Since 2003, excavations at the site of Saruq al-Hadid in Dubai, UAE, have revealed an assemblage of archaeological artefacts, mostly of Iron Age date, that is unprecedented in its scale and diversity. The thousands of bronze, iron, and gold artefacts from the site, accompanied by evidence for copper smelting and working, have dramatically challenged existing ideas about the nature and development of Iron Age communities in south-eastern Arabia. What is most intriguing about this material is its depositional context: artefacts are apparently randomly spread across a large area within the dune systems of the northern tip of the Rub al-Khali (or Empty Quarter) desert, in an area that currently lacks almost any identifiable settlement remains or resources that might be useful for primary metal production. As part of a new collaborative research project investigating Saruq al-Hadid, Professor Weeks will outline the approaches being used to study and conserve the artefacts and deposits from the site, and the efforts to understand why and how this enigmatic site came to be.

Lloyd Weeks undertook his PhD studies at the University of Sydney and is currently Head of the School of Humanities at the University of New England.

The Council of the Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation invite you to our series of public lectures.

**Wednesday 2 September 2015**

**Centre for Classical and Near Eastern Studies of Australia (CCANESA)**
Level 4 Madsen Building F09
University of Sydney
6.30 to 7.30pm followed by a light supper

Bookings are essential for this event. We prefer prepayment by 28 August 2015.

All prepaid tickets will be available at the door.

**AN INEXPLICABLE ABUNDANCE**

**INVESTIGATING THE IRON AGE SITE OF SARUQ AL-HADID**

CCANESA
University of Sydney

**Wednesday 2 September 2015**

6.30pm

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