



The Australasian Society for Classical Studies

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members,

It was lovely to see and catch up with colleagues and old friends, and to meet with new and emerging researchers, at the 46th ASCS conference in Canberra in February. Many thanks to our superb conference organizers, Tatiana Bur and Tom Geue for a wonderful conference: we appreciate how much work goes into such a smoothly run event!

As new president of the society, it is a pleasure to express my gratitude to my predecessor, Alison Griffith, who has worked tirelessly to promote our discipline and the interests of the departments and disciplines who teach it. Alison has also been very generous in her handover and has been kind enough to continue as rep for Canterbury.

Quite a few of the executive positions changed at the AGM in February. I want to express the society's gratitude to the retiring members of the executive, Sarah Lawrence (Vice President), Dan Osland (Hon. Secretary), Annabel Florence (Hon. Treasurer), Tyla Cascaes (Assistant Treasurer), Bob Cowan (*Antichthon* Editor), David Rafferty (Membership Secretary), Fenella Palanca and Brooke McCaw (PG reps), Stavros Paspalas (AAIA rep), Jeremy Armstrong (Auckland Rep) and Christopher Mallan (UWA Rep).

The 2025 executive have met twice this year. We have considered and returned a negative answer to Cambridge University Press regarding AI licensing for *Antichthon*. We will review this decision in twelve months. Thank you to all members who expressed a view on this issue through department/discipline and PG reps. The executive has also prepared a survey for all members which will be circulated imminently, which seeks members input on a number of issues pertaining to the 47th conference to be held at Auckland in February 2026; as well as on some aspects of ASCS and social media. Please do consult and respond when this is released.

Can I encourage departments to write in support of our Macquarie colleagues and protest the planned curriculum changes at their university? I have written to the academic senate and the DVCA on behalf of the society, and I encourage all Australasian departments to write as well. Lars circulated an email from Ray Lawrence on 30 April: this outlined the

situation, offered two examples of letters, and suggest key decision makers you could address.

Please do make sure your membership is current and do spread the word to new colleagues and postgraduates: memberships subscriptions constitute our main source of income and being up to date with yours is one of the most effective ways you can help us continue with the work of the society.

Paul Roche

President
May 2025

OBITUARIES

Arthur Pomeroy



Arthur Pomeroy was born in Gerymouth, on New Zealand's South Island, or, as they say on the South Island, and as Art was sometimes inclined to say, the Mainland. Still, as a teenager he left the Mainland, entering Victoria University as a first-year student in 1971. His interests were principally classical and his teachers were quick to recognize his promise: he received the Rankine Brown Prize, in those days the top prize in Classics at Victoria. His undergraduate studies concluded, Arthur was elected to a Fulbright Award and completed his Ph.D. at Cornell under the supervision of Fred Ahl. He then taught for two years at Penn before

returning to New Zealand and to Vic, where he moved through the ranks to become Professor of Classics and, after his retirement in 2019, Emeritus Professor of Classics.

Within the discipline of Classics, Arthur ranged widely. He was an expert in historiography – his first book, which appeared in 1991, was *The Appropriate Comment: Death Notices in the Ancient Historians*, a literary and social historical take on obituary notices in Greek and Roman historians. This was soon followed by a work of a rather different order, *Arius Didymus: Epitome of Stoic Ethics*, one of the first English translations of the (then) complete remains of Arius Didymus accompanied by a scholarly introduction and a valuable apparatus of explanatory notes. Papers and chapters by Art include literary studies on the Roman poets, especially Silius Italicus, on Latin prose, especially Tacitus, and a series of articles on Roman political and social history. He is

probably best known for his research on reception, especially (and before everyone else was doing it) the reception of the ancient world in film and television. His penetrating if quirky book, *Then It was Destroyed by the Volcano: The Ancient World in Film and Television* (2008), broke new ground not least because Arthur knew as much about the mechanics of screen writing and film production as he did about the ideological environments, in Italy, in the UK, in the USA, and even in New Zealand, into which the classics were adapted for the movies or for television. His *Companion to Ancient Greece and Rome on Screen* remains an essential reference. Art also, as everyone in this room will know, enjoyed attending conferences. For several years he was a regular fixture at the APA, as it was then known, the Pac-Rim, specialized conferences on Tacitus and Silius, and, of course, ASCS. His presentations exhibited the same broad interests as his publications. And they were embellished by his amazing collection of neckties.

But then, Art seemed to know everything – certainly many the things most of the rest of us didn't know, whether the subject was food or wine, the technicalities of chess – Art was all of his life one of New Zealand's top rated players and he was passionate in his support of the game – or unexpected topics like pop music in Nepal or unwatchable movies, especially the ones exhibiting cerebral artistry combined with something close to kitsch (his favourite combination). His playful nature – ludic, yes, but just downright fun – was always central to who he was. Consider his book, *Then it was Destroyed by the Volcano*. An allusion, obviously, but not all of us – not me anyway – immediately recognized a line from a 1984 *Playboy* magazine interview with Joan Collins, an interview and a mentality which, for Art, was a typical middle-brow specimen of film's misappropriating the classical past, in the case of Joan Collins for unkind purposes. But in a work of this kind, and against a modern grain, Art was never a scold. It was enough for him, like Horace's father, to observe. That was Art: a fine scholar, yes, and a learned one too – but always, and maybe more importantly, quirky, quick-witted, and fun to be around. And he loved cats, even when they devoured his furniture.

This richly-textured personality made him an excellent – and very popular – teacher, in seminars and lectures and on-site when he was leading the programme's Greek field school. He very much believed that his students should be put to work, and it was that in mind that he collaborated with Tim Parkin in assembling *Roman Social History: A Sourcebook*, still a widely used text in undergraduate courses. His teaching never failed to make an impression. At meetings of the Wellington Classical Association, one never fails to meet someone who can recall Art's invariable opening line in his first-year history class: *The world began a very long time ago. Roman history began rather later*. Exaggeration was not in Art's nature.

When Arthur received his diagnosis – Jeff and I were with him in the hospital at the time – he immediately, calmly, rationally, began sorting out his affairs – still making quips. And he remained determined not to let the reality that he was living his last months spoil his last months. There was never a hint of self-pity. While he could, he attended concerts and visited restaurants. When that became too tiring, he hosted wine-tastings and small parties, and he was constantly visited by his many friends whom he entertained with his characteristic buoyancy and impishness. Even as his illness wearied him, it never robbed him of his personality or his acuity. On the seventh of January, he lay down for a nap. And then he was gone.

For those close to him, the loss is immeasurable. For the discipline, a distinct voice in an array of subjects is interrupted: owing to his many publications, it will never be silenced. And as for ASCS, in which society Art was always an energetic participant – for several years he was a caring and scrupulous editor of *Antichthon* – we can only be grateful that we knew him so long as we did. We were very lucky to have had him as our colleague and our friend.

Andrew Stephenson

We are deeply saddened that one of our longtime colleagues of the University of Melbourne, Andrew Stephenson, passed away suddenly on 16 February 2025, at the age of 75. Andrew was the Honorary Treasurer of the Classical Association of Victoria from about 2004 to 2016, and then the web manager thereafter. He also worked for many years at the Baillieu Library at the University of Melbourne, and he was a mainstay in many reading groups and seminars in Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern Studies at UniMelb and beyond. He kept everyone's membership lists for decades, so he knew who everyone was! He was a pleasure to work with and a genuine friend to all.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS

Australian Catholic University

Staff News

At ACU, Sarah Gador-Whyte was promoted to Senior Research Fellow, and Jonathan Zecher and Michael Hanaghan were both promoted to Associate Professor.

Bruce Marshall, who retired in 1995 as Associate Professor in Classics and Ancient History from the University of New England, was appointed as an honorary Associate Professor at ACU.

Bruce Marshall has been helping the main office holders of the Numismatic Association of Australia to develop a twice-yearly Newsletter. The third issue was sent out in late March.

Museum News

In late November, as part of the Being Human Festival run by the Melbourne Public Humanities Initiative, Jonathan Zecher (ACU) joined conservators at the National Gallery of Victoria to lead a series of three workshops introducing the public to the Gospels of Theophanes (the "Melbourne Gospels").

Jonathan Zecher

Australian National University

Staff News

Estelle Strazdins was promoted to Senior Lecturer (Level C) and Caillan Davenport to Professor (Level E) from 1 January, 2025. Tatiana Bur was awarded the 2024 Vice-Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence (Early Career).

We are very pleased to announce two new appointments in the Centre for Classical Studies. Dr Marko Vitas will join us as a four-year Associate Lecturer in Classics, beginning in June 2025. Marko completed his BA and MA in Classics at the University of Belgrade and an MA in Latin at the University of Lund. He then went to Brown University, where he completed an MA in Assyriology and a PhD in Classics. Marko is currently a Loeb Classical Library Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris. His research examines cross-cultural interactions between Greece and Mesopotamia, including myth, religion, and kingship. Marko will join Prof. Caillan Davenport's Future Fellowship project on Ancient Mediterranean monarchy and teach a range of courses in Classical Studies, Ancient Greek, and Latin, for the Centre.

We also welcome Dr Dan Zhao, postdoctoral fellow on Tom Geue's Future Fellowship project 'The Elephant in the Study: Working Latin Literature for the Enslaved'. Dan comes to us from a recent PhD at the University of Cambridge, where he wrote an excellent thesis on the politicisation of manumission and freedmen in the late Roman republic and early principate. Dan is splitting his time for the year he has on ANU deck, turning his thesis into his first monograph, and making wonderful contributions to the Future Fellowship project, with a focus on what the legal corpus has to tell us about enslaved literary secretaries. The ANU Centre for Classical Studies is very excited to have him join us for a full year!

Staff Activity

Elizabeth Minchin gave a paper, 'On the Complexities of Empathy: Three Case Studies from the Homeric *Odyssey*', at a Table ronde on empathy at the University of Lausanne in January 2025.

Meaghan McEvoy was recently awarded a Loeb Classical Library Foundation Fellowship from Harvard University for the year 2025-2026, to pursue a research project on the Valentinian dynasty and late Roman politics, and to host a conference at ANU on this topic.

Estelle Strazdins delivered the following papers internationally: a) 'Temporality and Rhetorical Materiality', at the *Time and Temporality in Imperial Greek Rhetoric Workshop*, held at the Faculty of Classics of the University of Cambridge on April 4–5, 2025; b) 'Herodes Atticus: Hero of Marathon?', at the *Erode Attico Imitatio Adriani Conference* at the Santuario di Ercole Vincitore in Tivoli, Italy on December 12–13, 2024, c) 'Herodes Atticus – the Hero of Marathon?' for the *Online Lectures on Roman Greece Initiative* run by Durham University and Sichuan University on August 29, 2024. In addition, Strazdins organised a National Interdisciplinary Symposium on the topic of 'Liquid Antiquities, Liquid Mobilities', held at the Australian National University on October 29, 2024.

Simona Martorana organised the following international conference panel: "New Approaches to the Broken Body-as-Text of Imperial Latin Literature: Beyond Metapoetics", *Embodied Histories: Cultural History of, in, and through the Human Body*, Potsdam, 4-6 September. Simona herself presented a paper entitled "Bodies, Disease, and Metamorphosis: Corporeal and Ontological Fluidity in Ovid's Plague of Aegina (*Met.* 7)" in this panel. Simona also presented "Riscritture 'al femminile': Variazioni sul mito nelle *Eroidi* di Ovidio", *Latina Didaxis XXXVII* (Variazioni sul mito: Il mito e le sue varianti), Genoa, 11-12 April

Visitors

Dr Daniel Hanigan (University of Cambridge) was an RSHA Visitor in Classics for two weeks in October 2024 in the Centre for Classical Studies, where he took part in the Liquid Antiquities Symposium and delivered a Research Seminar in the CCS seminar series.

We look forward to having Professor Daryn Lehoux (Queen's University) visit us for a week in May during which time he will deliver a seminar entitled 'Corruption, Correction, and Data Protection in Ancient Scientific Texts'.

Dr Bradley Jordan (Oslo) will be an ANU Hansen Scandinavian Friendship Fund Visiting Fellow in the Centre for Classical Studies from 22 May - 14 June. He will be co-convening a colloquium with Professor Caillan Davenport on 'How Political Transformations Affect Local Government: The Case of Ancient Rome', with guest speakers Dr Jessica McKenzie (MQ), Dr Kit Morrell (UQ), and Dr David Rafferty (Adelaide).

We will have the great pleasure of hosting various visiting fellows in the Centre throughout the year: Dr Andrea Navarro Noguera (Valencia) will be with us from July to October, Dr Alina Kozlovski (UNE) will join us for a week in August, Dr Alexander Free (LMU) will join us for 3 weeks in September. Finally, we also look forward to hosting A/Prof Steven Green (Yale-NUS) at the end of October.

Grants

Tatiana Bur and Estelle Strazdins have been awarded an ARC Discovery Project Grant worth \$378,678 to research "Night Vision in the Late Ancient Mediterranean". The grant is led by the ACU and Tatiana and Estelle are part of a superb team consisting of Associate Professor Kylie Crabbe; Dr Sarah Gador-Whyte; Dr Dawn LaValle Norman; Associate Professor Lisa Bailey; and Associate Professor Leslie Dossey.

Postgraduate Completions

Dr Anushka Dhanapala, 'Classical Reception in Three Modern Sri Lankan Anglophone Female Poets' (Principal supervisor: Prof. Caillan Davenport).

Conferences

We had the great pleasure of hosting the 46th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for Classical Studies from February 2nd-5th 2025. The conference ran six parallel sessions of papers across three days (amounting to some 120 presentations) and had over 270 registered attendees! We were treated to three fantastic keynote lectures by international scholars: Professor James Ker from the University of Pennsylvania,

Professor Denis Feeney from Princeton University, as well as Professor Caitie Barrett from Cornell University who delivered the Australian Academy of the Humanities Trendall Lecture. Thanks to all those who attended and helped make the conference a great success.

New Books

We warmly congratulate Simona Martorana on the publication of her newest book: *Il Romulus della Recensio Gallicana* (Florence: Sismel (Outcome, 2024)).

Museum, Outreach and Engagement

The National Museum of Australia's new Pompeii exhibition has meant that the ANU Classics Museum has had an unprecedented number of school groups from NSW come through which has been fantastic. Caillan Davenport took part in a panel discussion at the Italian Embassy hosted by Virginia Trioli on 'Unearthing Pompeii's Legacy' on March 6. He was a featured guest in the 'Spotlight Conversation' on the graffiti of Pompeii with NMA Curator Dr Lily Withycombe on March 27, an event which sold out the NMA's Visions Theatre.

Caillan Davenport was 'in conversation' with Bettany Hughes on March 7 as part of the ANU/Canberra Times 'Meet the Author' series. They spoke about her new book, 'The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World', before an audience of more than 400 in ANU's Kambri Cultural Centre.

Caillan Davenport has written a 'Guide to the Classics' article for 'The Conversation' about Cicero's 'On Old Age': <https://theconversation.com/guide-to-the-classics-written-more-than-2000-years-ago-ciceros-on-old-age-debunks-stereotypes-that-persist-today-244173>. Caillan's work on ancient Mediterranean monarchy and its legacy was recently profiled in the ANU Reporter: <https://reporter.anu.edu.au/all-stories/long-live-the-king-why-monarchy-is-still-popular-in-the-21st-century>. Caillan was also interviewed on WIN News on March 18 about the competition to redesign Australia's \$5 note, with the winning design to replace the monarch's portrait.

Tatiana Bur talked about her research on ancient technology on the Australasian Humour Network's research podcast 'Cutting Edge':

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/0hQ6ybsh4NIHGcCDUeSPma?si=4zVj-SmTGicvCGQjI1vQ&nd=1&dlsi=0aec6ae241714566>

Tatiana Bur

Macquarie University

Staff News

Living Macquarie treasure Prof. Peter Keegan will bring to an end a 40-year teaching career in secondary and tertiary education in mid-2025. Peter transitioned (inspired by Tom Hillard) from a career teaching in High School via a BA and then PhD (awarded 2003) from Macquarie University. He has since enjoyed a 20-year career here, beginning with a Macquarie University Research Fellowship (2005–08) and continuing through a lectureship and a sequence of promotions within the Department of Ancient History.

Peter was seconded to the position of Associate Dean Learning and Teaching in the Faculty of Arts (2015–21) and was subsequently promoted to Associate Professor (2016) and Professor (2021) in Ancient History. He then returned to his Department (since 2025 Discipline area), now History and Archaeology, taking on further leadership roles.

Among numerous research contributions it is important to note Peter's three monographs: *Roles for Men and Women in Roman Epigraphic Culture and Beyond: Gender, Social Identity and Cultural Practice in Private Latin Inscriptions and the Literary Record* (Archaeopress, 2014), *Graffiti in Antiquity* (Routledge, Taylor and Francis, 2014), and *Livy's Women: Crisis, Resolution, and the Female in Rome's Foundation History* (Routledge, Taylor and Francis, 2021). He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (UK) and a Fellow of the Royal Society of New South Wales (Australia).

In the midst of all these activities and achievements Peter has also provided sterling service to ASCS itself as PG representative (1998–2003) and later MQ representative (2007–15).

Staff and Student Activity

Trevor Evans delivered three presentations in Melbourne in April:

- an HDR seminar at Monash University, 'Unlocking the Potential of Neglected Sources for Understanding Ancient Greek' (16 April)
- the third annual Egyptology Society of Victoria (ESV) and Classical Association of Victoria (CAV) Joint Lecture on Ptolemaic, Roman, and Byzantine Greek, 'Bad Greek and Bad Behaviour in Early Ptolemaic Egypt' (16 April)
- an AWS Seminar at the University of Melbourne, 'Writing Dictionaries, Easier Said than Done: Reflections on the Practice of Greek and Latin Lexicography' (17 April).

Ray Laurence was elected in 2025 as first ASCS Diversity Officer.

Susan Lupack has been on the Outside Studies Program (OSP) this session conducting research on the 1930s excavations at the Sanctuary of Hera at Perachora. She has been working in Athens at the National Archaeological Museum of Greece (with a permit granted by the Greek Ministry of Culture) and in the archives of the British School at Athens and the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (as a Visiting Senior Associate). Her work has been facilitated by the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens, where she has been appointed as AAIA Visiting Scholar; while there she presented an Open Lecture, 'Offerings for the Wanax: Mycenaean Worship of an Ancestral Hero-King', and gave a tour of the significant finds of the Griffin Warrior exhibit, which will travel next to the Getty Museum (Susan also has a chapter on Mycenaean religion in the volume for this exhibit, to appear in June).

In June-July 2025 Susan will be directing a study season of the Perachora Peninsula Archaeological Project with an international team after three years of intensive surface survey and digital archaeological applications, including Lidar. Warm thanks are due to Dr Janet Gale for funding this project.

In January 2025, Susan delivered a talk at the Annual Meetings of the American Institute of Archaeology titled, 'Perachora Peninsula Archaeological Project 2024: The Sanctuary

of Hera and the Inhabited Landscape of the Perachora Peninsula'. In August 2024 she presented research on her Perachora Archaeological Project at the European Association of Archaeologists Meetings, 'Building on Archaeology of the 1930s and 1960s: Reinvestigating the Town above the Sanctuary of Hera, Perachora'.

In September 2024 Paul McKechnie gave a paper at the Third International Classics Conference, 'Classics beyond Borders', in Accra, Ghana, with the title 'Ergamenes: Greek Philosophy from the Fourth to the Sixth Cataracts of the Nile'.

Nicholas Kazamias (primary supervisor, Susan Lupack) was awarded the Polymnia and Aimilia Kallinikos Scholarship by the Australian Archaeological Institute in Athens to conduct research in Greece for his doctoral thesis, 'An Analysis of Mycenaean Economic and Political Activity in Lesvos and the Northeast Aegean during the Late Bronze Age (c. 1600–1100 BC)'.

Sarah Fioretti (MRes 2024, primary supervisor, Susan Lupack), is overseas conducting research in Rome having been awarded the Macquarie Gale British School at Rome Scholarship. She has been invited to excavate in Puglia with Prof. Francesco Iacono, with whom she may embark on doctoral studies later this year.

Visitors

Prof. Mark Janse (University of Cambridge, Ghent University, and Honorary Consul of Greece to the Flemish Region) will be a keynote speaker at the 'Diversity, Change, and the Individual in Postclassical Greek (SHG25)' conference, 27–29 August 2025.

A/Prof. Clare Rowan (University of Warwick), will visit Macquarie University and Newcastle University in early June 2025 for two weeks as a guest of the workshop funded by ARC DP240100112, 'Images of Power in the Roman Empire: Mass Media and the Cult of Emperors' (Convenors: Ryan Strickler and Bronwen Neil).

Dr David Woods (Cork University) will be a contributor and the keynote at AABS in 7-8 June, University of Newcastle.

Grants

DP250102285 'Translation and Transformation in Late Antiquity' (2025–27). CIs Michael Hanaghan (ACU), Stephen Carlson (ACU), Bronwen Neil (MQ) and Andrew Cain (University of Colorado). \$214,000.

Postgraduate Completions

The following is a partial list (to be updated in the second 2024 Newsletter):

Master of Research

Evelyn Ashley, 'Translation of Hebrew Prepositions into Greek in Septuagint Ruth' (2025)

Principal supervisor: Trevor Evans

Doctor of Philosophy

Katherine Shead, 'A Synchronic and Diachronic Analysis of Child Burial in Southern Mesopotamia from the Ei to Ur III Periods' (2025)

Principal supervisor: Ronika Power

Conferences

The Australasian Association for Byzantine Studies conference 'Images of Power in Byzantium', 7-8 June 2025, University of Newcastle. Convenors: Ryan Strickler and the AABS committee.

The 'Diversity, Change, and the Individual in Postclassical Greek (SHG25)' conference, 27-29 August 2025 (the second in a series offered by the international 'Septuagint within the History of Greek' Research Network), Chau Chak Wing Museum, Sydney. Convenors: Mark Matic, Samuel Wessels, and Trevor Evans.

Other items of interest to ASCS members

After a short existence Macquarie's Department of History and Archaeology has been transformed in 2025 into a 'Discipline' within the new School of Humanities as part of a large-scale restructure within the Faculty of Arts. Our Chair of Discipline is A/Prof. Matthew Bailey.

Trevor Evans

Massey University

Staff Activity

Gina Salapata presented a paper entitled 'Did the ancient Greeks eat souvlaki and Greek salad?' at the 2024 Gastronomy Symposium (23 Nov 2024, Napier, NZ): <https://www.massey.ac.nz/about/news/did-the-ancient-greeks-eat-souvlaki-and-greek-salad/> (Opinion piece, 17 Dec 2024).

Gina was interviewed on this topic by RadioNZ ('Afternoons with Jesse Mulligan') (18 Dec 2024): <https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/afternoons/audio/2018968936/eat-like-an-ancient-greek> and by Joelle Thomson in her blog: 'An ancient Greek Inspired Meal' (20 Feb 2025): <https://www.joellethomson.com/blog/post/140945/greek-to-me/>.

James Richardson

Monash University

The Centre for Ancient Cultures has been renamed, and is now the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History. This aligns with the name of our major (Archaeology and Ancient History). The name change led to some e-mails going awry earlier in the year (apologies if so), but everything otherwise remains as before.

From 2024, Yasmin Haskell has joined the History Department as the UNESCO Chair in Intercultural and Inter-religious Relations, and has already proven a delightful addition to the Classical languages community at Monash.

We are also excited to welcome Saskia Moorrees, who joins us as Assistant Lecturer (Education Focus). Saskia is currently teaching into some of our most popular classes, while continuing her research on ancient magic and documentary texts.

Welcome to Yasmin and Saskia!

Staff Activity

Colin Hope and Gillian Bowen conducted the final season of study of their ARC-funded project on the cult of the god Seth in the Dakhleh Oasis, Egypt from late November to mid-December 2024. As security clearance for excavation once again was not received, and without explanation, in the first week they focused upon recording further examples of both the survival and erasure of the god's name upon sculptures, primarily of rulers, and temple walls. The former were examined in the Egyptian Museum Cairo, the Grand Egyptian Museum and Luxor Museum, the latter in the temples of Luxor, Medinet Habu, the Ramesseum and Qurneh. Thereafter, in Dakhleh itself, the final recording of a range of small finds was undertaken and samples for radiocarbon dating were taken from matrices from various locations at the site of Mut al-Kharab where the the veneration of the god took place for at least 2,000 years, and where activity otherwise covers about 4,000 years until the Mamluk era.

Andrew Connor was elected as the Honorary President of the Classical Association of Victoria at the 2024 Annual General Meeting in October, where he coincidentally also delivered the 2024 H.W. "Barney" Allen Memorial Lecture, on the topic of "Reading papyri, writing Roman history."

We are pleased to note that Saskia Moorrees was named the Faculty of Arts recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Commendation for Thesis Excellence for her MA thesis, "Manipulative actions and meaning in Greco-Roman Ritual Analogy." Well done, Saskia!

Visitors

Trevor Evans (Macquarie) visited this April, giving a seminar for HDR and Honours students, as well as the third Egyptology Society of Victoria – Classical Association of Victoria Annual Joint Lecture on Ptolemaic, Roman, and Byzantine Egypt, the latter on the topic of 'Bad Greek and Bad Behaviour in Early Ptolemaic Egypt,' looking at Egyptians' use of Greek in the Zenon papyri.

Postgraduate Completions

Erin Casey completed her MA, with a thesis titled "Object and Text: (Con)textualising Urban Amarna." Erin was supervised by Anna Stevens and Andrew Connor.

New Books

G. E. Bowen., C. A. Hope, O. E. Kaper and P. N. Kucera (eds.), 2024, *The Oasis Papers 7: Studies on Late Roman to Modern Egypt in Honour of Fred Leemhuis* (Oxford, UK: Archaeopress Publishing Ltd, 2024).

Andrew Connor

University of Adelaide

Staff News

For some time now the discipline of Classics and Ancient History has been part of the Department of Historical and Classical Studies, which also included several archaeologists (one Classical archaeologist and one Future Fellow in Australian archaeology plus a). Last year a further appointment was made in Aboriginal art and public engagement, Prof. John Carty, who came to us from the SA Museum. *De facto* we now became Historical (6) and Classical Studies (3) with Curatorial and Museum Studies (3).

Next, after the departure of two colleagues in history (Prof. R. Ankeny, Prof. K. Barclay), the Department was allowed to hire one new Level E scholar, which led to the appointment of Professor Stuart Ward (PhD Sydney), who hails from Brisbane but joins us from the Saxo Institute for History, Archaeology, Ethnology and Classics at the University of Copenhagen (Denmark). Stuart is a world-renowned expert in the history of settler colonialism and the global legacies of decolonization in the twentieth century. He will formally join us after his time at Harvard University, where he will hold a prestigious Visiting Chair during 2025-26. Once he arrives back in Adelaide, Stuart will also take up the position of Head of School of Humanities in the new University (AU) from mid 2026.

The departure of our expert in Russian and Eastern European history, Dr Gareth Pritchard (he moved back to the UK), made another replacement necessary. Gareth's courses (History of War; The Making of the Britain) are now being taught by Dr Philip Caudrey, who joined us for the year from the University of Tasmania (0.5 fixed term contract). In addition, we had an additional appointment of a senior lecturer in Museum and Curatorial Studies: Dr Cherrie de Leiuen (Lecturer C, fixed term) to teach a variety of courses in her area of expertise (archaeology, cultural heritage, repatriation, GLAM).

Dr David Rafferty's DECRA funding expired in February this year and he recently managed to finalise his monograph resulting from his DECRA project "How Republics Die: Rome's Democratic Breakdown in the First Century BCE" (for the title of the book see item 9 below). Thanks to the efforts of yours truly and the support of the Head of School, he was offered a fixed term 0.5 lecturer role this year to assist in teaching (taking on parts of Han Baltussen's load while he served as Head, designed new course work and composed an ARC-Discovery grant) David also assists in the new course design (for 2026) with a completely revised program). We hope to build on this so we can hold on to him for longer.

Prof. Han Baltussen is currently serving as the Acting Head of Department for the duration of the semester (January-July).

While Dr Jacqueline Clarke retired last year, we are fortunate that she has been found willing to teach into our Mythology course (previously her course). She is now also active as Honorary Secretary of ASCS.

The length of this section reflects the fluidity and ongoing changes of our situation under the shadow of the merger. And while the added appointments may look encouraging, they are clearly not permanent solutions to our staffing needs.

Staff Activity

Our Visiting Research Fellow, Associate Professor Em. Peter Davis, has completed the book manuscript of his commentary on Ovid's *Heroides* (selection of the letters) and submitted it to the Oxford University Press for review. We are once again in awe of his productivity which continues to yield such high-quality work that fills genuine gaps in the scholarship.

New Courses

The merger of the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia into a new legal entity to be called "Adelaide University" (AU) has gathered steam but has also created much uncertainty. Given that (1) the radical new merger plans will reduce majors to 8 courses, and (2) student numbers are the only determining factor for majors, the new major will consist of four archaeology courses and four classics courses, with the intention of integrating materials from the first into courses of the latter. The following four courses are being designed for level 1 and 2 (level 3 will come later): Y1 The Greek and Roman World; Y2 Alexander the Great and his Globalised World; Egyptian and Greek Myths; Y3 Democracy and its Enemies in the Greek and Roman World.

The result of this numbers strategy is that the staffing of Classics is less certain than we would like. I want to acknowledge the generous offers of support from our colleagues, esp. Frederik Vervaeke, Melbourne and our former ASCS president Alison Griffith, who pleaded with our Executive Dean for continuing support of the discipline. We express our gratitude. The impact of such pleas has made decision makers aware of the wider support we have and the need for building on the achievements of the discipline. But the current leaders (both scientists) are building a university for the future and seem to want to forget about the past.

From 2026, disciplines become 'units' with academic leads and will belong to Schools within Colleges led by . Staff are engaged in creating a new program for AU and will be teaching the new level 1 courses in 2026 as well as the level 2 and 3 courses of the old program.

On the history of University and the merger:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adelaide_University

Visitors

Our incoming Professor of Global History, Stuart Ward (formally joining us in June but soon holding a prestigious 12-month Visiting Chair of Australian History at Harvard University), gave a guest lecture in the first-year History course “World Empires”, contributed to the development of one of AU’s History major courses, and delivered a fascinating Research Seminar paper entitled “Making Global Imaginaries” which gave a preview of his current book project on Charles W. Dilke (1843-1911) who made an American ‘Grand Tour’ in the 19th century and wrote a great number of engrossing accounts of his experience.

Grant Success

After passing the first round, Han Baltussen’s ARC-DP was shortlisted for the second round in the new two-stage process and submitted to deadline (April 16). His was 1 of 4 projects to reach round 2 in the School of Humanities. Outcome expected in October.

Postgraduate Completions

Greg Macpherson has submitted his Masters thesis entitled *Medicine and Magic: The dynamics of science and faith in drug development in antiquity*. Principal supervisor: Prof. Han Baltussen; second supervisor: Dr Ian Musgrave (Dept. of Pharmacology).

Conferences

AMPHORAE conference: Our Postgraduate cohort is busy preparing for the August Postgraduate Conference in Adelaide. Internal funding will support various activities. We look forward to a lively and stimulating couple of days. For more details see <https://amphorae-conference.weebly.com/>

New Books

We are pleased to report two new books in the Department:

Marguerite Johnson and Han Baltussen (eds), [*A Cultural History of Love in Antiquity*](#) (Bloomsbury, London; 2025). [Vol. 1 of *A Cultural History of Love (from antiquity to the 21st c.)*, 6 volumes, General Editor Katie Barclay. ISBN 9781350119833

Frederik Juliaan Vervaet, David Rafferty, Christopher J. Dart (eds) [*How Republics Die: Creeping Authoritarianism in Ancient Rome and Beyond*](#) (De Gruyter-Brill 2025).

Han Baltussen

University of Auckland

Staff News

Jeremy Armstrong was promoted to Professor and Maxine Lewis was promoted to Senior Lecturer over the Bar. Jeremy Armstrong is on research leave in semester one 2025. Maxine Lewis will be on research leave in semester two 2025.

New Courses

In semester two 2025 Alex McAuley will be teaching a new course: ANCIENT 104: The World of Cleopatra.

Visitors

Prof. Hans Beck, March 2025

Prof. Monica Cyrino, August 2025

Postgraduate Completions

Lisa Grange, *Imperial Messaging: Reconsidering the Politics of Architecture of Nero's Domus Aurea and the Palace of Domitian* (MA thesis supervised by Jeremy Armstrong)

Saskia Herren, *Mater et Monstrum: Roman Literary Representations of Medea from Republic to Empire* (MA thesis, supervised by Maxine Lewis)

Conferences

'War and Society Across the Middle (and Late) Republic' workshop (30 October 2024).

ASCS47 will be held in February 2026.

New Books

Armstrong, J., A. Pomeroy, and D. Rosenbloom (eds), *Money, Warfare and Power in the Ancient World: Studies in Honour of Matthew Freeman Trundle* (London: Bloomsbury, 2024).

Lisa Bailey

University of Canterbury

The Classics department is holding steady for the moment, for which we are grateful. However, all New Zealand universities are waiting for a government announcement of a complete restructuring of funding for the tertiary sector, expected in May. There is concern about future funding for humanities and social sciences.

The Classics Department is very proud to leap into the Top 150 Classics Departments in the QS rankings.

Staffing remains the same. Enrica Sciarrino will be on sabbatical for semester 2.

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.

The department was delighted to host Prof. Elizabeth Minchin in early April to give a well-received public talk "A Masterclass in Storytelling: Sampling some Storytelling Strategies

in the Homeric Odyssey.” Prof. Minchin also taught classes in Sex, Love and Gender in the Ancient World and introductory Greek and Latin. She is also working with Gary Morrison and Alison Griffith to publish her innovative approach to teaching Greek and Latin in the textbook *Traditional Grammar*.

Teaching Awards

The Department is very proud of three members winning major teaching awards in 2024. Alison Griffith won the University of Canterbury teaching medal, and Terri Elder and Emily Rosevear, Teece Museum curators, won the Hapori Community of Practice award for their efforts in supporting educational and career opportunities for UC students, school students, and members of the wider community.

Teece Museum

The Teece Museum remained a hive of activity, starting with welcoming well over 105, 714 visitors. This milestone was celebrated with a well-attended courtyard fiesta with pizza, gelato and music provided by UC music performance students. The Teece hosted 38 community tours and events during 2024. We are grateful to our 23 student volunteers and gallery hosts for assisting with these visits.

Teece team also secured a grant of \$3500 to produce Careers in Heritage in collaboration with Tūranga Christchurch City Library and the Christchurch City Council.

Assistant Curator Emily Rosevear was invited to speak in Dresden at the the ICOM-UMAC and Universeum joint conference ‘Shaping Transformation: University Collections in a Changing World.’

The Teece Museum was also pleased to host five PACE internships:

Aidan Keys (BA Anthropology and History)

Aidan Keys researched and catalogued objects related to personal adornment from the Logie and Canterbury Museum collections for a mini-exhibition over the 2024-2025 summer “Adornment in the Ancient World”.

Eleanor O’Neill (PGDipCuratorship)

Eleanor O’Neill researched animal figures and figurines in the Canterbury Museum Collection to create a resource for school teachers.

Jackson Head (BAHons in Classics)

Jackson Head put his Greek language to use by identifying the function of a wooden mummy tag in the Canterbury Museum Collection (misidentified as a plaque) and translated the Greek dipinto on it.

Isabella Breese (BAHons in Classics)

Isabella Breese, currently studying towards a PGDipTchLn in secondary teaching, designed a classical reception game for secondary students about mythological subjects in modern popular culture.

Isobel France (BA in Classics)

Isobel engaged in preliminary research aimed at designing a walking tour of heritage buildings in Christchurch with neo-classical elements.

Six students were enrolled in the NZ Certificate in Museum Practice, with two completing it by the end of the year.

Alison Griffith

University of Melbourne

Staff News

We were very pleased at the start of this year by the conversion of a previously casual staff member to a permanent role as Lecturer A at the University of Melbourne: namely, Gaetana Pellegrini, who has lectured and tutored extensively in Ancient Greek and Latin, particularly at Beginners' level.

Another very exciting appointment was that of Julia Pelosi-Thorpe, who completed her MA at Melbourne in 2019 with a dissertation on the reception of Ovid's *Heroides*, and who was appointed this year to the Seymour lectureship at Ormond College, Melbourne, where she contributes substantially to College teaching programs, including Latin tutoring.

A very welcome promotion in our school was that of Brent Davis to Associate Professor (level D). Brent's outstanding work in the field of early Aegean scripts was recognized in 2019 with the award of the Michael Ventris award for Mycenaean Studies.

Staff Activity

In Rome in November 2024, Emeritus Professor Ronald Ridley gave a public lecture (also broadcast) at the British School on 'The great Livy delusion, 1924'.

In March 2025 our fellow Dr Peter Mountford was honoured at the annual teachers' conference of the Classical Association of Victoria with life membership of the Association, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the teaching of classics in Victoria, especially Latin.

In May 2025 Dr Tamara Lewit will be presenting on "Pickled lettuce, boiled pigeon, and amber wine: eating like a Roman", to celebrate National Archaeology Week, co-presented by The University of Melbourne, The Hellenic Museum, and CO.AS.IT. Museo Italiano.

Visitors

Professor Daryn Lehoux (Queen's University, Canada) is our academic visitor in semester 1 2025. He opened our Ancient World Seminar series in March this year with a presentation on his work on: *Corruption, Correction, and Data Protection in Ancient Scientific Texts*.

We were also privileged to host Professor Pierre Destrée from the University of Louvain (Belgium), who spoke to our series on his new work on Aristotle.

Associate Professor Trevor Evans from Macquarie was another welcome guest; Trevor visited us in April to lecture in the Ancient World Seminar series on Greek and Latin lexicography.

Forthcoming guest presentations (correct at the time of compilation) include a lecture by Professor Rubina Raja from Aarhus University (Denmark), who will present in our seminar series on: *Contextualising Portraiture in Palmyra*, and one from our colleague Associate Professor Michael Hanaghan from the ACU, who will present on his work on Late Antiquity.

In September 2025 we are looking forward to the visit from the AAIA guest speaker, Professor Alexander Mazarakis Ainian from the University of Thessaly. Professor Mazarakis Ainian will present in the Ancient World Seminar series on “The First Western Greeks”, and the following evening (September 23) is scheduled to give a public lecture at Melbourne on “The Wonders of Ancient Kythnos.”

Finally, we are pleased to announce that Céline Debourse (Harvard University) will deliver the inaugural Wright Lecture in Ancient Near Eastern Studies in early November 2025.

Postgraduate Completion

Nathan Avis PhD. *A Mirror for Pharaohs: Hecataeus of Abdera and His Egyptian Utopia*, Principal Supervisor: Hyun Jin Kim.

Eli Farrow, MA (Classics) *The galli: a case study in ancient transgender identity*. Principal Supervisor: K.O. Chong-Gossard. Co-supervisor: Roslynne Bell.

Other items of interest

In November 2024 Sarah Corrigan convened a highly successful Palaeography Day. Speakers included Dr Corrigan, Dr Andrew Turner, and Dr Edward Jeremiah, while we also had a specialist calligrapher from the School’s administrative staff (Lou Benson) who doubles as an office manager.

On 15 March 2025 members of the department took part in an event in the city to mark the Ides of March – K.O. Chong-Gossard spoke on ancient Senecan drama, and Tim Parkin read (with help from members of the audience) scenes from Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar*.

Andrew Turner

University of Newcastle

Staff Changes

High demand in the discipline has justified the appointment of two fixed term lecturer positions:

Associate Lecturer Dr. Connie Skibinski (.5) has been appointed to convene two courses and teach tutorials.

Ms. Nicole Kimball, Associate Lecturer (.2) has been appointed as a tutor and marker.

Dr. Tanika Koosmen has left the university to devote her attention to her appointment at Macquarie University. Her contributions to the program over the past three years are greatly appreciated and we wish her every success!

Visitors

On 11 April 2025 Dr. Sarah Lawrence (UNE) delivered a seminar titled “Is Valerius Maximus (fl. ca 30 CE) Revolting? The Political Stance of the Facta et Dicta” for our History@UoN Seminar Series.

New Courses

While there were no new courses on offer this semester, Dr. Ryan Strickler convened Newcastle’s first fully online unit, a version of the popular AHIS3221: Early Roman Empire: From AD 14 to 235. This is part of a broader outreach campaign to distance learners.

Newcastle students have also enrolled in Latin units at UNE as part of a partnership to ensure students have access to ancient languages.

5 Newcastle Students also joined students from the University of Queensland on their Greece Study Tour as part of a pilot program to create in house study tours. This program was a success and resulted in a substantial planning grant (see below).

Significant Activity

Dr. Ryan Strickler was awarded an internal Global Experiences Study Tour Planning grant worth \$8000 to plan and deliver an ancient history focused study tour. This money will be used towards a study tour in Italy in December 2025.

The University of Newcastle will host a Workshop titled “Images of Power in The Roman Empire” on 6 June, and the Biannual Australasian Association for Byzantine Studies Conference on 7-8 June. Registration is now open for the AABS conference and we invite anyone who is keen to attend!

Ryan Strickler

University of Otago

Staff news

We have hired in 2024 a 2-year part-time Teaching Fellow Dr Giovanni Piccolo (PhD Melbourne) to run our online Greek and Latin curriculum until 2026. Dr Piccolo is currently managing this curriculum remotely and continues to reside in Melbourne.

Dr Arlene Allan, who has been a fixture in Classics at the University of Otago since 2004, will retire at the end of Semester 1, 2025. The Programme and the wider School of Arts community are extremely grateful for her contributions to the research environment and student learning over these two decades of service.

Dr Daniel Osland was promoted to Associate Professor effective 1 February 2025, and he was appointed Head of Classics for a term of three years.

Staff activity

Dr Daniel Osland had a semester of research and study leave in 2024, during which he conducted a University of Otago Research Grant funded excavation and fieldschool project, which included 14 University of Otago undergraduates, postgraduates, and graduates.

Assoc. Prof. Gwynnaeth McIntyre will have a semester of Research and Study Leave in 2025, during which she will conduct research and lectures at institutions in the UK and Europe

As part of a collaboration with Victoria University Wellington, the University of Otago Classics Programme has implemented an online Greek and Latin curriculum, which in 2025 covers the first year of each language. From 2026 this programme is expected to include both languages up through set-book reading level.

Joel Gordon presented two conference papers, "Hercules' video game debut(s)? How technology defeated antiquity's mightiest hero" and (with M. Paprocki) "'Ars deicidium': God-killing objects in modern audiovisual receptions of Greek mythology" at the *Antiquity in Media Studies (AIMS) Virtual Conference: Technology and Technē in Receptions of the Ancient World*.

Gwynnaeth McIntyre presented the paper "Don't look a gift horse (statue) in the mouth: Equestrian statues on Caligula's coinage" at the *2024 Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) & Society for Classical Studies (SCS) Joint Annual Meeting* in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Jaymie Orchard presented the paper "It's all how you spin it: Marcus Fulvius Nobilior's display of plunder" at the *2024 Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) & Society for Classical Studies (SCS) Joint Annual Meeting* in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Matt Watts presented the paper "Alexander of the Metz Epitome: Some Thematic Considerations" at the *9th International Alexander the Great Symposium: Repercussions of Violence Under Alexander and the Successors* in Omaha, Nebraska, USA

Conferences

Dr Katie Marcar, Dr Joel Gordon, and Dr Arlene Allan organized a conference at the University of Otago in July 2024: "Worlds Above & Below: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Supernatural Worlds in Classics, Judaism, and Early Christianity" (in Dunedin and online via Zoom)

Dan Osland

University of Queensland

Dr Amelia Brown formally resigned from UQ several months ago. She is now an honorary staff-member at Macquarie University and will be spending most of her time as an

independent scholar in Europe. UQ Classics and Ancient History is hopeful about there being a search for a replacement of her during 2nd semester 2025.

Dr Kit Morrell recently spoke at the conference, 'Building Narratives of Roman Power: Past and Present', which took place at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend (Indiana); and at the in-person conference, 'The Roman Republic and the 70s BCE: A Period of Uncertainty and Crises', which was run online by Royal Holloway University of London. Prof. Marguerite Johnson – our honorary professor at UQ – recently spoke at the conference, 'Unrecorded Lives: A History of Lesbian Desires in Greece', which was convened by the Historical Archive of the University of Athens. Prof. Johnson continues to co-convene an online series, 'The Last Tuesday Society', with the Viktor Wynd Museum of Curiosities, Fine Art and Unnatural History (United Kingdom).

David Pritchard

University of Sydney

Staff changes

Ian Gardiner is retiring in May 2025. He has been conferred an Emeritus title: Professor Iain Gardner FAHA Professor of the History of Religions

Staff Activity

Kathryn Welch attended the *Building Narratives of Roman Power, Past and Present* Conference at Notre Dame University Indiana 2-4 April 2025 and spoke on the topic "Pirates or Warlords: Ancient and Modern Strategies of Delegitimisation"

Peter Wilson was an invited speaker to Paris Nanterre University, 8th November 2024, within the CNRS-funded research project 'Représenter la performance'. On the 25-26 November 2024, Peter co-convened a Workshop on Pindar's Fragments – 'Sentieri Pindarici / Pindaric Paths' – at the Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, with Prof. Giovan Battista D'Alessio.

Visitors

Professor Leslie Kurke, of Berkeley, is giving the Ritchie Lecture in May 2025.

Dr Robert Rohland (Trinity College, Cambridge) will come to Sydney as a Ritchie Visiting Fellow in September. During his visit, he and Anne Rogerson will organise a workshop on concepts of the future in ancient Rome, with Dr Estelle Strazdins (ANU) and Associate Professor Michael Hanaghan (ACU) as confirmed guest speakers.

In 2024, under the William Ritchie Sydney-Cambridge research scheme CAH hosted, as short-term Visiting Fellows to Sydney, Connor Wood and Daphne Martin. Connor pursued work and delivered a seminar on 'Canonicity, transmission, and the social role of the Hesiodic Catalogue of Women', while Daphne continued her study of Mediterranean connectivity, with a focus on the case of Sparta and Cyrene. She also ran a workshop on theoretical approaches to the globalising material culture of the Early Iron Age/Archaic Mediterranean in collaboration with the Mediterranean Archaeology Australian Research Community, notably Prof. Tamar Hodos of the AAIA. Daphne also

gave a public gallery talk highlighting the Lakonian material in the Chau Chak Wing Museum at the University (<https://greekherald.com.au/culture/history/unearthing-the-spartan-past-one-object-at-a-time/>).

On the other side of the exchange, PhD student Jack Pash held a William Ritchie Research Scholarship during October 2024 that enabled him to undertake a period of intensive research for his thesis on the relationships – cultural, physical, topographical, economic, and religious – between large provincial centres and their smaller urban satellites in Late Roman North Africa.

Museum News

In late 2024, Senior Curator Dr Melanie Pitkin was in Egypt to undertake collaborative research with Egyptian colleagues on developing new community-led ethical approaches to the care and display of ancient Egyptian mummified human remains in museums and the field. This work informs the development of new guidelines for the Chau Chak Wing Museum's collections as part of our ongoing Human Remains Research Project: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/museum/our-research/human-remains.html>. Our international research partners on this ongoing project include Professor Ronika K. Power and Jacinta Carruthers, Macquarie University, and Dr Rafie Cecilia, King's College London.

The Chau Chak Wing Museum has been delighted to host several programs already in 2025 including Anthe Philippides, former Judge of the Queensland Supreme Court for the 2025 Nicholas Aroney Democracy Lecture titled 'Athenian Democracy – its evolution, values and modern relevance' on Tuesday 18th March, and in partnership with the Discipline of Classics and Ancient History. This event, as well as an upcoming talk on Greek cities in the Eastern Mediterranean and Greek wine tasting evening, was presented as part of the 2025 Greek Festival of Sydney.

On April 27 the museum will host 'Sham el-Naseem' Egyptian Festival, a day of picnicking with authentic Egyptian food, Tahteeb performances, music, art, shadow puppet shows, and bilingual English-Arabic floor talks. Museum conservator Ali Ibrahim will be the master of ceremonies for the event.

On May 22 the museum will launch a new volume edited by Candace Richards and Professor Emerita Elizabeth Minchin (ANU), *Mediterranean Collections in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand: Perspectives from Afar* (Routledge 2025), with talks covering the major themes of provenance, pedagogy, participatory programming and museum ethics.

The Pop-Up Museum project is ongoing in 2025 with new themes being developed around the museum's collections. In April 'Middle Eastern ties' was presented at the Fairfield 'Bring It On' Youth festival, with a clay tablet making activity co-developed with the Think+DO Tank Foundation.

The Museum also continues to collaborate with the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens and the Discipline of Archaeology with Dr Paul Donnelly joining his fellow directors of the Zagora Archaeology Project, Dr Stavros Paspalas, A/Professor Lesley Beaumont and Professor Margaret Miller, in Greece this (European) summer for a study and final report writing of the ARC-funded 2012/12/14 seasons.

Dr Craig Barker has been invited to convene the 2025 History Council NSW History Now seminar series which explores current and compelling issues affecting the practice of contemporary history.

Although not within the disciplinary realm of ASCS, members may be interested to know that the Chau Chak Wing Museum is currently (until 29 June) hosting a significant exhibition Mungari: Fishing, Resistance, Return which celebrates the long-awaited homecoming of four fishing spears stolen by James Cook and the crew of the Endeavour in April 1770. The Chau Chak Wing Museum is proud to host this display during the period the University of Sydney has been entrusted with the temporary care of the Gweagal Spears before their continued journey to Gweagal clan lands and keeping place at Gundal (Kurnell, NSW).

Postgraduate Completions

Argyris Giantsis submitted a successful Masters by Research: "Ancient Magic and Christian Responses: Augustine and his Influence on Isidore of Seville."

Philip Dupesovski submitted his PhD, entitled "The Black Wave: An Ecocritical Reading of Water Pollution in Greek and Latin Epic Lead". Supervisor: Bob Cowan; Auxiliary supervisor: Peter Wilson

Alexandra Pinkham was awarded her PhD for a thesis entitled: "te quoque, Luna, traho: Medea, Dido, and the Metapoetics of Cosmic Disruption". Supervisors: Anne Rogerson and Bob Cowan.

Tonya Rushmer completed a PhD entitled "Fruits of Empire: Grain and the Roman Republic" supervised by Kathryn Welch; Auxiliary supervisors, Kit Morrell and Tamara Neal.

Other items of interest

Peter Brown has now finished recording all of the New Testament plus several books of Homer, plus some Plato, Euripides, Herodotus, Thucydides and more. Currently recording Iliad 16 and Plato's Apology. The play list can be found at: www.youtube.com/@peterbrown4073

The videos are aimed at those who have done at least a year and a half of Greek and need guidance to take them through the text.

Tamara Neal

University of Western Australia

Staff News

A/Prof. Chris Mallan has taken up the role of Chair of the Department of Classical and Historical Studies. Chris has also finished working on a volume on Byzantine epitomes which will be published mid-2025.

At the start of January Dr Konstantine Panegyres took up his position as Lecturer in Classics and Ancient History. In second semester of this year we will be joined by another new colleague, Dr Andreas (Tom) Zanker.

Staff Media Activities

Dr Konstantine Panegyres published a number of articles in The Conversation – ‘What were the Greeks and Romans like? Their letters suggest they weren’t so different from us’ (<https://theconversation.com/what-were-the-greeks-and-romans-like-their-letters-suggest-they-werent-so-different-from-us-236502>) , ‘Summer holidays haven’t changed much since ancient Greece and Rome (except maybe the sand wrestling)’ (<https://theconversation.com/summer-holidays-havent-changed-much-since-ancient-greece-and-rome-except-maybe-the-sand-wrestling-243367>), and ‘Figs, meat – and not too much sex. A good diet in ancient times was more than what you ate’ (<https://theconversation.com/figs-meat-and-not-too-much-sex-a-good-diet-in-ancient-times-was-more-than-what-you-ate-249571>).

Dr Panegyres also gave media interviews for 2SER Radio on January 9th (about ancient pets: <https://2ser.com/ancient-greco-romans-and-their-pets/>), for ABC Radio Sydney on January 12th (about ancient papyrus letters), for House of Wellness magazine on February 10th (about ancient ideas of how to keep healthy), for ABC Hobart on February 11th (about the use of AI to decipher the papyrus scrolls from Herculaneum), for ABC Radio Overnight Melbourne on February 12th (again about ancient pets), and for RTRFM Radio on 14th April (about ancient ideas of dieting).

Postgraduate Completions

Radice, Nakeesha. *Diodorus and the Divine: Religion in the Bibliotheca* (MPhil). Supervised by A/Prof. Chris Mallan.

Konstantine Panegyres

Victoria University of Wellington

Staff News

We are very sad to announce that our colleague Prof. Arthur Pomeroy passed away on 7 January 2025. Mark Masterson retired at the end of February. On a much happier note, we were able to hire a new colleague: former VUW student Ziming Liu, who is currently doing her PhD at Yale. She will join us in early 2026, which we are all very much looking forward to.

Babette Puetz was on RSL in term 2, including some time in Germany. She presented a paper “From Guarddog to Hellhound: Animal invective in Aristophanes’ comedies” at the Through the Animal Prism conference (University of Liverpool) in January 2025.

Jeff Tatum’s monograph *A Noble Ruin: Mark Antony, Civil War, and the Collapse of the Roman Republic* (Oxford 2024) received the Association of American Publishers 2025 PROSE Award as the year’s outstanding book in Classics.

Visitors

Chloe Borowska (Otago) visited VUW in October 2024 and gave a lecture on “Environmental Agency in Hesiod's *Theogony*”.

Postgraduate Completions

Abby Letteri (co-supervised by Damien Wilkins from the International Institute of Modern Letters and Babette Puetz) successfully defended her PhD “Waiting for the Light: Considering the Light in the Human World”. Joseph Slicker (supervisor: H. Cameron) successfully completed his MA: “A Study of the Development of Ostia’s Forum and Urban Street Network Using Space Syntax Methodologies.”

New Books

Jeff Tatum has two new books out, one of them also as an audiobook:

L. Fulkerson and J. Tatum, *A History of Latin Literature from its Beginnings to the Age of Augustus* (Cambridge 2024).

J. Tatum, *A Noble Ruin: Mark Antony, Civil War, and the Collapse of the Roman Republic* (Oxford 2024).

J. Tatum, *A Noble Ruin: Mark Antony, Civil War, and the Collapse of the Roman Republic - the audiobook* (RBMedia 2024).

Media Engagement

Jeff Tatum gave an interview on Mark Antony in the *World History Encyclopedia* online series and two interviews in the podcast series, *The Ancients* (a part of *History Hit*).

Babette Puetz

INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS

Louise Hitchcock

Louise Hitchcock delivered the following international papers: “This-Integration: when Utopia is Dystopia (aka 1176 BCE),” Paper presented at the American Society of Overseas Research Annual Meeting, Boston, 20-23 November 2024 as part of a special workshop entitled, What Happened after Collapse? A Panel Discussion on Eric Cline’s new book, *After 1177 BC*; “Pirate Ships as Heterotopic Spaces: Transforming Dystopian -scapes in the 12th century BCE,” Paper presented at the 30th Annual Meeting of the European Archaeological Association, Rome, 28-31 August 2024; “The Connecting Sea: The Aegean as Central to a Mediterranean Agorocracy,” Paper presented at HYDOR. Water Resources and Management in the Aegean Bronze Age, the XXth International Aegean Conference, Amsterdam, 11-16 June 2024.



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