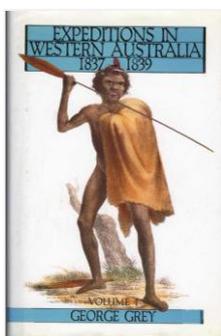
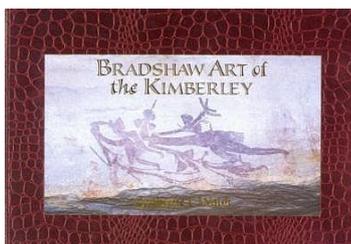
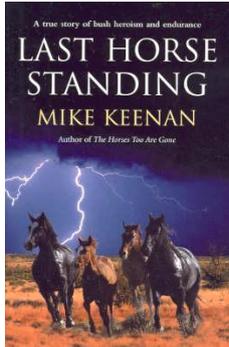
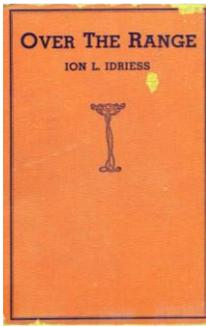


Kimberley Society

Favourite Kimberley Books



Last year, Jack Vercoe wrote of his five favourite books about the Kimberley and invited others to submit their choices. This has met with a disappointing (i.e. nil) response. Perhaps it should be made a compulsory exercise for all committee members. He chose *One Wet Season* by Ion Idriess, *Mates: images of the Kimberley* by Kevin Shaw, *The Noonkanbah Story* by Erich Kolig, *Raparapa Kularr Martuwarra: All right, now we go 'side the river, along that sundown way: Stories from the Fitzroy River Drivers* edited by Paul Marshall, and *Stone Age Bushman of Today* by J R B Love. This last one would be high on my list of favourites too but here is my choice of five others, not in any particular order of preference. (Not easy, it would be simpler to choose the five worst).

1. *Over The Range* by Ion L Idriess. Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1937. Yes another Idriess. In 1933 he accompanied a police patrol which traversed the west Kimberley, rounding up alleged miscreants and lepers. I have crossed his tracks and looked for his landmarks on several bush walking trips. I once found myself sitting on an aeroplane next to a well known academic who was completely dismissive of Idriess both from the literary and sociological points of view. Nevertheless I find it a compelling read and a fascinating insight into attitudes of the time. We should be wary of making moral judgements of the past from the fleeting political correctness of today.
2. *Last Horse Standing* by Mike Keenan. Bantam, 2006. Mike Keenan is a present day Idriess. I have mentioned this book before, a rattling good tale of people marooned at Walcott inlet after a cyclone in 1971.
3. *The Road to Mowanjum* by Maisie McKenzie. Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1969. This is a history of the Presbyterian Mission at Port George IV, Kunmunya, Wotjulum and Mowanjum, a period which both precedes and succeeds Love's book (above). Many of my Derby patient's parents and grandparents stories are recounted here. Knowing the past helps one to understand the present.
4. *Bradshaw Art of the Kimberley* by Grahame L Walsh. Takkaraka Nowan Kas Publications, Toowong (Qld), 2000. One has to choose one of Walsh's three books, even above *Rock Art of the Kimberley*, our own publication. This is the latest Walsh to reach us and a work of art in its own right.
5. *Journals of two Expeditions of Discovery (Volume 1)* by George Grey, Esq. T. and W. Boone, London, 1841, facsimile edition, Hesperian Press, 1983. Retracing Grey's footsteps is where my love of the Kimberley began. This is history, natural history, adventure, travel and poetic literature all in one.

Hamish McGlashan