



# The Australasian Society for Classical Studies

## Newsletter no. 57, December 2025

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members,

The executive met in March, May, July, October and November: much of our discussion over this year has been in anticipation of various aspects of ASCS 47 in Auckland. We have clarified the application form for PG subsidies; we have arranged for a social media officer in the lead up to the conference and we have prepared the role descriptions for the Secondary School Liaison Officers (in Australia and New Zealand). In the lead up to the ASCS 2026 AGM, we will circulate an agenda and procedural rules for this meeting. These are intended to facilitate broad participation from the ASCS community in the AGM and to encourage contribution from all members in a spirit of constructive discussion. Thank you for all who submitted an abstract; please do register as soon as you can for the conference. I look forward to seeing you there.

Results from the survey in July gave us a very clear snapshot of the way members attend the conference, and good guidance on a range of issues from catering at the conference to the format of papers and the society's use of social media. Many thanks to those who took the time to share their feedback via the survey.

Thank you to the ASCS executive committee for their work this year, and for their generosity in showing myself and other new committee members the ropes.

Best wishes,

Paul

Paul Roche

President  
December 2025

## OBITUARIES

### Ian McPhee



Dr Ian McPhee, a distinguished scholar and valued colleague at La Trobe University, passed away peacefully on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

Ian McPhee was a member of the La Trobe community for over 50 years. He joined the University in 1974 as a Lecturer in Art History (Senior Lecturer from 1979), specialising in Greco-Roman art and especially ancient Greek vase-painting and the 4<sup>th</sup> century

BCE vases produced outside Athens. Ian often worked alongside his beloved wife, classical archaeologist and art historian Elizabeth Pemberton<sup>†</sup>, especially in the study and publication of ceramic finds at ancient Corinth, where they were welcomed over many years as much-admired and respected collaborators.

At La Trobe Ian also found a kindred spirit in Prof. Dale Trendall (1909 –1995), then Resident Fellow and an expert on ancient South Italian vase-painting. Together they formed not only an important professional collaboration but also a lasting friendship, resulting in Trendall entrusting Ian to oversee his bequest to La Trobe University. Through Ian's effort and dedication, the A.D. Trendall Research Centre for Ancient Mediterranean Studies was established and flourished at La Trobe, with Ian acting as Centre Director until 2012, well after his formal retirement in 2006. As an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, Ian continued his outstanding research work right up to the last, much of which can be finalised by his close colleagues for publication in his honour.

Ian is remembered with great admiration and fondness as a teacher. As one former student recalls, "Imparting his vast knowledge of the art and archaeology of the ancient Greek world with insight, patience, and sometimes a subtle humour, Ian infected me with his enthusiasm", while another (a renowned art historian himself) notes the influence of Ian's teaching on his career: "his classes on Greek pots were what inspired me to go on and study at university".

Ian's expertise, scholarly generosity and gentle humour is greatly missed.

Gillian Shepherd

### Australian Catholic University

#### Staff News

Dr Sabrina Inowlocki will join ACU in 2026 as Senior Research Fellow in the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, having come from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and University of Haifa in Israel. She is a specialist in late-antique Christian historiography and biography and the Christian reception of Hellenistic Jewish authors like Josephus. Her two most recent books, soon to be published by Cambridge University Press, are *Pamphilus and Book Culture at Caesarea* and *Ancient Apologetic Literature and the Bibliographic Imagination*.

Dr Ian Mills will join ACU in 2026 as a Research Fellow in the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, having come from Hamilton College in the US. He is a specialist in early Christian gospels, their ancient literary context and their reception into late-antiquity, and manuscripts of the corpus of Pauline letters. His two most recent books are *The Hypothesis of the Gospels: Narrative Traditions in Hellenistic Reading Culture* (Fortress, 2025) and *Tatian the Syrian: A Second Century Gospel Author*, soon to be published by Cambridge University Press.

Matthew Crawford won an Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers, University of Tübingen (2025-2028). Project: 'Julian's *Against the Galileans*: A New Collection of the Fragments Including Analysis of their Historical Context and Modern Influence.' (write-up available [here](#))

#### New Courses

Dr Sarah Gador-Whyte has created a new course, *HST350: Women in the Later Roman Empire*, which explores the fascinating and varied lives of women in the Christian Roman Empire. The period saw new roles for powerful empresses, female clerics, physicians, ascetics, intellectuals, actresses and prostitutes, among others and their stories and experiences allow us to consider significant political, religious, and legal changes that affected women in the period.

#### Visitors

Prof. Joan Taylor (KCL emerita) is visiting ACU from September 2025 to February 2026.

#### Museum News

The Chester Beatty Museum and Library in Dublin is running an interactive exhibition of manuscripts and their paratexts, *Manuscripts and the Mind*, 27 October 2025 – 1 March 2026. This exhibition is the culmination of six philological projects, each studying a

different manuscript tradition, and a team of neuroscientists charting cognitive reactions to paratextual elements, all coordinated under the Templeton Religion Trust-funded *Paratexts Seeking Understanding*, run by Prof. Garrick Allen (Glasgow), Prof. Christoph Scheepers (Glasgow), and Dr. Kelsie Rodenbiker (Copenhagen). Jonathan Zecher and Stephen Carlson's project, *Scholia Seeking Understanding*, contributed to this exhibition and its display of Chester Beatty W 139, a magnificently illustrated Byzantine Gospel book.

## **Grants**

The ARC funded Discovery Project 'Translation and Transformation in Late Antiquity' will begin on December 1. This project is led by Michael Hanaghan (ACU), Stephen Carlson (ACU), Bronwen Neil (MQ), and Andy Cain (University of Colorado, Boulder).

## **Postgraduate Completions**

Tom Pietsch, 'A Spiritual Exodus: Worship and the Scriptural Way of Life in Cyril of Alexandria's *De adoratione*' (supervised by Matthew Crawford, Michael Champion, and Jonathan Zecher)

Austin Steen, 'Pro-Nicene Creation and Salvation according to Augustine of Hippo and Cyril of Alexandria' (supervised by Matthew Crawford, Michael Hanaghan, and Lewis Ayres)

Jonathan Zecher

## **Australian National University**

### **Staff News**

We were delighted to welcome Dr Marko Vitas, Associate Lecturer in Classics, in September. Marko has quickly made himself an indispensable part of the team, teaching Ancient Greek and Classical Studies and winning rave reviews from students.

Professor Caillan Davenport has been elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. He has also recently been selected to serve a 3-year term on the Australian Research Council College of Experts.

Dr Estelle Strazdins was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (UK) by the Society's Council at their meeting on 12 September.

Dr Edward Armstrong has been awarded an ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences Teaching Award for Excellence in Tutoring.

## Staff Activity

Dr Simona Martorana presented papers at two international conferences:

- "The Monstrous *Famine*: Erysichthon's Abject Body in Ovid's *Metamorphoses* 8" at The Next Ovid(s), IOS Annual Conference, Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, 19-21 June
- "Vergil (Un)Historical Plague: Thucydidean Echoes in *Georgics* 3.478-566", Symposium Cumanum 2025, "Vergil and the Greeks", Villa Vergiliana, Bacoli, 24-28 June

Dr Estelle Strazdins presented at the 10th Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Hellenic Heritage of Sicily and Southern Italy with the theme of '*Athlos, Athlon, Athlētēs*: Competition and Excellence in Greco-Roman Culture', at the Exedra Mediterranean Centre, Syracuse, Sicily, November 23-27, 2025. Her paper was on the agonistic relationship between Herodes Atticus and the Marathonomachoi as contained in several inscriptions.

## New Courses

Prof. Caillan Davenport and Dr Meaghan McEvoy convened a new course, *CLAS3001: Rome: the Eternal City from Antiquity to the Early Middle Ages*, in Semester 2. This course, which is cross-listed in both the Classical Studies and History majors, explores the political, religious and cultural transformation of the city of Rome and its monuments across more than 1000 years.

Dr Tatiana Bur convened a new course on religion in the ancient world, *CLAS3003: Faith and Belief in Ancient Greece and Rome*. Thanks to the expertise of Dr Meaghan McEvoy and Dr Marko Vitas who co-taught with Dr Bur, this new course was able to incorporate material from Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, Early Christianity, and Early Islam.

Drs Tatiana Bur and Georgia Pike-Rowney convened a new course, *CLAS2013: The Muse and the Machine: The Arts, Technology and Society in Graeco-Roman Antiquity*. From blowing glass, throwing pottery and casting bronze statues, to strumming the lyre, staging a tragedy, and devising ancient automata, this course looked at the processes and societal functions of *technē* in ancient Greece and Rome. The course involved hands-on components, off-site excursions as well as the possibility for students to undertake creative assessment.

## Postgraduate Completions

Lachlan McColl, 'Chios: Island and Polis in the Archaic and Classical Periods' (PhD thesis) supervised by Dr Peter Londey (ANU, Principal Supervisor) and A/Prof. Lesley Beaumont (Sydney, Associate Supervisor).

Fiona Sweet Formiatti, 'Order and Disorder: Aspects of Homeric Hospitality' (PhD thesis), supervised by Prof Elizabeth Minchin.

## Conferences and visitors

Dr Meaghan McEvoy organised a 1-day colloquium on 'Women, Gender, and Queenship through the ages' on Friday 7 November with the generous support of the Centre for Classical Studies, the Classics Endowment Fund, and the School of History. This was the third in an annual series of workshops instituted by Dr McEvoy and members of the ANU Late Antiquity and Medieval Group, which has so far held colloquia on 'Women, Gender, and Authority' (2023), and 'Women, Gender and Violence' (2024).

This year's event investigated different manifestations and perceptions of queenship across time and space, from the Hellenistic world to 19<sup>th</sup> century Australia. Our wonderful keynote speaker for this year was Dr Alex McAuley from the University of Auckland, Waipapa Taumata Rau, who presented on the topic *The Other Side of the Dynastic Coin: Rethinking Queenship and Gender in the Hellenistic World*. Presentations by ANU academics in Classics, History, English and the Centre for Asia and the Pacific included discussion of methodological issues in teaching and researching queenship, as well as Roman politics, Chinese empresses, numismatic and epigraphic sources, queenly patronage and queens as intercessors, queens and the use of religious ritual, queens and international relations, and indigenous perspectives.

As part of his visit to ANU, funded by Prof. Caillan Davenport's Australian Research Council Future Fellowship scheme (FT240100071), Dr McAuley also led a warmly-received HDR masterclass for our advanced undergraduate, honours and HDR students on the methodological challenges of researching ancient queenship.



Speakers from the workshop "Women, Gender and Queenship through the ages"

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, Dr Tatiana Bur launched [Fulcrum](#), a new network bringing together Australasian scholars working on science and technology before 1500. Prof Joan Leach, ANU DVC Academic and distinguished Science Communicator, officially launched the network at a one-day symposium which brought together scholars from Classics, history, philosophy, Assyriology, cybernetics, creative arts, and science communication. Speakers included Prof Han Baltussen (Adelaide), Prof Chris Danta (ANU), Dr Tom Hercules Davies (ANU), Dr Laura Dawes (ANU), Dr Emily Hulme (Sydney), Rod Harvey (ANU), Jemima McPhee (ANU), A/Prof Terhi Nurmiiko-Fuller (ANU), Denise Thwaites (UC). We also counted on the presence of Steven Green (NUS) who was visiting the ANU Centre for Classical Studies at the time, and who led a reading group on 'Constellation or Conternation? Andromeda and the Politics of the Sky in Manilius' *Astronomica 5*' in collaboration with the ARC DP *Night Vision in the Late Ancient Mediterranean*. The day was generously supported by the ANU Classics Endowment Fund.



Fulcrum members and speakers at the launch event

The evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> October saw the inauguration of new content at the Mount Stromlo Observatory Information Centre which puts Greco-Roman stories and science of the stars in conversation with much older Australian indigenous astronomical knowledge. This event was part of the ARC-funded Discovery Project '[Night Vision in the Late Ancient Mediterranean](#)' (ACU and ANU). The new educational material on display was created in collaboration with Gamilaraay/Yuwaalaraay cultural astronomer Peter Swanton and astrophysicist Dr Brad Tucker and shows how stories and science of the stars have been intertwined across history, creating opportunities to reflect critically on the Western astronomical tradition. A/Prof Kylie Crabbe (ACU) and Dr Sarah Gador-Whyte (ACU) were able to travel to Canberra for the launch to join the ANU CIs on the project Dr Tatiana Bur and Dr Estelle Strazdins.

Dr Andrea Navarro Noguera (Valencia) was a visitor to the centre from July to October, Dr Alina Kozlovski (UNE) joined us for a week in August, and Dr Alexander Free (LMU) visited the centre for 3 weeks in September.

## New Books

Bur, T. (2025) *Technologies of the Marvellous in Ancient Greek Religion*. CUP.

Nietzsche, F., Murray, P., Strazdins, E. & Thomas, E. (2025). *The Greek Worship of the Gods*. De Gruyter.

## Museum News

The Friends of the ANU Classics Museum celebrated their 40th anniversary on Thursday, November 27 with a special event in the Museum. Professor Tim Senden (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research Infrastructure and Entities) formally thanked the Friends on behalf of the University for their decades of generous support, most recently through the funding of the Friends' Lecturer in Classics and Curator of the ANU Classics Museum position. The evening was hosted by Dr Georgia Pike-Rowney, the current Lecturer/Curator.

On 8<sup>th</sup> October the ANU Classics Museum hosted a special event: "Looting Etruria on Film: Alice Rohrwacher's 'La Chimera' (2023) - Panel Discussion and Screening." This event was presented in partnership with the Embassy of Italy, the ANU Film Group, and the Friends of the ANU Classics Museum. The evening was opened by the Culture and Education Attaché of the Embassy of Italy, Valentina Biguzzi, after which Dr Georgia Pike-Rowney hosted a panel discussion on Alice Rohrwacher's 2023 film, a drama exploring the tombaroli (tomb robbers) set in 1980s Tuscany, starring Josh O'Connor, Isabella Rossellini, Vincenzo Nemolato and Carol Duarte. Dr Pike-Rowney was joined by expert panellists Dr Simona Martorana (ANU) and Dr Vivian Gerrand (ANU).

## Engagement

Dr Tatiana Bur was selected as one of ABC Humanities Top 5 residents for 2025. She spent two weeks in the ABC studios in Ultimo in September undergoing media training supported by ABC Radio National. Tatiana has since featured as a guest on ABC's podcast *No one Saw it Coming* with Marc Fennell. You can listen to Tatiana's episode on the Antikythera mechanism [here](#).

The ANU School of History and Centre for Classical Studies came together to deliver an afternoon of mini lectures and workshops for senior secondary school students in the ACT. Organised by the ACT History Teachers' Association, and hosted at Canberra Grammar School, the event consisted of both an ancient and modern stream and included students from several schools across Canberra. Dr Tatiana Bur, Prof. Caillan Davenport,

and Dr Georgia Pike-Rowney represented the ancient history stream, talking about the Julio-Claudian dynasty, Greek religion, and running hands-on workshops with coins and other artefacts.

Professor Caillan Davenport was interviewed for the 'Fri-losophy' segment on ABC Radio Canberra 'Afternoons with Emma Bickley'. The topic of the week was 'Monarchy', particularly the ethical and moral standards expected of monarchs (and leaders in general).

Tatiana Bur

## **La Trobe University**

### **Postgraduate Completions**

Master of Arts theses completed and passed:

- Christian Evans: 'No Faggots in the Forum: Defining the Cinaedus of Ancient Rome'
- Sara Williams: 'Gamifying the Past: Historical Authenticity, Pedagogy and Gender Bias in Assassin's Creed Odyssey'

### **New Books**

Shepherd, G. (ed.) 2025: *From Corinth to Campania. Studies on Greek Vase-Painting in Honour of Ian McPhee*. Astrom Editions, Nicosia

Webb, J.M. 2024: *Lapithos Sotira, Cyprus. Early and Middle Bronze Age Tombs Excavated in 1968/69 (Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology 157)*, Nicosia

Webb, J.M. 2025: *Lapithos Vrysi tou Barba, Cyprus. Early and Middle Bronze Age Tombs Excavated in 1913. Tombs 48–50, 101–108, 201–205 (Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology 160)*, Nicosia

### **Engagement**

Gillian Shepherd gave a lecture at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne on A.D. Trendall's work as a code-breaker during the Second World War, entitled "Art, Espionage and Professor A.D. Trendall".

This lecture was recorded and broadcast on ABC Radio National's *Big Ideas* programme. Interested ASCS members can access the recording [here](#).

Gillian Shepherd

## Macquarie University

### Staff News

Macquarie University, as part of a larger-scale response to challenging circumstances in the tertiary sector, has reduced its long-term investment in ancient-world studies. In 2025 the Ancient History group was targeted for nine redundancies at senior levels (D and E).

At the end of a year-long process the following staff from our discipline area have left or are in the process of leaving the University, not all at the targeted levels, some of them currently or formerly active members of the ASCS community:

- Dr Danijel Džino, 2010–26 (Roman history and Croatian studies)
- Assoc. Prof. Linda Evans, 1994–2025 (Egyptology and environmental archaeology)
- Prof. Peter Keegan, 2005–26? (Roman history and gender studies; see the relevant entry in the April Newsletter)
- Assoc. Prof. Paul McKechnie, 2007–26 (Greek and Roman history and language and classics in Malawi)
- Assoc. Prof. Ian Plant, 1994–2025 (Greek history and language)
- Prof. Shawn Ross, 2015–25 (History, archaeology and digital methods)
- Assoc. Prof. Kenneth Sheedy, 2000–25? (Numismatics and Greek archaeology)
- Dr Alexandra Woods, 2007–25 (Egyptology)
- Prof. Ian Worthington, 2017–26 (Greek history, oratory and rhetoric)

The question-marks after date ranges indicate cases where at short notice (the official list of relevant persons was only released on 1 December) the present writer has not been able to verify the end-points of employment. At least some of these colleagues will continue as honorary affiliates at Macquarie. The disciplinary group wishes them the very best in all their future endeavours.

### Staff and Student Activity

In late November Karin Sowada was presented with an award at the Australian Egyptian Forum Council Dinner at NSW Parliament House. The event honoured H.E. Nabil Habashi, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration of the Arab Republic of Egypt, who was visiting Sydney as part of the commemoration of 75 years of Egyptian-Australian Diplomatic Relations. The award included a citation recognising Karin's 'outstanding contribution to Australian-Egyptian cultural relations through distinguished academic leadership, and advancing Egyptological scholarship, which strengthens bilateral ties and deepens understanding of Egypt's rich heritage.'

Ray Laurence offered a series of presentations, including the H.W. 'Barney' Allen Memorial lecture to the Classical Association of Victoria (on 'Why did the Romans

celebrate birthdays? Age and Ageing in Ancient Rome Revisited ...'), and research papers at the Department of Archaeology and Classical Studies, Stockholm University, the Trivium Workshop: Age, Aging and Ancestors in Ancient and Medieval Societies, Tampere University (on 'Does the Use of Age Define a Society? Trying to Understand Ancient Rome'), and for the Helsinki Research on the Ancient World (HelRAW) seminar, Helsinki University. He was also a panel member at the Teaching AI Workshop of the Australian Historical Association.

Trevor Evans and Michael Zellmann-Rohrer presented papers (two each) in the inaugural workshop of the PAMELA project at the National Library of the Czech Republic, Prague in early September. The PAMELA project (Horizon funding) focuses on investigation of papyri and medieval manuscripts from the collection of the National Library of the Czech Republic. It is based at the Charles University, Prague under the leadership of Prof. Lucie Doležalová and involves approximately 20 international partners spread across Europe, North America, Japan, Australia and Argentina, including scholars from the School of Humanities at Macquarie. Macquarie will host a large group of European PAMELA participants in August 2026.

### **Revised courses**

Macquarie University has developed a Bachelor of History with eight core units (including one focused on Ancient History), in which students choose one or two Majors from Ancient History, Archaeology, Modern History and Public History & Heritage. Each Major has eight compulsory units. The Major in Ancient History examines the societies, cultures, and beliefs, including Egypt, Greece, Rome, Persia, and Mesopotamia, spanning from the Bronze Age through Late Antiquity. The curriculum includes foundational units (1000 level) introducing ancient history methodologies and the civilisations of Western Asia and Egypt, alongside specialised studies examining Rome and the Caesars, Ancient Egypt, and the Greek city-state (2000 level). Advanced units (3000 level) explore thematic issues including women and gender, slavery, and leadership in the ancient world. Students can take a major in Ancient History with a major in Archaeology (that includes four units focused on antiquity). It is hoped the Major in Ancient History will recruit strongly and be at a level to produce graduate researchers in the MRes and PhD programs.

Note the withdrawal of the Bachelor of Ancient History and withdrawal of the Bachelor of Archaeology. The Bachelor of Ancient History, which ran for a quarter of a century, was a unique offering in Australia. The Bachelor of Archaeology was created in 2015. Both degrees were subject to an external panel-review in 2024 that recommended their continuation. The student enrolments were also increasing over the last five years (2020–25), the Bachelor of Ancient History from 144 to 216 enrolments, the Bachelor of Archaeology from 166 to 254 enrolments. The reason given for withdrawal of the degrees was that the number of commencing students was too low (79 for the Bachelor of Ancient History and 71 for the Bachelor of Archaeology) to justify a course for these 'sub-

disciplines'. Members of the Discipline of History and Archaeology warmly thank those ASCS members who wrote letters and submissions in our support and would like to express our disappointment not to be teaching these degrees in future. (Prof. Ray Laurence)

Also withdrawn are Macquarie's advanced programs in ancient languages, which the external panel-review of 2024 recommended to be more fully integrated with the rest of Macquarie's ancient-world studies programs. The advanced Hieroglyphic Egyptian program, created by Boyo Ockinga and in recent times adapted by Camilla Di Biase-Dyson and Julia Hamilton, ran for many years. It has produced a string of distinguished graduates, including Camilla herself and current colleague Julien Cooper. The advanced Greek and Latin program, created by Trevor Evans, ran 2007–25 and had a distinctively balanced focus on both literary and documentary evidence of the classical, postclassical and (for Latin) medieval periods. It achieved enrolments comparable to those in similar European programs, produced four University Medals, and trained three winners of ASCS language competitions. At time of writing a proposal for an Undergraduate Certificate in Ancient Languages is under consideration by the Faculty of Arts. (Assoc. Prof. Trevor Evans)

## **Museum News**

Following last year's revitalisation, The Macquarie University History Museum has continued to evolve in 2025. In May the museum underwent a name change, becoming the Gale History Museum at Macquarie University (GHM) in honour of longtime donors, Dr Janet Gale and her late husband Dr William Gale. During a small private ceremony on Thursday 29 May, Macquarie Vice-Chancellor Professor S Bruce Dowton thanked Dr Janet Gale for the generosity shown by her and her late husband, which has 'enhanced learning opportunities, fostered academic research, and enabled international research collaborations.'

The GHM's 'Cities of Vesuvius' school education program for Stage 6 students rolled out in late 2024. In 2025 our small team has hosted more than 400 students, with highly positive feedback from their schools.

The GHM held three temporary exhibitions in 2025:

*Play Through History*, which opened in 2024 and closed in April explored games and play from antiquity to the modern day. It was curated by Dr Abbie Hartman, as part of the Play Through History project, supported by The University of Toronto's GLAM Incubator Scheme.

*Communities of Care*, which opened in April 2025 and ran until early October, for the first time brought objects from the antiquities collection, the Australian history collection and our Indigenous collection together in conversation to explore the different ways in which human beings give, receive and show care. Ancient objects included in the exhibition

included Indigenous stone tools—speaking to the theme of Care for Country—and ancient Egyptian amulets reflected care within and for family. Several Roman objects addressed the theme of self-care, including a skeuomorph flask, compact mirror, and bronze strigils. The exhibition benefitted from the advice of Dr Julia Hamilton and incorporated commentary from numerous Macquarie University academics including Dr Jo Rey, Dr Isobelle Barrett Meyering, Professor Clare Monagle, Dr Tanya Evans, Dr Thomas Derrick, and Hannah Vogel (PhD candidate).

Our current temporary exhibition, which will run until April next year is *Signs, Symbols, Ciphers: Decoding Communication*, exploring the many ways we encode and decode information in the world around us. We have collaborated with PhD candidate Marianne Strauss who has generously loaned her Perkins Brailler and BraileNote to explore communication tools, alongside a didactic contribution about Auslan from the NextSense School for children with hearing or vision loss. A Hellenistic gold brooch and silver Byzantine enkolpion encourage visitors to think about what items of personal adornment communicate to others. Communication through visual symbolism is highlighted via a bronze figurine of Athena, partnered with an Athenian tetradrachm which features her signature owl. A *louterion* fragment depicting nereids bringing Achilles his famed armour sits alongside a reproduction of one of our papyri, a commentary on *The Iliad*, describing the shield of Achilles. Partnered with prints of artworks by the Indigenous artist Georgia Bennet, and Raymond Arnold's *Cultural convergence divergence Jack Davis*, visitors can sense the ongoing importance of embedding meaning and communication in visual media.

The GHM is collaborating with the FIRST LEGO Robotics Challenge. The theme for this year's challenge is archaeology and the GHM will host an enrichment day in December. In partnership with the Challenge Dr Susan Lupack, Dr Julia Hamilton and Dr Tom Derrick participated in filmed interviews ahead of the enrichment activities, which will bring 100-150 students to the museum.

Dr Tom Derrick is working with the museum to develop a new display of the ancient glass in the GHM collection as part of his research project as the Gale Glass Research Fellow. This display will be installed in 2026.

## **Postgraduate Completions**

### **MRes**

Brooke Gallucci “Magic” and Deviance: Restoring Ritual Practice from the Margins in Graeco-Roman Egyptian “Magical” Papyri’ principal supervisor: Rachel Yuen-Collingridge

Oliver Hastings “I am the knowledge of my name”: Names as a reflection of Belief and Cult in the Magical and Documentary Papyri of Late Antique Oxyrhynchus (100–500 CE)’ principal supervisor: Rachel Yuen-Collingridge

Sinead Kryal 'Scavengers of the Desert: The Striped Hyena in Old Kingdom Egypt'  
principal supervisor: Linda Evans

Anthony Mulligan 'Enmity, Anger, Cruelty and Revenge: Explaining the Proscriptions of Sulla (81 BC) within the Context of Ancient Rome's Emotional Communities' principal supervisor: Ray Laurence

### PhD

Judy Simpson 'Zoonotic Diseases in Ancient Greek and Roman Plague Narratives: Conceptualisations, Representations and Realities' principal supervisor: Ray Laurence

### **Conferences**

A Roman History Workshop was held on 24 April to celebrate the career of Professor Peter Keegan. Tobias Fulton (Newcastle) was a visiting speaker supported by funding from ASCS. Other speakers included Tom Derrick, Tom Hillard and Lea Beness, Yvonne Inall, Peter Keegan, Tanika Koosmen, Ray Laurence, Jessica McKenzie, Bronwen Neil and Haoyue Zhao. A eulogy in Latin was read that accounted for Peter's enormous contribution to his discipline and to the wider subject of ancient history in the state of New South Wales.

The 'Diversity, Change, and the Individual in Postclassical Greek (SHG25)' conference was held on 27–29 August 2025 at Chau Chak Wing Museum, Sydney. This is the second in a series offered by the international 'Septuagint within the History of Greek' Research Network. The convenors were Mark Matic (Macquarie PhD candidate), Samuel Wessels (Macquarie PhD candidate), and Trevor Evans.

The conference brought together established and emerging scholars from Australia, North America, and Europe. Dr John A. L. Lee DD FAHA (University of Sydney) and Prof. Mark Janse (Affiliated Researcher in the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics at the University of Cambridge, Emeritus Research Professor in Ancient and Asia Minor Greek at Ghent University, and Honorary Consul of Greece for the Flemish Region) delivered keynotes. Other prominent speakers included Klaas Bentein and Trevor Evans, and papers were delivered by a range of scholars at earlier stages of their careers. (The third conference in the SHG series is scheduled to be convened at Ghent University in 2027 by Klaas Bentein and Ezra la Roi.)

Trevor Evans

## Massey University

### Staff Activity

The Classical Studies team, Anastasia Bakogianni, James Richardson, and Gina Salapata, organised a day of events for Auckland schools. On 26 June 2025 we welcomed over three hundred students and their teachers on our Albany campus for a day of lectures, workshops, and a quiz. Topics covered included Greek art, ancient women, the myths of Rome, and Augustus (a perennial favourite). One of the highlights was the Greek dancing workshop organised by Gina Salapata. Many good conversations were also had over lunch where Greek spinach pie (spanakopita) proved a particular favourite.

James Richardson and Gina Salapata organised a morning of lectures and workshops for students from Palmerston North and New Plymouth, at Palmerston North Boys' High School (26/06/25).

Anastasia Bakogianni gave the keynote lecture for the international conference *Cinema's First Epics in Focus: Silent Epic Film from Literary Adaptation to Contemporary Epic Narratives*, held at the University of Porto (22 May 2025). She spoke on 'Epic and Tragic Synergies in Modern Greek Cinema'.

James Richardson

## Monash University

We are finishing our first year under the new name of the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History. This period has happily (and perhaps coincidentally) seen further increases in student numbers at undergraduate and HDR levels. In other news:

Anna Stevens received a very well-deserved promotion to Senior Lecturer. Congratulations, Anna!

In a fortuitous bit of administrative reorganisation, we have been joined by two colleagues, Ashleigh Rogers and Chris Urwin, who work in Indigenous archaeology in Australia and Papua New Guinea. We're very excited to have Ashleigh and Chris officially part of our department, reflecting not only that they are great scholars, teachers, and colleagues, but also that our teaching program has long included the archaeology of Australia as well as the ancient Mediterranean. Welcome to them both!

### Staff Activity

In late July, Andrew Connor delivered a paper, "At the present time there seems to be no one here who knows anything": Investigating the source(s) of the 1920 University of Wisconsin papyrus purchase", at the 31<sup>st</sup> International Congress of Papyrology in Cologne, Germany.

Hilary Gopnik presented at ASOR in Boston this November, with a paper title “Naming Your Enemy: Labelling as a Tactic of Imperial Control.”

A number of our staff members also conducted fieldwork during this period, at a range of sites across Egypt, Canada, and Australia. In particular, Anna Stevens led a period of fieldwork at Amarna funded by the American Research Center in Egypt and in collaboration with the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research (University of Cambridge). The work focused on the recording and protection of Amarna’s ancient mudbrick houses.

## **Visitors**

The halls of the Menzies Building seemed especially lively this semester as the department was graced by a number of visitors:

Nozumu Kawai (Kanazawa) and Stuart Tyson Smith (University of California, Santa Barbara) headlined the Egyptology Society of Victoria’s 2025 study day in early August, on the theme of “The ancient Egyptians and their world: Saqqara, Sudan and beyond.” Nozumu and Stuart gave talks on a range of fascinating topics, from recent excavations at Saqqara to the reception of ancient Egypt in Stargate.

James Flexner (Sydney) visited in October, and gave a very popular seminar on “Four Projects, Four Approaches to Community Archaeology in Oceania,” which offered a fantastic link for our students in both Indigenous archaeology units and our new cultural heritage unit.

Ray Laurence visited in early November and gave two talks at Monash: he led a seminar on “Curiosity killed the cat!: Why it might be a good idea to study human-animal relations in antiquity. How not to set up a new research project” and delivered the Classical Association of Victoria’s H.W. “Barney” Allen Memorial Lecture, with a fantastic talk titled “Why Did the Romans Celebrate Birthdays? Age and Ageing in Ancient Rome Revisited.” Both of these talks were very popular with students and staff alike.

Thanks to all of our guests, and to Australian Centre for Egyptology and the Egyptology Society of Victoria for funding Nozumu and Stuart’s visit to Melbourne, and to the Classical Association of Victoria for funding Ray’s visit.

## **Postgraduate Completions**

Rebecca Neville completed her MRes, on the topic of “Creating a Ceramic Typology Using Machine Learning: A Case Study from the Middle Bronze Age South Caucasus,” supervised by Hilary Gopnik and Jessie Birkett-Rees.

## New Books

Keep an eye out for the 10<sup>th</sup> volume of *Oasis Papers*, titled *The Land Where the Sun Does Down: The Archaeology of Egypt's Western Desert*, publishing new research from the Dakhleh Oasis Project, with lead editor Colin Hope—the book is due out this month, just in time for holiday gift-giving!

Andrew Connor

## University of Adelaide

### Staff News

From December 15, 2025, Professor Han Baltussen, Hughes Professor of Classics, will take up retirement after 23 years of service at the University of Adelaide. His decision was largely motivated by an attempt to make a new post possible. While he will miss teaching students, he will not miss the growing bureaucracy at tertiary institutions. After negotiations with the Dean of the Faculty in mid-2024 and with the support of the Head of school, a post in Classics (level B) was advertised in August 2025. For the new appointment see below.

Dr David Rafferty's employment (0.5 FTE fixed term for 2025) with our discipline will end in December. We are extremely grateful for his service in the past 5 years (and the period 2015-2018), when he supported our teaching, supervisions, and research seminars. His DECRA work on the Roman Republic and the tensions around ancient and modern democracies has been outstanding and has already produced a sturdy edited volume from the conference held in 2024 in Melbourne together with Prof. Frederik Vervaet. The conference on how democracies are losing out to authoritarian tendencies was covered in the newspapers. David is close to finishing his monograph on the subject. We wish him all the best for his future plans. He will be missed.

The new appointment at level B is Dr Emlyn Dodd, a Greek and Roman archaeologist and Senior Lecturer at the ICS in London. His area of specialisation is ancient wine and oil production, along with agriculture, technology and trade. Dr Dodd is expected to arrive in April 2026, joining the new unit 'Archaeology and Classical Studies' (coded ARCY). Until then the Classics course work (2 legacy courses, 2 new courses) will be covered by casual tutors. Dr Margaret O'Hea will run 2 history (legacy) courses and 2 Classical Archaeology courses.

We hope the transition to a new curriculum next year will be without too many problems during this difficult time of transition.

*Correction:* in the previous Newsletter I noted that Prof. Ward would be Head of School from 2026. This is no longer correct. The new head of School (from Jan. 2026 "Dean of the School of Humanities") will be Prof. Andrew van der Vlies.

## Staff Activity

On September 6, 17, 27 Prof. Han Baltussen gave three conference papers overseas:

- at Cambridge University entitled “Cicero and Others on self-consolation” on (self-) consolation, concluding the international conference on ‘Loss, grief, and its therapy: philosophical perspectives from ancient Greece, Rome, and Asia’ (Philosophy & Classics)
- at KU Leuven, Classics & Philosophy (Belgium) A paper entitled “Greeks vs *Barbaroi*? Eunapius of Sardes as a Source for Cultural Encounters in the Eastern Empire”, at the international conference on the theme ‘When East Meets West in Late Antiquity’.
- at the Université Paul Valéry-Montpellier 3 (France) plenary keynote lecture opening the international conference on ‘Impossible Consolation. Paradoxes, limites et échecs d'une notion en débat de l'Antiquité à nos jours’, entitled “Consolation as a Last Resort? Revisiting Ancient Attempts to Offer Solace to Oneself and Others”.

On September 8, Dr Margaret O’Hea gave a paper at the international glass conference of the Association Internationale pour l’Histoire du Verre (AIHV23, Mainz, Germany) entitled “Fit for a (Client) king? Interpreting a Deposit of Late Bronze Age Glass from Pella in the Jordan Valley”.

Shona Edwards (MPhil cand.) presented her paper “The Dido Project: Disabled artistic resistance in Classical Studies” for CripAntiquity’s first annual conference which was online and global

## New Courses

I spoke about the new curriculum in the last Newsletter. It is clear that the new program is much less diverse compared to the previous program. Unfortunately, basic Latin will be lost since the new major with Archaeology has no room for Latin (Greek was lost in 2008). Current students will still be able to graduate with the old name “University of Adelaide” on their transcript until March 2026.

## Visitors

We hosted several guest speakers:

- On August 26 Professor Wendy van Duivenvoorde (Flinders University) who spoke about the 3rd-century Kyrenia Shipwreck (see below “Conferences”).
- Prof. Alexander Mazarakis Ainian (AAIA) who spoke at our staff seminar on “Origins of Greek temples: Testing Past Perspectives Today”. Prof. Alexander Mazarakis Ainian (the 2025 Gale Visiting Lecturer, AAIA Visiting Professor) used new archaeological evidence from the early Iron Age to reassess the role of houses of ‘rulers’ and members of the elite for religious purposes.

- On Oct. 21 Associate Professor Patrick O'Sullivan (Univ. of Canterbury, NZ) presented the 2025 C. Moraïtis Annual Hellenic Lecture entitled “Greek Tragedy, the Emotions and Aeschylus’ Oresteia Reconfigured.” At this annual event we also present high-achieving students with awards sponsored by the Galatis fund (certificates, medals, book vouchers) for best essays in various subjects. We congratulate Alix Revel, Charli James, Frederick Piccombe, Ethan Fitzpatrick, and Melissa Ienco on their excellent course work.

## **Grant Success**

*ARC-DP success:* Professor Han Baltussen was awarded an ARC-Discovery grant for a project entitled “Consoling the Self: Historical Grief Strategies and the Healing Arts” (DP260104999, 4 years). The overall aim of this project is to examine the much-overlooked tradition of self-consolation with a view to extracting some of the wisdom from these materials for today. It will trace how approaches to consoling the self emerges, how it evolved, and how it reached a mature form. The post-COVID desideratum today is how we may diversify methods to alleviate grief when help is not available. The tradition of consoling words will be studied through the lens of the history of emotions and the healing arts to illustrate how dealing with loss and grief does not always require rational advice, but empathy. The project aims to resolve the intriguing paradox at the heart of grief experiences: while we all experience grief (which suggests generalisable insight), we cannot presume to know how exactly another person experiences grief (which suggests a unique, embodied and personal experience). Outcomes include a monograph, a popular sourcebook, several articles, a workshop, an inter-disciplinary conference, and a website with resources. The project proposes to accommodate a part-time postdoc position and a PhD scholarship (each 3.5 years). For further information please email Prof. Han Baltussen before January 15, 2026.

## **Postgraduate Completions**

Greg Macpherson graduated in September with a Master of Philosophy for a thesis titled: *Medicine and Magic: The dynamics of science and faith in drug development in antiquity*. Congratulations, Greg! Principal supervisor: Prof. Han Baltussen.

Chelsea Schwartz has completed revisions of her MPhil thesis with the title *Immigration and Integration: Greek Physicians in Rome*. We congratulate her on the completion and on her original thesis on the social and intellectual impact of Greek medicine in Rome during the late Republic and the Early Roman Empire. Principal supervisor: Prof. Han Baltussen; second supervisor: Dr David Rafferty.

## **Conferences**

The Adelaide postgraduates organised a successful AMPHORAE conference August 25-29 this year. Keynote speaker was Professor Wendy van Duivenvoorde (Flinders University) who spoke about one of her long-running project which has been engaged in analysing

the 3rd-century Kyrenia Shipwreck. The hybrid setup worked very well, and the original program design and conference bags (© Gemma Neall) were the cherry on top of a well-organised conference.

We congratulate the organising team: Shona Edwards, Chelsea Schwartz, Gemma Neall, Susie Lamb, Greg Macpherson, Chloe Jones, Nicholas George, Emily Chambers.

## **New Books**

We are pleased to report a new book (*in press*), a scholarly commentary on Ovid:

P.J. Davis, *Ovid Heroides. A Selection: Briseis, Phaedra, Hypsipyle, Dido, Hermione, Deianira, Ariadne, Medea* (Oxford University Press; ISBN: 9780198896364)

## **Other News**

The Classics and Ancient History Student Society held a number of social events in 2025, including networking functions, film night, and also the Latin study group. While attendance remains a broad demographic, numbers are shrinking due to the changes at the University. Proposed changes to the University student union are also causing uncertainty.

The Australasian Ovidian Society, organized and coordinated by Shona Edwards, Gemma Neall (both Adelaide) and Dr Simona Martorana (Canberra) has just finished its activities for the year 2025, which included 6 meetings with WIP sessions or papers from guest speaker, such as Dr Rebecca Menmuir (University of Oxford) and (in collaboration with ANU) Prof. Steven Green (National University of Singapore). The program for 2026 looks to be even richer.

Han Baltussen

## **University of Auckland**

### **Staff News**

We are saddened by the death of Professor Emerita Vivienne Gray.

Maxine Lewis has been on research and study leave for semester 2, 2025.

### **Staff Activity**

Alex McAuley presented at the conference *Beyond War. Personal, Cultural and Economic Factors in Hellenistic Politics* University of Bergamo in Italy. Alex's paper was entitled 'φίλος τοῦ βασιλέως, φίλος τῆς πόλεως. Personal Relationships between Court and City.' Alex also gave a lecture for the Lytham St Anne's Classical Association on 18 September 2025 entitled 'The End of Greece? The Greek Mainland after Alexander'.

Jeremy Armstrong presented 'Citizens, *Sodales*, *Socii*, and *Misthophoroi*: Military Relationships in Early Italy (and the West)' at the *War in the Ancient World International Conference*, 30 May 2025, WWU Münster - Münster University, GER. Jeremy and H. Becker presented 'The Other Side of the Coin: Spoils and Plunder in Etruria' presented by J. Armstrong and H. Becker at the *War in the Ancient World International Conference*, 29-31 May 2025, WWU Münster - Münster University, GER.

Lisa Bailey presented 'Nocturnal visions in the hagiography of Aldegund', *International Medieval Congress*, Leeds, July 2025

### **New Courses**

Major redesign of the stage I Ancient History course ANCIENT 104: The World of Cleopatra, using Cleopatra VII as an anchor for exploring Greek, Roman, and Egyptian history.

Major overhaul ongoing of the Ancient Greek cycle, ANCIENT 211, 221, 311

LATIN 100 and 101 are now hybrid courses.

### **Visitors**

Visit from Prof Dr Hans Beck of the University of Muenster in April 2025.

### **Postgraduate Completions**

Lars Sheppard-Larsen, *Ancient Greek and Roman Coins in the Auckland War Memorial Museum* (MA thesis, supervised by Jeremy Armstrong)

### **Conferences**

ASCS47 will be held in February 2026 (!)

### **New Books**

Armstrong, J. (2025) *Children of Mars: The Origins of Rome's Empire* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

Lisa Bailey

### **University of Canterbury**

The Classics department is still holding steady for the moment. Recently announced (and ongoing) changes to the funding models for teaching and research have brought good news and bad news. There is future funding for humanities and social sciences, but not for growth in these areas. The national Performance Based Research Fund has been replaced with the Tertiary Research Excellence Fund. The details of this fund are still

being ironed out, but Canterbury is pleased to have its Vice Chancellor and the Executive Dean of Arts on key advisory committees.

Staffing in Classics remains the same. Enrica Sciarrino has on sabbatical for semester 2, in Italy and at Oxford, among other places.

### **Public talks and other professional engagement**

Members of the department continue to engage in public outreach on behalf of the University and the Teece Museum: the NZ Association of Classical Teachers, University of the Third Age, Classics Convivium, Classics and Coffee, and similar opportunities.

Patrick O'Sullivan has presented two talks:

- Greek Tragedy, the Emotions and Aeschylus' *Oresteia* Reconfigured in Christchurch', the Constantinos Moraïtis Annual Hellenic public lecture, Department of Historical and Classical Studies, University of Adelaide, Australia (October 21).
- 'Heracles' *Aretē* and Hercules' *Virtus*: Aspects of Heroic Excellence in Stesichorus and Vergil', *10th Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Hellenic Heritage of Sicily and Southern Italy: Competition and Excellence in Greco-Roman Culture*, Exedra Mediterranean Center, Syracuse, Sicily (November 24).

### **Awards**

The Department are very proud to announce staff awards:

Enrica Sciarrino won Faculty of Arts Lecturer of the Year, as well as the Wellbeing Champion award from the University of Canterbury Students Association.

The hard work of the Teece curators Terri Elder and Emily Rosevear have been recognized for the 2024 Accessibility Project, which focussed on making the Teece Museum collection more accessible to hearing and vision impaired visitors. The Teece Museum received joint first-place recognition (with the University of Navarra) by the International Council of Museums-International Committee for University Museums and Collections.

### **Museum News**

Visitor numbers The Teece Museum has welcomed over 23,000 visitors in 2025, and 130,000 since opening in 2017.

The Teece has attracted a \$6500 from the Sevicke Estate to create a braille brochure for the collection and to cover the cost of creating sign language resources. The Christchurch City Council provided \$3500 towards Careers in Heritage, in which many UC students are

involved. Finally, eponymous donor David Teece has made \$30,000 available for educational resources for the next three years.

Part of the work of accessibility and inclusivity at the Teece is aimed at bringing antiquity to people of all ages.

On January 15, 2026 families will come to the Teece to create an ancient-themed mosaic with approximately 37,000 lego bricks that will be around 1.8 m when complete and will be on display in the Teece Museum during 2026.

Alison Griffith

## **University of Melbourne**

### **Staff News**

We are very pleased that we can announce three promotions this year in the Classics and Archaeology discipline within the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies (SHAPS). Dr Andrew Jamieson was promoted to the position of full professor (Level E) in the School. To quote the University's official citation:

"Professor Andrew Jamieson's career started as a Scientific Director, Cultural Heritage Management in Lebanon and then as an Archaeologist and Manager of the Conservation Artefact Laboratory for Heritage Victoria. In addition to his own site in Georgia, Andrew brings into his research (and his teaching, for that matter) a wealth of hands-on experience outside of straightforward academia. Prof Jamieson has curated 22 exhibitions at the Ian Potter Museum of Art and one at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance. Prof Jamieson is unusual and revolutionary in applying his lived curatorial experience to his research projects, exploring the ethics and politics of collections and their storage.

Prof Jamieson's passion and ingenuity for object-based learning has been transformative – not just for his own students, but also for the tutors that have worked with him, for donors that come to hear his lectures, for academic staff who have learned from him through presentations and word-of-mouth. Prof Jamieson's award-winning teaching with objects led to the creation of the Object Based Lab spaces in Arts West, donations of significant collections from members of the public, students acquiring hands-on knowledge of best practices in working with objects (which has in turn led to their higher employability upon graduating), and international invitations to speak at prestigious venues."

Likewise we were very pleased to hear of promotions for Dr Lieve Donnellan, who began with us during Covid, to Senior Lecturer (Level C), and Dr Edward Jeremiah, who has taught Greek and Latin for us for over ten years both as a casual and a permanently

appointed staff member, to Lecturer in Ancient Languages (Level B). All of these promotions were warmly welcomed in our discipline, and were celebrated accordingly.

## **Staff Activity**

In September 2025 our honorary fellow Dr Tamara Lewit presented by invitation a paper “Sweet, Scented and Sacred: Ecclesiastical Production and Uses of Olive Oil in Late Antiquity”, as part of the conference *Liquid Gold: Olive Oil in Antiquity*, University of Warsaw, Poland.

In November Dr Lewit presented a paper entitled “Walk a Mile in the Shoes of a Pompeian. Experience food, festivals, work and leisure in ancient Pompeii through archaeology and imagination” as part of the within the Settimana della cucina italiana nel mondo, under the aegis of the Consulate General of Italy in Melbourne (inter alios).

Finally Dr Lewit also wrote two articles in *The Conversation* which received a total of more than 53,000 reads: “[Take fish, salt in vats, leave in sun for months: why ancient Romans loved fermented fish sauces like garum](#)” (July 30 2025) and “[Healing, purification and holiness: how ancient Greeks, Romans and early Christians used olive oil](#)” (November 13 2025). She spoke three times on Radio ABC: Evenings with David Astle about Roman food, Roman wine, and oil in Antiquity, on ABC Weekend Evenings with Sirine Demachkie about garum and other fish sauce, and on Rete Italia radio with Tony Tardio about Roman everyday life.

## **New Courses**

We are very pleased within Ancient Languages that in a period of relative austerity both here and elsewhere we have managed to push through three new courses at Melbourne beginning in 2026. Dr Tom Davies will begin an entirely new course on Akkadian—Akkadian 1 and 2, which will introduce students to the script and dominant language of Mesopotamia. In 2026 we are also introducing two new courses in Latin, Latin 7 and 8, which directly address a problem we have had for years—students who had studied Latin at school had been unable to advance beyond their second year in Latin studies. The new courses will focus both on classical texts and their later reception—Latin 7, to be taught by Sarah Corrigan, will look at Cicero’s philosophical works and their reception in Augustine, while Latin 8, to be taught by Andrew Turner, will look at Terence and later commentary traditions, especially Donatus.

## **Visitors**

In August 2025 we hosted a lecture in our Ancient World Seminar series by Ginette Vagenheim from the University of Rouen. Professor Vagenheim presented on her work on Petrarch and the text of Cicero, and captivated her audience with her erudition. Later that month we had a guest presentation in the same series from Dr Jonathan Zecher of

the Australian Catholic University, who spoke to us about his research into mediaeval scholia to Greek classical and late-Antique texts.

In September we also hosted (via zoom) an Ancient World Seminar from Dr Hélène Roelens-Floneau of the University of New Caledonia, who introduced us to her ongoing research on ancient road networks in Hellenistic Anatolia. At the end of the month we had two presentations from our AAIA guest speaker, Professor Alexander Mazarakis Ainian from the University of Thessaly. Professor Mazarakis Ainian presented in the Ancient World Seminar series on “The First Western Greeks”, and the following evening gave a public lecture at Melbourne on “The Wonders of Ancient Kythnos.” The evening lecture was booked out.

Finally, we were very pleased to host Céline Debourse (Harvard University), who gave inaugural Wright Lecture in Ancient Near Eastern Studies in November 2025 to another packed-out theatre on the subject “Babylon on the Cusp: Cuneiform Culture From Antiquity to Late Antiquity.”

## **Conferences**

The School of Historical and Philosophical Studies at the University of Melbourne hosted the 15th biennial ANZAMEMS (Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies) conference this year, with programming across the 2nd to the 5th December. With around 250 participants, the conference included many Classics researchers working in Late Antiquity and the Early Medieval periods and in the reception of the Classics throughout history.

Dr Andrew Turner (University of Melbourne), Dr Giulia Torello-Hill (University of New England), and Dr Robert Turnbull (University of Melbourne) spoke on a truly interdisciplinary panel on ‘Nicolas Trevet’s Commentary and the Reception of Livy’ (with Dr Emily Fitzgerald (University of Melbourne) a much missed apology).

Another panel on ‘Otherwise than Authorship in Christian Text’, spanning from the Gospels to Byzantine texts, was presented by colleagues from the University of Melbourne and the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry at the Australian Catholic University: Associate Professor Jonathan Zecher, Associate Professor Stephen Carlson and Dr Sarah Corrigan.

In addition, Dr Tamara Lewit (University of Melbourne) spoke on ‘Small Cows, Rye Bread and Sweet Oil: Possibilities for Production during a Time of Change’ in a panel on ‘Landscapes and Their Possibilities’ and Ms Meg Challis (University of Melbourne) spoke on ‘Rediscovering Sappho’ in a panel on ‘Possible Receptions’.

## **Student Prizes**

Two students who completed their honours degree in “Classics (Ancient Greek & Latin)” in 2024 won the Classical Association of Victoria’s 2025 “Alexander Leeper Prize”, awarded to the highest-achieving undergraduate honours students in the state of Victoria who completed their honours degree in Classics in the previous year. Hannah Lewis (now enrolled in an M.Phil in Classics at Oxford) wrote her thesis on “Sister in Arms: The Significance of Sibling Relationships in Sophoclean Tragedies”; and Tom Harris (now working at the Hellenic Museum, Melbourne, as Education Officer) wrote a thesis “On the Acquisition of Reading Fluency in Ancient Greek”.

The “Panagacos Family Prize in Ancient Languages” is awarded to high-achieving students who have completed their third year of study in Ancient Greek, with preference given to a student going on to complete an Honours year in Classics. The 2025 recipient is Marco Ho-Long Jim, who completed “Ancient Greek 6” in 2024.

Andrew Turner

## **University of New England**

### **Staff News**

Dr Bronwyn Hopwood was promoted to Associate Professor. Bronwyn will also be on Long Service Leave in Trimester 2 of 2026.

Dr Alina Kozlovski was promoted to Senior Lecturer.

### **Staff Activity**

Dr Alina Kozlovski was on Study Leave in June-October and spent some time at the ANU and at the R.D. Milns Antiquities Museum at UQ.

### **Visitors**

The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens’ Visiting Professor, Prof. Alexander Mazarakis Ainian, visited UNE and gave a public lecture on Sept 7 on 'Homer and Archaeology: Is the quest worth pursuing?' and a seminar on Sept 8 on 'The Origins of the Greek Temple: Testing Past Perspectives Today'

### **Museum News**

The UNE Museum of Antiquities (UNEMA) was successfully reopened in February 2025 after an extended period of closure due to COVID, a tornado, and a complete refurbishment. The new museum reopened with a new Mediterranean Lands Gallery, temporary exhibitions space, and concourse of cultural and thematic exhibitions including Awesome Automata, Diorama District, and Masquerade Parade complete with touch screens, animations, augmented reality, and audio guides. The Museum has proved immensely popular, hosting school programs and community activities from around the

region, as well as talks, temporary exhibitions, and national and international conferences. For her work on the museum refurbishment, Dr Hopwood was awarded Highly Commended in the UNE Vice Chancellor's Award for Leadership Excellence 2025.

Also in 2025, in collaboration with ANSTO (Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation), six artefacts from the UNE Museum of Antiquities underwent neutron tomography and neutron diffraction stress measurements at the DINGO and KAWARI facilities. The results of these investigations are still pending.

In March 2026, the University will be holding the official launch of its new online catalogue known as the "UNE Collections Gateway" which will make the collections of the Museum of Antiquities and all collections at UNE accessible to the public. UNEMA's audio guides can be accessed from the Museum's free app known as: "Discover UNE" (scan the QR code to access Discover UNE):



## **University of Newcastle**

### **Staff Activity**

On 1 November Dr. Ryan Strickler presented a paper titled "Melchizedek in Constantinople: The Priestly Ambitions of the Heraclian Dynasty" at the (North American) Byzantine Studies Conference at Wayne State University in Detroit.

### **Visitors**

On 1-2 September Newcastle hosted the AAIA-Gale Visiting professor Prof. Alexander Mazarakis Ainian. He presented a public lecture to the Hunter Valley community titled "The origins of the Greek temple: testing past perspectives today" and a paper for the History@UoN Seminar Series titled "Homer and Archaeology": is the quest worth pursuing?"

On 6 September Dr. Julia Hamilton (Macquarie) rounded out a week of archaeology and ancient historical talks with her seminar "Coming to see the temple of Djoser': Making graffiti in ancient Memphis across three millennia (and beyond)" for our History@ UoN Series.

Finally on 26 September we hosted A/Prof Greta Hawes (Macquarie) who spoke about "MANTO: Ancient Myth in the Digital Age".

## **New Courses**

The second half of 2025 saw two exciting new courses. Dr. Ryan Strickler designed and delivered a new offering called “AHIS3750: Law and Legitimacy in the Premodern World: From Hammurabi to Charlemagne,” offered online with an optional hybrid tutorial. The unit considered cases studies on ancient and medieval legal systems as well as strategies used by rulers and civilisations to project and maintain legitimacy.

As of writing, Dr. Ryan Strickler and Dr. Connie Skibinski are leading 13 UoN students and 1 guest student from Macquarie University on a study tour of Italy under the auspices of our humanities study tour shell course HUMA2001: Global Experiences. In addition to the faculty students have had guided tours by Roman academics of the Colosseum and Forum Romanum and important locations throughout the city. Students will have the opportunity to visit Ravenna, Naples (including personalised tours of Pompeii and Herculaneum), and Ostia Antica, in addition to further exploration of the Eternal City itself. This trip is the first in recent memory led by Newcastle, and we hope will become a regular offering.

## **New Books:**

Strickler, Ryan W. *Early Byzantine Apocalyptic Discourses: Coping with Crises in the Sixth and Seventh Centuries*, Leiden: Brill, 2026.

## **Postgraduate Completions**

Dr. Nicole Kimball completed her PhD titled “The Wayward Witch of the West: Tracing the Classical Witch from Homer to Charmed”. Dr. Kimball was supervised by A/Prof. Alistair Rolls and A/Prof Caroline Webb, with previous supervision by Prof. Marguerite Johnson before retirement.

## **Other News**

On 24 April PhD Candidate Tobias Fulton presented a paper “Eternally Beloved: Reparative Readings of Antinous (and the Emperor Hadrian)” at the Roman History Workshop in Honour of Prof. Peter Keegan at Macquarie University

On 1 August PhD Candidate Rebecca Willis presented the results of her research conducted in Greece funded by the UoN Odyssey Travel Scholarship

Ryan Strickler

## **University of Otago**

## **Staff news**

Dan Osland was awarded the [Al-Masāq runner-up prize](#) for best article 2023-2024, awarded by the Society for the Medieval Mediterranean.

Otago has appointed two new lecturers.

**Dr. Hannah Sorscher BAHons (Chicago), MA, PhD (UNC)**

A classical philologist and social historian, Hannah's research and teaching interests are united by a fascination with family relationships and women's lived experiences in the ancient Mediterranean world.

Her main area of expertise is Latin poetry, particularly Roman comedy – family dramas performed in mid-Republican Rome and Italy to diverse spectators who saw their own lives in these stories, and in fact the direct ancestor of the modern situational and romantic comedy.

She is also deeply interested in the experiences of second-phase warfare – the consequences of war for women and children – in Greek and Latin literature. She has held fellowships at the Thesaurus Linguae Latinae in Munich and Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen as well as teaching positions in the United States, Rome, and Germany.

She has recently published a chapter on women's and children's experience of war in Homer's *Iliad* (2024), and is currently working on a book about the representation of families of choice in Roman comedy, as well a series of translations and introductions of Menander's Greek comedies, forthcoming in edited volumes with the University of Wisconsin Press.

**Dr. Davide Morassi BA, MA (Udine), MSc (Edinburgh), DPhil (Oxford)**

Davide reads ancient Greek history, with a particular emphasis on the Classical Period (5th and 4th centuries BCE). His research primarily focuses on ancient warfare, studying its impact on individuals, communities, and institutions.

Davide has worked on reassessing the institutional role of the Classical Athenian *strategoi*, with particular attention to the influence of individual skills and attitudes in administering the office. He is also interested in how leadership was framed, theorised, and transmitted in antiquity, focusing especially on Xenophon's work.

More recently, Davide's research focuses on the history of emotions. He is currently mapping the emotional dimensions of Classical Greek warfare and exploring how these dynamics were recognised and conceptualised in antiquity. The relevance of emotional management, its awareness and strategies are at the core of this project.

His other interests include masculinities and gender in Classical Athens, the acquisition and transmission of specialist knowledge and its overlap with empirical experience, and the sensorial (primarily visual) dimensions of wars and warfare.

Arlene Allan retired in 2025.

## Staff activity

Gwynaeth McIntyre was on study leave for the second half of 2025. She took an 8-week research trip to the UK and delivered 3 research talks on material related to her current Suetonius book project. She also ran a master class on Roman coinage and a public talk on Suetonius at Harrow School in London. Her time in Durham was supported by a Matariki Network Travel Award.

- Physical Appearance in Life and in Death: Description and Context in Suetonius' *de Vita Caesarum* (University of Birmingham, Department Seminar, 8 October)
- Searching for the “true” likeness of a Caesar? Physical Appearance in Suetonius (Durham University, Department Seminar, 23 October)
- Dining like a Caesar, Feasting like a Tyrant: The solitary feast in Suetonius' *de vita Caesarum* (University of St Andrews, Department Seminar, 5 November)

PhD candidate Jaymie Orchard started their position as the J.E.A. Crake Doctoral Fellow at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick Canada. They presented a paper, "You Break it, You Buy it: Civil War and Public Works" at the Atlantic Classical Association Conference at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's Canada.

Davide Morassi gave the following talks at conferences:

- 'Keep that line! Some (Tactical) Consideration on *Eutaxia* and battle formations in Classical Armies.' *Prima della Battaglia. Miti e Realtà*. University of Siena (IT), 3-4/06/2025.
- 'Emotional Management and Greek Warfare. Is 'morale' really the right notion?' *Emociones y conflict an la Grecia Antigua*. University Complutense (Madrid, ES), 7/05/2025.
- 'Unprofessional Professionals. The myth of the Greek hoplite and its weight on fourth century mercenary hiring practices.' *In Service of Others: A Global Military History of Foreign Fighting from Ancient History to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, 21-23/01/2025, La Sapienza (Rome, IT).

Hannah Sorscher gave the following talks at conferences:

- "Female-Led Families of Choice in Roman Comedy." Presented at the Lambda Classical Caucus Panel, "Queer Families in the Ancient Mediterranean," Society of Classical Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, January 2025.
- "The Pregnant Prize: Fertility and Enslavement in Vergil's *Aeneid*." EuGeStA Workshop on Subversive Motherhood and the Roman Revolution Workshop, online, November 2025.

## Grants

Gwynaeth McIntyre was awarded a University of Otago Prestigious Writing Grant to support the completion of her Suetonius book, entitled "A Day in the Life: Reading Across Suetonius' *de vita Caesorum*."

### **Postgraduate Completions**

Christopher Hext, 'The Error of the Moon: An Inquiry into the Ideas and Motivations of the Early Paschal *computus* System-makers'. (Sean McConnell)

Benjamin Clarkson, 'The Eagle and the Serpent: Omens, Divination and the Prophetic Space in the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*' (Arlene Allan)

Matthew Watts, 'The *Metz Epitome*: Translation and Historical Commentary' (Sean McConnell)

Sean McConnell

## **University of Queensland**

### **Staff News**

We have recently interviewed 6 outstanding applicants for our tenure-track Lectureship in Greek Literature. The Discipline will formally announce who our new colleague will be in the next few weeks. Dr Emma Cole – our colleague in Drama – has recently been made the Director of UQ's Research Centre in Creative Arts and Human Flourishing.

### **Staff Activity**

Most discipline-members recently spoke at the Ancient History Experience Day. Convened by Dr Kit Morrell, the day attracted over 300 high-school students from greater Brisbane. Associate Professor David M. Pritchard recently published 2 op.-eds about ancient Greek sport in Greece's *Kathimerini*, which you can read [here](#).

### **Visitors**

Professor Kelly Olson (Western Ontario) – the renowned social historian of ancient Rome – was a wonderful R D Milns Visiting Scholar for 2025. Because of illness – Professor Alexander Mazarakis Ainian (Thessaly), who was the AAIA Visiting Professor, was able to give only 1 of his 2 planned talks. Dr Tatiana Bur (ANU) was the extramural speaker at the 2025 Ancient History Day, which is run by the Friends of Antiquity – our alumni group. The Discipline is ecstatic that the next R D Milns Visiting Scholar is Emeritus Professor Alain Bresson (Chicago), who is a pioneer in the study of the ancient Greek economy and Greek inscriptions. His Australian visit is set for October 2026.

Professor Alastair Blanshard – our colleague directing the UQ Centre for Western Civilisation – continues to put Ramsay philanthropy to good use. He recently convened a

symposium marking the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wesley Enoch's *Black Medea* – an Australian play that re-imagined Medea as an indigenous women. The extramural speakers were Dr James Collins (Sydney), Dr Charlotte Farrell (UNSW), Dr Daniel Hanigan (Cambridge), Associate Professor Sarah Lawrence (UNE), Alexandra Pinkham and Dr Miranda Stanyon (Melbourne).

The UQ Centre for Western Civilisation has just announced that its Visiting Professor for 2026 is going to be none other than Professor Maria Wyke (UCL), who is perhaps best known for her books about the Roman world on the screen – large and small. Her visit is taking place across March and April 2026.

## **Museum News**

The R D Milns Antiquities Museum has just opened its new show, 'ΝΟΣΤΟΙ: Stories of the Ionian Island Diaspora in Queensland'. This lovely exhibition is a collaboration with migrants from the Ionian Islands in Queensland, which uses their stories and artefacts to narrate their important diasporic experiences. You can read more about this show – set to run throughout 2026 – [here](#).

## **New Books**

The last 6 months have seen UQ classicists and ancient historians publish no fewer than 4 books. Dr Cole published *Experiencing Immersion in Antiquity and Modernity: From Narrative to Virtual Reality* (Bloomsbury), which she edited singlehandedly and about which there is more information [here](#). Professor Marguerite Johnson – our honorary professor – published *A Cultural History of Love in Antiquity* (Bloomsbury), which she co-edited with H. Baltussen. There is more about their co-edited volume [here](#). Dr Morrell published *The Rule of Law in Ancient Rome* (Oxford), which she co-edited with E. Cowan, A. Pettinger and M. Sevel. You can read more about their co-edited efforts [here](#). Finally, Associate Professor Pritchard has just published *Waging War in Fourth-Century Athens: New Appraisals* (Routledge) – the volume coming from the conference that he co-convened in Nantes (France) 2 years ago. You can get more information on this volume – which he co-edited with I. Worthington – [here](#).

David Pritchard

## University of Sydney

### Staff News

Edward Armstrong, a graduate of the University of Sydney, was appointed to a postdoctoral position in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Sydney (2025-2028).

Professor Iain Gardner FAHA, recently retired, was appointed Emeritus Professor for the History of Religions.

Julia Kindt recently received a secondary appointment as Extraordinary Professor in the Department of Ancient Studies at Stellenbosch University (South Africa). She was also elected to serve as 2027 Bloomberg Professor at the University of Muenster (Germany), delivering the Bloomberg Lecture. Finally, Julia joined the Editorial Advisory Board of the series 'New Perspectives on Ancient Greek Religion' published by Edinburgh University Press. She also continues to serve on the Editorial Collective of Public Humanities and the editorial boards of *Antichthon* and the *Journal of Ancient History*.

Elisabeth Stockdale, Honorary Associate in Classics and Ancient History, was appointed a board member for the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens NSW Friends.

Bob Cowan has been promoted to Associated Professor.

Elly Cowan's excellent teaching was recognised by a Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Teaching Award. She was one of only six people across the Faculty to be selected for this prestigious prize.

### Staff Activity

Bob Cowan has been busy as ever, presenting at three conferences this year.

- "Did the Earth Move? Incest, Matricide, and Ecofeminism in the Ages of Nero", at *The Ages of Nero: Reality and Reception. Trends in Classics Conference*, Thessaloniki, May 2025.
- "When Julius and Caesar were consuls: the destruction of annalistic time in Suetonius' *Caesars*", *New Perspectives on Suetonius*, Paris and online, June 2025.
- "'Bitches be Crazy': Ecofeminism, Posthumanism, and Subversive Motherhood in Virgil, Grattius, and Columella.' *Subversive Motherhood and the Roman Revolution. Eugesta Workshop*, Venice, Lille, Canberra, and online, November 2025.

Julia Kindt recently delivered a paper at an international conference on divination in Greece and Rome in Potsdam (Germany). Julia also delivered a Keynote at the Stellenbosch/Oxford/Standford Colloquium II: *Humanimal Ecologies: Interactions and Analogies* at Stellenbosch University in South Africa

James Tan spoke at the conference "*Les résistances à l'impôt dans le monde romain*" in Boulogne-sur-Mer. This took place September 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.

Peter Wilson has also been busy. From October to December, he took up his Fellowship at Trinity College, Cambridge. In November (24<sup>th</sup>), Peter gave a paper, 'Korinna vs Pindar,' at the international Conference 'Competition and Excellence in Greco-Roman Culture' held at the Fonte Aretusa Centre, Syracuse. Then, in December (11th-12th), Peter co-convened in Cambridge an international Conference - ['The Other Pindars: A Conference on the Fragments'](#) - with Prof. Giovan Battista D'Alessio (Università di Roma 1, La Sapienza) and Ass.-Prof. Henry Spelman (University of Cambridge).

## **New Courses**

The Department of Classics and Ancient History introduced two new courses, "Thinking like an Ancient Historian," and a new narrative unit, "Foundations for Greek and Roman History."

## **Visitors**

Two William Ritchie Visiting Fellows from Cambridge were appointed under the Cambridge-Sydney research exchange scheme for 2025: Grace Gunning and Robert Rohland. Grace is working on the chorus in Sophocles and will be offering a month-long workshop on the Philoctetes; Robert is planning a workshop on Roman conceptions of the future with colleagues in and beyond the University of Sydney, as well as an HDR masterclass on presence in Horace's lyric. The visits of both Fellows have been delayed until 2026 because of delays in visa processing. Please contact the Department for further details.

Professor Henriette van der Blom (University of Birmingham) is visiting Australia for the Valerius Maximus Project early in 2026. Henriette will present at the departmental seminar in March.

Professor Rebecca Langlands (University of Exeter) is visiting Australia in September/October. Rebecca will deliver the 2026 Todd Lecture on 17th September.

Olivier Mariaud (Université Grenoble Alpes) presented a lecture in the CAH departmental seminar program entitled, "Writing the Name of the Dead: on the alphabetisation of burial customs in Archaic Greece."

Professor Stefan Pfeiffer (Univ. Halle, Germany) will be staying with CAH at Sydney University as 2026 Gilbert Visiting Fellow (contact: Julia Kindt). This fellowship is for an outstanding international or Australian-based humanities researcher to collaborate with researchers from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney.

Justice Anthe Philippides (Queensland) was invited to a research residency in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at Sydney University (until 15.12.2025). During her stay she participated in several Humanities Salons.

Professor Hans Van Riel (Univ. Leuven, Belgium) stayed with CAH as a guest of Julia Kindt, James Collins, and Emily Hulme (Philosophy) at Sydney University, also as a 2025 Gilbert Visiting Fellow in the Humanities (contact: Julia Kindt). Additionally, he presented seminars and offered master classes, and he was a guest speaker at the annual dinner of the Classical Association of NSW.

Professor Imre Szeman is visiting from the University of Toronto in March to workshop the project, "Should the modern world care what the climate was like 2000 years ago?" (contact: James Tan)

## **Museum News**

Earlier in 2025 Julia Kindt, in collaboration with Thom Van Dooren (USyd), Zoe Sadokeirski (University of Technology, Sydney), and Andrew Burrell (University of Technology, Sydney) launched an interactive exhibit in the Chau Chak Wing Museum of the University of Sydney entitled: [\*A Curious Trail of Animal Tales\*](#).

In 2025, the Chau Chak Wing Museum welcomed record numbers of visitors through our doors, more than 160,000 visitors, and we completed a series of dynamic exhibitions and events. The Nicholson collection of antiquities and archaeology remains one of the Museum's draw cards.

Following on from the global first, culturally specific set of guidelines for the care of ancient Egyptian mummified human remains (published April 2024), the museum's Human Remains Research Project published a set of overarching guidelines for the care of all ancient human remains in the Nicholson Collection (July 2025). These are available for download on the project website here. These guidelines, informed by rigorous descent community and museum visitor consultation in the context of public discourse and what museums are doing elsewhere, provide the foundation for decision making regarding the forward care and display of human remains in the Nicholson Collection. These guidelines have also informed the new re-naming and re-labelling of 'The Mummy Room' (from mid-December 2025). This new reframing equips visitors with the tools to understand better the complexities faced by museums in caring for sensitive collections from different ancient, historical and contemporary perspectives. The narrative text questions what constitutes respectful and dignified display and unpacks matters concerning terminology and use of the word 'mummy'. The project team also expanded their work in Egypt during November-December 2025, undertaking further in-depth focus group discussions with Egyptian professionals working in this space across Cairo, Luxor and Aswan.

In May, we launched the volume *Mediterranean Collections in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand: Perspectives from Afar* edited by Candace Richards and Elizabeth Minchin which

examines the dispersal of ancient Mediterranean cultural heritage in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. Several chapters were contributed to this volume by CCWM staff focusing on broadening participation with Mediterranean collections through community outreach and student engagement and the Human Remains Research Project.

The CCWM also hosted public talks on Mediterranean archaeology and history by Professor Rubina Raja on "Greek cities in the Eastern Mediterranean", Professor Boyo Ockinga on "Australia's engagement with Ancient Egypt" as part of the 75th anniversary of Australia-Egypt bilateral relations, Chris Sidoti's presentation on the UN report on "The destruction of heritage sites and cultural institutions in Gaza", Dr Monica Jackson on "Sailing into the Sunlight: The Glimmering Gold Boat of Dionysus"; and a musical performance by Rupert Guenther inspired by Marcus Aurelius' *Mediations*. Some of these talks were presented in collaboration with the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens and the Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney. The Museum also hosted community events as part of the Greek Festival of Sydney, including a wine tasting event and community awards presentation, and activities with the Egyptian-Australian, Assyrian-Australian, Sudanese-Australian and Cypriot-Australian communities during the year.

Museum educational activities were strong in 2025. The award-winning Object Based Learning program taught more than 14,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students from a wide range of disciplines across 535 educational sessions using Nicholson collection items. CCWM also recorded attendance by more than 8500 K-12 school students who were engaging with the ancient Mediterranean world in their school studies and HSC preparation through our specialised programs. Museum staff are currently developing new programs for primary aged students as the NSW syllabus includes ancient history studies for the first time and working closely with the NSW Department of Education in the development of digital educational resources.

## **Grants**

Julia Kindt began work on her ARC DP – Australian Research Council, Discovery Project (\$345,000) on Herodotus, Thucydides, and the 'Discovery' of Truth in Ancient Greece (2025-8).

## **Conferences**

James Tan convened the conference, 'Sea Changes: Power, Money and Technology in the Maritime World: New interdisciplinary approaches to historical shipwrecks in the Mediterranean and Indo-Pacific' at the Vere Gordon Childe Centre and The Australian Maritime Museum. This took place in December.

Anne Rogerson and Robert Rohland (University of Cambridge) will convene the 'Roman Futures' workshop at the Vere Gordon Childe Centre on Monday 16 February. The

workshop responds to Brent Shaw's provocative and paradigm-shifting 2019 article "Did the Romans Have a Future?", which argued that the Romans lacked a clear concept of the future as a space that is mapped out, resource-filled and meticulously planned. Instead, Shaw portrayed the Roman future as an alien, undefined space. This workshop will explore how Romans imagined, planned, and lived their futures across literature, historiography, law, economics, material culture and beyond, seeking to reframe Roman futures—not as absent or underdeveloped, but as complex, diverse and deeply embedded in ancient thought and practice. Workshop participants include: Robert Cowan, Michael Hanaghan, Simona Martorana, Alexandra Pinkham, Anne Rogerson, Robert Rohland, Andrew Stiles, Estelle Strazdins, and Tom Zanker. Please direct enquiries to: [anne.rogerson@sydney.edu.au](mailto:anne.rogerson@sydney.edu.au)

Tamara Neal and Sarah Lawrence (UNE) will again convene the biennial Classical Languages Teaching Symposium. This will take place 14th August 2026 at the Vere Gordon Childe Centre.

Julia Kindt and Hans Beck (Muenster) will convene an international conference, 'Truth in the Classical Greek City: Local vs. Universal Renderings.' It will take place at Sydney University 1-2 October 2026.

Kathryn Welch will be convening a workshop in memory of the late Martin Stone and Doug Kelly. The workshop will be held at the Vere Gordon Childe Centre at the University of Sydney.

## New Books

In December 2025, the first volume (the second to be published) of the collaborative work by Eric Csapo and Peter Wilson, *A Social and Economic History of the Theatre to 300 BC*, will appear with Cambridge University Press, subtitled: *The Theatre Festivals of Athens*: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/social-and-economic-history-of-the-theatre-to-300-bc/CCB4FD7A1DCFB7EA870116588F889A96>

Julia Kindt's 2024 book *The Trojan Horse and Other Stories. 10 Ancient Creatures that Make us Human* (Cambridge) was recognised by several following awards: Winner of the 2024 Rhakotis Book award ('Book of the Year'); Finalist of the 2025 PROSE award in Classics (Association of American Publishers); Shortlisted for the 2025 Runciman Award; Silver winner, Nautilus Book Awards 2025 (Category: 'Rising to the Moment')

Dexter Hoyos is pleased to announce the publication of *Scipio Africanus: the First Imperator*. London: Reaktion Books, 2025. 255 pp., 1 ill., 4 maps. (ISBN 978 1 83639 099 2).

Karyn Lai, Rick Benitez and Chenyang Li (eds.), *Considering, Questioning and Reimagining Harmony: Multicultural, Multihistorical and Multidisciplinary Reflections*. Bloomsbury Academic. This was published 27 Nov 2025 (ISBN9781350453210). Rick's chapter is

entitled, "The Bow and the Lyre: Structural Opposition and Harmonic Tension in Heraclitus," pp. 15-34.

Elizabeth Stockdale's book, *Female Agency and Virtue in the Odyssey*, will be published by Routledge in April 2026.

## **Engagement**

James Collins was invited to speak at the recent Fringe Festival production of *Antigone*. Produced by the Sydney Dramaturgical Society, the play ran for five nights and enjoyed a sold-out season.

The Department of the Classics and Ancient History, with the assistance of the Classical Association of NSW, again hosted the Greek and Latin Reading competition for schools. This took place in August in the Law Foyer. We had a full house, good vibes, and fabulous performances. The Year 11 Latin winner was Xander Ezzy from Caringbah High School; Year 10 Latin winner was Ignacio Bartucciotto, from St. Aloysius College; Year 10 Greek winner was Jeffrey Ng from Barker College; and the Choral performance (20 members no less) was Sydney Girls High School.

## **Other News**

The Classics and Ancient History Greek play is back! *Hippolytus* is being co-produced by CAH (chiefly James Collins) and Gaius Gracchus and will be staged mid-2026.

The University of Sydney Latin Summer School, which has been operating for 30 years, will be paused in 2026. The LSS was founded by the late Professor Kevin Lee and Dr. Trevor Evans in 1994 and, since inception, has grown in popularity, with many attendees returning year after year to nurture their love of the Latin language. The week-long intensive plays an important community-outreach role and is also popular amongst school-aged students wishing to revise their language skills over the summer break. CAH has had increasing difficulty in securing rooms on campus for the school. The School of Humanities has provided much financial support over the past few years, however University Venues have put a price on the room bookings which the department cannot afford to pay, and the application for a fee waiver has been rejected. It is hoped that the department will be able to again run the LSS at the University of Sydney in future years.

Tamara Neal

## **University of Western Australia**

### **Staff News**

This semester we were excited to welcome our newest staff member, Dr Tom Zanker. He has recently published a book, *Jose Rizal, the Philippines, and Greco-Roman Antiquity* (Routledge, 2025), and he entertained staff and students with a fascinating talk on this

subject at one of our weekly research seminars this semester. We wish him good luck settling into life in WA with his family.

## **Postgraduate Completions**

Emily Marshall (MPhil) *The rebirth of Hermes in the Quattrocento: The reception of Hermes Trismegistus and the Hermetica in the works of Marsilio Ficino, Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, and Lodovico Lazzarelli* (supervisor Dr Kirk Essary)

Sophie Roberts (MPhil) *Marriage and the Law in Roman Egypt: A Case Study of the Oxyrhynchite Nome from the Battle of Actium to the Reforms of Diocletian.* (supervisor A/Prof. Chris Mallan)

## **Conferences**

We would also like to report the success of a symposium convened at UWA by Chris Mallan: *Translations and Transformations: Thinking with the Ancients After Antiquity* (April 2025). This symposium gathered together nine researchers from across the country who responded to the twin themes of 'translation and transformation' of Classical texts and ideas. The symposiasts were drawn from the disciplines of Classical Studies, English Studies, and Modern History. The temporal scope was deliberately broad – from the Byzantine period through to the present day. This was to allow the symposiasts to speak to their specialism, while encouraging cross disciplinary perspectives. The symposium was funded by the School of Humanities small research grant scheme.

Konstantine Panegyres

## **Victoria University of Wellington**

### **Staff News**

Here at Vic, we are all looking forward to our new colleague, Ziming Liu, to arrive in the new year. Ziming was a student at THW-VUW, before she went to the US for her PhD, so some of you may know her already, if not, you'll have the chance to meet her at the ASCS conference in Auckland in February!

Jeff Tatum was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

### **Staff Activity**

This term, Diana Burton and Jeff Tatum were on RSL and spent some of it as Visiting Fellows at the Institute for Classical Studies in London. While there, Jeff gave a talk, "Best of the Achaeans, Last of the Greeks: Homer and Plutarch's *Philopoemen*", to the London Ancient Literature Seminar.

Babette also went abroad: In June/July, she attended both the FIEC and the CA conferences in Wrocław and St Andrews and gave papers on “From Guarddog to Hellhound: Animal invective in Aristophanes’ comedies” and “Neoptolemus down-under: Ken Catran’s *Neo’s War*”.

In August, Dan Osland (Otago) visited and delivered a CA lecture “Roman Archaeology in Mérida, Spain”.

## Visitors

This year’s Syme lecture was delivered, in July, by Monica Cyrino (University of New Mexico) on “Dark Horses and Dead Ringers: Betting Big on Screen in Roman Sports and Society”. Monica also gave a highly entertaining research seminar on “TROY: FALL OF A CITY (2018): Story, Character, Controversy”.

## Postgraduate Completions

Two of our MA students completed recently: Alexander Davey on “Frequently and Fundamentally Misapprehended’: The Scapegoat Rituals of Ancient Greece” and Helen Oliver on “‘ECHIDNA’S FATE’: Classical Reception, Myth, and Identity in essa may ranapiri’s Echidna”.

## Other News

Currently, the Greek field trip is underway, taught by Hamish Cameron and Dan Osland. This year, it is running under the auspices of the AAIA.

Babette Puetz

## INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS

### Louise Hitchcock

Louise presented the following international papers:

- “You'll be back, time will tell, You'll remember that I served you well (from Hamilton)” presented at the Archaeological Institute Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, 2-5 January 2025 as part of a special workshop entitled: Beyond the Bronze Age: Resilience, Transformation, or Darkness. A Panel Discussion on *After 1177 BC*.
- “Raiders of the Lost Marks: Analysis of Tool Marks from an Ashlar Pavement of a House in Area A at Tell es-Safi/Gath,” Poster presented at the American Society of Overseas Research Annual Meeting, Boston, 19-22 November 2025. Co-authors: Haskel Greenfield; Tina Greenfield; and Aren Maeir

- "The Adventure of the Speckled Bird," Paper presented at the American Society of Overseas Research Annual Meeting, Boston, 19-22 November 2025. Co-authors: Linda Meiberg and Aren Maeir

Louise's former student, Stuart Ibrahim, had his thesis accepted for publication by Archaeopress and submitted the final manuscript, December 2025) *THE NORTH SINAI TRANSFORMED: Third Intermediate Period / Iron Age I-II Raphia and Egypt's response to the changed political spectrum in the Levant*

The Bryn Mawr Classical Review has [reviewed](#) Jamieson, A., C.J. Tully, and L.A. Hitchcock (eds) ***Plague in Antiquity***. (Ancient Near Eastern Studies Supplement 65) Leuven: Peeters Press (2024). ISBN: 13 9789042950689; ISBN: 10 9042950684



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