



Kimberley Society

Book Note

***Kimberley Rock Art Volume One: Mitchell Plateau Area* by Mike Donaldson. Wildrocks Publications, Mount Lawley (WA), 2012. Case-bound, section-sewn, 27 x 27 cm, profusely illustrated (over 600 images, most in colour), ISBN 978-0-9805890-2-3, RRP \$175, web direct price \$145, plus \$20 postage, if required (Australia only).**

Society member and former President Mike Donaldson has produced the first of his planned three volumes that cover the prolific and wonderful rock art of the vast Kimberley region. *Volume One* focuses on the Mitchell Plateau area, particularly the art found along the Mitchell and Lawley Rivers in Wunambal Gaambera Country. Lavishly illustrated, this 528-page large-format book is a major advance in the documentation of the national treasure that is the rock art of the Kimberley. This volume has some preliminary words by Wunambal Gaambera chairperson Cathie Goonack and cultural adviser Sylvester Mangolamara and a foreword by Dr Ian Crawford, well known for his work in documenting the Wanjina art of the northern Kimberley. An introduction details early descriptions of the different art forms and there are brief summaries of geology, archaeology and the importance of past sea level changes in the region. However, the bulk of the volume is a wonderful selection of photographs with brief descriptions of the various art sites that Mike and his fellow walkers have documented over more than 20 years. Images of the landscape and the nature of the environment that the art occurs in add an important dimension in placing the art in the context of the rugged Kimberley landscape. A significant aspect and important contribution of the book is that it records and places in context the different art forms that occur in the region rather than focussing on one specific form. This volume is a major contribution to the documentation of Kimberley rock art and all the images in the volume have been approved for publication by the Wunambal Gaambera traditional owners. We await volumes 2 & 3 with great anticipation and interest.

Appropriately for this important Australian heritage, the book is fully designed and printed in Australia. At the recommended retail price of \$175 the book represents exceptional value. At the discounted Kimberley Society member's price of \$125 (plus \$20 postage) it is a bargain. Copies of Volume 1 (and other Wildrocks books) can be obtained by going to [Wildrocks Publications](http://www.wildrocks.com.au) and downloading an order form.

Jeff Gresham