



# Kimberley Society

## Book Note

***Metamorphosis of a Race: Kuíni and Kulári Tribes of Kalúmburu Mission* by Seraphim Sanz de Galdeano OSB MBE OAM CSM and Dolores Djinmora. Hesperian Press, Carlisle (WA), 2006. Soft cover, 140 pages plus xii, illustrations and map. ISBN 0 85905 376 8, RRP \$28.00.**

The first of two such books coming out of Hesperian Press, *Metamorphosis of a Race* has met with mixed reactions. High profile people—well versed in indigenous affairs—have endorsed it but rumour has it that a ban has been placed on the book being sold at the Kalumburu store.

Diana Temby, Executive Director of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, describes the book as 'The fascinating observations and life of Father Seraphim Sanz, a Benedictine monk, who served his God at Kalumburu, . . . and the impressions of an amazing Aboriginal elder, Dolores Djinmora who worked along side Father Sanz in his Christian endeavours'. The Hon. Justice James Macken, QC OAM, describes it as 'fascinating . . . a living history of a time little known or understood'. Nicolas Rothwell, book reviewer and author, mentions 'the observations and reflections of a remarkable man condemned to live through dark times'.

The 'dark times' appear to include the whole of the five decades that Father Sanz spent at Kalumburu. The book includes light and humorous material in its many descriptive and informative passages but other parts are extremely critical of the indigenous people for whom the principle author is said to have such 'profound, self-sacrificing love'. Yet, in writing the book, both Father Sanz and Dolores Djinmora are said to have had the support of other old Aboriginal people who wanted them to tell 'the "real story" of Kalumburu and its people'. Readers' opinions as to whether it **is** the "real story" will vary according to their views of history and current affairs.

*Cathie Clement (October 2006)*

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