

Pluto LNG

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Smart phones give access to Murujuga rock art through Digital Dreamtime Project

A ground-breaking and innovative new way to help protect, preserve and conserve the wonder of the world's oldest rock art has been rolled out in Australia's North West, all thanks to Tyson Mowarin's Digital Dreamtime Project.

The Ngarluma man from Roebourne has been working on the web application, The Rock Art Protection (RAP) Project, for 12 months, and it is finally here for all to experience.

Advanced technology designed by Australia's best developers allows users to access RAP Project "Wi-Fi and Bluetooth hubs" through their smartphones.

Once logged in, users are welcomed with a video message featuring traditional owners of the Burrup region, and access to information about how to respect the ancient petroglyphs and how to report misuse.

Creator Tyson Mowarin said education and recognition for Murujuga Rock Art is long overdue. "No one has thought of protecting, sharing and educating people about rock art using these technologies before," he said.

"It's usually commercial or corporate services that use this technology.

"I'm bringing together modern technology with the world's oldest continuous culture."

The Murujuga rock art is in the only place in the world where the custodians of the land and the people who created them still exist in the same place.

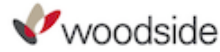
"Around the world there is rock art but the civilizations that created most of it don't exist anymore and or no one knows their story," Tyson explained.

"So this is my way of helping my people protect and look after our history and knowledge."

Traditional owners believe the rock art is around 30,000 years old, dating back to before the last ice age in what is now the Pilbara region.

"This is evident in the land-based animal carvings that are older and weathered whilst the sea animal carvings are fresher, almost writing in the rocks the story of the last ice age.

"Murujuga means a lot to Aboriginal people because its story clearly shows an unbroken connection to the Australian mainland with respect, thousands of years before the rise and fall of many of the great civilizations of the world.



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“It’s the oldest rock art gallery in the world.”

The Rock Art Protection Project was made possible with support from the Murujuga circle of elders, the Murujuga Rangers and principal sponsors Woodside-operated Pluto LNG.

Woodside Senior Vice President Pluto, Julie Fallon, said Woodside was proud to have supported this fantastic new web application.

“It is incredible to think that by using their mobile devices, people in the Shire of Roebourne will have the opportunity to learn about rock art and help conserve it for future generations,” Ms Fallon said.

“We’re also very pleased to be working with the Shire of Roebourne, and the Karratha and Roebourne Visitor Centres in co-hosting the Wi-Fi hubs.”

Pluto LNG funded the project under its Conservation Agreement with the Australian Government, with the aim of protecting and promoting the living culture and National Heritage values of the Dampier Archipelago, including Murujuga.

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Locations where the Wi-Fi hubs will be located include:

Karratha Airport
 Karratha Visitor Centre
 Roebourne Visitor Centre
 North West Shelf Project Visitors Centre on Burrup Peninsula Road
 Pluto LNG’s Gap Ridge Village
 Woodside’s Karratha Town Office
 Woodside’s Roebourne Town Office
 Weerianna Street Media office in Roebourne

For more information about the Rock Art Protection Project, or to arrange an interview with Tyson Mowarin, please contact Tamara BinAmat at Impact Media at 0455 835 424 or tamara@impactmediakarratha.com.au.