



Will the Roger Cook Labor Government sacrifice the Kimberley to industrialisation?

The Kimberley is renowned for its awe-inspiring landscapes, untarnished by industrialisation and urban sprawl, as well as the ancient living culture that continues to be practised here. These are the mainstay of the economy, providing more than half a billion dollars in revenue and a significant portion of the region's jobs. Just as importantly, the intact condition of the Kimberley underpins residents' wellbeing and supports the natural world, with healthy populations of rare as well as common animals and plants.

"The Kimberley is home to some truly unique and spectacular attractions...Tens of thousands of tourists flock to this area every year to enjoy an unforgettable outback experience amidst a breathtaking landscape," Minister for the Kimberley and Regional Development, Stephen Dawson said.

While the description sounds idyllic, successive state governments have failed to act to protect the region's crucially important attributes.

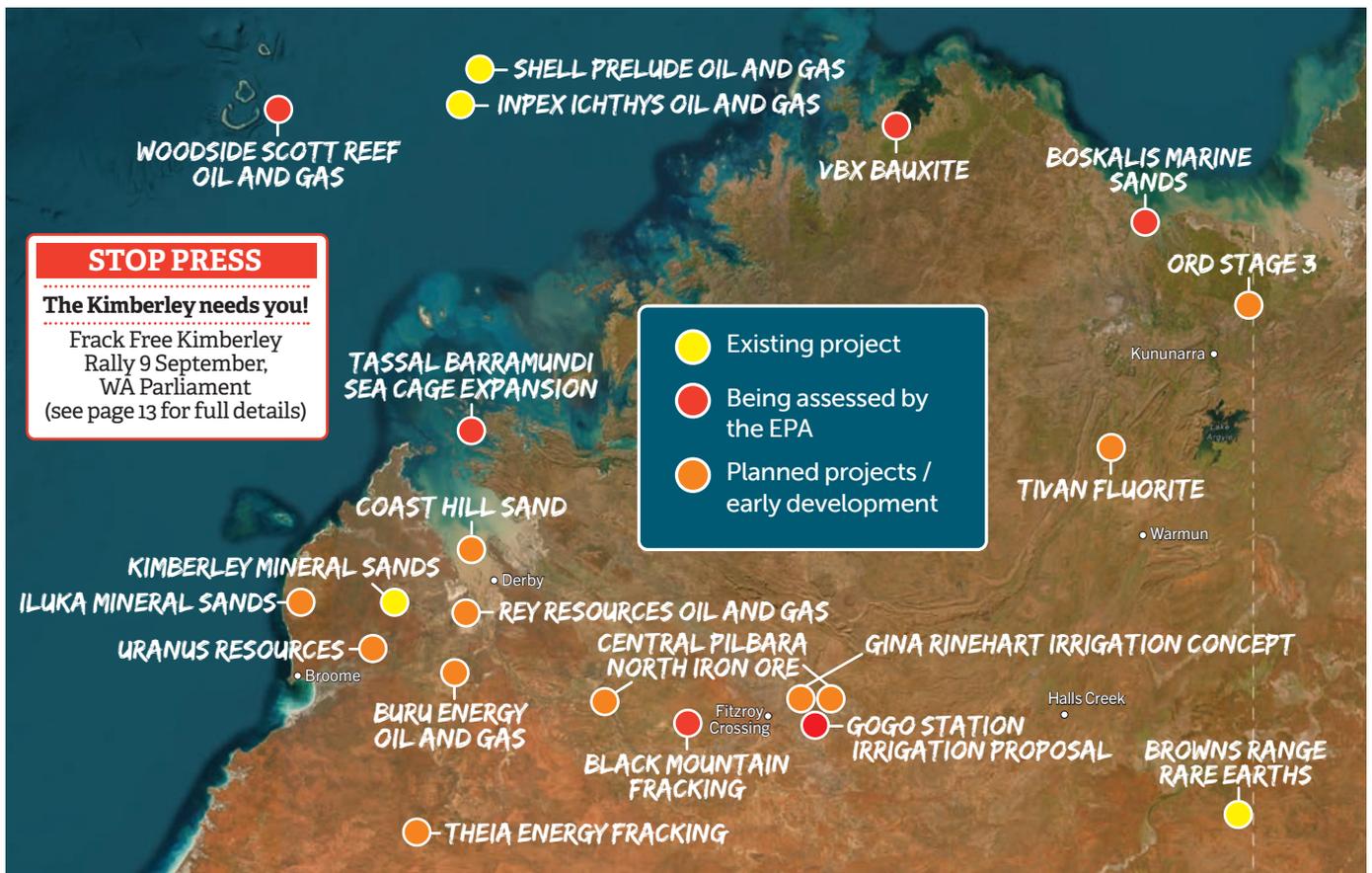
Less than 8% of the land in the Kimberley is in protected areas that prohibit landclearing, oil and gas extraction and mining.

If you've been following our work for a while, you'll have seen that fracking for oil and gas is a huge concern, as well as the push by the Woodside Joint Venture to drill around Scott Reef. These are totally inappropriate industries for a globally

significant region. Less well known are the other threats to the Kimberley's environment – its freshwater, tropical savannah, intact coastline, marine parks, threatened species and national-heritage listed landscapes. We list some of the threats in the map below – excessive irrigation, bauxite mining, sand mining, heavy mineral sands mining, oil and gas extraction and fish farming are at our door. A new concern is applications by Ms Gina Rinehart for mining exploration leases on her Liveringa Station and Fossil Downs pastoral lease and surrounding leases through her company 'Central Pilbara North Iron Ore'. We don't know what Ms Rinehart wants to explore for but we will vigorously oppose any damaging mining proposals.

Former Liberal Premier Colin Barnett said in 2009 that the future of the Kimberley was mining. ***"Just as the Pilbara was critically important to the development of WA from the '60s, over the next 50 years the Kimberley will play a similar role."***

At the March 2025 election, the WA Labor Government under Roger Cook gave no new commitments to protecting the natural environment here. The proposals in front of them now will be a major test of their Kimberley credentials and show us whether they will follow Colin Barnett in his fixation on industrialising the Kimberley, or protect the Kimberley's breathtaking landscape and environment.





Report from the Chair

Carmel Leahy

Stupor or Action?

Optimism is a key ingredient for any successful human endeavour. In his book *Optimism: Reflections on a Life of Action* (2014, pp xi-xii) Bob Brown admits pessimism is a reasonable reaction to the “way the human world malfunctions”, but he argues pessimism is not enjoyable or productive. Bob exhorts us to “get active rather than depressed... We have a choice and it is empirical: pessimism or optimism, stupor or action.”

Without the optimism and actions of EK members and supporters, the Martuwarra Fitzroy River may have been dammed, flooding Country, its flow impeded. Much of the Kimberley could be under industrial-scale cotton production, the chemicals used washing into waterways during the enormous flood events we've experienced. Broome could have one of the world's biggest gas refineries on its doorstep. Large swathes of the Kimberley could be locked up with fracking wells, their infrastructure, security needs and environmental destruction.

This has not happened. As you read through our newsletter, you will see the optimistic energy of EK staff and supporters working to look after Country and push back against continued pressure to industrialise the Kimberley. A climate catastrophe is upon us, yet multinationals continue in their attempts to pillage the nature of the Kimberley.

In the face of Woodside's North West Shelf expansion, EK staff, members and supporters have stepped up and taken action. New fossil fuel developments out at Scott Reef are madness. We know the Woodside proposal to

process the carbon-heavy fuel of Scott Reef until 2070 is not compatible with a safe climate. And there is no way on earth we'd countenance fracked gas from the Kimberley going to the North West Shelf. We cannot allow future generations to endure catastrophic climate change resulting from such short-sighted, profit-driven decisions. Our supporters' involvement in these campaigns to oppose such madness is crucial and appreciated.

EK is working to maintain the Kimberley's natural environment and encourage sustainable local enterprises. Read on to see developments from the Wattleseed Collective in the Kimberley's conservation economy and the latest work caring for Country with Aboriginal rangers from the Kimberley Nature Project. There is some interesting use of cutting-edge technology teamed with local knowledge. It all looks rather fun, though no doubt lots of hard work as well. Keep your eye on our socials and emails for opportunities to take part.

We have many exciting projects underway and good reasons for optimism. The funds our advocacy and projects receive from members and supporters fuel this work and keep us buoyant in the face of sometimes rather startling odds. Enjoy our action-packed issue and thanks for your ongoing support.

We couldn't do our work without the support of so many across the country. Thank you to everyone who has donated and contributed their time to help protect the Kimberley.

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Acknowledgements

Newsletter design: lannello Design

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Original logo: Rose Cox

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Letters To The Editor

Environs Kimberley welcomes letters to the Editor. We accept comment and criticism, and print all letters that are not obscene, offensive or libellous. If you have a bone to pick, pick it with us.

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Thanks for helping us to protect the nature of the Kimberley





Executive Director's Report

Martin Pritchard

News has just broken on the devastation of West Australian and Kimberley coral reefs — the sentinels of a liveable planet. 90% of the Ningaloo and Rowley Shoals coral have bleached. As the wrecking ball of climate change continues to wreak havoc on our precious, life-giving natural world here in the Kimberley and beyond, it's hard not to wonder when there will be a movement massive enough to force governments to act and end fossil-fuel extraction and use.

If anyone reads this in 2090, we hope you will see that many people tried their hardest to ensure that the Kimberley remains liveable. We know that, on the current trajectory, it's not looking good. In the next few months we'll see decisions by the state and federal governments on fracking in the Kimberley and oil and gas production at Scott Reef, which will either bake in more climate change or give future generations at least a chance to maintain a civilised, organised society.

The WA and Federal Labor Governments' track records are not promising. "But surely Roger Cook and the WA Labor Government wouldn't open up the Kimberley, of all places, to fracking?" I hear people say. Right now, the rumbles from the Labor machine at the Department of Premier and

Cabinet say that they will. We have a small window in which to change their position, but it can be done.

This leads to the question, will enough people take action? There are so many good, progressive-minded, caring people out there who love nature, many with children and grandchildren. It's hard to conceive they are not aware of climate change and what catastrophe it will bring if we don't act in time. We say to all of you, it is time. In fact, it is past time, but we still have a chance to stop runaway climate change.

If you really care about your children's future and the natural world, it's time to get out on the streets and take part in every protest you can before it's too late.

We need numbers, we need people to take action. Growing your own food, recycling and minimising carbon footprints are important but not enough, not by a long shot. It's time to get out of comfort zones and organise in neighborhoods, in friendship circles and family groups. We are so grateful to the thousands of people who support EK and our work to protect the Kimberley, but what we're doing now as a collective is not enough. To our supporters who have done so much we thank you. It's now time to rise up and break through the discomfort of attending a protest or contacting your local MP if you haven't done so already. If not now, when? If not you, who?



Operations Director's Report

Liam Wright

Six months in.

I'm reminded how lucky I am to call Environs Kimberley and the Kimberley region home. But luck alone doesn't protect this place. Our work does and our people do. Behind the impressive landscapes, enthusiastic people and stunning media lies the truth: this work is hard. It's heavy. And it's driven by an extraordinary team. Whether they're conducting vegetation surveys, tagging camera-trap images, monitoring seagrass meadows or challenging dangerous industrial projects, our staff continue to show up. They know how special this place is and why it's worth it.

What's happening on the ground?

Our Kimberley Nature Projects team has been out there every week, collaborating with ranger groups, Traditional Owners, researchers and community members. From flood recovery on Gooniyandi Country to innovative biodiversity monitoring on Yawuru Country and long-term seagrass monitoring, the team is doing strong work.

Our Sustainable Communities team is preparing for this year's Wattleseed harvest, which is one way we are building resilience and supporting sustainability. The season is nearly here, and we're always keen to hear from those who want to be involved.

What's happening within?

Internally, we've done the necessary work of rethinking how we operate, streamlining systems and making sure our people are set up to do what they do best. That has included refreshing our Programs team, now led by three

dedicated Program Coordinators:

- **Sam Younis**, Program Coordinator
– Kimberley Nature Projects
- **Hamsini Bijlani**, Program Coordinator
– Kimberley Nature Projects
- **Tessa Mossop**, Program Coordinator
– Sustainable Communities

We've also spent time reflecting on our values and strategic direction. Conversations with staff, Board members, partners, and community have helped shape a renewed set of organisational values and an updated strategic plan to support our next stage of growth. These aren't just words on paper. They're about how we show up for each other, for our partners, and for community. We'll be formally launching them at this year's AGM, and we can't wait to share them with you.

To our members and volunteers, thank you, especially those who helped launch this year's market stalls. I've thoroughly enjoyed our conversations down there.

To our partners: the knowledge, insights and generosity continue to power this work. I've had the privilege of meeting many of you already and I look forward to learning from you.

And to all who supported our end-of-financial-year appeal, thank you. Your generosity ensures our team can keep doing what it does best — protecting the nature of the Kimberley.

Come with us on this journey. If you have thoughts, questions, or just want to have a chat, I'd love to hear from you. Let's have a coffee.

Living Green

– PAINLESSLY

More tips to improve the sustainability of our daily lives without too much effort.

MAKING OURSELVES BEAUTIFUL

Recently, I walked past a 'beauty parlour', as I have done innumerable times before, but for the first time I stopped to read the menu of treatments one can purchase there.

It's the same parlour whose landline number used to be one digit different from mine, and every so often I would get a call from someone wanting to make an appointment. The callers didn't always specify what they were calling about before I, rather grumpily, told them they had the wrong number. However, I remember one caller who opened her request with a breathless: 'I'd like to make an appointment to have my bikini line waxed!' The opportunity for me to give this girl my opinion of her request I reluctantly passed up, and told her instead to try the right number.

Despite my forced familiarity with the name of this parlour, I had not previously concerned myself with the treatments on offer besides the waxing of bikini lines. When I did take a look at the inventory — reader, I was shocked. I searched other beauty therapists as well, and the number of treatments one can spend good money on is, I discovered, vast. There are treatments for hair removal by waxing from various parts of one's anatomy, including parts that are supposed to grow hair; you can have wrinkles removed or, more likely, camouflaged; massage and moisturising, or a full-body exfoliation for a couple of hundred dollars. But before you start dissing us women, you blokes, there are treatments for men too: a whole raft of choices for hair removal by waxing, from nostrils and ears to abdomen and shoulders, some of which will set you back over a hundred dollars. You can have a ten-minute 'eyebrow tidy' for a mere \$30. Not sure about that bikini line, though.

Then there are nails to be shaped and painted, and 'packages', including a 'full bridal preparation', which gets the bride nicely packaged for her groom. And there is make-up, where human creativity knows no bounds. And bottles of potions and jars of unctions to be purchased — some for over \$250.

I have also discovered that a serious concern of doctors these days is dealing with 'fillers' that have filled faces and bodies in the wrong places — how to restore them to some semblance of normality. Just quietly: if people didn't tamper with themselves in the first place, they wouldn't be wasting their doctors' precious time.

People who have money are, of course, free to spend it as they choose, and if the above sounds judgemental — well, it is. What concerns me is that so many women are so dissatisfied with their natural bodies and faces that they go to great expense to change them — even though most of what they do is temporary, and a lot of it comes off in bed. I can think of many better ways to spend one's money. And it's worth remembering that health and fitness, and a warm personality, are the best and most durable foundations of beauty.

PEPPER IT UP



Trish Pepper

No More KPIs!

Ten years ago, my work included visiting schools across the Kimberley and on one occasion I was in Kununurra. It was the last day of term and the teacher I was meeting was in a classroom not his own, with children he didn't normally teach. The regular classroom teacher was away and had left a list of instructions on the whiteboard at the front of the room. Things such as stacking chairs, moving desks to the centre, storing books and belongings and preparing the classroom for the holidays, were on the list.

After each item the teacher had printed KPE in brackets.

While we talked, the students were moving around the classroom and I asked the teacher what KPE stood for. He explained that his colleague was trying to inspire his students to be more mindful and caring, and the letter K was for Kindness, P for Politeness and E for Enthusiasm.

I was delighted to watch the children go about their tasks, without any verbal instruction from us.

It wasn't long before the siren sounded, the students were dismissed and they poured out of the classroom into the bright sunshine, eager to begin their holiday.

I've thought about those three letters KPE over the years and have done my best to incorporate them into both my work and personal life ever since.

In fact, in one workplace, after hearing the story, the staff decided we would do away with KPIs (key performance indicators) and instead introduce KPE into our daily office life. The morale of our department improved significantly and everyone displayed a small sign with the three letters in their office. My colleagues were happy to explain their meaning to perplexed visitors and new employees were delighted to be included in our Kindness, Politeness and Enthusiasm office policy.

Those children in Kununurra would be adults now and I sometimes wonder if they continue to be kind, polite and enthusiastic.

I think about the teacher too, and silently thank him for sending that message out into the world. I don't know his name, but I'm grateful I was in his classroom that day, grateful for witnessing the impact three letters had on a room full of 10-year-olds, and grateful for being able to pass them on to others.

Could he possibly imagine how many people his message and generosity have touched?



Final phase For Black Mountain's Valhalla Fracking Plan

Shaun Clark

WA EPA's biggest test for new Chair and Board

We are on high alert with Texas-based Black Mountain's (Bennett Resources) 20-well Valhalla fracking proposal in the final stage of Environment Protection Authority (EPA) assessment. The WA EPA Board is expected to review it soon and make a recommendation to Environment Minister Matthew Swinbourn, who will decide whether to reject or approve the project.

EK and more than 8,000 community members have called on the EPA to reject the proposal.

Once the EPA report is released, an appeal can be made.

If any appeals are made, the Appeals Convenor can make a recommendation to the Minister for the Environment on whether or not it believes the proposal can proceed.

If the EPA recommends the proposal can go ahead, we will seek advice and, if there are sufficient grounds, we will appeal and encourage the community to do so as well.

Separately, the Commonwealth's environmental assessment is still underway. A further public comment opportunity will come later in that process. The Federal Minister for Environment will eventually make a decision on the proposal and, so far, thousands of people have called on the Federal Government to reject fracking in the Kimberley.



Above: East-north-east-facing view of the turkey-nest dam at the north-western side of the central processing area. Contents are hydrocarbon sludge removed from storage tanks at Wyndham.

Right: North-facing view of the turkey-nest dam.



Rally at Perth's Parliament House against Black Mountain's Valhalla proposal and calling for a Ban on Fracking

On 9th September, from 12:00 to 1:00 pm, we will be holding a rally in front of Parliament House in Perth on the first sitting day. We are asking everyone to spread the word for as many people as possible to tell this government in no uncertain terms that we do not want fracking in the globally significant Kimberley region.

The Black Mountain Valhalla proposal is the most significant one since the Buru Energy and Mitsubishi Tight Gas Stimulation (TGS) proposal in 2015. We must stop Black Mountain from getting a foothold in the Kimberley. This is a pivotal moment in the campaign for a Frack Free Kimberley, so please tell your friends and family in Perth to help us make this the biggest rally to date of our resistance to this toxic and destructive industry.

Buru Energy's Toxic Hydrocarbon Sludge

In 2024, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) inspected Buru Energy's Ungani Oil Production Facility 90 km from Broome for the first time since 2015. During the visit, inspectors discovered hydrocarbon sludge, transferred from Wyndham tanks, stored in an open turkey-nest dam. DWER had not been informed of this hazardous storage until the inspection, though the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) had approved it in September 2023.

The sludge remained in the dam throughout the 2023/2024 wet season and was only removed in December 2024, when it was sent to Tellus's Sandy Ridge Facility, which handles Australia's most hazardous waste.

Storing toxic sludge in an open dam posed a serious environmental risk. A heavy rainfall or above-average wet season could have caused a dangerous overflow and widespread contamination. We are seeking further information on this toxic sludge and any past pollution incidents.



EK inspires students in STEM learning

Alex Gibson

In May 2025, The Kids Research Institute Australia came to Broome for the third year in a row to host a two-day STEM festival (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

Students from Years 3–10 from eight different schools and communities participated in the event, with a variety of displays and experiments. Students could learn about UV radiation and sugary drinks, and have fun making DNA. Local organisations were invited to attend the festival with their own exhibitions, to show our Kimberley kids how much fun a career in science can be. Environs Kimberley staff Kylie Weatherall and Alex Gibson put on a Wetland Wonderland display, with a helping hand from volunteer Kim Frank-Koczvara.

First off, the students were taught about the great diversity of wetlands we have here in the Kimberley. Next was a water filtration experiment, where the students tested how effective wetlands are at absorbing excessive rainfall and filtering out surplus sediment. Listening to the beats of singing zoologist Lucas Millar, the students enjoyed a music video full of engaging and easily digestible wetland facts. Finally, EK created its very own wetland, with a range of species: Australian rainbowfish, our common friendly garden resident, the green tree frog, and plants such as lilies and sedge. Students were tasked with identifying the different species in our aquarium, to demonstrate how high biodiversity creates a healthy ecosystem. Over 670 students participated in the STEM event. We are thankful for this opportunity to engage, educate and inspire the budding scientists of our Kimberley community.



Our own mini-wetland. How many species can you spot?



EK volunteer Kim.



Staff members Kylie and Alex engaging the students in our wetland water filtration experiment.



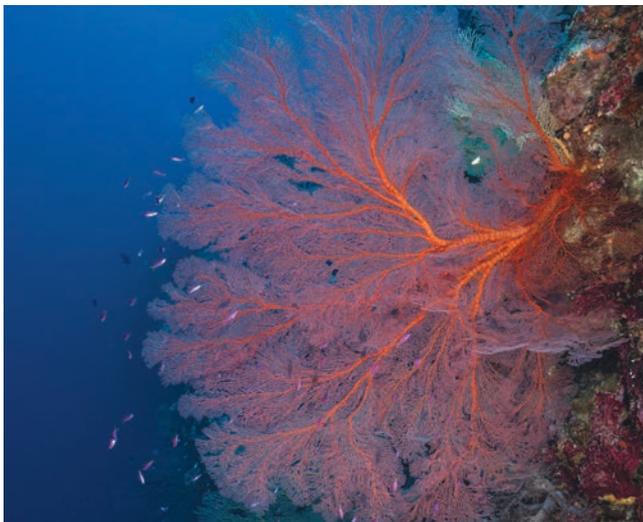


The fight for Scott Reef fires up 17,000 submissions against Woodside's amendments

Wendy Mitchell

The long-standing battle to Save Scott Reef from the monstrous development proposed by Woodside Energy continues to build momentum across Australia as the project proceeds through the West Australian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) assessment. In May, Australia's largest oil and gas company, Woodside, revised its original proposal after the EPA released a preliminary view that "the proposal was unacceptable" back in August 2024.

Under a Section 43A amendment, the changes ranged from reducing the footprint of the proposal to no longer overlap Scott Reef, measures to help with sound and light pollution, the shifting of a drilling location further away from the reef, and the implementation of new shear ram technology which is said to reduce the length of an oil spill if it were to occur – although that technology has never been tested in an emergency. The EPA allowed the public a four-week window to comment on Woodside's new 43A amendments. Environs Kimberley, alongside environmental groups across Australia, gathered submissions from more than 17,000 concerned community members who were calling on the WA EPA to assess Woodside's original proposal instead of its fluffed-up amendment, which, if approved, still leaves Scott Reef under considerable risk.



Gorgonian sea fan at Scott Reef. Photo: Wendy Mitchell.

Oil and gas extraction is not something you want happening anywhere near a coral reef. Coral reefs sustain up to 25% of all marine life, and they are critical to the health and balance of a functioning marine ecosystem as a whole. If Woodside did have a well blowout, it would be catastrophic to the reef and wildlife, as the closest well is located a mere 2 kilometres away from the reef. The condensate from a blowout could also drift as far as the Kimberley coast and even to Indonesia – which happened in the Montara oil spill in 2009. A living coral reef like Scott Reef must be conserved for its ecological value – not put in the hands of an oil and gas company like Woodside.



Scott Reef. Photo: Wendy Mitchell.



Hundreds of Broome residents turned out for the local screening of *Coral's Last Stand*. Photo: Wendy Mitchell.

Wednesdays are for our new Kimberley Action Group!

Come and be part of our new Kimberley Action Group (KAG) in Broome. Each Wednesday, we will be meeting at the Environs Kimberley office to work on different campaign projects. It will be a space to get creative, receive campaign updates, and help build the momentum to stop Black Mountain's fracking plans for the Kimberley and delve into the depths of the Scott Reef campaign to stop Woodside.

Everyone is welcome. RSVP on the Environs Kimberley website under 'Events' to get up-to-date information on dates and time. Can't wait to see you there. Wendy.





SKIPA nurtures community buzz around native plants

Kylie Weatherall

Society for Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals (SKIPA) has been busy this year celebrating the beauty, diversity, and ecological importance of Kimberley native plants with a variety of events.

In March we held the SKIPA annual plant sale at the Broome Botanic Park. Grown by members at their own homes (in the absence of a central nursery) the plants sold out within one hour, showing the popularity of native plants and the growing appreciation of how native plant gardens contribute to biodiversity and conservation, reduce water usage, and create habitats for local wildlife.

Also in March, with support and assistance from Eucalypt Australia and our very own Euc. expert Phil Docherty, we honoured Kimberley Eucalypts with our Corymbia Coach Tour around the streets of old Broome.

In July we held our inaugural Kimberley Native Garden Open Day, exploring three very different gardens around town. With informative talks from each garden host, we learnt about the successes and challenges of creating a native garden from scratch, how to introduce native plants to an established garden and how to harvest water on your property. While the gardens all had very different looks, a few 'principles of success' were common across all the gardens: mulch heavily, reticulate, keep on top of weeds, and provide plenty of sunshine.

The water-harvesting garden showed us how to get the most out of our tropical downpours by retaining water on site without causing erosion or flooding.

Tips included making vital initial observations to see where the water ran, where it pooled and where erosion could occur. This information can help the gardener plan how to redirect and capture the water through the construction of temporary watercourses, swales and mounds. Other tips included having porous driveways and paths (minimising hard surfaces), reducing evaporation through mulching, capturing rainwater in tanks and reusing grey water in our gardens.

With three delightfully different gardens to visit, the open day was an educational and inspiring morning for native-plant lovers, which we hope to run again next year.

In between these major events, busy bees were held out at the Broome Botanical Park and at the new SKIPA/EK nursery. Scheduled to be completed by the end of August, the nursery should be ready to kickstart the propagation season.

Generous grants from the Shire of Broome, the Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal, Horizon Power and the Water Corporation have all helped fund the construction of the nursery. SKIPA greatly appreciates the support of all the funding bodies and their pledging of funds; however, it is the tireless efforts of our volunteers who make it all worthwhile. We are looking to find more funding for someone to manage the new facility. If you have any ideas or wish to do some grant writing it would be greatly appreciated. We welcome everyone to get involved and learn about Kimberley plants and animals.



Native garden enthusiasts among the swales listen to tips on harvesting water. Photo: Kylie Weatherall.



Campaigns protecting the Kimberley

Martin Pritchard

We've had three significant new appointments over the past year in environmental decision-making at the highest level of government in Western Australia. Ms Eve Drain, formerly of BHP Iron Ore, was appointed as the Appeals Convenor in July last year. Mr Darren Walsh was appointed in October as Chair of the EPA. He was previously the Appeals Convenor before going to work for WA's largest land developer, Nigel Satterley, and then became an environmental consultant for companies seeking approval for projects. This year, following the WA state election, Labor Upper House Member of Parliament Matthew Swinbourn was appointed the new Minister for the Environment in Western Australia. As an ex-lawyer for the CFMEU, he has the ability to make tough decisions; there's a few coming up in the Kimberley that we made him aware of at the meeting we held with him recently.

The new Minister for the Environment, Chair of the EPA and Appeals Convenor are facing big tests in the Kimberley

Proposals include a 20-oil-and-gas-well fracking project by Texan company Black Mountain Energy in the Martuwarra Fitzroy River catchment; a bauxite mine by Valperon in the North Kimberley, with a port in a marine park and industrial fish farming by Tassal (of Tasmanian salmon infamy) in the National Heritage-listed Buccaneer Archipelago. Off our coast, Woodside's proposal for 50 oil and gas wells around Scott Reef is being assessed by the EPA now. The EPA will make a recommendation to the Minister. These recommendations are open to appeal should there be grounds. If an EPA recommendation is appealed, the Appeals Convenor will adjudicate and make a recommendation to the Minister. Ultimately, Minister Swinbourn publicly announces the decision. As we are all aware, he will likely take decisions to Cabinet where the Premier Roger Cook will say yay or nay.



EK's Executive Director Martin Pritchard and State Minister for Environment Matthew Swinbourn.



Ban on fracking in the Kimberley – targeted electorate campaign

The Labor Government has so far been deaf to our calls for a ban on fracking here, despite the powerful message sent to it in Fremantle at the state election — where now former Water Minister Simone McGurk nearly lost her seat (see last issue 104). We now have no choice but to continue our campaigning while we look to the 2029 state election. Along with our campaign partners Lock the Gate, we have begun to put pressure on key seats, with actions outside offices of Members of Parliament, including John Carey's seat of Perth, Dan Bull in Maylands, Hannah Beazley in Victoria Park, Frank Paolino in Mount Lawley, David Michael in Balcatta, Simone McGurk in Fremantle, Sook Yee Lai in Bibra Lake and Lisa O'Malley in Bicton. The high Green vote in some of these seats has been noted and there is no doubt that, as climate change manifests more clearly, causing greater damage, the electorate will be looking for candidates who will take it seriously. If the 'Teals' take an interest in some of these seats and the Greens continue to expand their votes, we are going to see some fascinating results in the political make-up of the inner city.



Protests outside MP offices.

EK Art Auction: The Kimberley's Premier Art Event Dazzles

EK Community

The beautiful art and the smiles of the crowd at our 22nd Environs Kimberley Annual Live Art Auction in Broome shone brightly earlier this month as locals, visitors and art collectors from across the planet flocked to the event in person, or via Zoom, raising funds to support artists in remote communities, and EK's conservation work.

Thank you to the artists from across the Kimberley who contributed such spectacular pieces.

Seventy-nine artworks went under the hammer on the night or were enthusiastically scooped up at the silent auction, with the highest bid landing for Amelia Jajko's sumptuous floral oil-on-linen artwork 'Ode to Kimberley'. The second highest pledge was for Pauline Sunfly's striking acrylic on canvas 'Wilinkarra'. Veronica Daniel's acrylic on canvas piece 'Bush Tucker', and Tom Montgomery's watercolour 'Walking With Brolgas', tied to fetch the third-highest price of the night.

It was all made possible thanks to EK's volunteers. Chris Maher contributed his talent, wit and energy, conducting the auction and entertaining the crowd. Volunteer art handlers affectionately dubbed 'the white glove brigade' crisscrossed the venue all night, carefully and swiftly transporting art treasures to and from the stage.

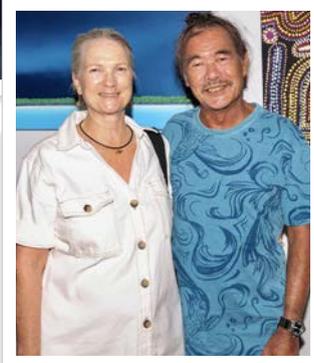
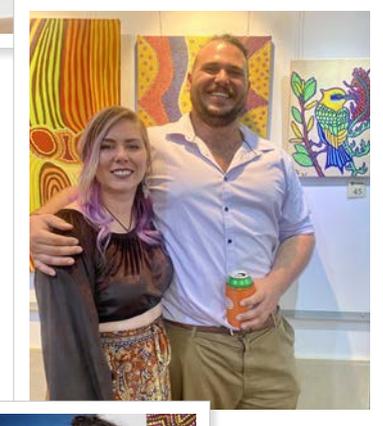
Home-grown singer-songwriter Adele Oliver, famed nationally for her exquisite alt-country sound, performed live, to the crowd's delight. Other volunteers baked and served sweet treats at the Art Auction Cake Stall, and assisted with other tasks before, during, and after the event—thanks to all!

Even Broome's youth contributed, by creating handmade greeting-cards and donating lino-print art for sale. We are grateful to the school community, and to Rangelands NRM's Grace Maglio for coordinating this effort. Proceeds from the young artists' items will be allocated to EK's coastal conservation work.

We really value the local businesses that brought the event to life, and a special shout-out to Ashlyn Jada Koh for her stellar work as art auction coordinator.

Everyone coming together made the Kimberley's premier art event more than a great fundraising success; it became a vehicle for our community to celebrate and express its love for the magnificent Kimberley region, its wonderful people and its exceptional nature.







Cultivating connections – Sustainable Communities update

Holly Timperley

The Sustainable Communities team farewelled Tessa on maternity leave in June. She, Mal and Acacia have now welcomed their new family member into the world. Congratulations!

A new Program Coordinator will be joining the team to manage our new Growing Skills in Wattleseed (SNRM) project, alongside our existing Social Enterprise (Lotterywest) project.

We also welcome Kylie Weatherall as our nursery and wattleseed coordinator (in addition to her SKIPA coordination). We are so pleased to have her on board.

Meanwhile, Mandy, Jayah and I have been holding the fort and preparing for the upcoming wattleseed harvest, expected to begin in September. This year we will be training Gooniyandi community members in addition to our existing Wattleseed Collective members across Karajarri, Nyangumarta, Yawuru and Bunuba Country.

The Wattleseed Collective held its first Steering Committee meeting in April, where decisions were made regarding the future of the Collective and governance in the future.

In May, the team travelled to Perth for a business development trip and visited our industry partners at Curtin Seed Innovation Hub. We also visited Kings Park (Emma Dalziel), Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and the Sustainable Innovative Food Technology Centre. These entities have been assisting the Wattleseed Collective with our business development strategies, protocols and intellectual property considerations, as well as the science behind all our seed and propagation questions. A highlight of the trip was visiting Mark Tucek at Tucker Bush, where we had a tour of their Australian bush-food nurseries and commercial processing areas. We also learnt about Mark's passion for using native Australian plants as an educational tool and a shared cultural journey between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, ensuring a sustainable bushfood industry.

Lastly, we were taken on a tour of the impressive Noongar Land Enterprise (NLE) native tree farm, grass research trial sites and restored farmland areas. We were inspired by the work that NLE has done over the years, developing a large-scale, commercial nursery operation and, most recently, its own Aboriginal ranger team. NLE is enthusiastic about sustainable, wild harvest and the cultivation of Indigenous plant species to be kept on Country, according to endemic distributions.

Thank you to all our wonderful partners and affiliates who are always so generous with their knowledge and time, which help us develop our growing enterprise. And, finally, we can announce the publication of the Bush Fruit Guide for Kimberley Rangers, which marks the end of the 'Seeding Success: engaging communities in seed collection and social enterprise' project. This small publication describes the proper harvesting, cleaning and storage methods for many bush-fruit species across Karajarri, Nyangumarta and Gooniyandi Country. Rangers will be able to use this publication as a guide when on Country to pick fruits and seeds they may want to grow in their community nurseries. Thank you to the elders, rangers and traditional owners who took part in this process. You will soon be able to find the publication on the EK website.



'Kimberley Gold' Grevillea at Kings Park.



Jacko Shoveller with a native finger lime plant at Tucker Bush.



Kylie Weatherall, Holly Timperley, Mandy Shoveller, Mark Tucek, Jacko Shoveller and Tessa Mossop at Tucker Bush.



Tessa Mossop, Holly Timperley, Mandy Shoveller, Emma Dalziel, Robyn Wells and Jacko Shoveller at Kings Park.



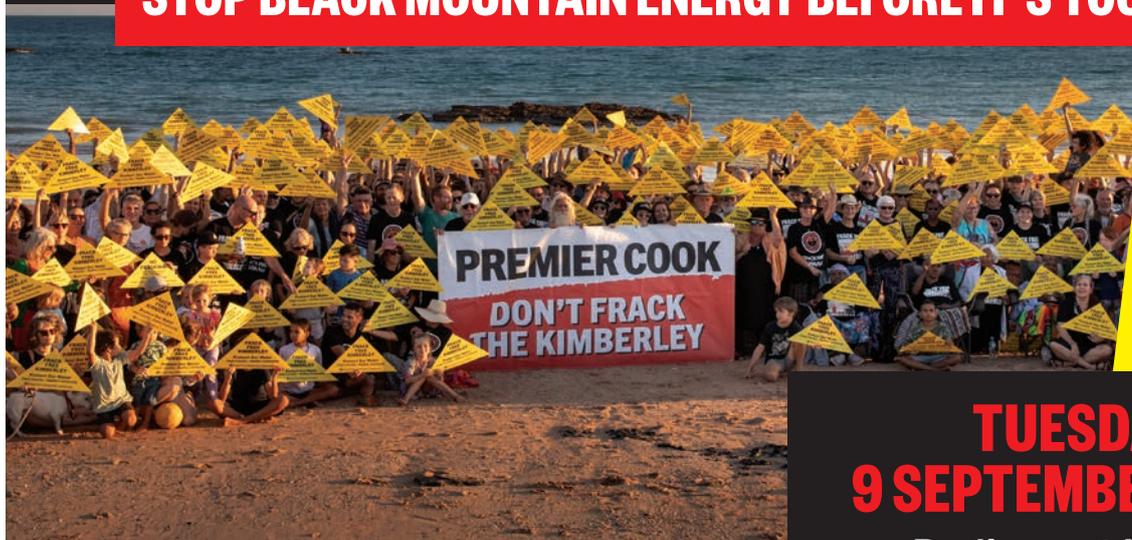
Agar tissue cultures at Kings Park.



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Volunteer Spotlight – Liz Manera

EK's Volunteer Spotlight shines a little bit of love on our valued volunteers, who truly are the heart of our organisation. Liz Manera has been an EK member for many years and a tireless volunteer in every aspect of EK. Projects she has participated in include seagrass monitoring, marine surveys, busy bees, the market stall and the EK Art Auction. Liz has also worked with the Society for Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals (SKIPA).

What motivated you to volunteer with Environs Kimberley?

I have been aware of the environment and the need to care for it ever since I was little. In my farming and pastoral family, care of land and animals was frequently discussed and many of my childhood school friends had farm connections. Then I spent teen years and beyond further exploring various parts of country WA.

While living in Perth, I was an active volunteer, then contract worker, for Landcare, and a Board member, collaborating on projects to improve water quality and reduce land degradation. 25 years in the Kimberley has grown my deep respect for and connection with this beautiful Country.

I initially volunteered for EK's market stall, then I put my skills as an artist and teacher to good use in supporting the Art Auction. My love of plant life and desire to find out more about natives led me to volunteer with SKIPA.

What keeps you coming back?

The people I meet and volunteer with are what keep me coming back. I enjoy chatting with visitors and locals about the environment and providing information on concerns such as the real and present threat of fracking in the Kimberley. The art auction and plant sales have been wonderful collaborations of caring, talented people sharing their Kimberley-inspired efforts — plus, they are a lot of fun.

What impact has volunteering in general had in your life?

I have made some long-standing friends through volunteering over the years, so I know that it enhances our connection to others and to our community. I have also learned so much from the people I've met. I have continued to build knowledge and understanding about our local environment, which has led to improved practices and my personal growth. It makes this place even more alive to me.



Self portrait by Liz

What advice would you give to someone thinking about volunteering with EK?

There is a range of opportunities to apply your interests or skills to within EK, from baking cakes for the art auction, through to being a citizen scientist with the seagrass monitoring project. The time you give to volunteering gives you back so much more — so take the plunge and grow your understanding of the wonders of the Kimberley and what threatens it — and the world.

Thank you so much for sharing your experiences, Liz.

Would you like to get involved? Whether you are a local or someone visiting, we have plenty of opportunities for you to join in. Get in touch via our website

www.environskimberley.org.au/volunteer or email us at community@environskimberley.org.au



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Vale Howard Pedersen

The Kimberley can bring out the best in people. Whether it's the community, passionate individuals or the spirit of Country, or all of it that inspires, it's captured the heart of so many of us. Howard was captured by the Kimberley and, in turn, his imagination of what it could be was an inspiration.

Howard was one of the deepest thinkers on Northern Australia's just destiny; his knowledge of the political and social history of the Kimberley was exceptional. His impression of Fitzroy Crossing in his twenties, when the town was a refugee camp for Aboriginal stockmen and their families, led to him writing a book about one of Australia's greatest freedom fighters, Bunuba legend, Jandamarra. From there, Howard continued to ponder ways to achieve justice for people and the environment.

Howard played key roles in defence of the Kimberley, from the early days of the fight to stop dams on the Martuwarra Fitzroy River to the battle to protect Walmadany James Price Point from oil and gas multinationals and the Barnett-Grylls Government. He sat on the EK Board and afterwards was a strategic and political advisor on advocacy for the environment here. His big-picture thinking permeates EK's vision and goals to protect the Kimberley. Our condolences go to his children Jane and Sam, and we thank Howard for opening our minds to a sustainable future in the North and all the ideas and language he gave us to enable us to pursue that.



EK welcomes a new staff member

Jayah Carter, Project Officer, Sustainable Communities

Jayah is a Bardi woman and was born in Broome. She has a background in seagrass monitoring from a young age. She is enthusiastic about video and photo editing. We are lucky that Jayah has been volunteering and doing casual work with EK for years, contributing to the wattleseed harvest. Now, as part of the Sustainable Communities team, she works on the Social Enterprise and Seeding Success projects, and still helps to support the Wattleseed Collective. Outside work, Jayah enjoys making art of sea creatures and stays connected to sea-life through her sculpture, which includes this award-winning piece entitled 'The Flower Current'.



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Martuwarra Fitzroy River. Photo: Gary Annett.

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