



MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Friends of Australian Rock Art Inc.

ONE-OFF OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW BURRUP ROCK ART

The mysteries of the ancient rock art of Murujuga (the Burrup Peninsula) in WA's Pilbara region are yours to experience by joining the annual tour offered by Friends of Australian Rock Art (FARA). Each year the voluntary group takes a coach of tourers to learn about this globally significant rock art, featured in the ABC's First Footprints series.¹

The site is arguably the world's oldest and certainly its largest outdoor rock art gallery, providing a continuous est.30,000 year record of human history including the oldest known record of the human face. Last year's tour group had the excitement of finding previously unrecorded examples of such images known as 'archaic faces'. These carved images or petroglyphs sit alongside depictions of the thylacine and fat-tailed kangaroo that have been extinct on the Australian mainland for thousands of years. The area is a wonderful record of human culture adapting to changes in climate and landform.

Participants spend five days exploring the area in the company of expert guides led by archaeologist Dr Ken Mulvaney, author of *Murujuga Marni, the Rock Art of the Macropod Hunters and the Mollusc Harvesters*. Tourers also meet with the Aboriginal Ranger team responsible for the care and protection of Murujuga National Park and other community leaders in Karratha.

"It surpassed my expectations in every way," said Jane Leahy Kane after taking the Tour, "the organisation, the guides, the catering, and the art itself. I just didn't imagine we would be able to experience so much."

Past Tourers are effusive about the trip and often become active members of FARA, citing the access to the rock art, the knowledge and enthusiasm of the guides and the excellent

¹ <http://www.abc.net.au/tv/programs/first-footprints/>

organisation by FARA and its partner company, Cross Country Charters, as key to experiencing the trip of a lifetime.

The tenth annual Tour in 2016 takes place from July 16 to 24, and there are currently 25 seats available on the air-conditioned coach. The cost for coach travellers is \$2500 twin share ex-Perth, which includes all transport, accommodation, meals, expert guiding and information. There are also 8 places left for independent travellers who join the Tour from Karratha.

Full details are available at the FARA website - www.fara.com.au

Email tour@fara.com.au

Phone Tour Coordinator Judith Hugo on 0439 090 321

Image below: *Dr Ken Mulvaney recording recently identified archaic faces*

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