



# BOAB BULLETIN

No. 67

April 2005

## NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

commencing at 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. at

Shenton Park Community Centre, cnr Onslow and Herbert Rds

**Wednesday, 6 April 2005**

**Diana Jones**

**(Curator of Crustaceans, WA Museum)**

**'Kimberley Crustaceans'**

**Wednesday, 4 May 2005**

**Bill Bunbury**

**(Presenter, ABC Radio Social History Unit)**

**"It's not the money, it's the land"**

**(the long term impact of the equal wage case 1966)**

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

## KIMBERLEY ROCK ART SEMINAR (PROPOSED)

We intend to run our second rock art seminar on **Saturday 10 September 2005** and will provide further details as soon as possible.

## PROGRAM FOR PORTION OF 2005

1 June "Baptism of fire" (a first-time walker in the north Kimberley) – Victoria Jackson (geologist and bushwalker)

The program sub-committee was unable to finalise the program for the remainder of this year in time for details to be included in this newsletter. The details will be in the May newsletter.

Please note that, because many of our speakers are involved in work-related travel, this program may change at short notice. Should a speaker be unavailable, we will try to replace him/her with a speaker on a similar subject. All meetings will be held at Shenton Park unless otherwise advised.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Having largely escaped the effects of the tsunami on Boxing Day, the Kimberley has now been subjected to the most destructive cyclone in memory with Cyclone Ingrid devastating parts of the northern coastal areas in particular. It seems that personal injuries are fortunately minimal, and to date there are no reports of fatalities resulting from the 300 km/hour winds and torrential rain. Early reports of severe flooding are localised, but it will take some time to get reports from all the affected areas. It is clear that authorities and communities in the Kimberley are to be congratulated on their level of preparedness for the event, and our sympathy is with those who have lost treasured possessions and places in this nightmare natural disaster.

Let's hope that our new batch of politicians elected on 26 February to represent the people of the Kimberley rise to the occasion and help the region recover from this latest challenge. Congratulations to our new (or re-elected) representatives Jon Ford MLC, the Upper House Member for Mining and Pastoral Region who is the new Minister for Fisheries; Kimberley; Pilbara; and Gascoyne; to Kimberley Society member Tom Stephens MLA, Member for Central Kimberley – Pilbara (includes Fitzroy Crossing and Halls Creek); and to Carol Martin MLA, Member for Kimberley (Broome-Derby-Kununurra-Wyndham). We expect great things from you, and hope you will join us at Kimberley Society meetings whenever possible.

*Mike Donaldson*

## KACHANA LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The next Kachana Landscape Management Workshop, which is titled "*Landscape function: the biological components*", will be held on 7, 8 and 9 September 2005. The program has yet to be finalised but booking details are available on the Kachana Web site at <<http://www.kachana.com/>>. Reports from past workshops are available, as are reports on the station's environmental projects, eg the Alligator Creek Project. Anyone who would like to receive Kachana news by e-mail can join the mailing list through the station's Web site.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

This newsletter will be the last one received by members who do not renew for 2005.

## VALE TOM CHAPPLE

Thomas Dampier Chapple, who passed away peacefully at his home in Claremont on 14 February 2005, was born in Broome in 1912. His parents had moved to the pearling port in 1901, and, in addition to being in business in Broome, they acquired an interest in pearling and in Carnot Bay Station (north of Broome). Tom had an adventurous childhood before going south at the age of fourteen to complete his schooling. The romance of those early years always remained with him.

To ensure that his knowledge of the old days would not be lost, Tom wrote and published an illustrated 65-page book titled *Broome – The Exciting Years 1912–1930*. The book contains information about Broome events, people, and buildings. It also has a useful map that records, with some approximations, the occupants of the various lots that made up Broome townsite in the period 1912 to 1939.

A Funeral Mass for Tom was celebrated in St Thomas' Church, Claremont, on 21 February 2005 prior to a Cremation Service at Karrakatta. The tributes that flowed in recalled his inspiring manner, his infectious chuckle, and his role as the inaugural president of the Lions Club in Perth, the first such club in Western Australia.

Tom is survived by his wife Pat, who is known to many Kimberley Society members, and by a son Winston, a daughter Cathy, and several grandchildren. The Kimberley Society published a death notice at the time of Tom's passing and it takes this opportunity to express condolences to Pat and the family. We appreciated Tom's humorous yarns and his keen interest in the Society's meetings.

*Cathie Clement*

## BOOK NOTE

*Legend of the Kimberley: The Life and Stories of Lawson Holman – Flying Doctor and Flying Surgeon*, compiled by Janet Holman. Hesperian Press, Carlisle (WA), 2004. Soft cover, 170 pages, illustrated, with map. ISBN 085905 349 0. RRP \$25.

This book made my day. I defy anyone to keep a straight face whilst reading it. If the 'Hodge's Ghost' story doesn't elicit a laugh, '5KA Finch' will definitely do the trick. But the book also has a serious side. The stories headed 'You missed me, Quick Draw' and 'Dead men tell no tales' reveal the dangerous side of medical practice. 'Grasshopper' and 'A modern Lawrence' show the difficulty of reaching people in remote localities. 'Drama up north' highlights the riskiness of flying in such localities, and it provides insight into the ingenuity and individuality of outback people.

In collating and publishing stories that Lawson Holman wrote for his grandchildren, Janet Holman has produced a book that is both readable and informative. It will entertain those who read it for pleasure, and it will inform those who seek answers about the conditions that existed in the Kimberley in and after the 1950s. The inclusion (in italics) of extracts of letters that Lawson wrote to Janet provides additional context as does the occasional reference to a newspaper article.

This book is available only through the author or the Royal Flying Doctor Service because all profits are going to the RFDS. Kimberley Society members who wish to purchase the book from the RFDS can call at, or send a cheque to, the office at 3 Eagle Drive, Jandakot, 6164. If sending a cheque, please include \$3 to help with the postage. Copies of the book will probably be available at our July meeting.

*Cathie Clement*

## THE DISCOVERY OF THE EAST KIMBERLEY GOLDFIELD 1885

*At the Kimberley Society's meeting of 2 March 2005, a large audience heard from Dr Phillip Playford, an experienced geologist and an avid researcher and writer in the field of history. His summary of his beautifully illustrated talk follows.*

In the mid 1800s Western Australia was the poor sister of the other Australian colonies. It regarded with envy the wealth generated by the major gold discoveries that had been made in the eastern colonies. As a result, the WA Government decided in 1872 to offer a reward of £5,000 for the discovery of the colony's first payable goldfield.

The Kimberley gold story began with the exploring expedition of Alexander Forrest in 1879. He traversed the district from west to east into the Northern Territory, and on reaching the Pine Creek mining centre he commented to the manager, Adam Johns, on similarities between the rocks at Pine Creek and those seen by his party in the Kimberley. This inspired Johns to mount an expedition to the area, with his mate Phil Saunders as party leader. They sailed from Darwin to Cossack and set out for the Kimberley in April 1882. Saunders found traces of gold in the headwaters of the Ord River, and reported this in a telegram to the W.A. Colonial Secretary, indicating that payable gold could probably be found in the area.

There was debate in the WA Legislative Council as to the best way of following up this report. It was eventually decided to appoint Edward T Hardman, a geologist from the Irish Geological Survey, to join John Forrest's survey expedition to the West Kimberley in 1883. That expedition found no positive signs of gold. However, Hardman accompanied a second expedition, led by H F Johnston, to the East Kimberley in 1884. This time Hardman panned good colours of gold in several watercourses, especially in the headwaters of the Elvire River, where the Halls Creek gold discovery would be made in the following year.

Hardman made many excellent paintings and sketches during the two expeditions. Scanned images of these and others by Arthur Forbes (the police constable, Clerk of Courts, and Mining Registrar at Halls Creek in 1887-1890) were shown during the presentation to the Society.

In early 1885, as soon as Hardman's results were made known, several prospecting parties set off for the East Kimberley. One of these, led by Charles Hall, headed east from Derby to the Elvire River area where Hardman had reported his best gold showings. They soon found payable gold, at what they named 'Halls Creek', on 14 July 1885. As soon as this find became known, the Kimberley gold rush began. Thousands of men made their way to the Kimberley from other parts of WA, the eastern colonies, and New Zealand. Most arrived by ship in Derby or Wyndham, and then walked to Halls Creek. Others came overland from the Northern Territory. Most had no previous experience in gold prospecting or of life in the bush. Illness and disease were rife, and when the first warden, C D Price, arrived on 3 September 1886, he found that 'great numbers were stricken down, in a dying condition, helpless, destitute of money, food, or covering, and without mates or friends simply lying down to die'.

A few were lucky enough to locate rich alluvial or reef gold, but most had little or no success. Some found enough gold to survive or move elsewhere in the colony. It is estimated that as many as 10,000 men joined the rush, and when Warden Price arrived in September 1886 he reported that about 2,000 remained at the diggings. By the end of 1886 the rush had ceased.

In spite of the early promise of several underground mines, Halls Creek never prospered, as the ore petered out at depth and the alluvial gold was soon exhausted. However, the gold rush drew world attention to the colony and its gold prospects, and some of the experienced prospectors soon moved on to make rich discoveries in the Pilbara and Southern Cross districts (1888), the Murchison (1891), Coolgardie (1892), and Kalgoorlie (1893). Those major discoveries captured the imagination of the world, resulting in a flood of immigrants and investment capital that transformed Western Australia from an impoverished colony in the late 1880s to one of Australia's wealthiest States in 1901.

Hardman left Western Australia for Ireland in 1885, resuming his duties with the Geological Survey of Ireland. He died of typhoid in Dublin on 6 April 1887 at the age of 42 years, leaving a wife and two small children. Prior to his death he was not aware that his ambition to return to Western Australia was about to be realized. An offer of appointment to the permanent position of Government Geologist (and founder of the Geological Survey of Western Australia) had been approved by the Legislative Council on 13 June 1887. Soon afterwards members were saddened to learn of Hardman's premature death.

Applications for the £5,000 reward for the gold discovery were lodged by H F Johnston, E T Hardman, P Saunders, C Hall and party, and several other persons who had found gold in the area. At the time of Hardman's death no decision had been made regarding payment of the reward. The Government eventually decided, on 31 May 1888, that the conditions for payment had not been met and therefore the reward would not be paid. The main reason was that recorded output from the field had been less than the stipulated 10,000 ounces. However, at the same time it was announced that £500 would be given to Hardman's widow and another £500 to Hall and his party.

The other prominent applicant for the reward had been Phil Saunders. By 1907 he was 66 years old and working a small gold show, with minimal returns, near Mt Ida. The Mt Ida Progress Association wrote to the Minister for Mines asking that Saunders be granted an appropriate annuity by the Government. They said that 'the old gentleman is now rapidly declining and almost blind' and that he would appreciate receiving appropriate relief to assist him when 'his life is apparently very near its close'. This moving appeal had the desired effect, and Saunders was granted a Government pension of £75 per year. If he was indeed close to death in 1907, he recovered well after receiving the annuity. Indeed he lived for another 24 years, dying in 1931 at the age of 90 years.

There can be no doubt that the discovery of the Kimberley Goldfield and the dramatic rush that followed are among the most important events in the history of Western Australia. They marked the true beginning of our mining industry, leading to the major developments that now dominate our economy and have placed Western Australia among the world's foremost mining provinces.

#### **Further reading**

Playford, Phillip E. and Ruddock, Ian. 'Discovery of the Kimberley Goldfield', *Early Days, Royal Western Australian Historical Society Journal and Proceedings*, vol. 9, part 3, 1985, pp. 76–106.

'The Rush of '86', *Boab Bulletin*, April 1995, pp. 5–6.

'An Early Kimberley Prospector: R.C.S. Macphree', *Boab Bulletin*, August 1997, pp. 5–8.

Burdett, F D, with editing by C R Long. *The Odyssey of a Digger*. First published 1936, facsimile edition, Hesperian Press, Carlisle (WA), 2005. See the book note for it in this newsletter.



## ORDER OF AUSTRALIA FOR TAKING SCIENCE TO THE PEOPLE

(This article is reproduced courtesy of *Conservation News*)

A lifetime spent inspiring young people to swap virtual reality for the world of nature has resulted in CALM Research Scientist Kevin Kenneally being appointed a Member in the Order of Australia.

"It's one of those things you expect other people to receive, and you never expect to be on the list," he said.

The award marked his service to the community through a range of organisations promoting environmental education, advancement of botanical knowledge and the interest of youth in natural history.

Kevin joined the WA Herbarium (now managed by CALM) 33 years ago as a botanist – "my profession" – and spent the next three decades taking science to the community.

"I'm a great believer in getting the community involved in nature conservation because the environment is everyone's responsibility," he said.

Kevin's links to the community began 35 years ago with his role as a councillor at the WA Gould League, one of Australia's most respected and influential non-profit nature conservation education groups. He has been president of the Gould League for 21 years and each year 10,000 school children visit its headquarters at Herdsman Lake for excursions, sleepovers and weekend activities.

"Many of the young people with whom we worked are now employed by – CALM or the WA Museum in nature conservation areas, which is very rewarding," Kevin said.

He is a past president and honorary life member of the WA Naturalists Club, was convenor of the junior Naturalists' Club for 10 years and is an honorary associate with the WA Museum, having worked with colleagues there for many years on biological surveys.

Kevin is the Scientific Coordinator in charge of CALM's LANDSCOPE Expeditions, where for the last 13 years members of the public have paid to join and assist CALM's scientific expeditions in remote areas.

"We've raised \$1.5 million for research in that time and had about 700 people participate," he said.

Kevin said that to him, the Order of Australia recognised the importance of science in people's lives.

"In these days of virtual reality, it's much more exciting to get young people out doing something in the real world," he said. "We get young people interested in the environment, and give them an enlightened attitude so that they're well informed and can make balanced decisions on matters that affect future generations

Kevin said although he received the award, he didn't do it alone... "Nothing would get done without the enormous help of our volunteers and colleagues - whom I thank very much," he said, adding he also had wonderful support from his wife, Dr Irene Ioannakis, who also works with young people in her role as Managing Director of the Caterpillar Institute.

"One of the lucky things about my career is that I've loved the work because it's also my hobby, and I worked during a period when there was a lot happening in the nature conservation area," he said.

Congratulatory letters were sent by Premier Geoff Gallop, former Premier Sir Charles Court, the Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency Lieutenant General John Sanderson, AC, and the WA Museum's Acting Chief Executive Officer, Dr Ian McLeod.

The award will be presented at an Investiture Ceremony at Government House on April 8.

## AWARDS

Sister Leone Collins of Broome has been awarded an Order of Australia Medal for her service to the Aboriginal community. An article published in *The West Australian* on 26 January 2005, page 6, reported that Sister Collins went to the Kimberley from Melbourne in the early 1950s to work in a leper colony. She was twenty at the time, and had yet to join the sisterhood of St John of God. Her career, and the service that has been recognised with the award of the medal, includes nursing, education (in schools and then teaching literacy and numeracy to adults), counselling, finding work for the unemployed, and encouraging reconciliation. On hearing of the award, Sister Collins expressed her appreciation of being able to learn about Aboriginal culture and her pleasure in seeing past students develop and apply their own skills.

## KEEPING THE WANJINAS FRESH

On 20 March 2005, at the Alexander Library Building (the State Library) in Perth, Challen & Rafferty Fine Art Gallery and Fremantle Art Centre Press held a combined art exhibition opening and book launch. Both the exhibition of Mowanjum Community artworks and the book by Valda Blundell and Donny Woolagoodja are titled *Keeping The Wanjinas Fresh*.

This event included a welcome to country by local elder Ted Hart, speeches by Roger Burgu (Mowanjum Elder), Ray Coffey (publisher), and both authors, and the actual launch and opening by Hon J C Kobelke (Minister for Indigenous Affairs). All this in front of a movie screen showing a film loop of Donny Woolagoodja visiting rock shelters and cruising past the magnificent features of his "Wanjina Country".

Following this was a *Joonba* (corroboree) especially to commemorate the event and Donny Woolagoodja's late father. The dance troupe consisted of about a dozen adults and half a dozen children and was led by Roger Burgu seated on the floor in a group of elders. I was delighted that one of the songs was about the story of Dumbi the owl and the great flood sent by the angry Wanjina Wanalirri. This had been a bedtime favourite of all my children who knew the story by heart. The dancing and singing complete with decorated banners was magnificent.

The associated display of Mowanjum art is stunning. The colours and vibrant Wanjinas belie the idea that rock art figures are static and fixed in stone. The quality and variety are excellent and I urge everyone to go to the State Library and enjoy this wonderful exhibition of Aboriginal Culture. It ends on 30 April.

*Jack Vercoe*

Editor's note: The book *Keeping the Wanjinas Fresh: Sam Woolagoodja and the Enduring Power of Lalai* is described by the press as 'the story of the people of the Wanjinas and their unbroken living cosmology of Lalai - the Dreaming'. It includes thirty-two full colour reproductions of paintings. RRP \$35.00. ISBN:1 92073 168 7.

## BOOK NOTE

*The Odyssey of a Digger* by Captain F D Burdett, with editing by C R Long. First published 1936 in London, facsimile edition, Hesperian Press, Carlisle (WA), 2005. Soft cover, 166 pages, illustrated. ISBN 085905 334 2. RRP \$28.

Fred Burdett, author of *The Odyssey of an Orchid Hunter* (1930) and *The Odyssey of a Pearl Hunter* (1931), led an adventurous life that took him from England to a variety of places that included the Australian outback. *The Odyssey of a Digger* focuses on a period of eleven or twelve years that commenced with the author's arrival in Melbourne, on his fifteenth birthday, in May 1878. Chapters II to XIII are devoted to his work and travel in New South Wales and Queensland. He mentions properties and towns that include Rederdale, Wilcannia, Kerribree, Wonga Wana, Elsenora, Dubbo, Berawinnia Downs, and Eulo.

In 1886, Burdett accompanied the Sydney explorer Harry Stockdale to the Kimberley. They parted at Cambridge Gulf, with Stockdale's party heading westward while Burdett went south to the gold rush at Halls Creek. He formed a partnership with R T S Wolfe, whose rough diary was published by Hesperian Press in *Kimberley Scenes: Sagas of Australia's Last Frontier* in 1991. He also mixed with people whose exploits have been recorded by Mary Durack in *Kings in Grass Castles* and by G H Lamond in *Tales of the Overland: Queensland to Kimberley in 1885*. Those contacts result in Burdett's book meshing neatly with other literature that tells of East Kimberley events in the late 1880s.

Chapters XIV to XXV, which comprise a little more than half of the book, provide excellent information about prospecting and mining around Halls Creek. They also provide insight into the hardship and violence that were integral parts of the formative years of the mining and pastoral industries in the Kimberley. Of interest, too, is the role played by an Aboriginal boy named Percy who joined Burdett in 1886 and remained with him until he returned to England.

The book will interest people who want to read a good yarn as well as those who want factual, if sometimes glorified, information for research purposes. Several copies of the book will be available for sale at the Kimberley Society's April meeting.

*Cathie Clement*

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Twelfth AGM of Kimberley Society (Inc.) will be held at Shenton Park Community Centre, corner of Onslow and Herbert Roads, Shenton Park, on Wednesday, 4 May 2005, at 7.30 p.m. The Agenda will comprise: the President's Welcome, Apologies, Minutes of the previous AGM, Business arising from the Minutes, Council Report, Treasurer's Report and presentation of Accounts for approval, Election of Office Bearers and other Councillors, and General Business. The meeting will be followed by a presentation from a guest speaker and social contact over a cup of tea/coffee.

Minutes of the 2004 AGM, and a report from the Treasurer, will be available at the meeting. With a view to making the 2005 AGM as efficient as possible, members are urged to peruse that material before the AGM commences.

*Mike Donaldson, President*

*Perth, 22 March 2005*



## CALENDAR OF KIMBERLEY EVENTS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2005

- May 5 – 8** **Craft Fair, Broome.** North West Expo event hosted by Soroptimist International of Broome & The Australian Federation of University Women, Broome. Venue: Broome Civic Centre, with the official opening by Mrs Lorraine Sanderson, wife of the Governor of Western Australia, on Thursday 5th May. More information at <<http://www.expo.westnet.com.au/Craft%20Fair%20web%20page.pdf>>.
- May 6** **Kimberley Small Business Awards, Broome.** North West Expo event hosted by BEC and Small Business Development Corporation. His Excellency, the Governor of Western Australia, Lieutenant General John Sanderson, will present the Awards. For more information contact: Belinda Carrigan, Manager, Broome Enterprise Centre, Phone: (08) 9193 6622 or E-mail: [broomebec@wn.com.au](mailto:broomebec@wn.com.au).
- May 7 & 8** **North West Expo.** Venue: Broome Recreation and Aquatic Centre (BRAC). More information at <[www.expo.westnet.com.au](http://www.expo.westnet.com.au)>.
- May 8** **King Tide Day.** Held on the Derby jetty to celebrate the highest tides in Australia. Family fun, art, games and fishing competitions. Art, craft and other stalls, information displays.
- May 10** **The inaugural North West Expo Golf competition.** Venue: Broome Golf Course.
- May 14 – 28** **Ord Valley Muster.** Miscellaneous venues in and around Kununurra. See page 11 of this newsletter for more details.
- May 21** **Boab Ball, Derby.** Presentation of Boab Quest Entrants to the public. A popular event, well patronised by the locals. Contact: Elsie Archer - 9191 1161.
- May 22** **Song Company & Nova Percussion.** Venue: Cable Beach Amphitheatre. Contact: Kimberley Performing Arts Council.
- June** **People's Church Convention.** Three-day gathering of Kimberley Churches. Contact: Pastor Brian Thompson Ph/Fax 9191 1130.
- June 4** **Broome Race Round.** Commences on 4 June, with racing during June, July and August. See Broome Visitor Centre Web site "Events" for dates.
- June 18** **Derby Races – Madhatters Day.** Followed by two up and evening entertainment. Gates open 11am; first race 1.30pm. Entry fee: Adults \$15, Pensioners & Children \$8.00. Contact: West Kimberley Turf Club – Rod Giblett 9191 2000.
- July** **Agricultural Show, Kununurra.**
- July** **Boab Festival.** Derby's premier event featuring a combination of Art and Culture and lots of fun. Includes **Boab Festival Golf Open**, a great open event for golfers held on the all-grass 18 hole composite course "The Boabs". Contact for the Golf Open: Ross Thorburn 9191 1126. See below for other **Boab Festival** events.
- July 2** **Derby Cup Race Day.** Fashions of the field, racing, followed by two up and evening entertainment. Contact: West Kimberley Turf Club - Rod Giblett 9191 2000.
- July 2 – 4** **Fitzroy Crossing Rodeo/Campdraft.** Presented by the Fitzroy Valley Rodeo Club, this a dinky di Kimberley Rodeo full of fun and action. Entry fee applies. Contact: Karen Anderson 9191 4748.
- July 3** **Bush Poets Breakfast.** Venue: Derby Memorial Pool, 7am onwards. Australian bush poetry, verse, yarn spinning and humour over a country style breakfast. A relaxed morning event. Entry fee to be advised. Contact - Robin Bowcock Phone: 9191 1782 or [RoBoco@bigpond.com.au](mailto:RoBoco@bigpond.com.au) or Margaret Thompson Phone: 9191 1611.
- July 6 – 7** **Mowanjum Community Art and Culture, Derby.** Day 1 - Family evening with art displays and contemporary music. Day 2 - Traditional cultural evening featuring art displays and corroboree dancers. Held at the Mowanjum Community 12kms from Derby along the Gibb River Road. Entrance Fee applies. Contact: Peter Croll 9191 1104.
- July 8** **Mardi gras and float parade, Derby.** Follow the float parade to a night of fun at the Town Race Course, Ashley St. Crowning of the Boab Quest Entrants.

- July 9** **Mud Crab Racing, Derby.** Organised by Mary Island Fishing Club, a fun day for the whole family. Contact: Mary Island Fishing Club - Laurie Donnelly 0429 104 499.
- July 10** **Mud Football, Derby.** On the mud flats adjacent the corner of Van Emmerick and Rowan Street. Aussie rules and mud, unique to Derby. A day of intense competition and fun. Free spectator entry; fee payable for team entry. Contact: 9193 1194.
- July 13 – 17** **Broome Sunset Surf Life Saving Carnival.** Five-day Surf Carnival at Cable Beach. Visit < <http://www.mybeach.com.au/> > for further information.
- July 15 – 23** **Yamaha Broome Billfish Classic.**
- July 16** **Kimberley Art Prize.** Kimberley artists exhibit works for this acquisitive art prize - the longest running the Kimberley. Contact - Shire Derby West Kimberley 9191 0999.
- July 29 – 31** **Kununurra Rodeo.**
- August 5 – 7** **Wyndham Rodeo.**
- August 5 – 7** **Derby Rodeo.** Venue: Derby Rodeo grounds Ashley St, Derby. An entry fee applies. Day 1 – Camp draft. Day 2 – Gymkhana (am) and Picnic Races (pm). Day 3 – Rodeo - bucking broncs and Brahmin bulls. Shady grounds, food & drinks available. Contact: Jane Cashin-Smith 9191 2757 or Kerry Gray 9191 1463.
- August 6** **Flower and Produce Show, Derby.** Exhibition of local produce and culinary skills. Contact: Cynthia Smith 9191 1021.
- August 6** **Halls Creek Cup.**
- August 27** **Kununurra Cup.**
- August 27** **Opera Under the Stars, Broome.** Venue: The Mangrove Hotel Resort. Visit <[www.operaunderthestars.com.au](http://www.operaunderthestars.com.au)> for further information.
- September** **Ike Stohl Fishing Competition.** Fish and crab the King Sound. Contact: Mary Island Fishing Club – Laurie Donnelly 0429 104 499.
- Sept 2 & 3** **Worn Art.** Venue: Broome Recreation and Aquatic Centre
- Sept 10** **Broome Rodeo** (to be confirmed)
- Sept 10** **Craft Show, Derby.** A chance to view a variety of crafts and locally made craftwork. Light refreshments available. Contact - Cynthia Smith 9191 1021.
- Sept 16–25** **Shinju Matsuri.** Visit < <http://www.shinjumatsuri.com/> > for further information.
- Sept 30 – 2 Oct** **Oktobrewfest.** Venue: Matso's Brewery ([www.matsosbroomebrewery.com.au](http://www.matsosbroomebrewery.com.au))
- October** **Garnduwa Festival, Fitzroy.** Sporting and Cultural events carnival including heaps of local talent. Contact: Geoff David - Garnduwa PO Box 16, Fitzroy Crossing WA 6726.
- October 1** **Night Rodeo, Kununurra.**
- October 15, 16** **Races, Halls Creek.**
- November** **Barra Splash, Fitzroy Crossing.** A fishing competition with real local flavour. Contact: PO Box 148, Fitzroy Crossing 6765.
- Nov 5 – 7** **Gibb River Road Clean Up**
- Nov 25–27** **Broome Mango Festival.**
- December 26** **Boxing Day Sports, Derby.** The art of cockroach racing, seed spitting and stubby sipping and more unique Kimberley sports have been perfected over generations. The hard work and training culminates at the Spinifex Hotel on Boxing Day. Contact: Steve Pohl – 9191 1233.

**Please note: Dates are subject to change without notice.** The information presented above was drawn from the Holiday Planner 2005 for Australia's North West, Kimberley Visitor Centre Web sites, and the links provided on those Web sites. The details were correct at the time of publication. People who are planning to book, or attend, any of the events should check with the relevant Visitor Centre to see whether any changes have affected the information in this calendar.

## **ORD VALLEY MUSTER**

This year's Airnorth Ord Valley Muster is expected to attract more than 2500 people to Kununurra. The Muster begins on 14 May and finishes with the Slingair Heliwork Kimberley Moon Experience on the 28th. This year, instead of country music star James Blundell featuring in the finale, he will be introducing Australian rock legend Richard Clapton and international classical pianist Anna Sleptsova. The support will come from the Dave Mann Collective (blues and soul) and from colourful water lighting effects. Kimberley Moon Experience tickets are \$60 adults, \$20 children (3 to 15), \$150 a family (two adults, three children). Limited corporate tickets are (or perhaps were) available at \$360 each. The Kimberley Moon Experience is definitely an entertainment highlight in Western Australia. It won the WA Tourism Award's significant festivals and events category for two consecutive years, and, in its third year, it is being likened to the popular Leeuwin weekend.

Other events planned for the Muster include a rodeo (14 May), a four-wheel-drive run (15th), a pastoral exhibition at Carlton Hill Station (17th), and a mystery tour, movies, and music under the stars at Hidden Valley (18th). There will also be a spectacular fireworks display, markets, art appreciation, party cruises, a Muster Idol talent quest, and much more. For those who still have some energy left, a charity golf day is planned for 29 May.

Contact Kununurra Visitor Centre (08) 9168 1177 or [www.ordvalleymuster.com.au](http://www.ordvalleymuster.com.au) for information about the program, tickets, travel, accommodation, and tours.

## **NOMINATION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND OTHER COUNCILLORS FOR THE YEAR 2005–2006**

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 April meeting or by request from Cathie Clement (e-mail [clement@q-net.net.au](mailto:clement@q-net.net.au) or phone 08 9272 3308). Forms must reach the Society by 5.00 P.M. on Tuesday 12 April and, whilst facsimiles will be accepted (08 9272 2087), the original form must reach the Society by 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 6 May 2005. If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the Council, further nominations will be received at the Annual General Meeting. Should any positions remain vacant at the conclusion of the AGM, such vacancies will be deemed to be casual vacancies and may be dealt with by the Council according to the Constitution.

## **ANCIENT REMNANTS IN THE NAPIER RANGE**

Late last year, a jawbone of a 2000-year-old thylacine (Tasmanian tiger) was discovered in an isolated limestone cave in the Napier Ranges. The *Weekend Australian*, 8–9 January 2005, reported the find and stated that, thirty years ago, a thylacine femur was found in the same region. The thylacine once existed throughout mainland Australia but, after becoming restricted to Tasmania, it apparently became extinct in 1936. Occasional "sightings" are still reported.

Each new archaeological find in the Napier Range area gives new insight into its fascinating history. Earlier finds include traces of early human occupation identified by archaeologist Sue O'Connor in a limestone rock-shelter at Carpenters Gap in the 1990s. Carbon-dating led to ages of 36,000 and 40,000 years being mentioned in connection with that material. In discussing it, Josephine Flood (*Archaeology of the Dreamtime*, pages 5–6) states that red pigment on a fragment of rock wall is thought to be indicative of the earliest rock art in Australia.

To the south-west of Carpenters Gap, fossils of salamander-like amphibians have survived from the Triassic age, which ended roughly 160 million years ago. Known as *Batrachosuchus henwoodi* and *Parotosuchus*, those creatures were less than a metre long and probably fed mostly on small fishes. The first of the two, discovered in the 1960s, was named after Kimberley Society member David Henwood who managed Blina station near the Erskine Range at that time.



**Contributions to this newsletter are most welcome.**

**Items can be sent to [clement@q-net.net.au](mailto:clement@q-net.net.au) or to the post box.**

### **COUNCIL 2004-2005**

President:	Mike Donaldson
Vice-Presidents:	Kevin Kenneally and Jack Vercoe
Secretary:	Hamish McGlashan
Membership Secretary:	Susan Clarkson
Treasurer:	Richard Hewitt
Councillors:	Adrienne Boulter, Cathie Clement, Daphne Edinger, and Maurice O'Connor
Newsletter Editor:	Cathie Clement
Web site:	<a href="http://www.users.bigpond.net.au/sellwood/kimsoc/">http://www.users.bigpond.net.au/sellwood/kimsoc/</a> It is noted that the Kimberley Society's Web site has not been updated recently but is to be upgraded this year.

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