



# BOAB BULLETIN

No. 82

October 2007

## **NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS**

commencing 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. at

Shenton Park Community Centre, corner Onslow and Herbert Roads

**Wednesday, 3 October 2007**

**Norm McKenzie & Tony Start**

**(Department of Environment & Conservation)**

**“Biological surveys of the Kimberley islands”**

**Wednesday, 7 November 2007**

**Mrs Carol Martin BASW JP MLA**

**(Member for Kimberley)**

**“The tyranny of distance”**

Please note that Mrs Martin's availability for this talk could be affected at short notice if other commitments require her to be elsewhere in connection with her role as a Member of Parliament.

**Wednesday, 5 December 2007**

**Mike Lisle-Williams**

**(CEO, Kimberley Foundation Australia)**

**“Kimberley Foundation Australia: helping to understand the Kimberley's prehistory”**

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The media have not been kind to the Kimberley recently; there seems to be an endless succession of negative reports on the social conditions in Halls Creek, Fitzroy and Kununurra, though to anyone who knows the region, the problems have been present for the last twenty years at least. My recent visit to Broome and Derby, however, left a different impression.

Broome as usual was booming; accommodation in race week almost impossible, the new by-pass road to the port creating dirt and dust as well as encroaching very close to Cable Beach, parking in Chinatown at a premium and tourists everywhere.

Even more striking was Derby; a town just hanging on when I left five years ago with government departments moving to Broome and mining closing. How different now! There is a new inpatient hospital wing (only about 15 years since the old one fell down!) with stunning art on the walls of the wards and corridors, new shops and the arcade reopened, coffee shops, a refurbished wharf restaurant, new mines, a new prison for the Kimberley, over eighty new houses being built "and much more besides". The new Art Centre at Mowanjum is magnificent and unique, already a tourist drawcard with great examples of Mowanjum art on display; it will be even better when complete with the museum and theatre equipment.

The East Kimberley too has had a boost from the filming of *Australia* with Hugh Jackman and Nicole Kidman.

So it is good to see that the region is benefiting from the prosperity with the rest of the state. For too long it was a half neglected and forgotten outpost.

*Hamish McGlashan*

## VALE MICHAEL JOHN BYERS (1939–2006)

A memorial service, attended by some 35 people, was held for Michael Byers at the Argyle Homestead Museum (AHM), Kununurra, on Sunday 8 July last.

Michael Byers lived in the Kimberley for some 30+ years yet few details are known of his life. It is believed that he was born in England, one of two children, and came to Australia during the 1950s after serving with the British Army in Malaya. In the early 1960s, Michael attended the University of South Australia where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree. Academic and city life apparently did not suit him and in about the mid 1970s, with no companion or family, he arrived in the Kimberley.

There he worked first on Carlton Station as a cook, then as a tour guide on the glamour tourist circuit of El Questro Station. By the mid 1990s, he had become caretaker of the AHM, near the Argyle Dam wall some 70 km from Kununurra. It was here that Michael's talents and personality came into flower. He seems to have thrived in the extreme conditions: contending, in the dry season, with streams of visitors from dawn to dusk; and in the wet enjoying, with his bower birds, the quiet and isolation of the place. Only in the last three years did his employer, the WA Tourist Commission, arrange for a satellite phone to be installed.

At the AHM Michael became well known as an authority on Kimberley pioneering history, particularly of the Durack family, of whom he was most proud and claimed some distant relationship. Michael died intestate and alone at the homestead, from heat stroke, in early December 2006. His collection of books has been passed to the Kununurra Library; his papers to the local Historical Society; and his ashes have been scattered on Lake Argyle. RIP Michael ...

## BAUXITE ON THE MITCHELL PLATEAU

On 2 May 2007, Dr Ivor Roberts, Manager of Mineral Resources at the Geological Survey of Western Australia (GSWA), spoke to the Kimberley Society about the world-class bauxite deposits on the Mitchell Plateau. His summary of the talk, which he illustrated with plenty of PowerPoint slides, appears below.

### What is Bauxite?

Berthier in 1821 introduced the term 'bauxite' for terra rosa soils rich in aluminium and overlies limestone at Les Baux in southern France. However, the Australian deposits, including the Mitchell Plateau, are not associated with limestone but laterite. It is estimated that 85% of the global bauxite resource are lateritic bauxite deposits. Aluminium-rich laterite becomes bauxite ore when certain criteria are met, including

- Available  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 > 27.5\%$
- Reactive silica  $< 2.5\%$

### Importance of aluminium

#### *Abundance of Aluminium*

- Aluminium is the third most abundant element in the Earth's crust after oxygen and silicon and accounts for 8% of its composition by weight.
- It is the second most common metal on earth; 800 times more common than copper, which has been used for thousands of years.
- Aluminium does not occur in its pure state in nature, but it is common in various compounds such as oxides, as well as in silicate minerals such as feldspar, micas and clays.

#### *Aluminium - a precious metal?*

British scientist Sir Humphry Davy discovered aluminium in 1808 and, due to the difficulty of separating it from other elements, it was considered "precious". It was first shown publicly at the World Fair in Paris in 1855, where it kindled tremendous interest. Early applications of aluminium as a "precious" metal are as follows.

- The statue known as *Eros* in Piccadilly Circus London, was made in 1893 and is one of the first statues to be cast in aluminium.
- Aluminium was selected as the material to be used for the apex of the Washington Monument, at a time when one ounce cost twice the daily wages of a common worker in the project (monument completed in 1884).

#### *Properties of Aluminium*

1. strong, malleable and has a low density.
2. resistant to corrosion.
3. good conductor of heat and electricity.
4. can be polished to give a highly reflective surface.
5. very easy to recycle; one reason that it is environmentally friendly and is often called the "green" metal.
6. 100% dense and impervious to light, odour and taste – it has no effect on the taste or smell of food.
7. non-flammable substance.

## Uses of Aluminium

1. Low density and strength make it ideal for construction of aircraft, lightweight vehicles, and ladders.
2. Easy shaping and corrosion resistance make it a good material for drink cans and roofing materials.
3. Corrosion resistance and low density leads to its use for window frames.
4. Good conduction of heat leads to its use for boilers, cookers and cookware.
5. Good conduction of electricity leads to its use for overhead power cables hung from pylons (low density gives it an advantage over copper).

## Geological controls and formation of bauxite

The occurrence of bauxite on the Mitchell Plateau is controlled by the distribution of the Carson Volcanics and the present and past climate. The overlap of areas of high rainfall with the Carson Volcanics depicts the main distribution of bauxite.

### *Basalt to Bauxite*

Bauxite is a naturally occurring material that is often derived from the weathering of basalt. Basalt typically contains plagioclase and clinopyroxene, while the principal minerals in bauxite are gibbsite ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), boehmite and diaspore ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ).

Bauxite formation involves basalt with 14-19%  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , containing primary silicate minerals, losing Na and Ca in the weathering process to form clay (secondary hydrated aluminium silicates) with 20-39%  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ . Further weathering results in the loss of Si and the formation of bauxite (hydrated aluminium oxides) with 27.5-65%  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ . (gibbsite-rich rock). Electron micrographs of bauxite often depict well-formed crystals of gibbsite ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ).

## Discovery and exploration of the Mitchell Plateau

### Discovery:

In 1965 during regional reconnaissance by an AMAX (American Metal Climax Inc) field party led by D. K. Malcolm.

### Exploration:

Five Temporary Reserves totalling 3,930 km<sup>2</sup> over Mitchell Plateau and adjacent regions, as well as 135 Mineral Claims totalling 85 km<sup>2</sup> over Cape Bougainville.

### Bauxite Reserves:

	<b><i>Mitchell Plateau</i></b>	<b><i>Cape Bougainville</i></b>
Dry tonnes	230,000,000	980,000,000
Total alumina	47%	36%
Total silica	2.6%	1.9%
Area of laterite	120 km <sup>2</sup>	85 km <sup>2</sup>
Area of bauxite	40 km <sup>2</sup>	44 km <sup>2</sup>
Bauxite thickness	3.2 m	8.6 m

## Land tenure of the region

The Mitchell Plateau is covered by a number of land tenures including State Agreement, exploration tenements, conservation lands and Aboriginal lands.

### Alumina State Agreement:

The Alumina Refinery (Mitchell Plateau) Agreement Act 1971 is one of five State Agreements in Western Australia for bauxite and alumina.

Details about State Agreements are as follows

- An Agreement is between the State and a private sector company and gives a company exclusive right to develop a natural resource (owned by the State) in return for the company undertaking to establish and operate a resource project.
- The resultant contract is presented, as a Schedule to a Bill, for approval ('ratification') by Parliament.
- Parliamentary ratification means that Agreement provisions, where they are inconsistent, may override the existing statutory laws of the State.
- Agreements commonly include obligations:
  - to develop the project within a reasonable timeframe
  - to support State economic growth and create jobs by maximising the use of local labour, services and materials
  - to establish further processing industries, if commercially viable
  - that the Agreement will not be subsequently amended by the State, without the concurrence of the company.

### Exploration tenements:

Companies with tenements in the region include the following:

Mitchell Plateau Bauxite Co (Rio Tinto, Alcoa, AngloGold)

- *Mitchell Plateau (State Agreement)*
- *Cape Bougainville*

Bauxite Australia Pty Ltd / United Minerals Corporation

- *Mitchell Plateau South*
- *Couchman Range / Foster Range*

Australasian Mining & Exploration

- *West Kalumburu*

Ochre Resources Ltd

- *Mt Leeming*

Kimberley Bauxite Pty Ltd

- *Cape Bougainville*

Bauxite Resources Pty Ltd

- *West Kimberley*

### **Bauxite to alumina to aluminium – the processes**

The processing of bauxite requires conversion to alumina and then to aluminium.

*Alumina (Bayer process)*

Karl Josef Bayer in Austria realized a method for processing alumina from bauxite in mid 1880s (Bayer process – still used today).

### *Aluminium (Electrolysis)*

The Frenchman Paul Héroult and the American Charles Hall separately applied for aluminium production patents in 1886. Both used the method of dissolving alumina in molten cryolite before extracting the aluminium by electrolysis. The global ascent of aluminium had begun.

## **Comparison of bauxite deposits**

### *Bauxite and Alumina and Aluminium in Australia*

Australia's aluminium industry is a large integrated sector of mining, refining, smelting and semi-fabrication, and is economically important both nationally and globally. Important facts are as follows:

- The industry consists of
  - 5 bauxite mines,
  - 7 alumina refineries,
  - 6 primary aluminium smelters,
  - 12 extrusion mills, and
  - 2 rolled-product mills
- Australia is the World's largest producer of bauxite, producing 59.9 mt (34%) of world bauxite production in 2005 (WA share of Australia is 65%; Huntley mine is the largest bauxite operation in the world and has been for many years).
- Australia is the largest producer and exporter of alumina, producing 17.7 mt (30%) of world alumina production in 2005 (WA produced 11.5 mt valued at \$4.1 billion)
- Australia is the fifth largest aluminium producer, with 1.9 mt (6%) of world aluminium production in 2005.
- In 2005-06, the Western Australian State Government collected \$64 million in royalties, and the bauxite-alumina operations employed about 10,000 people.

Ivor completed the talk by giving geological maps to the first people in the audience to answer the following questions:

- How abundant is aluminium in the earth's crust – ranking and % ?
- How common is aluminium as a metal on earth?
- Who invented the Bayer process?
- In 2005-06 how many people did the bauxite/alumina industry employ in WA?

## **BOOK SALES**

The Society's Rock Art book is selling extremely well, generating more than \$26,000 up to mid-September. That great result reflects the commitment of Mike and Lyn Donaldson, Maurice O'Connor (our Broome "agent"), David Welch (our Darwin "agent") and others. The books donated from the library of our late member Athol Farrant are also selling well. Six members, who include some of Athol's friends, have purchased 29 books for \$541. The other seven books will be on sale at the October meeting. Members who would like details of those books should contact Cathie Clement (phone: 08 9272 3308; fax: 08 9272 2087; email: clement@q-net.net.au).

## OBITUARY

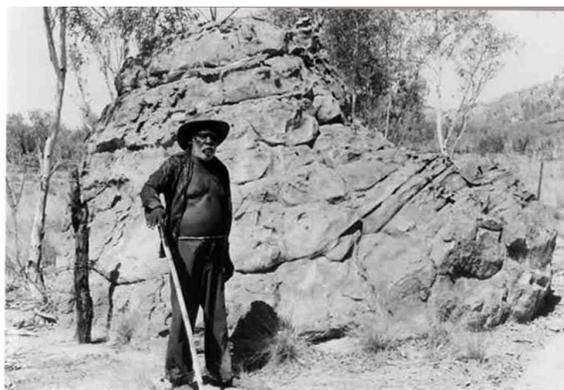
### Darby Narngarin (Jayikala)

Born: Luluigui Station, Fitzroy River

Date: July 1910

Died: Broome Hospital

Date: 15 June 2007



Darby at Looma Rock

The personal family and social significance of Darby's death is wider than that of Aboriginal concern; it was the final severing of a family and historic link tracing back to before European (Gudea) settlement came to Fitzroy River Lands—RapaRapa country—in the 1880s.

Darby's birthplace was in the vicinity where in May 1879 Alexander Forrest made his diary entry '*They are a fine race of men these Fitzroy natives*'. It is very probable that one of those that impressed Forrest was Darby's Mangala grandfather who by the end of his life was a teamster with the Kimberley Pastoral Company working with strange introduced animals, living in a changed social environment but still observing his age-old Aboriginal Culture, Laws, Observances and on traditional Aboriginal Land. Such was Darby's upbringing as it came to him by word, practise, observation and initiation through his father, grandfather, Aboriginal Elders and Law.

Darby's livelihood was that of a station hand with all its many phases and always in close cultural contact with traditional cultural Land, its native animals, birds, vegetation, 'The Dreaming', the many stories/explanations of landscape features and seasonal changes. These were the essentials to his understanding of Life. He could read the Land as a book but only as a custodian not an owner.

My lasting impression of Darby was ever his quiet dignity, sincerity, constant concern, that his native knowledge in all its many facets was passed on to others—Aboriginal young as well as the wider gudea population. He had a impish sense of humour. Another of his great concerns was that his Nyikina / Mangala tradition would be lost both as a Culture and Language overwhelmed by dominant cultural and social changes in the wider community and its attendant challenges. He put considerable emphasis on relating to Aboriginal young Dreaming stories, educating them to have pride in their Culture as well as the need for a good general education.

Alexander Forrest's words stick in my mind while I draft this obituary to a fine wise Old Man – Forrest's first impressions have carried through to Darby and his adaptability to weather the challenges brought to RapaRapa Lands by European settlement.

In his efforts to ensure neither the Nyikina / Mangala practices or Language is lost, Darby was supported by his sister Gladys who worked with Melbourne Dr Bronwyn Stokes in compiling the Nyikina language lexicon in the 1980s as well as his able daughter, Annie, who assisted with the literal translations of his oral Dreaming stories recordings. Brother and sister rest close in the Jarlmadangah Cemetery in their own traditional Land. Departed they leave an enduring Legacy and Heritage for all regardless of Culture.

*J N Anderson 12.08.2007*

## BOOK NOTE

*A Pearling Master's Journey in the wake of the schooner Mist* by J E deB Norman and G V Norman. Private publication, Strathfield (NSW), 2007, 338 pages, illustrated, including colour plates and maps. ISBN 9 7809803581 0 0, RRP \$100.

Everyone who attended the talk presented by Kimberley Society members John and Verity Norman in August 2006 should be able to envisage the quality of this book. As was the case with the Normans' superb PowerPoint presentation, the book contains numerous sepia images of people, boats, and historical scenes. Sourced from the Norman Archive, other private collections, repositories, and the descendants of people mentioned in the book, the images cover multiple facets of Broome's history as a pearling port. The text complements the images nicely and provides fascinating insights into pearling, life in the port, race relations, wartime events, and the experiences of individual family members, their friends and associates.

An unsolicited comment from another of our members—Peter Bridge, the founder of Hesperian Press—sums up the book:

It really is magnificent. Dedication and a great subject have resulted in one of the best I have seen for a long time.

*A Pearling Master's Journey* begins with Hugh Davis Norman (John's grandfather) joining J W B Robison in a new pearling venture and, in 1887, sailing to places that included Roebuck Bay. We learn that John's father, Edgar deBurgh (Ted) Norman, arrived in Broome in 1910, served with the 10th Light Horse from 1915 to 1919, and then returned to Broome. He married Rene Nicholson of Perth in 1925, and she, too, went to Broome. Each of those people posthumously contributed their stories and impressions to the book, and those contributions gave John and Verity an edge that many other authors will envy. But much more than access to previously unpublished material is required to produce a good book.

In this instance, the authors have blended the first-hand impressions with information and images gleaned from many other sources. In the chapter titled 'A Pearler's Wife', for example, Verity supplements her mother-in-law's handwritten manuscript about life in Broome by drawing on sources that include the newspaper known as the *Nor-West Echo*. We thus learn that the Dampier Orchestral Society contributed to the town's cultural life in the 1920s, and, courtesy of a privately owned photograph, we see the ten men and two women who provided the music in 1923. Like many of the other photographs in the book, the image has names for the people it shows.

The historical material in the book ends with coverage of the Broome air raid and events at Carnot Bay in 1942. Ted Norman was still in Broome when the Japanese attacked the town and, by interspersing his comments with those of others, the book conveys vivid impressions of that time. Of particular interest are the accounts written by people who survived the horrific air raid of 3 March 1942.

It is in looking at the fine detail in this book and, in particular, at the credits on the photographs, that one comes to appreciate the breadth of the research that went into it. The acknowledgments at the back of the book are comprehensive and give further insight into both the research and the extent to which John and Verity, like the Normans before them, have become part of the Broome community.

*A Pearling Master's Journey* is available from specialist bookstores and, with the payment of an additional \$10 for postage and handling, it can be purchased online ([www.pearlingmaster.com.au](http://www.pearlingmaster.com.au)).

*Cathie Clement*

## REST IN PEACE

On 25 August 2007, Beagle Bay Aboriginal Community lost the last of its Irish-born Sisters of St John of God. **Sister Bernadette O'Connor**, who regularly went for long walks with a dog, left the community that morning but did not return. The police mounted a search, with the assistance of 20 volunteers, but it was not until Aboriginal trackers had followed her footprints for 15 kilometres that they found the sister's body. It is thought that Sister Bernadette, 88, may have become disoriented but, in dying as she did, she achieved her wish to die in country that she loved.

An account of Sister Bernadette's life, written by Pam Casellas and published in *The West Australian* on 1 September, told how the 20-year-old Margaret Ellen O'Connor of County Sligo entered the sisterhood at Wexford in 1939. Her friend Eileen McPartland, later Sister Ita, was there too, and the following year they sailed for Perth. They completed their novitiate year at Beagle Bay, about 100 kilometres north-east of Broome, before Sister Ita became ill and died from a tropical infection.

Sister Bernadette continued her training in Broome, where she worked at the Holy Child Orphanage, but she had to return to Beagle Bay with the children during the wartime evacuation of the town. After making her final vows, she went to Broome in 1945; spent years at the Derby Leprosarium (Bungarun); worked at Balgo in the 1960s; and returned to Beagle Bay in the mid-1970s. She was also well known and cherished at the Lombadina Djarindjin community north of Beagle Bay. Her requiem mass was held on the morning of 15 September in the unique setting of the Beagle Bay church.

On 18 August, **Grahame Walsh**, who was known to most of his fellow Kimberley Society members through his documentation and promotion of Aboriginal rock art, died in Brisbane. Born in Toowoomba (Qld) in 1944, and raised on Croydon Station, he became interested in rock art after being shown galleries of stencilled hands at Carnarvon Gorge (Qld) in 1957. He trained as a newspaper photographer and later operated a service station at Injune, near the entrance to the Carnarvon Gorge national park. By 1977, he was working as a park ranger with Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service. It was then that his interest expanded to include the Bradshaw or Gwion Gwion rock art in the Kimberley. Over the next 27 years, he visited the Kimberley each dry season and fully documented approximately 1500 rock art sites. Those expeditions were funded by government grants, private benefactors and income derived from the cattle station and his paid employment. The latter included guiding people to rock art sites.

Always independent and prone to speaking his mind, Grahame tended to generate either admiration or antagonism in people who heard him expound on his passion for rock art. His theory that a race other than Australia's Aborigines had produced the Gwion Gwion paintings angered indigenous people in the Kimberley and prompted some people in academic and professional circles to give him a wide berth. The associated contention made government grants harder to obtain but his following and his body of work grew. By 1997, the repository in his Takarakka Rock Art Research Centre at Carnarvon Gorge held more than 1.2 million catalogued images of rock art sites and associated culture. In 2004, the University of Melbourne recognised the breadth of that research by giving Grahame a Doctorate of Letters. More recently, while he battled a terminal condition and tried to complete a book on Wandjina art, Griffith University honoured him with a Ph.D. His published works include *Australia's Greatest Rock Art* (1988), *Bradshaws: Ancient Rock Paintings of North-West Australia* (1994), and *Bradshaw Art of the Kimberley* (2000). His work will live on not only in those books but also in the collection of images he compiled.

## RETRACING THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE EARLY WEST KIMBERLEY EXPLORERS (AND THEIR ROCK ART FINDS)

On 5 September 2007, Dr Hamish McGlashan, President of the Kimberley Society, spoke about expeditions on which he and others have seen rock art and other interesting things recorded by explorers. His summary of the talk, which included PowerPoint slides with impressive “then” and “later” images of rock art, appears below.

The tracks of six explorers were traced from their books or journals, in time ranging from 1838 to 1926. They were George Grey, T C Sholl, Joseph Bradshaw, Fred Brockman, the Rev R Love, and J C de Lancourt. Their paths criss-crossed the Kimberley, as did those of our groups of friends who have backpacked over the routes with a particular interest in rock art.

The first European Kimberley explorer to penetrate inland was George Grey, an outstanding colonial administrator in Victorian times. He later became the Governor of South Australia, New Zealand and The Cape Province, obtaining a Knighthood and a peerage on the way. A great linguist, naturalist and writer as well, he started his prominent career in Western Australia by leading two expeditions at the age of twenty-five. Both narrowly escaped disaster and were recorded in his *Journals of Two Expeditions of Discovery*, an original edition of which was presented to Perth City by Queen Elizabeth. His first journey from Hanover Bay near the Prince Regent River was to explore the North West of the continent and hopefully walk to Perth finding a great inland sea on the way! He was speared by Aborigines of the Worrorra tribe and did not get far, but he recorded finding two caves with remarkable rock art and a “carved” head. Over many years, people tried to find these sites: Brockman in 1901 found at least one but it was not until 1947 that both were revisited by a European, Howard Coate, who received a commission from Sydney anthropologist A P Elkin. Coate, who died a few years ago in Derby, spent 18 months searching with a group of Aborigines and a team of donkeys before he was successful. He had a copy of Grey’s journal but not his map. He did not find the “carved” head.

Our involvement with Grey, Coate and the Kimberley started in 1983 on the expedition phase of an Australia and New Zealand Schools Scientific Exploration Society. (Four of the participants were at the meeting.) We studied Grey’s and other maps beforehand, and five bush innocents were dropped by helicopter close to where we thought Grey’s 26<sup>th</sup> March cave might be. Next morning, triumph! And a little later triumph again when the second cave was found, but not the “carved” head. (Pictures were shown of Grey’s original drawings and our photographs.) We then walked out to Pantijan Station to be picked up by Dick Robertson in his plane.

Five years later on a trip organised by Kevin Coate, Howard’s nephew, we retraced Grey’s entire trip from Hanover Bay (probably the first to do so) again walking out to Pantijan Station. It had, and still has, an Aboriginal presence which waxes and wanes over the years, as does the state of the station.

On the first day we found a length of chain, deemed too heavy to carry, which we thought must have been left by Grey as it was at the site of his store depot. We left it on top of a rock in burned out country. This time Peter Knight found the “carved” head, a coup in view of all the previous failures: it proved to be a natural flaking of the rock, untouched by human hand. Grey was suffering greatly from his spear wound when he saw it.

Some years later we attempted to retrieve the chain on a day walk from Port George the IV to Hanover Bay, but we were defeated by the terrain, and the long grass. Interestingly, this was the same walk that the Rev. Love took when he first arrived at Port George the IV mission in 1914 ... and he too noted the impossibility of progress

with long grass which had not been burned. Love was a farsighted missionary whose views were ahead of his time. He was also a great linguist and ornithologist.

Also on Grey's route, two of us climbed Mount Trevor. Both Brockman and Love had climbed it before and both had seen a cairn of stones and a quartz pillar, which it was surmised had been put there either by a Wandjina or T C Sholl coming from Camden Harbour. On reaching the summit as marked on the map there was no cairn to be seen but through the binoculars it could be seen on an adjacent peak, which we then ascended to find the cairn and pillar. The summit was wrongly placed on our map and disappointingly is still in error on a new edition.

Although Grey was an accurate recorder (apart from his estimations of latitude and longitude) he was deceived as to the fertility of the country that he traversed, partly because of an exceedingly heavy wet season. His glowing reports led to the disastrous Camden Harbour settlement in 1865 when deaths of both settlers and livestock were heavy. Exploration by T C Sholl from Camden Harbour proceeded south to the Walcott Inlet. He named the rivers and hills of this area, often after his companions who had died at Camden Harbour and he also identified Panter Downs (now Pantijan) as a suitable place for the raising of livestock.

Joseph Bradshaw was a pastoralist from Victoria who journeyed from Wyndham to assess a land allocation he had taken up on the Prince Regent River. On 16 April 1891 he noted some rock art, different in nature to that he had seen previously and of evident antiquity. This art has been subsequently referred to as "Bradshaw Figures" or Gwion Gwion. If finding the Grey figures had been difficult, the Bradshaws were even worse and many expeditions over the years had failed, including one of ours. Eventually Mike and Wendy Cusack felt that they knew the place and discussed it with Grahame Walsh who announced two weeks later that he had found the site, just a few days before a Cusack trip that was also successful.

Brockman's journey, already discussed by Mike Donaldson at a previous meeting, was notable for its extent and for the mapping and naming of Kimberley rivers. He, or at least the naturalist Dr House on his team, was the first to photograph Aboriginal art at Bachsten Creek. Changes due to repainting and flood damage were shown.

The final explorer to be considered was J C De Lancourt, who was in the Kimberley in 1926 while walking round the coast of Australia for a bet. Fred Easton, who ran Avon Valley Station (later known as Munja) was taken by a crocodile while trying to cross Walcott Inlet to reach De Lancourt. He related this in his despatches to the *Western Mail*, as well as sending interesting notes on cave paintings and Aboriginal burial customs in the area, before embarking on an arduous journey to Port George the IV Mission and then to Kalumburu.

### Further reading

Bradshaw, Joseph. Journal, 1891 (Mitchell Library, copy in Battye Library); and 'Notes' (*Proceedings of the Victorian Branch of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia*, vol. 9, part 2, 1892).

Brockman, F S. Diary of Kimberley Expedition, 1901 (Battye Library).

Brockman, F S. Report on Exploration of North-West Kimberley, 1901 (Battye Library).

de Burgh, W J (ed.). *On Australia's Rim: JC de Lancourt's Travels in Australia 1924–1929*. Hesperian Press, Carlisle (WA), 2006.

Grey, George. *Journals of Two Expeditions of Discovery in North-west and Western Australia, during the years 1837, 38, and 39*. T. and W. Boone, London, 1841, Hesperian Press, Carlisle (WA), 1983, facsimile edition, vol. 1.

Love, J R B. *Stone Age Bushmen of Today*. Blackie and Son, London, 1936.

McKenzie, Maisie. *The Road to Mowanjum*. Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1969.

Sholl, T C. Letter re expedition, 1865 (State Records Office of WA, AN 365/1, Acc 193, Item 14).

## CANE TOADS

When this newsletter went to print, a decision had yet to be announced regarding the provision of government funding for this year's Great Toad Muster. The three-week Muster, due to commence on 22 September, will be based at Timber Creek (in the Northern Territory) and will build on the enormous success of last year's muster. Details of both musters are available on the Stop the Toad Foundation's Web site (<http://www.stopthetoad.org.au/main/muster.php>). Information about Kimberley Toad Busters is available on that group's Web site (<http://www.canetoads.com.au/>).

The Muster headquarters are established at Timber Creek because that place is the nearest settlement able to provide logistical support. Much of the permanent water targeted during the Muster can be reached from Timber Creek, although some is distant enough to require participants to establish temporary camps for three to four night exercises. All participants in the Muster are required to register in advance of going to Timber Creek.

There are those who argue that it is pointless to try to keep the cane toad out of the Kimberley. Yet, in looking at the statistics for last year's Muster, it is obvious that the work of the Foundation and the Kimberley Toad Busters is doing a great deal of good. The 135 people who participated in the 2006 Muster despatched 48,318 toads. That figure is additional to those recorded during the toad busting exercises undertaken at other times of the year.

To offer donations or assistance, or to obtain more information, you can go through the Web site, or telephone 1300 788 735 or 0421 106 017, or email Russell ([russell@stopthetoad.org.au](mailto:russell@stopthetoad.org.au)).

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Grant Sellwood manages the Kimberley Society's Web site ([www.kimberleysociety.org](http://www.kimberleysociety.org)). It carries summaries of the Society's talks (as published in the *Boab Bulletin* but sometimes with additional images), FAQs, and information about the Society and how to join it.

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