

Murujuga Rock Art Stakeholder Reference Group

Summary of meeting held 28 September 2022

Curtin University, Whadjuk Noongar Country (Perth, WA)

Members and observers joined the Chair, Professor Stephen van Leeuwen, Murujuga Rangers and the Murujuga Rock Art Monitoring team to receive an update on the Murujuga Rock Art Monitoring Program and toured the facilities being used to undertake the monitoring studies at Curtin University. These studies complement the field studies being undertaken on Murujuga Country, and together will inform the development of interim Environmental Quality Criteria for the protection of the Murujuga rock art.

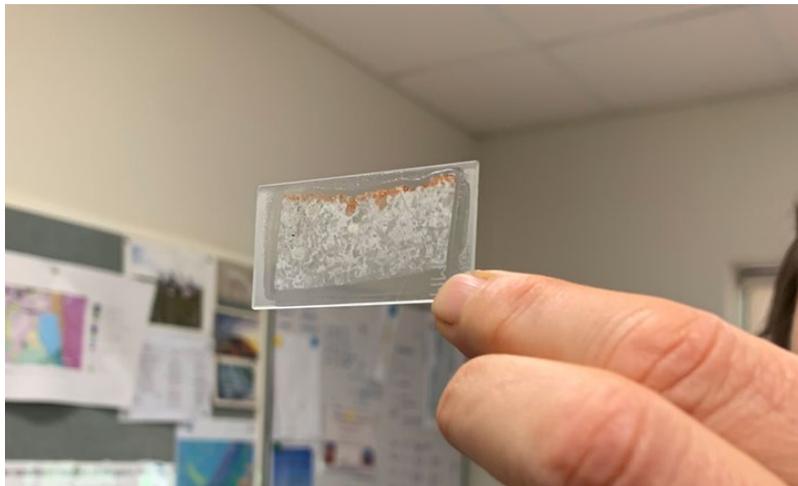
The tour included:

- a 3D visualisation of drone photogrammetry datasets at the HIVE (Hub for Immersive Visualisation);
- detailed characterisation of structural, elemental and isotopic (inorganic) composition of sample rocks from Murujuga at the John De Laeter Centre;
- NATA certified analysis of air quality deposition samples at the WA ChemCentre;
- organic chemistry and isotopic analysis of plants, rock and air samples from Murujuga; microbiome characterisation and analysis at the Organic and Isotopic Geochemistry Centre (OIGC); and
- Computational Fluid Dynamics simulation for airflow and air quality; genomics and bioinformatics analysis from rock sample microbiome; statistics and (Big) Data analysis of combined datasets at the Pawsey Supercomputer Centre.



Murujuga Rock Art SRG members, MAC Rangers, and monitoring program team at Pawsey supercomputing centre, 28 September 2022

The tour provided an opportunity for stakeholders to meet with scientists undertaking monitoring studies and understand the range of studies underpinning the monitoring program.



Polished thin section of gabbro from the Dampier Salt. This thin section shows the transition from fresh rock (translucent) to patina (orange).



Vegetation samples at the Organic and Isotopic Geochemistry Centre

Following the tour, the Stakeholder Reference Group were briefed by Calibre Group on the progress of field monitoring and laboratory studies in 2022, including the installation of passive air quality monitoring stations and upcoming shoulder season fieldworks.

The Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation provided an update on communications activities and Ranger training under the monitoring program and partnership with the State Government.

The Stakeholder Reference Group also noted that UWA are planning a research symposium in February 2023 as a collaboration between the monitoring program and the rock art dating project teams.