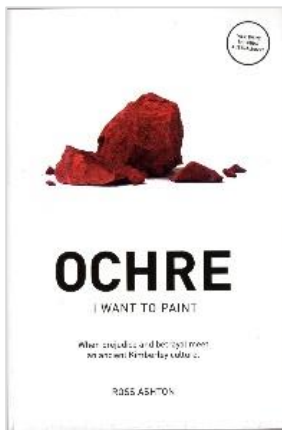


Kimberley Society

Book Note



***Ochre – I want to paint* by Ross Ashton. Published by Freshwater Publishing, 2017. 214 pages, 130 x 195 mm, soft cover. RRP \$19.95. Available online [here](#) or at Lane Bookshop, Claremont, WA.**

Kimberley Society member and enthusiastic Kimberley walker and rock art finder Ross Ashton has written a novel. It is his first novel and draws on his experiences in walking in the Kimberley, discovering ancient rock art, his geological knowledge, and thoughts about Aboriginal connections and culture. He assures me that all the characters are completely fictitious, as are the places and events – but I wonder if this is even possible in any writing such as this.

The story is about four (fictional) modern bushwalkers, each with their own inner demons, thrown together on a walk through (fictional) Kimberley tribal lands. They are joined by a 'troubled indigenous boy' and they share in the various issues – personal, geographic, environmental, and cultural – that go along with such a trip.

Ross describes the book as his journey overcoming prejudice: '*Ochre* is about how you overcome prejudice by exposing yourself to the people you are prejudiced against,' he said in a recent interview.

The book is well written and should be of interest to many Kimberley Society members.

Proceeds from the book go towards Indigenous scholarships at Perth's Christ Church Grammar School which is where Ross launched the book on 16 August.

Mike Donaldson