

**MANAGEMENT AND INTERPRETATION
OF ABORIGINAL SITES
ALONG THE CANNING STOCK ROUTE**

A collaborative project bid to the ARC Linkage Scheme



Traditional Owners of the Canning Stock Route

Aboriginal Custodians of the Canning Stock Route

Researchers

**Dr Peter Veth – AIATSIS/ANU
Professor Howard Morphy – ANU
Dr Jo McDonald – ANU
Dr Mike Smith – NMA**

Industry Partners

**Ngaanyatjarra Land Council
The Kimberley Land Council
The National Museum of Australia
The National Trust of Western Australia
Conservation and Land Management
Department of Land Information
Department of Indigenous Affairs
JMCDCHM**

What is an ARC Linkage Grant?
(Why are the researchers here?)

- **This is an *applied* Government Research Council Grant**
- **Promotes partnerships between Unis and communities**
- **Get economic, social and cultural benefits for all**
- **Researchers, community and industry come together**
- **Supports collaborative research of benefit to regional and remote communities**
- **Creates capacity for Indigenous postgraduate training**
- **Funds pure, strategic and applied basic research**
- **Aims to identify and fix a major problem (like the management of Aboriginal sites on the Stock Route)**



Why Management and Interpretation on the CSR?
(What is the problem?)

- **Major increase in tourism and impacts**
- **Commoditising Indigenous cultural property**
- **Uncontrolled access to restricted areas**
- **Lack of acknowledgement that the Canning Stock Route (and adjacent lands) are Aboriginal land**
- **Need to educate wider public about Aboriginal history and the general presence of sites and places and their significance**
- **Need for appropriate Indigenous governance for natural and cultural resource management**
- **Sustainability of use of Canning Stock Route Wells and natural resources by tourists and Indigenous owners**



What do the Aboriginal Communities get from the Project?
(What do we get from the Project, including employment/training?)

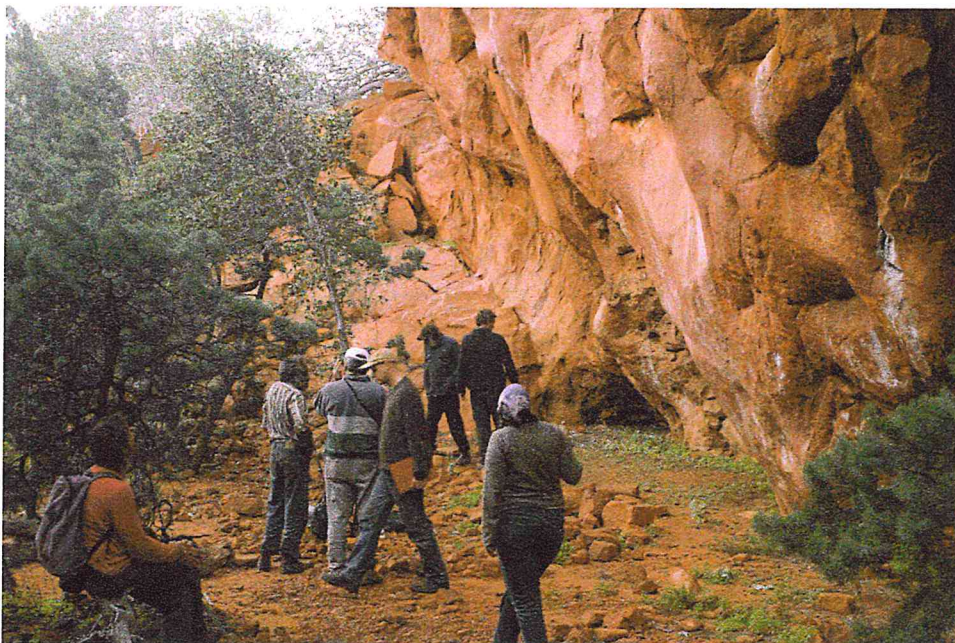
- **High quality information on sites and places from many sources which can be used for management, interpretation and community education. Information would be obtained under contract with the intellectual property, moral and access/reproductions rights protected for the use and benefit of custodians.**
- **Direct involvement in the planning, team building and recording of sites and places on country**
- **Training in recording sites (mainly art), geospatial mapping, techniques of analysis and report writing and eligibility for Postgraduate scholarship(s)**
- **Reports from the Researchers which under privilege may be used for Management Plans, Interpretive Signage, Native Title and Regional Agreements**
- **Payment for specialist knowledge in recording sites and places along the Canning Stock Route**



What do the Industry Partners get from the Project?

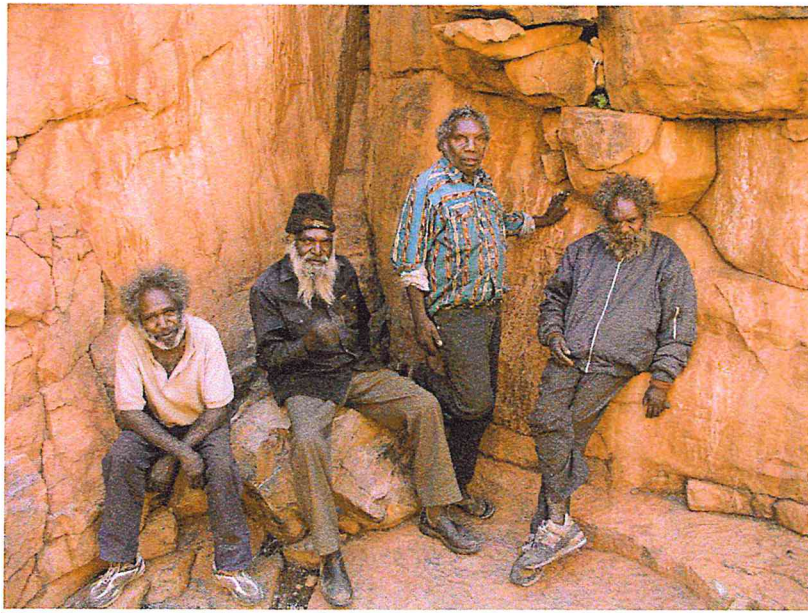
(What will they take away?)

- **Most of the industry partners have a duty to help look after the cultural and natural values of the Stock Route and surrounding lands. A co-ordinated and culturally appropriate approach to issues like management with custodians is a 'proper' way for them to proceed**
- **Bodies like NLC, KLC and CALM would need information about which areas are under pressure from tourism, mining and firing practice(s). They would develop management plans with custodians.**
- **Certain kinds of information (like significance of sites) would only be made known to the degree that protective measures like text for signs in English and Walmajarri, Wangajunga and Martuwanga would be made available. Site-specific data might be disclosed only when necessary (like site avoidance procedures)**



**What do the Research Team want from the Project?
(What will the researchers take away?)**

- **Linkage Projects are aimed at issues that interest both communities and researchers. This Research Team specialise in cultural heritage of the deserts (and rock art), its protection and the development of culturally appropriate management plans**
- **The Team would work with custodians to ^{collect} materials for a Management Plan, interpretive materials (like signage and brochures) and materials for wider consumptions (such as text and images for primary, secondary and tertiary level students)**
- **The Team might want to publish some material (such as the age and variability of the art). This would be subject to community approval and guaranteed via a legal contract to carry out the research. All of the Team have worked with custodians for over 25 years; Peter Veth with Walmjarri, Djaru and Gugadja since 1980 on Sturt Creek and around Lake Gregory. This material was given to the KLC.**



How will the Information be Safely Stored?
(Who will look after it?)

- **An agreed keeping place/knowledge centre can be designed for the project with moderated access. AIATSIS has such protocols in place (new Legal Primer and Protocols for Communities on IP and cultural holdings by AIATSIS-IPRIA's Dr Jane Anderson and Ms Emily Hudson just launched).**
- **A governance committee of senior custodians and their counsel could be established between NLC and KLC with a regular schedule of reporting on progress and outputs**
- **The ARC *does not* assert IP on the research or its products (Linkage Project 2007 Funding rules 11.4.1)**
- **The server(s) contents would be moderated and only authorised users given access to restricted data. This may include (only) partial access to different kinds of different data sets by some industry partners**



Questions the Research Team want to examine?
(Why rock art on the Canning Stock Route?)

- **Rock art is the most visible Aboriginal cultural material on the Canning Stock Route. It has become a major focus (and income earner) for tourist operators**
- **It has been very poorly described, managed and protected from tourists and other land-users. It is being damaged, stolen and misrepresented in the media**
- **It is thought to date to before 30,000 years ago through to First Contact with Europeans (1970s and 1980s). It is nationally and globally unique**
- **It is highly variable in its style, distribution and meaning to Aboriginal custodians**
- **The Team would like to map differences in the style, distribution and age of engraved and painted art (and its meanings, where appropriate) along the Canning Stock Route. The CSR art is special in the World.**

