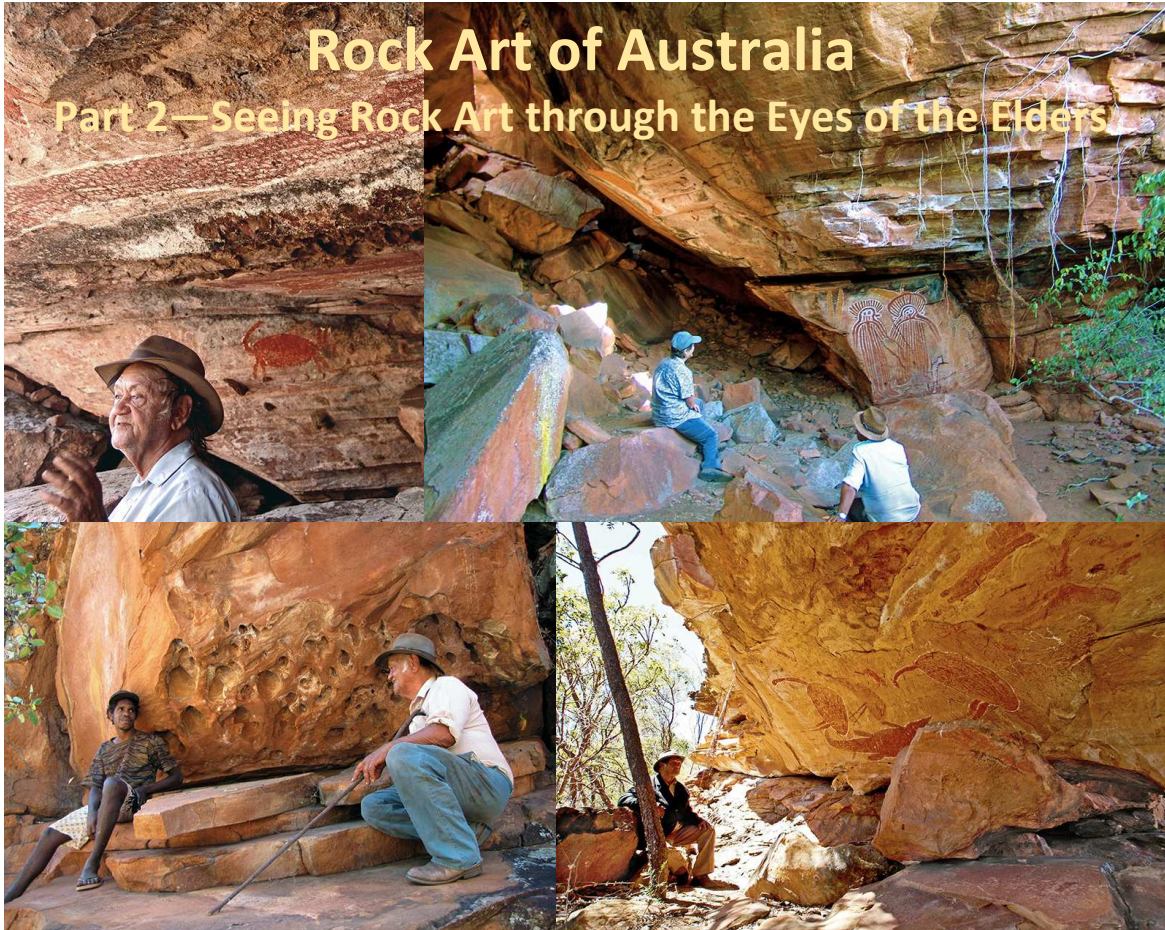




San Diego Rock Art Association Virtual Meeting
Sunday, August 13, 2023, 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time



A Presentation by David Lee

There are still a few places on earth where traditional peoples use rock art images to aid in inter-generational instruction and in ceremonies. Wardaman Country in northern Australia is one such place. This program will present information gathered during ten field-seasons working with Wardaman Elder Yidumduma Bill Harney to document Wardaman rock art sites and Mr. Harney's traditional knowledge of the land, the sites, and the images. It will also describe some of the logistics required and the experiences and insights gained while living and working "out bush."

The ceremonial traditions of indigenous groups in northern Australia are concerned primarily with lessons first learned during the "Dreamtime" when the world was created. Those lessons passed from the Creation Beings to humans when that Dreamtime world changed into the one know today, and those beings became part of the landscape they created. The songs, stories, laws, and ceremonies of the present are informed by that ancient past and are meant (in large part) to help teach children about their connection to the lands of their ancestors. How do lessons from the ancient past inform our dreams for the future? Learn how the Wardaman people of Australia continue to use rock art sites and images to help maintain spiritual connections to their lands and to their ancestors. To them, time, space, act, and actor are all part of the woven fabric of existence. The lessons of the Dreamtime serve to inform both the reality of the present and their hopes for the future.

David Lee is an independent rock art researcher focusing on the function and context of Native American rock art of western North America and on the rock art and associated traditional knowledge of northern Australia. As a founding member of the non-profit Western Rock Art Research, David has documented rock art throughout the western U.S. and in Australia. Between 2005 and 2017 he and his wife Charlotte worked with the Wardaman People of the Northern Territory to document their rock art sites and associated traditional stories.

This meeting will be held via Zoom
August 13, 2023, Starting at 4:00 p.m. (Pacific Time)

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