

Kimberley Society

Book Note

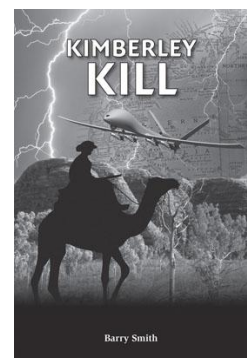
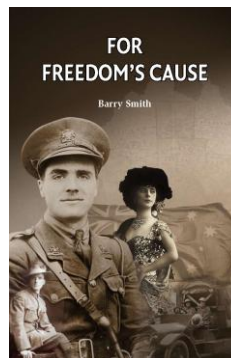
***Battle For The North* by Barry Smith, self published, [Ringwood, Vic.], 2012. Paperback, 128 pages, ISBN: 9780987177933, RRP \$20. Also in e-book at \$ 9.95.**

This book is volume 2 in the author's 'Kimberley Trilogy of Australian adventure novels which span the First, Second and, yet to come, Third World War'. The main character, Dan Bevan, is in the Kimberley after surviving the First World War—having served as a working-class English army officer from Manchester—and after taking on the republican rebellion in Ireland. His wife Liza and son Daniel have roles in the book, as do their friends Lady Elspeth, Alice Elliott, and Alice's husband Charlie—a Melbourne barrister who met Dan while serving as a captain with the Australian Light Horse.

Battle For The North begins with the Japanese air raid on Broome on 3 March 1942. That event was real, as was the North Australia Observer Unit to which the author assigns Dan Bevan. The rest of the book is fiction. Here, Charlie Elliott leads the NAOU and issues instructions for Dan and his men to thwart Japanese commando attempts to establish a foothold on the northern Kimberley coast. The action alternates between the Kimberley and Darwin, where Liza, Alice and Lady Elspeth become enmeshed in their own war-related dramas. Daniel is there too, ready to take part in daring flights designed to assist his father to reclaim Kalumburu mission.

[Palmer Higgs](#) offers bibliographical details, excerpts, and a description for each of the trilogy volumes. The price of volume 1 (*For Freedom's Cause*; 200 pages) is \$25 for the paperback or \$9.95 for the e-book. The price of volume 3 (*Kimberley Kill*; 128 pages) is \$20 for the paperback or \$9.95 for the e-book edition.

Barry Smith is currently (October 2103) in the Kimberley promoting his books. He reports regularly on his travels and writing at [Word Spinner's Web](#).



He will be bringing copies of his first two books to our meeting of 6 November when he speaks on the topic 'Kimberley Trilogy; stories from a novelist and historian'. The third volume is unlikely to be back from the printer in time for the meeting. The books will be on sale, with single copies selling at the full retail price. A discount will be available if more than one book is purchased. The discounted prices will be \$40 for the first two novels (a saving of \$5) or \$55 for the trilogy (a saving of \$10). Anyone buying the trilogy or ordering volume 3 on its own will need to discuss delivery of volume 3 with Barry. Palmer Higgs has a special package of the [two books](#) for members who cannot attend the meeting. It offers a \$5 discount, to offset the shipping fee. The time for which the special package will remain available has not been decided, so don't wait too long if you want the books.

Cathie Clement

Postscript: As it happened, the third book was printed in late October and sent to Perth for the meeting of 6 November. Palmer Higgs also put together a special package of [three books](#).