In late April the Acting Director, Dr Stavros Paspalas, travelled to Brisbane and delivered the lecture "Kythera, a Mediterranean Island through History" to the Queensland Friends of the AAIA. The well-attended lecture was followed by a very impressive reception hosted by the Friends. Many thanks to Christopher Griffiths, President of the Queensland Friends and the committee members, for organising such a successful fund-raising event.

Earlier, in March, in a reciprocal happening, Dr Amelia Brown (University of Queensland) was invited by the Institute to Sydney and delivered the very well-received public lecture "Like Frogs around a Pond: Maritime Religion and Ancient Greek Culture." While in Sydney Dr Brown also participated in the Classical Archaeology seminar programme with the paper "Creation and Destruction of Public Sculpture in Late Antique Corinth."

The Director's Report and Annual Lecture were held on May 11. The Acting Director, Stavros Paspalas, delivered the former while the lecture was delivered by Associate Professor Kenneth Sheedy (Macquarie University) who spoke on "Themistocles and his family in Magnesia-on-the Maeander: numismatic evidence for the rule of a dynasty." The Australian Ambassador to Greece, H.E. Mr John Griffin, offered a vote of thanks, while the Embassy and the Athens Friends generously provided the reception.

On May 15, Dr Gil Davis (Director-Program for Ancient Mediterranean Studies at Macquarie University) delivered a stimulating lecture titled: "The Archaic Athenian Coin Project: Historical Implications". For those who missed the lecture, you can watch the video [here](#), our first ever digitally uploaded lecture!
Olwen Tudor Jones 2017 Scholarship Recipient

The 2017 Olwen Tudor Jones Scholarship, offered by SoMA to a Sydney University undergraduate student for fieldwork in the Mediterranean, has been awarded to Sarah Gyngell. Sarah will be using the scholarship to partake in excavation at Nahal Ein Gev II, a late Natufian site in the Jordan Valley. Excavations at Nahal Ein Gev II are run through the Institute of Archaeology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, under the direction of Professor Leore Grosman. Nahal Ein Gev II is a ‘village’ with stone architecture, graves, and lithic and bone assemblages, as well as personal items. Sarah intends to study Natufian culture for her 2018 honours thesis and will also be visiting other Natufian and PPNA/B sites in the area. For those interested, the dig has a facebook page through which you can be updated on progress.

Call for Volunteers: Paphos

Have you ever wanted to work on an archaeological excavation?

The University of Sydney’s Paphos Theatre Archaeological Project is conducting its 18th season of excavations at the UNESCO World Heritage listed site of Nea Paphos in Cyprus for four
weeks between 8 October and 5 November 2017. Student team positions and contributing volunteer positions are now open for the 2017 season!

The ‘student program’ allows undergraduate, postgraduate and very recent graduates of archaeology and related courses to gain first-hand experience in excavation, finds processing and basic field recording techniques as well as the experience of working alongside practicing archaeologists and specialists. The ‘contributing volunteer’ program allows interested members of the public a rare experience to get involved in archaeology first-hand and work alongside professionals and students.

The theatre has a rich archaeological history, having been constructed in c. 300 BC and used as a venue for performance for over six and a half centuries. At its maximum extent the theatre held over 8500 spectators. The site has abundant Hellenistic, Roman and medieval and post-medieval material. In 2017 the team will be working on a medieval building to the rear of the theatre’s seating, and on the very significant Roman paved road laying to the south of the theatre. Visits to nearby heritage and archaeological sites will also be included. No prior experience is required, just a desire to discover more about ancient Mediterranean cultures!

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**Crete and Kythera Tour**

*Enjoying refreshments in the grounds of the Villa Adriadne, Knossos*
The AAIA’s 2017 tour to the Greek islands of Crete and Kythera has just returned. There were many highlights. On Crete participants enjoyed afternoon tea and a lecture on the history of excavation at Knossos by the Curator Dr Kostis Christakis, explored the grounds of the Villa Adriane and looked behind the scenes at work currently being undertaken at the site. Anzac Day saw a visit to the Commonwealth War Commission’s cemetery at Souda Bay with a trek the following day through the Imbros Gorge, the route taken by Allied troops when evacuating the island following the Battle of Crete in 1941. The group was especially fortunate to be accompanied by Dr Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory and Prof. Tim Gregory as they crisscrossed Kythera visiting sites, museums and churches as well as visiting the APKAS headquarters and learning about this AAIA project.

Looking at a beautiful mosaic floor at Olous on Crete.

Other News

Seminar by Professor Elena Isayev

Elena Isayev (University of Exeter), current Fellow of the Humanities Research Centre at ANU, will be giving a seminar at CCANESA on Thursday June 8 at 4:15pm entitled Dynamic Cartographies before maps: Borderless Ancient Italy. Professor Isayev is an historian who uses the ancient Mediterranean as a way to explore migration, belonging and the construction of
place. Her research and teaching interests range from histories of pre-Roman groups in Italy, through material remains, to deconstructing theories of generation conflict and youth in republican Rome. Currently she is focusing on ancient mobility and spatial perception. Her stay in Sydney is co-sponsored by the AAIA and the department of Classics and Ancient History. For further details contact camilla.norman@sydney.edu.au

The AAIA Bulletin

The latest issue of the *AAIA Bulletin*, featuring articles by the 2015 AAIA Visiting Professor John Oakley and our own Dr Monica Jackson, was released in time for the April AGM. Pick up a copy from CCANESA, or download it from the web. Members should have received one in the mail last week (with apologies for the initial confusion!)

Newsletters

For those of you who would like to receive independent Newsletters from the Centre for Classical and Near Eastern Studies of Australia, please visit their website to subscribe. Similarly, the Queensland Friends of the AAIA now have their own Newsletter. Please email them to subscribe.

Mediterranean Archaeology

*Mediterranean Archaeology*, the official journal of the AAIA, is now on Jstor. All articles from volumes 1 to 24 are currently available (an especial boon as a number of these issues are out of print), with volumes 25 to 27 shortly to be uploaded.

Athens Friends

We wish a fond ‘goodbye’ to Elizabeth Gandley, who after many years of admirable service is stepping down as President of the Athens Friends. We are grateful for her support, leadership and enthusiasm, and look forward to her company for years to come as a ‘regular’ Friend. Congratulations to the new president, Marilyn O’Brien, and her Executive Council.

Greek Wine Tasting Masterclass 2017

Due to the overwhelming response to next week’s wine tasting event "Drowning in Malmsey", sponsored by the Consulate General of Greece, bookings are now closed. We hope to hold another wine tasting later in the year and will announce it in due course.