



BOAB BULLETIN

No. 77

December 2006

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

commencing 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. at

Shenton Park Community Centre, corner Onslow and Herbert Roads

Wednesday, 6 December 2006

Robert Muir

'Historical, rare, and valuable books on the Kimberley'

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

CALENDAR OF KIMBERLEY EVENTS

Planning a Kimberley trip in 2007? Check out the local events. The dates listed below are from the www.kimberleytourism.com calendar of events for 2006 but they show what usually happens. The local visitor centres will cheerfully provide up to date information and advice.

March to October: Staircase to the Moon (Broome)

April: Halls Creek Fishing Competition (Wyndham/Halls Creek); Broome Arts & Music Festival; King Tide Day (Derby); Buccaneer Fishing Classic (Buccaneer Archipelago)

May (to June): North West Expo (Broome); Air North Ord Valley Muster** (Kununurra); Kimberley Moon Experience** (Kununurra) **See page 4 for details

June onwards: Broome Races; Derby Races

July: Fitzroy Rodeo (Fitzroy Crossing); Bush Poet's Breakfast (Derby); Agricultural Show (Kununurra); Boab Festival (Derby); Mowanjum Festival (Derby)

August: Derby Rodeo; Flowers & Produce Show (Derby); Horse racing (Wyndham, Kununurra & Broome); Opera under the Stars (Broome)

September: CWA Craft Show (Derby); Ike Stol Memorial Fishing Competition (King Sound); Shinju Matsuri Festival (Broome); Oktobrewfest (Matso's, Broome)

October: Night Rodeo (Kununurra); Worn Art (Broome); Halls Creek Races; Garnduwa Festival (Fitzroy Crossing); Halls Creek Picnic

November: Kimberley Clean Up (Gibb River Road); Mango Festival (Broome); Barra Splash (Fitzroy Crossing)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I recently attended the World Diamond Conference which is an annual talk-fest and corporate display held in Perth as a forum for diamond explorers, miners, marketers and equipment providers. Numbers were a little down on previous years, but there was lots of talk on Australia's Kimberley region. There was no presentation by Rio Tinto on the move to underground mining at the huge Argyle diamond mine, which is still the largest diamond mine in the world by carats produced, generating diamond sales of over \$300 million each year. However a Rio Tinto speaker outlined the challenge to the diamond industry from synthetic diamonds which can now be manufactured in a wide variety of colours, up to impressive 3 carat gems. A presentation by the Kimberley Diamond Company showcased the exquisite 'fancy yellow' diamonds currently being mined at Ellendale. That company has about 400 people working on site east of Derby where two separate pipes are being mined. Since mining started in 2003 some 388,000 carats of diamonds have been recovered, with a value of over \$100 million. An associated company Blina Diamonds NL is assessing alluvial diamond prospects adjacent to the Ellendale operation. Although there is little exploration being carried out in the north Kimberley's Ashmore-Seppelt region where diamonds are known to occur, it is hoped that a world-wide supply squeeze in the next few years will force diamond prices up to a point where some of those deposits could become economic propositions.

So the Kimberley continues to sparkle and these valuable mining operations and the associated exploration for new deposits remain major employers in the region, and they contribute significantly to local and State economies.

As the Kimberley Society approaches the end of another successful and interesting year, I wish you all a happy, safe, and sparkling Christmas season and best wishes for the New Year.

Mike Donaldson

AUSTRALIA: NEW KIMBERLEY FEATURE FILM

The Australian newspaper of 23 November 2006 carried a story about Baz Luhrmann's proposed new movie, which is set to star Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman in the lead roles. The budget for the film is said to be nearly \$130 million Australian. Luhrmann states in the article that the film owes some of its inspiration to the 1940s Ealing Studios movie *The Overlanders*, directed by Harry Watt. *The Overlanders* also inspired a book of the same name by Dora Birtles. The dustcover "blurb" of that book quotes the Melbourne *Herald* as saying that "*The Overlanders* is a breath of fresh air". Whether this refers to the book or film is not clear. There was certainly a lot of fresh air in the photo of Luhrmann accompanying the article.

Let's hope that *Australia* does better than the Wim Wenders' movie which included a segment filmed in Purnululu National Park, if I remember rightly. The movie was apparently a very expensive flop. Perhaps the most interesting item relating to the filming of that Kimberley segment was the fact the actor William Hurt offered to help to do the dishes whilst on location. Thanks to Graeme Macarthur for that snippet of information.

Jack Vercoe

A HISTORY OF GUANO MINING ON THE LACEPEDE ISLANDS

On 1 November 2006, Tim Willing visited Perth to share his research findings with the Kimberley Society. Tim works out of Broome—as an expedition guide with Pearl Sea Coastal Cruises—where he is well known for his familiarity with the flora, fauna and history of the Kimberley coast. That work, and his skill with a camera, enabled him to include lots of superb images in his PowerPoint presentation. The following notes, generously provided by Tim, convey the essence of his talk.

The Lacepede Islands lie some 20km west of the Dampier Peninsula coast, 150km north of Broome. They comprise four sand cays, perched on an extensive coral reef, although the two larger islands (West Island, 107ha, and Middle Island, 54ha) have significant exposures of beach rock and limestone.

The Baudin Expedition named the Lacepede Islands in August 1801, when the northbound sailing ships *Geographe* and *Naturaliste* sighted them. In recognition of their abundant seabirds, the islands were named for Bernard-Germain-Etienne De La Ville-Sur-Ilon, Count Lacepede (1756-1825), a Paris-based zoologist and taxonomist. During the period 1820–1850, American whalers from New England are believed to have hunted Humpback Whales around Lacepede waters, although surviving records are sketchy.

In May 1876, the WA Colonial Government authorised the Melbourne firm of Poole, Picken & Co to commence the export of guano from Middle Island, for use as agricultural fertiliser. On 26 June, a band of adventurers sanctioned by the American Vice-Consul-General in Melbourne, Samuel Perkins Lord, raised the Stars and Stripes on a flagpole there. It appears that Lord was acting on his own commercial initiative, as a merchant, as much as on behalf of Uncle Sam. The Perth press referred to the Lacepede claim as ‘another piece of Yankee audacity’ because the *Catalpa* had famously liberated six Fenians from Fremantle Jail the previous April. A polite war of words ensued as Governor William Robinson corresponded with Downing Street, while Lord—based at Perth’s Weld Club—maintained that Britain had failed to formally claim the Lacepedes. In May 1877, the Governor received advice that US President Ulysses Grant had repudiated Lord’s annexation.

In November 1876, the colonial administration sent Irish-born Richard Wynne to the Lacepedes with a constable, three boatmen and a Chinese cook. Wynne’s main job was to ensure that the guano deposits were worked in a systematic manner, royalties were paid, and law and order prevailed. He was to wear many “hats” as Harbourmaster, Customs Officer, J.P. and Postmaster, but slept in a tent. After numerous letters to Perth, Wynne was rewarded with a two-room limestone office cum post office cum gaol—known rather grandly as “Lacepede House”—for which PWD plans still survive in State Archives. Nearby, a fifty-foot flagpole with a hoisted lantern and daytime signal flags assisted dozens of sailing ships to locate the dangerously exposed anchorage offshore. Arriving barques brought bundles of cornsacks for loading guano from open boats: a tediously slow process. The barques were invariably in ballast, which was often casually dumped in the anchorage, much to Wynne’s displeasure. Several surviving maps show that Melbourne-based rival contractors (WA Guano Co and F.E. Beaver & Co) laid down trolley lines across Middle Island. Horse-drawn trolleys hauled the guano along the lines to makeshift wooden jetties on the northern shore.

Wynne wrote a hair-raising, eyewitness account of the catastrophic cyclone of 16 February 1877, during which the barque *Aboyne* was driven ashore and wrecked in minutes. Six lives were lost, and three other vessels (*Albert Victor*, *Helen Malcolm*

and *Isabellas*) were also wrecked. Several graphic—and rather gothic—lithographs of this event appeared in Melbourne newspapers of the period.

Richard Wynne was nominally responsible to the Resident Magistrate in Roebourne, R.J. Sholl of Camden Harbour fame, while Captain Pemberton Walcott supposedly delivered his supplies (including water and firewood) every two months in the Government Revenue Cutter. The closest reliable water supply was from springs at Beagle Bay. On his visits, Walcott assisted Wynne with the administration of justice.

In April 1878, Wynne wrote to Perth that there were 165 persons on the island digging guano, but they were on strike, insolent and drunk. At the same time, the Surveyor-General reported that 57 vessels had received guano licences and paid £12,357 royalty on 24,715 tons total. While some guano went to Mauritius, the principal export destination was Hamburg in Germany, where demand was high. In May 1878, the Colonial Government called for a sole guano tender for the remaining 40,000 tons, to take effect from 1 January 1879. This was awarded to London-based contractors McDonald & Mockford, who were later irate on being advised that, in reality, only 15,000 tons remained! In August 1888, the Colonial Government finally agreed to pay £9,783 damages to McDonald & Mockford.

With all the commercial guano gone, Wynne left the islands with his party in November 1879. His former boatman, J.W.S. Kelly, was appointed caretaker. Taunton, in his book *Australind* (1903), alleged that Kelly, widely known as “Shiner”, was responsible for faking the unique cross arrangement in the Southern Cross pearl. In January 1880, another cyclone washed Lacepede House, along with its stock of postage stamps, off Middle Island. The W.A. philatelist Brian Pope has humorously detailed how a dubious Postmaster-General had Kelly investigated for the missing two quids worth of stamps! Kelly was dismissed in March 1884 for taking bribes from pearlers and allowing the Lacepedes to be used as an illegal depot for Aborigines kidnapped for pearl diving.

In 1970, the Lacepede Islands became a Nature Reserve, in recognition of their enormous colonies of nesting seabirds (the source of the guano deposits) and Green Turtles. In 1986, turtle researcher Dr. Bob Prince successfully eradicated the Black Rat population, which apparently had become established during the guano era a century ago. Smaller nesting seabirds, such as Bridled Terns and Common Noddies have been the principal beneficiaries.

ORD VALLEY MUSTER

The countdown to the fifth annual Argyle Diamonds Ord Valley Muster and Airnorth Kimberley Moon Experience has begun. The first edition of *Muster News* reports that the Muster kicks off on Friday 18 May with the traditional nighttime Street Party at Papuana St, Kununurra. Full details of the 2007 program, which features more than 45 events, special tours, sporting challenges and other activities in and around Kununurra, will be announced next month. The 2007 Airnorth Kimberley Moon Experience, to be held on Saturday 2 June, will feature Marcia Hines, accompanied by her seven-piece band. Other performers on the list include the Australian Army Band - Darwin, popular party band Peace Love & All That Stuff featuring Tod Johnston, plus a host of talented Kimberley musicians and entertainers. James Blundell will return as compere for the fourth year. Event tickets, travel, accommodation and local tour reservations can be made through the Kununurra Visitor Centre at email kununurratb@bigpond.com or phone (08) 9168 1177.

BOOK NOTE

Emo and San Salvador by Brigida Nailon CSB. Brigidine Sisters, Echuca (Vic), 2005. Hard cover, two-volume set. *Book 1: Broome and Beagle Bay*, 300 pages, ISBN 0-9579361-2-5. *Book 2: Cygnet Bay, Drysdale River and Lombadina*, 270 pages, ISBN 0-9579361-4-1. Both volumes carry illustrations and maps. Price \$88.00 for the set. Copies available from Sister Brigida Nailon, 1 Charlotte Street, Echuca 3564, adding \$10 for postage and making cheques or money orders payable to the Brigidine Sisters. Also available from the Kimberley Bookshop, Broome.

No single-page book note could provide an adequate description or assessment of this work. It is the author's fourth major piece of work on missionaries and Aboriginal people in the Kimberley and, like its predecessors, it brings a wealth of information to the reader. The incalculable hours that went into it are obvious because, in addition to Sister Brigida providing context and a broad setting for Father Emo's activities, three other Brigidines translated numerous items of correspondence from Spanish and French to English. Images of the correspondence appear beside most of the translations in the book, making the original text available not just to those who are able to read it but also to the scholars of the future. There are also rock art images, which includes Gwion Gwion or Bradshaw figures, copied in or about 1910.

Father Nicholas Emo, who came from Patagonia, worked in the Kimberley from 1895 to 1915. He went there as one of ten Cistercian missionaries selected by Abbot Ambrose Janny to strengthen Beagle Bay Mission. A history of that mission was recorded in Mary Durack's *The Rock and the Sand* in 1969, and the story of some of its Aboriginal people in *This is Your Place: Beagle Bay Mission 1890–1990*. The Beagle Bay Community published the latter book, edited by Sister Brigida and Father Francis Huegel, in 1990. *Emo and San Salvador* complements the earlier books, telling us more about the mission and its people.

Emo was the only one from the Abbot's group of ten to 'persevere in Australia with a missionary vocation'. In addition to working at Beagle Bay, he also worked in Broome and at other places on the Kimberley coast. The information about those places appears in both volumes even though the chronological division of the work assigns most of the coverage of Cygnet Bay, Drysdale River and Lombadina to Book 2. The chronicle is pieced together primarily from archives held by the church in Broome, and by the New Norcia Benedictine Monastery in Western Australia, the Sept Fons Cistercian Monastery in France, and the State Records Office of Western Australia. Other privately held material used to fill in some of the blanks includes letters sent to Dame Mary Durack by H V Howe, a one-time Broome pearler and later private secretary to Prime Minister Billy Hughes. His letters touch, among other things, on Father Emo's interaction with other people in the Kimberley. All are interesting, and one tells a delightful story about 'the genealogical history of Broome'.

The circuitous route by which this work came to my attention, and now to yours, shows that the Kimberley Society is achieving the third of the objectives identified in its constitution, ie 'to promote the dissemination of information about the Kimberley'. A member in Scotland became aware of it, obtained a copy, and contacted Sister Brigida to ask whether the Society was aware of it. The work had been launched in Broome in May but, not having been reviewed in major newspapers or journals, it had passed under the radar of Kimberley booklovers who live elsewhere. Only 300 sets were printed and, with more than one third sold already, you may find it prudent to act quickly if you wish to add *Emo and San Salvador* to your bookshelves.

Cathie Clement

TOURISM AWARDS

On 18 November, Kimberley operators and ventures again carried off many of the annual awards offered by the Tourism Council of Western Australia. Those who received recognition included:

Winners

- ❖ Kooljaman at Cape Leveque (Ecotourism)
- ❖ North Star Cruises (Adventure Tourism)
- ❖ Red Sky Cruises (Hosted Accommodation)
- ❖ Seashells Resort Broome (Deluxe Accommodation)
- ❖ Skywest Airlines (Major Tour and Transport Operators)
- ❖ Willie Creek Pearl Farm Tours (Sir David Brand Award for Tourism) and (Significant Tour and Transport Operators)

Medallists – Gold

- ❖ Airnorth Kimberley Moon Experience (Significant Festivals & Events)
- ❖ Bali Hai Resort and Spa (Deluxe Accommodation)
- ❖ Cable Beach Club Resort (Deluxe Accommodation)
- ❖ Ivanhoe Village Caravan Resort (Tourist and Caravan Parks)
- ❖ Red Sky Cruises (Adventure Tourism)
- ❖ Willie Creek Pearl Farm (Significant Tourist Attractions)
- ❖ Willie Creek Pearls (Tourism Retailing)

Medallists – Silver

- ❖ Aussie Off Road Tours (Significant Tour and Transport Operators)
- ❖ Australia's North West Tourism (Destination Promotion)
- ❖ Broome & The Kimberley DMC (Meetings and Business Tourism)
- ❖ Broome Hovercraft (Adventure Tourism), (Ecotourism) and (Significant Tour and Transport Operators)
- ❖ Bungle Bungle Wilderness Camp (Ecotourism) and (Unique Accommodation)
- ❖ Kimberley Wild Expeditions (Ecotourism)
- ❖ Kununurra Visitor Centre (Visitor Centres)

Medallists – Bronze

- ❖ Gibb River Road Bus Services (Significant Tour and Transport Operators)
- ❖ Kimberley Croc Backpackers (Backpacker Accommodation)
- ❖ Kooljaman at Cape Leveque (Unique Accommodation)

ROCK ART SEMINAR PROCEEDINGS UPDATE

The proceedings of the Kimberley Rock Art Seminar held in September 2005 have now been page-set in book form. The manuscript is currently undergoing minor editing and tweaking of the layout and it is expected that this will be completed by Christmas. Once we have the book finalized we can go back to potential sponsors with a clear idea of printing costs, and it is hoped that this can be done early in the new year. It is looking terrific!

Mike Donaldson

BOOK NOTE

Memoirs of a Spanish Missionary Monk by Seraphim Sanz de Galdeano OSB MBE OAM CSM. Hesperian Press, Carlisle (WA), 2006. Soft cover, 260 pages + vi, illustrations. ISBN 0 85905 386 5, price \$33.00.

Father Sanz, who is now 93, served with the Benedictine Order in Western Australia from 1931. He studied at New Norcia, was ordained in Sydney in 1938, worked in the Kimberley from 1939 to 1981, and returned to New Norcia until 1993. Then, after living in Spain for some years, he gained permission to return to Kalumburu.

He wrote his memoirs at the urging of people who found verbal accounts of his experiences fascinating. He attributes that situation to their experiences differing from his and he rejects the notion that he has done anything extraordinary. Some of his experiences have, however, been somewhat unusual. Few other people, for example, are likely to have culinary skills that include making flying foxes more palatable 'by skinning them and passing the flesh through vinegar'.

The memoirs have a history of their own, with the preface explaining how the pre-1990 component (the bulk of the book) was published without authority from tapes that Father Sanz recorded in Spanish and sent to his family. That version also appeared briefly on the Internet with the author's *Metamorphosis of a Race* and his *Pelá Dictionary and Grammar*. This version, which Father Sanz translated into English, contains additional material that relates mostly, or perhaps wholly, to the years since 1989. Hence, in total, the book consists of the original memoirs (written when the author was 76) and more recent anecdotes, letters and reflections.

The memoirs are perhaps most valuable for their tales of people, events, conditions, and natural history in the Pago and Kalumburu area. Told quite candidly, with equal sprinklings of humour and criticism, the tales show how things were from 1939 to 1981. Indeed, the candidness is such that Father Sanz, with no hint of contrition, mentions instances in which he used his fist or his foot on Aboriginal people who were disinclined to take orders.

Because the author went to Pago Mission soon after being ordained, and left the adjacent Kalumburu Mission after serving as its last Superior (1955–1981), his book reveals a great deal about the work of missionary monks on the Kimberley coast. Among other things, it covers the isolation, the use of luggers and barges for transport, the building of the Truscott Aerodrome during World War II, and the rescue of passengers and crew after the bombing of the *Koolama*. The *Koolama* coverage is perhaps most interesting when read in conjunction with Bill Loane's *The Koolama Incident in the Timor Sea, 1942: Malice or Mutiny*. That book benefited from accounts offered by Father Sanz (generally identified by the more familiar name of Father Seraphim) but he adds a bit more to the story in *Memoirs of a Spanish Monk*.

Like *Metamorphosis of a Race: Kuíni and Kulári Tribes of Kalúmburu Mission*, which was the subject of a book note in the October newsletter, *Memoirs of a Spanish Monk* mixes current affairs with history. Father Sanz, despite wanting to live nowhere but Kalumburu, is extremely critical of that place in its current guise. He is clearly uncomfortable with it being a parish of the Broome Diocese and with the community embracing the opportunities afforded by tourism. His book is thus as much a lament for the loss of a mission as it is a chronicle of his life. Readers will draw their own conclusions as to whether the withdrawal of the Benedictine mission from Kalumburu was, as he argues, premature and ill advised.

Cathie Clement

ABORIGINAL BURIALS AT THE ONE-MILE

(An account of Cemetery Reserve No 9721, Wyndham Port, East Kimberley)

Recently I discovered during my research into lonely graves, a forgotten cemetery located at the One-Mile (east-north-east of the town site) in Wyndham – near the Gully Cemetery. I had recorded the names and dates of Aboriginal people who died in custody in the early 20th century. The first burial recorded at the “One-Mile” (Aboriginal Cemetery Reserve No 9721) was Walmil in 1902 – his *Death Certificate* stated “buried on the marsh one mile from Wyndham”. The second death in 1903 was Olalie – “buried at the Wyndham One Mile”. The fifth death on 15.5.1904 was recorded as being “buried at the Native Cemetery, One-Mile near Wyndham”. From that date *Death Certificates* stated – buried at “the One Mile near Wyndham”.

As all (other) ‘Mile Pegs’, such as the 3-Mile, 4-Mile, 9-Mile, 10-Mile and 12-Mile are situated along Great Northern Highway south-east from the Wyndham town site, ‘One-Mile’ created an unlikely impression that this burial ground was in the marsh on the edge of Cambridge Gulf. However, it turned out that it was located near the resumed Government Abattoirs (meat works said to be located at One-Mile) and the Gully Cemetery (Reserve No 20359, Wyndham Lot 441) which was surveyed in 1922 on Gully Road, Wyndham Port – the first residential street in Wyndham. To-day the “One Mile” Aboriginal Cemetery is unmarked and forgotten by all but perhaps a few Elders.

Aboriginal deaths were not officially registered until from the mid 1940’s, 1950–1960’s onward. However, registration of Aboriginal prison deaths in European custody, were mandatory (registered with the Registrar Generals’ Office) and a *Death Certificate* is available on application for each person.

There are indications of more people having been buried in Aboriginal Cemetery Reserve No 9721 before and after those listed below, when taking into account that:

- (1) before 1896 *Death Certificates* did not state ‘place of burial’, but Aboriginal deaths in custody were registered before the turn-of-the-century, and
- (2) a letter dated 19th June 1951 was written to the Under Secretary for Lands by SG Middleton, Commissioner of Native Affairs, regarding the Wyndham Native Cemetery. “Great difficulty has been experienced at the native Hospital, Wyndham, in regard to the burial of natives in that the existing site is so stony and hard that labour cannot be procured to dig grave plots.It has now been recommended that the ground most suited for sinking graves is located at the ‘10 Mile Flat’ and as this in close proximity to an all weather road it is recommended that a Reserve for a Native Cemetery be proclaimed within this area and that the existing Reserve be cancelled” (No 9721 was cancelled 30.11.1951).

One such person was:

BIDDI BUDDA alias Jimmy, died 24.2.1932 aged 40 years in the Wyndham Government Hospital - buried in the Wyndham native cemetery by JJ Taylor and John Franklin Flinders (Sergeant of Police No 943), Wyndham. A nomad Aboriginal, who died of a gunshot wound to the pelvis.

Following are details of those buried on Cemetery Reserve No 9721 between 1902 and 1906:

WALMIL, died 7.10.1902 aged about 30 years at Wyndham Gaol, McPhee Street, Wyndham - buried on the Marsh one mile from Wyndham by Joseph Herbert Kelly in witness of 2 Aboriginals – Mick and Tommy. An Aboriginal prisoner, who choked at dinner.

OLALIE, died 7.7.1903 aged 28 years at the gaol in Wyndham - buried at the Wyndham One Mile by Joseph Herbert Kelly in witness of 2 Aboriginals – Merrie alias Charley Payne and Ualling alias

George. An Aboriginal prisoner, who died of tuberculosis. Born c1875 at Sturts Creek, Kimberley Goldfields.

JURIVANGA, died 7.4.1904 aged 60 years in the Wyndham Gaol - buried at the One-Mile near Wyndham. An Aboriginal native prisoner, who died of asthma.

WILBING, died 6.5.1904 aged 50 years in the Wyndham Gaol - buried at the One-Mile near Wyndham. An Aboriginal native prisoner, who died of pneumonia and heart failure.

GILLINGEE, died 15.5.1904 aged 32 years in the Wyndham Gaol - buried at the Native Cemetery, One-Mile near Wyndham. An Aboriginal native prisoner.

CADJIVELL alias CHARLIE, died 28.5.1904 aged about 60 years in the Wyndham Gaol - buried at the One-Mile near Wyndham. An Aboriginal native prisoner, who died of senile asthma.

COOLINGHENA, died 10.6.1904 aged about 38 years in the Government Hospital at Wyndham - buried at the One-Mile near Wyndham. An Aboriginal native prisoner, who died of pneumonia and heart failure.

NUMERUDGY, died 22.6.1904 aged about 60 years in the Wyndham Gaol - buried at the One-Mile near Wyndham. An Aboriginal native prisoner.

WIGMARRY alias JIMMY, died 22.7.1904 aged 30 years in the Wyndham Gaol - buried at the One-Mile near Wyndham. An Aboriginal native prisoner.

LARANGA alias TOMMY CAHILL, died 4.9.1904 aged about 50 years in the Wyndham Gaol - buried at the One-Mile near Wyndham. An Aboriginal native prisoner, who died of pneumonia and heart failure.

CARWABINE, died 12.10.1904 aged about 30 years in the Wyndham Gaol - buried at the One-Mile near Wyndham. An Aboriginal native prisoner.

WANGANME, died 20.10.1904 aged about 40 years in the Wyndham Gaol - buried at the One-Mile near Wyndham. An Aboriginal native prisoner.

JIPKINE, died 4.12.1904 aged 30 years in the Wyndham hospital - buried at the One-Mile near Wyndham. An Aboriginal native prisoner, who died of pneumonia and heart failure.

NOUMARRING, died 17.4.1905 aged 16 years in the Wyndham Gaol - buried at the One-Mile near Wyndham. An Aboriginal native prisoner, who died of heart failure.

GINCULLINGAH, died 19.4.1905 aged 45 years in the Wyndham Gaol - buried at the One-Mile near Wyndham. An Aboriginal native prisoner, who died of heart failure.

CHERENUNURRIE alias TOPSY, died 28.3.1906 aged about 23 years in the Police Station, Wyndham - buried at the One-Mile near Wyndham by John Joseph Curran. An Aboriginal native, who died of beri beri.

MOWARGUIN alias CHARLIE, died 2.4.1906 aged about 18 years at Wyndham - buried at the One-Mile near Wyndham by John Joseph Curran. An Aboriginal native, who died of beri beri.

TOMBIN/TAMBING alias CHARCOAL, died 20.7.1906 aged about 30 years in the Government Hospital, Wyndham - buried at the One-Mile near Wyndham by John Joseph Curran. An Aboriginal native, who died of beri beri.

SAMO, died 16.8.1906 aged about 16 years in the Government Hospital Wyndham - buried at the One-Mile near Wyndham by John Joseph Curran. An Aboriginal native.

The last recorded burials in 1906 were not prisoners who died in custody, although to have been buried there, circumstances must have been such that they were not kin based to local Aboriginals. Cherenunurrie alias Topsy seems to be the only female. It is interesting also to note that three of them died from beri beri. As they were young, they may have been working as crew on pearling luggers, because in their native surrounds near Wyndham, there was a readily available variety of bush food for a well-balanced diet (vegetable bush foods – fish and shell fish on the coast – water birds, eggs and waterlily roots around lagoons and swamps). The reason for these Aboriginal burials being in a European style cemetery was because they had been taken to Wyndham from outlying places, away from their tribal grounds.

Many old cemeteries throughout the state were used for burial before their date of survey, and few Aboriginals in those times were interred in consecrated soil within the bounds of a Christian cemetery. So it was that on 25th May 1905, D Browne, Resident Magistrate in Wyndham wrote to The Lands Department in Perth, requesting “that some small piece of land near Wyndham, preferably in the vicinity of the “One Mile”, be allotted as a cemetery for Aboriginals, prisoners and others, of this town and neighbourhood”. As a consequence one acre of land (“C” class reserve) was set aside mainly for the burial of Aboriginal prisoners who died in custody in the Wyndham gaol (Gazetted 23.6.1905). It was most unusual, and it may have been some of the first Western Australian land officially set aside for the sole purpose of indigenous burials, as internments at that time were generally carried out in the bush according to tribal customs.

As old graveyards are part of our pioneering history, for heritage purposes it would be important for this little Wyndham Cemetery Reserve No 9721 to be monumented in some way, and in so doing help preserve its existence for posterity.

Acknowledgement to Laura Stuchbury, State Land Services – Kimberley Regional Office, Department for Planning and Infrastructure, for confirmation and (approximate) positioning of Reserve No 9721 onto a current map.

Yvonne Coate

BOOK NOTE

Kununurra: From dreams to reality by Norma Wainwright and Keith Wright. Private Publication, Kununurra, 2006. Soft cover, 421 pages, illustrations and maps. ISBN 0-646-46490-6, price \$38.00. Available from Kununurra outlets and the Royal Western Australian Historical Society bookshop. Inquiries to 2ktours@iinet.net.au.

This book resembles *North of the 26th* in that it is a collection of anecdotes, poetry, and other material solicited from the community and welded together by an editorial team. Assembled over several years, it focuses on the early decades of Kununurra’s 45-year existence, the construction of the two dams that harnessed the waters of the Ord (in 1963 and 1972), and the Ord River Irrigation Project.

No attempt has been made to provide a chronological account of events, and, given the variety of the contributions, it might have been impossible to marshal them in a way that allowed the story to unfold. The reader therefore either dips into the book—guided by the table of contents—or encounters a random coverage of events. I like things to unfold chronologically so I found it preferable to dip, starting with W A Durack’s early history of the research station at Carlton Reach (page 24), Bill Wright’s great account of road works in the 1950s (page 43), and Bob Wainwright’s ‘My years in the Kimberley: 1952 to 2005’ (page 231). After that, I dipped at random, encountering letters written by Rosalie Forrest in 1965 and Spike Dessert in 1974 and gaining an immediate sense of what it was like to drive to Kununurra in those years. Further along, I was pleasantly surprised to find the burial register for Kununurra Cemetery. It appears on pages 289 to 299, at the end of the contribution titled ‘The passing of a few of our pioneers’.

All told, there is much to interest the reader in this book. It will trigger memories for ex-residents, provide background for new residents, and give others a sense of how things came to be as they are in and around Kununurra.

Cathie Clement

WANDERING WANDJINAS

In October this year, Kimberley Society members, for better or for worse, contributed to the spread of awareness regarding the Wandjina images that are appearing around Perth. Mike Donaldson mentioned them in the *Boab Bulletin* and I mentioned them in a lecture presented at a national conference in Fremantle. The reaction was instantaneous, with people clamouring to know more.

Vanessa Mills, a Kimberley Society member who works with ABC Kimberley in Broome, got in touch after reading the *Boab Bulletin*. Her story went to air on 10 October and some of Mike's Wandering Wandjinas went online with the summary of it (<http://www.abc.net.au/kimberley/stories/s1758614.htm>). The ABC staff also looked for further information and, through Google, found a dynamic collection of images (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/technoboheimian/sets/72157594211423489/>) posted by "Technoboheimian". Their inquiries revealed that he had no idea who was painting the images, and ours have led nowhere.



A Mt Lawley Wandjina
Courtesy of Mike Donaldson

In late October, whilst preparing a précis of the lecture that I had given, I did a fresh Google search and found that the Wandjina images were proliferating online. The Web site at <http://flickr.com/photos/tags/wandjina/> showed those posted by "Technoboheimian" and others. At the time of writing this article, that site carried a total of 94 images.

In November, an article published in a community newspaper prompted another journalist to approach the Kimberley Society for information. Our provision of the Web site URLs and some graffiti locations along the riverside path below Mercy Hospital enabled that journalist to include the Maylands graffiti in the selection shown on television on the 27th. We expected to be told when it was going to air but ended up catching it only because Jack Vercoe was watching the news.



Wandjinas along the riverside path
Courtesy of Cathie Clement



Segments of a telephone interview with Donny Woolagoodja were played during the television coverage. He expressed concern that the Wandjina, which is very important to indigenous people from the West Kimberley, is being used in Perth.

We don't know when the images first appeared but they have been visible in Maylands and Mt Lawley—where they seem to be most prevalent—since at least May this year. Others are beside the Canning River, along the Kwinana Freeway, in Yokine and in Northbridge. They appear on all sorts of surfaces, and they seem to be the work of more than one person.

If you know anything more about the Wandering Wandjinias, please share your knowledge with us.

Cathie Clement



Another Wandjina on the riverside path
Courtesy of Cathie Clement

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WEB SITE

The Kimberley Society's Web site (www.kimberleysociety.org) is managed by Grant Sellwood and, as well as carrying summaries of talks, as published in the *Boab Bulletin*, it has information about membership and the Society's objectives.

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