



# Kimberley Society

## Book Note

***The Western Australian Naturalist*, Vol. 27, No. 4, April 8, 2011, edited by John Dell. Western Australian Naturalists' Club Inc., 98 pages, colour illustrations, maps, ISSN 0726 9609.**

This attractive journal, consisting of six parts and a brief index, is devoted to a week-long expedition to Camden Harbour. Kimberley Society members will recognise the names of most of the contributors (as longstanding members of our society).

Kevin Coate wrote 'Part 1 – background and expedition narrative', and he tells of having approached and worked with Kevin Kenneally to organise the trip. The voyage was undertaken out of Broome in July 1990 on the 18-metre charter vessel *Wave Spirit*, owned by Dave Bleach. Two Aboriginal men – elder Donald Langi (a Worrorra man from Cone Bay) and 28-year-old Neville Morlumbun from Mowanjum – accompanied the other 16 expedition members and three crew. Kevin tells of their adventures, with a good sprinkling of historical information and anecdotes about individuals, and he interrupts his narrative to include pages from a diary that Peter Knight kept during a much anticipated but harrowing three-day trek from Camden Harbour to the mudflats of the Glenelg River. The trekkers rejoined the others at Koolan Island when the *Wave Spirit* called there on the homeward voyage.

The islands visited during the voyage feature prominently in the 'annotated bird species list' presented as Part 2 of the journal. Compiled by Kevin Coate, Laurie Smith, Lee Fontanini and Angela Sanders, it includes several historic sightings taken from the 1865 journal of Trevarton Sholl.

Ian Elliot contributed 'Part 3 – traditional Aboriginal names of the Kimberley coast, geographic name approvals and name and positional changes'. He was working with the Geographic Names Sub-Section of the Department of Land Administration and was on board for two reasons: to resolve mapping anomalies and to liaise with traditional owners. A total of 65 Aboriginal names were recorded, and several historical mapping anomalies were resolved. Ian lists the resulting geographic name approvals, with a brief description of each place.

Laurie Smith (herpetologist) and Greg Harold (ecologist) wrote 'Part 4 – reptiles'. This short piece lists and describes the reptiles collected and observed. They note that, although the collection was small, the trip was one of the first to start building up cryogenic tissue samples of Kimberley reptiles. They also had two exciting finds.

'Part 5 – marine invertebrates' came from Loiset Marsh (Emeritus Curator, Aquatic Zoology, WA Museum). She reports that 91 species of reef corals of 44 genera were recorded on the expedition. Appendix 2 to Part 5 lists those corals while Appendix 1 lists the collecting stations. Loiset notes that 29 of the species appeared to be new to the record for the Kimberley, and one (*Caulastrea curator*) had not previously been recorded in Western Australia.

Kevin Kenneally contributed 'Part 6 – botany', and he tells of terrestrial and marine plants collected for the Western Australian Herbarium. Particular attention was paid to patches of monsoon (rainforest) and to recording Aboriginal names of insects, birds, and other things. Table 1 lists those names while Table 2 lists the numerous botanical specimens collected. Several of those were previously undescribed, and one collected from Storr Island was subsequently named *Eucalyptus kenneallyi*.

Because the Kimberley Society funded the publication of this journal, it has copies for sale to its members. The price is \$5, with no charge for postage (if it is required).

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