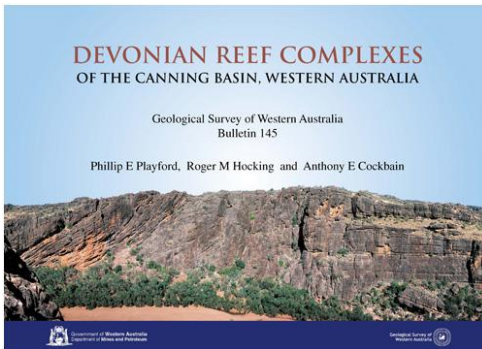


Kimberley Society



Book Note

***Devonian reef complexes of the Canning Basin, Western Australia* by Phillip Playford, Roger Hocking and Anthony Cockbain. Geological Survey of Western Australia, Bulletin 145, 2009, hard cover, 444 pages, profusely illustrated with 536 figures in full colour, and 8 large maps (folded), in presentation box. ISBN is 978-1-74168-233-5 (print), 978-1-74168-232-8 (PDF). Price \$77 (print).**

This is a landmark publication that represents some 50 years of field work and related research by the principal author and Kimberley Society foundation member Dr Phil Playford. His detailed studies of many aspects of the Kimberley's Devonian reef systems in the Napier and Oscar Ranges have been widely published over many years, but this volume brings it all together with the latest thinking on the formation of this marvellous geological feature. These fossil reefs are known around the world as the best examples of ancient barrier reef systems, and geologists from far and wide visit the area regularly to learn how reefs formed in past eras.

Although it is a technical publication, it will be of interest to many with more than a passing interest in the limestones of the Napier and Oscar Ranges, and there is much that the non-technical reader will readily understand and appreciate. The hundreds of excellent photographs illustrate diverse geological processes, fossils, and reef structures, and the commentary includes references to Aboriginal names and mythology associated with ranges as well as European historical points. There are also sections detailing the economic aspects of the Devonian rocks, including the zinc and lead sulphide deposits at Pillara and Cadjebut (and others) and the small oilfields that may point to the presence of larger, as yet undiscovered oil occurrences.

The contributions by the other authors balance Phil's major input, and the publication makes extensive reference to the many people from around the world who have contributed to the amazing level of detail that we now have on the origin of these fascinating rocks. Copies can be purchased from Department of Mines and Petroleum online [bookshop](#). To view a PDF copy free of charge, go [here](#) where you will find lots of other Geological Survey material, most of which can be downloaded free of charge.

Mike Donaldson