



BOAB BULLETIN

No. 75

August 2006

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

commencing 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. at
Shenton Park Community Centre, cnr Onslow and Herbert Rds

Wednesday 2 August 2006

John and Verity Norman

'Journey of a Master Pearler 1886–1942'

Wednesday, 6 September 2006

Ron Johnstone (ornithologist, WA Museum)

**'Birds of the Kimberley Islands and their
relationship to the birds of Christmas Island'**

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

PROGRAM FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2006

- 4 October 'Seaweeds of the Kimberley' – John Huisman
- 1 November 'History of guano mining on Lacepede Islands' – Tim Willing
- 6 December 'Historical, rare, and valuable books on the Kimberley' – Robert Muir
(antiquarian book dealer)

Please note that, with many of our speakers involved in work-related travel, this program may change. 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

I have just returned from my annual therapy session which involves walking along yet another Kimberley river for a couple of weeks. This time it was the Lawley River which rises in the Mitchell Plateau and flows some 30 km into Port Warrender.

Few people visit this beautiful part of the Kimberley as there are no roads or tracks, although an increasing number helicopter in to the Kimberley Coastal Camp on the shores of Port Warrender for a spectacular wilderness experience in comfort and style. We choose to walk in, carrying all we need for two weeks in back packs.

Following on from the very wet Wet this year, water is abundant on the Plateau and its adjacent creeks and rivers. We had plenty of clean fresh water within a few hundred metres of our starting point on the Mitchell Plateau access track, and enjoyed the pools, rapids and waterfalls along the Lawley, at least until we approached the coastal areas where our friends the salties may reside. There were some feral cattle on the basalt hills fringing the Plateau, but they were nowhere to be seen once we hit the sandstone country further down the river. Animal life was limited except for the birds, and the party saw only a handful of kangaroos or wallabies during the 12 day walk. The birds were great with red-tailed black cockatoos, red wing parrots, little corellas, babblers and rainbow bee eaters common. The group was silenced one morning as three broilgas flew low over the camp in tight formation, and a noisy flock of Torresian pigeons was another highlight. We didn't see the Gouldian finch or black grass wrens, but the firetails and double barred finch, and the spectacular variegated wren made up for that to some degree.

Aboriginal rock art occurs throughout the area in abundance, but it takes some finding in the rough rocky hills where spinifex grows metres high! We recorded many new sites including some great Bradshaw paintings. At one of these there are two well-preserved huge Bradshaw figures, the tallest being 2.25 m high, which may be the largest yet recorded. (In his 1994 Bradshaw book, Grahame Walsh reported "the world's largest recorded Tassel Bradshaw" at 1.72 m, discovered in 1991).

Our last camp of the trip was high on the sandstone plateau overlooking Admiralty Gulf and Steep Head Island. It is hard to imagine a more spectacular camp site, and many of the walkers could not resist a photo of the sunrise from the comfort of their sleeping bags.

Then helicopters whisked us away to the Mitchell Plateau airstrip, for the equally awe-inspiring low level scenic flight by single-engined Cessnas along the fabulous Kimberley coast. The Hunter River and Price Frederick Harbour, St George Basin and the mouth of the Prince Regent River, Raft Point and Montgomery Reef, and Talbot Bay are all so spectacular from the air. That is a flight I recommend to everyone!

We ended up in bustling Broome for a "Survivor's Dinner", and dissipated from there back to Sydney, Armidale, NZ, and Perth. The real Kimberley is still there, unspoilt, largely untrodden, and waiting for us to discover its treasures and secrets. Don't wait. Go tomorrow!

Mike Donaldson

KIMBERLEY FROM SPACE: ART IN SCIENCE

On 5 April 2006, Dr Richard Langford gave a PowerPoint presentation on satellite images of the Kimberley. Richard works as a geologist for the Geological Survey of Western Australia in the Department of Industry and Resources. He has previously worked in Hong Kong and the Solomon Islands, but the nearest he has been to the Kimberley is the Tanami! However, he has visited the area using images from space and this was the basis of his talk. He focused on images as nature's works of art but included enough technical background to allow the audience to fully appreciate the effort expended on the space program over many years.

After a warm up with some hand-held photographs taken by astronauts on the Space Shuttle, Richard cooled down the tempo with some technical stuff on satellites. He then took the audience through the history of a few satellites of interest, focusing on the Landsat series. Then it was time to sit up again as images from around the Kimberley were shown, ranging in scale from hundreds of kilometres down to just tens of metres. The talk ended with a reminder that all the images could be freely downloaded over the Internet.

Beginning with the Mercury missions in the early 1960s, astronauts have taken photographs of the Earth. The *Gateway to Astronaut Photography of Earth* (<http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov/>) hosts the best and most complete online collection of astronaut photographs of the Earth. More than 632,000 views of the Earth are accessible on this website.

There are many Earth Resource Satellites operating in the optical spectrum, including Quickbird, IKONOS-2, Spot-5 and Landsat. In 1967, the Earth Resources Technology Satellites (ERTS) program was a planned sequence of six satellites. In 1975, ERTS was renamed by NASA "Landsat". Landsat is the longest-running project for the acquisition of moderate resolution imagery of the Earth from space. Landsat 1 satellite was launched in 1972, and the most recent, Landsat 7, in 1999. With a more than 25-year history, there are now millions of Landsat images of the Earth. These have given scientists a unique resource for global change research, with applications in agriculture, geology, forestry, regional planning, education and national security.

Some of the Kimberley images came from sources that we all know about, such as *Google Earth* (<http://earth.google.com/>), and less well known sources such as Geoscience Australia, who have an excellent *Mosaic of Australia* (<http://www.ga.gov.au/map/images.jsp>). Simple views of the landscape of the Kimberley took on a new dimension with data from the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) – is this the map that changed the World?

SRTM data was acquired by the Space Shuttle Endeavour, launched on 11 February 2000 for an 11-day mission to produce digital topographic data for 80% of the Earth's land surface. SRTM made use of a technique called radar interferometry. Two radar images are taken from slightly different locations, and differences between those images allow for the calculation of surface elevation.

The ultimate tour of the Kimberley came from NASA's *WorldWind* (<http://worldwind.arc.nasa.gov/index.html>). *WorldWind* lets you zoom from satellite altitude into any place on Earth, using Landsat satellite imagery and SRTM data for a three-dimensional effect.

The pictures from space of the Kimberley were fascinating – as Richard said, we see it from a totally new perspective. As technology improves, he posed (in jest): “Do we really need to visit it?” Alas, we can’t reproduce the pictures here but you can access them using the Internet (in some cases you may have to download enabling software).

There were lots of pictures and possibly not enough time. Anyone wanting to explore the Kimberley from space should therefore continue the search for themselves at the following sites:

Astronaut photographs – <http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov/>

Google Earth – <http://earth.google.com/>

Geoscience Australia – <http://www.ga.gov.au/map/images.jsp>

SRTM – <http://srtm.usgs.gov/index.html>

NASA *WorldWind* – <http://worldwind.arc.nasa.gov/index.html>

Margaret Larke and Richard Langford

DONATIONS

From time to time, the Kimberley Society receives pleasant surprises in the way of donations from members. Len Zell was in touch recently to send \$621 that he and his colleague Dr Garry Darby raised by auctioning an Aboriginal painting and some colour prints on the *Aurora* expedition that visited the Kimberley coast from 23 June to 3 July. Len is a marine biologist whose work is known to members through his *Guide to the Kimberley Coast*, which just happened to be taken as the main raffle prize at the Society’s July meeting. Garry is an art lecturer who works out of Sydney but takes people on art appreciation tours to places as diverse as the Kimberley and Tasmania. Anyone interested in the work that Len and Garry do can see more on their Web sites (www.wilddiscovery.com.au & www.garrydarby.com).

It’s not just the bigger donations that help the Society to meet its aims. Some members top up their subscriptions or tell the Society to keep the money if they happen to double up on a subscription; others contribute to the monthly raffle without taking tickets. Kevin Kenneally even passed up a prize when he won once too often, or was that the time he drew out his own ticket? Other support comes from Hesperian Press, which provides substantial discounts on the books that make up the majority of the raffle prizes. All of that generosity is appreciated, both because it helps financially and because it shows that both the members and outsiders value the Society’s existence.

KICKS FOR KIMBERLEY KIDZ

The Kicks for Kimberley Kidz program is doing great things for the region’s budding league footballers. Nine WAFL clubs, two AFL clubs and *The Sunday Times* are now providing collection bins for people in WA to donate old and new footy gear. Working with Garduwa—a peak indigenous body in the region—and the Department of Sport and Recreation, Kicks for Kimberley Kidz has helped to involve more than 1500 town and outback kids in Auskick clinics. If you have gear to contribute, e-mail rodwillet@westnet.com.au for the location of your nearest donation bin.

17TH CENTURY VISITORS TO THE KIMBERLEY COAST

On 7 June, Dr Cathie Clement, a consulting historian, spoke to the Kimberley Society on a topic selected to mark the 400th anniversary of the first authenticated European sighting of the Australian continent. The notes that follow provide an overview of the evening's PowerPoint presentation. The version posted on the Society's Web site at www.kimberleysociety.org provides links to the graphic images.

When I proposed the topic "17th century visitors to the Kimberley coast", one member jokingly observed that it would be the shortest talk ever. After all, how much could be said? Plenty! Those visitors contributed a lot to the writing, art, voyages, and maps that revealed Australia to the outside world. Their arrival is best understood in the context of when non-indigenous people first set foot on the Kimberley coast. That context, by tackling the vexed question of who "discovered" Australia, highlights the challenges that faced the 17th century visitors.

Abel Janszoon Tasman and his men arrived in 1644 but, if we accept the claims made by some authors, they were far from early arrivals. In *Pyramids of the Pacific*, Rex Gilroy cites folklore, mythology, archaeological finds, and ancient texts as evidence that Bronze and Iron Age people sailed to the Kimberley from the Mediterranean. He maintains that the Sumerians used the placename Purnululu and undertook mining in the region before 1930 BC. He also points to the likelihood of the Kimberley experiencing:

- Colonisation by Phoenician miners (in King Solomon's time),
- Colonisation by Japanese pearl-ers (in 9 BC),
- Visits from Indians (in about the 7th century) and Khmer (in the 13th century); and,
- Another Japanese visit (around 1425).

The date range for those activities extends beyond the indigenous peoples' painting of Wandjina art and into the era of the earlier Gwion Gwion or Bradshaw art. It also covers the time when barbed spear points gave way to pressure-flaked stone spear points, with no sign of other introduced materials.

Gilroy's work influenced Gavin Menzies' book, *1421: The Year China discovered the World*, but Menzies has the Chinese mining lead in Arnhem Land—with a slight Kimberley connection. Drawing on Kenneth Gordon McIntyre's book, *The Secret Discovery of Australia*, he takes George Grey's sketch of the Glenelg River Wandjina, transposes it to Arnhem Land, and links it to 'the Chinese arriving in red robes reaching to their ankles'. In doing so, he ignores McIntyre's premise that the painting could be evidence of a 'man in holy orders' accompanying a Portuguese expedition to the Kimberley in 1599 or 1600. Gilroy takes another tack. He likens the Wandjina 'garments' to 'those once worn by ancient Egyptian and Phoenician seafarers'.

Other 'evidence' put forward as proof of ancient contact with Australia involves knowledge of things that are uniquely Australia. Gilroy and Menzies both claim the presence of kangaroos in the imperial zoo in China before 338 BC as proof of early visits to Australia. Gilroy also mentions the sighting and/or acquisition of kangaroo-like creatures by the Egyptians (before 2300 BC) and the Celts (before the first century BC). There is, however, a need for caution. As Ian Crawford and Ric How noted in the discussion that followed the talk, historical references to animals that jump and/or carry their young in pouches can apply to marsupials found in parts of South East Asia.

The various claims about early visitors to the Kimberley coast range from the carefully argued to the clearly fanciful. To test the credibility of those claims, it is necessary to examine a massive amount of documentary evidence. The ancient

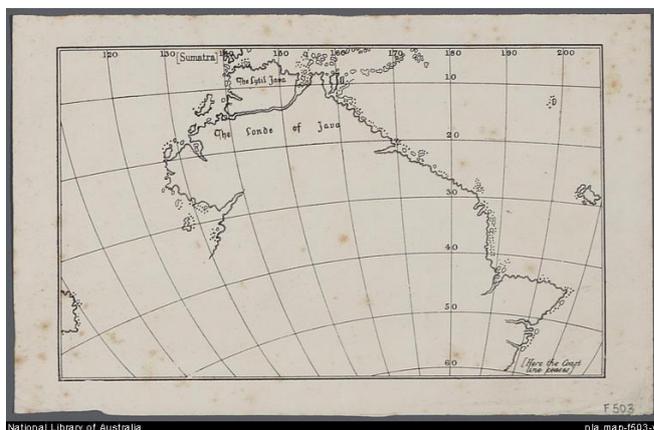
maps are fascinating but also open to a wide range of interpretations. In a 1421 Web site discussion of an early 15th century Venetian map, Menzies claims that the south-east segment of Albertin de Virga's work shows:

Australia's northern coast drawn with precision and power from Courier [sic] bay in the West to the Gulf of Carpentaria in the East – more accurately drawn than on the Jean Rotz which is clearly a derivative. Australia is accurately positioned relative to China (Zaiton).

He does not say which part of the map supposedly shows the northern coast. He is similarly vague in connection with his Web site claim that Australia is visible on a recently discovered Chinese map. It was reputedly drawn in 1418, and redrawn by Mo Yi Tong in 1763.

Maps from the early 16th century, eg the Portuguese work known as the Cantino map of 1502, show India and the mainland portion of South East Asia with outlines not unlike those on current maps. That change coincided with a decrease in the tendency to show the Indian Ocean, in keeping with the logic of Claudius Ptolemy, as an enclosed sea. Then, as the cartographic detail in the area of South East Asia became more detailed, major contradictions occurred. In 1541, a Mercator map, said to be inspired by the published tales from Marco Polo's travels, showed a landmass identified as 'Beach' to the south of Java. The following year, Jean Rotz drew a different landmass—'The Londe of Java'—to the south of 'The Lytil Java'. Those depictions, and others that derived from the Rotz chart, gave rise to much conjecture about a possible Portuguese discovery of Australia. The position of the Rotz landmass was, however, about 2000 km too far to the west.

Bill Richardson, fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, studied the Mercator and Rotz nomenclature and concluded that errors had resulted in the mapmakers mistakenly placing information relevant to the coasts of Java and Vietnam too far to the south. Helen Wallis, a former keeper of maps at the British Library, concluded that the Rotz chart constitutes 'impressive testimony' within the inconclusive 'evidence in favour of a Portuguese discovery of Australia'.



Section of the Jean Rotz circular chart, 1542. Courtesy of National Library of Australia, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.map-f503>.

It is noted that Jean Rotz also drew a plane chart, which apparently shows in greater detail the northern portion of the land mass depicted here.

The assertions and denials relevant to a possible Portuguese charting of parts of the Australian coast warrant a separate talk. Here, it is enough to state that early charts and maps vary greatly in shape, nomenclature and cartographic detail. Drawn by cosmographers (depicting the world) and hydrographers (mapping the earth's surface waters), they contain an array of outlines that may or may not depict parts of Australia. Within those outlines, some also contain illuminations (sketches) that are definitely not Australian.

Nicholas Vallard, Pierre Desceliers and others present superb examples of the cosmographer's craft in their illuminated versions of the "land" shown on the Rotz chart. Desceliers (1550) extended that "land" almost to the Antarctic. Some of his illuminations, which George Collingridge copied to illustrate his 1906 book, *The First Discovery of Australia and New Guinea*, show clothed people who were possibly at worship. Others show palm trees, rudimentary shelters, and animals that resemble elephants and camels.

The roughly contemporaneous Dauphin or Harleian map—also the subject of a Collingridge facsimile—adheres more closely to the Rotz outline. The people in its illuminations lack clothes but they have weapons, roofed huts, and a reined animal identified by Collingridge as a guanaco (*Camelus huanacus*). Also of interest, given Ian Wilson's reference (*Lost World of the Kimberley*) to the "Reindeer Rock" painting, is that the Dauphin map shows deer-like animals adjacent to the bay that Collingridge equates with King Sound. Whether that bay corresponds with King Sound is open to debate but it is noteworthy that Wallis remarks on the Sumatran aspect of the Dauphin map illuminations. One is left wondering whether its deer-like animals, like those in the scenario that Wilson suggests for "Reindeer Rock", represent Sambar deer from Asia.

Claims about the origin and the meaning of the information on the early maps usually reflect people's beliefs about history. Collingridge, for example, argues that discoveries made by Portuguese and Spanish mariners informed the previously mentioned French cartography. Menzies attributes those discoveries to huge fleets of Chinese junks. When it comes to finding proof of a pre-17th century visit to the Kimberley coast, however, one scholar or another has discounted everything on offer.

McIntyre credits the Flemish cartographer Cornelis de Jode with producing 'the only properly interpreted and correctly placed map of Australia before the coming of the Dutch maps in the next century'. He maintains that de Jode repositioned the continent much further to the east in the 1593 edition of the atlas *Speculum Orbis Terrae*. Yet, if that map is compared to other maps of the period, it can be seen to show little more than a variation in the alignment of the northern extremities of the huge landmass surrounding the South Pole.

One other map that warrants comment before moving on to the Dutch is the Portuguese map drawn by Manoel Godinho de Erédia in 1602. It provides evidence of voyages in waters south of Timor. Whether it shows, as McIntyre argues, that Erédia or his colleagues sailed from Timor to Collier Bay and/or Brunswick Bay in 1599 or 1600 is open to debate. McIntyre equates Ouro (Isle of Gold) with those bays but Noel H Peters presents a persuasive case (<http://users.tpg.com.au/papag/EREDIA2.html>) for Ouro being Melville Island. Peters argues that Erédia's Luca.Antara (to the west) is Bathurst Island but my calculations suggest that it is just as likely to be the coast and the hinterland between the Victoria River and Collier Bay. If that were to be the case, the two islands shown to the west of Luca.Antara could be the land that defines the mouth of King Sound. It must be acknowledged, however, that "seeing" such things in the map drawn by Erédia may be as fanciful as "seeing" the Australian coast in the outline of Java-la-Grande or other cartographic compositions.

As Erédia drew his map, the Dutch established their East India Company and began to pursue riches in and beyond the islands of South East Asia. They would have believed in the existence of a "Southland" but whether they gleaned any information about it is unknown. The 1605/1606 voyage of the *Duyfhen* contributed to outside knowledge of New Guinea, the Gulf of Carpentaria and Cape York. Subsequent voyages that carried back additional information about

Australia included those of the *Eendracht* (Dirk Hartog in 1616), the *Zeewolf* and the *Mauritius* (1618), and the *Dordrecht* and the *Amsterdam* (1619). Other vessels then arrived at intervals of up to three years before De Witt and others mapped 370km of the north-west coast (between Nickol Bay and Cape Londonderry) in 1628. Assigned the name De Witt Land, that country revealed nothing but 'a foul and barren shore, green fields, and very wild, black, barbarous inhabitants'. The investigations continued, with Abel Janszoon Tasman claiming Van Diemen's Land for Holland in 1642.

Whilst best known for his involvement with the island that would later honour his work, Tasman was also the first outsider to make a confirmed landing on the Kimberley coast. No firsthand reports have survived but early accounts show that his 1644 expedition visited localities that included today's York Sound. Only one of his three known Kimberley landings warranted a detailed description of contact:

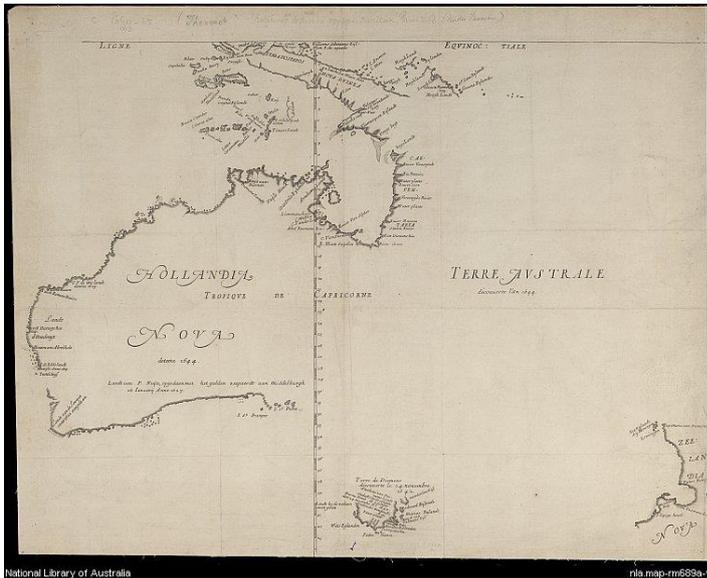
In Hollandia Nova, in 17° 12' S. (Longitude 121°, or 122° E.) Tasman found a naked, black people, with curly hair; malicious and cruel, using for arms, bows and arrows, hazeygaeys and kalawaeyes. They once came to the number of fifty, double armed, dividing themselves into two parties, intending to have surprised the Dutch, who had landed twenty-five men ; but the firing of guns frightened them so, that they fled. Their proas are made of the bark of trees ; their coast is dangerous ; there are few vegetables ; the people use no houses.

The description suggests that the indigenous people (around Carnot Bay) were not only well organised but also in possession of implements (bows and arrows) that were generally seen no closer than the South East Asian islands. The reference to the bows and arrows could be an error in transcription or translation. It could also, when taken in conjunction with several recorded sighting of bows and arrows on or near the northern Australian coast in the 18th and early 19th centuries, be a tantalising hint of very early Asian contact.

Further south (on the Eighty Mile Beach), Tasman encountered only the most basic projectiles (stones) but he still judged it best not to prolong contact. After five months, in which three yachts had carried 111 sailors and soldiers to the 'Southland', the expedition returned to South East Asia with little to show beyond an increased knowledge of seas, tides, coastlines, reefs, and islands.

Tasman's superiors begrudged him having 'done nothing else than to sail along the coast' and 'found nothing of importance only poor naked beachwalkers'. Yet, while his expedition did not identify new commercial prospects for the Dutch East India Company, Tasman had done a great deal. In charting much of the unknown northern and north-western coast between New Guinea and Van Diemen's Land, he confirmed the existence of the continent that would, for almost two centuries, be known as Hollandia Nova (New Holland).

The Dutch disenchantment with Hollandia Nova curbed immediate interest in commissioning further exploration but a map inlaid on pavement in Amsterdam commemorated Tasman's work. A copy of that map, published in Paris in 1663, showed the extent of the Dutch exploration and, thus, the extent of outsiders' knowledge of the continent. Similar maps appeared elsewhere, eg in *De zee-atlas of water-waerelt* by Hendrik Doncker, published in Amsterdam in about 1669. Further detail became available in 1678 when Jan van der Wall, in the *Vliegende Zwaan*, charted the coast from North West Cape to Roebuck Bay.



Hollandia Nova detecta 1644 ;
Terre Australe decouverte l'an
1644.

Map attributed to M. Thevenot,
published in Paris in 1663.

Courtesy of National Library of
Australia,
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.map-rm689a>.

It was around this time that a young William Dampier sailed to Java and back to England. Further voyages took him to Jamaica and Mexico, back to England, and then out to Jamaica again with intentions of becoming a trader. Persuaded instead to join a fleet of privateers at the end of 1679, he embarked on the adventurous life that would result in his visit to the Kimberley coast in 1688.

The privateers—up to 400 men and boys—caused English-sanctioned mayhem in and around South America and the South Seas. They also fought amongst themselves. In October 1684, the armed trader *Cygnét* arrived in the hands of yet more privateers. The fleet continued to attack Spanish ships and towns on the Pacific coast and, in 1685, Dampier joined the predominantly English crew on the *Cygnét*. The following year, the *Cygnét* and a barque sailed to the Philippines carrying 150 privateers, seamen, carpenters, strikers (harpooners), and slaves. There, operating without official sanction, their status changed from privateer to buccaneer. In 1687, discontented crewmembers absconded with the *Cygnét*, leaving Captain Swan and about forty others stranded at Mindanao. With Dampier aboard, they then spent a year pillaging, fighting and fraternising in South East Asia before deciding 'to touch at New Holland, a part of Terra Australis Incognita, to see what that country would afford'.

Much has been written about Dampier's visit and his opinion of the Aboriginal people of the Kimberley. Yet, to appreciate what that visit entailed, one needs to read Dampier's account. It shows that between 80 and 90 hard-bitten men and boys spent months on the east side of King Sound and adjacent islands. They antagonised and occasionally seized people there but they also seem to have had some amicable contact. Dampier recorded that the local people, who had 'no Boats, Canoes or Bark-logs', sustained themselves by collecting cockles, mussels, and periwinkles at low water and maintaining stone 'wares' that trapped small fish in tidal inlets. The buccaneers fared much better. The highly skilled strikers on English privateering vessels tended to come from the Mosquito Coast (Nicaragua and Honduras) and they did nothing but use small canoes to harpoon fish, turtle and other marine creatures. Their skill was such that one or two strikers could provide meat for one hundred men. With work of that calibre, the two or three Mosquito men from the *Cygnét* would not have escaped the notice of the local people. It is therefore tempting to associate their techniques with Aboriginal people riding King Sound tides on light log rafts that doubled as platforms from which to spear turtle and other seafood.

The buccaneers left New Holland in March 1688. Dampier and six others were set ashore at the Nicobar Islands *en route* to the Coromandel Coast (India) and, years later, Dampier wrote the book that made him famous. Published in London in 1697, *A New Voyage Round the World* helped to have Dampier placed in command of a British expedition that would reveal more about New Holland. With the *Roebuck* carrying a crew of fifty and a chart compiled by Tasman, Dampier sailed up the west coast in August 1699. The ship anchored in what is now known as Lagrange Bay and, in trying to catch people who might lead them to fresh water, Dampier shot an Aboriginal man who looked as though he might overpower one of the sailors. That sorry incident was the most memorable part of the last of the 17th century visits to the Kimberley coast.

A great deal more could be said about the 17th century visitors but, to gain any real sense of their outlook, their prospects, and their activities, it is best to read the books devoted to such things. This talk has not covered the visits of Macassan fishermen because, like some of the others who have looked into the history of those visits, I believe that they commenced in the 18th century. A brief summary of those visits is available in Dr Ian Crawford's talk titled 'Kayu Jawa: The Kimberley of the Indonesians', which was published in the *Boab Bulletin* in June 1995.

Further reading

Dampier, William. *A New Voyage Round the World: The Journal of an English Buccaneer*, James Knapp, London, 1697, edited and revised edition, hummingbird press, London, 1998.

Richardson, W A R. *The Portuguese Discovery of Australia: Fact or Fiction?*, National Library of Australia, Canberra, 1989.

Schilder, Günter. *Australia Unveiled: The share of the Dutch navigators in the discovery of Australia*. Theatrum Orbis Terrarum B.V., Amsterdam, 1975, translated from the German by Olaf Richter, 1976.

Wallis, Helen. 'Did the Portuguese Discover Australia?', *History Today*, Vol. 38, Issue 3, March 1988, pp. 30–5.

LUCY AND LOONGKONAN

On 26 August, the Kimberley Society's immediate past president, Dr Jack Vercoe, will be opening an exhibition of paintings by Kimberley artists Lucy Ward and Loongkoonan at Indigenart, 115 Hay Street, Subiaco. Members will recall Jack's article about the women's previous Indigenart exhibition from the newsletter of August 2005. The exhibition has been advertised in the *Subiaco Post*, and further details may be available at the Society's August meeting. Should you require further information, phone Indigenart on (08) 9388 2899.

BUNGLE BUNGLES AND TING

On 29 July, the exhibition titled 'Bungle Bungles and Ting: – recent works from Warmun opened at the Short St Gallery, Broome. Images of the works are available online at <http://www.shortstgallery.com>, with the paintings coming from Patrick Mung Mung, Carol Johnson, Nora Nagarra, Marika Patrick, Phyllis Thomas, Mabel Juli, Joanne Mung, Georgina Drill, Madigan Thomas, Beerbee Mungnari, Betty Carrington, Clancy Patrick, Mick Jawalji, and Hector Jandany. Some of the paintings are in what might be thought of as the traditional Warmun style whilst others, eg the work by Mabel Juli, display innovative and interesting departures from that style.

BOOK NOTE

Mixed Relations: Asian–Aboriginal Contact in North Australia by Regina Ganter. University of Western Australia Press, Crawley, 2006. 280 pages, illustrated, ISBN 1 920694 41 2, RRP \$54.95.

Despite covering much of the northern Australian coast and parts of Asia, this book still manages to provide intimate glimpses of Kimberley people's lives. In particular, the personal stories, which are based on interviews with more than 90 Asian, Aboriginal and mixed-blood people, include material relevant to the life in the Kimberley. The family names for the region include Ah Chee, Chi, D'Antoine, Hamaguchi, Hunter, Lee Tong, Puertollano, Sahanna, and Watson.

In blending the personal stories with an overview of historical events, Regina Ganter, an Associate Professor in Australian History at Griffith University, strikes a nice balance. The overview synthesises information from well-known sources but it also draws on material that is either little known or available only on restricted access. The personal stories, placed at intervals within the overview, bring to life the impact of the laws, policy and regulations that affected Asian and Aboriginal people and, in many instances, gave the government control over their children.

While the Kimberley component of *Mixed Relations* focuses on the region's ports and its pearling industry, the book also comments on Macassan fishing on the Kimberley coast. Drawn mostly from Dr Ian Crawford's Ph.D thesis, which is not available on open access, that summary provides background to the author's coverage of today's Indonesian fishing. Her premise (page 51) that the use of the old Macassan 'trail to Australian waters recommenced in 1988' is just one of the many parts of the book that make for interesting reading.

Cathie Clement

ROCK ART SEMINAR PUBLICATION UPDATE

The proceedings of the Kimberley Society's Rock Art Seminar held in September 2005 are progressing towards publication. Edited manuscripts have now been received from all contributors, and proofing of all texts has been completed by the editorial committee. The original concept of a 'modest' publication has grown to a somewhat ambitious volume of some 250 pages in full colour, with several hundred photographs. The seminar-style text has been edited to reflect the book environment, but is as close as possible to the colloquial style of the talks presented on the day. References have been added where appropriate. We have decided on a square format book of approximately 230 x 230 mm to allow reasonable image sizes, but have yet to finalize a printing and binding method, including soft or hard cover, and this will depend on costs. The Society has sufficient funds to complete the page design and set-up, but to print such a publication will cost somewhere between \$20,000 and \$30,000, depending on the print run. The book would retail for \$50–\$60, but I think this is realistic for such a valuable contribution to the Kimberley rock art literature, and I think we would recover costs within 12 months. We are exploring avenues of funding support to achieve this, and hope that the book will be available within a few months.

Mike Donaldson

KIMBERLEY SOCIETY INC.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 13TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held in the Shenton Park Community Centre on 3 May 2006

The meeting, attended by more than 42 members and visitors, was opened by the Vice President, Kevin Kenneally, at 7.40 p.m.

Apologies were received from President M Donaldson, M and B Allen, B Hale, S Boyd, and N House.

The minutes of the twelfth AGM were confirmed as circulated. Moved A Boulter, Seconded L Donaldson and carried.

Vice President Kevin Kenneally gave a brief verbal report of the year's activities, indicating a well attended and interesting series of talks, a very successful rock art seminar, involvement in the cane toad project, the conservation of the old Halls Creek ruin and the upgrading of the Web site. A fuller written report was circulated and will be published in the *Boab Bulletin*.

The Treasurer's report, for the year 2005-2005 was available for members perusal. It indicated a satisfactory financial state. Total funds exceed \$20000: a significant amount is money for the Halls Creek project.

Election of office bearers: The following nominations had been received:

President Mike Donaldson

Vice Presidents Jack Vercoe and Kevin Kenneally

Treasurer Gilbert Marsh

Secretary Hamish McGlashan

Membership secretary Sue Clarkson

Councillors Adrienne Boulter, Cathie Clement and Daphne Edinger. There being no other nominations, all were endorsed with acclamation. (Moved R Denny, seconded D Cameron). The President resumed the chair and there being no other business the AGM closed at 7.50 pm for the address by the invited speaker Winston Kaye on Cane Toads.

Editor's note: The Kimberley Society's honorary auditor, Mr Noel McKenney F.C.A., has completed his audit for the years 2004 and 2005. Any member who would like a copy of his report is welcome to contact Mike Donaldson (mikedonaldson@westnet.com.au).



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