



BOAB BULLETIN

No. 136

October 2016

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS

commencing 7.15 for 7.30 p.m.

Dalkeith Hall, 97 Waratah Avenue, Dalkeith

Wednesday, 5 October 2016

“Rare water lily and related plants in the Kimberley”

Emma Dalziell (Kings Park Botanic Gardens)

Wednesday, 2 November 2016

“Early history of Quanbun Station”

Brennan Rose

Wednesday, 7 December 2016

“Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities”

Kim McCreanor (CEO, AMRRIC)

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.

THE NATURAL WORLD OF THE KIMBERLEY – A ONE DAY SEMINAR

We urge members and friends to register as soon as possible

The full program for our seminar of 15 October 2016 was published in the June issue of the *Boab Bulletin* and is now being circulated with this newsletter. The [program](#) and the [registration form](#) are also available on our website as PDFs.

The seminar starts at 8.45 a.m. at The University Club, The University of Western Australia. The four sessions will be geology and plants, animals and sky, sea and coast, and protecting the environment. **Kimberley Society members** are entitled to a discount of \$20 on the full registration fee of \$140. A concession rate of \$90 is available to students. Enquiries can be directed to Hamish McGlashan (tel. 08 9381 1698 or hmcglash@iinet.net.au).

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Several items about the Kimberley published this month again highlight the diversity of our favourite region, which is of course reflected in the diversity of interests of Kimberley Society members.

One was the award-winning Tura New Music Ltd [Reflection2 Tour](#) featuring Stephen Pigram, 'the bard of Broome and the king of Kimberley song', and didge virtuoso Mark Atkins. These Indigenous music icons joined with other local Aboriginal musicians to perform in a number of Kimberley towns and communities in September, culminating in a finale concert at Perth's Concert Hall. Tura and major tour sponsor Healthway are working together to promote positive mental health in the Kimberley, and the concerts have been very popular.

The second item was publication of three major papers in scientific journals with new archaeological dates for human occupation and paintings in the Kimberley. The papers result from years of research into Kimberley rock art by PhD students and their supervisors at the universities of WA, New England, Macquarie, Wollongong, and ANU. Largely funded by federal government grants from the Australian Research Council and Kimberley Foundation Australia, the results confirm initial human occupation at 45–46 000 years ago (at Riwi near Fitzroy Crossing), and further elucidate ages for some of the painting styles. A minimum age of 16 000 years for rock art determined by June Ross and others proves that at least some of the Kimberley art is of Pleistocene age. A paper by Travers and Ross in the current issue of *Australian Archaeology* details analysis of over 7500 painted motifs at 204 rock art sites, and concludes that the Kimberley art sequence changed gradually through time rather than being punctuated by abrupt discontinuities. The open access papers are: Wood et al., [Towards an Accurate and Precise Chronology for the Colonization of Australia: The Example of Riwi](#), and Ross et al., [Into the Past: A Step Towards a Robust Kimberley Rock Art Chronology](#).

The third important item was approval by the WA State Cabinet of the first stage of a major new [irrigation project](#) on Gogo Station near Fitzroy Crossing. Freehold title over the irrigated land on the pastoral lease can be gained by meeting development targets, with a possible investment of up to \$200 million. Unlike the earlier (1950s) proposals to dam the Fitzroy River for agricultural projects at Camballin, the Gogo project plans to use surface and underground water for irrigation of fodder crops to support an increase in cattle production.

Also in the news, details for the Society's forthcoming seminar 'The Natural World of the Kimberley' to be held at the University Club, UWA (Perth) on Saturday 15 October. Don't miss it!

Mike Donaldson

PIGRAM BROTHERS

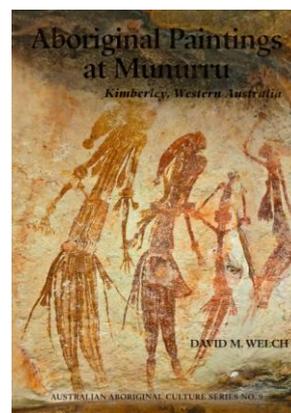
Stephen Pigram, mentioned in Mike Donaldson's piece above, is a senior member of the [Pigram Brothers](#), a seven-piece country folk/rock band from Broome. The band formed in 1996, after Stephen, Alan and Philip spent 12 years as part of Broome's Scrap Metal band which recorded four albums, and, in 1987, toured nationally with Midnight Oil on its Diesel and Dust Tour.

The Pigram Brothers spend most of their time in Broome but will be appearing at the [Frack Off concert](#) in Margaret River, in the south-west of WA, on 26 November. The concert, already sold out, will be held at the 3 Oceans Winery, Cowaramup.

BOOK NOTE

***Aboriginal Paintings at Munurru, Kimberley, Western Australia* by David M. Welch. Australian Aboriginal Culture Series No. 9, [David M. Welch Publications](#), Darwin, 2014, 82 pages, 240 x 170 mm, soft cover, prolific full colour images, ISBN 9780987138927. RRP \$25.**

Darwin-based GP Dr David Welch has been researching and documenting rock art in the Kimberley for over 30 years. He has published many articles on the subject in academic journals and is also an avid publisher in his own right.



The rock art sites at Munurru, near the King Edward River crossing on the road to Mitchell Plateau, are the most visited art sites in the Kimberley, but there is no information on the art at the locality as it is not within the Mitchell Plateau National Park – the area is in the Wunambal Gaambera Determined Native Title area. David's book provides detailed site maps and directions to the two main concentrations of art – referred to by him as the Wandjina Complex and the Warnmarri (Brolga) Complex. He was accompanied to these sites by traditional owners in 2000, but has visited the sites many times.

The book has a preliminary section on access and a summary of the recognised Kimberley art sequence which David was instrumental in establishing. He uses his own terminology for the art styles, starting with the Archaic Period and progressing through Tasselled and Bent Knee Figures (Gwions or Bradshaws in other terminologies), to Dynamic and Straight Part Figures, Painted Hand and finally to Wandjina and Contact Period. Detailed sketch maps of the two site complexes give locations of the various art panels which are shown in the many excellent colour photographs. A final chapter covers the impact of weathering and human impact, and there is a useful bibliography for further reading.

This excellent guide to the Munurru rock art is a must for those visiting Mitchell Plateau, and is a valuable addition to the Kimberley rock art literature.

Mike Donaldson

A SLICE OF BROOME HERITAGE

On 6 October, [Kinney's Store](#), located at 23 Carnarvon Street, Broome, is to be auctioned under instructions from liquidators KPMG. The store takes its name from Peter and Beverley Kinney who purchased it, with Brian County, in 1976. Before that, it belonged to the Ellies family, with their ownership dating from 1919 and giving rise to the name T.B. Ellies' Store.

The story of Ellies' time in Broome is told in *The Pearls of Broome : T. B. Ellies : signature pearls since 1888*, written by his great-great-grandson Aji Ellies. Thomas Bastion Ellies migrated to WA from Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in 1887. He was a gold dealer and jeweller in Cossack, on the north-west coast, before moving to Broome and earning a name as an expert pearl cleaner. His business premises were on part of Lot 4 (Kinney's Store) and part of the adjoining Lot 3 in Carnarvon Street. The Lot 3 store, a former residence, has since been replaced but Kinney's Store, despite being altered over the years, comprises part of the [Chinatown Conservation Area](#), which is listed on the WA State Register of Heritage Places.

THE GEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE ARGYLE DIAMOND DEPOSIT

On 3 July 2014, Murray Rayner, Principal adviser - Resource Evaluation at Argyle Diamonds, was our speaker. He opened his talk with a brief outline of the history of diamonds in the Kimberley region. Rather than summarise Murray's outline here, we refer you to an earlier talk on '[The Road to Argyle: A history of diamond exploration in W.A.](#)', delivered by Ewen Tyler in August 1997. It was published in the *Boab Bulletin* in December 1997 and is on our website.

Murray explained that diamond pipes form in volcanoes that transport the diamonds from depths of 150-230km to the surface during volcanic eruptions and can range from 50m to a few hundred meters in width and often hundreds of metres in depth. The Argyle site was originally pegged in 1979 following the discovery of alluvial diamonds in Smoke Creek, which had eroded from the Argyle diamond pipe over millions of years. The mining of the alluvial diamonds commenced in 1981 in both Smoke Creek and Limestone Creek, which both ultimately flow into Lake Argyle. In 1983 they started developing the open pit mine, completing its establishment in two years. The open cut mine closed in 2013. More information on the history of the mine is available on the [Rio Tinto website](#).



3D image of the Argyle diamond pipe looking west over the Matsu ranges after 30 years of mining

The challenges of extracting diamonds from the mine in the Kimberley are summarised on the [website](#). In putting those challenges in context, Murray mentioned that they are matched by Rio Tinto's more recent mining operations such as [Diavik](#) in the North West Territories of Canada. There, only a 6 week period of optimal ice conditions allows for the cartage by road of 12 months of mining supplies on the infamous ice road!

Argyle produces the largest quantity of diamonds in the world given the high grades of carats but, despite not being the highest quality, the birth of the champagne and cognac diamonds evolved. The [coloured diamonds](#), including the rare and very valuable pink form (only one in a thousand stones), are caused by inclusion of nitrogen in the diamond structure. Although diamonds themselves are very hard, they can be very fragile and broken if not mined with much care. The increased value of a diamond is determined by the four C's – carats (size or weight), colour

(colour of the stone), clarity (how clear and inclusion free the stone is), cut (how well the stone is cut once polished). Currently India is one of the centres of diamond cutting where hundreds of thousands of people are employed in the industry, primarily focussing on cutting and polishing Argyle diamonds.

A short video was shown on the history of the formation of our planet, starting at around 5 billion years ago. It included a simulation in 3D of how Earth was affected when struck by an asteroid and the time span as it spread across the planet's surface. We also heard about the formation of the tectonic plates and how diamonds were created by extreme pressure build up and heat, estimated to reach between 1200C and 1600C. Some diamond pipes can be extremely deep such as those in South Africa. Further discussions explained the formation of life and the time periods where life flourished between large scale extinction events. This was followed by an explanation of how exploration is undertaken for diamonds and what parts of the earth are most prospective.

There were a number of questions raised at the end of the presentation over various aspects of the mining operations in the Kimberley and future prospects.

Susan Clarkson

ON THE STATIONS

September the 9th was a big day in the West Kimberley. The opening of the [Kimberley Meat Company abattoir](#) by the Minister for Agriculture, in front of more than 100 people, was the realisation of Jack and Vicki Burton's long range vision of establishing local meatworks. The Burtons, Taberers and Keys are equal family partners in the [Yeeda Pastoral Company](#), holding 95,000 head of cattle in WA. The abattoir is on Yeeda Station but will also process cattle from other stations.

Built at a cost of about \$25 million, it will change the way beef cattle are handled in the Kimberley. Live export will continue but Yeeda and other stations will no longer have to truck cattle unsuited to live export up to 3,000 kilometres south for slaughter. When the cost of freight and the loss of condition on those long trips are taken into account, access to a local facility becomes a very attractive proposition.

The abattoir has the capacity to process up to 300 cattle a day. The initial throughput will be more than 200, and [the plan](#) is to clear up secondary cattle with a view to producing a higher grade of beef as more stations start growing irrigated feed for their cattle. For now, [the focus](#) will be on quartered beef, to be sold as domestic product. Approvals are being sought to export the beef to places that include Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam. That beef will go to Fremantle in containers on trucks ready for export but it is hoped to eventually fly fresh beef out of Broome into the South-East Asian markets.

Within two weeks of the abattoir opening, the WA Government approved the sale of [five Goldfields pastoral leases](#) to the Chinese company that recently purchased Yakka Munga and Mt Elizabeth stations in the Kimberley. With Shanghai CRED taking control of Jeedamya, Kookynie, Melita, Perrinvale and Riverina leases, that company's investment in a cattle supply chain in WA will reach about \$27 million. Perrinvale and Riverina were independently owned while the other three leases were known as Yeeda Pastoral Company's [Melita aggregation](#).

Yakka Munga, which has recently hired Aboriginal stockmen, is one of the stations that will be sending cattle to the Kimberley Meat Company abattoir. The scenes won't match the old droving days but a few echoes might be discernible.

BOOK REVIEW

Aboriginal Children, History and Health: Beyond social determinants edited by John Boulton. [Routledge](#), Oxford, UK, 2016, 238 pages, ISBN 978-1-138-95524-0 (hardback). Also available in paperback and eBook. Prices vary greatly. Some retailers offer attractive discounts.

There are fewer more pressing concerns in today's Australia than the health and wellbeing of future generations. In *Aboriginal Children, History and Health*, the focus is clearly on Indigenous young people, social, cultural and economic issues, and medical practice. A particular interest is remote and regional settings, especially the Kimberley, and contextual emphases are made plain at the outset.

With co-authors such as anthropologist Gaynor Macdonald, historians Christine Choo and Rani Kerin, and endocrinologist and pediatrician Ze'ev Hochberg, pediatrician and editor John Boulton draws attention to a complex of matters currently faced by young people, their families, and communities and organizations that influence the why, when and how of Aboriginal health.

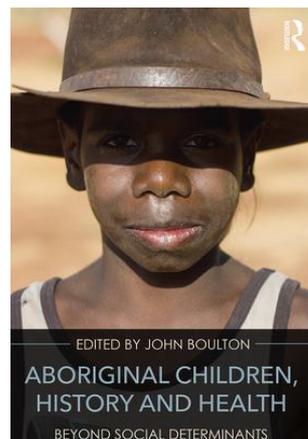
A key critique that runs through each author's chapter is the dominance of 'Western' health, embodying as it does evolutionary and historical models that tend to rely on ideological and epidemiological approaches. These regularly overlook the impact of the 'colonial frontier' on people's everyday lives and circumstances for example, the need to look beyond the limits of poor nutrition and overcrowding to their cause and effect, the adequacy or otherwise of service delivery, and community responses to these.

One of the book's strengths is the qualitative material it includes, such as Coolibah's Story, and the conceptualization of 'growth faltering' (Chapters 10 and 12) as a means to understand the difficulties that arise as childhood evolves. Of poignant and vital consideration is Chapter 11 where Hochberg and Boulton concentrate on how poor living conditions, health and inadequate nutrition are becoming increasingly accommodated by many Aboriginal people themselves, as well as the health professionals with whom they interact. It would have been helpful to see this significant matter expanded, for example, to show how health professionals might adopt alternative or lesser-known local practices to better explain the long-term impacts of nutritional (and emotional) stress to avoid it becoming a tolerated status.

Aboriginal Children, History and Health will be a helpful resource for those new to Indigenous health issues and/or interested in the Kimberley. While a book that contemplates Aboriginal life and health in the way that this one does could have benefited from a range of past, present and continuing Indigenous voices from the Kimberley and elsewhere, and inclusion of an enhanced language map readily available from a local organizations would have been a great improvement on the one showing at Plate 1, the references listed at the conclusion of each chapter reveal a solid overview of relevant literature.

A book worth its measure, at the same time it is an enduring tragedy that texts such as *Aboriginal Children, History and Health* continue to be researched and written. Like so many others, I yearn for the day when a book with the same title will carry a very different and more encouraging message, not only for Aboriginal young people, but also for the health professionals among whom they work.

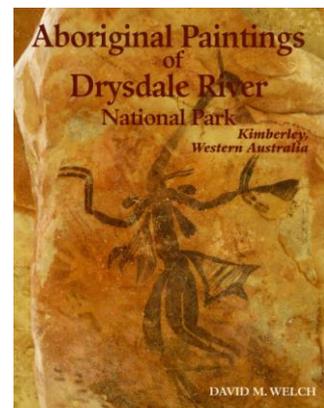
Sandy Toussaint



BOOK NOTE

***Aboriginal Paintings of Drysdale River National Park, Kimberley, Western Australia* by David M. Welch. Australian Aboriginal Culture Series No. 10, [David M. Welch Publications](#), Darwin, 2015. 322 pages, 240 x 170 mm, soft cover, prolific full colour images. ISBN 9780987138972. RRP \$40.**

This 10th publication in David Welch's Australian Aboriginal Culture Series is a very detailed account of the voluminous rock art he has documented in the remote Drysdale River National Park in the northern Kimberley.



David has been exploring the park since the 1980s and has worked with many of the traditional Aboriginal owners of the park to help his understanding of the associated culture.

The book includes abundant details on the history of the park and those who have studied the art and the natural environment, as well as providing access information, permit requirements, and climate data. There are short sections on geology, flora, and fauna. Some 50 pages provide information about various routes to explore the region's art and the sketch maps should allow keen walkers to locate many of the most interesting sites accessible in several days walk.

Chapter 4 is a comprehensive description of the variety of art within the park, and the following seven chapters are devoted to the various art styles that document the chronological sequence that has been established for Kimberley rock art – the author uses his own terminology rather than the more widely published terms such as Gwions (or Bradshaws): Archaic Period, Tasselled-, Bent Knee-, Dynamic-, and Straight Part Figures, and Painted Hand, and Wandjina Periods. These chapters have abundant images of each art style, and comparisons with historic photographs of Aboriginal people wearing similar accoutrements or painted in similar patterns.

This impressive publication is another welcome addition to the literature on Kimberley rock art by one of its most industrious and dedicated researchers. The discussions on painting materials and techniques and possible interpretations have relevance to much of the Kimberley beyond the Drysdale River area. The book is highly recommended for all interested in the unique heritage represented by this ancient body of art, and hopefully it will encourage more people to put on a backpack and walk into this wonderful wilderness.

Mike Donaldson

ANCIENT FINDS IN BROOME

Two surprising finds have been reported recently in Broome. [Bindi Lee Porth](#) was collecting shells on Cable Beach when she came across the uncatalogued footprints of a Tyrannosaurus-type dinosaur. While hundreds of other local tracks are known, palaeontologist Dr Steve Salisbury described the find as exciting because, while the others are mostly sauropod tracks, this is the first evidence of another type.

The second find was an ancient stone artefact picked up by four-year-old [Eli Howlett](#) under his mother's chair at the Broome speedway and taken to Broome's Yawuru Aboriginal Corporation. Dr Peter Veth, UWA professor of archaeology and Kimberley rock art, said that it had been made from rock not found naturally in the Broome area and therefore provides evidence of the extensive trading that took place across Australia. He thinks it is likely to have been hand held and used like a knife.

OCCASIONAL FOOTBALL COLUMN including WAFL and AFL Pre-season Draft

My interests in Kimberley football were recently renewed when I found out that the father of one of my long term patients had in fact been the coach of the Halls Creek Hawks and had been instrumental in setting up the Aboriginal Community of [Yagga Yagga](#).

Yagga Yagga was an out station of Balgo, and [Francis Watson](#) who hails from Balgo could well be chosen in the next AFL draft.

I assume that, by the time you read this column, the football season will be nearly over but the 2016 draft will have yet to take place.

Firstly in the WAFL, the Claremont Football Club continues its long association with Kimberley players, finding opportunities for them to play at all levels from the Colts through to the Seniors. The *Football Budget* for Round 3, August 27, 2016 is a source of current Kimberley players for Claremont. In the League Teams there is [Keifer Yu](#) who hails from Broome and also [Gerrick Weedon](#) from Derby. Gerrick played one game for the West Coast Eagles against Essendon some years ago and how now played 50 games for Claremont. The Reserves List includes Francis Watson from Yardgee/Halls Creek/Clontarf. The Colts list includes [Shaquille Morton](#) from the Waringarri Crows, [James Egan](#) from Port Wyndham Football Club, [Keanu Shandley](#) from the Looma Eagles and [Christopher Oakley](#) from the Cable Beach Football Club. Currently the Colts are still in Finals contention and at time of writing have a good chance of taking out the Premiership after their win in the second semi-final on 11 September. During that match [Sam Petrevski-Seton](#) had 25 possessions and Christopher Oakley 19 possessions and one goal.

The weekend edition of the *West Australian* newspaper on 3 September had two articles on Kimberley footballers. The first article referred to the Fremantle Dockers wishing to apply for the rights to Francis Watson on a Category B Rookie list. However, three days later, the *West Australian* reported that the application had been rejected and Watson is apparently going on to the Open Market.

Players mentioned by [Callum Twomey](#) on the AFL website as possible selections for the 2016 draft include Sam Petrevski-Seton and [Cedric Cox](#).

He has Sam Petrevski-Seton at Pick 6 and describes him as a mid-fielder who has crafty ball use on both feet with a fondness of a “shimmy and baulk”. He also wrote: “his unselfishness helps bring teammates into the game. He has some special traits”. As well as being a talented player he was on a video on the Claremont Club Website discussing his life in Halls Creek.

Cedric Cox, at No. 23, is from Halls Creek but currently playing for the North Ballarat Rebels. He is a cousin of Petrevski-Seton. He is described as having “great pace and skill” and “moves well through traffic”. He had been in the Claremont Under 16 Development Squad two years ago but gave it away because of homesickness. However a former teacher encouraged him to go to Camperdown in Victoria where he started playing again and is now working at the local Bakery in Camperdown. The Dockers had also applied for the rights to list Cedric Cox.

From my understanding, it appears that in the future Kimberley players will be aligned with the Fremantle Dockers and Aboriginal Players from the Pilbara with the West Coast Football Club. Whether the Claremont connection with these young developing players continues remains to be seen.

Jack Vercoe

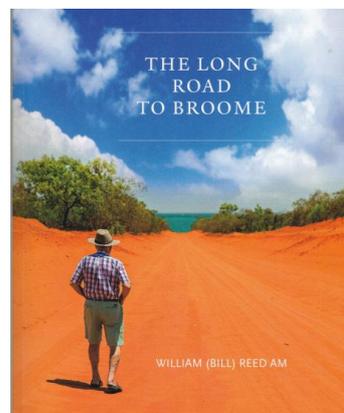
Past President Kimberley Society

Life Member Claremont Football Club

BOOK NOTE

***The Long Road to Broome* by William (Bill) Reed. [Allure South Sea Pearls](#), Parkwood (Qld), 2016. Paperback, 135 pages, ISBN 9780994409928, RRP \$29.00.**

Bill Reed's memoir, *The Long Road to Broome*, was launched just before my recent visit to Broome. It was prominent and selling well at the local newsagents. Unfortunately the previously well stocked Kimberley Bookshop is both closed and empty.



I asked my friends in Broome if they knew Bill. "Oh yes," they all said with a smile. He is certainly a well known Broome identity, and a talented raconteur, a skill which he has carried over to his book. He has written other books, for example *Fish and Fisheries of Northern Nigeria*, but I doubt whether they are as entertaining as his recent reflections.

Bill was born and raised in Queensland, became dux of his school and studied zoology at university. He then worked for the fisheries department in New Guinea, got sick and wanted somewhere dry. Where better than the Sudan, then the Persian Gulf, Nigeria and Tahiti? Whenever a project collapsed or he had to flee from danger, he had the good fortune that another and better job came along. I suspect that this was because of his expertise and reliability rather than the good luck he suggests. Eventually he finished up in Broome, where he stuck, first as a consultant to pearling firms, then growing cultured pearls himself and finally retailing. He has been a major figure (indeed probably **the** most important person) in modernisation of the pearling industry in Broome over the last twenty years.

Each chapter of the narrative deals with an exotic location in which the author was stationed. The pages are interspersed with boxes in which there are vignettes of characters he met and amusing tales of their escapades. Others deal with more technical details of pearls and the pearling industry. There are also plenty of photographs, both ancient and modern.

If you read this book you will not only smile but will know more about the qualities of *Pinctada maximus* and other related species.

The Long Road to Broome is available at [Allure South Sea Pearls](#), at the company's showroom at 25 Dampier Terrace, Broome, and in selected book stores.

Hamish McGlashan

RARE EARTHS MINE

Northern Minerals, which owns the Browns Range rare earths deposit out of Halls Creek, has received WA Government approval to build a pilot processing plant. Matt Brann's report on [ABC Rural](#) said that, while subject to final financing, it would be the first major mine of the type outside of China. The pilot plant, operating at a scale of ten per cent of the proposed full-scale operation, would have throughput of 60,000 tonnes per annum for three years. A decision about committing to the full-scale operation would be made during that time. The target element is dysprosium, which is used in magnets commonly found in hybrid cars and mobile phones. The company plans to start mining next year. The pilot plant would require a workforce of about 35 people, with more jobs created during the construction phase and mining operation.

KIMBERLEY SOCIETY
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 23RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held in the Dalkeith Hall, 97 Waratah Avenue, Dalkeith
on Wednesday 6 April 2016

President's welcome

In the absence of President Jeff Murray, Mike Donaldson opened the meeting at 7:30 pm and welcomed members, guests and visitors to the AGM.

Apologies and Attendance

Apology noted for Jeff Murray (on military duties).

The meeting was attended by 33 members and 9 visitors.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting held 1st April 2015 were approved:

Moved Hamish McGlashan *Seconded* Roger Passmore

Matters Arising

Nil

President's Report

(read by Mike Donaldson in the President's absence):

I am pleased to present the 2015-2016 annual report of the Kimberley Society. It has been an interesting and successful year.

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

- Travelling through Kimberley history
- Aquatic life opportunistic in Kimberley's transient wet
- State of play of offshore petroleum resources, projects, and geology in the Kimberley region
- Archaeological research in the Southern Kimberley
- 2015 Pastoral Lease Renewal Project
- Charles Price Conigrave and the Kimberley Exploring Expedition of 1911
- Police activities in the Kimberley in early history
- Work on Boabs and biofilms on the Gwion paintings
- Kimberley mammals: status and conservation
- Kimberley Rock Art in the Australian context
- Noonkanbah 1980- A dispute revisited

The Society's website is receiving increased interest due largely to the efforts of Jeff Gresham and Cathie Clement who are proactive in ensuring the monthly talks are available. 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 provides members with emailed colour digital copies of the Boab Bulletin prepared by the Society's editor, Cathie Clement. Some members continue to prefer to receive mailed hard copies that now cost more to distribute due to increased postage fees.

During the last 12 months the Council has provided funding support for the:

- Old Halls Creek Post Office signage project; and
- Kununurra Historical Society seminar on '75 Years of Ord Irrigation'

Councillor Hamish McGlashan is chairing a committee to provide the Natural World of the Kimberley seminar to be held at the University Club, UWA, on 15 October this year.

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 participating in 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.

Treasurer's Report

Prepared and presented by Jeff Gresham.

- The Society remains in a very sound financial position despite recording a loss of \$18,937.89 for 2015.
- The loss is attributable to the very substantial contribution the Society made to the Old Halls Creek Post Office project during the year.
- In addition to the funds that had been accrued in the account set up specifically for the funding of the project, the Society made an additional donation of \$4,797.20.
- In total, the Society made a total of contribution of \$23,762.20 (inclusive of GST) to bring this project to a satisfactory conclusion.
- The Balance Sheet as at December 31st 2015 shows the Society had net assets of \$41,515.82 with cash in the bank of \$36,135.10.
- The other significant asset is the 222 unsold history books which are valued at cost, \$14.81/copy. This gives an asset value of \$3,287.82.
- The Society has no significant liabilities.
- History book sales generated income of \$7,281.64 during the year.
- As at year end, 1,851 history books had been sold and distributed and \$59,761.20 has been invoiced and receipted.
- The total outlay to produce the book was \$29,037
- A stocktake at year end indicated only 222 copies of the book, of the 2,057 printed, remain to be sold.

Moved Margaret Shugg *Seconded* Mike Cusack *APPROVED*

Membership Secretary's Report

Presented by Mike Donaldson

The Society has 163 members (including 7 complimentary) and more than half have elected to receive the newsletter in PDF form, by email.

Moved Roger Passmore *Seconded* Mike Cusack *APPROVED*

Election of Office Bearers

The following nominations for Office Bearers were received:

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

As there were no other nominations all nominations were endorsed.

Moved Geoff Owen *Seconded* Kevin Coate *APPROVED*

General Business

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7:45 pm.
The next Kimberley Society AGM will be Wednesday 5 April 2017.

Mike Donaldson
President

LONELY GRAVES

Outback Graves, a volunteer group founded by Trevor Tough, has been busy installing plaques at remote grave sites across the Kimberley and elsewhere in WA. This unusual project sees Trevor engraving the plaques which he, his wife Suzie, and other volunteers then install on the graves.

Much of the information on the plaques comes from Yvonne and Kevin Coates' book *More Lonely Graves of Western Australia* (Hesperian Press, Carlisle, WA, 2000). With their permission, text has been extracted from the book and placed on the [Outback Graves website](#).

Some of the plaques are on station country, some on isolated but recognisable graves, and some on graves that are known but not obvious as such. On many others, the person's name is prefaced with the poignant words 'near here lies ...'.

Photos presented by Leah McLennan and Vanessa Mills ([ABC Kimberley](#)) in their coverage of a recent trip by the Toughs showed three of the plaques in situ.

CHARLES JOSEPH NICHOLSON
AGED 5 MONTHS
DIED OF FEVER
8/2/1900

www.outbackgraves.org REF: 0156

The ABC Kimberley photo of this plaque shows it fixed firmly to a metal upright among the stones that mark the grave. The details for the grave have yet to be added to the database but *More Lonely Graves* puts it on land that comprised Oobagooma Station. The infant's parents were Hannah (nee Cook) and Joseph Michael Nicholson (station manager).

The help of locals such as Derby's well known Aboriginal elder [Sam Lovell](#), station owners and managers and history enthusiasts is invaluable in locating the more remote graves. [Kununurra Historical Society](#), which has a strong interest in recording outback sites, is one of the local groups that has pitched in to help. Trevor and Suzie Tough are also hoping that more volunteers will join their group of retirees and help to track down other long-forgotten burial sites.

COUNCIL 2016-2017

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

© [Kimberley Society Inc.](#)

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.

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.