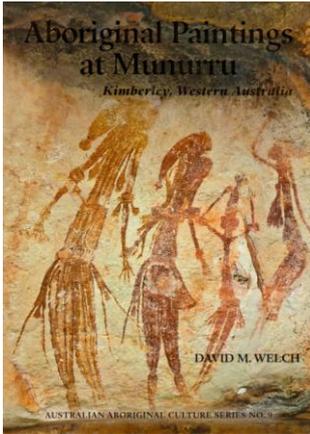


Kimberley Society

Book Note



***Aboriginal Paintings at Munurru, Kimberley, Western Australia* by David M. Welch. Australian Aboriginal Culture Series No. 9, [David M. Welch Publications](http://www.davidm.welch.com.au), Darwin, 2014, 82 pages, 240 x 170 mm, soft cover, prolific full colour images, ISBN 9780987138927. RRP \$25.**

Darwin-based GP Dr David Welch has been researching and documenting rock art in the Kimberley for over 30 years. He has published many articles on the subject in academic journals and is also an avid publisher in his own right.

The rock art sites at Munurru, near the King Edward River crossing on the road to Mitchell Plateau, are the most visited art sites in the Kimberley, but there is no information on the art at the locality as it is not within the Mitchell Plateau National Park – the area is in the Wunambal Gaambera Determined Native Title area. David's book provides detailed site maps and directions to the two main concentrations of art – referred to by him as the Wandjina Complex and the Warnmarri (Brolga) Complex. He was accompanied to these sites by traditional owners in 2000, but has visited the sites many times.

The book has a preliminary section on access and a summary of the recognised Kimberley art sequence which David was instrumental in establishing. He uses his own terminology for the art styles, starting with the Archaic Period and progressing through Tasselled and Bent Knee Figures (Gwions or Bradshaws in other terminologies), to Dynamic and Straight Part Figures, Painted Hand and finally to Wandjina and Contact Period. Detailed sketch maps of the two site complexes give locations of the various art panels which are shown in the many excellent colour photographs. A final chapter covers the impact of weathering and human impact, and there is a useful bibliography for further reading.

This excellent guide to the Munurru rock art is a must for those visiting Mitchell Plateau, and is a valuable addition to the Kimberley rock art literature.

Mike Donaldson