

environs

KIMBERLEY

BULLETIN NUMBER ONE

Dear Supporter,

This is the first of a series of newsletters to keep our members and supporters, especially those who are unable to attend meetings, informed of our activities.

MEMBERSHIP We seem to be happening at the right time. In almost every mail I find another membership forms and subscription. It is heartening to know that there are so many like-minded people out there. At the time of writing we have about forty paid-up members, and that is without really trying.

FINANCES Our bank account is growing with our membership. We haven't spent anything yet; the small expenses so far have been met by voluntary contributions. We expect that most of our initial costs will be for gathering and supplying information and keeping in touch with our members. As our bank balance grows, we may be able to do more adventurous things.

STRATEGIES. We believe that most, thinking people, once they understand all that is at stake, will be sympathetic to our point of view. We therefore intend to persuade rather than confront. For this reason, members are busily informing themselves about the following:

The various dam proposals and their ramifications
Water, rivers, the history and effects of dams & irrigation
Cotton, pests, pesticides. Genetically engineered strains.
The West Kimberley environment: collating what is known;
acquiring and promoting more knowledge. Includes geology &
hydrology, flora, fauna etc. Identifying vulnerable species. The
likely effects of the proposals on pastoralism, tourism,
indigenous groups, local residents.
Aboriginal knowledge of the region and attitudes to dams,
irrigation, agriculture, etc.
Alternative development strategies for the region

We are talking and writing to persons eminent in these fields, and studying the available literature. We plan to distribute regular bulletins to keep our supporters informed about the many relevant issues.

If anyone has expert knowledge or information or useful contacts on any of the above subjects, or is in a position to research it, we would be

delighted to hear from you. We hope as many of our members as possible will contribute to the effort according to their own interests and skills. However, we don't want to duplicate or waste our efforts, and plan to form subcommittees through which work can be coordinated.

INFORMATION. There will soon be an **environs** KIMBERLEY filing cabinet in Broome Library, and a key available to members and supporters. The information we collect will be filed in there, and may be read in the library. Photocopy anything you need, but please don't take it away.

MEETINGS To date, meetings have been open to all members, and times and venues passed on by word of mouth. Our membership is increasing so fast that we will soon have to split into subgroups. We will also have to think of effective ways of keeping in touch with everyone. Noticeboards now and an Internet Home Page later are probably the best way to go. Please advise if you have any ideas. Minutes will not be distributed to all members because of the cost and the waste of trees, but will be made available through the Kimberley Bookshop, Broome Library (cabinet), and Derby Library (Lever arch file). Thanks to the library staff for their assistance.

PUBLIC MEETING We plan to hold a public meeting in Broome, probably in March (date to be fixed) where the various points of view can be aired. Please come, and bring a friend.

DERBY MEETING We are happy to have a growing number of members in and around Derby. We are conscious that Derby and Fitzroy Crossing people would be closer to the action and more affected by developments along the Fitzroy Valley than people in Broome, yet are seldom able to attend meetings in Broome. We therefore plan to send a couple of representatives to meet our Derby members, probably in February when most people are back in harness, and hope that a Derby branch of **environs Kimberley** will be formed.

FITZROY CROSSING We are just starting our membership drive in Fitzroy Crossing, but hope that a branch will form there too.

There is a great deal of energy and enthusiasm in our group, and we look forward to working well together and with other groups for as long as it takes.

Pat Lowe
Environs Kimberley