



# Kimberley Society

## Book Note

***Ready for anything*** by Janet Wells. Touch of Silk, Capel (WA), 2005. Soft Cover, 209 pages, ISBN 0-646-44405-0. RRP \$25.

This is the story of Margaret Wells, long time resident of the West Kimberley and Derby, a character well known to generations of Kimberley dwellers and to members of the Kimberley Society. The book traces her life from her upbringing in rural New South Wales to being the first nurse at the Australian Inland Mission Hospital at Fitzroy Crossing in 1939, courtship by George Wells, and her subsequent life as a station manager's wife at Christmas Creek, Cherrabun and finally Meda Station.

The tale is told by Janet Wells, Margaret's daughter in law, and achieves a pleasant family intimacy as the history has been spun from stories told by Margaret and her family. But it is more than a chronicle of family events, it is a welcome reminder of the Spartan conditions endured sixty years ago, a valuable contemporary account of the primitive medical services at that time. Simply stated, the characters of Margaret, George, and family friends including the local Aborigines, shine through this small volume which I thoroughly enjoyed reading.

The book is available directly from the author and can be ordered through her [website](#) at a cost of \$20 plus \$10 p&p, or by sending that payment to PO Box 433, Capel, WA 6721. In the Kimberley, subject to stock being available, copies can be purchased from [Fitzroy Crossing Visitor Centre](#), [Derby Visitor Centre](#), or [Kimberley Bookshop](#).

*Hamish McGlashan*