



Kimberley Society

Book Note

***Kimberley Rock Art Volume Two: North Kimberley* by Mike Donaldson. Wildrocks Publications, Mount Lawley (WA) 2012. Case-bound, section-sewn, 27 x 27cm, 395 pages, profusely illustrated, ISBN 978-0-9805890-3-0, RRP \$160, web direct price \$130, plus \$20 postage if required (Australia only).**

Society member and former President Mike Donaldson has just published Volume 2 of his planned 3 volumes on the rock art of the Kimberley region. Volume 1, which covered the Mitchell Plateau area, has been received enthusiastically by people who have an interest in the wonderful and prolific Aboriginal rock art that exists in the Kimberley. Volume 2 covers the area of the north Kimberley coast and the area encompassing the King George, Drysdale and King Edward Rivers. This is the most remote and difficult to access area of the Kimberley.

Much of the area subject to this volume falls within Balanggarra combined native title claim and it is good to see words from some of the Balanggarra elders and heritage custodians at the front of the book. They recognise the importance and value of publishing photographs of rock art from their country both as an aide to teaching the young Balanggarra people about the paintings and their associated stories as well as allowing “whitefellas” to appreciate the paintings and to help them understand the strong connection of the Balanggarra people to their land.

As in Volume 1 there is a wonderful selection of photographs of both Gwion (Bradshaw) and Wanjina art styles. Of particular interest is a series of photos from the King Edward River of so-called “square” Wanjina paintings. These paintings have eyes and nose and lack the mouth as is typical of the more common rounded Wanjina heads. In places they occur adjacent to more conventional Wanjina images. Numerous excellent landscape photos of both the various rivers and the wild and rugged coast of the North Kimberley help the reader fully appreciate the setting for the art – and some of the challenges in accessing and recording it!! This publication continues the valuable task that Mike Donaldson has embarked upon in documenting and making available to the public the abundance and beauty of the Kimberley rock art.

Copies of Volume Two (and other Wildrocks books) can be obtained by going to [Wildrocks Publications](http://www.wildrocks.com.au) and downloading an order form. Although the Society gave financial assistance for the graphic design work, the books are not available through the Society but will be on hand for purchase at most Society meetings. The discounted Kimberley Society member’s price is \$125 (plus \$20 postage if required).

Jeff Gresham