



Kimberley Society

Book Note

Australia's Kimberley Coast: its landscapes, biodiversity and human history by A W (Sandy) Scott. Axiom Publishing, Stepney, SA, 2018, ISBN 9781864768299, 338 pages, 240 x 165 mm, soft cover, full colour images & maps, bibliography, and index. Available through [Axiom Publishing](#), RRP \$59.95.

This is a substantially updated and expanded version of Sandy's 2015 book *The Kimberley Coast: a traveller's guide to its bays, basins, islands and estuaries*. Sandy has been a Guest Lecturer on Coral Expedition vessels *Coral Expeditions* and *Coral Discoverer* for some 20 years, explaining features of the Kimberley coast to interested passengers. He has embarked on considerable research relating to all manners of coastal features including European and Aboriginal history, geology, botany, marine and land animals and birds, habitats, and climates and tides. These are all covered in about 70 pages at the start of the book.

Most of the book relates to sections titled *Places to Visit* and these cover Lacepede Islands, Yampi Peninsula, Doubtful Bay, Saint George Basin, Careening Bay, Montague Sound, Vansittart Bay, Glycosmis Bay to Koolama Bay, and the Berkeley River. Each section contains detailed maps, line drawings and photographs to assist the reader in getting the most out of visiting these remote regions. Items of interest for each area are covered in text boxes and well-captioned photographs of geological features, unusual botanical species, and historical notes.

One noticeable omission in the book is any depiction of the Aboriginal rock art that occurs along the coast, although there is at least some mention of the more important sites such as at Ngumburi, near Raft Point in Doubtful Bay. This omission is presumably at the request of traditional Aboriginal owners, although this is not stated in the preface.

A very useful and well-illustrated publication for anyone travelling the Kimberley coast.

Kimberley Society provided financial assistance to help in drafting maps for this book, and Society members can get free postage from the publisher (normally \$14.95) until the end of January 2019. Our newsletter provides the shipping code that needs to be quoted on the Axiom webpage.

Mike Donaldson

