



Friends of Australian Rock Art conducted their 145th Stand Up vigil at the exit of "A Celebration Of Life" in Perth on Saturday, June 7.

# Standing up for Burrup

ON Saturday, June 7, Friends of Australian Rock Art (FARA) conducted their 145th Stand Up vigil at the end of A Celebration Of Life in Perth, an event featuring Hindu Bhaisbhai Rameshbhai Oza (Bhaiji) sponsored by Pankaj Oswal – chairman of Burrup Fertilisers.

The reason for this Stand Up was that Pankaj, Oswal and Yara (Norway) had signed a joint venture plan to build a 350,000 tonne per annum technical am-

monium nitrate (TAN) explosives plant in the middle of the National Heritage-listed Burrup Peninsula.

This plant will be next to Pankaj Oswal's current Burrup Holdings Fertiliser plant, located on the largest of the islands of the Dampier Archipelago.

The location of the Stand Up was chosen to highlight the cultural duplicity of building a petrochemical plant within 1km of one of the major rock art galleries, when in Vishnupur the Oswal family's spiritual leaders are trying to protect the Pancha Ratna Temple and Jor Bangla, built about 400 years ago, from airborne pollution coming from 300km away.

FARA, supported by Carmen Lawrence, Colin Barnett and Malcolm Fraser, has been acknowledged as leading the charge to protect the archipela-

go, the world's greatest petroglyph (rock art) and prehistoric site.

The values of the Dampier archipelago are twofold.

It contains what is considered to be the largest remaining group of prehistoric petroglyphs anywhere in the world, including the earliest examples of human face depiction;

As a pre-eminent world site, it is one of the only places that contains a chronology of human endeavour from 30,000 years ago to the present time, mapping the changes of environment, species extinction and cultural swings up to and through the last Ice Age to the present day.

The Dampier archipelago is the only site in Australia on the World Monuments Fund's most endangered heritage list.

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