



# BOAB BULLETIN

No. 91

April 2009

## **NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS**

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

**Wednesday, 1 April 2009**

**Carol Martin (MLA for the Kimberley)**

**“The Tyranny of Distance”**

**Wednesday, 6 May 2009**

**Joel Smoker (photographer)**

**“The Kimberley Series” Book and Photographs  
– a digital presentation**

**Wednesday, 3 June 2009**

**Stephen Scourfield (author and travel editor)**

**“Fact and fiction in the other country”**

**Wednesday, 1 July 2009**

**Quentin Hall (IT specialist)**

**“Adventures of Computer Support in the Kimberley  
(or I’ll go anywhere, any time in any conditions)”**

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**

I wonder how many of you have been to Kings Park recently to see and pay your respects to the Big Old Boab? Eight months after being transported from near Warmun it is in full leaf. It commands the view from Mount Eliza down the Canning River, Perth Basin and the city; a fitting emblem of rugged beauty on the summit of Perth, symbolically bestriding the summit of the city as the Kimberley region does of the state itself.

The tree looks entirely comfortable in its surroundings. Close by are ten smaller Boabs, like their big brother all in leaf. They stand in the part of the Botanic Garden devoted to the Kimberley, with Spinifex, Pandanus and Livistonia palms, White gum (*E.mooreana*), Kurrajong and Elephant Ear Wattle (*Acacia dunnei*). When I went there this morning it was full of Kimberley flora in flower: several different types of purple Solanum and Mulla Mullas (*Ptilotus*), Gomphrenas, Rattle pod (*Crotolarias*) *Grevillea*, *Hibiscus* and many others.

If you feel nostalgic for a feel of the Kimberley bush, go and have a look soon while there are still so many blooms.

*Hamish McGlashan*

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The 16th AGM of Kimberley Society (Inc.) will be held at Shenton Park Community Centre, corner of Onslow and Herbert Roads, Shenton Park, on Wednesday, 6 May 2009, at 7.30 p.m. The Agenda will comprise: the President's Welcome, Apologies, Minutes of the previous AGM, Business arising from the Minutes, Council Report, Treasurer's Report and presentation of Accounts for approval, Election of Office Bearers and other Councillors, and General Business. The meeting will be followed by a presentation from a guest speaker and social contact over a cup of tea/coffee.

The draft Minutes of the 2008 AGM were published on page 7 of the *Boab Bulletin* in June 2008. The associated Statement of Income and Expenditure was published on the following page.

*Hamish McGlashan, President (Perth, 23 March 2009)*

## **NOMINATION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND OTHER COUNCILLORS FOR THE YEAR 2009–2010**

The Constitution of Kimberley Society Inc. requires that the Council shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Membership Secretary, a Treasurer, and not less than 3, or more than 7, other persons, all of whom shall be Members of the Society.

In the interest of conservation, nomination forms will be available only at the April meeting or by request from Jeff Gresham (phone 08 9388 0780). Forms must reach the Society by 5.00 P.M. on Tuesday, 14 April 2009 and, while facsimiles will be accepted (08 9272 2087), the original form must reach the Society by 7.15 p.m. on Wednesday, 6 May 2009. If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the Council, further nominations will be received at the Annual General Meeting. Should any positions remain vacant at the conclusion of the AGM, such vacancies will be deemed casual vacancies and may be dealt with by the Council according to the Constitution.

## **BIRDING IN THE KIMBERLEY**

On 4 February 2009, Brice Wells of Birds Australia spoke to the Kimberley Society about the adventures that he and his wife Gail enjoyed while establishing and managing the Broome Bird Observatory. The talk was accompanied by many stunning pictures of Kimberley birds and, to the great delight of the audience, audio presentations of their calls. Brice's notes follow.

In 1987-88 Gail and I spent 18 months at Eyre Bird Observatory preparing ourselves to become the first wardens at the newly-formed Broome Bird Observatory. In February 1998 we left the deep south and headed north. We arrived into the steam bath conditions of Broome and to an arduous but exciting adventure. When we arrived we found two chalets on a roughly cleared patch of pindan with no water, no toilets, no electricity, no fly wire and a challenge. We had to get the observatory up and running in a few weeks—oh, did we mention—no money either.

Sufficient to say we made it but it was the greatest challenge of our lives. About six weeks after we arrived we had about forty visitors from the Australian Wader Study Group and set about catching and banding about 3000 waders.

To complicate the matter further our salary of \$4500 per year was not enough to live on, and Gail had to work two 10-hour night shifts at Broome Hospital as well as seven days a week at the observatory. We survived for just over three years but it became obvious that Gail would not survive another year of non-stop labour, so we left. Seven weeks at Fitzroy Crossing as a Community Nurse, then three years at Wyndham completed our Kimberley adventures, and we went to Darwin for 7 years, before returning to our roots in Perth.

If the work was unremitting, the rewards were wonderful. By the time we left Broome Bird Observatory, we had built a huge shed, two shade house dining room/kitchen structures, a generator room, and a big water tank and a caravan/camping ground with toilets. Dongas from the Pilbara gave us air-conditioned rooms, we made roads to service the complex and created a nature walk. The bird list stood at 269 species plus an animal and reptile list. We'd been involved in looking after film crews and had put together programmes for schools and service groups. We knew an Eastern Curlew from an Agile Wallaby, as well as how to get over-lubricated locals and tourists out of bogs in the mangroves and beaches in the face of incoming tides. They generally offered us slabs of Kimberley currency in gratitude but when they discovered that we were teetotallers, they gave us their sincere thanks and left.

Our short stay in Fitzroy Crossing brought us the Purple Crowned Fairy Wren and some wonderful walks. Wyndham brought Gouldian Finches, Pictorella and Yellow-rumped Mannikins, Black Falcons, Grey Goshawks, White Quilled Rock Pigeons and the rich avifauna of Parry Lagoon and Packsaddle Plains.

In all we spent nine wonderful years in the Kimberley and loved every wonderful moment. We were married in a garden in Broome at 0700 one wet morning and had a White Throated Gerygone sing us a love song while Tawny Frogmouths, Black Chinned Honeyeaters, Zebra and Double barred Finches were spectators. Almost all of the guests were birders and it made for an unforgettable occasion.

The Kimberley made us sweat, cry and hurt and created a bond and belief in each other that never wavered, but rather increased. We loved the north and, if it wasn't for family ties, grandkids and work, we would be there still. Now we have memories, the odd scar and the satisfaction of achieving what we set out to do. That gave us riches beyond compare—pity about the money!

## THE PROPOSED GAS HUB IN THE KIMBERLEY

With this newsletter being prepared for printing ahead of the deadline for a decision on the planned Kimberley liquefied natural gas (LNG) hub, we can only report on the events to date. We have previously noted that the Premier, Colin Barnett, announced four preferred sites last October. On 23 December, he narrowed the field by advising that the Liberal-National Government had chosen James Price Point, 60 kilometres north of Broome, as the site for the gas precinct.

James Price Point is one of more than 40 possible Kimberley locations that have been considered since the Northern Development Taskforce started looking at the implications of LNG development in the region in June 2007. The work of the Taskforce ended with the selection. Consultation with interested parties is now being led by the new Department of State Development.

The Premier sees James Price Point as “the location most likely to work best for the Kimberley community, for the environment, for industry, and for Western Australia's future economic development.” He also says that “the development could bring hundreds of jobs, millions of investment dollars and long-term economic diversification for Broome and the West Kimberley.”

Before committing to development on a specific tract of land, governments usually await the result of assessments of the likely impact on the environment or on any Aboriginal sites in the vicinity. In this instance, the Premier has said that there will be “a full environmental impact assessment and more detailed technical and social impact studies, before a final approval is given.” In the meantime, everyone concerned is under pressure to reach a decision by 31 March. That pressure and the short deadline comes from the Premier's determination to have the Browse Basin development occur in Western Australia and not, as happened last year with the Inpex project, in places such as Darwin. He has advised that, if an agreement cannot be reached with the native title holders, the land at James Price Point will be acquired compulsorily.

More than a year of regional consultation has occurred so far, with fourteen native claim groups having taken part, and with the Goolarabooloo Jabirr-Jabirr people having agreed to go forward in the negotiations. As the Traditional Owners of James Price Point and the adjacent country, they elected a committee to take part in the negotiations in late February and they authorised the Kimberley Land Council to act on their behalf. But, after several weeks, the negotiations broke down when a stalemate prompted the Aboriginal parties to walk out.

Elsewhere, people who include Kimberley residents are expressing concerns about the impact that a hub at James Price Point, or anywhere else on the Kimberley coast, would have on the environment, communities, whale migration, and tourism. Public protests have been mounted in the Kimberley and at the Perth headquarters of Woodside. Protests have also been organised electronically, with Woodside receiving thousands of emails. The latest high profile protester to join the Save the Kimberley campaign is the award-winning singer Missy Higgins. She has a home in Broome and it was there she wrote most of her second album, *On A Clear Night*.

In Broome, at the instigation of Joseph Roe, Law Keeper and Custodian for the Goolarabooloo heritage, the Pigram Brothers and friends organised a cultural celebration, the Walmadany Concert for Heritage, for 27 March. Walmadany is the Aboriginal name for the country at James Price Point. Alan Pigram said that “the event was not a protest concert, but rather a celebration of Price's Point and its cultural significance.”

The Shire of Broome was to have hosted a community forum on the planned hub on 27/28 March, and it intended to involve Woodside and other resource companies, environmental groups, and the Department of Resources. It decided, however, to reschedule the forum pending an announcement from the government.

At the time of going to press, an in-principle agreement still seems possible. In announcing the KLC's authorisation to act, the Chief Executive Officer Wayne Bergmann said: "Traditional Owners are ready to go into negotiations over a development deal on their country area to ensure long term jobs and benefits are delivered to Traditional Owners and communities in the Kimberley. Traditional Owners want to be economic partners in their land. They are not victims to be compensated." It thus seems likely that, if the negotiations are resumed, an agreement might be thrashed out.

*Cathie Clement*

## **LOSS OF KIMBERLEY ARTISTS**

Three of the Kimberley's notable artists passed away in recent months. Ngarra, a respected Aboriginal elder, died on 1 November 2008. His art reflected the bush and cultural knowledge he acquired from his grandparents in the Mornington Range (Warrangadada) area. He worked with a palette of 23 bush ochres, more than twice the number used by most indigenous artists. He also created vibrant acrylic works, some of which recalled his time working with cattle and wrestling bulls to the ground.

Details of Ngarra's life were recorded in the book *Mates*, compiled by his long-time friend Kevin Shaw. Most of that life was spent working on stations. In 1994, having retired from the rigours of being a stockman and drover, he enlisted Kevin's help to develop his art practice. Rapid development of a unique style of painting led to a solo exhibition within two years, and, by 2000, a higher profile solo exhibition at the Western Australian Museum. Diane Mossenson of Indigenart promoted Ngarra's work, which was exhibited throughout Australia and internationally. His paintings are in collections that include the Art Gallery of Western Australia, the National Gallery of Victoria, and the Western Australian Museum. His influence will continue to be seen in the work of artists such as Mick Jowalji and Jack Dale.

Janangoo Butcher Cherel died on 17 February 2009. Born at Jainaganjoowa near Fossil Downs Station homestead in about 1920, he spent most of his working life on that station. As a stockman, his work included droving cattle to Derby and Broome. In his early seventies, Butcher Cherel took up painting and printmaking, and in 2004, he was recognised as a State Living Treasure. Despite emerging as an artist late in life, his work appears in collections that include the National Gallery of Australia, the Art Gallery of Western Australia, the Kerry Stokes Collection, the Berndt Museum of Anthropology (University of Western Australia), and The Holmes a Court Collection, Perth. He was still painting at Fitzroy Crossing's Mangkaja Arts centre as recently as December and, as both a renowned artist and an important elder in the Gooniyandi language group at Muludja community, he will be greatly missed.

The death of Kerry Stokes, aged only 59, occurred in Perth on 20 March after an acute asthma attack. She lived and worked in Broome for more than 20 years, winning awards that included Shinju Matsuri Art Awards for sculpture (1991) and painting (2007). Her contribution to the community included mentoring emerging artists and redecorating and "awakening" the dragons for the town's dragon boat regatta. Kerry's work can be seen in places that include the Art Gallery of Western Australia and the Credo Museum at Yanagawa in Japan.

## **TO DAM OR BE DAMNED — THE MIGHTY FITZROY RIVER**

On 4 March 2009, Jack Fletcher spoke to the Kimberley Society about the events described in his recently launched book *To Dam or be Damned — The Mighty Fitzroy River*. His talk was accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation of slides that illustrated various phases of the biggest agricultural project ever undertaken in the West Kimberley's Fitzroy Basin. The notes that follow offer an opinion of the book.

This saga tells of a man with a great vision, a ton of guts and huge determination. It is written by him in his own inimitable and forceful style withholding no comments or criticisms. He displays his frustrations and his achievements, his wins and his losses with clarity and passion. There is nothing half hearted in this tale. Whether you agree with his view or not, it is hard not to admire his commitment to his vision and sincerity in pursuit of his goal.

In 1965 Art Linklater and a group of US investors recognised that there was a growing demand for food security and in particular a demand for quality beef. They commissioned Jack Fletcher, on the basis of his previous achievements, to fly to Australia and within a month put together a concept to address this need based on properties in the Northern Territory and the Kimberley. Jack came up with a vision to redevelop the Kimberley beef industry on the lines of the feedlot concept developed in Texas.

Eventually Jack was to pursue this vision with other partners. To do this he first assembled seven pastoral stations of total area of 4.3 million acres to provide the annual stock requirements for the venture. He identified an expanse of rich and fertile river flats on the Fitzroy River. These were supplied with water diverted by a barrage across the Fitzroy River. He tapped the underground aquifers to supplement his water supplies. This water was needed to apply to suitable crops (mainly grain sorghum) to supply the feedlot capable of handling up to 40,000 head of cattle annually. To protect his scheme from the roaring floods of a mighty Fitzroy River, he built a 10 mile levee, and further, to eliminate or at least minimise the risk of interruption to the water supply, he planned to build a dam on its upper reaches.

Jack found resistance to his ideas, his aggressive style and his Texan profile in many layers of the Government's political and bureaucratic arms, which frustrated his visionary plans. He failed to adequately comprehend the strength and depth of the ideological and negative forces that for bloody-minded reasons were pitched against him. He found it hard to accept that others in power could not see the merit of his project and the benefit it would bring to the State and National economy. He also struggled to get adequate and timely financial support to match the seasonal demands of his dream project despite his ability to demonstrate the underlying performance hurdles—though it wasn't for the lack of trying or of pursuit of innovative approaches.

The sight of his achievements in the face of the resistance was truly stunning. He demonstrated the crop yields necessary to achieve his goals. He demonstrated his ability to plan and construct the facilities and organisation to achieve his goals. He demonstrated he could achieve the weight gain and quality in the Kimberley livestock. He demonstrated his ability to motivate men in the achievement of difficult tasks under very trying circumstances. Above all, he showed the value of vision and determination.

Eventually after the expenditure of over US\$60 million and 15-plus years of dedicated work, the project foundered on political bastardry, a mighty flood which

destroyed the infrastructure of the project, and the inability for whatever reasons to establish sufficient stable financial support for the operation.

This book is a fascinating account of the struggle. In the early parts of the book (which is arranged in yearly chapters), Jack Fletcher tells with freshness and candour of his exposure to the new environment and his bewilderment of the attitudes prevailing in Australia at that time. He obviously appreciated the great support he received from the likes of Sir Charles Court, John Lewis, Roy Hamilton, and his staff and stockmen. He clearly showed his displeasure with the antics of Gough Whitlam, Frank Crean, Brian Burke and Julian Grill and others who stood in his way. The book contains many personal insights into the character of the author and reveals some of the principles that underpinned his actions.

Times have changed since 1983 – over 25 years ago. The cattle industry is in decline in the Kimberley. Native title and activism have put more barriers to development. Environmental activism has a stronger voice. But still the Fitzroy River flows past the rich floodplains that could aid the world in addressing its food needs. Who knows what the future holds. Who knows what the lasting effect would have been had Jack Fletcher achieved his dream.

I suspect we would now be more appreciative of his contribution.

*Peter Knight*

Editor's note: While we usually publish a summary after a talk is given to the Society, in this instance the book note conveys so much of the content and flavour of the talk that it is offered in lieu of a summary. Peter Knight is well positioned to offer comment on the book's content. He is an engineer who worked initially on the Ord River Diversion dam and is now a part time pastoralist with an interest in conservation and restoration.

## **REST IN PEACE**

The Kimberley Society lost another of its members with the death of Sallie Green on 16 February. Sallie and her late husband Ric were founding members of the Society and for many years regularly attended the Perth meetings. Sallie's funeral service was held at St Michael's Anglican Church in Mount Pleasant (WA) on the 24th, followed by a private cremation. She will be missed very much by family and friends.

## **AWARDS**

In the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards, which were presented before more than 1,000 guests at a formal ceremony and gala dinner in Melbourne in February, two Kimberley ventures were among the five Western Australian winners. Faraway Bay, for the second time, won the Unique Accommodation category. Kimberley residents Bruce and Robyn Ellison offer luxury accommodation there, with up to twelve guests at a time enjoying The Bush Camp. It is described as 'one of the most remote wilderness resorts in the world'.

Almost as remote is Kooljaman at Cape Leveque, which won the Indigenous Tourism Award for its wilderness camp at One Arm Point. The camp, which has won a string of state awards in the past, has cabins, safari tents, beach camping shelters, a restaurant, a shop, and a "Bush Butler" service that delivers gourmet BBQ dinners to guests' refrigerators, ready to barbeque at their leisure. Also on offer are fishing charters and day trips to Sunday Island.

## CATTLE STATIONS IN THE NEWS

Some members will recall earlier *Boab Bulletin* articles telling of Moola Bulla Station being offered for sale at \$40 million and later being sold to Great Southern Plantations for a lower figure. A recent article by Paul Myers, published in the *Brisbane Times* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, mentions that “Great Southern is getting out of the cattle business after two unprofitable, muddled years.”

Moola Bulla is one of the three stations the company is expected to offer for sale. Myers speculates that Sterling Buntine, a well-known cattleman who provides management and oversight for the Great Southern stations, could be a potential buyer. He owns three Kimberley cattle stations – Lissadell, Bedford Downs and Lansdowne – as well as other stations in the Northern Territory.

The “buying frenzy” that caught Myers’ attention involves stations right across the Top End. Describing the past three months as “the most hectic period of property activity in the 185-year history of grazing”, he writes:

Since late December, contracts for more than \$1.1 billion have been exchanged on more than 30 of the north's best-known cattle stations. Several stations stocked with up to 30,000 cattle have fetched more than \$50 million each and, with three of the major buyers still circling, more sales are imminent.

The shake-up not only has the cattle industry agog but it also poses questions about the ability of private operators to compete with cashed-up corporates, including hedge funds. Is this, some are asking, the beginning of the end of the private cattle barons who have dominated big station ownership since the days of Sir Sidney Kidman?

The major buyers identified in the article are Macquarie Pastoral Fund’s wholly owned Paraway Pastoral Company, the British private equity group Origo’s Primary Holdings International, and a second British group named Terra Firma. The last group is the one most relevant to the Kimberley because it has just completed a deal to buy the Consolidated Pastoral Company stations. Owned by the Packer family, those stations include Argyle Downs, Ivanhoe, and Carlton Hill, where the fictitious Faraway Downs Homestead was built for the film *Australia*. Ken Warriner, who has been involved personally with the management of the Kimberley stations, has retained his ten per interest in the pastoral spread and will work with Terra Firma. His connection with the Kimberley dates from the 1970s when he managed Mt House Station for the American cattle company King Ranch.

While Moola Bulla might be the next Kimberley station on the market, it is also possible that S. Kidman & Co., an Adelaide firm, will find a fresh display of interest in their Ruby Plains and Sturt Creek stations. Those stations have not long been withdrawn from the market—where the asking price was \$44 million—after being passed in at auction last August. The bids petered out at \$38 million. These amounts sound phenomenal, and people with pastoral interest are divided in their opinions as to whether they are realistic. Whatever the case, it seems that cattle stations with access to export markets and scope for vertical integration are currently insulated from the worst effects of the recession.

## GIBB RIVER ROAD

On 18 May, 55 teams are expected to leave Derby to tackle the Gibb River Road Mountain Bike Challenge. The gruelling five-day course covers 750km and raises funds for WA Police Legacy, assisting the families of police officers who have died. Details are available online ([www.thegibbchallenge.net.au](http://www.thegibbchallenge.net.au)).



## CANE TOADS

On 27 February, after hearing cane toads calling, Department of Agriculture and Food staff at the quarantine checkpoint found an adult toad hopping along the highway in Western Australia. The checkpoint is on the border about 40km east of Kununurra. While marking a low spot in the battle to keep the toads out of the state, the lone toad's arrival was not unexpected. Kimberley Toad Busters (KTB) and the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) have been mapping the toads' progress and knew that they would arrive during the current Wet season. Everything possible is still being done to slow the advance, and thousands of volunteer hours are going into nightly excursions to capture and kill toads.

The KTBs are feeling very positive about the work of the scientist Jordy Groffen. He has returned from Holland and is undertaking phase two of his lungworm parasite research partnership with the KTB. By mid-February, "only 5 weeks and 15 autopsy sites into his 2009 field work", he had found the parasite in cane toads captured only 30km behind those closest to the Kimberley. In commenting on this development, the KTB wrote:

As exciting is recent analysis of KTB field data (collected from 341,914 KTB recorded adult toads since September 2005), which shows that the cane toad westerly frontline is slowing down, thus revealing the impact of weekly frontline toadbusting by the KTBs, which is also facilitating the lungworm parasite infestation catch up...

Prof Rick Shine's laboratory based lungworm parasite research is reported to have shown that infestation by the lungworm parasite weakens adult cane toads and kills 30% of metamorphs (the stage following transition from tadpole). This parasite could be good weapon in the few weapons we have against cane toads because it is possible that the advance and breeding of large cane toad adults could be inhibited by the parasite. This parasite is believed by DEC and some parasite researchers to have arrived from Sth America with the cane toad (KTBs are awaiting genetic testing, being done in the USA on Jordy's samples, to confirm this). This lungworm parasite, if it is different, does not appear to cross into native frogs and so does not pose a risk to them. (Native frogs have their own lung worm parasite, which is believed to be different from those found in cane toads).

Some of the native frogs are at risk nonetheless. The giant burrowing frog *Cyclorana australis*, which looks similar to a cane toad, is being killed by people who think they have spotted a toad. And, if it isn't bad enough being mistaken for toads, the burrowing frogs are meeting their death without the element of euthanasia delivered by the KTBs and DEC. It is hoped that the available literature and KTB presentations about recognizing cane toads will help to minimise the killing of the frogs. Their call should also help to identify them, being a short "unk" sound rather than the drawn out call of the toad. The male toad's mating call has been described as a "long loud single note purring low decibel trill". It can be heard on the "What's In Your Back yard?" section of KTB Web site (<http://www.canetoads.com.au>). That initiative was launched at the Kununurra Library in January to help people distinguish between native frogs and cane toads. The comprehensive and well-illustrated tables benefit from helpful comments provided by frog expert Mike Tyler.

A lot is being done to encourage people to help slow down the cane toad invasion. Toad disposal points have been set up in Kununurra. The DEC distributed cane toad kits in the town, with each kit containing gloves, information brochures and sighting forms. The KTB has distributed batches of collection data cards to shire offices in Kununurra, Halls Creek and Wyndham, and to Language and Cultural Centres, so that people can pick up and drop off the cards to help with the mapping of the toads' spread. All of these efforts are to be applauded.

## ORD VALLEY MUSTER AND KIMBERLEY MOON EXPERIENCE

This year's Argyle Diamonds Ord Valley Muster runs from May 8-24 and, as usual, it showcases the best of the East Kimberley. More than 50 events will be on offer in and around Kununurra, many of them free. They include the Rotary 4 Wheel Drive Adventure Bash, the Barramundi Concert, a Station Challenge Rodeo, Wild Walks, and cooking classes at the PumpHouse restaurant.

The Airnorth Kimberley Moon Experience will again be the crowning event. James Blundell will be back as Master of Ceremonies and the Hoodoo Gurus will lead the evening's entertainment. Kimberley musicians and entertainers will be on stage, as will the Australian Army Band from Darwin and the party bands Blue Shaddy and Slim Jim and the Phatts from Perth. Ticket prices for the event are:

- \$75 for adults, \$25 for children 3 to 15 years, \$180 for families of 2 adults and 3 children under 15 years.
- Kimberley Fine Diamonds Corporate Circle - \$450 per person.
- Silver Circle - \$200 per person including premium beach chair seating and gourmet picnic hampers (BYO alcohol).

The organisers have created the Silver Circle Area package in response to demand from patrons wanting something midway between general admission tickets and corporate entry. It provides "premium beach seating" and a "gourmet picnic hamper" within an allocated chair seating area.

### COUNCIL 2008-2009

President:	Hamish McGlashan
Vice-Presidents:	Jack Vercoe and Cathie Clement
Secretary:	Jeffrey Gresham
Membership Secretary:	Mike Donaldson
Treasurer:	Gilbert Marsh
Councillors:	Kevin Kenneally, Daphne Edinger, Susan Clarkson and Adrienne Boulter

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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