



# Kimberley Society

## Book Note

***Wild Discovery Guides – Kimberley Coast* by Len Zell. Wild Discovery Guides, Ashgrove (Queensland), 2007, second edition, 168 pages. Soft cover with plastic slip on protector, ISBN 978-0-9757184-3-8, RRP \$35.95.**

This book note is a revised version of one from the June 2004 *Boab Bulletin*. The book it covers was first published in 2003 under the title *Kimberley Coast Wilderness – north western Western Australia*. The updated edition came out four years later.

*Wild Discovery Guides – Kimberley Coast*, which has more colour photographs than it has pages, does two things. It introduces readers to primary habitats, climate, geology, human history and the most commonly seen coastal plants and organisms. It then ‘takes a cruise’ from Wyndham to Broome. It has plenty of high quality maps, hints and safety notes. My first impression of the book was that the author had condensed some superbly illustrated Kimberley Society talks into a compact volume. Members who recall Kevin Coate’s slides of coastal birds, Kevin Kenneally’s slides of plants, and other illustrated talks on natural history will know what I mean. My second impression was that one would need to go on a slow cruise along the Kimberley coast to have the time to read the book from cover to cover.

Some members will know the author through his 40 years of experience in marine biology or his work as a lecturer and field guide for Aurora Expeditions and *Coral Princess* cruises. His vast experience is evident in the informative text. Combined with images that range from algal blooms (page 66) to the exquisite Rockhole Frog (page 83), the text explains many facets of an incredibly varied coastal environment.

This book complements the others in Len Zell’s collection: *Rowley Shoals – diving and fishing guide* (an ebook); *Wild Discovery Guides – Ningaloo Reef – Shark Bay & Outback Pathways* (now in 2<sup>nd</sup> edition with Susie Bedford); the internationally awarded *Wild Discovery Guides – Hema Maps – Great Desert Tracks Atlas & Guide* (with Ian Glover, out of print); *Wild Discovery Guides – Great Desert & Savannah Tracks – atlas & guide* (with Ian Glover, in press); *Wild Discovery Guides – Australian Wildlife – ROADKILL*; *Wild Discovery Guides – Flinders Island Tasmania*; *Wild Discovery Guides – Australian Seashores* (in press); *The Great Barrier Reef* (BBC Earth series); and the Lonely Planet *Diving & Snorkeling – Great Barrier Reef*.

Of interest is that, on contacting Len Zell to ask about reviewing the book for the newsletter, I discovered that he was, or at least had been, the boy of that name with whom I attended high school in NSW. One thing led to another and, before he knew it, Len was offering to supply books at a price that would benefit members and help with our fundraising. The books arrived in time for [Ian Crawford’s talk](#) about the Kimberley coast, and, after Ian accepted an invitation to use his speaker’s presentation bottle of Ferngrove wine as a down-payment on a copy, members rushed to purchase the remaining copies and ordered more for the June meeting.

The book is available from the WA Museum and other outlets. Kimberley Society members who do not have access to retail outlets that stock the book can obtain a copy direct from [Wild Discovery Guides](#) or from the author at PO Box 280, ASHGROVE, Qld 4060, at the RRP, and with no additional charge for postage. Please note membership on any orders.

*Cathie Clement*