made to protect the gubinge (*Terminalia ferdinandiana*) from overseas exploitation. The level of vitamin C in the cherry-sized fruit is the highest in any fruit in the world.

THE CLONTARF FOUNDATION

Why should the Kimberley Society be interested in the Clontarf Foundation? The talk given by Chairman Ross Kelly on 2 July 2008 certainly showed its relevance while revealing its genesis, mission, development and future plans.

Beginnings. The Foundation had its beginnings at the Clontarf Aboriginal College when Gerard Neesham was there doing some relief teaching after his four years as coach of the Fremantle Dockers. The College was not retaining its students but Gerard noticed that when the boys were involved in football activities they were more focussed and positive. So, with cooperation from the College, the Clontarf Football Academy was founded in 2000 on a budget of \$34,000.

To provide the boys with high quality coaches, good role models and mentors, Gerard engaged former Hawthorn premiership and fairest and best player and Dockers captain, Ben Allan, to assist part-time with the coaching. Claremont League Footballer Simon Nimmo, a graduate in Human Movement and Exercise Science from the University of Western Australia, became a full-time Physical Conditioner and Program Coordinator; and Percy Johnson, a former WAFL player and coach, also joined the team. In the first term, fifteen students attended the football training session, and the group grew to 25 before the end of the year. An invite to local schools for Aboriginal boys to attend a camp then resulted in 91 boys turning up, many of them unannounced and some coming from as far as Esperance, Carnarvon and Kalgoorlie. The year 2001 was a tough one with 165 students enrolled at the school and many administrative and financial problems to be overcome. The difficulties were overcome, finances were sufficient and the boys stayed at school.

Mission: From little things, big things grow

“Improve the discipline, life skills, and self esteem of young Aboriginal men and by so doing equip them to participate meaningfully in society.”

The target of the Clontarf Football program is one of the most ‘at risk’ groups in contemporary Australian society – indigenous teenage boys. As Ross pointed out, indigenous society faces a range of disadvantages. For example: the high suicide rate and high drug, alcohol and substance abuse. Indigenous students, Australia wide, are half as likely as non-indigenous students to continue to Year 12 (even less in remote areas) and indigenous juveniles are 20 times more likely to be detained than other juveniles.

Many of these boys are caught in a generational cycle that includes poor education, inadequate parenting, inappropriate values, low self esteem and lack of life skills. Australian Rules football is considered an ideal vehicle to break the cycle: the great majority of Aboriginal people love the game and value it above many other pursuits. Aboriginal men, due to their interest in, and natural aptitude for, the game are on average better equipped to succeed at it than are non-Aboriginals.

The Academies are established in partnership with mainstream schools for young indigenous boys from 13 to 18 years of age. The schools provide for the educational needs while the Academy provides the coaching, health education and life skills.

The aims are for the boys to attend school regularly, remain at school to improve and complete their education, make healthy lifestyle decisions, set and achieve goals, have access to employment opportunities, develop their football skills and develop enhanced self esteem.

Students have to agree to attend school regularly, apply themselves to study and abide by the Academy’s requirements for behaviour and self-discipline.

The staff consists of ex-AFL footballers, teachers, and social workers selected on the basis of their ability to work with this group and, of course, an understanding of Australian Rules football (although if the program is extended to Queensland and New South Wales this will have to be Rugby).

Development

Since its small beginnings in 2000 the Foundation has grown considerably to Academies in 22 schools, 1500 boys, 65 staff and a budget of \$8.3 million in 2008. There are now ten Academies in Western Australia including 350 students at four schools in the Kimberley – East Kimberley (Kununurra, 2007), Halls Creek (2008), West Kimberley (attached to the two high schools in Broome, 2006) and eight in the Northern Territory.

Approximately 50% of Western Australia's indigenous male Year 12 students are enrolled in its programs. The success of the program has been demonstrated by attendance rates of better than 80%, retention rates better than 90%, and more than 75% of graduates in full time work.

The Foundation is a not-for-profit incorporated body and relies on donations, sponsorship and state and federal government funds. There is a board of eight members chaired by Ross Kelly and its patron is Kevin Sheedy.

The future

The Foundation's growth has been exponential but it is felt that only the surface has been scratched.

It is trying programs with 10- to 12-year-old boys in primary schools in Kununurra and Halls Creek – this is significant as indigenous boys there frequently cease engaging with school around the age of nine years.

Sixty per cent of Australia's indigenous people live in NSW and Qld – some 150 academies and 600 staff are needed to reach the coverage now in WA and NT!

The talk was enlivened by personal stories including one of two boys from Noonkanbah Station who arrived with four others with all their possessions in one brown paper bag.

At the conclusion Ross pointed out that, while there are overwhelming social and humanitarian arguments for the Foundation's work, there is a compelling economic argument – it costs the Foundation \$16 a day to keep a boy at school and the Government about \$1000 per day to keep a boy in gaol.

The Clontarf Foundation's Web site (<http://www.clontarffootball.com>) offers more information about the operation of the foundation and the academies as well as news stories that includes some from Kununurra and Broome.

Margaret Larke

POLITICIANS EYE THE KIMBERLEY

With the Liberals and the Nationals having negotiated an alliance in the wake of the Western Australian election of 6 September, Premier-elect Colin Barnett and Nationals leader Brendon Grylls are looking northward. Both are talking of the need for Dubai-like cities in the Kimberley and the Pilbara. In the lead-up to the election, Mr Barnett agreed to drop his advocacy of a Kimberley canal. From there, he has moved to supporting the Nationals' idea of taking the people to the water.

FAVOURITE KIMBERLEY BOOKS

Last year, Jack Vercoe wrote of his five favourite books about the Kimberley and invited others to submit their choices. This has met with a disappointing (i.e. nil) response. Perhaps it should be made a compulsory exercise for all committee members. He chose *One Wet Season* by Ion Idriess, *Mates: images of the Kimberley* by Kevin Shaw, *The Noonkanbah Story* by Erich Kolig, *Raparapa Kularr Martuwarra: All right, now we go 'side the river, along that sundown way: Stories from the Fitzroy River Drovers* edited by Paul Marshall, and *Stone Age Bushman of Today* by J R B Love. This last one would be high on my list of favourites too but here is my choice of five others, not in any particular order of preference. (Not easy, it would be simpler to choose the five worst).

1. *Over The Range* by Ion L Idriess. Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1937. Yes another Idriess. In 1933 he accompanied a police patrol which traversed the west Kimberley, rounding up alleged miscreants and lepers. I have crossed his tracks and looked for his landmarks on several bush walking trips. I once found myself sitting on an aeroplane next to a well known academic who was completely dismissive of Idriess both from the literary and sociological points of view. Nevertheless I find it a compelling read and a fascinating insight into attitudes of the time. We should be wary of making moral judgements of the past from the fleeting political correctness of today.
2. *Last Horse Standing* by Mike Keenan. Bantam, 2006. Mike Keenan is a present day Idriess. I have mentioned this book before, a rattling good tale of people marooned at Walcott inlet after a cyclone in 1971.
3. *The Road to Mowanjum* by Maisie McKenzie. Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1969. This is a history of the Presbyterian Mission at Port George IV, Kunmunya, Wotjulum and Mowanjum, a period which both precedes and succeeds Love's book (above). Many of my Derby patient's parents and grandparents stories are recounted here. Knowing the past helps one to understand the present.
4. *Bradshaw Art of the Kimberley* by Grahame L Walsh. Takkaraka Nowan Kas Publications, Toowong (Qld), 2000. One has to choose one of Walsh's three books, even above *Rock Art of the Kimberley*, our own publication. This is the latest Walsh to reach us and a work of art in its own right.
5. *Journals of two Expeditions of Discovery (Volume 1)* by George Grey, Esq. T. and W. Boone, London, 1841, facsimile edition, Hesperian Press, 1983. Retracing Grey's footsteps is where my love of the Kimberley began. This is history, natural history, adventure, travel and poetic literature all in one.

Hamish McGlashan

LNG DEVELOPMENTS

Media coverage of proposals and decisions affecting the LNG industry has been intense. At the time of preparing this newsletter, Inpex had decided to build its LNG plant in Darwin but Premier-elect Colin Barnett was holding last-minute talks with the company in a bid to keep the project in WA. The location preferred by Inpex was the Maret Islands in the Kimberley, and another company (Chevron) has spoken of its interest in using Packer Island, 40km southwest of Cape Leveque. The Federal Department of Environment cannot assess any proposal to put a plant in WA until it receives the results of an environmental impact study. Several weeks ago, the Kimberley Land Council announced that Gourdon Bay and James Price Point (near Broome), North Head (about 130km north of Broome), and the Anjo peninsula (40km from Kalumburu) are acceptable to regional native title claimants.

OF OCEANS, ATOLLS AND LAGOONS: A MARINE CENSUS

On 6 August 2008, Clay Bryce of the WA Museum's Department of Aquatic Zoology talked to the Kimberley Society about some of the surveys of the remote coral atolls far off the Kimberley coast. The Kimberley region, including nearshore and offshore islands and reefs is currently the focus of Western Australian Museum and DEC surveys, both terrestrial and marine; this is partly driven by environmental threats posed by possible oil, gas and mineral development and processing. Although the Museum has made many field trips to the Kimberley much of the fauna is still unknown as it is a huge area, much of it difficult to access.

Clay was part of the Museum team, which made initial surveys of the Marine Fauna of the Rowley Shoals (Clerke and Mermaid Reefs, 1982), then Scott and Seringapatam Reefs in 1984. He also was part of a multi-disciplinary team which re-surveyed Scott and Mermaid Reefs in September 2006. All these reefs are shelf-edge atolls, rising from 400-700 metres depth and bathed by clear oceanic water in contrast to the nearshore Kimberley Reefs which have a largely different fauna adapted to the turbid coastal water.

Scott and Seringapatam reefs lie over 400km north of Broome while the Rowley Shoals lie about 300km west of Broome; there is about 400km of ocean between Mermaid Reef and Scott Reef leading to some faunal differences.

Scott Reef in particular is in the path of a current from Indonesia, the Indonesian through flow, which carries equatorial Pacific water into the Indian Ocean, where it mixes with other currents to form the west coast Leeuwin Current. As well as carrying larvae of Indo-Pacific reef species, the water is sometimes so warm that it stresses the corals, which then lose their colour—bleaching, due to the departure of their symbiotic single-celled algae (zooxanthellae). When this happens you can see the pure white skeleton through the transparent coral tissues and if the stress persists the corals die as they depend on the symbiotic algae for most of their food, produced by the algae photosynthesizing. A devastating coral bleaching event happened to Scott Reef in 1998 killing all the shallow water corals. Just as the reef was starting to recover it was hit by Cyclone Fay in 2003, which reached its maximum intensity, with screaming 300km per hour wind and huge seas, the eye passing right over Scott Reef. A team from the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) visited the reef soon after the cyclone and found a scene of utter devastation with car-sized coral bombies thrown up from the reef front on to the reef crest which was completely covered with dead coral fragments. The north west of WA has the highest incidence of cyclones in the Southern Hemisphere; between 1988 and 2004, twenty category 4 and 5 cyclones pounded this region. To make matters worse another coral bleaching event happened in 2003. Mermaid Reef escaped the worst effects of Cyclone Fay as well as the coral bleaching events and so remains a more or less pristine coral reef.

Another stress on Scott Reef comes from fishing pressure by traditional Indonesian fishers who visit seasonally in sailing perahus each carrying several dugout canoes. There is a Memorandum of Understanding between the Indonesian and Australian governments (MOU) that permits traditional fishing within a "box" off the north-west which used to include Ashmore and Cartier Reefs as well as Scott and Seringapatam but not the Rowley Shoals which are Nature Reserves (Clerke and Imperieuse in state waters because they have sand cays above high tide level while Mermaid Reef is in Commonwealth waters because the sand cay is covered at high tide). Ashmore and later Cartier reef were excluded from the MOU box because of the severe depletion of fauna.

Because Scott Reef also appeared to be seriously depleted by the Indonesian fishers who target the invertebrate species, such as Trochus (*Tectus niloticus*), various edible sea cucumbers and giant clams (*Tridacna* and *Hippopus* species), a survey of the Marine Resources was made in February 2006. Clay undertook the survey swimming 16.8km, along 19 transects covering all reef habitats on North and South Scott Reefs. North Scott Reef is annular with two passages through the outer barrier reef while South Scott is horseshoe shaped with a 60m deep lagoon. Between the two reefs there is a 700m deep channel.

In the early 1980s the estimated annual catch of Trochus (*Tectus niloticus*) by Indonesian fishers from the whole MOU box was 20-30 tonnes, by 1994 this had fallen to less than 15 tonnes (excluding Ashmore Reef), by 1998 it was down to less than five tonnes, and if Ashmore Reef is excluded it was less than one tonne. When comparisons are made, Torres Strait had a population of 500/ha in the 1990s while in 2006 South Scott Reef had 0.10/ha and no *Tectus* at all were found at North Scott Reef. Giant clams showed a similar decrease in numbers: in 1998 counts by CSIRO indicated a population of the five commercial species of 10.5/ha at Scott Reef, which had dropped to 1.53/ha by 2006. One non-commercial species of clam, which burrows into the reef, remained in good numbers. While cyclones and bleaching affect the clams (they have the same symbiotic algae in their mantles as corals, giving them their bright colours) they are able to recover fairly quickly. At Orpheus Island off the Queensland coast 70% of the clams were bleached and 95% of these were still alive eight months later.

Similarly the beche-de-mer (sea cucumbers, Trepang or holothurians) species at Scott Reef declined from 15.8/ha in 1998 to 3.65/ha in 2006. The reefs have a high degree of resilience to natural disasters but with the added stress of overfishing it may take decades for the commercial species to recover even without any fishing pressure.

In September 2006 the Museum, with AIMS and Murdoch University, undertook a major biodiversity survey of Mermaid Reef, North and South Scott Reef and Seringapatam Reefs targeting sponges, crustacea, molluscs, corals, fishes, echinoderms, algae and seagrasses. For the first time sponges became of a part of a major survey; Dr Jane Fromont identified 132 species from the three reef areas and found that each reef system had a mix of species not duplicated on the other reefs. Only 14 species were in common between Mermaid, Scott and Seringapatam Reefs.

Fish diversity was less specific to each reef; of the 417 species, 44% were in common between Mermaid, North and South Scott and Seringapatam Reefs.

Among the Molluscs a total of 479 species were identified, and of these only 124 species were in common between all the reef systems.

These results lead to the conclusion that it is important to protect at least representative parts of each reef system in marine sanctuary zones.

Clay showed a magnificent DVD as part of his presentation: *Scott Reef: the diversity and the duress*. This was produced, written and directed by Clay for the Museum with interviews by both Andrew Heyward (AIMS) and Clay.

The whole presentation gave us much food for thought – what can and should be done about legal Indonesian fishing on some of these reefs?

Loisette Marsh

BOOK NOTE

Suicides and Settlers : Their Place in 19th Century West Australian Social History by Claire McIntyre. Hesperian Press, Carlisle (WA), 2008. Soft Cover, 223 pages, illustrated, ISBN 978-0-85905-446-1, RRP \$28.00.

This interesting and informative book, compiled by the author of *On the Edge – Deaths at The Gap covering the period 1863 – 1963*, follows the approach that Yvonne and Kevin Coate adopted in *Lonely Graves of Western Australia & Burials at Sea* and in *More Lonely Graves of Western Australia*. It presents information on 315 suicides, listing the people alphabetically by surname. To help readers locate those that are of specific interest, it also groups the names under localities. In a nice touch, the localities listing also gives the year of the person's death and, if known, his or her occupation.

In the localities listing, the names for Broome are: Leon Dumana (1898, Prisoner), Sabbero Nakashima or Nagashima (1896, Boarding-house keeper), and Severino Robato (1899). Those for Halls Creek are: Charles Duffy (1899, Miner) and Arthur Wokes (1897, Miner), while a third miner, Archibald Morrison, is recorded for Kimberley Goldfields. No entries are recorded for Derby or Fitzroy Crossing but the names for Wyndham are: Ah Moy (1886, Cook), Peter Alexander Kemp (1888, Telegraph line inspector), James Moniz (1889, Teamster), and J Verunda (1886), whose name also may have been spelt Veronda or Veronnda.

Some of these names will be familiar to people interested in Kimberley history but others will be new. The entries for Leon Dumana and Severino Robato, for example, are drawn from the *Police Gazette*, a very rich historical source but one to which historians and researchers tend to go only for specific topics. The entry for Sabbero Nakashima also comes from the *Police Gazette* but, instead of having only the sparsest of information, it has details gleaned from a police file and a newspaper article. The presence of former is indicative of the author's assiduousness in following up file references given in the gazettes while that of the newspaper material may reflect the equally dogged work done by Peter Bridge (Hesperian Press) in combing old newspapers for interesting historical information.

The following up of file references has been particularly fruitful. The entry for Arthur Wokes' death, for instance, includes a transcription of a poignant letter in which he asked Joseph Fagan to take his money and property, and to give Bob Button a share if that man would accept it. In asking Joseph to take his pup "Whiskey", he wrote: "if you don't want him destroy him I would have done so myself but I haven't the heart to do it". Sad and evocative, such letters help to fill the many blanks that exist in our knowledge of the past.

Importantly, from the reader's point of view, the existence of the transcript of the dead man's letter would be evident to someone who happened to be interested only in Joseph Fagan or Bob Button. Like the Coates, the author of *Suicides and Settlers* provides an index of associated people who are mentioned in the book. That index also contains abbreviations that identify people who were Aboriginal, doctors, or police. There is no separate index for places or vessels (features that are particularly useful in the *Lonely Graves* books) but one can hardly complain about that omission.

Claire McIntyre's *Suicides and Settlers* is a welcome addition to the range of biographical dictionaries that record Western Australian people and deaths. She is to be applauded, too, for including only those deaths for which there was a formal finding of suicide.

Cathie Clement

CAMDEN SOUND WHALE ACTIVITY

In December last year, the *Boab Bulletin* carried extracts from a preliminary report prepared by Richard Costin and Annabelle Sandes (conservationists and documentary film makers) on their self-funded 2007 survey of whales in the Camden Sound area, approximately 280km from Derby. The extracts noted that observations by researchers and charter boats had identified Camden Sound as the main calving ground for the Group IV Humpback whales, which undertake a 13,000km return journey from the Antarctic to the Kimberley coast every southern winter.

Richard and Annabelle are placing information about their 2008 whale survey (extending from 3 June to 3 December) on their Kimberley Whale Watching Web site (<http://www.kimberleywhales.com.au>) as the trips occur. The work is being done with the participation of the Western Australian Marine Science Institution (WAMSI) and the assistance of Jeff and Lynne Ralston from Pearl Sea Coastal Cruises. The Ralstons have donated three weeks of boat time on their research vessel, *Kimberley Quest 1*.

Each trip departs from Broome and involves two transects. Transect 1 (in the southern portion of Camden Sound) takes in an area from Hall Point westwards, then a southerly route to Hull Banks, just north of Montgomery Island, eastwards toward Freshwater Cove, and north back to Hall Point. Transect 2 (taking in the northern portion) repeats the westward route of Transect 1, tracks north to Wildcat Reef, east to Champagne Island, and south back to Hall Point.

The June trip, which was undertaken in conjunction with physical and biological oceanographers from UWA, indicated that, at that point in their migration, the whales appeared to be centred around Hall Point and the southerly end of Camden Sound. Whales were heard at all six points along the exit transect, from Hall Point to Cafferelli Island. The total number heard during the trip was approximately 83, and the total sighted was 99, including one cow/calf pair.

The August trip, which was undertaken in conjunction with Dr Steve Blake (from UWA, and chief executive of WAMSI) and representatives from The Wilderness Society, showed no change in where the whales appeared to be centred but it revealed a massive increase in their numbers. Kimberley Whale Watching's focus was to record the number of whales seen on the surface per sighting hour and to estimate the number heard through hydrophone drops. They heard whales at all hydrophone locations on all transects, and sighted whales on every transect. The total sightings came in at 607, and included several cow/calf pairs.

A news article written by Peter Kerr (*The West Australian*, 12 August 2008, page 3) reported on the findings. It described Camden Sound as "one of the world's biggest humpback whale nurseries", and it quoted Dr Blake saying, "We believe it surpasses the number found in the Caribbean's Silver Banks region, which is usually listed as one of the world's main humpback nursery grounds." It also quoted Dr Blake's view that the Kimberley "is one of the last true marine wildernesses in the world" and that it "has fringing coral reefs and off-shore reefs of global significance".

Ironically, on the day the article appeared, the status of the humpback changed from "vulnerable" to "least concern" on the Red List of cetacean species issued by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. That change, according to an article written by Chris Johnston (*The West Australian*, 12 August 2008, page 10), may lead to Japanese whalers pushing again to include the species in their annual whaling program. If protection from commercial hunting is lost, the humpbacks may become "vulnerable" in a way not covered by the use of that term on the Red List.

HONOURS

The Queen's Birthday Honours List contained several awards relevant to the Kimberley. Sister Theresa Anne Morellini of Warmun (formerly Turkey Creek) was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) 'for service to the Indigenous community of the Kimberley region, particularly in the areas of social welfare and education, the prevention of alcohol and substance abuse, and pastoral care programs'. That recognition followed her 2001 Centenary Medal, awarded 'for service to the Aboriginal community of Warmun'.

Angus Matheson (Gus) Bottrill was awarded a Medal (OAM) 'for service to the indigenous community, particularly through research and assistance with land title claims'. Mr Bottrill, now 83 years of age, is a familiar face in the J S Battye Library and the State Records Office of Western Australia. His extensive research, as well as contributing to land claims, has helped with the compilation of books that include Mary Anne Jebb's *Blood, Sweat and Welfare: A history of white bosses and Aboriginal pastoral workers*, published by UWA Press in 2002.

The four WA recipients of the Australian Police Medal (APM) included Kununurra Detective Sergeant Tom Doyle and Broome's Senior Aboriginal Police Liaison Officer Allan Tang Wei. The detective's award was made in recognition of his role in leading last year's investigation into child sex abuse in the Kimberley.

BEAUTY IN THE KIMBERLEY

The dramatic scenery of the peninsula north of Broome is the backdrop for this summer's promotion of Kooney swimwear. The swimwear is designed by Joanne Pellaw, who spent most of her life in Broome, and it is modelled by Emily Cattermole, granddaughter of retired Kimberley politician Ernie Bridge.

COUNCIL 2008-2009

President:	Hamish McGlashan
Vice-Presidents:	Jack Vercoe and Cathie Clement
Secretary:	Jeffrey Gresham
Membership Secretary:	Mike Donaldson
Treasurer:	Gilbert Marsh
Councillors:	Kevin Kenneally, Daphne Edinger, Susan Clarkson and Adrienne Boulter

Grant Sellwood manages the Kimberley Society's Web site (www.kimberleysociety.org). It carries summaries of the Society's talks (as published in the *Boab Bulletin* but sometimes with additional images), FAQs, and information about the Society and how to join it.

© Kimberley Society Inc. 2008

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.