

Rocks of ages

BEING a part of the second annual Burrup Heritage Tour is the closest people can get to a real-life Indiana Jones experience, according to archaeologist and Friends of Australian Rock Art (FARA) co-ordinator Robin Chapple.

FARA is taking bookings for its week-long trip to the Dampier Archipelago from August 3 to 10, the highlight being a three-day guided tour of the Burrup Peninsula Rock Art Region, the world's oldest and largest rock art landscape.

Among the 500,000-plus petroglyphs (rock

carvings) are engravings dating back 30,000 years to before the last Ice Age, the oldest human record of carvings on the planet.

Chapple attributes the longevity of these carvings to the fine-grained granophyre rock that they were made in.

The carvings cover a range of depictions and application methods with engravings of extinct fauna such as fat-tail wallabies and thylacines.

Tour numbers are limited to 60 people and last year many were turned away.

The tour costs \$1250 per person.

Call 9332 2815 or 0411 669 128 for more details.