

Letter to the Editor, The Kimberley Echo

16th June 2006

Dear Sir,

Last weekend I had the incredible pleasure and privilege to be the guest of the East Kimberley Family Support Association in Kununurra. It is the first time I have spent time in your part of the world, and I was most impressed. What an asset rich part of our State. The beauty of the region is overwhelming, but more important was the quality of the people and organisations I interacted with. All communicated positive leadership, energy and passion. Besides the East Kimberley Family Support Association, I spent time with representatives of the Shire, Chamber of Commerce, and Wunan Foundation, and I was most impressed with their vision to see the region develop, not just economically, but also socially and culturally. Their collective desire to build greater social inclusiveness, break down divisions, and highlight the value and contribution of all community members was most impressive.

An afternoon in Whyndam revealed not only one of the best kept tourism secrets in the Kimberleys, but a community with so many 'windows of opportunity' to develop sustainably. The openness of East Kimberley people to discuss community challenges like social exclusion, bringing life to the townscape, and improving customer service behaviours, illustrated to me a community wanting to shape its future positively.

Finally, it was so refreshing to meet so many people passionate about their community and its opportunities and expressing a willingness to be part of

making things happen, so essential for building healthy and enterprising communities.

Can I simply thank so many people for their generosity, hospitality and for what they shared and taught me. I certainly look forward to returning and spending more time in an extraordinary part of our State.

Peter Kenyon

Director, Bank of I.D.E.A.S.