

Rock art rambling

By Benn Marks

ARCHAEOLOGISTS, former politicians and native historians will visit the Burrup this week as part of the Friends of Australian Rock Art convention.

FARA spokesman Robin Chapple said the aim of the gathering was to visit some of the archaeological rock art sites on the Burrup as well as indigenous Australian community members.

"We will be visiting and meeting some of the indigenous people and going out to visit some of the

various rock art sites on the Burrup over the three days we're out there," he said.

Chapple said the rock art of the Burrup was archaeologically and historically significant because it constituted some of the oldest recordings of human civilization in the world.

"These sites and examples of rock art in the Burrup are important because, as petroglyph 'story-books', they are living sites," he said.

"They've had visitations from

various indigenous communities over time, which have told stories that have been transmitted from one generation to another over thousands of years."

He also denied allegations the FARA gathering would be noisy, unruly and disruptive.

"Definitely not. A busload containing various members of the archaeological community, historians and former politicians are coming up. I don't think they're the type to get up to any mischief," he said.