



BOAB BULLETIN

No. 128

June 2015

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

commencing 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. at

Dalkeith Hall, 97 Waratah Avenue, Dalkeith

Wednesday, 3 June 2015

Denise Hamilton (Pastoral Lands, Department of Lands)

“2015 Pastoral Lease Renewal Project”

(This project is responsible for developing, administering and lodging all Western Australian pastoral leases on 1 July 2015 under the Land Administration Act 1997)

Wednesday, 1 July 2015

Michael Rainsbury & Mike Donaldson

**“Nibbling at the Cheese: Charles Price Conigrave and the
Kimberley Exploring Expedition of 1911”**

(Michael Rainsbury lives in Durham, UK but has spent a lot of time in the Kimberley studying rock art, and has recently been researching early Kimberley exploration undertaken by Conigrave and others. Mike Donaldson also has an interest in Kimberley rock art and early Kimberley exploration, and has authored books on both subjects.)

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, the topic may differ on the evening.

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

DRAFT PROGRAM FOR FUTURE KIMBERLEY SOCIETY MEETINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
August 5	Chris Owen	Police activities in the Kimberley in early history
September 2	Jack Pettigrew	Work on boabs and biofilms on the Gwion paintings
October 7	Andrew Burbidge	Kimberley Mammals: status and conservation

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Recently whilst waiting at the Sydney Airport to board a flight for Perth I ventured into a newsagency to browse. Several magazines and travel books took my attention with titles that included 'Kimberley'. They were to advise travellers of the attractions in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Well I obviously was drawn to flick through the pages to know what information was presented that would entice Australian and international travellers to venture to this far off corner of Australia.

Was I to be informed of its magnificent scenery with gorges, waterfalls, unique flora, vast rivers and ranges with limited road access? Unfortunately no, each publication presented stories and images of 4WD's towing immense caravans, of tourist parks with swimming pools surrounded by manicured lawns, of helicopter flights where passengers could photograph the country without raising a sweat, and of restaurants providing cuisine from a menu of delicious local produce and fare already prepared.

Although there are opportunities to experience the Kimberley without the luxuries this is often the image of indulgence and convenience presented throughout the tourist industry in glossy brochures. Is this what draws tourists to experience the Kimberley region? If so, then the millions of dollars spent on promoting tourism in the Kimberley is well invested. Or do travellers seek something different, something exciting, something that portrays the vastness of the Kimberley with its unique culture, local character and remoteness? Do tourists look beyond the advertising presented in mainstream media to learn more about what the Kimberley means to the people who live there and what it offers as a uniquely remote environment?

This leads me to ponder the question of what entices members and visitors to attend the Kimberley Society's monthly meetings that present the region's history, wildlife, geology, botany, industries, people, future, and much more. If members, including yourself, attend to learn more of the Kimberley region's true identity, does this reflect the interest of others who know very little and seek to know more?

It is the intention of the Kimberley Society Council to provide a diverse array of subjects throughout the year to educate and entertain members and visitors. Presenters are sought that represent different fields of interest that will continually encourage current members to attend and entice new members to join. To this end the Council is always receptive to constructive advice and feedback. It is desirable to annually grow the Society's membership to ensure that it continues to provide informed understanding and awareness of this magnificent region.

I look forward to seeing those of you who are able to attend the monthly meetings at the Dalkeith Hall to share the experience.

Jeff Murray

DAN SULTAN AT KIMBERLEY MOONRISE FESTIVAL

On 23 May, the Kimberley Moonrise Festival audience responded enthusiastically when [Dan Sultan](#) performed '[Kimberley Calling](#)'. Taken from his album 'Blackbird', recorded in Nashville in 2014, the song is a tribute to country on which his grandmother Loretta spent her last days. Unbeknown to her children, who had been forcibly taken from her, she died in the Kimberley and was buried there. Some of the old people who had known her took Sultan to her grave at Lombadina after he traced her to that area. His own background includes childhood years split between inner city Melbourne and Yuendumu in the Tanami Desert. His Kimberley songs, which include [Nyul Nyul Girl](#), are very mellow when compared with some of his other tracks. Blackbird was voted "Best Rock Album" at the ARIA Music Awards of 2014.

TRAVELLING HOPEFULLY THROUGH KIMBERLEY HISTORY (PART 1)

On 4 February 2015, **Hamish McGlashan** and **Chris Oakeley** spoke to the Kimberley Society about their recent bushwalking adventure in the Prince Regent River area. An accompanying PowerPoint presentation contained lots of maps and photos. Also on display was a 118-page book – *Kimberley Diary July 2014* – produced by Chris Oakeley and including photographs from the other participants: Lee Fontanini, Roz Hart, Peter Knight, Hamish and Rosemary McGlashan, Margaret Oakeley, Chris Olney, and Peter and Ann Wesley.

The expedition had two major aims. The first was to retrieve a chain believed to have been left behind by [George Grey](#). The second was to find an Aboriginal site that [Jon Idriess](#) discussed in *Over the Range: Sunshine and Shadow in the Kimberleys* (Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1937). Only the first aim is discussed here. Space limitations resulted in the second part of this summary being held over until the next newsletter.

Hamish, with a longstanding interest in Grey's activities, has previously spoken to the Society about the explorer's [Kimberley expedition](#). One of those talks is now a chapter ('George Grey's expedition 1837-1838; first European penetration of the Kimberley interior') in the Kimberley Society's book [Kimberley History: People, Exploration and Development](#).

When Grey arrived in the Prince Regent River area, he faced three immediate problems: where to land his stores and livestock; where to establish a base camp; and how to ascend the rocky cliffs with his various animals so that he could start his journey from the plateau above. He decided on a small beach at Hanover Bay—too small to accommodate his livestock and stores, and hemmed in by cliffs. Over the next few weeks, while one of his boats went to Timor to buy ponies, a track was made and stores carried to Walker Valley.

Then a track had to be made up Walker Valley and up a creek 87 degrees to the main creek to ascend to the "tableland", where the stores were once more moved. Eventually, some two months after arriving, he was ready to proceed. The first day he got about half a mile, and had to discard a lot of equipment and repack. That place became one of the focal points of the 2014 adventure.

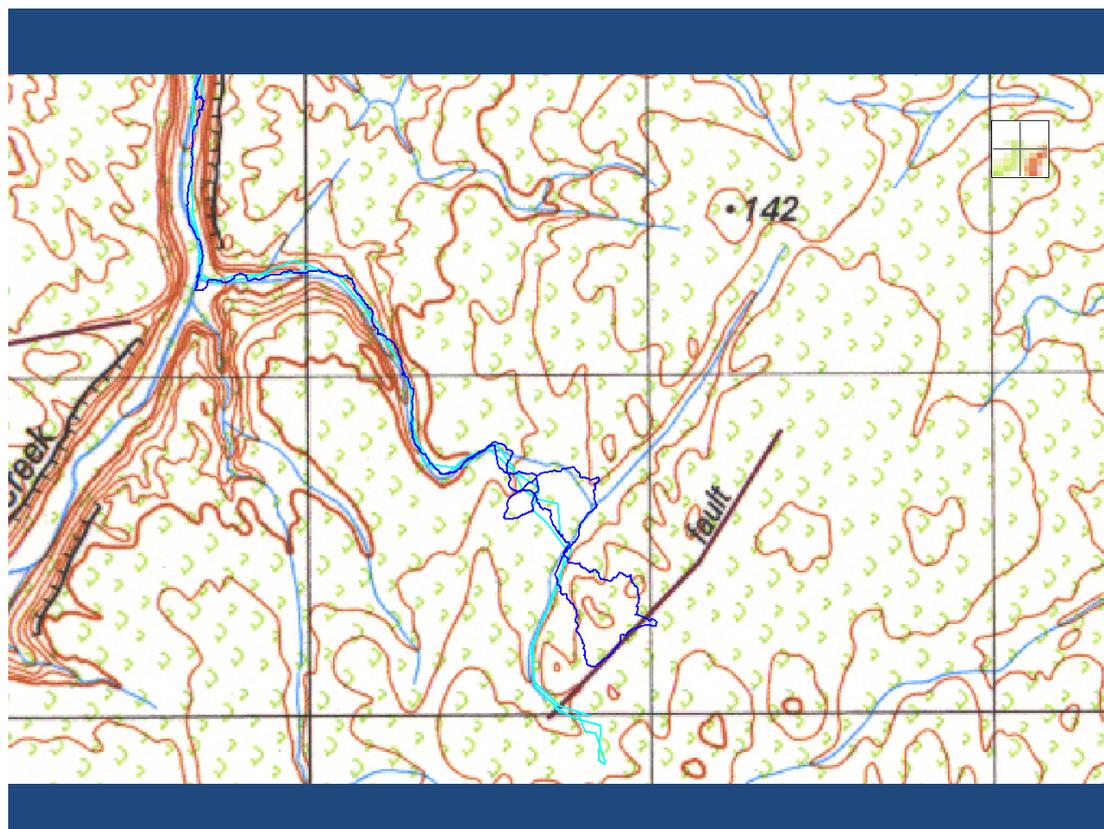
We had heard from Hamish about [previous expeditions](#) to retrace Grey's route. On one of those, in 1988, Kevin Coate took Hamish and Rosemary, Lee Fontanini, Peter Knight and seven others over Grey's entire route from Hanover Bay. On the first day, they came across a piece of chain. Nobody wished to add it to their already overweight rucksacks so they placed it atop a small rock and resolved to return for it someday. It was just a few hundred metres past a rare *Grevillea adenotricha*.....

Hamish began the 2014 tale:

We chartered the *Kimberley Explorer* out of Derby to approach from the sea (as Grey had done). Our task was to find the chain again. No GPS in 1988, just our diaries and memories. Recollections varied. Those of us who had been there remembered abruptly arriving at the top of the creek, finding the *Grevillea*, proceeding at 150 degrees for a distance of between two and eight hundred meters. So it would be easy to find the chain.

There were some pros and some cons vis-à-vis our previous trip. Originally the entire area had been burned, which made the going much easier. On the other hand, this time we were carrying less on our backs as we only had food for one night rather than twelve. Twenty-six years ago we were middle-aged. Now our party was made up of mostly septuagenarians and included three grannies, none of whom had walked in the Kimberley wilderness before. Previously we did not land at high tide and had a tiresome struggle over mud and rocks and close to crocs. This time we landed at high tide, unfortunately a "low" high tide, and we had almost as bad a scramble over muddy rocks.

This time we had tracking GPS which was later downloaded onto Google Earth and maps.



Route of chain gang (shown in two shades of bright blue, with the parties diverging)

At that point, Rosemary McGlashan took over, enchanting the audience with a beautiful reading of Chris Olney's account of the search.

The Chain Gang: The untold story

I was seduced by those wonderful lines in George Grey's diary;

"The romantic scenery of this narrow glen could not be surpassed ... lofty paperbark trees grew here and there and down the middle ran a beautiful stream of clear cool water, which now gushed along, a murmuring mountain torrent."

I was assured it would be just a "leisurely stroll of about 1km" up the "narrow glen" then we would camp for the night and there would be a "short climb" to where the chain was sitting waiting for us on top of a rock. Easy.

As soon as we were turfed off the tinnie, with our heavy backpacks, on to muddy slippery boulders – and immediately started falling over I realised this may be a little more difficult than I had anticipated.

My first priority was to find a strong piece of wood to use as a walking stick to try and maintain my balance. After about half an hour of rock hopping we reached the start of the valley. But contrary to expectation there was to be no "leisurely stroll up the creek".

Yes, the lofty paperbarks were still there; but the "beautiful stream" was completely obscured by vegetation – spinifex, reeds, pandanus. We stumbled over rocks and fell in the water; I learnt very early on the pandanus were not for grabbing to keep balance; those sharp hooks tear holes in your skin and clothes.

Most of the time we had no idea where we were putting our feet and who knows what wildlife was lurking in that tall grass. And then there were the green ants, shaken from the trees above as we stumbled by. They fell down my neck, ran up my arms. "It's ok they don't sting, they just bite" was Lee's helpful advice – of limited comfort when they are swarming down your shirt. And of course it was hot, 35C+. It took us more than 3 hours to walk one kilometre.

The naked plunge in the billabong was a life-saver (24 hours ago I wouldn't have contemplated even putting a toe in this murky looking dark green pond). Night fell and with it came the sand flies and mozzies. Sleeping on a bit of sand between rocks was never my idea of fun.

The cliff climb the next day was just as gruelling "It will be easy without our heavy packs," Hamish promised. Right.

It was much better at the top, thanks to a bushfire – which also exposed countless rocks which all look pretty much the same and none appeared to bear a chain.

The group scattered in different directions. I was lost for about 10 minutes, which seemed like 10 hours, cooeeing to no avail. Eventually I spotted Roz on the top of a rock. Hamish, Roz and I walked in circles (confirmed by the GPS) for half an hour or so. It became apparent the chain had eluded us. The journey down seemed much quicker – we were also spurred on by a rendezvous with our boat. If we missed it we would have to spend another night with the sand flies.

It is the hardest thing I have EVER done (this includes a 7-day horse trek through the Kimberley, hundreds of kilometres on the Cape to Cape and Milford tracks, the Inca trail to Machu Picchu) but I wouldn't have missed it for quids.

Hamish, less lyrical, then told us how it all ended.

So we did not find the chain. The sudden summit at the top of the creek did not seem to exist any longer. We searched for an hour or so, but had not left ourselves enough time before we had to scramble down the creek and meet the dinghy at the outlet of Walker Valley.

However I had arranged for a commemorative plaque to be fixed to the rock where we found the chain and I was not going to carry it back. So it is now firmly glued to a rock somewhere close to where the chain must be.



SAWFISH IN THE FITZROY RIVER

The Fitzroy River is one of the largest nurseries of the largemouth sawfish (*Pristis pristis*), and the Western Australian Marine Science Institution has been conducting regular surveys of these fish over the past 15 years. The latest survey was carried out in October last year (not the most desirable time to be doing field work in the Kimberley) and was focussed on how stream barriers such as dams may impact on the movement and health of the largemouth sawfish, which inhabits freshwater rivers and lakes as juveniles.

Several 2-3 year old fish were captured, tagged and released. Some had been captured and tagged during previous surveys. The average length of these fish was 205 cm.

Further information about this interesting and important work can be found [here](#) on the WAMSI website.

The research is funded by Chevron Australia

Jeff Gresham

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1886, Dr. Poulton exhibited a saw from a Fitzroy River sawfish at a Royal Society of South Australia meeting, and, in 1945, two RAAF officers caught a 7ft. 6in sawfish in a Fitzroy River waterhole on Noonkanbah Station.

FOSSIL DOWNS STATION

One of the Kimberley's oldest and finest cattle stations is up for sale. Owned by Annette and John Henwood, it has been held continuously by members of the MacDonald family for well over a century. The sale, in which expressions of interest close on 2 July, is on a walk in walk out basis. Furniture is included and, in an unusual twist—if the new owners are interested in the history of the place—there is a willingness to leave behind unique historical mementoes and a portrait of Annette's mother, Maxine MacDonald.

The Elders online [advertisement](#) provides a great opportunity to see images of many aspects of Fossil Downs – the homestead (9 photos), the homestead complex (12), the beef herd (12), the rangelands (24), the yards and waters (16), Fossil Downs scenes (13), the plant and machinery (10), and the history (6 photos).

The station (394,028 hectares or 973,665 acres) has the Fitzroy and Margaret Rivers on its borders and is cut by the Leopold River. Extensive alluvial plains carry 15,000 head, primarily Droughtmaster Beef cattle. Fossil Downs has long been known for its breeding program, purchasing bulls annually from Queensland studs. Cows rarely exceed 10 years of age, and approximately 1,000 replacement heifers are retained each year. Others travel 430 kilometres to Broome for live export. The scale of that operation can be envisaged when the new cattle yards have a 2,500 head capacity.

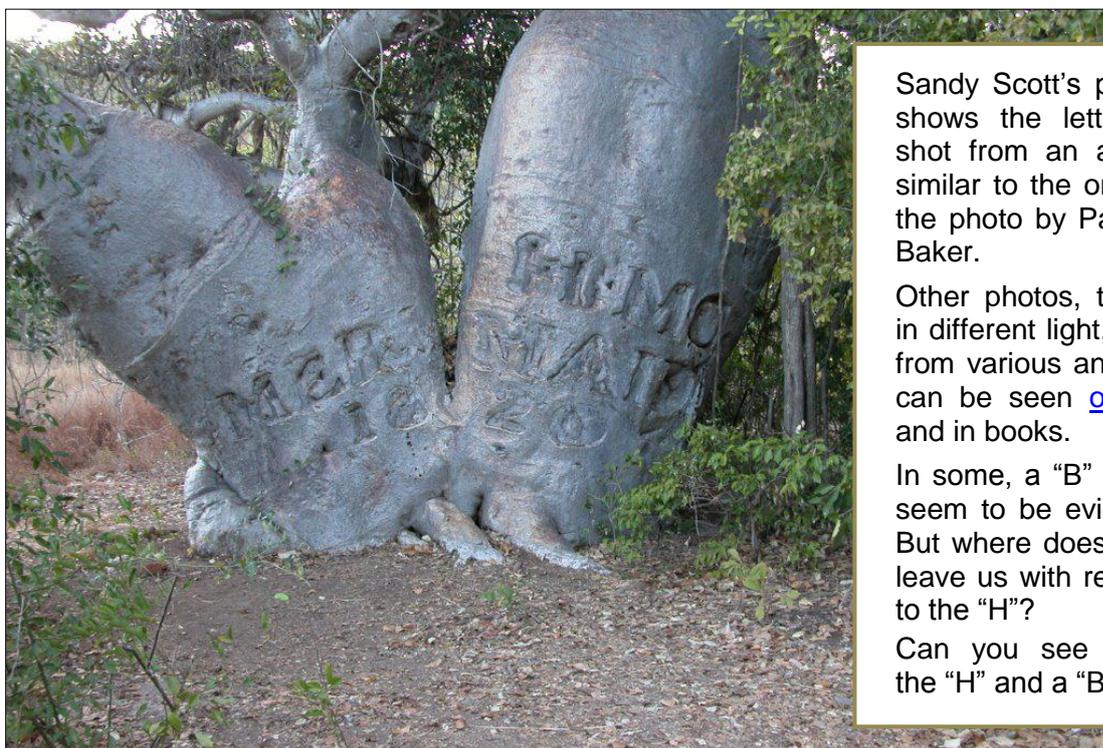
The applications for the first Fossil Downs leases were lodged on 4 April 1882 and the cattle arrived to stock them in May 1886. That small herd included the remnant of a much bigger mob started overland from the Goulburn area (NSW) in March 1883. The distance covered is said to have been 5,600 kilometres, and the world's longest cattle drive. Several decades later, descendants of those cattle would have slaked their thirst at one of the world's longest cattle troughs, at Myalls Bore outside Derby.

Another photo taken during the 1978 expedition appears in Marsden Hordern's *King of the Australian Coast: The Work of Phillip Parker King in the Mermaid and Bathurst 1871–1822* (Melbourne University Press, 1997). Opposite page 251, it is captioned: 'The Mermaid Tree at Careening Bay (photograph by Patrick Baker, 1978)'.

What seems to be the same photograph, but this time in colour, appears on page 97 of Michael Pearson's [Great Southern Land: the maritime exploration of Terra Australis](#) (Department of the Environment and Heritage, Canberra, 2005). There, however, the caption reads: 'The "Mermaid Tree", a boab tree at Careening Bay carved by King's crew with the words "HBMC Mermaid 1820". Photo: Patrick Baker Western Australian Maritime Museum'.

Pearson notes that a copper plate was also inscribed and attached to a tree, and he attributes that information to Hordern's book (page 283). But did he get "HBMC Mermaid 1820" – rather than "HMC Mermaid 1820" – from that book? Or was it from another source, or from looking at the photo?

Back in 1998, **Pat Lowe** (another of our members) had commented that 'Some authorities see a ghostly "B" next to the "H" to read "His Britannic Majesty's Cutter".' That comment was in her book, *The Boab Tree* (Lothian, Port Melbourne), next to an illustration in which Huw Crompton had emphasised the "H" and hinted at a "B".



Sandy Scott's photo shows the lettering shot from an angle similar to the one in the photo by Patrick Baker.

Other photos, taken in different light, and from various angles, can be seen [online](#) and in books.

In some, a "B" does seem to be evident. But where does that leave us with regard to the "H"?

Can you see both the "H" and a "B"?

The ghostly "B" became a topic for discussion when **Sandy Scott** wrote his article 'Features of the Kimberley Coast – Linked by History' for our April newsletter. Having seen and photographed the Mermaid Tree at various times, Sandy is convinced that the inscription reads 'HBMC Mermaid'. He was also aware that naval people sometimes use "B" or "Britannic" to distinguish British Empire vessels from later ships of the same name, e.g. in writing about King's *Mermaid* and [HMAS Mermaid](#). Your newsletter editor, being a historian, was inclined to favour HMC as a more historically accurate prefix for King's vessel.

And so began a lengthy search. We wanted to know a) if anyone noted the actual carving of the inscription, and b) if the official prefix for the *Mermaid* contained a "B".

Reference to *King of the Australian Coast* showed that it indexes the *Mermaid* as 'Mermaid (HBM Cutter)'. Interestingly, Hordern did not use the prefix in his text. Nor did he use a prefix for King's next ship, *Bathurst*. It is indexed as 'Bathurst (HM Survey Vessel)'. The absence of prefixes in the text could come from Hordern's chronological approach taking in the purchase of both vessels, for King's use, before either was assigned a prefix (on being commissioned by the navy).

[National Museum of the Royal Navy](#) advises that:

The abbreviation HMS came into common usage around 1790s. Prior to this, ships were referred to as "His Majesty's Ship" in full to indicate it belonging to the Royal Navy. The earliest example of the abbreviation being used is in 1789 when it was used for HMS Phoenix.

No reference to a "B" there. Next stop, given the boab tree's involvement, was **Kevin Kenneally**. His transcription of portions of the journal kept by [Allan Cunningham](#), the botanist on board the *Mermaid*, contained a prefix but nothing about the inscription. At the start of each journal, Cunningham had written a heading, e.g., 'Third Voyage: Voyage of survey of the coasts of Terra Australis on board HMC Mermaid, ... 13 July – 9 December 1820.' Elsewhere, in a letter written to [Joseph Banks](#) on 8 November 1819, Cunningham referred to himself as 'the unworthy Collector of His Majesty's Cutter'. Marsden Hordern found that little gem in manuscript material held by the National Library of Australia.

The National Library generously looked at a microfilm copy of the log of the *Mermaid* for us. Again, perhaps as was only to be expected, there was nothing about the inscription. The library advised that the log gives details of tides, weather, wind directions and very little in the way of extra remarks.

Recourse to [logs](#) and [diaries](#) kept by John Septimus Roe provided information about the cutter but not the inscription. Roe's log entry for 16 October 1817 read:

The Mermaid Cutter, was purchased by Government, for a Surveying vessel; was commissioned by "Lieut^t P. P. King, of the Royal Navy, as His Majesty's Cutter Mermaid; & a pennant hosted at her masthead ...

That day, and on subsequent days, Roe wrote 'His Majesty's Cutter Mermaid' at the top of each fresh page in his log. His diary entry of 16 October 1817 noted that the vessel would 'henceforth be called His Majesty's Cutter Mermaid'.

During King's command, newspapers mentioned '[His Majesty's Cutter Mermaid](#)', '[His Majesty's schooner Mermaid](#)', '[the Government cutter Mermaid](#)', and '[His Majesty's surveying cutter Mermaid](#)'. Official notices tended to use the first of those names. No use of "Britannic" with *Mermaid* was found in the early newspapers. But, in 1822, [The Christian Observer](#), vol 23, page 320, carried a letter that mentioned 'His Britannic Majesty's cutter the Mermaid'. That, and further research, indicated that a "B" or "Britannic" was sometimes used when someone wished to make it clear that the sovereign to whom reference was being made was actually British.

More recently, George Seddon's *The Old Country: Australian Landscapes, Plants and People* (Cambridge University Press, 2005) mentioned 'His Britannic Majesty's Cutter Mermaid'. Page 56 has a [photo](#) showing part of the boab tree inscription.

The results of our search point to HMC being the commonly used prefix for the *Mermaid*. Yet, with the inscription's appearance affected by light, shadow, angle, and the viewer's position, debate about the ghostly "B" is likely to continue.

If you are aware of other sources that relate to the prefix or the inscription, we would appreciate hearing from you. Your general comments would also be welcome.

Cathie Clement

KIMBERLEY SOCIETY INC

Draft Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting

held in the Dalkeith Hall, 97 Waratah Avenue, Dalkeith on Wednesday 01 April 2015

President's welcome:

The meeting was opened by the President, Jeff Murray at 7.35 pm. The President welcomed members, guests and visitors to the AGM.

Apologies & Attendance:

The meeting was attended by forty members and three visitors.

Minutes of 21st Annual General meeting:

The Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd April 2014 were confirmed as circulated at the meeting and the President was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

Moved: Audrey Bolger

Seconded: Elizabeth Gresham

APPROVED

Matters Arising:

Nil

President's Report

I am pleased to present the 2014-2015 annual report of the Kimberley Society. It has been an equally exciting and challenging year.

Our monthly meetings continue to be very well attended, attracting members and many visitors to hear Kimberley talks on:

- Bush walking
- Mowanjum Centenary
- Climate change indicators in the Kimberley region
- 1910-11 Swedish Scientific Expedition
- Kimberley Dental Team
- Geological history of the Argyle deposit
- Broome Race Riots of 1907, 1914 and 1920
- Understanding the Dingo
- Rural and Remote Health Placement Program
- DPaW and Aboriginal joint management of lands in the Kimberley region

The Society's website is receiving increased interest due largely to the efforts of Jeff Gresham and Cathie Clement who are improving the website to ensure that information is comprehensive and interesting. The website promotes the Society's policies and services, plus provides access to information on the Kimberley region so it is a valuable link to members and the public.

Mike Donaldson, our Membership Secretary has progressed to provide members with emailed colour digital copies of the Boab Bulletin.

The Council is still progressing with Society funding projects in the Kimberley region. In the last 12 months the Old Halls Creek Post Office informative signage project has further progressed, and funding support has been provided to the:

- a. Notre Dame University of WA for their School of Medicine's Rural and Remote Health Placement Program.
- b. PhD student, (ANU) to study "Developing biodiversity resilience approaches to sea level rise, Roebuck Bay, Broome, WA".
- c. Hesperian Press for the WAEDP Kimberley history volume.
- d. Broome branch of Read-Write-Now project to print 100 copies of 'Erin the Turtle' book.

I wish to acknowledge the support of the Council over the last year. They have contributed to the development and continuation of the Society. All have been most helpful in contributing to Council decisions.

So in conclusion, I wish to thank all the members for their continued support and attendance. I am very confident that the Society will endure to meet your needs and the interests of the wider community.

Treasure's Report:

Presented by Jeff Gresham

- * The Society is in a very sound financial position.
- * The Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2014 indicated total cash of \$57,433.68
 - * \$40,882.31 in No 1 Account; and
 - * \$16,551.37 in the No 2 Account
- * Funds in the No 2 account are committed to the Old Halls Creek Post Office interpretive signage project
- * The other major asset is 430 unsold history books which are valued at cost. This totals \$812.21.
- * Liabilities are minor resulting in net assets of \$65,573.10
- * In terms of profit and loss, the Society incurred a small loss of \$193.63 for 2014 despite making donations of \$10,000 during the year.
- * Cash at Hand decreased by only \$919.66 during 2014 after all operating costs and donations were considered.
- * This positive result reflects the ongoing sales of the Society's history book
 - * As at year end, 1,582 of the 2057 copies printed have been sold and distributed.
 - * Receipts and invoices during 2014 totalled \$10,673.90 for history book sales.
 - * A grand total of \$50,623.45 has been receipted and invoiced from the history book sales against a total outlay of \$29,037 to produce the book.

Moved: Mike Donaldson

Seconded: Hamish McGlashan

APPROVED

Election of Office Bearers:

The following nominations for Office Bearers have been received:

President	: Jeff Murray
Vice Presidents	: Roger Passmore, Hamish McGlashan
Treasurer	: Jeff Gresham
Secretary	: Geoff Owen
Membership Secretary	: Mike Donaldson
Councillors	: Michael Cusack, Tony Gates, Margaret Shugg, Sven Ouzman

There being no other nominations all nominations were endorsed.

Moved: Jeff Gresham

Seconded: Elizabeth Gresham

APPROVED

General Business:

No member had a question or issue to raise that has not been addressed in the meeting. The next Kimberley Society AGM will be Wed 6th April 2016.

Closure:

There being no other business the President closed the meeting at 7.45pm.

Jeff Murray - President

AWARDS

Each year, Rural Health West invites nominations for [Doctors' Service Awards](#) in five categories. This year the Award for Outstanding Service to Rural and Remote Health went to Kimberley Society member **Professor John Boulton**. He was recognised 'For his passion, impulse, humour, dedication and care when serving the children and peoples of the Kimberley'. The [citation](#) mentions that John has spent the last ten years working in the Kimberly region as a Senior Regional Paediatrician. It also lists eleven achievements that include:

- Promoted and established leadership roles for nurses, creating the position of Paediatric Nurse practitioners for the Kimberley, resulting in improved capacity and standards of care and improved skills for acute neonate, critically ill, and children with disability and chronic disease in Broome hospital; and,
- Exemplified huge commitment to Aboriginal child health, working in partnership with elders and parents, on the basis of mutual respect and partnership.

The Award for Remote and Clinically Challenging Medicine went to **Dr Randolph Spargo** 'For his outstanding contribution to improving the overall health and wellbeing of the Indigenous population of the Kimberley'. His [citation](#) says that he 'has 47 years of experience in remote medicine, and his reputation of working in Derby and all over the Kimberley for so many years is renowned'. Among the various achievements listed is:

He has developed professional relationships in a significant number of discreet linguistic settings in Northern Western Australia, and has attracted a unique level of respect, trust and honour as both a confidante and healer. He is recognised by individuals across many Indigenous population groups as having factual local knowledge and an understanding of ceremonial and cultural matters, particularly cultural sensitivities.

On 14 May, in the [WA Volunteer of the Year Awards](#), **Jan Owen** of [Kimberley Dental Team](#) won the Excellence in Volunteer Management Award. The team has about 40 volunteers who use a mobile dental van to visit almost 30 communities, offering check-ups, extractions, and thousands of free dental packs (toothbrushes & paste).

COUNCIL 2014-2015

President:	Jeff Murray
Vice-Presidents:	Roger Passmore and Hamish McGlashan
Secretary:	Geoff Owen
Membership Secretary:	Mike Donaldson
Treasurer:	Jeffrey Gresham
Councillors:	Michael Cusack, Tony Gates, Margaret Shugg, and Sven Ouzman.

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Dr Cathie Clement OAM edits this newsletter for the Kimberley Society, which was launched in 1993 with the principal objective of disseminating information about the Kimberley. The content is copyright but may be cited with acknowledgment. Correspondence, including requests to reproduce text or images, should be directed to The Editor, Kimberley Society, PO Box 8471, Perth Business Centre, Perth, WA 6849. Contact is also available by [email](#) or telephone (08) 9272 3308.

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