



BOAB BULLETIN

No. 68

June 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, 1 June 2005

Victoria Jackson

(geologist and bushwalker)

“Baptism of fire”

This presentation, which was postponed due to technical problems last December, covers the speaker's experiences as a first-time walker in the north Kimberley.

Wednesday, 6 July 2005

Rosemary Rosario

(Architectural Heritage Consultant)

**‘Bending the Rules: Finding,
recording, and saving the built
heritage of the Kimberley’**

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

PROGRAM FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2005

August 3	Cathie Clement (Historian) – 'The sheep and cattle stations of the Kimberley in 1916'
September 7	Speaker to be advised – Aspects of Kimberley rock art
October 5	Dawn Casey (Director, WA Museum) – 'WA Museum's Kimberley collections and activities'
November 2	Grant Pearson (Research Centre Manager, CALM Science Division) – 'The importance of the Kimberley in bird migration'
December 7	Speaker to be advised

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.

KIMBERLEY ROCK ART SEMINAR: UPDATE

The Kimberley Society's one-day seminar on Kimberley Rock Art is now confirmed for Saturday 10 September 2005 at the imposing new University Club at The University of Western Australia, Nedlands. The program is still being finalized but it looks like we will have 8 or 10 presentations covering a variety of aspects of Kimberley rock art and associated archaeological findings. It is hoped that 3 or 4 eastern states rock art specialists will contribute to the seminar, along with local experts. Proceedings will be published in either printed or CD format.

It will be a full day commencing with coffee and registration at 8 am, breaks for lunch and morning and afternoon tea, and sundowner drinks to close at 6 pm. Cost is expected to be around \$100 all inclusive to help cover travel expenses for some of the speakers from outside Western Australia. Full details will be available by the next newsletter.

Mike Donaldson

FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

I have just had a fabulous week in Purnululu National Park exploring the incredible Bungle Bungle Range and walking Piccaninny Creek and its amazing gorge. The spectacular scenery of 'The Bungles' is well known and deservedly so: it has to be one of the most awesome natural landscapes in Australia, if not the world, and its remote location and unspoilt environment just adds to its appeal.

CALM is to be complimented for the facilities provided in the National Park, and the thoughtful design of tourist access areas and camping ground locations, and even the restriction of scenic flights to just a part of the park to minimise the intrusion of helicopter noise in this wilderness area. (And what a visual experience the helicopter flight provides!). The CALM staff and volunteers at Purnululu were also great – very helpful, cheerful, and eager to please. Well done CALM!

A notable feature of the week was the (almost) total lack of litter in the National Park. In 5 days of walking along Piccaninny Creek and the more-visited marked trails we found just one piece of litter – a single rubber band! It is great to see that significant numbers of people can visit a wilderness area and leave hardly a trace of their visit. Bodes well for the future of wilderness tourism in the Kimberley.

Mike Donaldson

QUEST FOR THE HONEY-POT MOUNTAINS

On 2 February 2005, Marion Blackwell told the story, showing photographs she'd taken, of her ongoing search for the 'Mythical Honey-Pot Mountains of her Childhood Dreamings'. This search commenced at the age of 7 and culminated in the declaration of the Purnululu National Park, and subsequently, its Management Plan.

She told of the adventurous life she had had, as a little girl, living on a sheep station, high up in the Great Divide; and about receiving a 7th birthday present from her grandmother, at shearing time; of a Belleek Honey-Pot. When the shearers filed into the big homestead kitchen for 'Smoke Oh' as morning tea was then called, the man who sat down next to her, took a great interest in this beautiful little piece of china; and, after examining it carefully, he looked up and said: "Little girl, when you grow up, you just have to visit 'The Honey-Pot Mountains'. -They are over the other side of Aus, a long, long way away. -There you'll see clusters of red domes rising up from the surrounding grassy plain, with circular bands around them just like this Honey-Pot of yours."

There-from, as you might imagine, developed a life-long quest, 'to find these mystical mountains'. Throughout her teens and long after, they remained as a vision, like Lassiter's Lost Reef -a mirage, always beckoning, but ever elusive. But so like many another childhood dream, this quest proved not easy to full-fill. -Enquire as she might, no one she asked had ever heard of them; until she almost began to believe that it was all a myth. -But never the less, her inner being was quite convinced that they were real and existed somewhere: and that like many a magical trail, she just had to find a clue; then the way to them would be revealed.

Even when she came to live in Western Australia in 1958, 23 years after hearing the story; still foremost and all-important in her mind was to find these Honey-Pot Mountains of her childhood vision. She asked every likely person she met in Perth, about their whereabouts; but in those days, although she had by chance known of them since she was 7, Perth still did not know of their existence, ie the Bungle Bungles were not yet 'discovered'. (That event was to wait another 24 years, ie 47 yrs from when she first heard the imagination catching description of this ancient geological phenomenon).

But, at last came the day when good fortune shone upon her quest. A chance query concerning them, to Enid Durack, mother of two of her university students; put her onto the track of their existence; when Enid replied to her question: "O that no good country, the cattle get lost down there, in those labyrinths of gorges." & so, 'At last she was onto the good oil!'

Subsequently Reg Durack told her that Nat Buchanan had droved a muster of 4,000 odd head of cattle up the eastern side of this massive in 1883. He said that those were the first cattle to enter the Kimberley and that their purpose was to stock Ord River Station for the Victorian partnership of William Osmond and Joseph Panton. Buchanan forded the cattle over the Ord River in the dry, when it was low, and travelled them up the creeks to the Station. (By 1900 Ord River Station boasted between 80,000 and 100,000 head of cattle and wandering stock had long since strayed into, and foraged amongst the gorges of the Bungle Bungles).

In later years when Marion discussed the omission of this unique and outstanding massif with Dr David Ride, the then Director of the WA Museum and prime motivator of the "Conservation Through Reserves" movement; he said "I just can not understand how such an area could have been overlooked". The fact was, that no one who was involved in that far-reaching exercise had at that time, any idea that the Bungle Bungles existed.

But the knowing that they actually 'were' real was only the first step towards satisfying Marion's driven curiosity about them, and ever heightened her desire to see them.

Her first tantalising glimpse gained of them, and then only in the middle distance, was in the mid 60's while returning with three others, pack on back, across the foothills of the Osmand Ranges, after an exploratory foray; they suddenly appeared, in full view across the plain, just as had been described to her so long ago – "The Mystical Honey-Pot Mountains". But infuriatingly as it might seem, on that occasion there was a deadline to meet and no time to stop and explore further. This fleeting glimpse, nevertheless further whetted her appetite and determination to return, and explore.

The Bungle Bungles first attracted wider interest and international media attention in 1982 when they were 'discovered' by a film crew flying over the area. This revelation and media hype almost instantaneously drew an influx of excited tourist enquiry and intent. Which phenomenon prompted the government to initiate action regarding management strategies - aimed to conserve the area, which is constructed of quite fragile sandstone. ("Burnalulu" means sandstones in the language of the Gidja People of this area).

This pressure of enquiry led to the commissioning of a preliminary botanical survey, which was undertaken in the dry of July 1984 by Kevin Kenneally and Steve Forbes.

For Marion an opportunity arose, in April 1985; this time it enabled a detailed exploration of a small but different area of the Massif, from that which had been looked at previously. This occurred with the mounting of a trek of interested persons into the southern side of the Bungles, organised by the intrepid Arthur Weston, a Botanical Ecologist of international repute. In the 5 days on the site, in the Bungles, she collected 364 flowering species of plants and other living items of interest such as fungi, lichens, mosses, liverworts, ferns and cyanophytes; As well as gaining the certain conviction that this area was a very special place; in need of informed conservation. Three of the reasons being: -

Firstly – that it is an area of outstanding erosional landscape value, of unique scenic beauty. It has been derived from an ancient Devonian Reef and is characteristically made up of sandstone towers coloured red, due to Fe oxides, banded with horizontally with dark stripes due to the colonisation of disjunct consecutive layers by blue/black lichens and cyanophytes (blue-green algae). It is a colourful wilderness area of great beauty and diversity with descending cascading terraces of pools, and deeply ravined gorges, bordered by Mountain Cones.

Secondly – it has great significance for Aboriginal people. The Bungle Bungle Massif being rich in sites of enduring cultural significance. Current management plans for the park developed by CALM provide for:

- permanent inhabited outstations within the Park for tribal people;
- Aboriginal Rangers,
- traditional hunting and gathering rights and
- high priority being assigned to the protection of important Aboriginal sites.

Aboriginal people are even permitted to have their dogs in this National Park –(A first off occurrence).

Thirdly – it is of considerable scientific and conservation value, lying as it does on the overlapping border zone of the wet/dry tropics and the arid zone of western and

central Australia. It contains a complex mixture of the climates, plants and animals from both of these zones. Due to its physiognomy it is rich in habitat diversity, and as a result, is greatly richer in its biological diversity than occurs in its arid surroundings; which, even within in a few hundred kilometres inland, is graveyard to so many unique animal and plant species.

This experience was the turning point in Marion's lifelong quest, which as a result, turned thereafter into an all-out effort to achieve protection and conservation for this scientifically significant and visually outstanding area (as illustrated by her photographs). For this purpose, it was important to obtain all possible substantiating evidence about its assets, and the diversity of specimens collected, helped. She had, by this time been appointed as a member of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority. She remembers that the negotiations and the drafting of the Management Plan for this National Park and Conservation Reserve, because of its complexity and the complications arising from the breaking of new ground; with regard to Aboriginal habitation and allowing of the presence of dogs (belonging to the Aborigines) within the park; took the longest time and the greatest effort to achieve, of any plan undertaken by the authority.

Surveys of this region highlight the significance the overlapping of two biogeographical zones in this area. It is of considerable scientific interest that the Bungle Bungles contain the southernmost limit of existence for many Torresian species (those that occur in the Australian Tropics) for example 3 easy to recall animals, the Olive Python and 2 species of Gecko reach the inland limits of their habitats here. In addition there are many Eyrean species (characteristic of the dry inland areas of Australia) also present.

In the areas of Purnululu so far surveyed, 616 species of plants have been identified/recorded (including 17 species of weeds), 149 species of birds, 81 reptiles, 4 mammals and 12 frogs.

- These species are of very uneven distribution over the National Park and Conservation Reserve.
- The most widespread species are Torresian occurring along the creeks and sheltered gorges. This area forms the Southern inland limit for quite a number of the species present.
- In contrast are the rocky range tops. Much of these areas are covered with a diversity of Spinifex Communities. It is of interest that there are, unusually, 8 species of *Triodia* present on the tops. This locale provides the major habitats for Eyrean species.

One of the major concerns for this Park is that there are areas that have already undergone severe degradational change; chiefly as a result of the activities of feral animals (which had been active over the last 120 odd years) cats, donkeys, cattle, pigs, camels and water buffalo; with resultant trampling of riparian vegetation, destruction of water holes and creek beds and the elimination of their previous accompanying native habitats. This feral pressure has led to the extermination of complete ecosystems, the compaction of soils, the disruption of the stabilising soil and of surface crust, which in time has led to the loss of topsoil, as well as to breakage of the brittle sandstone surface ledges. These processes have led to erosion, siltation of water holes and trampling of, in particular the former Padanus Thickets, with their accompanying vegetation, flora and fauna.

Aboriginal people of the surrounding areas, report that there has been a loss from the Bungle Bungle area of several medium-sized mammals, such as the Bilby, the Northern Quoll, the Golden Bandicoot and the Northern Bandicoot. In addition, two

species of bird; the Purple Crowned Fairy Wren and the White Browed Robin, which were once common in the Pandanus thickets occurring along the fringing creeks, are now known to have definitely disappeared.

The wealth of native species growing in the Purnululu area have evolved to be adapted to the conditions of their individual habitats so that they cope with the problems of the climatic vagaries of the edge of the desert (the parameters and functioning of which relationships we as yet little understand), and if undisturbed, they cope relatively well. It is interference; usually in the form of the impact of feral species, that usually causes the problems of imbalance.

Although ongoing – the park has now been almost completely destocked. But we are still a long way from stopping erosion and recommencing soil formation so as to reinstate the former habitats that existed in this area, with their diversity of vegetation formations and plant species, together with their former accompanying creatures, particularly the mammals, that in earlier days inhabited each of these niches.

The ecological integrity of areas such as this is fragile, often knife-edgedly balanced even in an untouched state. Here natural conditions are widely variable and often extremely stressful, so it does not take much in the way of interference to tip the balance between existence and extinction.

In planning for conservation it is our charged responsibility to endeavour to fathom and unravel the parameters of the 'existence' relationships of the biota of such areas, so as to learn how to conserve, and where and whenever possible, to restore the unusual beauty and extraordinary grandeur, that previously existed.

Marion stated that her ambition for this park, which had constituted a great slice of the conservation effort of her mature years – whilst Deputy Chairperson of the NPNCA (on which she served for the whole of its existence); had been for informed management to be set up and implemented ahead of the onslaught of uninformed usage, which could so easily and irrevocably destroy the beauty of its fragile structure and intricate ecology.

It is to be noted that, when these geological structures originally evolved, the climate could well have been much wetter, and that, as ever, we learn on the rehabilitation side, that it's so much easier to break than to remake!!

Still in this day and age, funding for conservation is comparatively so minimal, in the context of tourism pressures and demands, so that despite management strategies (in the face of staff shortages), aimed at restricting foot traffic to low impact areas in order to prevent permanent damage; it is almost impossible to maintain the initial conservation aim for this park. Much of the area has not even yet been surveyed in detail.

Thus there is need for great concern regarding maintaining of the integrity of these 'Honey Pot Mountains'. They constitute such a fantastic, different and mystical place that we all should be acting to see that this area is allocated its rightful protection and care.

GO-GO FOSSIL FISH

Dr John Long's book *Gogo fish!* has been short-listed in the information category of the 2005 Children's Book of the Year awards. Produced by the WA Museum, the book tells the story of the campaign in which students at the Sutherland Dianella Primary School lobbied to have the fish become the state's fossil emblem.

BOOK REVIEW

Keeping the Wanjinās Fresh by Valma Blundell and Donny Woolagoodja. Fremantle Arts Centre Press, Fremantle, 2005. Soft Cover with photographs and colour plates, 293 pages. ISBN 1 920731687. RRP \$35.

This book will surely join the classics of literature about the Worora people of the Kimberley, such as Grey's *Journals of Two Expeditions of Discovery in the North West of Western Australia*, Love's *Stone Age Bushmen of Today*, Crawford's *The Art of the Wandjina*, and McKenzie's *The Road to Mowanjum*. It provides the deepest insight so far into the history and culture of an Aboriginal people, the changes which have affected them over the past hundred years and the survival and adaptation of their traditional religious and cultural beliefs.

Valma Blundell is a Canadian anthropologist who has been visiting and studying the Worora and related peoples of Mowanjum for over thirty years. Donny Woolagoodja is the well known artist who came to fame as the maker of the "Olympic Games Wanjina" and who is also a highly respected leader elder and lawman of his community. Much of the narrative is based on conversations recorded over the years by Blundell from Donny's father Sam, himself a noted elder and lawman, Donny himself and others of the Mowanjum community. Many are recorded verbatim which adds both liveliness and authority to the story. The devastating effects of European intrusion, the move from the traditional homelands and the near extinction of the tribe are set down without traces of rancour through the eyes of Sam.

We are taken to Wanjina sites by Donny and Sam: the stories of the Wanjinās, their significance in the creation stories, their handing down of law and custom are detailed. This is a momentous sharing of ancient tribal lore with the outside world and an important gesture of reconciliation.

History is brought up to the present with the remarkable story of the renaissance of Wanjina art by the Worora and related groups at Mowanjum. Instead of the cave art, the old stories are being relived through the modern media of paint on canvas and paper and the intricate carving of pearl shell. This movement has brought recognition and enthusiasm by a world outside the Aboriginal community and some degree of financial reward, all without any outside grants or government aid. (Stunning colour plates illustrate the current movement; many of the pictures could be seen at the recent exhibition in the Alexander Library.) More importantly, it has restored self respect to both individuals and their community: surely this is the first step in the social and health improvement which is so badly wanted and needed. The spirit of the Wanjina may yet prove to be a saviour.

As befits an academic work the appendices contain plentiful notes, references and bibliography. It is disappointing however to see an occasional misquotation and misinterpretation of source material. Blundell states that Grey failed to associate the paintings he saw in 1838 to local Aboriginal groups. This is untrue, In his *Journal* p. 253 (Facsimile edition Hesperian Press) he writes in glowing terms of the "industry shown in the execution of some of their paintings and the careful finish of some articles of common use", though he does state that the origin of some "that may have been very ancient... must still be open to conjecture." Little has changed! Blundell's quotation from Grey does not apply to paintings but to the so-called carved head. Grey was right in not attributing this to the work of the Aborigines but wrong to attribute it to any other human agency. As Kimberley Society member Peter Knight found on Kevin Coate's 1983 expedition, the "carving" is caused by just a natural flaking of the sandstone. In Grey's defence at the time, he was

suffering greatly from a spear wound in the thigh inflicted by a (likely) Worora ancestor.

Those looking for enlightenment on the nature, origin and significance of the Guyon Guyon (Bradshaw) paintings, may be disappointed, and the statement that they are on average "no more than thirty centimetres tall and mostly very faded" is surely wrong. Many are incredibly well preserved, especially as they are generally accepted as being tens of thousands of years old.

But these are minor quibbles, which do not detract from the importance of the work. Like any good book, questions and speculations are provoked in the reader. Will the talented group of younger artists at Mowanjum survive the epidemic of premature deaths that continues to devastate Aboriginal communities? And can the spirit of the Wanjina and the Wurnan, having survived or coexisted with a benign Presbyterianism, also survive the materialism, consumerism and all the other isms that beset all levels of society in Australia? Should or will the successive generations keep the cave Wanjinās fresh? If the spiritual meaning of many sites is now forgotten, should the sites be repainted or even visited at all? And what is the role of the wider Australian community in the preservation of this unique religious and cultural expression? (I suspect none). Can the optimism expressed in this book be sustained? We shall have to wait another fifty years to find out. As Grey wrote, while travelling in this region, "thought naturally throngs upon thought".

This book will have a wide appeal, not only for the general reader and young people of Mowanjum, as stated in the introduction, but also for the coastal tourist who wishes enlightenment on the nature and history of the country visited, the student of anthropology, those interested in Aboriginal art, native title and indeed anyone with an interest in the Kimberley. It is an essential for your bookshelf.

Hamish McGlashan

BOOK NOTE

Ready for anything by Janet Wells. Published by Touch of Silk, PO Box 433, Capel, WA 6721. Soft Cover, 209 pages, ISBN 0-646-44405-0. RRP \$25.

This is the story of Margaret Wells, long time resident of the West Kimberley and Derby, a character well known to generations of Kimberley dwellers and to members of the Kimberley Society. The book traces her life from her upbringing in rural New South Wales to being the first nurse at the Australian Inland Mission Hospital at Fitzroy Crossing in 1939, courtship by George Wells, and her subsequent life as a station manager's wife at Christmas Creek, Cherrabun and finally Meda Station.

The tale is told by Janet Wells, Margaret's daughter in law, and achieves a pleasant family intimacy as the history has been spun from stories told by Margaret and her family. But it is more than a chronicle of family events, it is a welcome reminder of the Spartan conditions endured sixty years ago, a valuable contemporary account of the primitive medical services at that time. Simply stated, the characters of Margaret, George, and family friends including the local Aborigines, shine through this small volume which I thoroughly enjoyed reading.

The book is available for sale at the Kimberley Society meetings or directly from the author. (Add postage: \$6 is enough for two copies in WA, \$8.40 interstate.)

Hamish McGlashan

KIMBERLEY CRUSTACEANS

On 6 April 2005, Diana Jones, the Curator of Crustaceans at the WA Museum, shared her extensive knowledge of marine life with the Kimberley Society. She used a PowerPoint presentation with many beautiful slides of the animals concerned. Her main interest is in barnacles, so these featured well in the talk. Biodiversity was discussed. It is the variety of all life forms, and includes genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity. All these are essential elements in conservation.

The oceans are the cradle of life on earth. Of the 33 major animal groups, 23 are found in the sea and 13 of these are exclusively marine. In WA we have 12,500kms of coastline covering the tropics to the temperate zone, which results in a very diverse marine fauna. In southern Australian waters, which have been geographically and climatically isolated for around 40 million years, about 80-90% of the marine species are restricted to that area. i.e. they are endemic. Conversely, in the waters of northern Australia, which are connected by currents to the Indian and Pacific tropical regions, only around 10% of the marine species are endemic and 90% are widespread tropical Indo-West Pacific species. The Indo-west Pacific tropical region is incredibly species-rich, with a diversity far exceeding that of other tropical regions. Along the west coast there is an overlap zone where there exists a relatively high but decreasing diversity of tropical species from north to south. Tropical species are found down to Cape Leeuwin or even further, due to the effect of the warm Leeuwin Current travelling southwards off the coast. There are also a number of endemic species, for example, the Western Rock Lobster.

The habitats in the Kimberley are varied, and consist of rocky shores, very high tides, mangroves, muddy and sandy shores, and coral reefs. The WA Museum found 13 undescribed species on their first trip to the Kimberley islands.

BARNACLES. Goose barnacles, which are stalked barnacles, were shown on floating objects, hitch-hiking a ride. These are the barnacles that cause such problems on ships' hulls. They don't all live close to the surface though, as we saw a sea fan from a depth of 100 metres carrying barnacles. The mangroves around Broome were shown with barnacles on their leaves and trunks.

On rocky shores there are barnacles such as *Tetraclita squamosa* which is volcano shaped and most common high up the rocks. Barnacles can also attach to other animals, such as *Balanus trigonus* which attaches to mussels as well as to boats. We are living in the Age of Barnacles and they have now reached their maximum diversity we believe. The relictual species now found on our shores originated as deep water animals. For example, the stalked barnacle *Ibla cumingi* is found on the shore deep in the crevices of rocks, and the stalked barnacle *Lithotrya valentiana* grinds its way into limestone boulders.

CRABS. There are crabs living on shore as well as in the ocean. The Seaweed or Decorator crab has hooks on its back and camouflages itself by attaching the weed to its carapace. It eventually eats it off, so they carry their larder on their back! Hermit crabs are common on the shores of the Kimberley and make a tremendous noise as they clamber around in the vegetation at night. There are Rock crabs that swiftly skitter across the rocks and in the shallow water there are swimming crabs, which have their back legs modified into paddles.

MANGROVES. The mangrove trees support a community of tiny barnacles, which live on the leaves and trunks and comprise 6 or 7 different species. Some mangrove crabs live in the mud in burrows that have a hood over the top. Their gills have become more like lungs and they have become almost terrestrial. These mud dwellers are shy and are seen only at night. There's one particular Mud Lobster that

Diana has seen only twice in 27 years! Here we also find Fiddler Crabs of which there are 8 or 9 different species. The largest is bright red and the male has one claw enlarged for display to encourage mating, the other is smaller for feeding. These occur in the mud and are called *Uca flammula*, or Darwin Red Legs. Those in the sand are yellow (*Uca mjoebergi*) and the large claw is used in a curtsy display. The females semaphore in answer! Yet another is *Uca elegans*, found in the large salt flats behind the mangroves and described by Diana and Ray George in 1982. These crabs line their burrows with blue-green algae, which may be their food source.

EPIZOIC BARNACLES. These live on other animals, for example on shells, on Gorgonian corals and even on the flukes of dolphins. Some barnacles are found on sea fans, on bottles and even on a sea urchin at 70m deep. This was a naked stalked barnacle with no shelly plates. Some barnacles are even found on the feet of hermit crabs. Turtles carry huge numbers, and as many as 9 different species have been found on one turtle. These occur on the shell, underneath, on the flippers, in soft tissue, in the soft palate and some extend right down into the flesh, and are almost parasitic. The most primitive barnacles are stalked and live in deep water and the non-stalked barnacles are mainly found in shallow water and on the shore. Barnacles are crustaceans. They have a larval form which settles on its head and the antennae become cement glands. They have 6 pairs of legs, each divided into two hairy cirri (hence their name Cirripedia) which forms a feeding net.

CORAL REEFS. These reefs are full of life and there are many crustaceans associated with them. There are little shrimps which live in oyster shells as commensals. The mantis shrimps are prawn killers and of very bright colours, especially red, green and blue. The hunchbacked shrimp is camouflaged and lives in anemones, and soft corals and take any food scraps that they leave. The Beautiful Crab carries anemones on its claws for protection and the Banded Shrimp is very secretive and has very long antennae. Some reef crabs are colourful and have black claws and are poisonous as they carry toxins such as are found in algal blooms. Marine biologists use dredging, diving and use of transects to obtain their data since there is a huge array of animals under the sea. The WA Museum was founded more than 100 years ago, and their collections show that biodiversity is increasing.

Daphne Edinger

FOOTBALL NEWS

Kimberley footballer Ashley Sampi has had a quiet start to the year, in that he has not kicked a lot of goals as yet, nor has he taken the mark of the year. However he was on the cover of Westside Football in a photo showing the "ripper of a mark" by Luke McPharlin for the Dockers. While Ashley hasn't kicked a lot of goals as yet, I have been impressed by his "hardball gets at the bottom of packs" and dishing the ball out to his teammates.

For those interested in Kimberley Football, the Westside Football magazine reports that the Central Kimberley has 7 sides, Bayulu Bulldogs, Wangkatjunga Crows, River Roos, Noonkanbah Blues, Looma Eagles, Bunuba Magpies and Walmatjarri Dockers. The magazine also reports on the Central Kimberley Association Lightning Carnival, which was won by the Noonkanbah Blues who defeated the Bayulu Bulldogs 11.2 (68) to 5.4 (34).

Jack Vercoe

REST IN PEACE

Rod Kneebone. Born 1.10.1963, died 20.3.2005. Raised and living in Derby and the Kimberley for most of his life, Rod was universally admired and loved by all except the feral cats. He died from cancer at the tragically young age of forty-one. He died in Bunbury and he was buried in Derby at his own request. Our sympathy goes to his wife Val Merrigan, children Molly and Jack, and his parents Kath and Peter Kneebone.

Hamish McGlashan

ELECTIONS

Congratulations to the Kimberley Society members who stepped forward and ran for positions in State and Local Government elections in the past months. Tom Stephens continues his parliamentary career after a comfortable win in the District of Central Kimberley–Pilbara. Pat Lowe had a very commendable result when she secured 1298 votes whilst running (with four other candidates) against the sitting District of Kimberley member Carol Martin. Only four votes separated Ms Martin (Labour) and Mr Johnston (Liberal) before the distribution of the preferences created a difference of 590 votes.

In the Shire of Derby/West Kimberley elections, Elsie Archer and Peter Kneebone, who are long time members of both the Shire Council and the Kimberley Society, were returned for further terms.

The West Australian carried the results of the State election on 30 April 2005 (page 58) and the Local Government elections on 9 May 2005 (page 29).

REST IN PEACE

Robert Sydney (Bob) Maxted. Born 1.9.1903, died 23.3.2005. In the 1920s, Bob Maxted rode from Queensland to the Kimberley to work for the “cattle king” Sidney Kidman and his partners on Isdell Downs and Glenroy Stations. In 1933, he and Kevin Smith established Mornington Station. Bob Maxted retained his interest in Mornington after Mr Smith’s death in 1944 and, in the 1950s, he was also a part-owner of Manguel Creek Station (south of Derby). Mr Maxted’s wife Elsie and son Robert predeceased him. He is survived by daughters Maureen, Anne, and Faye, and a son Frederick.

Cathie Clement

MORE KIMBERLEY FOOTBALL

On 14 April, *The West Australian* reported very favourable on the talent of 16-year-old Clinton Benjamin from Broome. Clinton is in his fifth year as a Hale School boarder and, as well as playing for Hale against Melbourne Grammar in Melbourne in April, he ‘made a name for himself on this year’s All-Australian under-17s tour to Ireland. The speculation in *The West* is that speedster Clinton is likely to be picked for a Melbourne team in 2006. The article appeared on page 61 of the newspaper.

MITCHELL PLATEAU

On 22 April 2005, *The West Australian* (page 41) reported on pressure that is being exerted on the State Government to strip a Rio Tinto-led consortium of its bauxite leases on the Mitchell Plateau. Under the terms of a 30-year-old agreement, the Rio Tinto subsidiary Comalco and its partners Alcoa and AngloGold are obliged to either lodge a development proposal for a mine and refinery or prove that the proposed mine is not viable. Comalco ruled out immediate development after an independent study concluded that the project would be uneconomic but other interested parties are apparently accusing the consortium 'of sitting on the project'. The government, working to a deadline of 30 June, will consider alternate proposals from those parties and others before it decides whether to strip the consortium of its leases.

Members who are interested in monitoring the progress of this issue, and the future of the Mitchell Plateau, may find it useful to refer to the publication *Nature Conservation Reserves in the Kimberley Western Australia*. Written by Andrew A Burbidge, N L McKenzie, and Kevin F Kenneally, it was published by CALM in 1991. Pages 69 to 79 and 81 deal with the Mitchell Plateau and, as well as providing informative maps, outlines proposals for the creation of National Parks in the area.

KIMBERLEY COP

Bob Bowers, a retired policeman, and the author of *Top Cop in Kimberley*, has gone in to bat for the khaki uniform worn by the police in the Kimberley and other country areas. According to *Inside Cover* (*The West Australian*, 11 April 2005) Bob 'has convinced the National Trust to grant the khaki outfit icon status'. Bob was a founding member of the Kimberley Society and worked with the other members of the Interim Council that took responsibility for establishing the Society.

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