



BOAB BULLETIN

No. 120

February 2014

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

commencing 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. at

The Palms Community Centre, corner Nicholson and Rokeby roads, Subiaco

Wednesday, 5 February 2014

Peter Buck and Roger Passmore (Kimberley Society members)

“Bush Walking on the Manning Creek and Charnley River”

The speakers will give illustrated talks on their 2013 bush walking adventures. Some of the best Wanjina rock art sites are found along Manning Creek and the Charnley River, as is one of the biggest and most dramatic gorges in the region.

Wednesday, 5 March 2014

Western Australian Dingo Association

“Understanding the Dingo”

This presentation will discuss the many myths and fallacies surrounding the dingo. The Australian dingo is a unique family-orientated predator that has lived on this continent for thousands of years and evolved alongside native prey species to establish efficient and well balanced ecosystems.

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.

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

DATES FOR YOUR 2014 DIARY

17 to 19 March	Staircase to the Moon, Broome
16 to 18 April	Staircase to the Moon, Broome
16 to 25 May	14th annual Argyle Diamonds Ord Valley Muster
24 May	Airnorth Kimberley Moon Experience
5 to 21 July	Boab Festival, Derby
5 to 14 September	Shinju Matsuri 'Festival of the Pearl', Broome

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Whilst searching the internet for information that would support a project I am undertaking, I came across a talk by Dr Carmen Lawrence on TEDxPerth. I was seeking text that supports the concept that ‘you don’t know who you are unless you know where you come from’. I am a firm believer that understanding your origins not only sheds light on your identity but also provides insight into the formation of your opinions and beliefs. This relates to everyone, of all ages, by connecting the present to the past.

Although Dr Lawrence’s talk on the question of [‘Why protect the West Kimberley?’](#) did not relate directly to my search, it did remind me of why many people join, and maintain their membership with, the Kimberley Society. Through the Society, members are able to continue their association with the Kimberley region by linking each fresh exposure to their earlier relationships. Those relationships may be from pastoral activities, family connections, travel, work, study, etc; all things that contribute to who you are now and how you respond to different situations.

The message that Dr Lawrence delivers is that the West Kimberley is under threat of losing its heritage values due to mining and development pressure. Her message of “why care?” relates to keeping a link to the past so that society can continue to treasure the culture and aesthetics of this wonderful region. By respecting the past and protecting what is more valuable than dollars, the Kimberley can continue to be that special place that preserves who we are by retaining what we connect to.

The Kimberley region leaves a valuable lasting impression on everyone who either lives in or visits the area, a sure sign that it is worth protecting.

The talk by Dr Lawrence is worth listening to if you have the time and access to the internet.

Jeff Murray

THE KIMBERLEY COAST

An interesting website devoted to the Kimberley coast has been established by **Richard Costin** and **Annabelle Sandes** who spoke to the Kimberley Society about ‘Whales and the Kimberley Coast’ in December 2010. A summary of their talk appeared in the *Boab Bulletin* in April 2011. It is not yet on our website but steps are being taken to load more of the summaries.

[The Kimberley Coast](#) has individual pages devoted to islands, reefs, rivers, geology, marine life (whales, dolphins, dugong & freshwater fish), fauna, flora, mangroves, seagrass, tides & currents, pearling, and iconic places. The places are Adele Island, Dugong Bay, Camden Sound, Eighty Mile Beach, Montgomery Reef, Roebuck Bay, Talbot Bay, the Horizontal Waterfalls, the Lacepede Islands, Rowley Shoals and Turtle Reef.

Each page contains at least one great image. Some have many more. The [flora](#) page, for instance, has five static images, a slide show, and links for more information. And [the Rowley Shoals slideshow](#)—it’s just fantastic.

Also available are Recent Posts that provide information on events and topics. One is on the new humpback dolphin species that was described off the north coast of Australia last year. Another offers an ABC video of 4 Corners in Broome in 1962.

DOCTORS FOR THE KIMBERLEY

In November 2013, the Australian Government's Office for Learning & Teaching (OLT) recognised nine university teaching programs with its 'Award for Programs that Enhance Student Learning'. One of those programs—delivered in Fremantle by the University of Notre Dame Australia—is a world first in the education of student doctors.

The Rural and Remote Health Placement Program (RRHPP), a collaboration developed by the University's School of Medicine, has been recognised for the establishment of a medical education program that aims to close the gap between rural and remote Australians and their future doctors. Undertaken by all Notre Dame medical students in the first two years of their course, its core focus is developing the students' understanding of, and empathy for, the health needs of rural and remote Australians. The program also encourages them to practise in rural and remote areas when they graduate.

The RRHPP sees West Kimberley and WA Wheatbelt communities participating in a way that allows the University to recognise regional families, Shires, and community organisations as expert teaching partners. The current Kimberley partners are the Shire of Derby West Kimberley, Kimberley Interpreting Service Aboriginal Corporation, and Kimberley members of Pastoralists and Graziers WA.

After doing a Wheatbelt placement in their first year, the students do a one-week Kimberley placement in their second year. In August 2008, for example, 94 students and four staff travelled to Derby to be billeted to town-based organisations, pastoral stations, and remote Aboriginal communities. Once in place, the students work alongside their host families and, by interacting with locals and health professionals, they gain a deeper understanding of remote health issues.

Kimberley Society member **Donna Mak** is a team member of RRHPP and has been involved with the program since its inception. In 2011, as Head of Population Health and Preventive Health at the School of Medicine, she was the winner of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine President's Award for her commitment to advancing the faculty's education, training and assessment activities.

Donna has been in medicine for almost 30 years. She came to WA from Hong Kong and, as part of her training, was sent to the Kimberley. That experience shaped her career, leading to 11 years as a Fitzroy Crossing general practitioner and a Derby public health physician. You can hear more about this in November when Donna is to speak to us on the topic "Best memory of medical school: The Kimberley!".

Donna sees the RRHPP opening up similar opportunities for the Notre Dame students. Particularly pleasing is that four of Notre Dame's doctors are currently working in Broome, and one in Kununurra. Two of them, Donna notes, have relocated their families to the Kimberley because of the positive experiences they had through the RRHPP.

A University [press release](#) includes a one-minute video explaining the program. Also available online is [an article](#) written by **Donna** and fellow Kimberley Society member **Sandy Toussaint**, who evaluated the Kimberley Remote Area Health Placement Program in late 2008. The article takes its title from the words of a Kimberley interviewee: 'If only one good doctor comes from the Program, then that's a good thing. A good doctor would have a great impact – the implications are immeasurable...'.

REST IN PEACE

On 24 December 2013, Kimberley Society member **William Arthur Champness Wright**, better known as W.A.C. or Bill, passed away aged 90, surrounded by his family. Bill joined the Society in 2002 and rarely missed our talks despite living at Culeenup Island, Yunderup (on the Peel Inlet south of Perth). Even failing health couldn't keep him away. He attended his last meeting on 4 December, keen to know what was to be said about the Easton expedition of 1921.

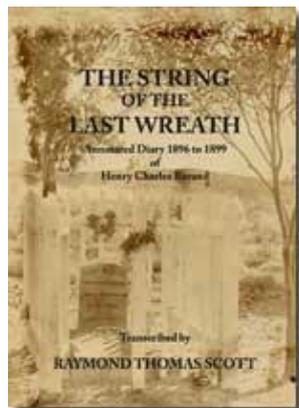
In his younger days, Bill was a highly respected engineer who, as well as working in the Kimberley, also worked in such places as the Northern Territory and the Snowy Mountains. One of his Main Roads Department projects in WA involved raising the level of Ivanhoe Crossing (out of Wyndham) during the dry seasons of 1952 and 1953. This involved replacing the old concrete crossing with a 16-foot-wide roadway built on top of more than 100 old petrol drums, which, with the top and bottom cut out, were welded together to create culverts for the waters of the Ord River. Bill discussed that project and others in the three hours of oral history that he recorded with the Kununurra Historical Society in July 2011. At their next meeting, the KHS made him an Honorary Life Member for his contributions to their archive and to the history of northern development. The archival contributions included part of Bill's collection of original 35 mm slides, which KHS has digitised. Those 79 images are online < <http://www.flickr.com/photos/khs-museum/sets/72157627250459603/> > and are well worth perusing. The ones showing Ivanhoe Crossing demonstrate just how much ingenuity went into providing all weather roads in the Kimberley. Bill's funeral took place at Pinnaroo Valley Memorial Park, Padbury, on 3 January. Vale Bill.

On 17 January 2014, **Lord Alistair McAlpine**, 71, died at his home in Puglia, Italy. Appointed as Treasurer of the Conservative Party in England in 1975, and elevated to the peerage in 1984, he had developed Perth properties in the 1960s but did not see Broome until 1979. In his memoirs he wrote: 'I became fascinated by Broome and my vision for its future. My every move, my every investment was dominated by the desire to develop a tired old town into a modern tourist resort without destroying the soul of the place.' Personal wealth and the long summer recess in British politics allowed him to indulge his passion by living in Broome for three months at a time. Building the Cable Beach Club, revitalising Sun Pictures, establishing the now defunct Pearl Coast Zoological Gardens, and conserving various heritage buildings brought great satisfaction. Yet his Australian tourism ventures failed financially, their rosy future undermined by the pilots' strike of 1989, the recession, and local opposition to his plans for an international airport.

Lord McAlpine came to see his Broome plans as 'a conceit' but continued to believe that diamonds, pearls, minerals, metals, oil, agriculture, and other commodities would see the Kimberley and the North-West become 'the heartland of Australian industry'. His hope was that this development would 'take place in an organised and civilised fashion, tourists and locals, industry and nature living together in comparative harmony'. His return to Broome in 2012, when he was made an honorary Freeman, might have put paid to that hope. He will, however, be remembered for his role in turning the town into an international tourism destination. His account of those years can be read in *Once a Jolly Bagman* or in its sequel, *Bagman to Swagman : Tales of Broome, the North-West and other Australian Adventures*. And the man will live on at Cable Beach Broome, too, in the form of a life-size bronze statue by sculptor Linda Klarfeld.

Cathie Clement

BOOK NOTE



***The String of the Last Wreath : Annotated Diary 1896 to 1899 of Henry Charles Berand* transcribed by **Raymond Thomas Scott**. [Hesperian Press](#), Carlisle (WA), 2013. Soft Cover, A4, 74 pages, illustrated, ISBN 978-0-85905-553-6, RRP \$22.00.**

One of the graves in the Old Halls Creek cemetery is that of Harriett Sarah Berand who died on 3 June 1890, aged only 37. It is fitting that a photo of her grave should grace this book's cover. Known as Sarah, she was the wife of a local publican and had lived at Halls Creek, with him and their two young daughters, for three and a half years.

Ray Scott's research has shown that Henry Berand, born in Prussia in 1831, spent several decades in New Zealand and eastern Australia where he is thought to have followed various gold rushes. He and Sarah married in Sydney in 1874, and their daughter Ellen Isabella (Bella) was born the following year in the Gulgong district. After moving to Halls Creek, they operated a boarding house and then had the Court Hotel. Their second child, Ruby May, was born in Halls Creek in June 1888.

Losing his beloved wife and trying to look after his daughters in a remote settlement crippled Henry. His diary reveals a troubled man, plagued by ill-health and business worries, battling to do the right thing by everyone.

In 1896, when the diary starts, Bella was married with a toddler and about to lose a baby. Ruby had serious eye trouble and was ill from time to time. Henry, who knew he wouldn't have coped with Sarah's death without Ruby, reluctantly decided that she would be better off living with her late mother's family in the East. He took her to them late in 1896 and got treatment for her good eye. He didn't know whether he would return to the Kimberley but, after visiting goldfields in New South Wales and Victoria, he went back to Halls Creek at the end of 1897, staying there until September 1898.

Henry's diary, with the help of extensive annotation by Ray Scott, offers glimpses of life in Halls Creek and other places in the second half of the 1890s. It is not easy reading and could be seen to have parallels with the writing of Frank Hann (*Do Not Yield To Despair*, compiled and edited by Mike Donaldson and Ian Elliot, Hesperian Press, 1998). Another parallel is with the 1886 diary of R T S Wolfe (published in *Kimberley Scenes : Sagas of Australia's Last Frontier*, Hesperian Press, 1991).

All such diaries, no matter how grim or terse their contents might be, are valuable sources of history. In this instance, Ray Scott is to be commended for the stamina he showed in providing context that enables the reader to gain maximum value from the entries in Henry Berand's diary. As well as providing public access to a diary that tells of family and social life, business practices, medical remedies, travel, and prospecting, Ray has provided a detailed timeline for Henry's life. The timeline ends in December 1898. Henry died in 1913.

Cathie Clement

AIRNORTH KIMBERLEY MOON EXPERIENCE

This event seems to grow more popular each year. Earlybird tickets sold at record pace. So, if you have thoughts of attending, don't put off your booking. This year's feature artists include Eskimo Joe, The Waifs, John Williamson, and 42 Decibel.

NGURNTAKURA WANGKI EXHIBITION

From 10 February to 1 March 2014, paintings by senior Walmajarri artist **Amy Ngurnta Nuggett** will be on display at [Gallery Central](#), 12 Aberdeen Street, Perth. Opening hours are Monday – Friday 10 a.m.–4.45 p.m., and Saturday 2 p.m.–4 p.m.

Ngurntakura Wangki, which translates broadly as “Story for Amy” or “Amy’s Story”, focuses on the artist’s life, art, and storytelling. She has been a practicing artist since the early 1990s, with works in major collections, but this is her first solo exhibition. Born at Karnanganjawurtu in Mangala country, Amy now lives at a community near the Fitzroy River and paints regularly at Mangkaja Arts in Fitzroy Crossing. Her work embraces desert travel from the 1960s to the present, with inspirations that include desert waterholes, or jila, especially those with which she has traditional affiliations, bush foods, and the wider perspective of landscapes, family, and dreaming tracks.

In conjunction with the exhibition, a book will be launched presenting stories and the artworks collated over several decades by the Nuggett family, especially Amy’s two eldest daughters, Annette Puruta Wayawu Kogolo and Joy Marminjiya Nuggett, with anthropologist Sandy Toussaint. Artefacts made by Amy’s late husband are mentioned in the book and will be displayed at the exhibition.

Another feature will be two floor talks presented by Amy and several members of her family. The talks are on Friday 14 and Saturday 15 February at 2pm. Please register at gallery@central.wa.edu.au if you wish to attend.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 21st AGM of Kimberley Society (Inc.) will be held at The Palms Community Centre, corner of Nicholson and Rokeby roads, Subiaco, on Wednesday, 2 April 2014, 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 2013 AGM Minutes appeared in the October 2013 *Boab Bulletin* (No. 118, pages 8-10).

Jeff Murray, President (Perth, 28 January 2014)

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS FOR 2014–2015

The Constitution of Kimberley Society Inc. requires that the Council shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Membership Secretary, a Treasurer, and not less than 3, or more than 7, other persons, all of whom shall be Members of the Society. In the interest of conservation, nomination forms will be available only at the February and March meetings or by request from a current office bearer. Signed forms must reach the Society by 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday, **11 March 2014**. 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, 2 April 2014. If insufficient nominations are received to fill all the vacancies, further nominations will be received at the AGM. 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.

HONOURS

In the Australia Day honours list, **Dr Andrew A Burbidge** was one of six WA recipients of the Officer in the general division of the Order of Australia. He was recognised for 'distinguished service to the environment as a conservation biologist, to sustainable management practices and to the preservation of endangered flora and fauna'. Dr Burbidge began working with the Department of Fisheries and Fauna in 1968 and retired from the Department of Conservation and Land Management in 2002. He looked back on those years in an article in [Landscape](#) in Spring 2002, writing under the title 'For the times they are a-changin''. The many reports that Dr Burbidge has written or co-authored include those on biological surveys in Prince Regent River Reserve (1974), Drysdale River National Park (1975), and the islands of the north-west Kimberley (1978). That work informed a broader publication on nature conservation reserves in the Kimberley (1991). Where the preservation of endangered flora and fauna is concerned, Dr Burbidge has studied creatures as diverse as salt-water crocodiles in the Glenelg, Prince Regent and Ord River systems, woylies, Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, and the Western swamp tortoise.

The full honours list was not available when this newsletter went to press.

ENVIRONS KIMBERLEY

If you haven't looked at the [Environs Kimberley](#) website for a while, take a look now. The slideshow at the top of the screen might divert you from the more serious material for a while. The superb images there include Snubfin Dolphin – Roebuck Bay (Deborah Thiele), Boabs – Tunnel Creek (Ricki Coughlan), Mudskipper recharging gills – Roebuck Bay (Ricki Coughlan), Galahs – Northern Kimberley (Martin Pritchard), Double-barred Finches – Western Kimberley (Rod Hartvigsen), Reddell Beach – Broome (Damian Kelly), Termitaria – Western Kimberley (Martin Pritchard), and White Bellied Sea Eagle – Western Kimberley (Julia Rau). Other images not mentioned here are of an equally high standard, demonstrating not just the skill and patience of the photographers but also their eye for a great shot.

The monthly Posts provide details of issues, proposals, and developments, with two of the January posts covering a proposal for, and opposition to, a fracking supply base in Broome. A third post covers the preparations for Buru Energy's first crude oil shipment from the Kimberley.

On the Projects pages you can read about the West Kimberley Nature Project, the Fire and Biodiversity Project, Coastal Tourism with Karajarri Rangers, Weeds of National Significance, Seagrass Monitoring, the Society for Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals, and more. The pages on Campaigns deal mostly with the James Price gas proposal but also cover earlier responses to a proposal for an industrial hub at Point Torment and the extraction of shale gas by Buru/Mitsubishi at Yulleroo 3 and 4.

On the Shop page, an inviting list of books meets the eye. Some are well known natural history volumes, e.g. *Life along Land's Edge*. Others that provide broader natural history coverage include *Nature of Northern Australia : Natural values, ecological processes and future prospects*. In a different vein, grouped with *Jimmy and Pat meet the Queen*, are *The Art of Fire* by Jimmy Pike and *Looking for Bobby : A Broome Adventure* by Kerry Anne Jordinson. The last three books are from Backroom Press in Broome.

KIMBERLEY SOCIETY DRAFT PROGRAM FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2014

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
2 April	Karl-Heinz Wyrwoll	Climate and vegetation change since the first people arrived in the Kimberley region
7 May	Kim Akerman	1910-11 Swedish Scientific Expedition to the Kimberley
4 June	John and Jan Owen	Kimberley Dental Team – volunteer dental health personnel enhancing current services and improving dental health literacy.
2 July	To be advised	
6 August	Christine Choo	Kimberley history
3 September	To be advised	
1 October	Jane Balme	Archaeological work in the Southern Kimberley
5 November	Donna Mak	Best memory of medical school: The Kimberley
3 December	To be advised	

Please don't forget this is your newsletter.



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

COUNCIL 2013-2014

President:	Jeff Murray
Vice-Presidents:	Jack Vercoe and Mike Cusack
Secretary:	Frank Woodmore
Membership Secretary:	Mike Donaldson
Treasurer:	Jeffrey Gresham
Councillors:	Ken Ahmat, Audrey Bolger, Geoff Owen, and Roger Passmore.

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