Since its establishment in early settlement, our unique perspective to KFA's research has allowed the team to answer little questions. “Were they men or women? What did those painting styles change to? How did those artefacts change over time?” Jim asks.

The Kimberley Foundation Australia raises funds to support scientific research in the Kimberley.

Your support will drive Kimberley research over the next decade.

Driving the future of Kimberley Research

KFA responsible for initiating a new era of archaeological research in the Kimberley

The project has been a collaboration with the Western Australian Museum and others and is well underway. The Kimberley Foundation Australia and the University of Western Australia have also contributed to the establishment of the Kimberley Art Recording Network, which is an important step in the field of rock art research.

We support teams of archaeologists and scientists to work in partnership with Aboriginal communities to uncover Australia’s earliest untold settlement history through rock art. You can help by donating to the Kimberley Foundation Australia.

The Kimberley Foundation Australia
Level 4, 71 Collins St, Melbourne Vic 3000

KFA responsible for initiating a new era of archaeological research in the Kimberley

It was noted by the SAC and researchers at the workshop that the Foundation has been responsible for initiating a new era of archaeological research in the Kimberley. KFA’s funding and leadership has resulted in 12 new research projects since 2007 that have been selected through competitive calls for proposals. These projects have been awarded to leading researchers and organisations and have resulted in new research outcomes. The Kimberley Foundation Australia has funded research across a range of topics, including paleoecology, paleoanthropology, and archaeological methodologies.

Over the next decade, KFA research will focus on the Kimberley and beyond, aiming to advance our understanding of the region’s cultural and environmental history. We will continue to support research initiatives that contribute to the broader field of Kimberley studies.

For more information, visit www.kimberleyfoundation.org.au/change-and-continuity

The changing climate of the Kimberley

20,000 Years of Climate & Weather

Dwightly, 15,000 years ago, people arrived in the Kimberley region of north-western Australia, bringing with them cultures developed in a warmer climate. The Kimberley Foundation Australia (KFA) has set up in 2013 a new initiative called The Kimberley Foundation magazine to support research and community engagement, cultural relevance and compliance.

The Kimberley Foundation magazine is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the advancement of Kimberley research and community engagement.

Kimberley Foundation magazine

Australian National University

Kimberley Foundation magazine

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“Through time. Of occupation. Procedures to determine climate variability will help predict future regional patterns. Clearly, creating what Balme and O’Connor call a “grand narrative” of the lives and times of the Kimberley’s pre-historic people is an enormous task. But at the end of the 2013 field season last July, the team had excavated and documented percussive cultural resources, lithic and sediment samples, from about three cave dwellings in the south-central Kimberley. Key sites were located at Carpenter’s Gap, far from the Kimberley Granite and the Norman River, and Cable Creek, about 100 kilometres east of Cable Beach.

Less than a year after their discovery, the team-up. They wanted to explore the lives of the first Australians to inhabit the region, from the very edge of the desert. How did they manage among the most extreme environments in the world? How did they manage to survive and create lifeways to traditional owners and national heritage managers. Even climate scientists will benefit. After all, the Kimberley climate changed many times over the millennia. These insights into regional variability will help predict future regional patterns.

As Balme notes, those pioneering researchers were doing something that is still daunting today: trying to fill in the gap. “We decided to fill in the gap,” he asserts. “This is the story of all the times and the life they lived.”

For instance, laboratory scientists used a variety of approaches. “We had different specialists looking at the landscape and the people,” says O’Connor. “They didn’t just talk of experiments, but also of the whole field. Each of them was a specialist looking at the landscapes and people moving through different parts of the Kimberley. Some of the people were looking at the caves and rock art, and others were looking at the animals they left behind.”

The Kimberley lifeways of the first Australians, written by Leigh Dayton.

Kimberley lifeways

1990s: the discovery of ancient campsites

2000s: the Kimberley Research Program

2010s: a new stage for Kimberley Research

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