

## **Pilbara Local History Studies Program**

### **Burrup Rock Art**

#### **Archaeology and rock art in the Dampier Archipelago**

National Trust of Australia (WA)

<http://www.burrup.org.au/>

#### **Burrup Rock Art Monitoring Program**

<http://www.dsd.wa.gov.au/6757.aspx>

As an input to the long-term management of the cultural and natural features of the Burrup Peninsula, the Western Australian Government commissioned a monitoring program to assess whether there was any change to the ancient rock art (or petroglyphs) over and above that due to natural weathering.

Consultation with the broader community on the development and progress of the monitoring program was facilitated through a range of community forums which began in late March 2003 with the Burrup Rock Art Monitoring Research Workshop in Dampier.

#### **ENIAR**

<http://www.eniar.org/action/burrup.html>

This is the website of the European Network for Indigenous Australian Rights. Our aim is to promote awareness on indigenous issues and to provide information for Indigenous Australians about Europe and international organisations. ENIAR is not affiliated to any government or commercial bodies, is non profit- making and run entirely by volunteers.

#### **Stand Up For The Burrup**

<http://standupfortheburrup.com/>

Friends of Australian Rock Art (FARA) raise awareness about the Burrup Peninsula, Australia's largest cultural monument, an Aboriginal sacred site. FARA asks people around the world to literally stand up at places of cultural significance in their country, wearing T-shirts spelling out the slogan " .

## **CSIRO**

### **Marine and Atmospheric research**

<http://www.dar.csiro.au/aerosol/burru.html>

CSIRO has been commissioned by the Western Australian Government to complete the first ever study into the possible effects of industrial emissions on Aboriginal rock art on the Burrup Peninsula in the Pilbara region of Australia's remote northwest. The four-year monitoring program, supported by the local Aboriginal communities, involves monitoring air pollutants by CSIRO Atmospheric Research, studies of colour changes by CSIRO Manufacturing and Infrastructure Technology, and investigation of the mineral composition of the rock surfaces by CSIRO Exploration and Mining. The project is in collaboration with Murdoch University, who are carrying out microbiological studies of the rock surface.

### **Dampier Archipelago Rock-Art Precinct**

<http://www.dampierrockart.net/Concerned.html>

The site acknowledges the Yaburara people massacred in 1868 as the original custodians of the archipelago.

This site also acknowledges the interests of the three claimant groups, the Ngarluma Yindjibarndi, the Yaburara Mardudhunera and the Wong-goo-tt-oo.

The goals of this site are to protect and promote the historic artistic legacy left for all human kind at this, one of the worlds pre-eminent rock art galleries.

This site acknowledges the effort put in by many individuals, aboriginal, historians and archeologists in seeking to protect this place of wonder.

The West Australian Government has acknowledged that already it has permitted the destruction of 4776 petroglyphs. We will work to stop any further destruction or impact on the remaining petroglyphs, sites and terraces.

The Dampier Archipelago Rock-Art Precinct is located in the northwest of the State of Western Australia, Australia. It comprises a number of islands and the Burrup peninsular (formerly one of the islands).

Any petroglyph material displayed on this site is done so with the purpose of providing the world with an understanding of it scientific value and is reproduced on the basis that the material is considered non offensive.

These are 16 links to other sites in Australia, Europe and USA that exist for the preservation of the Dampier Archipelago Rock-Art Precinct:

## **Wiki on the Burrup**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burrup\\_Peninsula](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burrup_Peninsula)

**Murujuga** (Yaburara/Ngarluma "hip bone sticking out), is a peninsula often known as **Burrup Peninsula** and prior to that as **Dampier Peninsula**, in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, adjoining the Dampier Archipelago and near the town of Dampier.

The peninsula is a unique ecological and archaeological area since it contains the world's largest and most important collection of petroglyphs – ancient Aboriginal rock carvings some claim to date back as far as the last ice age about 10,000 years ago. The collection of standing stones here is the largest in Australia with rock art petroglyphs numbering over one million, many depicting images of the now extinct Thylacine ("Tasmanian Tiger").

## **Burrup Fertilisers Pty Ltd**

<http://www.bfpl.com.au/>

The website provides background to the operations in the Pilbara and the social responsibility policies of the company. Burrup Fertilisers, formed in Australia in 2000, is an independent company managed by a Board of Directors.

## **Australian Archaeological Association inc.**

<http://www.australianarchaeologicalassociation.com.au/node/3007>

WONDERS NEVER CEASE:

WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL FEATURE (19/01/08) BURRUP ART

In a special 5 page feature in the Weekend Australian (19/01/2008) science journalist Leigh Dayton examines archaeological wonders of the World including the art of the Burrup Peninsula (Dampier Archipelago).

## **WARLU WAY. WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

### **Experience Trail – A Pathway to Cultural Sustainability**

<http://www.warluway.com.au/icons/burrup-peninsular.aspx>

The way of the warlu, or sea serpent, traverses an ancient and sacred land rich in natural beauty and enchanting Aboriginal stories. It sends you back in time to a mystical era when a mighty warlu emerged from the sea and travelled through the red heart of Western Australia, forming waterways as he moved. Warlu Way reveals the mysteries of the warlu and other Aboriginal legends by taking you on a 2480 kilometre self-drive journey through Western Australia's Gascoyne, Pilbara and Kimberley regions. One of the highlights is the visit to the Burrup Peninsula

### **Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement**

[http://www.nativetitle.wa.gov.au/agreements\\_burrupmaitland.aspx](http://www.nativetitle.wa.gov.au/agreements_burrupmaitland.aspx)

The State Government entered into the Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement Implementation Deed (the Burrup Agreement) with three Aboriginal groups on 1 November 2002. The Burrup Agreement enabled the State Government to compulsorily acquire native title rights and interests in the area of the Burrup Peninsula and certain parcels of land near Karratha. The Burrup Agreement allows for industrial development to progress across southern parts of the Burrup Peninsula, provides for the development of a conservation estate and ensures the protection of Aboriginal heritage.

Wilfred Hicks speaks out about importance of Burrup rock art

<http://www.thewire.org.au/daydetail.aspx?SearchDay=2006-09-07&Move=Previous>

[Download as MP3](#)

Produced by Erica Vowles

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Last night on The Wire we took a look at a decision by the West Australian Environmental Protection Authority to approve a proposal to allow a gas processing development to go ahead on the Burrup Peninsula. This peninsula home to an estimated one million rock art pictures that are also known as petroglyphs. Well one man who knows a lot about the rock art of the Burrup is Wilfred Hicks. He's an aboriginal lawman from the Woongato people of the Pilbara region, which is adjacent to the Burrup Peninsula. He spent much of his child with his father and grandfather studying the rock art, a large section of which is now under threat from the proposed Pluto Woodside petroleum gas plant. He spoke earlier to the Wire about his feelings about the decision by the West Australian EPA.

**Monitoring on the Burrup**  
**PACE - Australia's Process & Control Engineering website**

<http://www.pacetoday.com.au/Article/CSIRO-finds-no-impact-from-factory-emissions-on-WA-s-Burrup-rock-art/474018.aspx>

20 March 2009

A four-year monitoring project has found no evidence that emissions from industries located on the Burrup Peninsula are damaging the Heritage-listed Burrup rock art, it said in a statement to the press.

**'Get Up' View**

**Would the Egyptians knock down the Pyramids?**

by Get Up! *Friday November 24, 2006 at 06:45 AM*

<http://melbourne.indymedia.org/news/2006/11/132089.php>

The truth is, we don't have to choose between destruction or development. Experts agree new gas can still be extracted offshore, but processed at a different location. If enough of us speak up now we can save the remaining rock art without dampening the economic development of Western Australia's growing industry.

Dear friends,

Take a moment to imagine a cultural icon six times older than the Pyramids, eight times older than Stonehenge. Imagine probably the earliest surviving rock carvings on this planet: close to a million images of ancient faces and our earliest fauna, including the mighty Tasmanian tiger, spread throughout a group of small islands alongside the west coast of Australia.

Most Australians have never even heard of these rock carvings on the Burrup Peninsula - and have no idea this silent world treasure is at risk of being needlessly pulled apart and destroyed from blind industrial development. But we can tell Australia's Environment Minister now that we want to save the remaining rock art from further destruction, and help Burrup become what it should be: one of the world's most well-known and safely-visited heritage sites.

<http://www.getup.org.au/campaign/SaveOurHeritage>

Burrup, or Murujuga by its Indigenous name, also happens to be the site of a liquefied natural gas plant (LNG), an operation jointly owned by the largest petrochemical companies in the world and managed by Woodside Energy Ltd. It's a \$20 billion venture, which currently provides almost two-thirds of WA's gas supply and export. But Woodside now has plans to expand on their own, with a new LNG facility set to cut straight through this prehistoric university.

So far, at least 10,000 rock carvings have already been lost from uncontrolled development.

New industrial plans could lead to the loss of thousands more, with federal and state government authorities admitting up to 40 per cent of the rock art could be dismantled or destroyed to accommodate expansion. It's like splitting Stonehenge or the Pyramids in half, drilling for oil and packing the nicest bits in a nearby quarry.

The truth is, we don't have to choose between destruction or development. Experts agree new gas can still be extracted offshore, but processed at a different location. If enough of us speak up now we can save the remaining rock art without dampening the economic development of Western Australia's growing industry.

<http://www.getup.org.au/campaign/SaveOurHeritage>

Thankfully, Australia's Federal Minister for Environment and Heritage, Ian Campbell, is now calling for public submissions on whether to grant the Burrup Peninsula national heritage-listing status. This would immediately open the way for a world heritage listing - the World Monument Fund has placed the rock art on its list of 100 most endangered heritage sites. But because so few Australians have ever heard of Burrup, much less Senator Campbell's timely call for submissions, it could be destroyed before the world ever gets the opportunity to appreciate it.

Now advocates of a 'win-win' solution for Burrup and our economy include the most unlikely allies: a former Labor Premier of WA and a former Liberal Minister for State Development both argue Burrup should become a heritage site, with further development moved to more economically profitable locations and traditional custodians consulted.

We have a once in a generation opportunity to rise above old, unimaginative thinking to save an Australian and world heritage treasure. Submissions are due in a matter of days: this is the moment we can give Australia's richest, unknown island the chance for a different future. Click on the link below to be part of GetUp's submission, and you can also write your own.

<http://www.getup.org.au/campaign/SaveOurHeritage>

Thank you for taking action today that will matter to generations far into the future,

The GetUp team

## A personal Blog

<http://nick.onetwenty.org/index.php/about/>

My trip to Karratha (in pictures) « Nick

This is an example of a blog with some interesting personal insights to the Burrup. This is web 2.0 at work

MuruJuga (the **Burrup** Peninsula) is around 30 kms north of Karratha and houses the world's largest concentration of ancient petroglyphs (**rock art**).

I'm an independent researcher/developer living in Perth, Western Australia. I've been completely enamoured by video games and computer graphics for quite some time now. That's

mostly why I became a programmer and researcher. I'm a (waning) artist and philosopher, so every now and then I get pulled in that direction.

This website contains my personal blog, as well as various guides and essays. It's mostly for my personal use and for communication with my friends, but you may still find something of interest if you don't fall into either of these categories.

Going to Karratha was an eye-opener. It's affluent and the mining industry clearly plays a large role in this regard. Rent is insane (apparently \$1000/week for an old 3-bedroom house), but rates of pay are high. Non-mining businesses (like retailers) are always looking for workers. It seems like a good place to setup shop if you don't mind living in the country.

I couldn't help but get the feeling that everything takes a back-seat to industry. The local aboriginal communities seem to get a bum rap. Since British invasion/colonisation, the waterways and land have been overtaken. You can't swim in many places. Poison baits are scattered through areas of the bush (to kill introduced pests like feral cats and dogs). Anti-industrialisation graffiti adorns the outside of water pipes and various industrial buildings.

In regards to Murujuga, I'm amazed that *any* of the petroglyphs can be approved for destruction. I don't see it as an aboriginal or cultural issue; I see it as an historical and preservation issue. I don't understand why it is up to industry, local aboriginal groups, and the state government to come to an agreement. Preservation of historically significant sites is the responsibility of humankind. It should be out of their hands.

### **Wikipedia Articles on Rock Art**

The articles whose URL's are given below are from the list of search results using the expression "rock art, performed on the Wikipedia site.

[http://www.arara.org/Wikipedia\\_Articles\\_on\\_Rock\\_Art.html](http://www.arara.org/Wikipedia_Articles_on_Rock_Art.html)

### **The Burrup Peninsula and Dampier Archipelago, Western Australia: an introduction to the history of its discovery and study, marine habitats and their flora and fauna**

<http://www.museum.wa.gov.au/dampier/documents/pdf/jones%20intro.pdf>

This is an excellent 50 page article with historical context and information about flora and fauna

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