Local Awarded $25,000 George Chaloupka Fellowship

Arts and Museums Minister Gerry McCarthy today congratulated local rock art expert Daryl Guse for being awarded this year’s $25,000 George Chaloupka Research Fellowship.

“Indigenous archaeology and cultural heritage have been a big part of Daryl’s life for many years and he’s certainly a worthy recipient of this year’s fellowship,” Mr McCarthy said.

“This $25,000 fellowship will support Daryl’s work to document and conserve rock art in the Urrmarning (Red Lily Dreaming) Precinct near the township of Kunbarllanjnja in Arnhem Land with the help of traditional owners.

“Daryl has spent more than a decade documenting and conserving cultural heritage in the Territory including Aboriginal and historical field studies, excavation of historical sites, developing policy advice and publishing academic journal articles.

"He is currently working towards a PhD at the Australian National University on the ARC Linkage Project Baijini, Macassans, Balanda, and Bininj: Defining the Indigenous past of Arnhem Land through Culture Contact.

“I also welcome ERA’s announcement that it will commit an extra $85,000 over the next three years to further support this important research fellowship.

“Dr Chaloupka is arguably the Territory’s best known rock art historians and is a Curator Emeritus at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) and ERA’s support of the fellowship ensures the understanding of Territory rock art becomes richer and broader.”

The George Chaloupka Fellowship is an initiative of the MAGNT Board and MAGNT Foundation and aims to promote and support published research and conservation of Aboriginal rock art located in Western Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory.

“MAGNT oversees a large collection of photographic images and associated documentation of several Northern Territory rock art regions that has been built up through field work and research over 30 years,” Mr McCarthy said.

“The strength of the MAGNT collection is that it records the most complex and extensive body of rock art, which is found in the Arnhem Land Plateau and Kakadu National Park.

“The rock paintings of this region represent not only the world's longest continuing art tradition but also the world's longest continuous record of human endeavour.

“Rock art provides information about Australian prehistory, as the artists through time depicted changes in their physical, social and religious environments.”

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