Merry Christmas from the AAIA!

As 2016 draws to a close we look back on another notable year characterized by many events, but specifically marked by the retirement of the Institute’s founding Director Professor Alexander Cambitoglou.

In Greece a number of student groups from various Australian universities (including the Australian National University, Queensland University and the University of Sydney) made use of the Institute’s facilities, and the staff of the Institute was pleased to liaise with the relevant Greek authorities so that these important educational programmes would be an unforgettable success for the participants. The academic programme in Athens was a busy one in 2016 and included speakers from Macquarie University, the University of Sydney, the University of Melbourne and the British Museum. Australian field projects were also conducted at Vapheio, Laconia (Associate Professor Louise Hitchcock, University of Melbourne), Torone (Associate Professor Thomas Hillard, Macquarie University) and Kythera (Dr Stavros Paspalas, Professor Timothy Gregory, Dr Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory, AAIA and Ohio State University).

And right now in Athens, the AAIA and the University of Wollongong’s Creative Arts Residents (pictured) are enjoying what is panning out to be a very fruitful month. These recent initiatives are proving very successful indeed.

Louis Porter (AAIA), Shelley Webster (UoW) and Dr Charles Anderson (AAIA) on the Hostel’s ‘Parthenon Balcony’

In Australia the 2016 Visiting Professor, Professor Katja Sporn (Director of the German Archaeological Institute at Athens), toured the country and delivered lectures that ranged in subject matter from non-Attic funerary stelai to the interface between ancient Greek religious practices and the natural environment. It is pleasing to note that wherever Professor Sporn spoke her lectures were enthusiastically appreciated by large audiences.

We have every expectation that 2017 will be as productive as 2016. For those in Australia it is very much worth noting that next year’s Visiting Professor will be the Bronze Age specialist Professor James Wright, Director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Numerous field projects have been scheduled for 2017 which will allow Australian teams, including students, to contribute further to our knowledge of the Greek past – from deep antiquity.
through to recent years. And here in Athens we look forward to welcoming Australian student groups, starting with the University of Western Australia’s Architectural Studio in January and February.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support, and I very much hope that you will be able to participate in the Institute’s events throughout 2017.

*Stavros Paspalas, Acting Director*

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**2017 AAIA Tour - Crete and Kythera***

Join archaeologists Helen Nicholson, Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory and Archondia Thanos next April on a journey to two of Greece’s most remarkable islands, exploring their natural beauty, vibrant modern culture, culinary delights and — of course — their long and rich history. The tour takes in sites and museums both well-known and off the beaten track, from the Bronze Age to the Classical, Ottoman to Venetian, as well as paying special tribute to the ANZACS and Greeks who fought and fell alongside one another in the WWII Battle of Crete. On Kythera we consider, along with its history and archaeology, the role of the Greek diaspora and the fates of the many Kytherians who migrated to Australia from the late 19th century onward and how this in turn impacted upon their homeland.

*It is possible to do only one of the islands

**AAIA Tours are specially tailored to suit the interests and requirements of our Friends and Members and as such places are limited.**

For more details visit the [AAIA website](mailto:aaia@otenet.gr) or email aaia@otenet.gr

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*Mediterranean Archaeology and the return to Sydney of Professor Jean-Paul Descœudres*

After a brief absence of 20 years — during which he kept himself busy in the chair of Classical Archaeology at the University of Geneva, as Vice-Dean of its Faculty of Arts in charge of implementing the Bologna reform, and as director of the Albano-Swiss excavations at Orikum in the Golfe of Vlorë — Meditarch's
Mediterranean Archaeology is the Official Journal of the AAIA. The most recent Volume, no. 27, publishes reports from recent campaigns at both Zagora and Torone as well as the proceedings of ‘There and Back Again’, a colloquium held in Geneva in honour of Jean-Paul Descoeudres. 2016 also saw the release of the 5th volume in the important Jebel Khalid series, Report on the Excavations 2000-2010 by Graeme Clarke et al.

All Meditarch books can be purchased on-line from Sydney University Press

Midwinter at Sounion

A poem by Jena Woodhouse, 2015 AAIA Artist-in-Residence

The wind out of the north —
the boreas that buffets Sounion —
occludes the ears and numbs
the lips and tongue,
prohibits utterance;
desensitises hands, trips feet
that stumble on uneven ground,
fumbles at coat fastenings,
tugs at wings of plaintive gulls
that wheel above the stunted olives;
enervates the sea, sending cosmic shivers
coursing, simulating fins and scales,
hinting at the many mysteries
that haunt the bay.

The north wind thrums with sublimated histories: Bronze Age narratives effaced;
the silver in the treasuries, from Lavrion,
that financed the Athenian democracy.

The boreas inhales the alabaster
motes from monuments;
the winds revisit Sounion
to pick their brittle bones.