



BOAB BULLETIN

No. 108

February 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 February 2012

Andy Lemessurier, Mike Donaldson and Jeff Gresham
“River Tales: Bushwalking in the Kimberley 2011”

Wednesday, 7 March 2012

Kimberley Toad Busters
“Kimberley Cane Toad Program”

Wednesday, 4 April 2012

Betty Foster (ex-MMA air hostess)
“MMA Air Hostessing 1961-1963”

Wednesday, 2 May 2012

Rachel Siewart (Australian Greens Senator)
“James Price Point”

Wednesday, 6 June 2012

Clay Bryce (WA Museum)
“Zoological research”

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 arrange for someone else to speak on a similar subject. All meetings are in Shenton Park unless otherwise advised.

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

Provisional Program for second half of 2012

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
4 Jul	Sandy Toussaint and others	Kimberley Stories (a new book)
1 Aug	Russell & Matt Barrett (Kings Park)	Working with Kimberley flora
5 Sep	Tom Carlson (Retired OIC Fitzroy Crossing Police)	Police work, 1967-1972
3 Oct	Mark Moore (University of New England, NSW)	Stone tool manufacture

FROM THE PRESIDENT

2011 was a highly significant year for the Kimberley in regard to land status, environmental protection and potential industrial development within the region. Importantly native title was granted to the Wanjina Wunggurr Dambimangari and Uungguu people over more than 50,000 square kilometres of the north and east Kimberley. The remote and difficult to access Prince Regent Nature Reserve totalling 633,825 hectares was gazetted as the State's 99th National Park. A conservation reserve corridor will be established to connect this park and the large Drysdale River National Park to the east that is centred on the central section of the Drysdale River. This corridor will traverse parts of the Doongan and/or Theda pastoral stations. Four Marine Parks were established in the Camden Sound, North Kimberley, Roebuck Bay and Eighty Mile Beach areas <www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/view/6171/1618/>. Lastly, on 31 August, more than 19 million hectares of the West Kimberley went onto the National Heritage List <<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/national/west-kimberley/>>. What all these changes will mean with regard to access to the different parts of the Kimberley will only be revealed with the passage of time.

With regard to potential development in the Kimberley, Woodside finally reached agreement with the Kimberley Land Council, acting on behalf of the traditional owners, for development of the James Price Point gas hub. However protests against the development continue and Woodside have announced a deferral of the development decision until mid 2013 although they remain committed to the project's development. Whatever happens, the project is sure to continue to generate strong debate and ongoing protests from various groups.

Given these very significant developments throughout 2011, the coming year is sure to see more changes and it is hoped that these will be in the best interest of the region and the people who live there.

In 2012 your Society has already developed a varied and interesting speaker program for the year commencing at our February 1st meeting with three brief illustrated talks on walking on the Lawley, Mitchell and Roe Rivers. The design work for the seminar proceedings volume, "Kimberley History: People, Exploration and Development" is progressing and we would hope to have this available for purchase by members and the public by the end of March.

Our AGM will be held at our meeting on Wednesday 7th March. We require some additional members for the Society's Council to assist in running the affairs of the Society. I can assure you the demands of being a Council member are neither demanding nor onerous. If you would be willing to assist in this matter could you please contact me or any of the current Council members ASAP.

Jeffrey J Gresham

BAYS, BASINS, ISLANDS AND ESTUARIES OF THE KIMBERLEY COAST

On 5 October 2011, during a visit to Perth, Dr. A. (Sandy) Scott presented an illustrated talk to the Kimberley Society. A retired University of New England academic in science education, he has been a guest lecturer with Coral Princess Cruises on the Kimberley coast for the last 14 years, averaging two to three visits per year. That idyllic existence follows years of leading groups on inland Kimberley excursions. Sandy also works as a consultant developing travel programs to Asia for *Odyssey Travel* and leading many of those trips. A summary of his talk follows, and additional diagrammatic material can be seen on the Society's website.

The Kimberley coast has a rocky shoreline which is segmented into a series of bays, basins, islands and estuaries that have formed on the edge of the Kimberley Plateau. Most of the major landforms are circled by cliffs, rounded headlands and promontories with a lesser proportion of small beaches of boulders or sand and estuary mud flats mostly covered with mangrove communities. Sandy's presentation focused on the major landforms on the Kimberley coast and the significant factors that contributed to their development.

Outstanding features of the coast today include its indentation with many bays and estuaries, the control of NW-SE and NE-SW lineaments, the many islands, the wide continental shelf, the high tidal range on much of this coastline and the fact that the coastal geology is, with the exception of the south-west corner, 'flat and simple'. The characteristics of the five most widespread rock formations of the Kimberley Basin, as found on the coast, include:

- the limited distribution of the youngest, the Yampi Formation.
- that the Carson Volcanics, Hart Dolerite and the Elgee Siltstone are, comparatively, more liable to weathering and erosion than the King Leopold Sandstone, the Warton Sandstone and the Pentecost Sandstone formations.
- that the more resistant formations to weathering alternate with formations that are relatively more easily weathered.
- Hart Dolerite, may intrude King Leopold Sandstone, Carson Volcanics and Warton Sandstone.

Sandy presented several case studies to demonstrate the significant factors in the landforms associated with King George River, Vansittart Bay, Montague Sound, Prince Frederick Harbour, Saint George Basin and Prince Regent River, Brecknock Harbour and Doubtful Bay, finishing with Talbot Bay and Yampi Peninsula. The major points made for each location follow.

King George River and falls. Here the river flows through relatively weathering-resistant Warton Sandstone. Uplift of the Kimberley, possibly that of 20 million years ago, formed a plateau and the river flowed off this via a waterfall. The uplift rejuvenated the development of new landforms and headward weathering and erosion by the river followed the joints and possibly a lineament (an extensive surface expression of deep seated faults or fractures) as it cut back into the plateau. This resulted in a zig-zag river course, cliffs of blocky red Warton Sandstone up to 80 metres on either side of the river and twin waterfalls which terminated the steep valley. With the rise in sea level following the last ice age, between 18,000 and 6000 years ago, the river valley has become an estuary.

Vansittart Bay. Prior to the processes that formed Vansittart Bay and its islands (including Jar Island), King Leopold Sandstone, the oldest local formation, was covered with Carson Volcanic rock the surface of which had been altered to bauxite. The bauxite acted as a tough capping over the Carson Volcanic. Rejuvenated

weathering followed the uplift of 20 million years ago which helped expose some of the relatively easily weathered Carson Volcanics. The weathering and erosion undermined the bauxite capping and the eventual removal of all the Carson Volcanics exposed the 'tough' underlying King Leopold Sandstone such as we see today on Jar Island and along much of the eastern side of the Bay. The western side of the Bay remains covered with a plateau capped with bauxite as does part of Eclipse Hill Island at the mouth of the Bay. The termination of the last ice age resulted in rising sea levels and the formation of a bay over the lowered landscape.

In many locations the sandstone has been hardened to form quartzite and on Jar Island the quartzite has disintegrated into huge boulders and collapsed slabs forming caves and overhangs that have served as Aboriginal occupation sites, tool making sites and surfaces suitable for rock painting.

Montague Sound. This diverse section of the coast includes Cape Voltaire, the Maret Islands within the Bonaparte Archipelago and Bigge Island.

At Cape Voltaire we find cliffs of Hart Dolerite, a rock that had formed as a sill within the strata of King Leopold Sandstone. Once the dolerite is exposed to the atmosphere it weathers relatively rapidly (similar to basalt in the Carson Volcanics Formation) and in so doing weakens the King Leopold Sandstone about it. The cliffs now stand free of the sandstone.

The Maret Islands have formed as small plateaus or mesas in a process similar to that at Eclipse Hill Island. The Maret Islands are flat topped and have a capping of bauxite or iron dominated laterite. Rising sea levels have isolated these flat topped hills as islands. Wave action and weathering of the underlying Carson Volcanics is causing ongoing weathering and erosion of the islands.

Bigge Island is mainly formed from King Leopold Sandstone. Variation within the sandstone strata has resulted in some strata being more susceptible to weathering than others. One result of such a breakdown has been the development of thick rock columns in this stratum. In some cases there is the development of a cave system supported by many columns but in other cases the columns have become very thin and collapsed bringing down the large slabs of rock they supported.

Prince Frederick Harbour. This harbour is the mouth of both the Hunter and the Roe Rivers, rivers which would have 'cut down' to their present level following the general Kimberley uplift many millions of years ago. The predominant local rock is King Leopold Sandstone and it has been extensively intruded by Hart Dolerite in this region. Once the river valleys had exposed the dolerite in times past, its relatively rapid weathering would have undermined the King Leopold Sandstone. Without support the sandstone fell and developed cliffs which gradually receded as the process continued. Where large sections of the dolerite sill have been exposed as headlands, they form rounded promontories rather than steep cliffs. The rivers would have effectively eroded the collapsed sandstone, so widening the valley, and deposited their sediments over the continental shelf. Given that sea level during the past ice age was well over 100 metres below current levels, the river valleys were far enough below sea level to be flooded as the sea level rose.

Extensive mangrove-covered mud flats and some small sand beaches may be found within the harbour. These sediments are the result of ongoing weathering, erosion and deposition.

Prince Regent River and Saint George Basin. Unlike the King George River the Prince Regent River follows a straight path on its north-westerly course. The river has followed a lineament for about 100 kilometres and this terminates in Saint

George Basin. Most of the upper reaches of the river are narrow and confined to King Leopold Sandstone, but towards the mouth weathering and erosion have exposed sills of Hart Dolerite and this has tended to open and widen the otherwise narrow valley. Two interesting streams, King Cascade and Camp Creek join the Prince Regent River and like several other tributaries do so at right angles to the main river course.

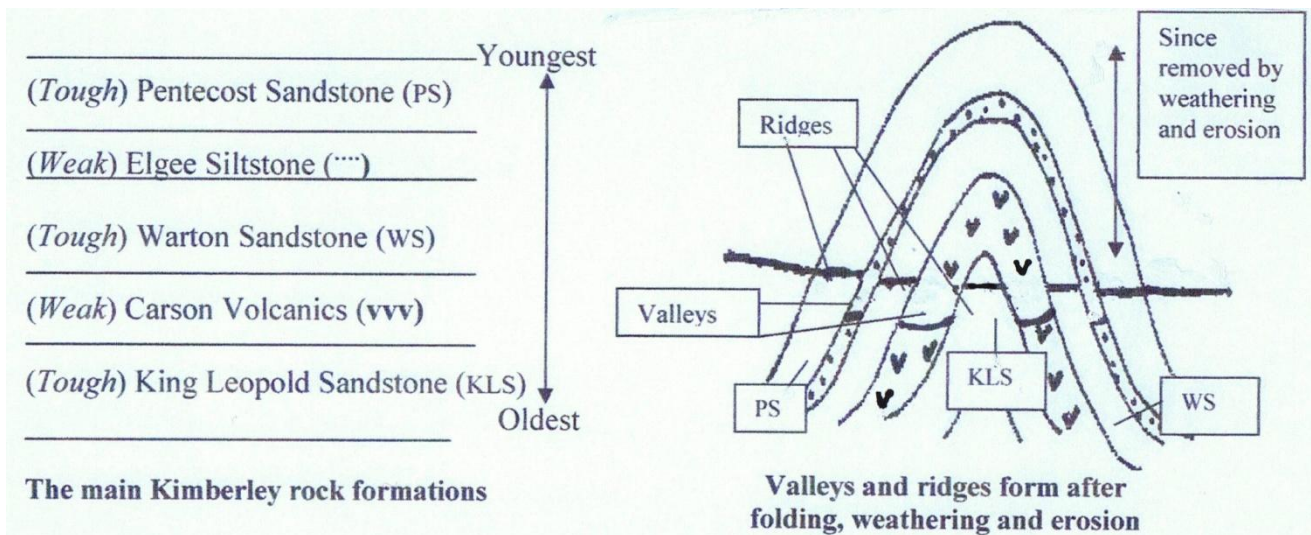
Saint George Basin formed in quite a different geological environment. The Basin formed following the weathering and erosion of a Warton Sandstone plateau which overlies Carson Volcanics (mainly in the form of basalt). In the past the river would have flowed across the Warton Sandstone most likely following the same lineament as described above. In so doing Carson Volcanics would have been exposed and its subsequent rapid weathering undermined the Warton Sandstone gradually opening up a wide valley eventually reaching this size of the current Basin. It is possible to see all stages of the weathering process especially in the north-western corner of the Bay. Here we see isolated mesas (two on land, Mt Waterloo and Mt Trafalgar, and two islands – St Patrick and St Andrew), with Warton Sandstone capping overlying the Carson Volcanic. There are several cone shaped hills of Carson Volcanic where the more resistant cap has been lost. At the other end of the scale are Python Cliffs capped with Warton Sandstone and forming the edge of an entire plateau.

The Basin is connected to the Indian Ocean via Brunswick Bay and at the time of rising sea levels, prior to 6000 years ago, the Bay and Basin would have been flooded, the islands formed and the Prince Regent River became estuarine for about 30 kilometres from its mouth.

Brecknock Harbour. The landward side of the harbour is dominated by Carson Volcanics which in the past would have been capped Warton Sandstone, like the higher parts around Saint George Basin. In the south of the harbour, near Kuri Bay the pre-weathering strata are clearly visible with the highest local peak Mt Lookover formed from Warton Sandstone. Remnants of the weathering are seen at Camden Peninsula, Sheep Island and at Needle Rock near Kuri Bay – all formed from basalt.

Doubtful Bay. This bay, like Saint George Basin and Brecknock Harbour formed where a Warton Sandstone plateau, underlain by Carson Volcanics, once existed. Following the uplift of the Kimberley Basin (also known as the Kimberley Block) some 20 million years ago streams running seaward across the current Bay area, like the Sale River and Red Cone Creek of today, would have exposed the Carson Volcanics thus promoting the eventual undermining of the Warton Sandstone and reduction of the land surface to below current sea level. Today some remnants of the original plateau may be seen at the two bluffs east of Raft Point on the south side of the bay. We also see Steep Island as an outlier from the plateau that has resisted weathering and erosion, and Bird Island where the slow disintegration of Warton Sandstone has formed an island less than five metres above the current sea level.

Talbot Bay and Yampi Peninsula. This part of the Kimberley has been formed from rock formations of the Kimberley Basin but here rock folding has altered their orientation from nearly horizontal to folds with wave lengths varying from a few metres to kilometres and producing in places strata tilted with nearly vertical orientation. One major folding event occurred 540 million years ago and since then ongoing weathering and erosion have reduced the high mountains to plateaus, ridges and valleys. The ridges represent the stumps of the more resistant formations (King Leopold Sandstone, Warton Sandstone and Pentecost Sandstone) and the valleys, now flooded with sea water, have been formed where the less resistant formations (Carson Volcanics and Elgee Siltstone) once existed.



The main Kimberley Basin formations were folded and after long periods of weathering and erosion the folded mountains were reduced to a plateau. Subsequent weathering has removed the less weathering-resistant (weak) strata and left the more resistant (tough) strata as ridges (as described on the next page).

View of the Horizontal Waterfalls at slack tide. The first gap leads through a ridge of Pentecost Sandstone into the first embayment. Beyond the boat is the second gap through a ridge of Warton Sandstone leading into the second embayment. This is backed by McLarty Range formed from King Leopold Sandstone.



At the Horizontal Waterfalls, an interesting attraction found deep in Talbot Bay, intense folding has tilted the originally horizontal formations through 85 degrees. Stream weathering in the past cut down through joints in the near vertical strata forming gaps in the outer two ridges as water flowed out to sea through a valley in Talbot Bay. At this time the stream may have had to run across the continental shelf for many tens of kilometres westward of Yampi Peninsula to reach the sea. This stream allowed for the weathering and erosion of the two embayments we now see inside the gaps where the two more easily weathered, 'weak' formations were once found. The first gap is through a ridge of Pentecost Sandstone that separates Talbot Bay from the first embayment, the second gap is through a ridge of Warton Sandstone and it connects the two embayments. McLarty Range forms the innermost ridge and it is formed of King Leopold Sandstone. Prior to their weathering and erosion, Carson Volcanics occupied the second embayment and Elgee Siltstone occupied the first embayment and remnants of these rocks may still be found on the walls of each embayment.

With the rise in sea levels and the local extreme tidal ranges in-flowing water today builds up in Talbot Bay before flowing 'downhill' through the narrow gap into the first embayment. Similarly water from the first embayment on an incoming tide builds up at the even narrower second gap and forms a second horizontal waterfall as it flows into the second embayment. The process is reversed on the ebb tide. Clearly these tides and the large volume of water exchanged in each tidal cycle will help to move sediments in and out of the embayments. However it is important to remember that the gaps and embayments existed long before the relatively recent sea level rise and the phenomena of horizontal waterfalls.

Yampi Peninsula extends westward onto the Buccaneer Archipelago and most of the rocks on the northern side originated from the Kimberley Basin formations. The Iron Islands and the sections of Koolan and Cockatoo Islands are formed from rocks in the Yampi Formation. This was the last formed Kimberley Basin Formation and parts of it are rich in the iron bearing mineral hematite. On the two islands that have been mined for the iron ore, the hematite containing strata dip steeply, strata on the seaward side plunging below sea level and creating challenges for mining operations.

Before concluding the presentation Sandy showed images of the remarkable folding and over-folding of the colourful Pentecost Sandstone strata at Nares Point. During the conclusion he emphasized that although high sea levels today have flooded the valleys, formed the islands and are adding in a small way to the development of Kimberley coastal landforms, most of what we see involved development processes devoid of sea water. Lineaments and the relative ease of weathering of the five main rock formations of the Kimberley Basin have been most influential in the formation of the wide valleys, basins and isolated hills which, following the last ice age, have become bays, basins, islands and estuaries of the Kimberley coast.

MARINE BIODIVERSITY SURVEY OF THE KIMBERLEY

On 12 January, ScienceNetwork WA <www.sciencewa.net.au> carried an article in which Kimberley Society member Geoff Vivian reported on the marine biodiversity survey that is being led by WA Museum marine biologist Clay Bryce (our June speaker). The survey, a four-year component of ongoing research, continues to reveal undescribed species that include sponges, soft coral, and algae.

REST IN PEACE

On 28 November 2011, **Father Kevin McKelson SAC OAM**, 85, died in Victoria where he had been living since ill health forced him into retirement in 2006. Born in Moonee Ponds in 1926, and ordained as a priest in 1950, Fr McKelson arrived in Broome in 1954. He stayed for the next 52 years, serving as parish priest in Broome and Beagle Bay and at La Grange Mission (now Bidyadanga), where he became fluent in five indigenous languages and was given the name Japulu, meaning "father" in the Karrajari language.

This popular Pallottine father will be remembered in various ways, and not least for his connection with football. The year after his arrival in Broome he started a junior Saints team that played against Beagle Bay. Five years later, he helped to found a senior Saints team (now Broome Saints), and, in 1983, the Tigers (now Bidyadanga Emus). The Saints and the Emus compete each year for the Japulu McKelson Perpetual Shield, which is a heavy wooden warrior's shield that was made using traditional desert carving skills. Fr McKelson's funeral took place at St Brendan's Church, Flemington. The many tributes paid to him included obituaries by Vanessa Mills on ABC Kimberley on 29 November and by Nicola Kalmar in the Broome *Advertiser* on 12 December.

On 25 December, **William (Billy) Lee Tong** passed away in Darwin Hospital after a long struggle. Sadly missed by his wife Dorothy (Dotty) and his sons Craig and Lindsay, this stalwart of the Kimberley will also be remembered by many others. He was as much a part of Old Wyndham Port as the mixture of heritage buildings that testify to the rich history of O'Donnell Street.

Billy's death occurred a century after his father's name first appeared in the post office directory as a Wyndham storekeeper. Charles Lee Tong Foo arrived in Australia as a teenager in the year that Wyndham was established (1886) but, before settling at the port, he worked in the Northern Territory and in the East Kimberley. He returned to Darwin to marry Cecelia (Cissy) Chin Hee, and, in the years to come, they raised their four children in Wyndham. Billy was the last of those children. He looked after his mother, who had been widowed in 1950, until her death in 1991. He also preserved the shop as it had been when his mother ran it, keeping the last of her stock – in which she had taken so much pride – on the shelves. Those of us who enjoyed the privilege of visiting the shop recall it as the essential general store. There was everything from painkiller to clothing; from cooking utensils to spare parts for motor vehicles. Billy would point out items and the names of Kimberley identities in the old invoice books while the 1985 desk calendar sat close by, a reminder of the days when Cissy had been behind the counter. Billy worked out of the shop in the later years of his life, using sewing machines to create padded canvas swags of the sort that drovers had long appreciated. That work was just one phase of a productive and colourful life spent mostly in and around Wyndham. Vale Billy.

OBITUARIES

While the *Boab Bulletin* has recorded the deaths of many Kimberley residents and Kimberley Society members over the years, only those that have come to the editor's attention have been captured. To do justice to the others, the editor would appreciate members submitting obituaries, or just names and basic details, for people they believe should be recorded in our newsletter.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 19th AGM of Kimberley Society (Inc.) will be held at Shenton Park Community Centre, corner of Onslow and Herbert Roads, Shenton Park, on Wednesday, 7 March 2012, 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 Minutes of the 2011 AGM are published in this newsletter (pages 10 & 11).

Jeffrey J Gresham, President (Perth, 23 January 2012)

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS FOR 2012–2013

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 meeting or by request from Jeff Gresham (phone 08 9388 0780). Signed forms must reach the Society by 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 14 February 2012. 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, 7 March 2012. 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.

WHITE WATER RAFTING

On 14 January, a group that calls itself Kimberley White Water Women (KWWW) left Melbourne for Broome and then flew inland by helicopter to begin the first leg of what is described as the longest white water river expedition attempted in the world by a team of women. The team's website <www.kimberleywhitewaterwomen.com> is tracking the 30-day unsupported river expedition and recording its daily progress.

David H. Johnston <www.paddlinginstructor.com> advises that the eight women on the team are all current or past employees of the Outdoor Education Group in Eildon, Victoria. They are outdoor educators, enthusiasts, and adventure seekers, and they all support and advocate for the protection of wilderness regions. That outlook has resulted in the expedition being used to raised money for both Save the Kimberley and the Wananami Remote Community School at Mount Barnett Station. The team raised more than \$2,000 before setting out for the Kimberley.

The KWWW leader is Kokatat athlete and former Australian Adventurer of the Year Tanya Faux who has undertaken previous Kimberley kayak expeditions. Kokatat, an American manufacturer of technical apparel and accessories for water sports, has provided each team member with gear. So far, they have done more walking and scrambling than rafting. Their website shows that they left a spot near the Gibb River Road on the 17th. Since then, they have been working their way down the Isdell's mostly dry river bed, covering only 14.5 km in the first five days. That pace allowed them to enjoy the rock art along the way but they are hoping for heavy rain before they encounter the class 5 rapids reported to be on the Isdell and Charnley rivers. Reaching the Charnley from the Isdell calls for a 150 km hike overland.

KIMBERLEY SOCIETY INC

Draft Minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting

Held at the Shenton Park Community Centre on Wednesday 2nd March, 2011

Opening:

The meeting, attended by 37 members and 5 visitors, was opened by the President, Jeff Gresham, at 7.30 pm.

Apologies:

Daphne Edinger, Hon. Peter Dowding, Jim and Norma Anderson

Minutes of the 17th Annual General Meeting:

The minutes of the 17th Annual General Meeting, held on Wednesday 3rd March 2010 were confirmed as circulated (in the Boab Bulletin) and the President was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

Moved: Elizabeth Gresham Seconded: Hamish McGlashan APPROVED

Matters Arising:

Nil

President's Report:

It gives me great pleasure to present my first report as President of the Kimberley Society for the 2010-2011 year. It has been a very active and productive year for the Society. On March 27, 2010 the Society held a very successful seminar entitled "Kimberley History: People, Exploration and Development" at the University Club of the University of Western Australia. Attended by close to 160 delegates, a series of highly informative and well illustrated papers were presented. The general consensus was that the seminar was a great success and the Society achieved its objective of running the seminar on a cash break even basis. I would like to thank the members of the seminar sub-committee for their help in planning and organising the event. I am pleased to report that the editing of the papers from the seminar is well advanced and we hope to produce a proceedings volume from the seminar by mid-year. This volume will be available to Society members at a discounted price.

An important milestone in the Society's history was reached in October 2010 with the publication of the 100th edition of the Boab Bulletin. This edition featured reproductions of a series of landscape paintings of the Kimberley. A special vote of thanks is due to Cathie Clement for this excellent special edition of the Bulletin and for her ongoing work in producing what everybody agrees is a high quality and informative newsletter for our members.

The Society's sound financial position as outlined in the Treasurer's Report is in large part due to the ongoing steady sales of the Society's publication, "Rock Art of the Kimberley". This financial strength has allowed the Society to consider requests for funds to support publications on aspects of the Kimberley. I am pleased to report that the Society's Council approved two grants of \$5000 each to support the publication of books about the Kimberley. The first is to support the publication of a major book on the rock art of the Kimberley being produced by Society member Mike Donaldson. The second grant was made to Fremantle Press who are producing an anthology of writing on the Kimberley by indigenous and non-indigenous writers. We would hope to be able to support similar ventures in the future.

Our monthly meetings continued to attract good attendances and we had a number of outstanding speakers during the year. The 2011 speaker program is almost finalised and I am pleased to advise that Professor Lyn Beasley, WA's Chief Scientist, who unfortunately could not fulfil her commitment last year will be our December speaker. I am sure you will find the varied program for the year full of interest. I would like to thank all our speakers for

their contribution and also all of those who helped with the setting up and running of the meetings and the provision of supper at the conclusion of the meetings.

In conclusion I would like to acknowledge the work done over the previous 3 years by my predecessor as President, Hamish McGlashan and also to thank this year's Council for their support and advice during what has been an active and busy year. I look forward to an equally interesting and productive year ahead.

Treasurer's Report:

Bank Accounts

We have 3 accounts including a term deposit .

Total deposits were \$48,500 end of 2009 and \$53,300 end of 2010.

Our No 2 account (totalling \$13,000 some of which is on loan to our primary account) is reserved for heritage work on the Old Halls Creek Post Office. The funds in this account are accumulated raffle profits.

Income and Expenditure

Total income for the year amounted to \$30,000 and total expenditure to \$32,000.

Major items were as follows

Income		Expenditure	
Subscriptions	\$ 5000	Newsletter	\$ 6000
Rock Art Book	\$ 10000	Donations	\$ 5000
Seminar	\$ 12600	Seminar	\$12300
Bank Interest	\$ 1500	Reduction in RAB stock	\$ 4700
Various income	\$ 1000	PO Box and Hall Hire	\$ 1000
		Insurance	\$ 600
		Accounts Audit	\$ 630

Moved: Marion Blackwell Seconded: Jack Vercoe APPROVED

Election of Office Bearers:

The President advised that the following nominations for Office Bearers had been received:

President: Jeff Gresham
Vice President: Cathie Clement
Treasurer: Gilbert Marsh
Secretary: Susan Clarkson
Membership Secretary: Mike Donaldson
Councillors: Kevin Kenneally, Jeff Murray, Jack Vercoe, Hamish McGlashan

There being no other nominations all nominations were endorsed.

Moved: Jeff Gresham Seconded: Mike Donaldson APPROVED

Other Business:

Nil

Closure:

There being no other business the President closed the meeting at 7.46 pm

Signed as a true record.

This day of 2012

Jeffrey Gresham - President

MURRAY VALLEY ENCEPHALITIS

On 9 December, the WA Department of Health advised people to avoid mosquito bites in the Kimberley. The warning followed the detection of Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) for the first time in the 2011–2012 season. The department's Acting Medical Entomologist Dr Peter Neville said it was unusual to detect activity of the virus so early in the wet season. Populations of biting mosquitoes that could be carrying it resulted from above-average rainfall during October and November. Initial symptoms of MVE include fever, drowsiness, headache, stiff neck, nausea and dizziness. People experiencing these symptoms should seek medical advice quickly.

Last year, sixteen cases of MVE were recorded across Australia; nine of them in Western Australia. Police constable Ryan Marron contracted MVE in April while filling in for two-weeks at Balgo. This once robust 30-year-old can no longer walk or care for himself, and he is still regaining his ability to talk. His fiancé, fellow Halls Creek police officer Toni Misitano, cares for him full-time. His family and friends are raising funds to help. Their target is \$600,000, to pay for medical treatment at an American rehabilitation clinic thought to offer the best chance of recovery. Details of the Ryan Marron Foundation are available at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ryan-Marron-Foundation/242500665796030>. Also there are links to the media coverage of Ryan's case and the various fundraising efforts.

Figures from the Department of Health show that WA had no cases of MVE reported in 2010 but had three cases in 2008 and 2009. The upsurge in 2011 was blamed on a warm and wet winter, which created a fertile breeding ground for mosquitoes. Those cases included a two-year-old from Kununurra who was flown to Royal Darwin Hospital after contracting the mosquito-borne virus in the Kimberley. The risk of being infected and becoming ill is low but MVE is fatal in 15 to 30 per cent of cases. Up to half of the victims experience long-term neurological problems because MVE causes a serious inflammation of the brain. As yet, there is neither a cure nor a vaccine for it. Personal insect repellent containing diethyl toluamide (DEET) or picaridin is advised, with lotions or gels seen as the most effective. Most natural or organic repellents need to be reapplied more frequently.

COUNCIL 2011-2012

President:	Jeffrey Gresham
Vice-Presidents:	Jack Vercoe and Cathie Clement
Secretary:	Susan Clarkson
Membership Secretary:	Mike Donaldson
Treasurer:	Gilbert Marsh
Councillors:	Kevin Kenneally, Hamish McGlashan, and Jeff Murray.

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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.