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**SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2023**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE**



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# SPONSORS

The NASC 2023 committee would like to extend our warmest gratitude to our sponsors, without whom this conference could not take place.

## GOLD LEVEL



## SILVER LEVEL



## BRONZE LEVEL



# SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

TIME	TITLE	LOCATION	SPEAKER
9:00-10:00	Registration	Singapore Theatre, Melbourne School of Design	
10:00-11:30	First Peoples State Relations presentation on Cultural Heritage Management Location: Singapore theatre	Singapore Theatre, Melbourne School of Design	Dr. Jamin Moon (First Peoples State Relations)
11:30-12:00	2023 Melite Civitas Romana Project Field Season in Malta	Singapore Theatre, Melbourne School of Design	Rob Brown (Melite Civitas Romana Project)
12:00-1:00	Lunch	Lower Theatre, Babel Building	
1:00-2:00	Publishing in academia panel	Lower Theatre, Babel Building	Dr. Caroline Tully (University of Melbourne), Georgia Comte (University of Melbourne), Peter White (University of Sydney and editor of Archaeology in Oceania)
2:00-2:30	Australian Archaeological Skills Passport	Lower Theatre, Babel Building	Dr. Georgia Stannard (LaTrobe University)
2:30-3:30	Afternoon tea	Lower Theatre, Babel Building	
3:30-4:30	<i>Concurrent activities:</i> Object based learning experience	OBL Labs, Arts West North Wing	Steve Martin (University of Melbourne) and A/Prof Andrew Jamieson (University of Melbourne)
	Photogrammetry Workshop	G10, Old Quad	Thomas Keep (University of Melbourne)
4:30-onwards	Poster night	Room 461, Arts West North Wing	

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**, Singapore Theatre, Melbourne School of Design

<b>TIME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>
<b>9:00-10:00</b>	Registration	
<b>10:00-10:10</b>	Welcome to Country	Wurundjeri Man Colin Hunter Jnr Jnr
<b>10:10-10:50</b>	<b>KEYNOTE:</b> Bird-Catching in Imperial Rome: An Intersectional Approach	Dr. Ash Green
<b>10:50-11:10</b>	Echoes of Eternity: Power & Performance in Viking Age Funerary Rituals	Meg Dawkins
<b>11:10-11:30</b>	The Religious Motivations for the Erasure of Ancient Egyptian Kings from the Historical Record	Bridget Bracken
<b>11:30-11:50</b>	Papyrus Ebers: When Medicine, Magic and Religion Were One	Amanda Wojcik
<b>11:50-12:10</b>	My Eyes are Up Here! Re-examining the 'Fertility Figurine' through Historical Narratives in the New Kingdom	Daisy Norfolk
<b>12:30-1:30</b>	Lunch	
<b>1:30-1:50</b>	The Relationship between Craft Specialisation and Social Stratification in the Ancient Near East	Jade Cotsanis
<b>1:50-2:10</b>	Exploration of the Damya Formation and its environmental effects on terminal Pleistocene Natufian archaeological sites in the Northeastern Jordan Valley	Natasha Nagle
<b>2:10-2:30</b>	Intersecting geoarchaeological and soil micromorphological techniques to reconstruct the history of human occupation on Dauar Island (Eastern Torres Straits)	Elisa Scorsini
<b>2:30-2:50</b>	Stones & Soil: The Importance of Earth Sciences in Archaeology	Rhiannon Macleod
<b>2:50-3:10</b>	A geochemical analysis of early- to mid-Holocene tufa	Jennifer Mulder
<b>3:30-4:00</b>	Afternoon tea	
<b>4:00-5:00</b>	Careers expo (Room 103, Old Arts)	
<b>5-onwards</b>	Pub night (Clyde Hotel)	

TIME	TITLE	SPEAKER
9:00-10:00	Registration	
10:00-10:40	<b>KEYNOTE:</b> Bridging the gap: Archaeology as an intersectional discipline	Amanda Goldfarb
10:40-11:00	'Historical Archaeology': a dated and problematic term in Australian Archaeology	Jack Norris
11:00-11:20	'Finding Skyfall': Reviewing the Potential for Open-Source Data to Dissect the Illicit Trade of Antiquities	Liv Siefert
11:20-11:40	The Stone in the Boot of Australian Archaeology: why don't more Australians know about Aboriginal Stone Housing?	Patrick Mercer
11:40-12:00	Buried but Not Forgotten: The Use of GPR in Locating Unmarked Burials in Rural Cemeteries	Elizabeth Fletcher
12:00-12:20	Stitching together a story of the past. An analysis of garments from 19th Century Australia	Chantelle Laucht
12:30-1:30	Lunch	
1:30-1:50	Re-conceptualising the 'Male Warrior Elite': Gendered Approaches to Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age Nuragic Iconography	Charli Phillipps
1:50-2:10	The Impact of Homophobia on the Sapphic Manuscript Tradition	Meg Challis
2:10-2:30	Key features of Mycenaean palace economy and its roles in society	Joanna Angeletos
2:30-2:50	Teshub/Zeus/Marduk: Examining Parallel Theogonies in Ancient Greece and the Near East	Elizabeth Tetaz
2:50-3:10	Life at the multi-period site of Rabati: What can be understood through the ceramic assemblages of previous excavations	Miette Lane Welsh
3:10-3:30	An investigation into the definitive characteristics of Bedeni fine-wire ceramics in the Southern Caucasus Region: A case study of Bedeni tankards	Amy Sandkuhl
3:30-4:00	Afternoon tea	
4:00-5:00	Awards	

# ABSTRACTS

In alphabetical order

**Amanda Wojcik**     *Papyrus Ebers: When Medicine, Magic and Religion Were One*

My research focuses on the Papyrus Ebers, the most complete and famous surviving medical papyrus. Written in 1500 BC, it is a collection of full prescriptions, diagnosis, mode of administration of remedies and dosages, clinical examination, therapeutics and more. Incredibly preserved, it was found to be a compilation of medical knowledge that dated thousands of years before its writing. Found at Thebes, the papyrus is currently residing at the Library of the University of Leipzig in Germany. For the ancient Egyptians, religion encompassed all aspects of life; thus, medicine and religion were not only just connected, but medical practices were dependent on religion. Although it is the most comprehensive medical papyrus found, its contents were mislabelled, and mentions of religion were treated contemptuously. Western perspectives deemed the papyrus as a work of fiction - despite its many correct methodologies when identifying and curing diseases - due to its mentions of magic and religion within scientific framework. It is understandable for an European audience - that denied religion and its ideological impacts upon the world - to assume that the ancient Egyptians would do the same; they were simply applying what they knew to their point of view. However, this is long overdue for a reparation and there needs to be a collective realisation that religion had a vast part in ancient Egyptian medicine. Indigenous cultures have long been labelled as 'primitive' and 'less than' in a Eurocentric view for not matching a specific criteria of what science/scientific method looks like. Through my presentation I hope to persuade my audience to be critical of their sources and how we analyse an ancient culture - are we applying a lens which discredits their work, simply because they explained facets of life differently than us?

**Amy Sandkuhl**     *An investigation into the definitive characteristics of Bedeni fine-wire ceramics in the Southern Caucasus Region: A case study of Bedeni tankards*

The focus of this research concerns Bedeni fine-ware pottery from the Early Kurgan Period in the Southern Caucasus. The Early Kurgan Period falls within the Early Bronze Age IV/Middle Bronze Age I, approximately 2600/2500 – 2000 BCE. The Bedeni culture is dated to approximately 2500 – 2100 BCE. A comprehensive investigation of Bedeni fine-ware pottery was carried out to clarify its distinguishing characteristics. A typology was created in order to distinguish the morphology of vessels within the Bedeni assemblage, pieced together from previous archaeological field reports and publications. An in-depth analysis of ceramics categorised as ‘Class A’ or tankard vessels, which contains a sample size of 95 vessels, was then carried out. This analysis provides new information about the distribution of this vessel type across the Southern Caucasus. Findings show that Bedeni tankards are geographically restricted to Eastern Georgia and predominantly found in burial contexts as opposed to settlements. However, this is most likely due to a lack of excavated settlements with Bedeni-period habitation layers in the archaeological record. Decoration present on vessels was assessed in order to determine types of decoration typically associated with Bedeni tankards, and were categorised as having either plain black burnishing, simple decorative elements or complex decorative elements. Design repetition and similarity were considered in order to determine whether decoration was regionally significant, or if they were decorated and unique to individuals or family groups. Analysis of decoration has shown some examples of repetition, particularly on vessels found in settlement contexts, and those with the characteristically Bedeni ‘knee-bend’ shaped handle.

**Bridget Bracken**    *The Religious Motivations for the Erasure of Ancient Egyptian Kings from the Historical Record*

This presentation focuses on the religious motivation of the erasure of certain ancient Egyptian kings from the ancient Egyptian’s own historical records. The proscription of past pharaohs is a phenomenon that occurred with somewhat surprising frequency in ancient Egypt, yet it is a topic that remains relatively unexplored. While much research has examined the lives of these erased pharaohs, few focus directly on why these pharaohs came to be erased in the first place, or the methods of erasure utilised, and none examine these instances of erasure in



comparison to one another. My Honours thesis, the basis of this presentation, explores this phenomenon, with an aim to understanding if there were similarities between these acts of erasure, and if so, what caused these similarities. First, the ancient Egyptian perception of the world is explored, including how they approached recording their history, with reference to primary texts. Next is a discussion of the different spheres in which erasure took place, and what the implications in each of these areas were. The final section focuses on the methods of erasure that were used, with particular focus on the religious motivations behind the employment of these methods. Even though different circumstances resulted in the eventual proscription of each of these pharaohs, there are striking similarities between the methods of erasure used, that imply religious beliefs were a primary motivator in the undertaking of proscription.

**Chantelle Laucht** *Stitching together a story of the past. An analysis of garments from 19th Century Australia*

I am currently writing a project proposal as part of my studies which may be a potential honours topic. I am hoping to analyse two different clothing collections. One from The Australian Museum of Clothing and Textiles located in my hometown of Maitland, which is a well-cared for collection of women's undergarments and baby clothing from the early 1800's. I am hoping to find an archaeological deposited collection of clothing to do a comparative study on garment survivability, whether that is through the lens of taphonomy or through careful storage and collection of clothing by individuals and community. It is generally understood that clothing does not survive well in the archaeological record, especially in Australia. Early colonial systems dictated fabric and clothing accessibility and Australia moved into creating its own industries relating to textiles and garment manufacturing. Therefore, the existing clothing record (from museums and collections) of Australia is a valuable resource for gaining further insight into the history of 19th Century Australia. Even more uncommon are the garments of infants as they are especially susceptible to not surviving the archaeological record and historic records only provide limited information. Therefore, having collection items is imperative to be able to compare to archaeological remains of clothing within a historically informed context. The

presence of infants and small children does not always survive in the archaeological record and having insight into how garments were accessed, made, and worn provides and insight into the lives of early Australian families with children.

**Charli Phillipps**     *Re-conceptualising the 'Male Warrior Elite': Gendered Approaches to Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age Nuragic Iconography*

The Nuragic civilisation, a society located in Sardinia from approximately the Middle Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age, experienced a period of extensive cultural change from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age. This change was predominantly characterised by an architectural shift, in which the society abandoned their characteristic nuraghi, megalithic stone towers, for new sanctuary sites with sacred wells, springs and megaron temples. Within these new sites, the society also began to produce anthropomorphic figurines in bronze, as well as a new necropolis site depicting life-size limestone human statues. Due to the predominance of a 'warrior' image in the iconography, it has long been argued in scholarship that the new iconography reflected a new male-led, militaristic elite that took control over the island in this cultural change. However, these interpretations of historical gender roles have largely lacked gender theoretical approaches and, consequently, have projected contemporary gender biases onto the interpretation of Nuragic iconography. My honours thesis, the subject of this presentation, aims to explore how concepts of masculinity and warriorhood were represented and how, or if, they intersected with each other. Through a re-interpretation of the representations through a gender theoretical lens, we can see that rather than reflecting a singular and binary image of masculine capacity for violence, the iconography reflects a complex and multi-faceted way of conceptualising the active, gendered body.

**Daisy Norfolk**     *My Eyes are Up Here! Re-examining the 'Fertility Figurine' through Historical Narratives in the New Kingdom*

This presentation will delve into the life and experiences of the ancient Egyptian women of the New Kingdom in the workers village of Deir el-Medina. A re-

examination of the 'fertility figurine' is warranted in light of providing a more holistic view of ancient Egyptian women and the legacy they left behind in female figurines. There has been an oversaturation of interpretations of the nude, female form in scholarship with fertility—whether that be sexual fecundity, safeguarding pregnancy or childbirth, or a broader sense of abundance. I re-examine this emphasis on women and fertility, and consider women as more holistic and multi-faceted members of ancient Egyptian society who had value beyond their attribution as reproductive 'receptacles.' I hope in doing this we can better put a voice to labouring class ancient Egyptian women's stories where there has been a lack of one by using the method of the osteoethnographic narrative.

**Elisa Scorsini**      *Intersecting geoarchaeological and soil micromorphological techniques to reconstruct the history of human occupation on Dauar Island (Eastern Torres Straits)*

In our fast-paced-consumerist world, where those that adopt the latest way of doing things are seemingly favoured, archaeologists, like many other scientists, find themselves searching for the latest technical advancements to progress their field. However, progress often comes not in incremental advancements of a specific methodology, but in the form of integrating the already available ones. In archaeology such collaborations often come in the form of multiproxy analysis. The aim of our research project on Dauar Island was to assess how the use of multiscale geoarchaeological and soil micromorphological analysis can contribute to a better understanding of the history of human occupation at Ormi. Results of the analysis show how the intersection of different geoarchaeological techniques shed light of detailed human occupation phases, vegetative history, issues of preservation and site taphonomy at Ormi. Preliminary results were able to show the disturbance of the upper sedimentary deposit and the contrast with the basal layers, which are more intact. Phytolith analysis conducted on the thin sections of these deposits was also performed, assessing which techniques would be better suited to the study of silica remains in these kinds of deposits. Being the first study of its kind in the area, the multiproxy approach was able to illustrate the character of human occupation phases

at the micro-scale level. Overall, this archaeological study provides an example of how multiproxy results intersect at the macro-, meso- and micro-scales.

**Elizabeth Fletcher** *Buried but Not Forgotten: The Use of GPR in Locating Unmarked Burials in Rural Cemeteries*

In many rural graveyards and cemeteries around the world, there are known and unknown unmarked burials within the grounds or in the general vicinity. Predominately, these burials date from the late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and were not unmarked at the time of burial. However, due to natural weathering, and sometimes deliberate interference, the markers that once identified these burials are no longer present – this is particularly common in cases where wooden markers were used, or when the burial site was not maintained. Unmarked burials pose problems for rural cemeteries in particular, where records of deaths and burials are often poor prior to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century; there have been unfortunate cases of human remains being exhumed accidentally during the excavation of new graves, which is traumatising for everyone involved, not least of which the family of the deceased. Ground Penetrating Radar, GPR, has been shown to successfully identify indications of probable human interment without the need for excavation. This benefits rural cemeteries and their communities in a number of ways, including preventing accidental exhumation of human remains. Unfortunately, the process is quite specialised, and is often too expensive for rural communities and their local councils to consider. This presentation will include the breakdown of what is involved in conducting a GPR survey of one rural cemetery in NSW, based on research conducted in mid-2023.

**Elizabeth Tetaz** *Teshub/Zeus/Marduk: Examining Parallel Theogonies in Ancient Greece and the Near East*

The remarkable similarities between Hesiod's Theogony, the Babylonian Enuma Elish and Hurrian-Hittite Song of Coming Forth have been a topic of considerable study since the discovery of the latter two in the mid-twentieth century, but it remains unclear exactly how and when these mythologies were transmitted. The late Bronze

Age and the “orientalising” period of the 8<sup>th</sup> century BCE are frequently identified as the most likely moments in which transmission was possible; this paper, however, will focus on the late Bronze Age as a time.

when frequent contact was made between the peoples of the Near East and the Aegean, particularly on and around the Levantine coast. Differences in modes of authorship, lines of succession, and kingship will be analysed through identification of the contrasting social and functional contexts of the theogonies in Babylon, Hattusa, and Greece. While the first section of this paper aims to identify possibly locations and historical moments where storytelling traditions could have been shared, the latter section will investigate differences between these structurally, narratively, and iconographically similar theogonies. Characterisations of power, authority, and succession can be explained through analysing differences in social and political structures.

**Jack Norris**      *‘Historical Archaeology’: a dated and problematic term in Australian Archaeology*

In recent decades the term Australian ‘prehistory’ has become obsolete in describing Indigenous histories prior to the conquest of the continent by the British Empire in Australian archaeology and history. Yet the term ‘historical archaeology’ remains, describing archaeological material from 1788 onwards, due to presence of ‘historical documentation’ to aid archaeological inquiry. Thus, did Australian history begin in 1788? This presentation will explore the problematic Western centric epistemological nature of the term ‘historical archaeology’ in Australian archaeology, whose terminology ultimately ignores the presence and knowledge of a continent-wide long tradition of Indigenous knowledge systems and histories surrounding their Ancestors and cultural heritage.

**Jade Cotsanis**      *The Relationship between Craft Specialisation and Social Stratification in the Ancient Near East*

Social stratification in the ancient Near East is often interpreted as being largely influenced by the agricultural revolution during the Neolithic period. However, the

complexity social stratification achieved and what helped sustain it can be attributed to the emergence of craft specialisation soon after this shift to sedentary agricultural practice. Comparing the burial practices of the early Neolithic at sites such as Çatalhöyük to later burials such as those of Queen Puabi clearly demonstrate an evolution of craft specialisation to better demonstrate social class through grave goods. Furthermore, the evident division of knowledge between the agricultural worker and the craft specialist demonstrates the establishment of a greater number of social levels between the farmer and the bureaucrat or king. The standing of these individuals within society and their contribution to its stratification is also exemplified in their own burials, from who they were buried with, such as the musicians in PG800, to their entombment alongside their tools. While the agricultural revolution is incredibly significant in the evolution of ancient Near Eastern societies, craft specialisation and the material culture it helped develop should also be of consideration when attempting to understand even the early stages of these civilisations.

**Jennifer Mulder**     *“A geochemical analysis of early- to mid-Holocene tufa”*

Australia’s palaeoclimate is poorly understood due to the rarity of climate proxies. The climate models developed overseas have been proven to be unreliable when applied to the southern hemisphere, thus Australia must develop its own models and, due to this continent’s aridity, most existing paleoclimate records are coastal and thus the regional climate of inland Australia is a mystery. This is of concern to Australian archaeologists due to the centrality of past climate change in hypotheses of human-environment interactions such as the megafaunal extinction and intensification debates, as well as the importance of understanding past climate to predict the effects of anthropogenic climate change. This trace element analysis of tufa samples from Neds Gully in southeast Queensland aimed to better understand the changing hydrology of the Holocene. As only the second trace element analysis of tufa in Australia, this project broke new ground on understanding the relation between tufa formation and geochemistry. The results suggest a complex environment which had changed little compared to Pleistocene-aged phosphate samples, while comparison

with the modern environment shows a definitive and drastic change in climate has occurred post-deposition.

**Joanna Angeletos** *Key features of Mycenaean palace economy and its roles in society*

It is Homer that first references the 'rich Mycenae' in his mythic histories, a cluster of palaces that indeed achieved lucrative success and became an empirical threat to surrounding kingdoms (Homer, *Odyssey* 3.304). Transecting mainland and lateral Greece, Mycenaean civilisation culminated between 1600-1100 BC before its decimation (Wiener 2011, 535-8). The transcendence from its infancy to an all-encompassing wealthy state was achievable through the implementation of a palatial economy framework. The Mycenaean's synchronous surge in power substantiates this, as well as their theorised denomination as the cautionary neighbour to the West, the 'Ahhiyawa' (Wiener 2011, 538). Analysis of ancient sources and their contextualisation have allowed for insight into the key structural elements of this palatial economy of which were invaluable to the success and cohesion of society. These include the centralised administrative body and palatial bureaucracy system, the inauguration of redistributive mobilisation, and the role of feasting along with its innate construction to influence the opportunity for social rise or decline. Despite individualisms of each Mycenaean palace and respective flaws, the objective and result remained the acquisition of centralised hegemony, particularly over economic affairs.

**Liv Siefert** *'Finding Skyfall': Reviewing the Potential for Open-Source Data to Dissect the Illicit Trade of Antiquities*

In 2022, the Bank Secrecy Act Report produced by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, cited Open-Source Data to showcase the presence of illicitly trafficked antiquities being utilised as a source of funding for Russian oligarchs to bypass United States of America imposed financial sanctions inflicted during the Ukrainian War. The diachronic coverage of black-market antiquities during this conflict, in both journalistic and academic circles, has justifiably raised vital

ontological concerns in relation to how the antiquities trade is being manipulated for iconoclastic justifications. Since the publication of this report, public awareness of the benefits of Open-Source Data has skyrocketed, lending its malleable application to several interdisciplinary studies including cultural heritage. Although archaeological exploration of this data source has arguably existed for the last two decades, new technology and modelling systems evolving in our current context, have progressed far faster. This has ultimately allowed for gaps to already be identified in the literature as well as the current legislation, whereby quantitative data is segregated from qualitative case studies that encompass datasets in its entirety. This presentation aims to bring awareness to a topic that is fast becoming polarised and politicised due to misinformation and a lack of transparent understanding within data language in the cultural heritage sector. The potential for OS-D in helping to understand how and why the illicit trade of antiquities functions, is extreme - if only we pay attention to its databases, modelling, and potential methods.

**Meg Challis**      *The Impact of Homophobia on the Sapphic Manuscript Tradition*

This presentation will focus on the archaeological discover of papyri containing fragments of Sappho's poetry and the papyri's consequent interpretation by classicists. I will explore how scholars manipulated the fragmentation of Sappho's poetry to reinforce preconceived notions of the poet's heterosexuality and how other primary sources recording Sappho's poetry were similarly manipulated. The presentation will highlight the intersectionality of homophobia, scholarship and translation and emphasise the importance of translation literacy when engaging with translated or partially reconstructed texts.

**Meg Dawkins**      *Echoes of Eternity: Power & Performance in Viking Age  
Funerary Rituals*

Although ritual activity is one of the easier forms of action to determine in the archaeological record, ritual as the performance of action is incredibly difficult to discern. Ritual practices and the performance of ritualistic actions differ from one another, but are inextricably linked as the actions undertaken during ritual often take



the form of a performance (Bell 1997: 161). This is often linked to the status or religious/political/social power that an individual holds within the community burying the deceased. This presentation will explore women in Viking Age Scandinavia and a specific form of ritual power that they could wield in Norse society. Using burials and mortuary evidence from the archaeological record, we will look at items buried with women dating to the Viking Age that have been argued to represent components of a toolkit used by ritual specialists and the roles these items played in their funerals. These specialists known as völvur or seeresses used a specific form of magic known as seiðr to both benefit and wreak havoc on the communities around them. We will review the history of women's, queer, belief-system and ritual performance studies in academia before delving into a case study; that of the presumed woman in burial 59:3 at Klinta in Öland, in southern Sweden to understand how the burial of a potential seeress and their accoutrements may reflect their spiritual, cosmological and ritual power, and reveal their communities response to these unique abilities.

**Miette Lane Welsh** *Life at the multi-period site of Rabati: What can be understood through the ceramic assemblages of previous excavations*

The multi-period site of Rabati in south-west Georgia has been subject to excavations since 2016, when the GAIA (Georgian-Australian Investigations in Archaeology) project started. It is revealing itself to be a very important site for the understanding of cultures from the Chalcolithic Age up until Medieval occupation of the area. The site is situated on a summit above the Kura River valley in the village of Zveli, giving it both defensive advantage and access to the river corridor which was important for trade and population movements. Investigations at Rabati have largely focused on piecing together a stratigraphic record and understanding the chronology of occupation at Rabati. This presentation will look at some of the interesting finds of previous ceramic assemblages (2016, 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2023) and discuss the implications these may have in regards to what we can understand about the site during its occupation periods. Emphasis on understanding the functions and daily uses of the finds is of particular importance, as mentioned in the paper itself. I have a strong belief in the incorporation of empathy and

understanding of our ancestors as living, breathing humans within the discipline of history, as well as the concept of ensuring the findings of our work in archaeological and historical exploration is accessible and relevant to the general public who share our history. We should be telling history as the engaging story that it is.

**Natasha Nagle**      *Exploration of the Damya Formation and its environmental effects on terminal Pleistocene Natufian archaeological sites in the Northeastern Jordan Valley*

The Lisan Formation was deposited in the Jordan Valley via the Lisan Lake (c. 60-15 kya; Abed 2014) and is dominated primarily by laminated marls and conglomerates, demonstrating a slow-moving, lacustrine depositional environment (Macumber 1992). However, since 15,000 BP, there appears to be no evidence of deep erosional events in the nearby stream valleys, which the removal of Lake Lisan should have instigated; indicating that the overlying Damya Formation could have been deposited in a similar environmental context (Macumber 1992). The continued existence of a lake in the Valley after 15,000 BP would have had crucial implications for both archaeological deposits in the region, as well as for the settlers at Wadi Hammeh 27, and other nearby Natufian sites — affecting where the villagers would have originated, occupational regimes, trade, and how quickly the settlement was built; but the Damya Formation itself hasn't received nearly the amount of attention as the underlying Lisan Formation (Macumber 1992; Edwards 2015; Edwards 2020). Wadi Hammeh 27 (c. 12 kya; Edwards 1988), located on the eastern flank of the Jordan Valley, provides evidence for one of the world's first settlements and is currently being excavated by La Trobe University through the Earliest Village People ARC project. Within my PhD, I utilize Earth Sciences techniques to investigate the Damya Formation to better understand its depositional environments, duration, and geographical boundaries to gain a clearer picture of how the Damya Lake may have affected ancient peoples at Wadi Hammeh 27 and their behaviors.

**Patrick Mercer**      *"The Stone in the Boot of Australian Archaeology: why don't more Australians know about Aboriginal Stone Housing?"*

In this presentation I will be examining archaeological and archival evidence of Aboriginal stone housing and other structures in South-Eastern Australia, including the purpose, design, permanence and function of different kinds of structures and dwellings. In this presentation I will also be making commentary on why this sort of permanence and stone working has largely been ignored from the historiography of pre-colonisation Australia, and how we as archaeologists, historians and First Nations allies might redress this historical blind spot.”

### **Rhiannon Macleod** *Stones & Soil: The Importance of Earth Sciences in Archaeology*

As an interdisciplinary study, the relevance and important of earth sciences to archaeology might seem an obvious fact. However, many archaeology students don't have to opportunity to learn about sciences such as geomorphology, geology, and palaeoenvironment studies — or their archaeological cousin geoarchaeology — before they enter the professional sphere. This talk will cover some of the basics of geoarchaeology and give examples of how it can be applied in Australia and beyond from my own experiences and research. Having recently used GIS and environmental science skills on a project in Greece, and now attempting a geoarchaeology research for my undergraduate capstone, I am excited to dive into this topic with all of you!

# POSTERS

In alphabetical order

- Alexis Green** *Near and Dear: Experiencing Home and (Re)negotiating Space Through the Domestic Afterlives of Ancient Egyptian Children*
- Chantelle Laucht** *"Adornment, what a science! Beauty, what a weapon!": Queen Puabi's headdress and adornments*
- Natasha Nagle** *Exploration of the Damya Formation and its environmental effects on terminal Pleistocene Natufian archaeological sites in the Northeastern Jordan Valley*
- Rebecca Neville** *Machine Learning for Ceramic Typologies: How can machine learning be utilised to create a decorative typology for Middle Bronze Age painted pottery in the Southern Caucasus?*
- Rhiann Thomas** *Silent Labour: The invisibility of local labour in archaeology*

# **PRIZES**

Each is a cash prize of \$100

**The *Virtus Heritage* Best First Nations Archaeology Paper**

**Best Undergraduate Paper**

**Best Postgraduate Paper**

**The *Classical Association of Victoria* Best Classical/Ancient History**

**Best 'Intersectional' Paper**

**The *AWAWS* Best Paper by a female or non-binary presenter**

**Best Poster**

# NASC 2023 COMMITTEE

## Hannah Lewis, Chair

I'm currently studying a Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Languages at the University of Melbourne, majoring in Classics and ancient world studies. I am particularly interested in ancient Greek archaeology and literature, specifically tragedy and theatre, and family relationships. My archaeological experience includes working on the Rabati project with the University of Melbourne and the Georgian National Museum, excavating a fortified Bronze Age settlement in Southwest Georgia. I also work as a casual field archaeologist in Victoria.



## Lachlan Mutimer, Vice-chair

I obtained my Bachelor of Arts last year from the University of Melbourne, majoring in Ancient World Studies and History; and I am currently undertaking my Honours, writing on identity in Amarna Period Egypt. My interests include the social histories of past cultures, mainly ancient Egypt and Renaissance Italy.



## Elizabeth Riley, Vice-chair

Elizabeth is an Australian Junior Archaeologist and Historian finishing her undergraduate degree at the University of Melbourne (Bachelor of Arts, Majoring Ancient World Studies, History), with current plans to do her Master of Arts and Curatorship at the University of Melbourne. Within her tertiary study Elizabeth has focused on Greco-Roman Mythology, Bronze Age archaeology, Indigenous studies, European revolutionary history, and Egyptology at the University of Melbourne;



Classical archaeology, architecture and funerary practise at the University of Sydney, and Orientalism, digitalisation, Asian studies, and journalism at RMIT.

**Jamie Garnham, Treasurer**

I'm in my third year of studying data science and ancient Greek at the University of Melbourne! I'm interested in research in computational linguistics, linguistic reconstruction, and paleolinguistics. I ♥ any and all ancient languages!



**Kerri-Ann Meakins, Secretary**

I'm studying a bachelor of archaeology at Macquarie university and hoping to extend studies further into Egyptology.



**Charli Phillipps, General Committee**

I'm currently studying a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in ancient world studies at the University of Melbourne. I have a keen interest in the Bronze Age Mediterranean and Europe, in particular the Nuragic civilisation in Sardinia, as well as the application of gender studies to archaeology.



**Andrew Lim, General Committee**

I'm Andrew, in my third year of a Bachelor of Science in Physics and Diploma of Languages in Latin at the University of Melbourne, though currently studying abroad at Boston College in the United States. I've always been captivated by the late Roman Republic and early Empire, especially in



some of its poignant parallels to today – and have been absolutely delighted to help out with bringing NASC 2023 to fruition!

### **Oliver Russell, General Committee**

Oliver is wrapping up a Bachelor of Arts (Major in Ancient World Studies) at the University of Melbourne. His study interests lie in all things chariots and the Icelandic Sagas. After his Bachelor's, Oliver is aiming to continue his studies in Archaeological Science at Tübingen Universität.

