



KIMBERLEY  
FOUNDATION  
AUSTRALIA

Researching, preserving and promoting Kimberley rock art.

# WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO & WHAT WE VALUE



Images  
(left to right):

Helen Green,  
and Sven Ouzman  
taking samples ± Rock  
Art Dating project.  
Photo: Andy Gleadow

King River Road  
public rock art site.  
Photo: Sven Ouzman

Close up detail of  
fish painted in the  
Naturalistic period in  
the Kimberley Rock  
Art Sequence  
(>10,000 years old).

KFA acknowledges that  
rock art and associated  
stories form part of the  
cultural traditions of  
Traditional Owners and  
Aboriginal communities.

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.

## TELLING AUSTRALIA'S STORY THROUGH ABORIGINAL ROCK ART AND PAST ENVIRONMENTS

The Kimberley Foundation Australia (KFA) promotes research of Indigenous rock art and Australia's globally important human and environmental history. It is the scientific evidence of 65,000 years of continuous, unbroken Indigenous occupation that compels the research and the KFA.

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

### THE KIMBERLEY FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA

is at the forefront of scientific research focusing on rock art research and past environments.

**OUR AIM** is to promote scientific research into the rock art and, in conjunction with the Indigenous people of the region, ensure it is preserved and recognised for its national and international significance.

**OUR MISSION** is to make public the research findings and share this story. It is Australia's story.

The Kimberley region in northwest Australia is home to one of the world's largest, most varied and visually spectacular rock art estates. This vast area is larger than Germany. It is dominated by sandstone outcrops and escarpments containing tens of thousands of rock art galleries and individual images.

Rock paintings, engravings, stone arrangements, artefacts and oral histories provide primary evidence about how, when and why people first arrived in Australia, their cultural beliefs and how they lived and adapted to changing climatic conditions. Aboriginal Australians of the Kimberley are the primary custodians. The rock art is the only record of how people saw themselves, each other and the natural world and the social systems that arose. It is how they inscribed the land.

## OUR BEGINNINGS

**OUR STORY** began in 1993 when four Traditional Owners, David Mowaljarlai, Laurie Gawanulli, Paddy Wamma and Paddy Neowarra (all deceased) were seeking to 'build bridges of two-way understanding and two-way learning' between traditional Kimberley Aboriginals and non-Aboriginal people. These old men were concerned that their culture, their law and traditions were being lost to future generations of Aboriginals.

**THE 'BUSH UNIVERSITY'** was formed as a result and in 1997 became known as the Wandjina Foundation. In 2002 it was renamed the Kimberley Foundation Australia, a registered non-profit foundation listed on the register of Cultural Organisations.

**THE KFA BOARD** comprises members from the Kimberley, Perth, Sydney and Melbourne. The Board consults a Science Advisory Council (SAC) made up of a diverse group of eminent scientists from tertiary institutions across Australia. The SAC advises the Board on KFA's long term research program.

**WE FUND ACADEMIC RESEARCH** and initiate research centred on rock art and the surrounding environment. Funds go to participating universities. The KFA itself does not undertake research.

KFA-funded researchers comply with legal and ethical codes under Collaborative Research Agreements with the Aboriginal Prescribed Body Corporates on whose land research is being conducted.

**WE SUPPORT** a broad range of scientists from the fields of archaeology, geology, palynology, climatology, geochemistry and related areas to undertake integrated scientific research.

**SHARING INFORMATION** about the significance and heritage of Indigenous rock art is a key operational objective. We fund the promotion of rock art via the KFA public lecture series, talks, films and presentations, brochures, the KFA website and other media.



