



The Australasian Society for Classical Studies

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members of ASCS,

It was wonderful to catch up with so many of you and to participate in the 47th annual ASCS conference. Please let me extend our appreciation once again to the organizers, Jeremy Armstrong and Lisa Bailey, and to the University of Auckland. From an administrative perspective, it has been a routine start to 2026. The ASCS executive has met once: the main items of our discussion have been moving to a better system for paying honoraria and the early planning of ASCS 48, to be held at the University of Sydney from 1-5 February; the conference organizers at Sydney are Tamara Neal and James Tan. I can confirm that the two keynote lectures will be delivered by Emerita Professor Elizabeth Minchin (Australian National University), who will deliver the Trendall Lecture, and Professor Dan-el Padilla Peralta (Princeton University), who will deliver the ASCS keynote lecture.

I am very sorry to record the passing of Bruce Marshall, on 23 April. Bruce taught and researched at the University of New England for thirty years. He was subsequently an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at Macquarie University and then an Adjunct Associate Professor at ACU North Sydney. His academic work focussed on the political history and coinage of the late Roman republic and early empire. Bruce was a long-serving secretary of ASCS, for which he was honoured with a life membership in 2009. For his work on behalf of ASCS over many years, and for his general promotion of the Humanities at both secondary and tertiary level, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2011. A full obituary will be circulated to the Society in our second newsletter.

All best wishes,
Paul Roche

President

Australian National University

Staff News

The ANU Centre for Classical Studies warmly congratulates Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Minchin on receiving the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2026 Australia Day Honours List. The Order of Australia recognises Australians who have demonstrated outstanding service or exceptional achievement and this award attests Prof Minchin's hard-work, service and dedication to the field of Classical Studies. Elizabeth was formally awarded her OAM by Her Excellency the Honorable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia, photograph below.



We are delighted to announce that Dr Georgia Pike-Rowney has been named a winner of the CHCI Award for Leadership in the Public Humanities for her collaboration with the Embassy of Italy, Canberra 'Repatriation as Re-education: combatting illegal antiquities networks through international collaboration, cultural exchange, and public programming'. The CHCI (Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes) Public Humanities Network 'represents a global body of humanities centers and institutes working with community partners committed to building research, leadership, and outcomes in collaborative research. The CHCI Award for Leadership in the Public Humanities is offered each year to recognize outstanding leadership in academic-public community partnerships.

Dr Estelle Strazdins has been awarded two fellowships for research in Greece: the 2026-7 British School at Athens Early Career Research Fellowship and the 2027-8 AAIA Established Researcher Fellowship.

We are very pleased to welcome Dr Ellen Ryan as a Postdoctoral Fellow on Professor Caillan Davenport's ARC Future Fellowship Project, 'Why Monarchy Endures'. Dr Ryan has a PhD in Egyptology from Macquarie University and an MPhil in Cuneiform Studies from the University of Oxford, and will be with us on a 0.2 FTE contract until mid-2029.

We have also recently welcomed two valued honorary staff members. Dr Dan Zhao, previously a Postdoctoral Fellow on Dr Tom Geue's Future Fellowship and now at Ormond College, Melbourne, has re-joined as a Visiting Fellow. Dr Ken Parry, a distinguished Byzantinist and formerly at Macquarie University, has also become a Visiting Fellow. Dr Zhao and Dr Parry are both contributing seminars to our Honours course 'Classics Now!' this semester.

Congratulations to Dr Tom Geue, who won the 2025 Australasian Centre for Italian Studies Publication Prize for Established Scholars for his book *Major Corrections: An Intellectual Biography of Sebastiano Timpanaro*. The selection committee's citation lavished praise on Tom's outstanding achievement:

"Deeply researched, conceptually original, and elegantly written, *Major Corrections* makes a transformative contribution to Italian intellectual and cultural studies, as well as to classical studies, Marxist theory, and the historiography of philology. No comparable study exists in either English or Italian. The committee praised the exceptional archival work and the clarity and accessibility of the prose, even when engaging with dense theoretical and philological material. This will undoubtedly remain the definitive work on Timpanaro for many years to come."

Staff Activity

Dr Tatiana Bur and Dr Meaghan McEvoy have been on research leave for semester 1, 2026. During her leave, Dr Bur has given talks at the University of Melbourne and Victoria University Wellington. Dr Estelle Strazdins will take up her research leave in Semester 2, 2026.

Conferences and visitors

In April, we hosted Professor Edward Watts, Distinguished Professor and Alkiviadis Vassiliadis Endowed Chair in Byzantine Greek History at the University of California, San Diego. Professor Watts was a very generous visitor: he delivered a public lecture on 'Why the Roman state lasted for 2000 years — and what we can learn from it', gave a masterclass for undergraduates, Honours and HDR students on Roman imperial women, and launched Caillan Davenport's new book in the ANU 'Meet the Author' series.

Caillan Davenport will be convening the 'Monarchy & Mentoring' workshop at ANU on June 1-2, drawing on expertise from ANU as well as Dr Eleanor Cowan (Sydney), Prof. Jan Willem Drijvers (Groningen), Dr Peter Edwell (Macquarie), Prof. Noel Lenski (Yale), Dr Alex McAuley (Auckland), Prof. Paul Roche (Sydney). The mentoring component will be targeted at 6 Honours students from ANU and 6 Honours (or equivalent) candidates from other Australian and New Zealand institutions.

We look forward to the visit in September 2026 of Professor Tyler Jo Smith, Professor of Classical Art and Archaeology at the University of Virginia. She will be the Gale Visting Professor for the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens.

Early 2027, we will host A/ Prof Colin Webster (UC Davis) who, with Dr Simona Martorana and Dr Tatiana Bur, will participate in a number of events relating to ancient medicine and mechanics.

New Books

Caillan Davenport's new book, *Behind Caesar's Back: Rumor, Gossip, and the Making of the Roman Emperors*, has been published by Yale University Press. This was launched by Professor Edward Watts at the ANU 'Meet the Author' event on April 23, with over 200 guests in attendance.

Dr Simona Martorana has co-edited the volume *Body and Medicine in Latin Poetry* (De Gruyter 2026) with colleagues Dr Chiara Blanco and Dr Allegra Hahn.

Museum News

The ABC wrote an [excellent profile](#) of the ANU Classics Museum and its development under the outstanding leadership of its retired Curator, Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Minchin, and the current Friends' Lecturer in Classics and Curator, Dr Georgia Pike-Rowney. The article highlights Dr Pike-Rowney's ongoing research collaboration with the Embassy of Italy in Australia regarding the repatriation cases in the Museum.

Engagement

Dr Meaghan McEvoy published [Who was St Patrick?](#) with *The Conversation*.

Dr Tatiana Bur has again featured as a guest on ABC's podcast *No one Saw it Coming* with Marc Fennell this time on the topic of Hero of Alexandria's 'steam engine'. You can listen to Tatiana's episode [here](#). Tatiana also co-authored an article for ABC Religion & Ethics with Dr Declan Humphreys (UniSC) entitled '[Technology and religion have been intertwined for millennia — so what's different about AI?](#)'.

Tatiana Bur

Macquarie University

Staff News

Amelia R. Brown joined Macquarie from the University of Queensland as a Senior Honorary Research Fellow in 2025, and will spend the next three years working as a CI on the ARC Discovery Project DP240100112 'Images of Power in the Roman Empire: Mass Media and the Cults of Emperors, 69–450 CE,' with Bronwen Neil (Macquarie), Estelle Strazdins (ANU) and Ryan Strickler (Newcastle).

Peter Edwell, Associate Professor in the Discipline of History and Archaeology, has been appointed Director of the Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatics (ACANS), succeeding our retiring colleague Kenneth Sheedy.

Michael Zellmann-Rohrer has been appointed Gale Research Fellow in Papyrology and is working on the publication, cataloguing and conservation of material from the collection of papyri held in the Gale History Museum. Educated at Harvard University and the University of California, Berkeley (where he was awarded a PhD in Classics and Medieval Studies in 2016), Michael has since held a series of postdoctoral appointments at the Freie Universität, Berlin (2021–26; on leave 2024–25), Macquarie University (2024–25), and the University of Oxford (2016–21) and has already published well over 100 books, book chapters, journal articles and reviews. Michael's main research interest is material philology in Greek, Egyptian, and Semitic languages, particularly texts relating to ritual and science as evidence for traditions and transformations of knowledge, in the Roman, Late Ancient, and Byzantine periods.

Visitors

Professor John Papadopoulos (UCLA) is the Gale Visiting Fellow in Ancient History and will be visiting for two weeks in August 2026.

Professor Lucie Doležalová (Charles University, Prague) and a large contingent of European scholars specialising in medieval studies and papyrology and representing the PAMELA project (Horizon funding) will be visiting Macquarie University for some three weeks in August in collaboration with Louise D'Arcens, Trevor Evans, Michael Zellmann-Rohrer and a local team.

Dr Debby Sneed (California State University) and Dr Ville Vuolanto (University of Tampere, Finland) will be visiting to take part in a research workshop on Health, Children, and Slavery in the Ancient Mediterranean World (30 September 2026) in collaboration with Julia Hamilton, Ray Laurence and Bronwen Neil.

Grant Success

ARC Discovery Project DP240100112 'Images of Power in the Roman Empire: Mass Media and the Cults of Emperors, 69–450 CE,' Amelia Brown (UQ/Macquarie) Bronwen Neil (Macquarie), Estelle Strazdins (ANU) and Ryan Strickler (Newcastle).

Conferences

Amelia Brown and Bronwen Neil convened a second workshop on 'Images of Power in Late Antiquity' at Macquarie University on 10 Feb. 2026. Guest speakers were Catherine Keane (Marburg University / University of Glasgow Leverhulme Fellow), Estelle Strazdins (ANU), and Ryan Strickler (University of Newcastle).

The Third workshop on 'Images of Power in Late Antiquity' will be held in Malta, 6–9 September and convened by Amelia Brown (amelia.brown@mq.edu.au). Self-funded participants are welcome.

New Books

Anagnostou-Laoutides, E., *Wine and Ecstasy in Plato: A Metaphor of Sorts and Its Early Reception* (Albany, USA: SUNY, 2025).

Evans, T.V., and Young-Evans, G.I., (eds), *Koine Greek and the Evidence of Documentary Sources* (Leuven: Peeters, 2025).

Other News

In addition to the regular History and Archaeology seminar at Macquarie University our Greek and Latin Research Group (GLRG), convened by Trevor Evans and Samuel Wessels, runs a series of seminars in hybrid format. The next presentation (Tuesday 26 May) will be: Trevor Evans, 'Perfect Frankness: A Personal Reminiscence of the Australian Latinist J.N. Adams CBE FBA (1943–2021)'. For information on venue and zoom link, and to be added to the mailing list contact Samuel Wessels (samuel.wessels@hdr.mq.edu.au).

The Winter Week of the Macquarie Ancient Languages School (MALS) will run as usual in the week 6–10 July this week. We will be offering our regular range of options in all levels of Classical and Postclassical Greek, Hieroglyphic Egyptian and Latin and 'guest' options in Old Persian and Coptic. Enrolments will open soon via our website (mals.org.au). This remains a rare opportunity to study several of these languages and to benefit from the guidance of our experienced and enthusiastic tutors. For information contact the Director, Trevor Evans (mals@mq.edu.au).

Trevor Evans

Massey University

Staff News

Gina Salapata will retire at the end of July, after more than 30 years at Massey University. Gina has long been synonymous with Classics at Massey, to which she has contributed immensely, and she will be sorely missed by colleagues and students (to whom we have not yet broken the news) alike. We wish her all the best for a long, happy and well-deserved retirement. Gina will continue her association with Massey as an Honorary Research Fellow.

Gina's teaching for the second semester will be covered by Saskia Herren, and we hope to be able to advertise for a permanent replacement shortly.

Courses

We have had to retire a number of courses, but have also received approval for a new course, to be offered by James Richardson, on the myths and legends of ancient Rome.

Staff Activity

Anastasia Bakogianni co-organised a symposium at the University of Auckland with Alex McAuley on *Big Screen Rome 20 Years Later: Trends in Classical Reception inspired by Professor Monica Cyrino* (2 February 2026).

Anastasia Bakogianni has been appointed an Honorary Academic in Classics and Ancient History at the University of Auckland (2026-2031).

Gina Salapata gave the 2026 Trendall Lecture at the 47th Conference of the Australasian Society for Classical Studies, in Auckland (2 February 2026). Her lecture was on 'Taming the Dragon: Medea and Mythmaking in South Italian Vase-Painting'.

James Richardson

Monash University

After a busy summer, with staff in the field or in archives on four continents, we have had a relatively pacific start to Semester 1. Student interest continues to grow, and the Archaeology and Ancient History major was praised centrally as a "model" major, which are both gratifying developments!

Staff Activity

Andrew Connor delivered the keynote address at the 2026 Classical Association of Victoria teachers' conference, on the theme of "Thinking about the Classical World: Memory and Meaning in Greece and Rome from Antiquity to Today."

Postgraduate completions:

Jimmy Blackwell, PhD. *The Making of Roman Greece: The Legitimation of Roman Authority in the Greek Mainland, 200 – 31 BCE*. Primary supervisor: Andrew Connor. Secondary supervisor: Jessie Birkett-Rees.

Rebecca Neville, MRes. *Creating a Ceramic Typology Using Machine Learning: A Case Study from the Middle Bronze Age South Caucasus*. Primary supervisor: Hilary Gopnik. Secondary supervisor: Jessie Birkett-Rees.

Andrew Connor

University of Adelaide

Staff News

Professor Han Baltussen, former Hughes Professor of Classics, has taken up retirement from last December and was awarded the title and status of Emeritus Professor. He continues his research on several projects, one of which is supported by an ARC/DP grant (2026-2029, see below). He will also continue to mentor several PhD students.

The new appointment, Dr Emlyn Dodd, has arrived in Adelaide. He is a Greek and Roman archaeologist coming from the ICS in London. His area of specialisation is ancient wine and oil production, along with agriculture, technology and trade. His research record is extensive, and he has recently published two co-edited volumes (see below and separate ASCS Publication list 2025). We look forward to his contributions to the new curriculum, the school activities and the wider Ancient World Studies community in Australasia.

Our recent graduate Chelsea Schwartz (BA(Hons), MPhil 2025, University of Adelaide) has been awarded a PhD scholarship at ACU (Melbourne/ IRCI), where she will undertake a thesis project provisionally entitled "Reassessing Female Healers in Early Christianity", supervised by Assoc. Prof. Jonathan Zecher and Dr Sarah Gador-Whyte and Em. Prof. Han Baltussen.

Dr Benjamin Nagy (MPhil Adelaide, PhD Krakov / Antwerp) has just been offered a 3-year postdoctoral fellowship with the Flanders Research Foundation (FWO) to start a new project in computer analysis of Latin poetry.

Staff Activity

On October 24, 2025, Prof. Han Baltussen gave an invited talk on the medical oaths in three ancient cultures (Greece, China, India) at the inaugural workshop of Fulcrum, a new network that aims to study science before 1500.

On January 29, Prof. Han Baltussen gave a presentation at the workshop on "Translation and Transformation in Late Antiquity", an ARC funded project at IRCI/ACU, Melbourne

(see there). He spoke about the Latin translation of Plato's *Timaeus* by Calcidius (early fifth c. CE).

On April 8, Dr Margaret O'Hea gave a talk as part of the 2026 Festival Hellenika entitled "Thinking Outside the Box: The Greek myth of Phaedra in Roman-period art". It was a fascinating talk about the reception of Phaedra presented to an appreciative audience.

Prof. Baltussen and recent MPhil graduate Chelsea Schwartz have both been invited to the ANU early next year to present short papers on the theme "non-normative bodies". This event will be part of the visit of A/Prof Colin Webster (UC Davis) sponsored by Dr Simona Martorana and Dr Tatiana Bur. During this visit, the ANU's Fulcrum network will also host an event around A/Prof Webster's recent book *Tools and the Organism: Technology and the Body in Greek and Roman Medicine* (University of Chicago Press, 2023) which will offer opportunities for discussion on a wide range of issues.

Dr Emlyn Dodd gave several talks earlier this year: (1) 'Places and processes of ancient Greek and Roman winemaking.' Ancient World Breakfast Club Lecture, 20 March, Godolphin and Latymer School, London, UK. (2) 'Falerii Novi: Republican foundation to late antique boom-town.' Annual Peter Sadler Archaeology Lecture, 18 February. University of Kent, UK. (3) 'The science and technology of Roman wine and olive oil production.' Public Lecture, joint meeting Cirencester Science and Technology Society and Archaeology and History Society, 14 January. Royal Agricultural University, UK.

New courses

The new curriculum made a start, alongside the old program for this year (level 3). We run an "Introduction to Ancient Greece and Rome" (level 1), "Alexander the Great and his Global World" (level 2), "Myths of Ancient Egypt and Greece" (level 2). The new level 3 course "Athenian Democracy and its Legacy" is being developed for 2027.

Visitors

The 2026 Constantinos Moraitis Annual Hellenic Lecture will take place on May 20 and we are very pleased that Professor Bronwen Neil (FAHA) of Macquarie University has agreed to speak on the topic "Animal Symbols in Greek and Byzantine Dream Books".

Grant success

Professor Han Baltussen's ARC-Discovery Project, "Consoling the Self: Historical Grief Strategies and the Healing Arts" (DP260104999, 4 years), had its official start in January. The filling of the part-time position of a postdoctoral associate and the AU a PhD scholarship has been delayed but is expected to go ahead soon.

New books

M. Johnson and Baltussen, H. (eds) *A Cultural History of Love in Antiquity* (London: Bloomsbury, 2025).

Van Limbergen, D., E. Dodd, and M.S. Busana (eds), *Vine-growing and Winemaking in the Roman World: New Data and Original Perspectives* (Leuven: Peeters Publishing, 2025).

Montoya González, R., and E. Dodd (eds), *Between Global and Local: Glocal Refractions in Roman Material Culture and Society*, Papers of the Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome 74 (Rome: Edizioni Quasar, 2025).

Other news: Outreach and public media

On October 24, 2025, Prof. Baltussen was invited to participate in the launch of a new network on science and related disciplines before 1500, which goes by the name [‘Fulcrum’](#). The network founders, Dr Tatiana Bur and several colleagues at ANU Classics, hosted a great event with short talks on Egyptian astronomy (Dr Tom Hercules Davies, Melbourne), the term ‘technê’ and its significant meanings (Emily Hulme, Sydney), ancient volcanoes (Jemima McPhee, Canberra), ancient medical ethics (Han Baltussen, Adelaide), ancient mechanics (Tatiana Bur, Canberra), and a more extensive reading of a section of Manilius’ *Astronomica* (Steve Green, National University Singapore). An exciting initiative and one that will no doubt have many more activities.

On Nov. 28, 2025, Prof. Han Baltussen gave a talk in the Adelaide Public Library, presenting a longer version of his analysis of ancient medical ethics, comparing the ancient medical ‘oaths’ of Greece, India, and China. This talk is part of the Adelaide Philosophy Café program of talks for the community.

Late last year Dr Jacqueline Clarke (Visiting Research Fellow) delivered a workshop to the Children’s University on “The Hero’s Journey in Greco-Roman Mythology”. She also handed out the graduation certificates and gave a speech at two of their prize-giving ceremonies in Port Pirie.

Dr Emlyn Dodd wrote three articles for the general public and gave two expert interviews on radio:

Dodd, E., ‘La búsqueda de la ebriedad. Vino y otros alcoholes en el Mediterráneo’, [Desperta Ferro Arqueología & Historia](#) 64 (2025): 30–37.

Dodd, E., S. Kay, and E. Levine, ‘[Island towers and agricultural landscapes](#)’, *Annual Bulletin: The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens* 21 (2025): 7–9.

Dodd, E. ‘[Olives have been essential to life in Italy for at least 6,000 years – far longer than we thought.](#)’ *The Conversation*. 3 February, 2026.

Dodd, E. (Expert interview): [‘New science rewrites the origins of olive cultivation in Italy.’](#) Olive Oil Times. 16 February 2026.

Dodd, E. (Expert interview): [‘Ancient Italian olive oil’, ABC Radio Evenings.’](#) 10 February, 2026.

Han Baltussen

University of Auckland

Staff News

The department and Classics community at the University of Auckland note with deep sadness the passing of Emerita Professor Vivienne Gray. A tribute and biography to Professor Gray was [published on the University’s website here](#).

Alex McAuley was promoted to Senior Lecturer over the Bar.

Staff Activity

Lisa Bailey travelled to the UK to deliver a paper entitled ‘Nocturnal visions in the hagiography of Aldegund’, at the *International Medieval Congress* in Leeds in July 2025.

Maxine Lewis was on research leave in semester two 2025 and has returned to teaching. Jennifer Hellum will be on research leave in semester two of 2026. Maxine is also serving a three-year term as MSL of Gender Studies, and Jeremy Armstrong has begun his term of service as MSL of Classics and Ancient History.

After some delays at the press we are pleased to report that the special issue of *Antichthon* edited by Amy Russell and Maxine Lewis has been published. A full citation is included below.

Alex McAuley delivered a paper entitled ‘φίλος τοῦ βασιλέως, φίλος τῆς πόλεως. Personal Relationships between Court and City’ at the *Beyond War. Personal, Cultural and Economic Factors in Hellenistic Politics* conference hosted at the University of Bergamo from 10-13 September. Alex also completed his term of service as the Honorary Secretary of the UK Classical Association.

Visitors

Professor Edward Watts (UCSD) visited the department in April and May of 2026 while on sabbatical.

Professor Franco De Angelis (UBC) will be visiting as the Trundle Lecturer in September-October 2026.

Postgraduate Completions

PhD: Bryant Ahrenberg, 'The Origin and Expansion of the Early Roman Navy' supervised by Prof. Jeremy Armstrong and A/P Lisa Bailey

PhD: Danielle Wang, 'The Sacrifice of Jephthah's Daughter and Shim Cheong: A Cross-Textual Study', 2026 (Lisa Bailey)

MA: Alex Lewis, 'Ideals and Realities of Carolingian Women's Monastic Communities', 2026 (Lisa Bailey)

Conferences

The University of Auckland hosted ASCS47 in February 2025⁶, which included a day of papers *in memoriam* of Professor Vivienne Gray, and a day of papers in honour of Professor Monica Cyrino.

A workshop on *Indigeneity and Migration* involving comparative discussion of the Ancient Mediterranean and Oceania will be held in September 2026.

New Books

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

Bailey, L.K., *Servants of God, Slaves of the Church: Service as Religious Metaphor and Social Reality in Early Medieval Europe* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2026).

Lewis, M. and Russell, A. (eds.). *New Approaches to Space and Spatial Theory in Roman Studies. Antichthon* 58 (Thematic Issue, 2026).

McAuley, A., D'Agostini, M. and Ager, S. (eds) *Power, Royal Agency, and Elite Women in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds, Ancient History Bulletin* 38.3-4 (special issue 2025).

Alex McAuley

University of New England

Staff News

Taylor, Tristan S., '*Iniuria humani generis?* The Ethics of Mass Violence in Greco-Roman Antiquity', *En los limites de la violencia III. Transgression: Justification, Critique and Negation of Extreme Violence*, Carmona, Spain, March, 2026.

Visitors

Professor Henriette van der Blom (University of Birmingham) visited UNE in March 2026 and delivered a public seminar entitled 'Italian and (non-)Roman speakers in Valerius Maximus: hierarchy and identity' and a student masterclass entitled 'Speaking up for themselves: women in Valerius Maximus' *Facta et dicta memorabilia*'.

Museum News

UNE has launched a new collections management system "The UNE Collections Gateway". The records and collections of the UNE Heritage Centre, Dixson Library Special Collections, and UNE Museum of Antiquities (UNEMA) can be searched at: <https://collections.une.edu.au/>

The UNE Museum of Antiquities in collaboration with Armidale Secondary College has established an annual "Positively Medieval" exhibition in support of the School's museums and Medieval history program. Curated by Assoc. Prof. Bronwyn Hopwood and the UNEMA Volunteers, the exhibition challenges ASC Year 8 History students to create an artefact and museum display card exploring an aspect of Medieval life.

Assoc. Prof. Sarah Lawrence and Dr Alina Kozlovski curated a display at the UNE Museum of Antiquities entitled *A Museum of Words and Deeds* which combines items from the collection and sections from the text of Valerius Maximus. An online version of this exhibition is available here: <https://une.pedestal3d.com/page/wordsanddeeds/>

Conferences

In March, Prof. Melanie Fillios, Assoc. Prof. Bronwyn Hopwood, Dr Teresa Van Der Kraan, and Dr Molly Northcott delivered the 2026 TamTalk for Women's History Month, attracting a packed house. The event explored the roles of women in history from ancient to medieval and modern times.

Alina Kozlovski

University of Newcastle

Staff News

This year the University instituted a new academic calendar which continues to compress teaching and resulted in an earlier start than normal. Nevertheless, building upon momentum from last year Ancient History continues on a growth trajectory despite numerous institutional challenges. We remain hopeful that growth will continue, including a potential restoration of Ancient History as a major in the Bachelor of Arts in coming years.

Conferences

On 13 April Dr. Ryan Strickler presented a seminar titled “Pecunia non olet: Images of Power in the Coinage of Vespasian at the University of Sydney.

On 16 April Dr. Ryan Strickler presented a paper titled “Justinian's Ravenna: Projecting Imperial Power During the ‘*renovatio imperii*’” at the Material History of the Late Antique Mediterranean workshop at Macquarie University.

On 6 March Dr. Nicole Kimball presented a seminar titled ““From Chronicle to Canon: Classical Style and Insular Tradition in Geoffrey of Monmouth’s *Vita Merlini*” at the University of Newcastle.

On 16 April Dr. Nicole Kimball gave a radio interview with 2SER Community Radio about her research on Morgan le Fay.

On 1 April Dr. Connie Skibinski began work as a Research Assistant for an Industry-Matched Research grant with the Newcastle Business School.

Visitors

While Ancient History does not maintain an independent seminar series, Dr. Ryan Strickler has continued his work as convener of our interdisciplinary History @ Newcastle series and has ensured the presence of classicists and ancient historians on the programme.

On 6 February we hosted Dr. Catherine Keane (Philipps Universität Marburg) who gave a seminar titled “More than a Church: Late antique ecclesiastical complexes in Cyprus.”

On 20 March we hosted A/prof Bob Cowan (University of Sydney) who presented on “Bitches be Crazy”: Ecofeminism, Posthumanism, and Subversive Motherhood in Virgil, Grattius, and Columella.”

Teaching and Outreach

While we have not introduced any new courses this semester, our current offerings grew across the board. Dr. Ryan Strickler and Dr. Connie Skibinski ran two successful internal outreach events including a launch lunch and movie night which were well attended and bolstered student morale. Drs. Strickler and Skibinski have renewed efforts to integrate Object Based Learning in courses using our underappreciated Special Collections materials in consultation with our archivists.

Dr. Nicole Kimball has leveraged her teaching connections to facilitate schools outreach including a successful challenge day, and we are now actively involved with University outreach events.

In addition we have successfully relaunched our AWAWS branch under the presidency of Dr. Kimball, and facilitated the relaunch of our Historia student society. Independently, a group of students have launched a second society focused on Classics and literature. These efforts are a testimony to our eager student cohort.

Dr. Kimball wrote [“Morgan le Fay was King Arthur’s sister – but also a healer, mathematician and murderer”](#) for *The Conversation*.

Grants

Dr. Nicole Kimball was awarded an AWAWS grant to purchase copies of the *Iliad* for secondary school students to facilitate a reading group (at the request of students!). Students have been very keen!

Dr. Ryan Strickler was awarded a faculty travel grant to attend the Celtic Conference in Classics in July and a school-based Teaching Fellowship to create teaching resources to incorporate Object Based Learning in humanities disciplines across the school.

Other News

On 12 February Dr. Ryan Strickler served as co-convenor for the Images of Power in Roman Late Antiquity: Mass Media and the Imperial Cult workshop at Macquarie University and presented a paper titled “*Judaea Capta*: Mass Media, The Conquest of Judaea and Flavian Legitimacy”

Connie Skibinski

University of Queensland

Staff News

Dr Xavier J. Buxton will be our tenure-track Lecturer in Greek Literature from 14 July 2026 (<https://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/staff/dr-xavier-j-buxton>). Dr Buxton has a BA in English from Oxford University and DPhil in Classics from Cambridge. He has taught at Cambridge and Warwick University and held various research roles at the University of London, l’École normale supérieure de Lyon and the University of Cyprus. Dr Buxton researches tragedy and the Greek chorus more generally, and has a growing list of peer-reviewed publications. The Discipline is absolutely thrilled to be soon welcoming such a gifted early-career researcher into its ranks.

Visitors

Recently, Professor Maria Wyke (University College London) spoke in our seminar series on Nero in early cinema, Dr Roslynne Bell (Melbourne) on Roman old age and Professor Stephanie McCarter (Sewanee) on translating Catullus. Podcasts of their fascinating talks – along with a hundred or so others – are freely available in our open-access collection

(<https://espace.library.uq.edu.au/collection/UQ:152015>). In October 2026, Professor Alain Bresson (Chicago) – the celebrated economic historian – will be the 2026 R D Milns Visiting Scholar. He will be in Australia for two weeks.

Grants

Associate Professor David M. Pritchard takes up his Leverhulme Visiting Professorship at the University of Edinburgh on 25 July 2026 (<https://uq.academia.edu/DavidPritchard>). This is made possible by a grant of £100,000 from the Leverhulme Trust. During his professorship, he will deliver 9 Leverhulme Lectures at Edinburgh as well as an undergraduate course on Greek social history. Associate Professor Pritchard will also be going on a speaking tour of 18 other UK universities. This tour sees him speaking and teaching at universities in Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Coventry, Durham, Exeter, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Milton Keynes, Newcastle, Oxford and St Andrews. The professorship will allow Associate Professor Pritchard to finish *The Armed Forces of Democratic Athens*, which is under contract to Cambridge University Press.

Conferences

Dr Yvette Hunt – an honorary member of the Discipline – spoke recently at *Colloquia Ceranea VIII*, which is a conference on ancient food and medicine that the University of Lodz (Poland) convenes each year. Dr Kit Morrell recently gave the seminar paper, 'Reform, Round Two: The Restoration of the Tribunician Powers in the 70s BCE', at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (Germany).

New Courses

Dr Morrell recently led a new version of ANCH2050 Ancient World Study Tour in Italy. She was accompanied by Ms Tyla Cascaes as a teaching assistant and supported by Elton Gllava from Libertas Travel as the local tour manager. Over three weeks, the group of twenty-two students visited sites including Paestum, Pompeii, Herculaneum, Sperlonga, Tivoli, Praeneste, and the Etruscan necropolises of Tarquinia and Cerveteri, as well as the city of Rome itself. The heart of the tour was a fortnight based in Trastevere exploring the ancient sites and museums of Rome and immersing ourselves in 'ancient history on location', from the earliest traces of habitation on the Palatine Hill to the monuments of the emperors and modern reception in the film sets of Cinecittà. A new approach to assessment this year saw the students produce video-podcast introductions to important sites and complete reflective exercises while on tour, with some wonderfully thoughtful and creative results.



The students of ANCH2050 in Rome



Some of the students of ANCH2050 exploring the Severan Marble Plan of Rome at the Museo della Forma Urbis



The two leaders of ANCH2050 in 2026, Dr Morrell and Ms Cascaes

Museum News

The R D Milns Antiquities Museum has a new exhibition, 'Nostoi ('Homecomings'): Stories of the Ionian Island Diaspora in Queensland', which is a result of a three-year collaboration with the Greek-Australian community in Brisbane (<https://antiquities-museum.uq.edu.au/>).

New Books

Discipline-members have recently published three books. Dr Morrell has published *The Rule of Law in Ancient Rome* (Oxford University Press 2025), which she co-edited with E. Cowan, K. Pettinger and M. Sevel; Associate Professor Pritchard *Waging War in Fourth-Century Athens* (Routledge 2026), which he co-edited with I. Worthington; and Dr Tom Stevenson, who is an honorary member of the Discipline, *Julius Caesar: A Reference Guide to His Life and Works* (Bloomsbury 2026).

David Pritchard

University of Sydney

Staff News

Robert Cowan was promoted to the post of Associate Professor of Classics.

Julia Kindt has been appointed as incoming Associate Head of School, Research, in the School of Humanities for 2027.

Staff Activity

Eric Csapo delivered the keynote address at the conference, Theatre Beyond the Theatre in a Comparative Perspective: Ritual Drama, Folklore, and Reception, University of Naples, L'Orientale, May 26-28, 2025. Eric was also invited to give a lecture, 'Dionysus Eleuthereus, A Different Dionysus', at Freiburg University, July 23, 2025.

Kim Harris presented a paper entitled, Beheading the body politic in Tacitus' Histories, at Tacitus and the Paths of History Conference, Lisbon (Portugal), November 2024

Julia Kindt contributed to an official report on information resilience commissioned and endorsed by the Office of the Chief Scientist/ National Science and Technology Council. The report has been published here: <https://www.chiefscientist.gov.au/news-and-media/information-resilience-understanding-and-protecting-against-mis-and-disinformation>.

Frances Muecke is an invited speaker at "Synchronic Pasts: Comparing Ancient and Early Modern Antiquarianism" at Università della Sapienza, Rome, on 15-17 June 2026.

Sabrina Noguera presented at the TRAC-TiDA conference in October 2025, with 'The Past is Dead? Lived History, Empathy and Dark Sides of Roman Imperialism (and not only Roman).'

James Tan will be delivering at a paper entitled, "Identifying Climate Resilience amid Rome's Economic Revolution" in June at the University of Southern Denmark. In October 2025, James spoke at a conference in Boulogne-sur-Mer on "Résistances à l'impôt dans le monde romain", delivering a paper entitled, "Refusal to collect taxation and refusal to pay taxation in fourth century BCE Rome."

Peter Wilson co-convened, with Prof. Giovan Battista D'Alessio (La Sapienza, Rome) and Henry Spelman (Cambridge University), a conference "Other Pindars: a Conference on the Fragments" in Trinity College, Cambridge and the Faculty of Classics, December 11-12.; Gave a paper on Korinna and Pindar at the 2025 Interdisciplinary Symposium on "Competition and Excellence in Greco-Roman Culture" in Syracuse, Sicily, November 23-27.

New Courses

ANHS 1603 Thinking Like and Ancient Historian: What is ancient history for? How do ancient historians work? And what makes a good piece of classical scholarship today? This first-year ancient history unit will equip you with skills to become an ancient historian. You will delve into the intricacies of diverse types of evidence, from material artifacts to literary works to inscriptions, learning the skills to analyse and interpret them. We will guide you through the process of reading and writing academic prose, emphasizing the importance of critical thinking and effective communication. At the end you will find that the work of the ancient historian has much in common with that of a detective who interrogates sources to build a case.

Julia Kindt is currently teaching SOF4001 Breakthroughs in the Humanities (the new interdisciplinary honours unit in the School of Humanities)

Visitors

Grace Gunning (University of Cambridge) visited as a Ritchie Fellow in March and April, and delivered a lecture in our seminar series entitled *Rethinking Choruses and Community in Sophocles*. She also gave a lecture in the Myth course on the choruses and chorality in the Bacchae. And she advised our chorus in their rehearsals of our *Antigone*.

Professor Rebecca Langlands (University of Exeter) will visit in September/October to deliver the 2026 Todd lecture, co-hosted by the Classics and Ancient History and the Classical Association of NSW.

Professor Henriette van der Blom (University of Birmingham) visited the University of Sydney, University of New England, and the University of Melbourne in March. During her

time at USyd, Henriette presented master classes as well as a lecture in the CAH seminar series on Valerius Maximus on *maiestas*: treason, *res publica* and public speech Professor

Professor Stefan Pfeiffer (Ancient History, Halle/Germany) served as Gilbert Fellow in semester 1, 2026 visiting Classics and Ancient History at Sydney University. Professor Pfeiffer gave seminars, master-classes, and delivered a lecture co-hosted by the Classical Association of NSW at the Vere Gordon Childe Centre on Asterix and Cleopatra.

Dr Robert Rohland (Humboldt Fellow, University of Marburg), visited the University as a Ritchie Fellow for two weeks in February 2026. Dr Rohland and Anne Rogerson collaborated to host a successful one-day workshop, *Roman Futures*, bringing together mid and early-career Australian and international scholars in ancient history and Latin literature, to respond to the provocations of Brent Shaw's recent publication on Roman concepts of the future.

Dr. Ryan Strickland (Newcastle) delivered a paper "Pecunia non olet: Images of Power in the Coinage of Vespasian" at the Classics and Ancient History

Professor Imre Szeman (Toronto) was a guest of James Tan, at the Vere Gordon Childe Centre, to collaborate on a project, "Historical Perspectives on the Climate Crisis."

Museum News

Between March and June, the Chau Chak Wing Museum hosted the 25th Sydney Biennale *Rememory*; a means of revisiting, reconstructing, and reclaiming histories that have been erased or repressed. Each artist's works reflected the intersection of memory and history, and highlighted marginalised narratives and untold stories. Historical narratives, archaeology and museology were significant themes for several of the works, including Michael Rakowitz's *The Ballad of Special Ops Cody* 2017, Lamia Joreige's *Uncertain Times – War Diaries* 2026, and Khalil Rabah's *Common Threads* 2026.

At the beginning of the year the Chau Chak Wing Museum received a donation of a lithograph *Γοργόνες (Mermaids)* 1982, by Greek artist Spyros Vassiliou for the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens, gifted by the artist's family. The work was unveiled in a special evening hosted by the AAIA in Sydney on 19 February, and a print of the work is now on display in the Vere Gordon Childe Centre.

The CCWM 'Pop-Up' Museum was a highlight of the University's Welcome Fest (18–20 February), curated by Museum and Heritage Studies intern Yasmine Aboud around the theme *Iraq: Living History*. Drawing on Yasmine's lived experience as a second-generation Iraqi-Australian, the 'Pop-Up' highlighted the continuity of ancient Iraqi culture into the present. On Sunday 22 March 2026, the 'Pop-Up' was also presented at the Multicultural Eid Festival and Fair at Fairfield Showground, generating meaningful engagement with more than 380 participants. A jewellery-making activity inspired by

Islamic prayer beads, developed by local Iraqi jeweller Noor Alsalami, accompanied the 'Pop-Up'.

On Thursday 5 March, the Museum was honoured to host Colonel Matthew Bogdanos in cooperation with the Egyptian Embassy in Canberra, for an insightful lecture on his work in Iraq and New York, combating the trafficking of antiquities. We were also honoured to host the Consul-General of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Her Excellency Mrs Reem Zahran, and Consul General of Greece in Sydney, His Excellency Mr Georgios Skemperis along with Museum supporters and industry colleagues for a private reception with Colonel Bogdanos. Colonel Bogdanos's visit aligned with the Museum's current efforts to develop responsible pathways forward with source countries around the liminal state of antiquities in private Australian collections which are without proof of legal ownership.

On Saturday 18 April, the 'Sham el-Naseem' Egyptian Festival took over the Museum with music, dance, food and family activities. Over 1000 people joined us for this special celebration, and we were again honoured with the attendance of Her Excellency Mrs Reem Zaharan and prominent leaders of the Egyptian community here in Sydney.

The Museum continues to be a hub of activity with daily school students and University OBL programs, holiday workshops for children, and bespoke tours for a range of adult society and community groups from across Sydney. Lunch talks and evening lectures are too many to name, but include thought-provoking panel discussions on Archaeology, Art and Colonialism, Women in Archaeology, Artists and Archives, and welcome world-leading experts, including Professor Gesa Birnkrau, Professor Chris Clarkson, Professor Imre Szeman and Dr Eva Amanda Calomino.

Grants

Alexandra Pinkham and Paul Roche were both awarded (individually) the William Ritchie research scholarship in Classics, which will allow a period of study in Cambridge in late 2026 and early 2027 respectively.

Postgraduate Completions

Nicole Duncan, PhD. Leadership in Times of Civil War: The Case of Marcus Aemilius Lepidus. Supervisor: Eleanor Cowan.

Kimberly Harris, PhD. Beheading the Roman body politic: Decapitation as a political metaphor in early imperial Latin literature. Supervisors: Prof. Paul Roche (principal) and Dr. Elly Cowan.

Caitlin McMenamin, PhD. Toxic Narratives: The Male Poisoner in Roman Society and Literature. Supervisor: Eleanor Cowan

Marco Paoletti, PhD. Person and Individual in Roman Law. Supervisor: Eleanor Cowan

Conferences

The Teaching Classical Languages Symposium is taking place August 14th at the Vere Gordon Childe Centre. The keynote speaker is Carla Hurt (Melbourne, <https://foundinantiqunty.com/>) and we are delighted to announce that Assoc. Professor Steven Hunt (University of Cambridge) will again be joining us. For more information, contact the convenors, Tamara Neal (t.neal@sydney.edu.au) and Sarah Laurence (slawren4@une.edu.au)

New Books

E. Cowan, K. Morrell, A. Pettinger, M. Sevel edd. 2025. *The Rule of Law in Ancient Rome*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Csapo, E., and Wilson, P. *A Social and Economic History of the Theatre to 300 BC*, volume 1: *Theatre in Athens* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2026).

Kindt, J. (ed.) *Personal Religion in the Ancient Greek World*. A Cultural History. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2026).

Roche, P. *Lucan De Bello Civili Book 10: edited with Introduction, text, translation and commentary*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2026).

Engagement

Antigone at USyd

A tradition was established in 1868 with The University of Sydney's student production of Terence's *Phormio* and then, on the tragic side, with the landmark 1886 student production of Aeschylus' *Agamemnon* in translation and in Greek with sung choral odes. The Gaius Gracchus Society and The Department of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Sydney revived this tradition with a new production of Sophocles' *Antigone*, which had not been staged in full on campus since 1957. It was also the first USyd production of tragedy in Greek this century. After six months of rehearsals, this *Antigone* featured a full dancing and singing chorus in Greek and with novel translations, likely the first of its kind in Australia, with music and choreography also by students working with new advances in scholarship. The play was co-directed by Daisy Levell, Honours candidate and president of Gaius Gracchus, and Dr. James Collins, with original music written by Thomas Henderson, and choreographed by Lauren Cleary and Marcel Forrer.

All three performances took place in Nelson Meers Foundation Auditorium, Chau Chak Wing Museum, and were completely sold out!

Ben Brown wrote a commissioned piece for the ABC on the Sydney Theatre Company's production An Iliad, starring David Wenham. <https://www.abc.net.au/religion/war-cost-consequence-critique-homer-iliad-sydney-theatre-company/106610448>

Ben will also be speaking at a panel event on the play <https://www.sydneytheatre.com.au/whats-on/2026/productions/spotlight-talks-an-iliad>

James Collins secured the Paul Woodruff Endowment for Greek Drama in Translation at the University of Texas to establish an annual or biannual Greek play in translation that embodies his transformative vision of theater as both an art form and a pathway to human understanding. James and Paul O'Mahony (Out of Chaos Theatre) ran theatre workshops with Sean Gurd at the University of Texas at Austin, Naomi Weiss at Harvard, and Melissa Mueller at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Paul O'Mahony and James continued our archival work on early modern and modern adaptations of Greek choruses as Fellows at the Harry Ransom Center.

Julia Kindt published an opinion piece in the SMH on (re-published on the Homepage of the Australian Academy of the Humanities) on career options for humanities majors <https://humanities.org.au/power-of-the-humanities/parents-heres-why-you-should-stop-steering-your-kids-away-from-the-humanities-2/>

Tamara Neal

Victoria University of Wellington

Staff News

We were delighted to welcome our new colleague Ziming Liu early this year. Many of you will have met her at the ASCS conference in Auckland, at which all of us from Vic took part. Ziming used to be a student here at VUW and is finishing her PhD at Yale University. It is great to have her back.

Currently, Hamish Cameron is in Edinburgh for part of his RSL as a Visiting Scholar at University of Edinburgh's History and Games Lab, where he gave the following talks:

- "Creating a Framework for Creating Rome: Tabletop Roleplaying Game Design and Knowledge Production" (University of Edinburgh, 24 Mar 2026)
- "Channel Anachronous Power: Exploring Tensions in Game and Research" (Manchester Metropolitan University, 26 Mar 2026)
- "Roman History Through the Lens of Lovecraft?" (Mediterranean Antiquity in the Work of H. P. Lovecraft online conference, 10 Apr 2026)
- "Making Choices with Historical Design Goals" (Festival of Heritage and History in Games, University of Bristol, 28 Apr 2026)

- Analogue Games and the Ancient & Pre-Modern Past (co-organised workshop at Durham University, 1 May 2026).

New Courses

This year, we are offering three new courses: *Party Like an Athenian* (an Honours course on the art and text of the symposium, primarily focused on 5th century Athens), *Alexander to Augustus* (a course on Hellenistic history and culture, including art, literature, philosophy) and *Gods, Magic and Curses* (a course on ancient magic and religion, primarily Greek).

Visitors

The 2026 Trundle Lecture will be delivered by Prof. Franco De Angelis from the University of British Columbia on 30 September. We also are looking forward to visits from Tatiana Bur (ANU), Hannah Sorscher (OU), Steven Kennedy (Harrow School), Georgia Pike-Rowney (ANU) and Alex McAuley (UoA).

Museum News

As to Museum news, a Roman portrait head of a woman in the Victoria University Classics Museum is being repatriated to Italy. The head dates to the 2nd century CE and was acquired in 2003. Ownership has been transferred to the Government of Italy. The Museum will retain it on long term loan for four years (extendable), and will then swap it for the loan of another object from Italy.

Postgraduate Completions

For postgraduate news, Alexander Davey completed his MA with Distinction, on the topic, 'Frequently and Fundamentally Misapprehended': The Scapegoat Rituals of Ancient Greece.' The supervisor was Diana Burton.

Engagement

Last but certainly not least, Jeff Tatum's research work was profiled in the (UK) Classical Association's *Classics for All* series and he was interviewed for a piece in *Live Science* centred round the counterfactual: what if Antony and Cleopatra had won?

Babette Puetz

Louise Hitchcock

Conferences

In August 24-26 at the European Archaeology Association Annual Meeting in Athens, Greece, Louise Hitchcock will be presenting, *“Surfing the Entangled Mediterranean Web: If Water is the Network, Bronze is the Surfboard,”* in session 220 ‘Across Seas and Theories: Aegean Interconnections with Anatolia, Cyprus, the Levant, and Egypt in the Second Millennium BCE,’ organized by Uroš Matić, University of Graz, Filip Franković, Heidelberg University, and Louis Dautais, Ghent University

In November 18-21, 2026 at the American Schools of Overseas Research Annual Meeting in Chicago, Louise Hitchcock will be presenting: 1. *“This land is your land, and this land is my land? Crowd Control, Order, and Ownership in the Code of Hammurabi, Freemasonry and the Social Contract Theory of John Locke,”* in the session ‘The Crowd in the Early Middle Ages,’ organized by Emily Miller and Leann Pace; and 2. co-authored with Zachary Thomas, *“Methodological Problems for Identifying Elites and Elite Material Culture in the Ancient Near East,”* in the session on ‘Negotiating Elites: Strategies of Elite Practices and Consumption as Reactions to Political Dynamics,’ organized by Reli Avisar.

Engagement

On 25 April 2026 Louise Hitchcock published the following op ed piece in Neos Kosmos [“Alliances under strain: What Ancient Athens, Lafayette, and NATO reveal about power and survival”](#).



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