

KFA Research and Activities Report

2018-2019



**KIMBERLEY
FOUNDATION
AUSTRALIA**

Researching, preserving and promoting Kimberley rock art.



The KFA team acknowledges that Aboriginal Australians have lived on the land for millennia and developed a strong commitment to look after it as well as generations of accumulated traditional knowledge about the ecology. The rock art on these lands was made by Indigenous Australians and they are the Traditional Owners and custodians of the rock art.

We acknowledge the special relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have with their traditional lands and waters, as well as their unique history and diverse culture and customs.

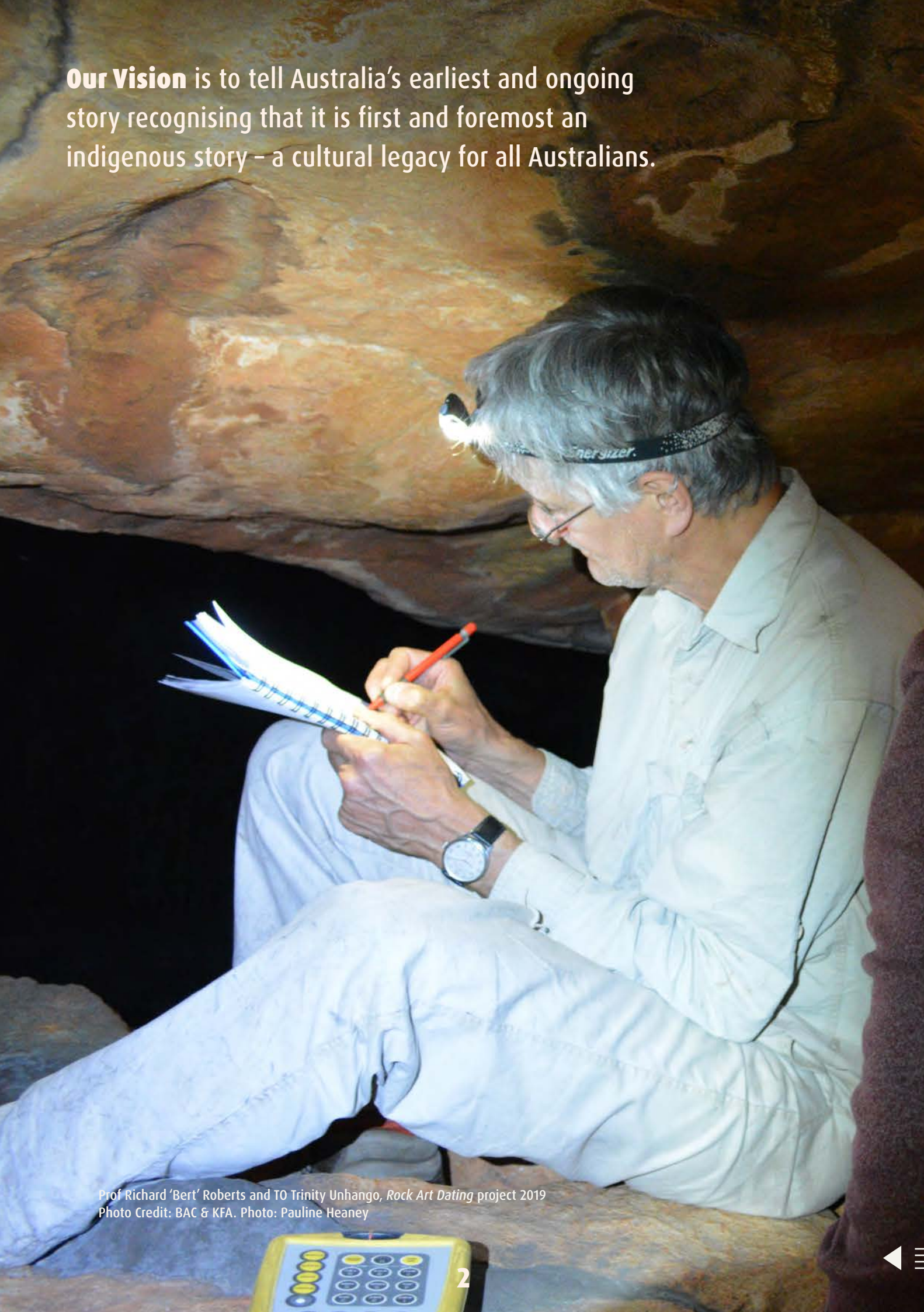
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ABBREVIATIONS

ARC	Australian Research Council
BAC	Balanggarra Aboriginal Corporation
CABAH	Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage
CRAR+M	Centre for Rock Art Research + Management
KFA	Kimberley Foundation Australia
SAC	Science Advisory Council
UoM	University of Melbourne

Our Vision is to tell Australia's earliest and ongoing story recognising that it is first and foremost an indigenous story – a cultural legacy for all Australians.



Our mission

OUR MISSION is to support the research to enable this story to be told and to foster scientific research into rock art and its place in the global narrative of human origins, migration, culture, behaviour and development. We do this in partnership with Indigenous people of the region.

What we value

We value the cultural connection Aboriginal people have with their country. We value the partnerships we have with Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley and we extend our gratitude to those communities who partner with us in our research.

We respect the sensitivity of Aboriginal people to their cultural beliefs and the priority of the Traditional Owners to pass on their cultural story and keep their culture strong. We value their insight, cultural perspective and collaboration.

We foster engagement with country and culture and recognise the importance of traditional knowledge and support the presentation of it alongside the scientific.

What we do and how we do it

We fund and promote research of indigenous rock art and Australia's globally important human and environmental history. It is the scientific evidence of 55,000+ years of continuous, unbroken Indigenous occupation that compels the research.

Our impact

- Aboriginal people are involved in field research and training and supported to be on country
- A broad range of scientists from the fields of archaeology, geology, palynology, climatology, geochemistry and related areas are funded to undertake integrated scientific research in partnership with Aboriginal communities
- New young scientists are encouraged into these fields of research
- Research outcomes are promoted to enable the broadest possible appreciation of the national and international significance of rock art and Australia's story
- Australia's indigenous cultural legacy and the deep history of Australia's indigenous past is gradually being accepted and recognised by all Australians and throughout the world
- The rock art is internationally recognised for its significance and preserved and protected accordingly

For all the work the Foundation sponsors we seek the support of individual Australians who share our vision and aspirations. We are a tax deductible non profit charity listed on the register of Cultural Organisations under subdivision 30-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

Prof Richard 'Bert' Roberts and TO Trinity Unhango, *Rock Art Dating* project 2019
Photo Credit: BAC & KFA. Photo: Pauline Heaney



Wunambal Gaambara Traditional Owners presented KFA Chairman Maria Myers with a copy of the newly published book *We are Coming to See You*



Left to Right: Neil Waina, Agnes Charles, Desmond Williams, Maria Myers, Regina Karadada, Bernadette Waina, Dianna Williams, Whitney Williams, Albert Bundamurra, Dorothy Djanghora, Kingsley and Cathy Goonack, Dianna Williams, Lillian Karadada, Clarrie Djanghora and Sebastian Djanghora
Photo Credit: Wunambal Gaambara Aboriginal Corporation. Photo: Mark Jones

CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

For those of you who have been following the Foundation's work over the years and for those who have become interested more recently, the year 2018-2019 has highlighted the complexity of the story of Australia that we seek to tell. It is first and foremost an indigenous people's story but one with which non-indigenous Australians identify and in which they take pride. It is not just a Kimberley story although research there is leading the findings, but awareness is growing of the importance of other geographic areas such as Arnhem Land, the Pilbara and Indonesia. This growing awareness led to a year of reflection and discussion beginning in July with our annual Kimberley meeting this time held on the country of one of our board members Nolan Hunter. He is a Bardi man and invited us to One Arm Point. It was a very moving moment to be welcomed to country by a man who had grown up on the land we were on and who speaks with authority for that country. The discussion included the relevance of our name, whether our research could remain Kimberley-based and what new areas of research must be pursued to fully tell Australia's earliest and ongoing human story.

While the discussions around these issues continued throughout the year, the KFA-funded research was recognised for its outstanding quality and leadership at the International Rock Art Conference held in Valcamonica in Italy. Kimberley rock art research was given a full day of the 5-day proceedings. The quality of the science presented by Kimberley Foundation supported and/or initiated research was recognised for its excellence and the application of innovative techniques.

The Foundation's annual lecture presented by Prof Bert Roberts outlined the work the Centre of Excellence for Biodiversity and Heritage Management (CABAH) at Wollongong University, of which he is the leader, is undertaking over the next 7 years. Bert's call for more archaeological digs in more parts of Australia and his highlighting the paucity of hard facts in understanding Australia's earliest peopling was inspiring. KFA is delighted to be an Associate Organisation of CABAH building on our common aspirations.

This year we've worked with The University of Melbourne and the University of Western Australia as they recruited for the new Chair at the UoM in Archaeological Science and Peter Veth's replacement at UWA in Rock Art Research. A highly significant development in relation to the two Chairs came from Nicola Forrest. She and Andrew through Minderoo Foundation donated \$500,000 to KFA for research involving collaboration between the two universities. It's a visionary and enabling gift that will promote new research and emphasises what is the KFA's hope that the two Chairs will work closely together.

We closed the 2018-2019 year with our Kimberley meeting taking place at the invitation of Wunambal Gaambara elders on their country at Mungallalu Truscott. The welcome from many old Kalumburu friends was warm and genuine. The board resolved to work in partnership with Wunambal Gaambara on common objectives.

Our gratitude to those whose support enables us to continue to research Australia's deep history is profound. Our cause is a powerful one that has the potential to unite indigenous and non-indigenous Australians and give meaning to all as the richness of Australia's ancient story is revealed.

The work of the board and our three member administrative team is acknowledged with heartfelt thanks. The Science Advisory Council's hard work and deliberations guide us at every turn and have our appreciation and gratitude.



Maria Myers
Maria Myers
Chairman

LETTER FROM THE CEO

The 2018-19 year started with our annual Kimberley board meeting at One Arm Point near Cape Leveque and ended with an historic meeting with the board and Wunambal Gaambara people at Mungallalu Truscott. It underlined the commitment from KFA to work in partnership with the Aboriginal people on whose land the rock art is found and to find ways in parallel with the research to empower younger Aboriginal people to tell their cultural story.

The two pillars of KFA research, the UWA Chair in Rock Art and the new Chair in Archaeological Science at The University of Melbourne will each have a new leader to be announced in early 2020. For six years Peter Veth provided national and international leadership in the study and teaching of Kimberley rock art and the archaeology of Australia. This continues thanks to the vision and generosity of The Ian Potter Foundation, enabling KFA to initiate and fund this project, and to INPEX and the University of Western Australia who support the perpetual Chair. We acknowledge Peter not only for his contribution to the field, but also for his generous gift to the Kimberley Foundation.

It's all about support. The funds we raise enable the scientists to undertake the research. The impact of this funding means that Aboriginal people are involved in field research and training and supported to be on country; a broad range of scientists are funded to undertake research; new young scientists are encouraged into these fields of research;

the outcomes are promoted to enable the broadest possible appreciation of the significance of rock art and Australia's story. And, most importantly, Australia's indigenous cultural legacy and the deep history of Australia's indigenous past is gradually being recognised.

In 2018-19 we organised multiple events and lectures for supporters and stakeholders to keep abreast of our research and related activities. I had the opportunity to give presentations hosted by other organisations including the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA), Melbourne Girls Grammar School and the Kimberley Land Council. A great privilege of the job is to be invited to such memorable occasions as the Kimberley Land Council's 40th anniversary - a 3-day event at Noonkanbah including a reenactment of the historic march and an evening performance by the Yirrkala dancers.

In addition to the research, KFA has been working with Woodside and the Kimberley Land Council to develop a project that will assist Traditional Owners to design and implement tours for visitors and to better manage and protect key rock art sites. This project will commence in 2020 and is indicative of collaborations the KFA seeks to establish.

We welcome Liz McDevitt, who has replaced Gwen Allen after 10 years of dedicated service to KFA. Gwen's last hurrah was organising the meeting on Wunambal Gaambara country which you can read about on page 11. I extend my personal thanks to Gwen for all

her hard work and her commitment to KFA - to the board, stakeholders and all our supporters. We've come a very long way in those 10 years!

We congratulate KFA Patron Nicola Forrest on being awarded an AO this year and pay tribute to the Forrests' for their superb ongoing commitment and support of KFA's mission.

Our gratitude goes to all our supporters who want to see this story told. Without you there is neither research nor impact. Thank you for sharing the importance of that objective with us.



Cas Bennetto
Cas Bennetto
CEO

RESEARCH CHAIRS AND KFA FELLOWSHIP

The Kimberley Foundation Ian Potter Chair in Rock Art at the University of Western Australia

Prof Peter Veth resigned from the Chair earlier this year after six years in the role (2013-2018) with the position to be filled in 2020 following a global search. The Chair sits within the University of Western Australia’s Centre for Rock Art Research + Management (CRAR+M) and is linked to the Discipline of Archaeology, which with History at UWA, has just been awarded the highest possible ranking in the Excellence for Research in Australia exercise by the Australian Research Council.

The Chair is funded in perpetuity by the Kimberley Foundation Australia through gifts from The Ian Potter Foundation (\$1.5 million) and INPEX (\$500k) with matched funding of \$2 million from the University of Western Australia. Thanks to the vision and generosity of the above organisations Prof Veth has been able to provide national and international leadership in the study and teaching of Kimberley rock art and the archaeology of Australia. Since taking up the position he has contributed significantly to research funded by the Australian Research Council and the Kimberley Foundation Australia, has taught at a number of Australian Universities and carried out public outreach activities around Australia, the USA and Europe. He has established collaborative partnerships between industry, Aboriginal communities and academia including contributing to three ARC Linkage projects on characterising and dating rock art run from UWA and the University of Melbourne, a project from La Trobe University for Drs Cosgrove and Field to carry out plant residue analysis, and a KFA grant for reconnaissance work in the Ningbing Ranges.

Professor Veth has formally noted his gratitude to the KFA and The Ian Potter Foundation in his final UWA Report.

The Kimberley Foundation Minderoo Chair in Archaeological Science at The University of Melbourne

Last year a new Chair in Archaeological Science was announced at an event in Melbourne to mark the 20th anniversary of the Kimberley Foundation Australia. The Chair at The University of Melbourne has been made possible thanks to donations from the Kimberley Foundation Australia, Allan Myers AC QC, the Minderoo Foundation through KFA Patrons Andrew and Nicola Forrest, and a contribution from the University.

An extensive global search for candidates for the new Chair in Archaeological Science took place during the 2018-19 period. Interviews are expected to be concluded during November and December 2019 with expectations that the successful applicant will be in place in 2020.

The Kimberley Foundation Minderoo Chair in Archaeological Science will collaborate with the Chair in Rock Art at the University of Western Australia (UWA) with respect to maximising opportunities for shared multi-disciplinary research projects. Opportunities for the Forrest Research Foundation and Forrest Scholars to build links with Kimberley Foundation Australia-related scientists will be encouraged. The Chair will help establish the importance of Australia’s archaeological record in the global narrative of human origins and migrations and build momentum towards bringing the deep history of Australia’s indigenous past to life.

During FY19 the Kimberley Foundation received a gift of \$500k from the Minderoo Foundation through Patrons Andrew and Nicola Forrest to promote collaborative research between the two Chairs.

KFA Fellowship in Rock Art Dating

Dr Helen Green, Research Fellow, School of Earth Sciences, Faculty of Science, The University of Melbourne (UoM)

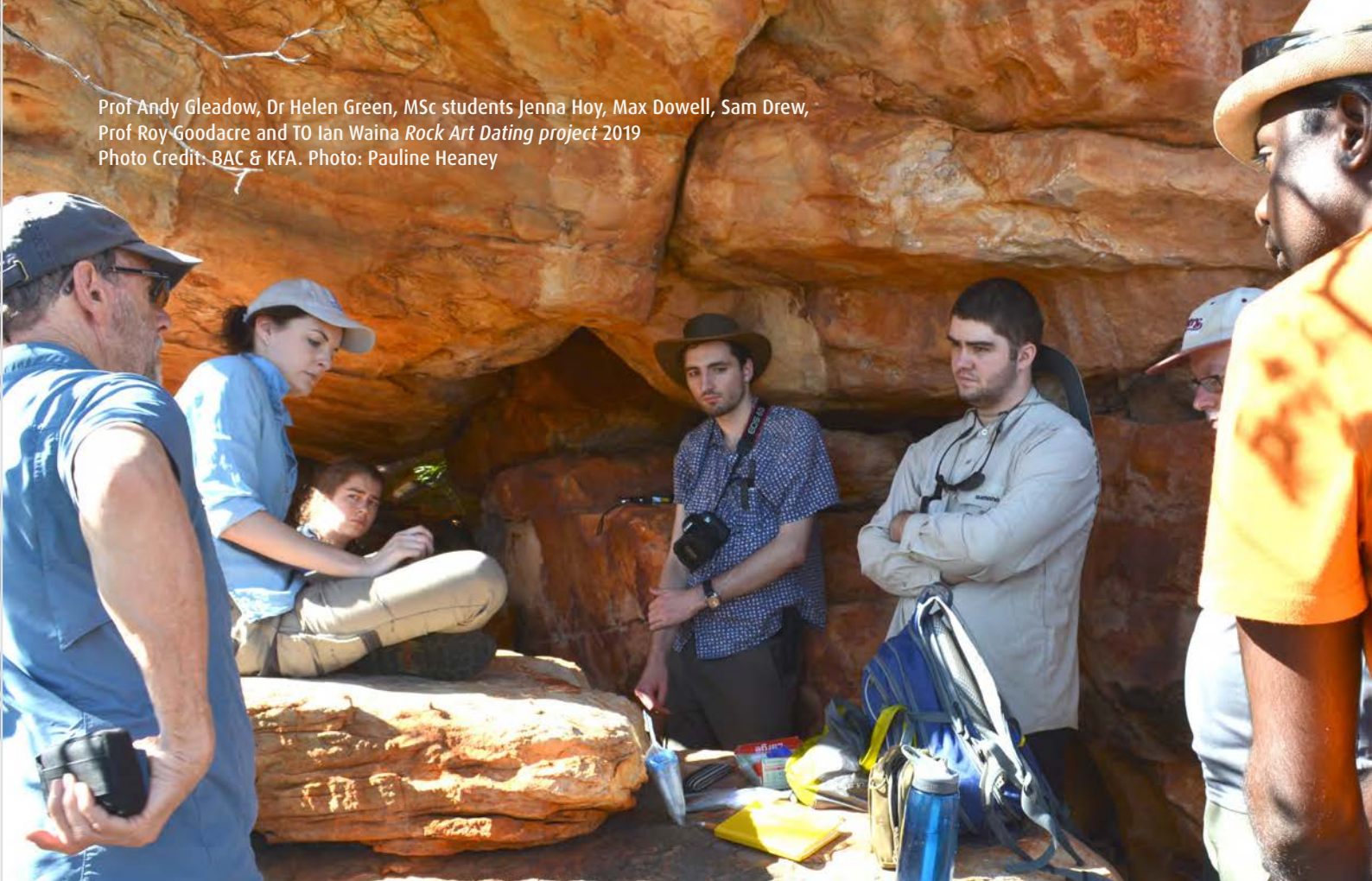
The 5-year \$740,000 *Kimberley Foundation Australia Fellowship in Rock Art Dating* is funded \$600k by the Ian Potter Foundation, \$100k by KFA and \$40k by the University. 2018-19 was the second year of the Fellowship.

Dr Green has been recognised by the Australian Research Council as a Chief Investigator on the *Rock Art Dating* Linkage Project and the following is a report of her work during the 2018-2019 period.

Fieldwork 2018-2019

In November 2018 Dr Green attended a fieldwork debrief meeting with project partners at the University of Western Australia to discuss the successes and challenges of the 2018 Barton Plains field trip. The meeting detailed improvements for future field seasons and the target sites for sampling in 2019. A ‘Saltwater Country’ research proposal with Wunambal Gaambara was submitted in June 2019 prior to attending a meeting with Kimberley Foundation Australia directors at Mungallalu Truscott 20-21 June 2019.

A significant portion of early 2019 was spent logistically managing the annual (2019) field trip. Dr Green held a pre-field season workshop at The University of Melbourne in April with 16 project partners and fieldtrip participants. This workshop included organisation of prescribed back burning of the target region, strategies for engaging Traditional Owners and strategies for training three new masters students in the field. Back burning of the region was completed in May and four members of the Kalumburu community were engaged to participate in the field season.



Prof Andy Gleadow, Dr Helen Green, MSc students Jenna Hoy, Max Dowell, Sam Drew, Prof Roy Goodacre and TO Ian Waina *Rock Art Dating project 2019*
Photo Credit: BAC & KFA. Photo: Pauline Heaney

Following a trip in June by our UWA partners, the Takarakka site database was used to construct a site priority list for sampling which was entered into Google Earth and used to produce a detailed day-to-day plan including efficient helicopter movements prior to the trip.

Between 27 June and 19 July the team completed their field season in the Drysdale River region of the remote Kimberley. At its peak the team comprised 26 members including local and international researchers, support staff and Traditional Owners. Daily evening and morning meetings were held to direct survey and sampling teams to find both suitable sites and sample targets. A portable projector was used to report the findings each evening and strategise for the next day. Over the duration of the trip 100+ rock art associated mineral accretion samples were collected by Helen Green and her Master’s student Jenna Hoy, from 30 sites, specifically for the application of radiogenic dating methods. All sites visited and samples collected were recorded in the project’s Takarakka database.

Sample Processing 2018-2019

Information (field and laboratory) regarding all samples (460) collected between 2015 and 2018 has been organised into Excel databases separated by the mineral system group, determined in the field. This information has also been entered into the larger, project-wide, online, Takarakka Database through ‘Filemaker’ and is available to relevant Traditional Owners and project partners.

106 samples from across the four mineral systems have been mounted, imaged in cross section, and assessed for dating purposes. 14 of these samples were collected during the 2018 field season. 78 mounted samples have been mapped for trace element distributions using the laser ablation-mass spectrometry facilities. The mineralogy of 58 of these samples has been determined using X-ray Diffraction and Scanning Electron Microscope analysis. 48 of the analysed samples were oxalate glazes, which we believe hold the most potential for dating purposes. 24 samples collected in 2018 have been mineralogically characterised.

This year’s field season focused on glaze deposits, previously identified as one of four mineral systems. Tens of examples where the glazes had been symbolically engraved and successfully dated using radiocarbon dating have been identified. Jenna Hoy was engaged to extend the research into the Kimberley glazes, investigating the possibility that glazes from sites across the vast Kimberley region are demonstrating common patterns in their internal layering which would mean that these accretions could provide a new palaeoclimatic proxy for the Kimberley and indeed Australia.

The potential of the glazes to provide information regarding the ages of the engravings they commonly hold as well as multi-proxy, high-resolution palaeoclimatic records from a region which suffers a real paucity of such data and which can be anchored to a robust and absolute radiocarbon chronology is exciting. It is a substantial breakthrough for

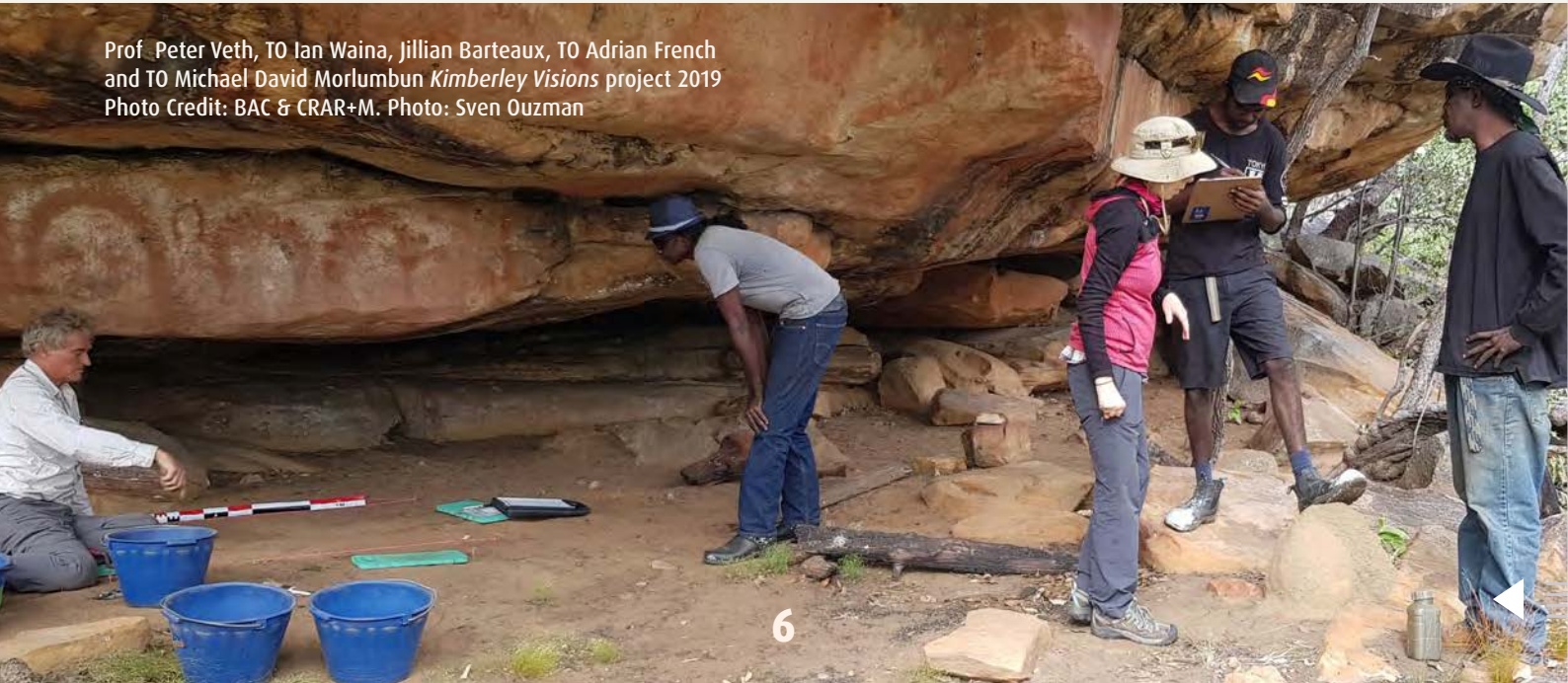
the project. Palaeoclimatic information on a timescale comparable to that of the Kimberley rock art could provide further insight into the environments experienced by the artists.

Presentations and Publications

Dr Green visited remote Kimberley communities and gave numerous presentations throughout the year. She also presented at the International Federation of Rock Art Organisations Conference, Italy and at the Thermochronology and Noble Gas Geochronology and Geochemistry Organisation Conference (TANG30) at The University of Melbourne. The Foundation regularly invites Dr Green to be a guest speaker at KFA events.

Two publications are currently in preparation. One details the development of the U-Th method for Kimberley mineral accretions; another focusses on Kimberley Floor Glazes. The aim is to submit both manuscripts by the end of 2019.

Between 27 June and 19 July the team completed their field season in the Drysdale River region of the remote Kimberley. At its peak the team comprised 26 members including local and international researchers, support staff and Traditional Owners.



Prof Peter Veth, TO Ian Waina, Jillian Barteaux, TO Adrian French and TO Michael David Morlumbun *Kimberley Visions project 2019*
Photo Credit: BAC & CRAR+M. Photo: Sven Ouzman



Prof Jean-Jacques Delannoy and TO Rowan Waina, *Kimberley Visions* project 2019
Photo Credit: BAC & UoM. Photo: Max Dowell



TO Trinity Unhango, Damien Finch, Prof Roy Goodacre, *Rock Art Dating* project 2019
Photo Credit: BAC & KFA. Photo: Pauline Heaney

COMMUNICATING THE SCIENCE

Science Advisory Council

The Foundation established a Science Advisory Council (SAC) in 2006. KFA's relationship with tertiary and cultural institutions is dynamic as the Foundation continues to fund and initiate research centred on rock art.

The SAC is made up of a diverse group of eminent scientists from tertiary institutions across Australia and advises the Board on KFA's long term research program. Chaired by Professor Andrew Gleadow AO, FAA, Professor of Geology and former Head of the School of Earth Sciences at the University of Melbourne, the Council plays a critical role in the selection, development and implementation of research projects. This is an important component of the Foundation's governance process for funding priority research.

The SAC comprises 11 members plus three ex-officio member organisations.

During the year Prof Peter Veth (UWA) retired from the SAC and Dr Sven Ouzman, (UWA) joined. Members and alternates of the Science Advisory Council do not receive fees.

During the current financial year the SAC participated in the annual workshop and in 3 teleconferences.

Members

- Chairman, Prof. Andrew Gleadow AO, University of Melbourne
- Deputy Chairman, Prof. John Dodson, Institute of Earth Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xi'an, Shaanxi, China
- Mr. Kim Akerman, Adjunct Professor of Archaeology and member of the CRAR+M Advisory Board at The University of Western Australia (UWA)
- Prof. Jane Balme, University of Western Australia
- Prof. Bruno David, Monash University and Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage (CABAH)
- Prof. Janet Hergt, University of Melbourne
- Prof. Simon Haberle, Archaeology and Natural History Program, Australian National University, Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage (CABAH)
- Prof. Hamish McGowan, University of Queensland
- Ms Cecilia Myers, Dunkeld Pastoral Co
- Dr Sven Ouzman, Archaeology and Centre for Rock Art Research + Management (CRAR+M), University of Western Australia
- Prof Robert (Bert) Roberts, Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage (CABAH), University of Wollongong

Ex Officio members

- West Australian Museum represented by Dr Moya Smith
- Kimberley Society Incorporated represented by Dr Mike Donaldson
- UWA Centre for Rock Art Research+Management represented by Prof Jo McDonald

Alternate members

- Mr Jeffrey Gresham, Kimberley Society Incorporated, alternate for Dr Mike Donaldson
- Ms Annie Carson, Western Australian Museum, alternate for Dr Moya Smith

KFA Annual Science Workshop

In 2019 Forrest Hall was generously offered pro bono to the KFA by Patrons Andrew and Nicola Forrest as the venue for the annual science workshop.

The Science Advisory Council (SAC) held its thirteenth workshop on 14 November 2018 at Forrest Hall, the University of Western Australia. The workshop *Multiple Perspectives on Kimberley Rock Art Research* was attended by 12 SAC members, 14 KFA directors and staff; 3 staff from CRAR+M, one documentary filmmaker and 17 additional researchers from 7 different universities – a total of 47 attendees. The scientists come together at the multi-disciplinary workshop to report on progress and present and share their research findings with each other and with members of the KFA Board. There were 16 presentations.

KFA thanks Paul Johnson, Warden at Forrest Hall for his support of this successful event.

KFA's annual public lecture series is an important element of the Foundation's commitment to the dissemination of research information and public engagement.

KFA Public Lecture Series and Talks

Sharing information about the significance of indigenous rock art is a key operational objective.

This year the 11th KFA Public Lecture Series was delivered by Distinguished Professor Richard 'Bert' Roberts, Australian Research Council (ARC) Australian Laureate Fellow, Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage (CABAH), Foundation Director of the Centre for Archaeological Science at the University of Wollongong and KFA Science Advisory Council member. Prof Roberts presented his lecture *Where worlds collide: Australia's epic story and the human history of the Kimberley* in Perth at the UWA Auditorium on 13 November 2018 followed by light refreshments. There were 200 people in attendance.

Prof Roberts delivered the same lecture in Melbourne at the National Gallery of Victoria on 6 March 2019 and in Sydney at the Art Gallery NSW on 3 May. KFA partnered with the Art Gallery Society for the third consecutive year.

For the second consecutive year Cas Bennetto, KFA CEO, delivered a presentation on Kimberley rock art and sharing what we know of Australia's story to more than 100 Year 8 students at Melbourne Girls Grammar School on 24 May.

Communications

A total of eleven electronic newsletters was produced and distributed in the period. The Foundation distributed four quarterly E-newsletters to 2550 email subscribers. An additional five E-newsletters promoting public lectures were targeted to state-specific subscribers. The Season's Greetings and End of Financial Year digital appeals were sent to 2542 subscribers.

A promotional flyer was produced to promote the new climate history project: *Unlocking Environmental Archives of the Kimberley*. 2,800 copies were printed for distribution at events. A *Research & Activities Report* FY2018 was produced and sent to all donors >\$1000 plus KFA stakeholders.

The Foundation's *Who We Are, What We Do and What We Value* brochure was re-written with a print run of 1,500 for distribution at KFA events. This brochure has had 9 reprints with revisions and a total print run of 17,000 since 2013. *Rock Art Styles of the North and Central Kimberley* entered its 5th reprint (1,650 copies). Originally produced in 2013, this flyer is a sought-after document by Kimberley tour operators. The cumulative print run is now 13,800.

RAISING FUNDS FOR RESEARCH

Donations and Grants

The Foundation conducts an annual EOFY Appeal and end of calendar year Christmas Appeal. The focus of the EOFY19 Appeal was the new ARC linkage climate history project: *Unlocking the Environs of the Kimberley*. A number of sponsored fundraising lunches, public lectures and private donor events were held.

Donations and grants relating to these events total \$1,145,499 (2018:\$2,474,802). The net surplus/(deficit) for the year 2019 is \$1,154,655 (2018: (\$182,457)).

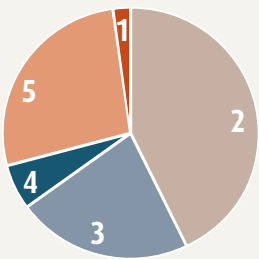
KFA Revenue Sources FY2019

The Foundation acknowledges the long term support it receives in kind from KPMG for the pro bono audit and from Allens Linklaters for legal services.

We also wish to acknowledge and thank Voyager Estate for the provision of wine at KFA events, the State Library of Victoria for providing the venue for the Jean-Michel Geneste lecture in 2018, the National Gallery of Victoria, the Art Gallery of NSW Society and the South Australian Museum for hosting the annual KFA lecture. We also thank Monash University for sponsorship of the State Library Victoria lecture.

During the financial year the Foundation received \$7,719.37 in ticket revenue. This relates to: \$4,868 for the Jean-Michel Geneste lecture at the State Library of Victoria; \$1,241 for the Perth lecture; \$1,609 for the Melbourne lecture at the NGV.

KFA Revenue Sources; FY2019
Total Revenue \$2.00 million



1	2%	In Kind
2	43%	Other (Investments, Interest)
3	22%	Individual Donors
4	6%	Ian Potter Foundation
5	27%	Other Trusts and Foundations

Breakdown of Events

The majority of KFA's events are centred on our donors. Without their engagement and support we would not be in a position to fund the research. During the year we produced 15 'KFA' events and presented at three other events. In addition we've included the Kimberley Land Council's 40th anniversary 3-day event as a key Indigenous Engagement.

We have taken the opportunity to introduce Dr Helen Green to as many of our supporters as possible. To launch her *KFA Fellowship in Rock Art Dating* we held a morning tea at The Ian Potter Museum of Art on 4 October 2018. This was followed by a visit to the Melbourne University science laboratory for a hands-on explanation with Dr Green of her work and the work of other *Rock Art Dating* team members, Prof Andy Gleadow and Damien Finch.

In October, the USA-French team behind a project called *The Adventures of Rock Art (TARA)*, a proposed world-first exhibition of rock art masterpieces, visited Melbourne.

To provide a platform at which invited guests could learn about TARA, the Foundation partnered with the Committee for Melbourne and Allens, a CfM member and supporters of KFA since 1997. Together they hosted a morning tea on 22 October at which Martin Marquet, TARA's creative producer was invited to address 30 guests.

On the 24th October 2018 we partnered with the State Library Victoria to present a special evening featuring distinguished French archaeologist Jean-Michel Geneste. Honoured with the French Légion d'honneur and the highest professional scientific title for research in France, Conservateur Général du Patrimoine, Jean-Michel Geneste's talk *Kimberley and Australian rock art in the context of world rock art* traversed the discovery of the 36,000 year-old cave paintings in Chauvet Cave, France which changed what we thought we knew about the past, and how new discoveries in the Kimberley are providing further understanding of the range and depth of visual expression in hominin evolution.

Breakdown of Events 2018-2019

Stakeholder & Donor Engagement	8
Fundraising	1
Public Engagement	6
Indigenous Engagement	3



The lecture was attended by 155 paying guests and included a Q and A session with a panel of Australian scientists and archaeologists comprising Prof Bruno David (Monash University), Prof Andy Gleadow (The University of Melbourne) and Prof Peter Veth (University WA). The evening was generously sponsored by Monash University.

A cocktail party in honour of Jean Michel Geneste and Martin Marquet for 30 KFA supporters and friends was held at the home of CEO Cas Bennetto on 25 October.

In Perth on 13 November KPMG, sponsor partners of the Foundation since 1997, hosted a lunch for 28 KFA stakeholders and supporters. Dr Helen Green was the guest speaker.

The Chairman, Maria Myers AC hosted the annual KFA Christmas Party for 55 KFA supporters at the Alexandra Club in Melbourne on 12 December.

On 27 March 2019 KFA CEO and Fiona Archer, director Wealth & Advice at JBWere Sydney hosted a Next Generation lunch for 18 guests new to the Foundation. Dr Helen Green was the guest speaker.

KFA Director Warwick Hemsley hosted an evening discussion at his home in Perth for a special gathering of KFA supporters on 9 May. The focus was on KFA engagement in Western Australia.

The Committee for Economic Development Australia, CEDA, invited KFA CEO Cas Bennetto to give a presentation to CEDA Trustees on 10 May in Perth. The Trustees' lunch for 30 guests was hosted by KFA supporter, INPEX.

The Foundation held a cocktail party to launch and fundraise for its major new research project *Unlocking the environmental archives of the Kimberley*. The evening was hosted by KFA supporters Anita and Luca Belgiorno-Nettis at their home in Sydney on 2 May. Helen Trinca, editor of *The Australian's* business magazine *The Deal*, directed a discussion with KFA Director Cissy Gore-Birch and Prof Bert Roberts. 55 guests attended.

The Foundation is indebted to the Belgiorno-Nettis' for their generous support of our mission.



Wunambal Gaambera Country
Photo Credit: Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation & KFA. Photo: Mark Jones

Indigenous Engagement

On 4 July 2018 the Kimberley Land Council Chairman Anthony Watson and A/g CEO Tryonne Garstone invited KFA's CEO to address a KLC Directors meeting in Fitzroy Crossing.

In September, the KLC invited KFA to its 40th anniversary at Ngumpun community, south east of Fitzroy Crossing. The 40th anniversary began with the re-enactment of the historic Noonkanbah march and an evening performance by the Yirrkala dancers. The 3-day celebration, including the AGM for the KLC and the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre, was attended by KFA Director Deidre Willmott and CEO Cas Bennetto.

On the far north-west coast of the Kimberley are the lands and waters of the Wunambal Gaambera people.

Their strong healthy country plan includes passing on cultural stories, keeping culture strong, sharing culture and looking after cultural assets.

Wanjina Wunggurr Culture - keeping culture strong and sharing culture

To look after the remote 2.5 million hectares of sandy beaches, gorges and rocky escarpments featuring thousands of rock art sites, the Wunambal Gaambera people have developed their healthy country plan. The plan includes passing on cultural stories, keeping culture strong, sharing culture and looking after cultural assets.

In June KFA held its annual Kimberley board meeting at Mungalalu Truscott Air Base (Wunambal Gaambera country). The Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation (WGAC) invited KFA to meet with them on their country. The historic meeting took place at Garmbemirri bush camp Mungalalu Truscott.

The meeting was an opportunity for KFA to learn about building capacity and expertise in cultural management, a key tenet of the Unguu Rangers Healthy Country Plan and to discuss how to strengthen the relationship to enable collaborative research. Together we talked about the management of cultural assets and how KFA, through its scientific research of the rock art, might partner Wunambal Gaambera Corporation to develop a program to help their young people develop and apply these skills in the field.

KFA funded the attendance of the scientists, staff and Aboriginal participants. The KFA board of directors attended accompanied by staff Cas Bennetto and Gwen Allen and scientists

from the *Rock Art Dating* and *Kimberley Visions* projects: Helen Green, Sven Ouzman, Cecilia Myers, Damien Finch and KFA rock art archivist Pauline Heaney. 12 Wunambal Gaambera Traditional Owners and Directors were present: Desmond Williams, Agnes Charles, Dianna Williams, Albert Bundamurra, Sebastian Djanghara, Lillian Karadada, Mark Unghango, Regina Karadada, Dorothy Djanghara, Bernadette Waina, Schollie Mangolomara and Clarrie Djanghara. In addition to the 12 TOs there were eight WGAC staff and ranger supporters: Bevan Stott, Tom Vigilante, Hylke Vader, Neil Waina, Ildephonse Cheinmora, Troy Karadada, Willie Ah Choo, Scott Unghango; two carers also attended: Whitney Williams and Calissa Charles.

WGAC's Bevan Stott and Tom Vigilante and TO Sebastian Djanghara presented. Laurie Brereton was the spokesperson for KFA and Prof Andy Gleadow presented on the scientific research program. 38 people attended. WGAC Chair Cathy Goonack presented the newly published book *We are coming to see you* in which all the traditional owners had written their names to KFA Chairman Maria Myers. It was a memorable part of the 2-day meeting.

Thanks to Bevan Stott and all the traditional owners, directors and rangers who shared their stories and looked after us. We look forward to working with Wunambal Gaambera.



We extend our thanks to our support partners for their involvement and generous contributions towards supporting the KFA mission. The Ian Potter Foundation, Minderoo Foundation, Freedman Foundation, Allens Linklaters, Dunkeld Pastoral Co, INPEX, KPMG, Virgin Australia and Voyager Estate.



Back row L to R: Ian Waina, Helen Green, Cecilia Myers, Reka Fülöp, Klaus Wilcken, MaxDowell, Bruno David
Front row L to R: Sue Ball, Mady Kelly, Jenna Hoy, Peter Turnbull, Jean-Jacques Delannoy
Photo Credit: BAC & KFA. Photo: Robin Maher



Back row L to R: Butch Maher, Andy Gleadow, Bert Roberts, Sam Drew, Roy Goodachre, Trinity Unhango, Chris Townsend, Damien Finch
Front row L to R: Rowan Waina, Pauline Heapey, Paul Hartley
Photo Credit: BAC & KFA. Photo: Robin Maher

Our research projects require partnerships with Aboriginal communities, close collaboration with the scientific community and the support of the institutions involved with Kimberley research.

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

How and what we fund

Rock art research and research of the Kimberley's environmental history is central to answering some of the big questions about human migration.

KFA has been funding rock art-centred research in the Kimberley since 2007. The Ian Potter Foundation gave us our first significant grant that year towards a *Kimberley Regional Human and Environmental History Program*. Since then we have underwritten six major Australian Research Council (ARC) grants, seed-funded a number of other projects and collaborated on projects with remote Kimberley Aboriginal communities.

We have supported more than 35 PhD, Honours and post-graduate students and fostered the work of up to 50 researchers across 10 Australian universities in rock art research in the past decade. In 2018 we awarded the *Kimberley Foundation Australia Fellowship in Rock Art Dating* to Dr Helen Green at the University of Melbourne, generously supported by The Ian Potter Foundation.

Kimberley rock art is a complex archaeological subject and KFA has responded by developing a research program that spans key scientific disciplines. By unlocking the archives of the paleo environment and researching and dating the rock art we are learning how to conserve and protect this precious heritage.

Project Selection

The KFA's Science Advisory Council (SAC) assesses each project proposal in the context of KFA's long-term research interests and with consideration of the interests and participation of Indigenous communities, sustainable research outcomes and the wider academic discourse.

KFA provides seed funding for approved 'first stage' research particularly if the research has potential to become an Australian Research Council (ARC) linkage project with academic partners. KFA will then consider funding 'stage two' to support an ARC grant application.

Selected projects are anticipated to produce research results that will inform both policies and practical measures leading to better protection and preservation of rock art. Of significant importance is the benefit and outcomes to Aboriginal people. KFA aims to pursue collaborative programs that are a priority for the Aboriginal people of the region and we actively foster engagement with country and culture.

Research findings are communicated via professional journals, the media and a series of public lectures.

KFA is the major funder of three current ARC projects *Rock Art Dating*, *Kimberley Visions* and *Unlocking the environmental archives of the Kimberley*.

Our research themes and priorities

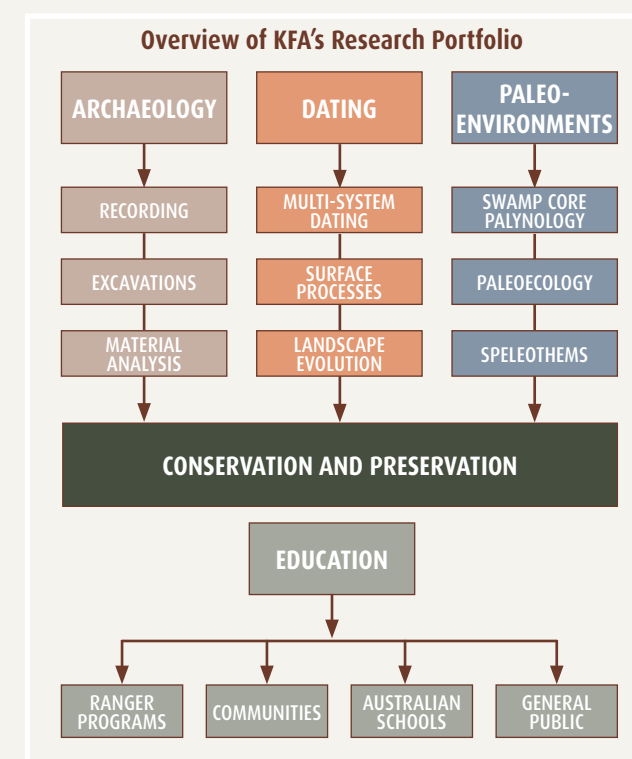
The following five priority research themes reflect leading questions in Kimberley rock art research and guide KFA in identifying and funding research projects:

1. Interpreting and understanding Kimberley rock art and the people and cultures that produced it
2. Reconstructing past climate and environments
3. The production, composition and conservation of Kimberley art
4. The antiquity of engraved and pigment art in the Kimberley and how we understand its variability across space and time
5. The chronology of human occupation of the Kimberley in the context of archaeological and genetic data from Sunda (southeast extension of the continental shelf of Southeast Asia) and Sahul (part of the continental shelf of the Australian continent)

KFA's approach in pursuing these themes, referred to scientifically as a 'catchment type' approach, focuses on locating research sites that are relevant across key disciplines. These include archaeological and paleontological sites and cultural landscapes. We will build on research already undertaken expanding the depth and scope of our understanding.

KFA Research Portfolio

KFA's current research portfolio of \$5,193,000 stretches across three Australia Research Council linkage projects, the *KFA Rock Art Dating Fellowship* and a bunch of smaller first stage projects. The additional funds raised for the two perpetual Chairs, at the University of Western Australia and The University of Melbourne, brings the total portfolio to \$14.2 Million.



New Project Funding

In FY19 KFA approved new funding of \$9,620 for the *Ninbing pilot study* and \$30,000 for *Living in the Open* project.

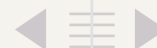
Ninbing Range: Archaeology of the northern Devonian Reef System - Pilot Study

In May 2019 Professors Jane Balme and Peter Veth (UWA) and Sue O'Connor (ANU) carried out surveys in the Ningbing Ranges north of Kununurra with Miriung Gadjerrong (MG) Rangers and Traditional Owners. Reconnaissance surveys of limestone ranges revealed enormous caves with shallow deposits, washed by heavy monsoonal rain. The area has evidence of ancient and recent occupation by Aboriginal people. More intensive work programs with Miriung Gadjerrong Rangers and Traditional Owners and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) in 2020 is proposed.

Living in the open: an exploration of open site archaeology in the Kimberley region of northern Australia

KFA approved \$30,000 for a one year pilot project to carry out a trial open site excavation in Windjana Gorge in the SW Kimberley. In addition, the Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage (CABAH) will contribute \$10,000 cash towards the total cost of the project and The Australian National University will contribute \$5000.

Due to the rarity of sites and the limited excavations little is known about the technological and artistic behaviours of the first humans in Australia. Most of the oldest archaeology comes from small excavations in rock shelters with few artefacts, making it difficult to characterise early behavioural strategies (Veth 2010). The investigators propose to undertake large open-air excavations which should yield more early artefacts and reveal spatially diverse behaviours. This application is for a one-year project to undertake open site trial excavations in Windjana Gorge, southern Kimberley, to establish the viability of the project in terms of density and variability of artefacts, and age of deposits. This project will be done in partnership with the Bunuba people.



Rock Art Dating (RAD-2) - ARC LP170100155

Dating the aboriginal rock art sequence of the Kimberley in NW Australia

FY19 was the first full year of work under the new ARC Linkage Project *Dating the aboriginal rock art sequence of the Kimberley in NW Australia*, which formally began on 26 April 2018, and will continue for a period of four years. This work is a direct continuation of work carried out under the previous KFA-supported ARC Linkage project.

Highlights

The July 2018 field camp hosted a BBC film crew with noted British sculptor Sir Antony Gormley. The documentary *‘How Art Began’* subsequently aired on BBC2 in the UK in early 2019. Sir Antony uses the Kimberley rock art sites visited as the culmination and highlight of this excellent program tracing the origins of art in rock paintings throughout the world.

A landmark paper detailing the methods developed by Damien Finch for radiocarbon dating of minute particles of charcoal in remnants of mud-wasp nests was published in *Quaternary Geochronology* in March 2019. This is the first of a series of papers presenting dating results obtained for the various rock art periods.

Another highlight was the presentation by project researchers of five papers at the IFRAO 2018 International Rock Art Congress in Valcamonica, Italy, from 29 August to 2 September 2018. This was followed by a keynote presentation by Andy Gleadow about the project to the major International Conference on Thermochronology at Quedlinburg, Germany.



TO Rowan Waina and Dr Helen Green, *Rock Art Dating* project 2019
Photo Credit: BAC & KFA. Photo: Pauline Héaney

Fieldwork

A large group of researchers carried out fieldwork from 11-24 July 2018 from a camp on the Barton River about 90 km north of the areas previously worked on in the northern Drysdale River National Park. Approximately 160 new rock art sites were documented in collaboration with Kimberley Visions and sampled for dating in this area which had not previously been surveyed. In late June 2019 the next field program began from a new camp further south on the Drysdale River, completing the survey of new sites between previously sampled areas along the Warton Sandstone escarpment.

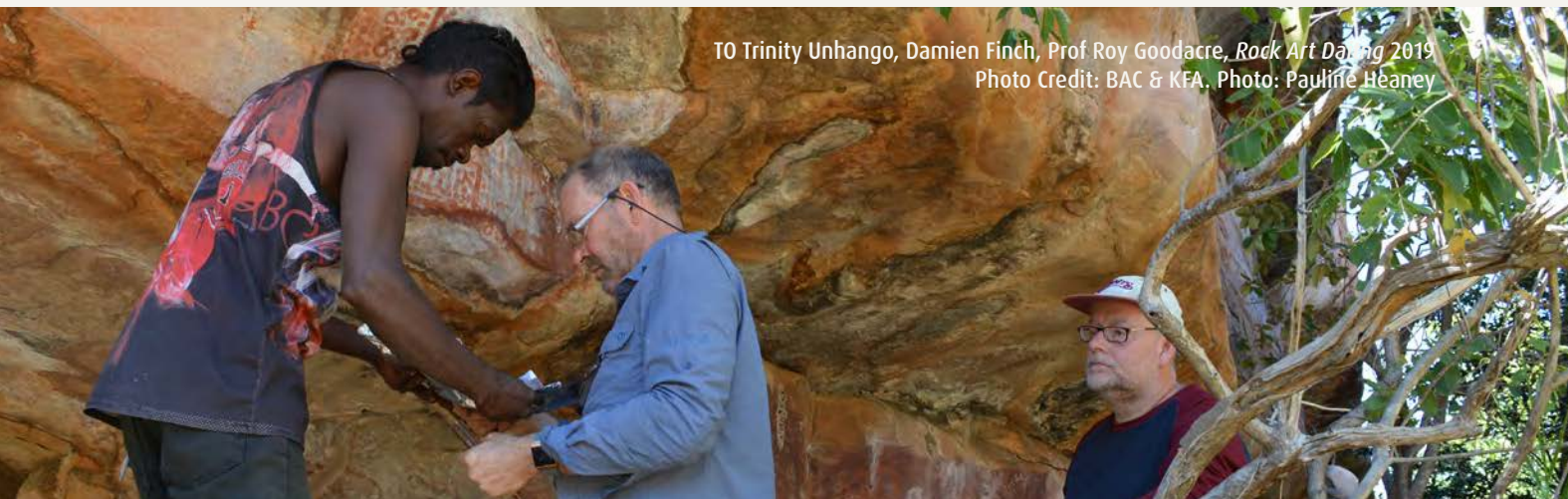


Optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating

Eight mud-wasp nests from four rock shelters in the northern Kimberley have been dated by the University of Wollongong group (Bert Roberts and Zenobia Jacobs) using OSL measurement on quartz sand grains extracted from within the mud. Two were sub-sampled to check that the ages obtained are consistent among the different portions, which proved to be so. The nests were constructed on top of rock art and, therefore, provide minimum ages for the underlying paintings. Conservatively, the nest ages range from as recent as 1,000 years to more than 18,000 years, the latter obtained from two nests built on top of an animal motif (possibly a macropod), providing further support for the Kimberley rock art sequence extending well into the Pleistocene. Some final checks are required to confirm the accuracy of these OSL ages and several recently-constructed nests are currently being prepared for OSL dating to check that the ages obtained are correspondingly young.

Mineral accretion dating

Helen Green continues to progress her work on Uranium-series dating of mineral accretions associated with rock art as detailed under her Fellowship report. This work has taken an exciting new direction with the installation of a powerful new ATTOM instrument at the University of Melbourne, an enhanced-sensitivity high-resolution mass spectrometer, which should minimise previously experienced problems with environmental contamination of samples by detrital thorium. During installation and commissioning of this instrument attention has been focused on determining the composition and internal structure of sulphate-oxalate glazes, often associated with rock engravings. Oxalate-rich layers can be radiocarbon dated using previously developed micro-milling techniques enabling the engravings to be dated and new microbeam techniques are also being investigated to assess the internal distribution of carbon in the mm-scale deposits. A particularly exciting prospect is that these strongly layered surface deposits may not only be useful for dating engraved art, but may also contain a paleoclimate signature that can help in reconstructing past conditions through the period represented by the rock art. Two new MSc students, Jenna Hoy and Sam Drew, are now also engaged in this project area at the University of Melbourne.



TO Trinity Unhango, Damien Finch, Prof Roy Goodacre, *Rock Art Dating* 2019
Photo Credit: BAC & KFA. Photo: Pauline Heaney



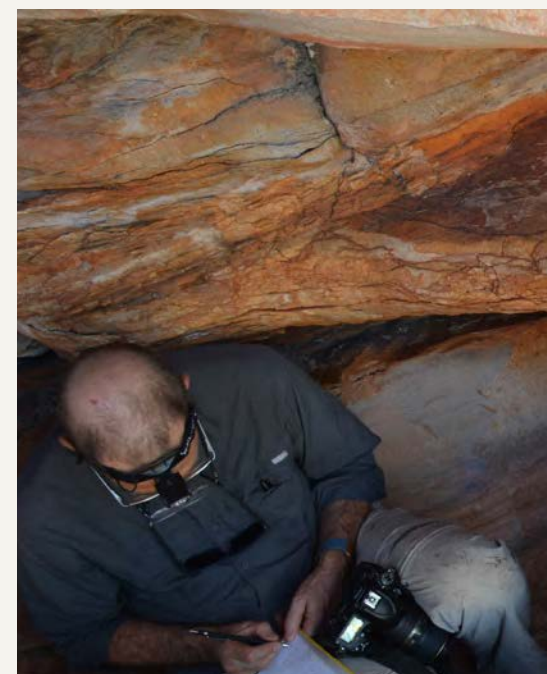
TO Trinity Unhango, Damien Finch, *Rock Art Dating* 2019
Photo Credit: BAC & KFA. Photo: Pauline Heaney

Radiocarbon dating

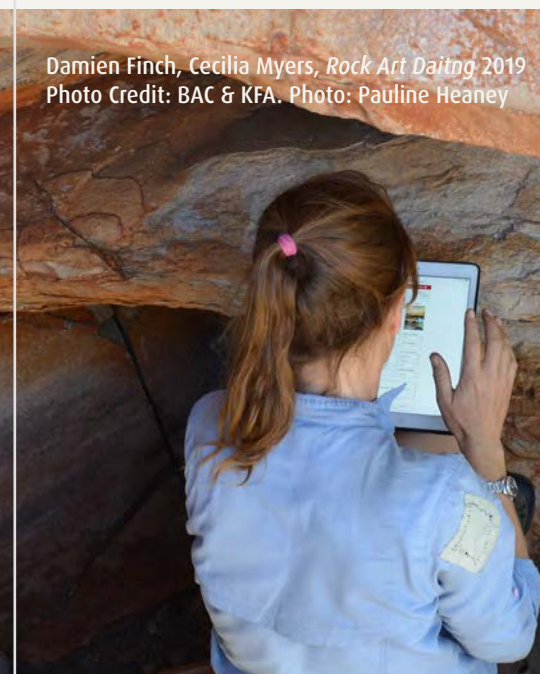
Publication of the radiocarbon methods paper was an important prerequisite for publication of age estimates for rock art based on 75 dated wasp nests that were either under or overlying paintings. A paper summarising the findings as they apply to paintings in the Gwion style has been submitted for publication and is in the final stage of peer review. This will be followed by papers on the Irregular Infill Animal style and then paintings of other styles. Damien Finch is now well advanced towards completing his PhD Thesis at the University of Melbourne following which he will join the project in a postdoctoral capacity.



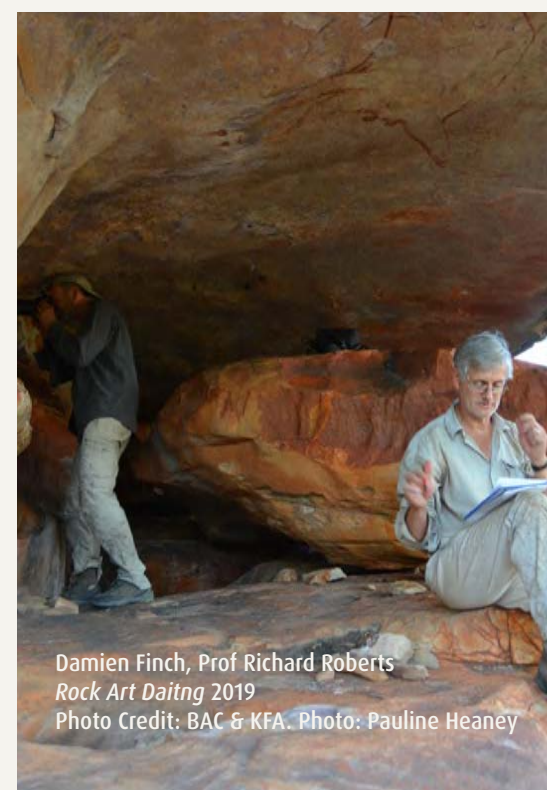
TO Rowan Waina, Damien Finch, *Rock Art Dating* 2019
Photo Credit: BAC & KFA. Photo: Pauline Heaney



Damien Finch, Cecilia Myers, *Rock Art Dating* 2019
Photo Credit: BAC & KFA. Photo: Pauline Heaney



Jenna Hoy, Dr Helen Green, *Rock Art Dating* 2019
Photo Credit: BAC & KFA. Photo: Pauline Heaney

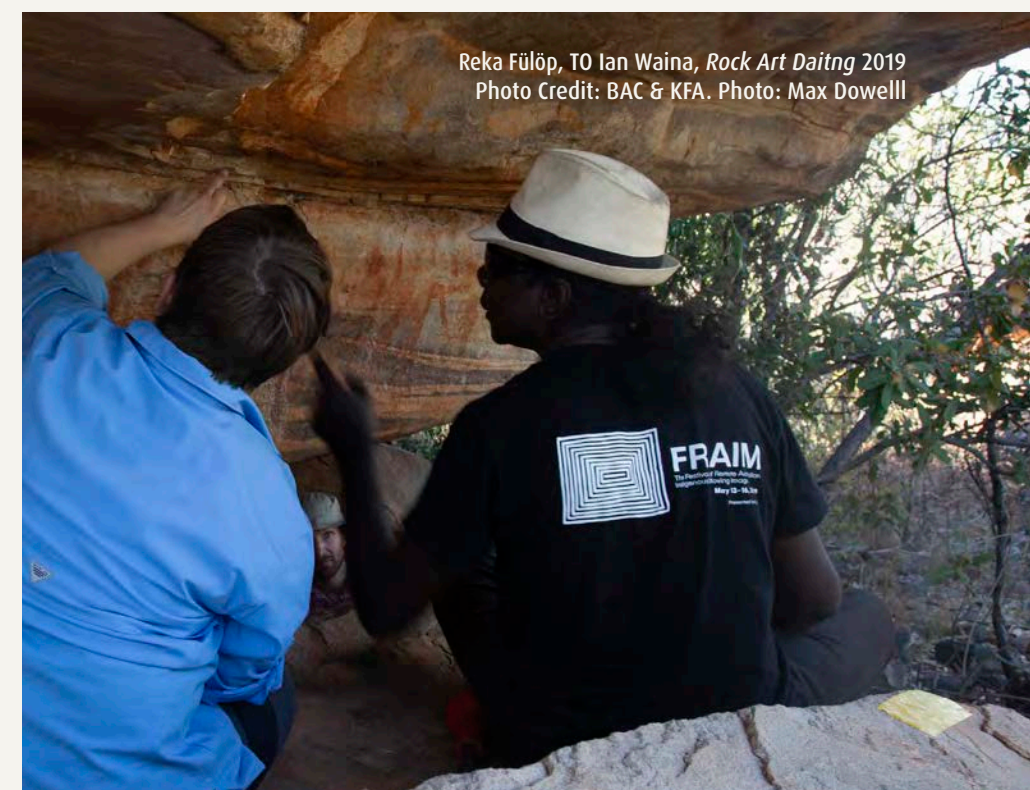


Damien Finch, Prof Richard Roberts
Rock Art Dating 2019
Photo Credit: BAC & KFA. Photo: Pauline Heaney

Cosmogenic Radionuclide (CRN) dating

The CRN rock-shelter dating group (David Fink, Gael Cazes and Alexandru Codilean) collected a total of 51 rock and sediment samples during the successful July 2018 field campaign in the Drysdale River region. Samples were taken from new rock art shelters and from deep profiles down vertical cliff faces to measure the pace of escarpment retreat.

These samples will contribute to quantifying the scale and tempo of Kimberley landscape change and double the number of rock art shelters, now at about 17, that are being dated by the cosmogenic radionuclides ^{10}Be and ^{26}Al . First rock shelter formation ages have been obtained for 7 sites ranging from about 9,000 to 230,000 years ago. Reka Fülöp, has now joined the project as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in CRN dating (with additional support from ANSTO and University of Wollongong). Reka has now commissioned a new in situ cosmogenic radiocarbon sample preparation facility that will provide a third cosmogenic radionuclide which will improve our ability to date young rock art shelters. Gael Cazes is currently writing up his PhD thesis at the University of Wollongong.



Reka Fülöp, TO Ian Waina, *Rock Art Dating* 2019
Photo Credit: BAC & KFA. Photo: Max Dowell

Kimberley Visions - ARC LP150100490

Rock Art Styles Provinces of Northern Australia

Kimberley Visions is a 5-year multi-disciplinary archaeological project investigating some of the world's most complex figurative rock art. The project has completed 4 field seasons with 2 field seasons remaining. To date the work with Balanggarra Aboriginal Corporation, Rangers and partners has located, recorded, and is researching over 1200 sites, and has amassed a database of over 80,000 high resolution photographs, in addition to several thousand other records. These sites include rock art, historic campsites, ochre sources, stone arrangements, quarries and living sites.

Their study helps us understand two things. Firstly, how people lived in this landscape through time from at least as far

back as 50,000 years. Secondly, how Kimberley peoples connected with groups living in what is today Arnhem Land to the east, desert areas to the south, Island South East Asia to the north and the ancient plains that are now underwater.

Major research questions include seasonality and when and where people moved across the East Kimberley and beyond, how rock shelters formed naturally as well as being shaped by people, identifying additional rock art 'styles', and preparing our data so as best to compare sites and images with other regions, establishing chains of connection.

Kimberley Visions is at a mature phase and research outputs are being directed towards cultural heritage management outcomes,

which include using 'right way' fire to protect sites, starting to establish site visitation protocols for the public, and working with Rangers to establish a new on-country base. The relationship continues with the Western Australia Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions on managing cultural sites on public lands. The project has also had input into current reviews of Western Australia's Aboriginal Heritage Act by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. The National Museum of Australia in Canberra has approached the team regarding future showcasing of the Kimberley's cultural heritage. Twice a year the team reports back to BAC Directors and Rangers and take advice on where they would like to work.

Foot and helicopter surveys located a remarkably rich and varied collection of over 200 rock art and archaeological sites

Exploring the Carson Escarpment hitherto unrecorded sites
L to R: Jess Green, Ian Waina, Mariangela Lanza
Photo Credit: BAC & CRAR+M. Photo: Martin Porr

Fieldwork

There were three field camps in 2018.

Eal/Ejal and Plateau: A foot and helicopter survey located a remarkably rich and varied collection of over 200 rock art and archaeological sites within the escarpment and plateau between the Drysdale and King George Rivers. These sites fill a gap in geographic coverage and also in our knowledge of peoples' use of the wider landscape as well as specific sites at which they lived, made tools, sourced ochre, marked the landscape, painted etc. Drone and helicopter mapping by PhD candidate Mariangela Lanza provides a spatial layer on which to model past human actions. The team for this work consisted of 12 people.

Drysdale River Tributary: A targeted survey and recording of rock art to further PhD candidate Anapaula Motta's PhD work on human and animal identity, to which the Kimberley Society generously provided additional funds for helicopter access. This work also assisted Ben Gunn with his research into art styles and progression. Jo McDonald, Director of CRAR+M, Ken Mulvaney and Joc Schmiechen ran this camp.

King George River: Over 200 sites were located and recorded on the escarpment and hills along the middle and lower-river reaches. PhD candidate Marine Benoit completed an excavation of a rare stratified open site and is investigating whether this may extend back into the Pleistocene (>10,000 years ago), with funds for additional dating supplied by the Kimberley Society. This trip also recorded sites impacted by tourism and increased visitation by people.

There were three field camps in 2019:

Eal and Plateau: Work continued in this area including conducting an excavation with Traditional Owners to investigate the archaeological signature of a richly painted site in a well-watered oasis.

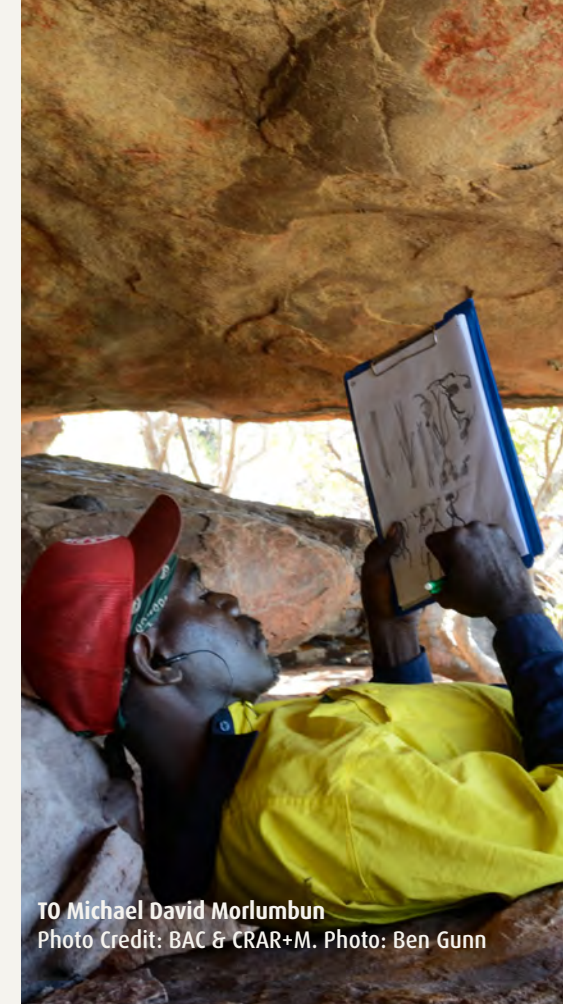
Mariangela Lanza conducted extensive aerial mapping, with additional funding from the Kimberley Society. Recording of stone quarries and detailed recording of key sites found in previous surveys provided a comprehensive context to interpret the imagery. This trip included assisting Balanggarra and the Kalumburu School with a Back to Country trip to the King George River, and hosting Colin Morgan's 13-vehicle tag-along tour for a bush class on rock art.

Drysdale River: Chief Investigator Bruno David led archaeological excavations, while Chief Investigator Jean-Jacques Delannoy conducted geomorphological study and site mapping, with Traditional Owner representative Rowan Waina at a medium-sized rock shelter on the Drysdale plateau edge recorded by Ben Gunn and Leigh Douglas. PhD candidate Madeleine Kelly assisted. Excavations revealed a rock that fell from a part of the back wall with paintings on it. This rock shows no sign of paintings, but fell after the paintings had been done on the back wall. Radiocarbon dating will reveal when the rock fell, giving a minimum age for the paintings of the wall. Jean-Jacques Delannoy's detailed geomorphological study and sorting and analysis of the excavated archaeological materials will be reported within the year.

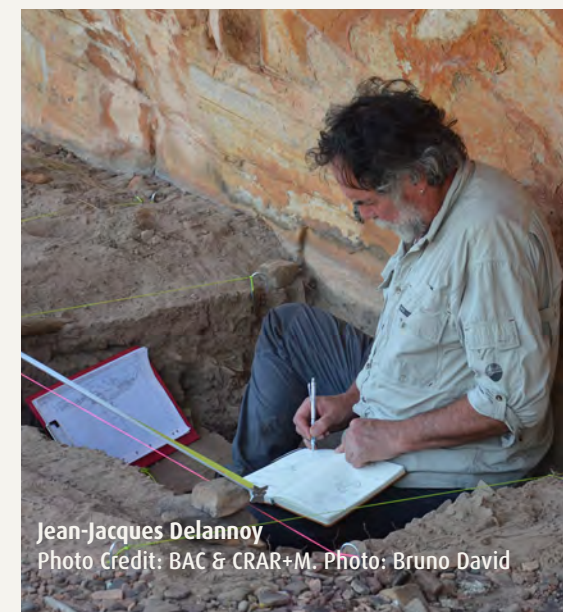
Kalumburu and environs: Chief Investigator Leslie Zubieta, Lucia Clayton and Sven Ouzman made use of project partner Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' new marine base north of Kalumburu to conduct work with women. This took place at Kalumburu and nearby at ethnographic and historic camp sites, ochre sources, rock art (including sites visited by tourists) in order both to better inform the community of our work and to explore rock art in the King Leopold sandstones.



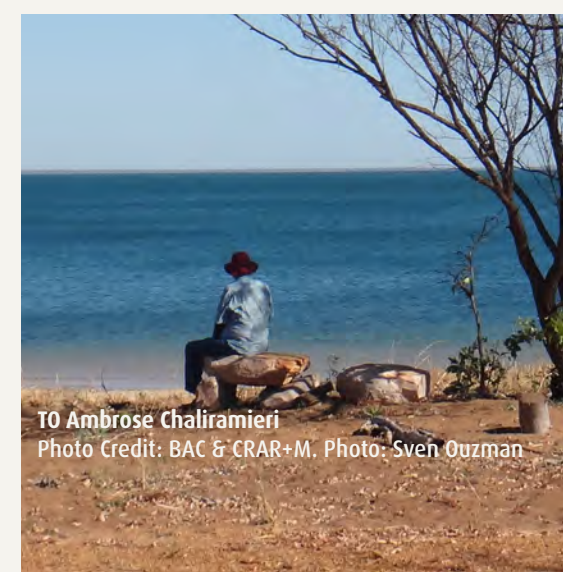
L to R: Bronwyn Morlunbun, Marissa Tataya, Kathleen Unhango, Bernadette Waina, Onjo Duncan and Leslie Zubieta working to record historic and ethnographic sites.



TO Michael David Morlumbun
Photo Credit: BAC & CRAR+M. Photo: Ben Gunn



Jean-Jacques Delannoy
Photo Credit: BAC & CRAR+M. Photo: Bruno David



TO Ambrose Chaliramieri
Photo Credit: BAC & CRAR+M. Photo: Sven Ouzman

Postgraduates

The *Kimberley Visions* project is training the next generation of archaeologists through its three PhD students: Marine Benoit (stone tool analysis), Mariangela Lanza (GIS and human mobility) and Ana Paula Motta (rock art and identity).

Affiliated PhD candidate Madeleine Kelly is analysing Wardaman rock art which will provide an invaluable dataset for comparative work between the Kimberley and Victoria River District (NT). Two Honours dissertations were completed dealing with Kimberley plant depictions in rock art (Emily Grey) and rock art image links to SE Asia (Matthew Tetlaw).

Public Archaeology

The project’s 196 research days in the field have enabled > 460 on-country days for Traditional Owners, including:

- Back to Country visit by Kalumburu Junior Rangers to the King George River
- Interactive classes and site visits with Wyndham primary school and high school students
- Bringing Traditional Owners to UWA’s Research Week
- A dedicated field trip to Kalumburu and environs recording women’s experiences, ethnographic sites, and advising on rock art site management

Project Partners

The University of Western Australia (administering organisation), Balanggarra Aboriginal Corporation and Rangers, Monash University, the University of Melbourne, Université Savoie Mont Blanc (France), Western Australian Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Dunkeld Pastoral Pty Ltd, and the Kimberley Foundation Australia.

Kimberley Visions is led (since December 2018; Peter Veth prior to that) by Sven Ouzman of UWA’s Centre for Rock Art Research + Management. Chief Investigators are: Bruno David (Monash), Jean-Jacques Delannoy (Savoie), Andy Gleadow (Melbourne), Martin Porr (UWA), Peter Veth (UWA), and Leslie-Zubieta-Calvert (Barcelona), with Sam Harper as Research Fellow and Project Manager. Lucia Clayton is Project Manager while Sam is on maternity leave. Peter Kendrick, Michi Maier and Ron Witt provided invaluable survey and in-camp support. The team shares field base camps and help each other to work out complex research questions of mutual benefit with the KFA-funded *Rock Art Dating* project. Our thanks to partners and sponsors and to Traditional Owners Ambrose Chaliramieri, Augustine Unhango, Scotty Unhango, Bernadette Waina, Ian Waina, Rowan Waina, Adrian French, Gareth Karadada, Michael Mangalomara and also Traudl Tan.

Unlocking the environmental archives of the Kimberley’s past
ARC LP170100242 led by Prof. Hamish McGowan, University of Queensland

Providing a palaeoenvironmental framework for the Kimberley region which gives context to the archaeological and rock art record is a research priority for KFA. The Foundation previously funded a palynology pilot study of sediment cores from the North West Kimberley led by Prof. Hamish McGowan with PhD candidate Emily Field. This strategic funding led to the successful submission to the Australian Research Council in 2018 for funding over 3 years, led by KFA as major cash partner.

Research contracts and collaboration agreements for the new project were signed in mid-March after which the project’s first planning workshop was held at The University of Queensland on 29-30 May. Led by Professor Hamish McGowan the workshop was attended by Professor Jonathan Woodhead, The University of Melbourne, Professor Simon Haberle, Australian National University, Dr Nik Callow, The University of Western Australia, Dr Stuart Browning, Macquarie University and Associate Professor Patrick Moss, The University of Queensland. Dr Sven Ouzman, the University of Western Australia also attended and provided members of the research team with an overview of his experiences of conducting research in the Kimberley. Team members gave short presentations on previous research they had conducted in the Kimberley or research expertise that they will apply in the project over the coming three years.

An international search was held for the project’s Postdoctoral Fellow with interviews completed in early July. The project was awarded a fully funded PhD scholarship by The University of Queensland. This scholarship will support a 3.5 yr PhD study to model the palaeoclimate of the Kimberley and has been advertised internationally.

A remote sensing analysis of sites in the Kimberley that hold water for the majority of each year, excluding rivers, has been completed to identify potential field sites (swamps, lakes, springs) for sampling. These have been ranked and the process of obtaining permission to access sites in preparation for the project’s major field season in 2020 is underway.

Research Publications resulting from KFA-sponsored research

Dating the aboriginal rock art sequence of the Kimberley in NW Australia (RAD-2)

1. Finch D., Gleadow A., Hergt J., Levchenko V.A., Fink D., Williams A.A., Bertuch F., 2018. *New developments in the radiocarbon dating of mud wasp nests*. Quaternary Geochronology 51, 140-154.
2. Cazes G., Fink D., Codilean A.T., Fülöp R-H., Fujioka T., Wilcken K.M., 2019. *26Al/10Be ratios reveal the source of river sediments in the Kimberley, NW Australia*. (Manuscript submitted - under review) Earth Surface Process and Landforms, March 2019.
3. Cazes G., Fink D., Fülöp R-H., Codilean A.T., Gleadow A., Wilcken K.M., Fujioka T., 2019. *Dating of aboriginal rock-art shelter formation in the Kimberley region using cosmogenic nuclides*. manuscript in preparation, to be submitted to PNAS.
4. Cazes G., Fink D., Fülöp R-H., Codilean A.T., Fujioka T., Wilcken K.M., 2018. *Aboriginal rock-art shelter dating in the Kimberley using cosmogenic nuclides*, AINSE Annual Research Highlights, December 2018.

Conference Abstracts

1. Gleadow A., 2018. *Time without temperature: Dating the remarkable Aboriginal rock art of Australia’s Kimberley region*. (Keynote Abstract) Thermo2018 - 16th International Conference on Thermochronology, Quedlinburg, Germany, September 2018.
2. Gleadow A., Green H., Finch D., 2018. *Mineral accretion systems associated with rock art in rock shelters of the Kimberley region, NW Australia*. (Abstract) IFRAO2018 Conference, Valcamonica, Italy, September 2018.
3. Finch D., Gleadow A., Levchenko V., Hergt H., 2018. *Estimating the age of Australia’s Kimberley region rock art using radiocarbon dating of mud wasp nests*. (Abstract) IFRAO2018 Conference, Valcamonica, Italy, September 2018.
4. Green H., Gleadow A., Veth P., Finch D., 2018. *Dating mineral accretions at rock art sites in the Kimberley, North West Australia*. (Abstract) IFRAO2018 Conference, Valcamonica, Italy, September 2018.
5. Cazes G., Fink D., Fülöp R-H., Codilean A.T., 2018. *Rock-art shelter dating using cosmogenic 10Be and 26Al in the Kimberley region, Australia* (Abstract) IFRAO2018 Conference, Valcamonica, Italy, September 2018.

Kimberley Visions

1. David B., Delannoy J-J., Petchey F., Gunn R., Huntley J., Veth P., Genuite K., Skelly R J., Mialanes J., Harper S., Ouzman S., Balanggarra Aboriginal Corporation, Heaney P., Wong V., May 2019. Dating painting events through by-products of ochre processing: Borologa 1 Rockshelter, Kimberley, Australia. *Australian Archaeology*
2. Motta A.P., February 2019. From Top Down Under: New Insights into the Social Significance of Superimpositions in the Rock Art of Northern Kimberley, Australia, *Cambridge Archaeological Journal*.

Lifeways of the First Australians

1. Balme J., O’Connor S., Maloney T., Vannieuwenhuyse D., Aplin K., and Dilkes-Hall I., 2018. *Long-term occupation on the edge of the desert: Riwi Cave in the southern Kimberley, Western Australia* Archaeology in Oceania 54: 35-52 DOI: 10.1002/arco.5166
2. Dortch, J., Balme, J. McDonald, J., Morse, K., O’Connor S., Veth P., 2019. *Settling the West: 50 000 years in a changing land*. Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia 102: 30-44.
3. Balme, J., O’Connor S., 2019. *Bead Making in Aboriginal Australia From the Deep Past to European Arrival: Materials, Methods, and Meanings*. PaleoAnthropology 2019: 177–195
4. Dilkes-Hall I. E., O’Connor S., Balme J., 2019. *People-plant interaction and economic botany over 47,000 years of occupation at Carpenter’s Gap 1, south central Kimberley*. Australian Archaeology 85:30-47

Conference abstracts

1. Balme, J., O’Connor S., 2018. *50,000 years of continuity and change in the southern Kimberley*. Southern Deserts Conference Karatha, August 2018
2. Dilkes-Hall, I., Davis, J., Malo H., 2018. *Using experimental archaeology to understand the archaeobotanical record: a multi-proxy investigation of mid-Holocene fruit processing in Gooniyandi Country, northwest Australia*, paper presented to the Australian Archaeological Association Conference, Auckland, New Zealand, 28-30 November.
3. Dilkes-Hall, I., Davis J., Malo H., 2018. *Doog (pound) girndi (Vitex glabrata). Experimental archaeology and the archaeobotanical record, Gooniyandi Country, Western Australia*. Australian Archaeology Conference New Zealand December 2018
4. Dilkes-Hall, I., Davis, J., Malo H., 2019. Archaeobotany and ethnobotany: an example from Gooniyandi Country, Western Australia. International Work Group for Palaeoethnobotany, Lecce, Italy, 3-8 June 2019.
5. O’Connor, S., Balme J., *Performance in the recent rock art of the southern Kimberley*. IFRAO Conference, Italy 2018

“Australia is leading the world in rock art research”

The Australian presenters were congratulated on the outstanding quality of their work at the IFRAO Conference, Valcamonica (Italy). A highlight for both the *Kimberley Visions* and *Rock Art Dating* researchers in FY19 was the full day awarded to Kimberley rock art at the International Federation of Rock Art Organisations (IFRAO) conference held in Italy from 29 August to 2 September 2018. The presentation by project researchers of five papers from the *Rock Art Dating* team and a further 11 papers on the *Kimberley Visions* project was received to high acclaim by the delegates. Renowned Cambridge-based archaeologist Professor Chris Chippendale said at the conclusion of the conference:

“I want to congratulate all the Australians for the breathtaking advances that are being made, and for the breadth, depth and innovation of all the work you are doing. What is happening in rock art research in the Kimberley is simply astonishing. It is one of the most impressive research teams I have seen assembled anywhere in the world. Australia is leading the world in rock art research.”

Photo Credit: BAC & KFA. Photo: Pauline Heaney



Back row L to R: Sebastian Djanghara, Ildephonso Cheinmora, Carrie Djanghara, Sam Love, Warwick Hemsley, Wal King
 Middle row L to R: Bernadette Waina, Bevan Stone, Laurie Brereton, Brenda Shanahan, Bruce Cameron, Albert Bundamurra
 Front row L to R: Maria Myers, Agnes Charles, John Goonack, Kingsley, Clarissa Charles

Photo Credit: Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation & KFA. Photo: Mark Jones



Back rows L to R: Andy Gleadow, Cecilia Myers, Sven Ouzman, Ian Waina, Helen Green, Deidre Willmott, Damien Finch, Troy Karadada, Hylke Vadar, Neil Waina, Scott Dughango, Tom Vigilante
 Middle row L to R: Gwen Allen, Cas Bennett, Pauline Heaney, Whitney Williams, Desmond Williams
 Front row L to R: Lilian Karadada, Regina Karadada, Dianna Williams, Schollie Mangolomara

KFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In addition to setting the strategic direction of the company, overseeing its systems of accountability and control, KFA directors work hard to support the small staff team. The following directors serve on the KFA Board:



Chairman
Maria Myers AC

Maria Myers is Chairman of the Kimberley Foundation Australia. She is a director of the State Library of Victoria and Chairman of the State Library of Victoria Foundation. She is a director of Dunkeld Pastoral Company Pty Ltd and Loreto College Ballarat. She is a member of Council at St Mary's College at the University of Melbourne and The Nature Conservancy's Advisory Council and member of the board of Old Parliament House. She is a supporter of and advocate for the Burnet Institute and Patron of the Australian String Quartet. Maria was awarded a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in the 2016 Australia Day Honours for the advancement of the understanding of Indigenous rock art and for her service to the community through philanthropic leadership. Maria joined the KFA Board in 2001.

* Deputy Chairman since 25 September 2019 AGM.



Deputy Chairman
Laurie Brereton

The Hon Laurie Brereton joined the KFA Board in 2006 and became its Deputy Chairman in 2011.

Laurie retired from public life in 2004 after a distinguished parliamentary career spanning 34 years. In NSW he served as Minister for Health, Minister for Public Works and Ports and as Minister for Roads. Nationally he served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Minister for Industrial Relations and as Minister for Transport.

He was a member of the Board of Directors at Airbus Aust. Pacific Ltd 2008-2019 and is presently a Director of John Curtin House Ltd.

* Chairman since 25 September 2019 AGM.



Director/Treasurer
Brenda Shanahan

Brenda Shanahan has served in senior executive and board roles in Australia and overseas primarily in stockbroking, funds management and investment consulting. Brenda is the Chair of the Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery. She is currently a non-executive Director of Phoslock Ltd, Clinuvel Pharmaceuticals Ltd, DMP Asset Management and a member of Swinburne University's Inaugural Research Advisory Committee. In 2017 Brenda was awarded an honorary doctorate from Swinburne University of Technology. Brenda is a recent past Chair of St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research and is currently a member of the SVI Foundation. She is a former member of the Australian Stock Exchange, former director of Challenger Limited, Bell Financial Group Ltd and partner of May Mellor Laing & Cruikshank and principal of Investment Consulting and worldwide partner at WM Mercer. Brenda joined the KFA Board in 2009 and has been the Treasurer since 2011.



Director
Susan Bradley OAM

Susan Bradley has lived in the Kimberley for 50 years. In 2018 she was recognised for her contribution to the cattle industry, and the wider Kimberley community, with an Order of Australia Medal. Susan's community service includes being a founding board member of KFA which started in 1998 as the Bush University, and Kimberley Regional Development Committee member since 2013. She was the inaugural Chair of the Kimberley Development Commission and has been involved with Kimberley and northern Australia planning, development, water resources and conservation committees and strategy development groups over many years. She was a Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley councillor for eight years including a term as president and a former president of the Country Shire Councils Association Kimberley zone, as well as a Royal Flying Doctor Service national councillor. Susan credits her love of the region to what she has learnt from local Aboriginal people. She is inspired by them and the responsibility to look after the country and to care for the country. Susan has been a member of the KFA Board since 2001.



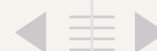
Director
Bruce Cameron

Bruce Cameron is a graduate of Monash University and holds a Bachelor of Jurisprudence and Bachelor of Laws. Bruce has broad experience in commercial law and is a Principal at Piper Alderman in Melbourne which merged with boutique corporate and commercial firm Norton Gledhill, a firm Bruce helped established in 1986. Bruce has experience in a number of sectors including the health industry, venture and development capital, funds management, manufacturing, and tourism and hospitality. He is a director and trustee of a number of private companies and trusts which are involved in matters of business and the care of others. Bruce joined the KFA Board in 2010.



Director
Professor
Andrew Gleadow AO FAA

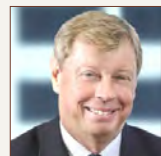
Andrew Gleadow is an Emeritus Professor of Geology and former Head of the School of Earth Sciences at the University of Melbourne. In 2017 he was awarded an AO for distinguished service to the earth sciences and to education, as an academic and researcher in the field of thermo- chronology and landscape evolution, and to professional geological and scientific societies. Professor Gleadow has researched and published widely on the development and application of radiometric dating techniques, particularly in fission track analysis and thermochronology. His work has included dating of hominin fossil sites in East Africa. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Sciences and a former President of the Geological Society of Australia. He was appointed Chair of the Science Advisory Council in November 2013 and joined the KFA Board in 2014.





Director
Cissy Gore-Birch

Cissy Gore-Birch has Jaru heritage through her grandmother's country and is connected to Nyikina and Balanggarra country. She holds a Graduate Diploma in Natural Resource Management and has worked in the community development sector for the past 20 years. She grew up on Balanggarra country in the East Kimberley region where she was Chair of Balanggarra Aboriginal Corporation for nearly 5 years. Cissy is the Chair of Arnja Pty Ltd and North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management (NAILSMA). She sits on the board of the Kimberley Development Commission and is a member of the Indigenous Advisory Committee to the Commonwealth Department of Environment. Cissy is passionate about country, people and sustainable livelihoods. Cissy is currently the National Aboriginal Engagement Manager at the Bush Heritage Australia. Cissy joined the KFA Board in 2018.



Director
Steven Gregg

Steve is Chairman of Caltex, a director of Challenger Limited, Challenger Life Company Limited, Lorna Hodgkinson Foundation, Tabcorp Holdings Limited and William Inglis & Son Limited. He is the Chairman of Unisson Disability Limited and a trustee of the Australian Museum. He has previously served as Chairman of Goodman Fielder Limited and Austock Group Limited, and was a member of the Grant Samuel non-executive advisory board. Steve joined the KFA Board in June 2018.



Director
Nolan Hunter

Nolan Hunter is CEO of the Kimberley Land Council, an organisation representing Traditional Owners in the Kimberley. Nolan is a Bardi man with strong links to his people and culture across saltwater country in northern Western Australia. He spent 14 years with various Commonwealth agencies specialising in Indigenous affairs, and has worked with Indigenous communities in Australia. Nolan is Chairman of the National Native Title Council as well as an Indigenous Leader representing the Kimberley in Empowered Communities, a group of Indigenous Leaders informing policy development to the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet, Indigenous Affairs. Nolan was appointed to the KFA Board in 2014.



Director
Warwick Hemsley

Warwick has had a career in property and finance and is a graduate of both the University of Western Australia and Curtin University. He had a 25 year involvement with Peet Limited including 17 years as CEO. Warwick is a past President and Life member of both the Urban Development Institute (WA) and the WA Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Warwick served on the Council of The National Gallery of Australia and chaired its Finance and Risk Committee and is a Life Governor of its Foundation. He chaired and is a Life member of the WA Opera company and chaired the WA Chamber of Arts and Culture for 3 years. He has also served on the Curtin Business School Advisory Council and UWA Centenary Campaign Committee. Currently he serves on the National Board of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, Chairs the Art Gallery of WA Foundation and is a Life Governor of the Foundation. Warwick joined the KFA Board in September 2018.



Director
Wal King AO

Wal King holds a Bachelor of Engineering, a Master of Engineering Science and an Honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of New South Wales. Wal has worked in the construction industry for over 40 years and was CEO of Leighton Holdings Limited from 1987 until December 2010. He is Chairman of TerraCom Limited and Built Holdings Pty Ltd, and was, up until May 2017, one of the longest-serving Directors of Coca-Cola Amatil Limited. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Australia, a Foundation Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and a Fellow of the Institute of Managers and Leaders, the Australian Institute of Building and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. Wal joined the KFA Board in 2008.



Director
Sam Lovell AM

Sam Lovell lives in Derby in the Kimberley. He has been employed by Aboriginal Economic Development (AED), Department of Industry and Resources as an Aboriginal Tourism Project Officer since 1995 and works as an indigenous consultant for Western Power. Sam has a background in tourism and established his own business 'Kimberley Safari Tours' in 1981. A tourism award in his name is presented annually by the Kimberley Tourism Association. Sam is regarded as the 'father' of Indigenous Tourism in WA and is affectionately known as 'Mr Kimberley'. Sam is also a musician and travels across the country to Queensland every year to play at the Tamworth Music Festival. Sam joined the KFA Board in 2009.



Director
John Mullen

John Mullen is the Chairman of Telstra and Toll Holdings Ltd and was formerly the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Asciano Ltd. He has worked for more than two decades in a multitude of senior positions with different multinationals in the logistics industry. John is passionate about maritime exploration and the Kimberley WA. He spends his spare time diving for colonial shipwrecks and is an avid collector of historical material from early maritime voyages to the Pacific. Directorships of listed companies (past three years) and other directorships/appointments: Director, Asciano Ltd (2011-2016), Brambles Limited (2009-2011). Other: Member, Australian Graduate School of Management (from 2005) and Councillor of the Australian National Maritime Museum (from 2016). John joined the KFA Board in 2016.



Director
Deirdre Willmott

Deirdre Willmott is currently a Non-Executive Director of Australia Post and former Chief Executive Officer of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry WA. Deirdre holds law degrees from the University of Western Australia and a Master of Laws from the University of Melbourne. She has been a senior executive at Fortescue Metals Group Ltd and Chief of Staff to the Premier of Western Australia. Deirdre joined the KFA Board in 2010.

Changes to the Board during FY2019

- Julian Burt resigned from the Board on 27 September 2018
- Warwick Hemsley was appointed to the KFA Board on 26 September 2018
- Rona Charles resigned from the Board on 25 October 2018 and is an Indigenous Advisor to KFA.

Polychrome figure, *Rock Art Daitng* 2019
Photo Credit: BAC & KFA. Photo: Pauline Heaney

"I passionately believe that working with Aboriginal Traditional Owners our scientists can continue to unlock the history of human life on our continent and that all Australians will benefit. Through the KFA, everyone can be part of this great project."

Deirdre Willmott, KFA Director





TO Trinity Unhango, *Rock Art Dating 2019*
Photo Credit: BAC & KFA. Photo: Pauline Heaney



**KIMBERLEY
FOUNDATION
AUSTRALIA**

Researching, preserving and promoting Kimberley rock art.

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