

**Media Release:**

**20.08.09**

## **Rock Art Fellowship Announced**

The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) has announced the recipient of the inaugural \$25 000 George Chaloupka Fellowship, Victorian Aboriginal rock art expert Robert (Ben) Gunn.

MAGNT Director Anna Malgorzewicz said the fellowship, which is sponsored by Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA), is an initiative of the MAGNT Board and the MAGNT Foundation to promote and support published research and conservation of Aboriginal rock art located in Western Arnhem Land, Northern Territory.

“Mr Robert (Ben) Gunn will undertake the detailed recording of Nawarla Gabarnmung, a major rock art site in Western Arnhem Land,” Ms Malgorzewicz said.

“This site is the largest and most decorated shelter within a complex of rock art sites near the headwaters of the Katherine River, in the centre of the Arnhem Land plateau.”

Robert (Ben) Gunn, a founding member of the Australian Rock Art Research Association, has more than 25 years experience as an archaeologist and has recorded rock art in many areas of Australia, with the past four years spent recording rock art sites in Jawoyn Lands.

The fellowship was created in honour of renowned rock art historian and Curator Emeritus Dr George Chaloupka OAM FAHA and is granted to an individual to conduct research, with a view to publication in one or more of the following areas:

- Recording / data collection of rock art sites in Western Arnhem Land in areas not yet surveyed through the work of Emeritus Curator Dr George Chaloupka OAM FAHA or other researchers
- Interpretation of sites by custodians / traditional owners
- Preservation of rock art
- Dating of rock art
- Researching / documenting the work of Emeritus Curator Dr George Chaloupka OAM FAHA held at MAGNT

The findings from the 2009 Fellowship will be announced in early 2010 with call for applications for the 2010 George Chaloupka Research Fellowship released in February 2010.

Ends

**Media Note – For interviews phone Anne Marshall on 8999 4730 to arrange.**

**Images –**

- 1. 2009 George Chaloupka Fellowship recipient Mr Robert (Ben) Gunn**
- 2. Nawarla Gabarnmung, rock art site in Western Arnhem Land**

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