



# BOAB BULLETIN

No. 115

April 2013

## **NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING**

**commencing 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. at**

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

**Wednesday, 3 April 2013**

**Denva Ball (Manager of cotton farms on the Ord River 1963-74)**

**“Cotton growing at Kununurra, as it was then”**

**Wednesday, 1 May 2013**

**Kevin Coate (Naturalist and former tour leader)**

**“Kimberley Connections (between Kevin and Howard Coate)”**

**Wednesday, 5 June 2013**

**Phil Playford (Geologist and Author)**

**“The Kimberley coastline: sculptured by mega-tsunamis”**

Members and visitors are invited to stay for supper after the meetings.

The Society asks a \$2.00 hospitality fee from non-members.

## **NEW VENUE FOR MEETINGS**

Don't forget that our meetings are now held at **The Palms Community Centre** in the Nicholson Road Reserve in Subiaco. The venue overlooks a large expanse of lawn that was once a bowling green and can be accessed from Thomas Street (going north) or from Rokeby Road. About 40 car bays situated between the rear of the building and the tennis courts are shared by people using the two facilities. Some street parking is also available. Buses run along Nicholson, Thomas, and Rokeby.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am writing this while in Goa on the west coast of India. We have been travelling in this wonderful, exotic country for the past four weeks. You may well ask what is the connection between India and the Kimberley. Possibly not a lot but there is much to reflect on about possible links and shared antiquity. It is generally accepted that the migration of modern man to Australia around 55 000 years ago involved a passage through India.

India has a number of significant rock art sites, the best known being the Bimbetka rock shelters located about 45 km south of the city of Bhopal. Archaeological work in these shelters indicate hominids possibly occupied them more than 100 000 years ago. Some of the rock art in these shelters is considered to be at least 30 000 years old. Is it possible that some of the ancestors of the Kimberley Aboriginals passed through this area?

One of the great contrasts between India and Australia is the unchanged nature of Aboriginal occupation in Australia compared to the multiple civilisations, invasions and dynasties that India has seen in the last 5000 years. The first great civilisation in India is the so called Harappan World that developed along the Indus River and its tributaries starting around 3000 BC. A very sophisticated culture developed. It was during this Harappan period that recent genetic work, referred to in my last communication, indicates a possible movement of Indians to Australia. It was also during this period that the dingo arrived in Australia. Perhaps the Indus Plain and India does have a closer link to the Kimberley than previously thought.

*Jeffrey J Gresham*

## ARGYLE DIAMONDS ORD VALLEY MUSTER

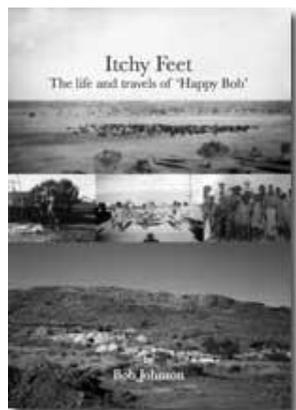
The annual [Ord Valley Muster](#), to be held on 17 to 26 May, continues to attract big names. The artists scheduled for the top event – the Airnorth Kimberley Moon Experience on 25 May – are Guy Sebastian (first Australian Idol winner), Mark Seymore (ex-Hunters & Collectors), James Rayne (ex-Australian Crawl), and Gurrumul (Aria Award winner from Elcho Island). The audience will range from those with picnics to others dining in Kimberley Fine Diamonds Corporate Circle.

Celebrity TV chef Anna Gare will host the Kimberley Kitchen at Celebrity Tree Park, Kununurra on the 21st, and then, with co-host Don Hancey, the Durack Homestead Dinner on the 23rd. Tickets to those events, and others, have been on sale since 25 March from Ticketmaster and/or the Kununurra Visitor Centre.

Another major event is the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow's stopover on 22 May. This will be the third time for this event. The comedians this year include Loretta Maine, Harley Breen, Matt Okine and Ronny Chieng.

The full program can be seen [online](#) where the numerous offerings include Artopia Gallery - Light and Sound of Ancient Purnululu on 17 May; Argyle Diamond Dig on the 18th; The Gibb Challenge on the 19th; Music Under The Stars on the 20th; Cheese Making on the 20th, 21st and 22nd; Muster Idol on the 22nd; Waringarri Corroboree on the 23rd; Kimberley Gospel Festival on the 24th; and Allan Zavod and Trio Presents Gershwin Under The Stars on the 26th. The Wild Walk (Mirima) and tours of Carlton Station or Argyle Diamond Mine are being offered several times during the Muster.

## BOOK NOTE



***Itchy Feet : The life and travels of 'Happy Bob'* by Bob Johnson. Hesperian Press, Carlisle (WA), 2012. Soft Cover, A4, 128 pages, illustrated, ISBN 978-0-85905-028-9, RRP \$30.00.**

One of the first things that catches the eye in this book is the cheerfulness evident in many of the photographs. It is not just 'Happy Bob' looking happy. Many of the people he mixed with seem to have shared his bright outlook on life. Yet, in reading the text, it is clear that their lives were not easy. Harsh conditions and hard work were all too common.

*Itchy Feet* is an unpretentious account of a life well lived. It is candid, without being self-congratulatory or malicious, and it contains lots of snippets of unusual general information. An account of car trip from Bindi Bindi, for example, reveals the perils of using the early version of synthetic tyres. The absence of a map in the book became obvious at this point but a quick Google showed that Bindi Bindi is in the Western Australian wheatbelt. It is helpful that the places, people and topics mentioned in the text are indexed. Being particularly interested in stations, I was delighted to find that they are grouped together while other places are listed under the headings 'Australian towns & places' and 'Overseas countries'. That, and the usual [Hesperian Press](#) style of listing people's names under a separate heading, makes for easy navigation in the book. Not every name makes it into the index, and some are spelt incorrectly, but, with many reminiscences tending to lack an index, it is great to have one here.

Bob Johnson spent much of his working life in the Kimberley and other parts of the north of Western Australia. His anecdotes about those places and the people he knew or encountered provide a valuable and interesting record. Readers who like to know where a person came from, or went to, will find plenty of information of that sort. The fate of George Burke, for instance, is recorded. Bob mentions that this well known Halls Creek storekeeper died in Alice Springs and that, because he died a pauper, the people of Halls Creek paid for a memorial to be made and erected. A few other anecdotes about George expand on what is known of this eccentric character.

Other Kimberley people mentioned in *Itchy Feet* anecdotes include Norm Back, Frank Bridge and other members of the Bridge family, Sid Byers, Jack Gardener, Colin Hayes, Lew McBeath, Thelma ("Mopsy") Morrison (AIM sister), "Bluey" O'Malley, Tom Quilty and other members of the Quilty family, Cliff Sherry (police), Jim ("The Cat") Smith, the Smiths of Halls Creek and Wyndham, Sam Thomas, the Underwood family, Len Tilt (builder), Keith Weaver (police), Jack Woodlands and his family, and Les Wylde.

The Kimberley towns get some coverage, and the stations include Alice Downs, Bedford Downs, Christmas Creek, Elgie Cliffs, Fossil Downs, Glenroy, Moola Bulla, Mornington, Mount House, and Springvale. With Glenroy being the home of Air Beef, that place fits into the author's periodic employment at meatworks, one of the things that contributed to the breadth of his movements. His mobility and recall of events should see many people reading and making use of *Itchy Feet*.

*Cathie Clement*

## REST IN PEACE

On Boxing Day in 2012, **Kenny Dean** died in Albany aged 72. A Karajarri Bardi man who was born in Broome, he studied and worked in the Kimberley before marrying Averil, a Noongar woman who was nursing there. In 1963 they headed south, where Kenny and Averil both earned great respect. In an obituary in *The West Australian* on 8 February, Southern Aboriginal Corporation paid tribute to Kenny and his vision.

On 19 January 2013, **Pamela Nielsen** passed away in Los Altos, California, having spent more than 50 years there. She was the daughter of Captain A C Gregory—a Broome pearler—and his wife Kate. *The West Australian* ran an obituary on the 29th.

On 20 January, **David Henwood** died in Perth. Born in 1938, he was the second son of Grace and Bill Henwood who managed Noonkanbah Station on the Fitzroy River and owned nearby Calwynyardah Station. From 1954, when David finished his education at Scotch College in Perth, he was involved in farming, the pastoral industry, land management, and soil conservation throughout Western Australia. He held a share in Calwynyardah while that station remained in the family's hands but he mostly lived and worked elsewhere. In the 1960s, David was on Blina Station, out of Derby, first as a jackeroo and then as manager. While there, he discovered a fossilised portion of an amphibious creature from the Triassic period. His discovery was named *Batrachosuchus henwoodi* in his honour. David later worked for the Agricultural Protection Board as a Vermin Control Officer and for the Department of Lands Administration as a Pastoral Inspector. He was based at Kalgoorlie, Perth, and Carnarvon. His vermin control work saw him fly over a great deal of country and encouraged his interest in rangelands management, a sphere in which he was the first person to make use of satellite imagery. In retirement, he retained a strong interest in the pastoral industry and its history as well as enjoying contact with his immediate and extended family and friends. David's funeral took place at Karrakatta Cemetery, with a cremation service, on 1 February. He is survived by his mother, his brothers Bill and John, and their families. Vale David.

On 5 February, **Verity Norman**, a member of the Kimberley Society, passed away in St George Private Hospital in Sydney. A full obituary for Verity will be prepared for the next issue of the newsletter.

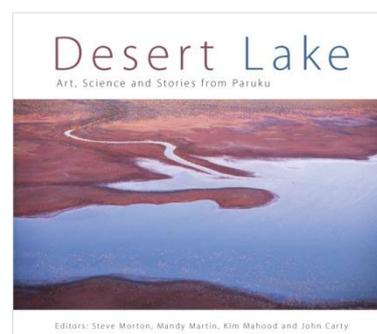
On 9 February, indigenous artist **Jack Dale Mengenen**, who was sometimes referred to as the 'Grand Old Man of the Kimberley' or 'the Kimberley ironman', died at Derby. Featured in Kevin Shaw's book *Mates : Images of the Kimberley* in 2003, he was born in the bush on Mount House Station sometime between 1919 and 1922. He experienced the brutality of the pastoral frontier at first hand but eventually became an accomplished stockman. Art and storytelling filled his retirement. Kevin Shaw enjoyed both of those things and he wrote: 'Jack's paintings are a unique first hand pictorial account of a largely unknown and unrepeatable chapter of Australian history'. The art contained both Jack Dale's traditional knowledge—acquired from his maternal grandfather—and historical themes from the early decades of pastoral settlement. He worked with his wife Bidy Dale and his daughter Edna Dale and began exhibiting in Melbourne in 2000 with support from Neil McLeod of Burrinja Gallery. In 2007, the commercial success of his Wandjina works raised his profile considerably. [ABC Indigenous](#) posted a tribute to Jack Dale, written by Landline's Tim Lee, on 12 February. It noted that 'In conveying and helping to preserve the story of his people and his traditional country, the oxide-red ranges and vast open plains of the land so entwined with his being, Jack Dale Mengenen leaves an incalculable cultural legacy.'

*Cathie Clement*

## BOOK NOTE

***Desert Lake: Art, Science and Stories from Paruku* edited by Steve Morton, Mandy Martin, Kim Mahood, and John Carty. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood (Vic.), 2013. Hardback, 312 pages, illustrated, ISBN 9780643106284, RRP \$59.95.**

This stunning book, with input from fifty contributors, contains text, colour paintings, colour photographs, and maps. It presents Paruku (Lake Gregory) in a way that will never be rivalled.



The contributors, each of whom has a portrait and a brief biographical note at the front of the book, include but are not limited to an anthropologist, art workers, artists, councillors, community members, conservationists, cultural resource managers, directors, ecologists, a film-maker, a geographer, livestock breeders and managers, photographers, rangers, scientists, Traditional Owners, and writers. Some wear more than one such label, and there are also other people who, without being identified as contributors, are acknowledged for the inclusion of their art, stories or photographs. The Indigenous contributors are almost all Walmajarri people who live on their Country in either the Mulan community or the Billiluna community.

By combining artistic, scientific, and Indigenous views, *Desert Lake* provides a smorgasbord of colour, culture, information, and insight. It embraces water, land, and people, moving from the *Waljirri* (Dreaming) to the present and then looking forward. In their introduction, the editors write: 'Above all it tells the stories of many people, Walmajarri and *kartiya* [whitefella], who love a remarkable Lake, and want to share their understanding of it with others.'

The telling is gentle at first, with even the introduction set amid paintings and stories. The book is divided into three parts: 'Deep Time'; 'Recent Times'; and 'The Future'. Each part has Indigenous and non-Indigenous contributors, and each explores cross-cultural issues related to understanding and interpretation. Those aspects are very much about the sharing of knowledge and the opportunity to learn from one another. To some extent, they are demonstrated by the placement of *Parnkupurti layers*, 2011, a painting by Hanson Pye (page 26) and *Parnkupurti layers*, 2012, a screenprint by John Carty and Hanson Pye (page 28). Hanson Pye is a Traditional Owner. John Carty is an anthropologist.

In 'Part 1: Deep Time', Jim Bowler discusses work that began in 1978 and, among other things, showed that a stream cobble excavated from Parnkupurti Creek in 2008 had been worked by hand almost 50,000 years ago. That dating established a new benchmark in the human occupation of northern Australia. 'Part 2: Recent Times' is the largest part. It takes in exploration, the establishment of the pastoral industry during and after the late nineteenth century, associated conflict, the Mulan and Billiluna communities, and, to a lesser degree, the missions. It then focuses on natural history, art, mapping, and the Paruku Indigenous Protected Area. In 'Part 3: The Future', the discussion revolves around opportunities and challenges that affect the viability of Mulan and the prospects of the people who live and work there.

*Desert Lake*, which was launched on 1 March at Araluen Culture Centre in Alice Springs, can be purchased at selected bookshops, direct from [CSIRO Publishing](http://www.csiro.au), or as an eBook from [eBooks.com](http://www.ebooks.com) and other retailers.

*Cathie Clement*

## CAN YOU HELP?

The golden Jubilee of Holy Rosary School in Derby is being celebrated in 2014. In connection with that, Christopher Reeves of Wainui Films in Broome is searching (on behalf of the Sisters of St John of God) for old super 8 or 16mm film of the school, the Derby hospital, and Derby generally. The footage will be transferred to digital for use in displays and for safekeeping in the collection of the Sisters' Heritage Centre Broome. Wainui Films have the facilities to transfer (to DVD) 8 or 16mm film, or any video format – 8mm, VHS, Betta, Betacam, etc.

Chris has spent the last five years digitizing the SSJG collections and is concerned that part of the story is missing. He is very conscious of the need to record history, whether it involves the sisters or not, and he would really like to see Derby well represented. Information about the Heritage Centre and its collections is available on the [SSJG website](#).

Please get in touch with Chris at [audiovisual@ssjgheritagebroome.com.au](mailto:audiovisual@ssjgheritagebroome.com.au) or [wainuifilms@bigpond.com](mailto:wainuifilms@bigpond.com) if you can help, or if you would like more information. He is also available on 08 9193 7576, 08 9192 2415 (studio) or 0408 580 032.

## FOOTBALL UPDATE

Readers may remember Gerrick Weedon who had been on the West Coast list for the last two years as a rookie and was delisted at the end of the 2012 season. In the *Tiger Talk* magazine of the Claremont Football Club, it states he is currently playing for the Derby Tigers and is now the father of a beautiful daughter called Jerayah. The article mentioned his career of being on West Coast lists for 3 years and making 9 NAB Cup matches and one AFL appearance wearing the 44 jumper of former Eagles star David Wirrpanda. This was also his number for Claremont for whom he played 47 senior matches.

Keifer Yu, another player whom I may have mentioned before, is progressing through the Claremont ranks and was playing in a pre-season game against East Perth on 2 March 2013. The Claremont Football Club magazine mentions he is a third-year apprentice in the Master Builders Association and was last year a finalist in the group training Australian Indigenous Apprentice of the Year and also a finalist in the Dept of Finances Most Outstanding Apprentice.

Yu is originally from Broome and was a student at Hale School and has graduated through the Claremont Development Squad into the Colts Premiership side in 2009. He has suffered various injuries but has managed to play in the Reserves Premiership sides in the last three seasons. It will be interesting to see if this is a break out year for Keifer Yu.

If there are any other Kimberley players in the WAFL that members would like to highlight please contact Cathie Clement at the *Boab Bulletin*.

*Jack Vercoe*

**Please don't forget this is your newsletter.**

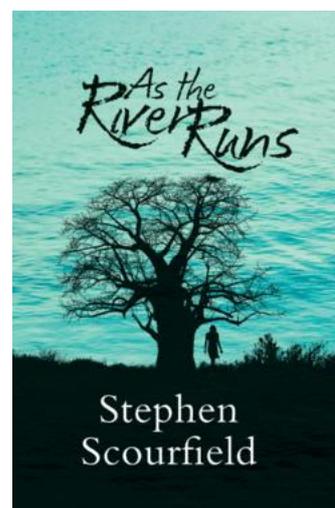


Kimberley news, articles, and items of interest are all most welcome.

## BOOK NOTE

***As the river runs* by Stephen Scourfield. UWA Publishing, Crawley (WA), 2013. Paperback, 336 pages, ISBN 9781742584904, RRP \$26.99.**

Described as Kimberley adventure and set in the fictitious Duncan River valley, *As the river runs* occasionally harks back to the author's first novel, the award-winning *Other County*. That work was the subject of a previous book note (written by Hamish McGlashan and published in the *Boab Bulletin* in February 2009). In *Other County*, the young pastoralist Billy Parkes visualised a time when he might combine cattle raising with conservation and eco tourism. Two decades on, he is doing just that in *As the river runs*. There, however, he remains largely in the background.



The Kimberley has long captivated Stephen Scourfield, who, after [a 2009 talk](#) to our Society remarked that brief conversations with the members had 'added to what I fondly think of as the northern encyclopaedia growing inside me'. His work, as travel writer, photographer, and editor of the 'Travel' section of *The West Australian*, frequently takes him to the Kimberley, resulting in a familiarity that underpins his writing.

While both of his novels examine the relationship between people and the land, the emphasis in *As the river runs* is on the importance of water in semi-arid country that is reliant on monsoonal rains. The Duncan River valley cuts through limestone ranges and has boab trees dotting its wispy grassland. On a high plateau above the river, Billy Parkes's friend Dylan Ward is working at the Scimitar Project mine site and liaising comfortably with Vincent Yimi who represents the traditional owners. When his contract at the mine ends, Dylan is sought out by a powerful Perth group keen to bring Kimberley water to the city. With that objective, the ambitious Kate Kennedy (Chief of Staff to the Minister for Water Resources) asks him to take her and Jack Cole (a political fixer) on a fact-finding trip that supposedly relates to a plan to supply solar power to the Duncan River communities.

It would spoil the story to say much more than that the book turns a serious environmental topic into a good read. Readers who know the Kimberley might find additional interest in reflecting on the role played by 'the northern encyclopaedia' in the author's selection of names and backgrounds for his regional characters and locations. Also relevant is that, in his 2009 talk, Stephen Scourfield made a comment about *Other County* that is equally true of *As the river runs* – 'The title is about the Kimberley, of course, but as much about the possibility of migrating within ourselves, of finding other country, of moving on.'

*As the river runs* is available in numerous outlets. Readers who do not have access to a bookshop or newsagent will appreciate UWA Publishing's offer of free postage within Australia. There is also an e-book at \$9.99. The novel is being promoted by *The West Australian*, with the latest coverage appearing in the 'Travel' section on 23–24 March. There, *West* readers were offered a \$9.19 discount on *Other Country* if they cite a discount code while buying *As the river runs* (paperback). That deal is through [UWA Publishing](#), which has extracts online and provides Book Club Notes for both [As the river runs](#) and [Other Country](#).

*Cathie Clement*

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAM FOR REMAINDER OF 2013

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
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.

### BOVINE JOHNE'S DISEASE

In December 2012, the WA Department of Agriculture confirmed that cattle from a northern Queensland stud contaminated with the contagious and potentially fatal bovine Johne's disease (BJD) are in the Kimberley. That stud was one of 170 properties initially quarantined in Queensland, and it was found to have sold animals to six Kimberley cattle stations. Authorities acted quickly to maintain Queensland's 'Protected Zone' status and to see what can be done to maintain Western Australia's BJD-free status.

Using the National Livestock Identification System, the Department traced a total of 476 bulls to the Queensland stud. Those animals arrived in WA between 2005 and 2012. It has been established that 181 of them were subsequently exported, slaughtered, or died of natural causes.

The owners of the remaining 295 bulls face a mammoth task in identifying and removing those animals for slaughter and testing. None of the bulls is known to have symptoms of the wasting disease, which can take years to become evident. Nor is it known if the disease is actually present. One of the tests is done on faeces, to show whether an animal affected by BJD is shedding bacteria. The resulting information can help to assess the risk of the infection spreading on the property from which the bull has come.

The cost of finding, mustering and culling the bulls will be massive and is expected to take a year to complete. As this newsletter goes to press, the debate continues on whether WA will or should maintain its BJD-free status.

Until the mustering and testing processes clear the herds, each affected station will remain under movement restrictions. Part of the debate has been about whether those restrictions should apply within WA as well as to export. The stations owners were initially told that they could not export, thereby losing their main, or perhaps only, source of income. Understandably, plans for a partial easing of the export restrictions have been welcomed. That situation is due to the stations' capacity to identify and isolate high risk areas where the suspect Queensland bulls have been running. The isolated parts of the stations will remain under movement restrictions but the other parts will be cleared to export.

## **DERBY—THE TOWN THAT TIME ALMOST FORGOT (AN EXCERPT)**

*Alison Underwood (Paynter), a Kimberley Society member who lives in Bunbury, WA, sent us the following excerpt from a book that she has written but has yet to publish.*

And so I ventured into this little town in early February, 1963, to begin teaching at the Derby Junior High School which had been built barely six years before, in 1957. The flight from Perth took over twelve hours, having left Perth Airport at 8pm and arriving in Derby at eight o'clock next morning. I had come up from my home in Katanning to wait at the MacRobertson Miller Airline's Terminal office in St George's Terrace, from where a little minibus transported us to the Airport. In those pre-jet days, MMA used DC3 "Doves", strong, dependable, metallic grey work horses with an impeccable safety record, but slow and noisy. Upon boarding we were all given little sachets of barley sugar to be sucked on take off and landing, probably to take our minds off the turbulence involved. Attached to the seat in front were little brown paper bags, so-called "sick bags" for obvious reasons. These flights used to stop at many towns—Carnarvon, Port Hedland, Broome, etc, thus making the flight even more traumatic with all the landings and spluttering take offs.

Feeling very exhausted from lack of sleep and the dramas of the flight, I staggered to the door of the plane at Derby to be greeted with a rush of hot and humid tropical air. A little mini bus transported me from the Airport to the town, to the MMA office in Loch Street. Because teachers, "chalkies", were supposed to arrive four to five days before school started, there were four or five new chums accompanying me on the bus into town. So there we were, somewhat bewildered and forlorn, wilting in the all pervading heat and humidity. I asked the minibus driver when we had disembarked where the main street was, and he replied with such laughter, that I was standing in it! Well, I could see the road, Loch Street, but little else, for everything – houses, buildings, trees, were partially obscured by eight foot high Wet Season grasses and weeds. It seemed as if I had arrived in some foreign country. It was so primitive and unlike anything I had ever seen before.

Anyway, after a short time we were all rescued by the arrival of the headmaster, Jim Quinn, who piled us into his car and took us to his little house near the school for orientation. Unfortunately, my recollections of the next few days are somewhat hazy, as whilst accommodation was being organized we all lay on the floor of the lounge room, trying to cool off under the whirring fans. It was just so hot. There were two teachers' houses, one for males and one for females, a short distance from the school, but I missed out on being placed there so I boarded with Ron Pearson whom I knew from my student days at Albany High School. I spent the next seven months with Ron, his wife Margaret and baby daughter, Veronica, until there was a vacancy at the Teachers' House. School was definitely a challenge in those days as air conditioning was unheard of, our only means of relief from the ever present humidity and enervating heat being trusty ceiling fans and louvred walls that could be opened both sides to let whatever breeze there might be, through. In the Teachers' house there was one fan only in the lounge room, so I had to buy a trusty metal bladed desk fan from Kimberley Traders, which kept me cool in the bedroom.

Every morning I confronted between fifty to sixty Grade 5 students, ninety percent of whom were full blood Aborigines from Mowanjum Mission, just out of town which had opened a few years before. In deference to the climate, school commenced at 8am and ended at 2pm. Before school, there was outdoor ablutions which the Mowanjum students underwent every day. I was busy supervising my "Ink Monitors" who had to make up the ink using powder and water, and fill up all the inkwells on the desks. The ink supplied the day before had evaporated. I also had to divide every lesson

into three parts—above average, average and below average— to cater for the needs of the class, this meaning that an enormous amount of time was spent on lesson preparation every day in the Daily Work Pad. Photocopiers were not yet invented, and the old Gestetner being spirit based, was obnoxious because of its awful smell, thus we rarely used it. The school concert that year brings back happy memories of my entire class dressed up as furry felines, complete with whiskers, tail and ears, and furry costumes which were unbearably hot but the class loved it.

The work produced by a lot of the Mowanjum Mission children was excellent, copy plate writing with the old pen and ink and beautiful drawings. They were a pleasure to teach. They were very obedient and seemed happy in school routine. Mr Quinn ran a very tight ship and the control was strict and they all respected that. When he walked down the long wooden veranda to the classroom door, everyone would spring to attention as he entered the room and stand up as one, saying in one voice, “Good Morning, Mr Quinn”, then all sit down meticulously in unison. He demanded week by week programmes which were good in theory but meant we spent most of our time working on these, as I remember the year’s work folder was about an inch thick, there was so much detail involved. I got to know my girl students much better in my capacity as Girl Guide Captain, and we enjoyed the camping, cooking and other womanly activities involved. They were fun loving pupils who were very eager to learn, as most of them had come out of the desert to live at the Mission. There were a number of one teacher schools inland on the Stations and conditions there were very difficult owing to the isolation. At the Junior High School we had about twenty six on the staff so there was good conversations in the staff room, and much exchange of ideas. I was to enjoy the life in Derby for the next three years from 1963 to 1965 becoming fully involved in the Miss Australia quest as Miss Derby 1964 and enjoying basketball at nights to keep fit as well as attending numerous balls, cabarets and weekly parties.

### **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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[www.kimberleysociety.org](http://www.kimberleysociety.org)

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