



Kimberley Society

Book Note

***Kimberley was God's* by Harold S. Godbehear. Hesperian Press, Carlisle (WA), 2011. Soft cover, A4, 112 pages, illustrated, ISBN 978-0-85905-117-0, RRP \$30.00.**

Harold Godbehear first went to the Kimberley in 1929, having been engaged (in Fremantle) to manage Webster and Watson's Myroodah Station. Situated on the south side of Fitzroy River out of Derby, and established less than 50 years earlier for the absentee owner James A. Game, this very basic station ran sheep. As Harold put it: "I had sometimes said that I would prefer a place which required licking into shape and I certainly got it."

In *Kimberley was God's*, his candid and often irreverent summation of three decades spent on Myroodah provides a great account of station life in the north. Written in and around the 1960s, the coverage ranges from technical aspects of running a station to comical happenings on various stations and in the port of Derby. The names of many of the participants have been omitted but history buffs and older Kimberley residents will know, or will be able to work out, who some of them were. The people mentioned by name, with most of them listed in an index, include the Rose family, the Henwood family, Maude and Harry Barnes, Ted Delaney, Walter Fraser, and Doug Moore. The last of those people is well known for his reminiscences, which are being prepared for publication by [Hesperian Press](#).

The people involved in getting this volume into print included Kimberley Society members Audrey Bullough (nee Rose) and Kim Rose. In their childhood on Liveringa Station (across the river from Myroodah) they and their siblings June and Jarran were awed, amazed and amused by Harold Godbehear. In an introduction to the book, they provide personal glimpses of the man, his first and second wife, his paintings and his pipes, and the rapport between the families. Other glimpses come from the autobiography's coverage of the author's pre-Kimberley experiences, which included station work and serving in Egypt and Palestine with the 10th Light Horse.

In a note about the manuscript, [the publisher](#) expresses interest in hearing of the whereabouts of Harold Godbehear's paintings, films and photographs, which seem to have disappeared. Perhaps one of our members can help to solve that mystery.

Cathie Clement