

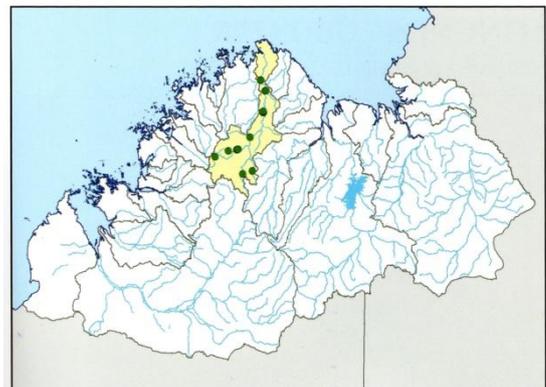
Kimberley Society

Book Note

A field guide to the freshwater fishes of the Kimberley by James J Shelley, David L Morgan, Michael P Hammer, Matthew C Le Feuvre, Glenn I Moore, Martin F Gomon, Mark G Allen and Thomas Saunders. Murdoch University Print Production Team, WA, 2018, 262 pages, 210 x 150 mm, soft cover, full colour images & maps. Foreword by Tim Winton. Available at Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory [Web Store](#). RRP \$20, plus, if relevant, \$10 postage within Australia.

This very welcome field guide is the result of a collaborative initiative between the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, University of Melbourne, Murdoch University, Museums Victoria, and the Western Australian Museum (which explains the long list of authors). There is also a vast list of people who have contributed to the research on Kimberley freshwater fishes, particularly traditional Aboriginal owners but also pastoralists and helicopter pilots.

The book highlights the diversity of the Kimberley freshwater fish and recognises 65 species, of which 32 are endemic to the region. There are brief introductory chapters on biogeography, historic climate change and biodiversity, evolution of Kimberley biodiversity, habitats, threats and conservation status of Kimberley freshwater fishes, Aboriginal languages, and classification. There is also a strong section on fish anatomy and line drawings of the main fish families to aid in identification.



The main body of the book comprises facing pages with a photograph of each species and a detailed map showing its distribution, as shown in the example above of the Drysdale Grunter (*Syncomistes rastellus*), a species endemic to the Drysdale River. Apart from general descriptions of each species, there are notes on recognition, biology and habitat, distribution, and conservation issues.

A great book that will be much appreciated by naturalists, fishers, and eaters.

Mike Donaldson