



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

NEAR EASTERN ARCHAEOLOGY FOUNDATION 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Foundation's Objectives

The objectives of the Foundation are stated clearly in the "Rules" for the Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation, adopted by the Senate and effective 1 June 2007.

- On 3 June 1985, the Senate approved the establishment of the Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation.
- On 1 June 2007, the Senate approved the revised rules and regulations for the Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation.
- On 1 April 2011, the Senate approved the revised rules and regulations for the Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation.
- On 1 June 2016, the Senate approved the new "Foundations Procedures 2016" to give effect to the "Foundations Policy 2016" also effective on 1 June 2016.

The Objects of The Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation

(1) The objects of the foundation are to:

- . (a) increase the resources of the University, by fundraising or otherwise securing gifts, grants, the provision of services or other non-financial contributions; and
- . (b) assist the Senate and Vice-Chancellor in promoting the object of the University in relation to research, education and scholarship in the field of archaeology through the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of the University.

(2) The foundation is authorised, for the purposes of and consistently with its objects, to:

- . (a) seek to acquire resources by gift, bequest or devise to the University, subject to prior written approval of each acquisition, in accordance with the [Administrative Delegations](#), and relevant University policies and procedures;
- . (b) encourage philanthropy and other charitable activity in support of its objects;
- . (c) recommend to the University Officer (Foundations) purposes for which it may seek to acquire resources;
- . (d) arrange sponsorships and or partnerships with external organisations provided that that approval is given in accordance with the [Administrative Delegations](#);
- . (e) provide advice to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences about the application of any resources;
- . (f) provide opportunities for admitting members to the foundation and members' participation in its activities, in accordance with these rules; and
- . (g) arrange or conduct activities, such as lectures, seminars, conferences, publications or other activities, consistent with the object of the University and subject to the approval of the University Officer (Foundations).

Foundation Governance Statement

The Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation recognises the importance and benefit of reviewing its adoption and alignment with governance principles and provides the following report:

Principle 1 – Lay solid foundations for management and oversight

Nature of the entity

The Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation is a part of the University of Sydney ABN 15211513464 and not separately incorporated under a State or Commonwealth Act. The Foundation is required to gain prior approval for its fundraising activities from the appropriate University delegate. The Foundation's activities are not-for-profit and covered by the DGR status of the University of Sydney. The University is exempted from the requirement to hold an Authority to Fundraise and obligations upon holders of such an authority but is still required to comply with the balance of provisions of the Charitable Fundraising Act

Roles of Board/Council and management

The Foundation operates under the authority of the Senate of the University of Sydney, as approved on 3 June 1985 and has no powers of delegation. The Foundation conducts its affairs pursuant to the Foundation Rules and the relevant policies of the University. The Foundation had its annual fundraising plan approved and was **able** to meet its objectives.

Principle 2 – Structure of the Council

The Council of the Foundation in 2021 consisted of the following 17 members including 2 new Councillors joining on 1st April 2021.:

The Chancellor, Vice Chancellor and Group Secretary are non-voting officials of the Foundation.

Ex officio members of the University were:

- Professor Annamarie Jagose –Dean (University Officer – Foundations). until August 2021
- Professor Lisa Adkins -Interim Dean (University Officer -Foundations) August 2021-current
- Ms Melissa Bonevska & Ms Alexia Nicholson (Development Manager, University Foundations). The Development Manager represents Mr Tim Dolan – Vice-Principal (Advancement).

Ex-officio Council Members as Office Bearers

- Professor Alison Betts (Director – January 2020 to date

Council members elected by the Members – All Council Members Appointment dates were reset at 1/4/2011 under the approved amendments to the Foundations Rules effective 1/4/2011.

Dr Peta Seaton AM – President (July 2019 to 1/4/2022)

Dr Seaton has maintained a long-standing interest Near Eastern archaeology and research and an alumnus of the University of Sydney. She runs her own strategic policy and business consultancy drawing on her background in government, as a former Member of Parliament, and in advertising and media. She is a professional non-executive director, serving on the Boards of the NDIS (since 1 Jan 2022), Bundanoon Trust (since July 2021) and Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District. She is a former Chair of Hearing Australia, and former Director of BDCU Alliance Bank, the Bradman Foundation, Menzies Research Centre and CARE Australia. She continues her archaeological research on the Chalcolithic period with current fieldwork at Pella in Jordan.

Current Term of Appointment as Council Member 1/4/15-1/4/2024

- Specialised responsibilities: President, Fundraising advisor
- Number of Meetings attended (incl AGM) =5
- Number of Meetings eligible to attend =5

Mr Stephen Coutts

Mr Coutts completed an honours degree in history, then worked on the personal staff of the Hon. Nick Greiner, Premier and Treasurer of NSW from 1988 to 1992. From 1992 to 1995, Mr Coutts was Chief of Staff to the NSW Minister for Community Services, Assistant Minister for Health, Minister on Ageing and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. From 1995 Mr Coutts has worked as a government relations adviser in the private sector. He is a former Director of the Motor Accidents Insurance Board of Tasmania, a former Councillor of the Royal Australian Historical Society, a former Secretary of the Australia Asia Young Leaders Program, a former Trustee of the Rose Bay War Memorial Crown Reserve Trust and a former Chair of Hear for You, a charity which provides mentoring services to deaf and hearing-impaired teenagers. He is a member of the Council of the Australian National Maritime Museum. With his extensive political and corporate background Mr Coutts will add much needed value to the board for fundraising purposes.

- Current Term of Appointment as Council Member 01/04/2020-1/4/2029
- Specialised responsibilities: Corporate Liaison and Sponsorship, Treasurer
- Number of Meetings attended =5
- Number of Meetings eligible to attend =5

Dr Ross Burns

Dr Burns was a career officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs for 37 years. In that time, he had a range of overseas postings and served as Ambassador to several Middle Eastern countries. Since his retirement in 2003, Ross retains a keen interest in all aspects of the Middle East, not least its history and archaeology. He recently completed a doctorate at Macquarie University and has published two books on the history and monuments of Syria.

- Current Term of Appointment as Council Member 27/3/2013-1/4/2022 (retiring this date)
- Specialised responsibilities: Occasional Lecturer for NEAF
- Number of Meetings attended (incl AGM) =5
- Number of Meetings eligible to attend =5

Dr James Fraser

Dr Fraser is a graduate of the University of Sydney and held a previous position as Senior Curator at the Nicholson Museum. Dr Fraser is now a senior Curator at the British Museum in London. Dr Fraser has extensive knowledge regarding archaeological excavation and museum curatorship and is an immense asset to the Council of NEAF.

Current Term of Appointment as Council Member 1/4/18 – 1/4/2027

Special responsibilities: Event and Fundraising advisor.

- Number of Meetings attended (incl AGM) =2
- Number of Meetings eligible to attend =5

Dr Catriona Bonfiglioli

Dr. Catriona Bonfiglioli is a Senior Lecturer in Media Studies at UTS Sydney. She holds a BA (East Anglia), a Journalism Diploma (Cardiff) and a PhD (Sydney). She has worked as a journalist for various organisations in the UK and Australia for more than 17 years, with nine years at AAP Sydney, three as National Medical Correspondent. After her PhD at Sydney (awarded 2005), she has worked in academe for the past 15 years. She has travelled extensively through the Middle East over the last 40 years and has had travel features published in various news media. She currently serves on the Committee of the Public Health Association of NSW (2000-) and has done so for 20 years. As well, Dr Bonfiglioli served in various Board capacities with the Australian Medical Writer's Association for seven years (1993-2000), including President for three.

- Current Term of Appointment as Council Member 01/04/2020-1/4/2029
- Specialised responsibilities: Educational, media and publication advisor
- Number of Meetings attended =5
- Number of Meetings eligible to attend =5

Dr Iona Kat McRae

Dr (Iona) Kat McRae is a practicing archaeological consultant and heritage advisor based in Sydney. She has over 10 years of experience working as a professional archaeologist and has worked extensively on sites throughout Australia and the Middle East (including Cyprus, Jordan, Syria, Iran, the U.A.E and Armenia). Kat has a BA (Hons) and PhD in Near Eastern Archaeology from the University of Sydney. Previously she has worked as a lecturer and tutor for the University of Sydney, Canberra University and the Centre for Continuing Education, teaching Near Eastern archaeology and practical archaeological skills.

- Current Term of Appointment as Council Member 01/04/2020-1/4/2029
- Specialised responsibilities: Archaeological and Social Media advisor
- Number of Meetings attended =4
- Number of Meetings eligible to attend =5

Dr Amanda Dusting

Dr Dusting holds a PhD from the Near Eastern Department of Archaeology, University of Sydney. Her thesis focussed on the architecture of an Achaemenid ‘way station’ in Fars province Iran titled *The Architecture of Achaemenid Qal’eh Kali*. Dr Dusting has many distinguished awards including an Endeavour Australia Award, conferred by the Australian Federal Government as a six-month fellowship at the British Institute Archaeology Ankara (BIAA), Turkey. Further honors include the Max le Petit Award for Academic Achievement in Classical Archaeology, University of Sydney. Previously Dr Dusting was awarded a Graduate Diploma in Communications (Film Production) from the University of Technology, Sydney and a Diploma of Visual Arts (Painting & Film Media) from Newcastle College of Advanced Education, NSW. She brings to NEAF a vast experience in film media and archaeology.

- Current Term of Appointment as Council Member 01/04/2020-1/4/2029
- Specialised responsibilities: Digital and communications for NEAF
- Number of Meetings attended =4
- Number of Meetings eligible to attend =5

Mr Jack McBride

Mr McBride is a retired high school principal with previous educational experience in English and History in NSW public high schools. Mr McBride finished his career with the NSW Department of Education and Training as a project officer overseeing the raising of the school leaving age.

His interest in history led him to archaeology and his participation as a volunteer at the University sites of Pella and Paphos. In 2018 Mr McBride undertook the volunteer librarian position to aid in the cataloguing of the NEAF library at CCANESA, accessioning new acquisitions and incorporating the NEAF catalogue onto the overall CCANESA database. Mr McBride brings extensive educational knowledge to the Board and is liaison officer with the History Teachers Association of NSW.

- Current Term of Appointment as Council Member 01/04/2020-1/4/2029
- Specialised responsibilities: Library and History Teachers liaison Officer- NEAF
- Number of Meetings attended =5
- Number of Meetings eligible to attend =5

Dr Ruth Ward

Dr Ward has a BA Hons in the Archaeology of Western Asia (BA Hons) from the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, and a PhD in Near Eastern Archaeology from The University of Sydney.

Dr Ward has extensive experience as a field archaeologist, working on multi-period sites across Britain and the Middle East. Alongside archaeology, Dr Ward is currently a Senior Program Manager, Executive Health Leadership within the NSW Health Education and Training Institute and has a strong background in human resources, organisational change and promoting the development of positive and effective leadership cultures and practice. Dr Ward can apply her multiskilled background to NEAF.

- Current Term of Appointment as Council Member 01/04/2020-1/4/2029
- Specialised responsibilities: Policy and Procedures Advisor
- Number of Meetings attended =5
- Number of Meetings eligible to attend =5

Mr Gregory Beattie

Mr Greg Beattie is a senior partner in the law firm Wilshire Webb Staunton Beattie Lawyers and has a Bachelor of Economics, Bachelor of Law, Bachelor of Arts all from the University of Sydney and a Master of Law from Cambridge University. He has extensive experience in numerous areas of law in property and development and special events management. He also has had considerable exposure to archaeology through his association to the Pella Project. He brings valuable knowledge to NEAF from his legal background.

- Current Term of Appointment as Council Member 01/04/2020-1/4/2029
- Specialised responsibilities: General legal and events advice.
- Number of Meetings attended =4
- Number of Meetings eligible to attend =5

Ms Holly Winter

Ms Holly Winter is a PhD candidate at the University of Sydney, who specialises in Near Eastern Archaeology. After completing her undergraduate degree and Honours at Flinders University, Holly moved to Sydney to pursue her PhD, where she is completing her thesis on palace function in the Middle and Late Bronze Age in the Southern Levant. She has convened the Near Eastern Seminar Series (NESS) for the past five years, which is a weekly series of talks by students, staff and academics on Near Eastern archaeology at the University of Sydney. Holly is a trench supervisor and team member of the University of Sydney Pella Excavation Project and the British Museum excavation project Khirbet Umm al-Ghozlan in Jordan. In addition to working on several overseas projects, Holly is a senior archaeologist for Casey and Lowe, a historical archaeological and heritage consulting company in Sydney.

- Current Term of Appointment as Council Member 01/04/2020-1/4/2029
- Specialised responsibilities: Student liaison and event co-ordinator.
- Number of Meetings attended =5
- Number of Meetings eligible to attend =5

Mr Nicholas Turvey

Mr Nicholas Turvey was President of the Archaeological Society (ArchSoc) at the University of Sydney for 2020/2021

. As an undergraduate honours' student Mr Turvey was our student representative on the NEAF Council.

Current Term of Appointment as Council Member 1/4/20 – 1/4/2022

- Number of Meetings attended (incl AGM) =3
- Number of Meetings eligible to attend =5

New Councillors Elected at the AGM 24 March 2021

Dr Joseph Lehner

Dr. Lehner is currently an Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award Fellow at the University of Sydney Department of Archaeology, an Honorary Fellow at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Macquarie University, and an affiliated scholar at the Institute of Nautical Archaeology. He finished his PhD at the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA and is a former Alexander von Humboldt German Chancellor Fellow at the University of Tübingen and a Senior Fellow at the Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations at Koç University in Istanbul.

Dr Lehner will provide an important link to FASS & SOPHI ensuring that NEAF is provided with the most up to date information on policy and decisions affecting them. He has vast experience as an archaeologist, academic and public speaker.

Current Term of Appointment as Council Member 1/4/21 – 1/4/2030

- Specialised responsibilities: University liaison, public lecturer & events coordinator.
- Number of Meetings attended =4
- Number of Meetings eligible to attend =4

Ms Prudence Sheaves

Ms Sheaves has worked in the New South Wales public sector in policy and management positions for many years. She has been a Committee Director for the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales Parliament where she provided advice and support for the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Office of the Ombudsman and the Police Integrity Commission, the Public Bodies Review Committee and the Committee on Children and Young People. She was the Executive Officer at the Police Integrity Commission for a few years. Most recently she provided probity advice to Sydney Metro in their procurement program for the City and Southwest Rail projects and Western Sydney Airport. In her capacity as a volunteer, she provided the Centre for Public Integrity secretariat services for their Board and Committees and remains a member of the Centre for Public Integrity. She is also part of the Acacia Scholarship program mentoring high achieving students at public high schools. Ms Sheaves has volunteered at Pella for several seasons and is a part time doctoral candidate at Sydney University.

Ms Sheaves comes from a strong background in politics, policy and management and will add exceptional value to NEAF on the council.

Current Term of Appointment as Council Member 1/4/21 – 1/4/2030

- Specialised responsibilities: Policy and procedures advisor, public lecturer.
- Number of Meetings attended =4
- Number of Meetings eligible to attend =4

Councillors Retired on the 24 March 2021

Dr Paul Donnelly and Mrs Sandra Parker retired at the AGM 24 March 2021.

Dr Stephen Bourke and Mr Ben Churcher were Official Observers approved by the University Officer until 1/4/2021 when they retired.

Council members were elected or re-elected at the Foundation's AGM on the **24th of March 2021 via zoom**. Office Bearer's were elected at the Council meeting 12 April 2021. There is a separate nomination committee of Council. The full Council resolves on nominations for co-opting of members to fill vacancies outside of the process of election at the AGM. There **was not** a performance evaluation of the Council undertaken in the reporting period.

Principle 3 – Promote ethical and responsible decision-making.

Council members have been provided with the University of Sydney Foundation Rules, Code of Conduct, Work Health & Safety policy and the External Interests policy. All these policies are available on the University's Policy Register, as are other relevant University policies regarding harassment, grievance procedures and the Delegations of Authority.

Principle 4 – Safeguard integrity in financial reporting

The annual accounts of the Foundation are prepared by the financial staff of the University, signed off by The Interim Dean, Professor Lisa Adkins and included in this Annual Report to the Senate. The Foundation is part of the University and therefore does not have its own audit sub-committee. While the Annual Financial Report of the University is audited by the Audit Office of NSW, the Annual Report of the Foundation has not itself been audited.

The Foundation undertook its usual fundraising activities through donations, seminars, lectures and tours during 2021. And in conducting those activities, the Foundation took all reasonable steps to ensure that commissions paid or payable to any person as part of a fundraising appeal did not exceed one-third of the gross money obtained by that person in the appeal¹ and appropriate particulars of all items of gross income received or receivable, all items of expenditure incurred, including the application or disposition of any income obtained from the appeal and particulars of those transactions to which they related were recorded in the minutes of the Foundation.²

Principle 5 – Make timely and balanced disclosure.

The Foundation complied with the reporting and disclosure requirements of the Senate. These include an annual budget and this Annual Report.

Members and Council have been made aware of the processes for disclosure pursuant to the Code of Conduct, External Interests policy, which include protected disclosure to the ICAC, the Ombudsman or the Auditor General.

Principle 6 - Respect the rights of shareholders, members, staff, volunteers, clients, & other stakeholders.

The Foundation Council and/or membership consists of members of the community, industry bodies and the University whose input is invited via the Annual General Meeting and Council meetings of the Foundation.

¹ Reg 9(6) Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2008

² See s22(2)(b) Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW)

The following forums/mechanisms have been held during the year to involve stakeholders in election of the Council, activities of the Foundation or other stakeholder participation. These include our AGM on 24th March 2021 in which Council nominations were called for and accepted.

At various times throughout the year our members are invited to participate in NEAF functions/activities (see below for details). At these functions Members are encouraged to discuss future activities and directions with Council members.

Under the Charitable Fundraising Act, the University may be questioned about any appeal on details of the purpose of the appeal such as the appeal target, objectives, distribution of proceeds, etc and the process to provide answers. During the year, the Foundation published information on its website and publications and outlines those activities in this Annual Report. Other enquiries may have been made to other parts of the University.

Principle 7 - Recognise and manage risk.

The Foundation recognises its activities within university premises or other premises require risks such as health and safety, environmental protection, privacy, trade practices, and compliance with the Charitable Fundraising Act to be considered and managed. The Foundation has managed these risks during the year by complying with WH&S practices during its activities and including in its publication's information about privacy assurance etc. Information about privacy and compliance with the Charitable Fundraising Act are also found on our website.

Principle 8 – Remunerate fairly and responsibly.

No member of a Council is entitled to receive any remuneration for acting in that capacity except reasonable remuneration on a basis, which has first been approved in writing by the University Officer (Foundations) Members of the Foundation Council may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses after written approval of the University Officer (Foundations). Any such instances are recorded in the minutes of the Council.

Report on the Activities of the Foundation

MEMBERSHIP, DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

NEAF had a membership @ the end of 2021 of 217 financial members (plus 15 Free list, 67 Free Students, 13 Life Members; 4 ex-officio) making a total of 325 members of NEAF. The Pella Project received a generous anonymous donation of \$25,000 and a smaller general donation of \$1,000. NEAF received \$1,750 to the Basil Hennessy Fund. and \$1,595 to General Donations during 2021. NEAF is to yet receive the funds from a \$150,000 bequest from a Mr Keith Hayes (this has yet to be finalised by Mr Hayes estate).

Total Philanthropy for 2021 was **\$29,345.00**.

The Development Office has appropriately acknowledged all donations as well the President of NEAF has sent individual Thank you letters.

NEAF GRANTS

NEAF awarded two grants in late 2021 (for research etc. in 2022). Mr Amir Zariba of the University of Sydney received a \$4,800.00 from the Catherine Southwell-Keely Travel Grant for research on the *“Environmental Impacts of Industrial Scale Copper production in Iron Age and Early Islamic Oman”*

Ms Dina Beidokhti of the University of Sydney received the Sam Eames grant-in-aid for \$2,200.00 to assist her research on her honors project for a Bachelor of Software Engineering and Arts with a focus on Turkey.

GRANT REPORTS

Several Grant-in-aid recipients offered grant reports (as part of their acceptance of the grants) and these are posted on our website <http://sydney.edu.au/arts/sophi/neaf/grants/reports> for review.

NEAF AGM

In 2021 our AGM was held on the zoom platform on 24th March in response to the closure of the University due to COVID-19. Approximately 107 people attended including current councillors, newly co-opted councillors and members.

Our AGM was followed by a public lecture given by Dr Pam Watson, University of Newcastle on *“Stealth Bombers in the Black Desert”*

PUBLIC LECTURES

In 2021 our public lecture program and seminar series were in part by hybrid (zoom and face-to-face and zoom only) delivery and we ran a successful five-part lecture series titled *“Mediterranean Islands and Near East Connections”*.

The first lecture in our series was given as a hybrid lecture by Dr Ted Robinson from the University of Sydney on *“Sicily: The Levant’s Foothold in Italy”* (106 participants).

Our second lecture was presented as a hybrid lecture and given by Dr Kathryn Eriksson, Independent Scholar on *“Culture, Connections, Copper & Climate Change in the Bronze Age”* (82 participants).

Following this the next lecture was presented as a zoom lecture given by Dr Emily Holt, Cardiff University, UK on *“Centring the Centre: Sardinia in the Bronze Age Mediterranean”* (91 participants attended)

The fourth lecture was presented as a zoom by Dr Claudia Sagona from the University of Melbourne, on *A Target of Phoenician Expansion into the Mediterranean*" (117 participants)

Associate Professor Lesley Beaumont, University of Sydney delivered the last zoom lecture *Chios: Connections with Asia Minor, Egypt and the Levant in the Eastern Aegean*" (101 participants).

Professor Peter Fischer, from the University of Gothenburg, Denmark gave the J.B. Hennessey Memorial lecture, on "*Hala Sultan Tekke*", Cyprus to a zoom audience of 128

SEMINAR SERIES.

NEAF had three successful Seminar Series in 2021 all delivered via zoom. The first was a four-part Saturday morning series titled "*The Great Archaeologists*" and attracted a total of 114 participants over the four Saturdays.

The second seminar series was a 5-part series titled "*Great Cities of the Ancient Near East*" and a total 130 participants linked onto this very popular series.

The third seminar series was another 5-part series "*Life After Death*" *Burial practices in the ancient Near East*" and a total of 116 attended.

SPECIAL EVENT

NEAF held a special event in conjunction with the Chau Chak Wing Museum which involved a lecture by Dr Paul Donnelly, University of Sydney, a private viewing of the CCWM and an appreciation event for several NEAF retiring councilors. This event was attended by all NEAF councilor's and 60 guests.

STUDY TOURS

NEAF has established links with Academy Travel and Alumni Travel to conduct Archaeological Tours. In 2021 due to COVID-19 our tour program was postponed, and all upcoming tours were placed on hold until restrictions are lifted on international travel.

NEAF AGM held on 23rd March, 2022

NEAF Director's Report by the Director, Professor Alison Betts

1. Discussions are continuing about the creation of a new Gordon Childe Centre to replace the Centre for Classical and Near Eastern Studies (CCANESA). The Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation NEAF will be re-embedded in the new centre.

2. As part of the establishment of the new Archaeology Laboratory in the basement of the Main Quad in rooms formerly housing the Nicholson Museum store rooms and offices, the Pella archive and all materials are in the process of being moved to this new location and will be more closely integrated with the Archaeology teaching spaces for better research and student access.

3. Two University Endowments are closely associated with the Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation. For the Anthony McNichol Visiting Fellowship the highly successful 2021 Brian Rose lectures were held online due to COVID travel restrictions. This resulted in considerable savings and a second on-line lecture series is planned for 2022. This will be in November with Nicolo Marchetti speaking on Nineveh and Carchemish. This year we also plan to establish an Edwin Cuthbert Hall Visiting Lectureship with the inaugural lecture to be given by Lee Clare in May 2022 on Gobekli-tepe, a magnificent prehistoric site in eastern Anatolia.

NEAF President' Report – Dr Peta Seaton AM

We had a great year in 2021, thanks to our wonderful NEAF Members, NEAF friends, NEAF collaborators, our Council, and the fantastic support of Karen Hendrix from her tropical zoom beach — Karen thank you for stewarding NEAF through another challenging logistic year.

NEAF MEMBER SURVEY

A highlight for me last year was the marvellous feedback Members gave us in our NEAF member survey, professionally convened by Ruth Ward. We loved hearing what you had to say – and were quickly out of the blocks to implement where we could and I trust you will see your thoughts played out in our programs this year. We learned that our membership is largely over 45 years old, professional and many retired, overwhelmingly interested in Near Eastern and Mesopotamian Archaeology, came to NEAF through our events, tours, and/or the Pella project, believe NEAF Membership is good value, and you would recommend it to others.

Members said you would like to see:

- More visibility on a website
- zoom remain a part of delivery of our talks

- More opportunities to discount events through bundles, packages,
- That members really liked our Bulletin, and we are conscious that has been a bit of a COVID casualty, but we promise to get this supercharged this year.

The things of least interest to Members were activities like

- technical drawing,
- field languages,
- HSC related topics

The statistical standout for topics you want to see more of is '**Recent Discoveries**' – and you will see much more of that in our Saturday Series, and in our Evening Lecture theme this year Seppi Lehner is convening speakers about the very latest and current work including in Anatolia and the northern Levant.

You also wanted to be more involved where possible in volunteering on projects and other activities and we will try and connect volunteers and opportunities this year.

EVENTS

We made the decision to stay digital for our Saturday series and lectures, and again, you tuned in in large numbers and contributed to strong revenues.

Some events were hybrid (zoom and face-to-face and zoom only) delivery.

Our 5 lectures in our "*Mediterranean Islands and Near East Connections*" were delivered to nearly 600 unique attendees by:

- Dr Ted Robinson,
- Dr Kathryn Eriksson,
- Dr Emily Holt,
- Dr Claudia Sagona
- Professor Lesley Beaumont,

Professor Peter Fischer gave an exceptional J.B. Hennessey Memorial lecture, on "*Hala Sultan Tekke*", Cyprus, a subject that would have captivated Basil, and we thank Stephen Bourke for arranging it.

We staged three Saturday Series with around 1500 people tuning in over the year for

- '*Great Archaeologists*'
- '*Great Cities of the Ancient Near East*'
- "*Life After Death*" *Burial practices in the ancient Near East*"

Our speakers (some of whom stepped up twice) included:

Professor Keith Dobney, Dr Catriona Bonfiglioli, Professor Roland Fletcher, Associate Professor Phillip Edwards, Maree Browne, Dr James Fraser, Dr Kate da Costa, Dr Anna Stevens, Dr Anna-Latifa Mourad, Dr Amanda Dusting, Dr Ross Burns, Dr Joseph Lehner, Dr John Tidmarsh, Dr Yasmine Wicks, Pru Sheaves, Dr Margaret O’Hea - and I had presented as well.

These speakers are our backbone, and I am very grateful.

Overall, we reached more than 2000 people– even more than in 2020 – and it is Holly Winter, our Events programme director, who we especially thank for corralling great speakers, and great content.

We will do more this year, and try some new formats such as

- Offering some ‘room and zoom’ options
- Trying some ‘hands-on’ workshops with real archaeological materials
- And Dr Kate da Costa and I have a secret plan we will tell you about soon involving our special interest subject - food

PARTNERS AND FRIENDS

NEAF appreciates our partnerships with several organisations, and I want to acknowledge and thank them. We are part of CCANESA, and we work with AIAA and Dr Stavros Paspalas where possible, and thank Jack McBride and Sue Walden for their ongoing work on Library collections.

I thank Professor Keith Dobney, Professor Alison Betts and Dr Lehner in their ‘university ‘ roles have been keen to see how NEAF can play a positive part in the new vision for archaeology at the University and we continue to play a constructive role in those discussions.

I particularly thank Professor Keith Dobney, Head of School for the respect he gives NEAF and the friendship he gives me. He has had one of the most dramatic inductions to Australian life but continues to smile.

You can expect your Council and President to defend and uphold the autonomy and objectives of NEAF, in a positive spirit, and in the hope that NEAF can play a strong role to promote Near Eastern archaeology study and research, and the reputation and appeal of archaeology in the University.

And I thank Professor Alison Betts as Director of NEAF. I am hoping we can have an event to launch her new ‘Desert Kites’ book , published through ADAPA– and perhaps to connect with the amazing Neolithic Jordanian desert kite and sanctuary discoveries in the Eastern Badia.

Thanks also to Melissa Bonevska and the Development Office for their advice

I thank Prof Annamarie Jagose, the former Dean, and welcome the interest of Prof Lisa Adkins, Interim Dean, as she joins our Council ex officio.

The Chau Chak Wing is a close institutional colleague and it was significant that we held our 2021 'Appreciation Event' for long serving retiring councillors at the Museum in early 2021.

My thanks to Dr Paul Donnelly and Dr Craig Barker and their teams for the wonderful lecture, and the special experience they created for 60 NEAF guests.

Paul and Craig and Stephen Coutts and I are working on further collaborations for this year, along with another valued NEAF friend Dr John Tidmarsh.

And of course, our long suffering travel partners – Academy and Alumni Travel, who have worked hard on 'armchair' travel to whet peoples' appetites for long-postponed destinations

TOURS

Tours eluded us again in 2021, but we hope to get going again soon.

Karen Hendrix is leading a tour to Egypt in November/December 2022. You can find out more about it via the Alumni website and I hope soon on ours.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcomed 25 new student members, and we have continued to build our membership numbers. We are now at 325 Members including 67 Free Students, 42 people became new Members last year - a big welcome to you.

DONATIONS

I am again overwhelmed by the generosity of donors, and this year we have several people to thank for a total of nearly \$30,000. Along with several other donations to help 'keep the lights on at Pella, the Pella Project received a generous anonymous donation of \$25,000. We were bequeathed \$150,000 from the late Mr Keith Hayes which will be reported in a future accounting year.

REVENUES

You'll be glad to know that all that zooming and enjoying talks and lectures has produced around \$27,000 revenue, which is nearly double that of 2020.

Membership Revenue is a smidge up, and around the \$10k p/a mark

GRANTS

We awarded 2 grants last year for research to be conducted by University of Sydney students.

- Mr Amir Zariba received \$4,800.00 as the Catherine Southwell-Keely Travel Grant for research on ancient Copper production in Oman”
- Ms Dina Beidokhti (BED-OKTI) received the Sam Eames grant-in-aid for \$2,200.00 for her honors research with a focus on Turkey.

One of my objectives in 2022 is to expand the grants we are able to give, including for research on some of the extraordinary data we hold from Pella, Teleilat Ghassul and other iconic University of Sydney projects.

NEAF will be considering new ways to honour donor wishes and see that money used, and to create new appealing pathways to attract more donor interest in purposeful opportunities. And all within a disciplined, responsible, accountable decision-making structure.

This is a work in progress but the focus is sharpening. As you will see from our financial report, we have respectable assets. But our Budget outlays each year are relatively modest, and largely drawn from revenues raised in each current year (from tours, events, etc) – ie from the activities you support.

DIGITAL NEAF

Our [Instagram](#) presence has been established by Dr Kat Macrae and thank you to those who like and share my NEAF Facebook posts. Shortly we will launch our new NEAF Website, which is one of the things identified in the Member survey. This is an addition to the official but basic NEAF University website and we call it [NEAF Plus](#) , and in addition to more photos, information about key sites, current events, NEAF people and volunteer stories. We will have podcasts with a huge thanks to Dr Amanda Dusting for producing our first batch– some great conversations with Dr Stephen Bourke, and Dr Margaret O’Hea, and others.

And most importantly, the chance to honour our donors. This is really important to me – you can read more about Jon Hosking, Lady Win Stephens, Werner Horn, and their connection with NEAF and what inspired them to support NEAF and our work.

We will let you know when we go live, and look forward to your feedback and if you have an archaeological experience you would like to share, or a great photo or a memory of a Tour – or a biography of someone you think made a contribution to NEAF, you are welcome to send it in and if we can add it to the website.

PELLA PROJECT

NEAF continues to support the Pella Project, and we are hoping that Dr Stephen Bourke will be able to resume in Jordan in 2023.

Our Treasurer, Stephen Coutts and I want to thank Dr Bourke for his continued assistance on our financial reporting.

NEAF COUNCIL

Our volunteer NEAF Council has worked hard and I want to thank

- Dr Ross Burns,
- Stephen Coutts
- Dr Ruth Ward
- Holly Winter
- Greg Beattie
- Dr Amanda Dusting
- Jack McBride
- Dr Catriona Bonfiglioli
- Dr Kat McRae
- Pru Sheaves
- Dr Joseph Lehner
- Thank you to our Student Rep Nicholas Turvey for another year of achievement. Nicholas leaves the council this year and we thank him, and look forward to welcoming a new student representative when those elections have occurred

DR ROSS BURNS

However, today we sadly lose the services of Dr Ross Burns as his term comes to an end. Ross has served on the Council since 2013. He is one of Australia's most distinguished diplomats, having served in the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs for 37 years. His roles included Ambassador to Syria and Lebanon (based in Damascus), as Minister in Paris (and Ambassador to UNESCO) and as Ambassador in South Africa, Athens, and Tel Aviv. When he retired in 2003, he completed a PhD on 'The Origins of the Colonnaded Axes of the Cities of the Near East Under Rome'.

He is an expert on the architecture of many Near Eastern Roman, Byzantine and Islamic cities including Aleppo and Damascus, about which he has written authoritative books. He is actively involved in projects such as that of the late Dr Judith McKenzie on Petra. And in addition, he has been a generous and frequent contributor to our NEAF lectures and series.

I am confident Ross will continue to be an active part of NEAF – but on behalf of all your Council colleagues and NEAF Members, my sincere thanks to Ross for an enormous contribution, and in what I hope will become a

NEAF tradition. Ross, it is with the best wishes and thanks of NEAF that I confer on you Life Membership of NEAF, and, perhaps more practically, a traditional NEAF trowel.

We will shortly hold the NEAF AGM and election of Councillors for 2022, which Professor Alison Betts will Chair.

Council recommends that we elect 2 new Councillors to fill the vacancy of Dr Ross Burns, and a vacancy that has been unfilled.

The two nominees are:

Dr Margaret O’Hea of University of Adelaide. Better known to us as ‘Maggie’, she brings world-recognised experience as a scholar of the classical Near East and a world authority on glass. She has been a generous lecturer in NEAF and NESS programs, and she brings a vast international network to NEAF, as well as ongoing field work and experience across the Near East, Turkey, Mediterranean, and of course Pella. And she is in charge of the Adelaide University Museum as well. Maggie once made a choice between astrophysics and archaeology so I am glad we won, but her scientific focus in all things will be a great asset to us as we seek to support digital access to data that can really help accelerate research.

Jennie Skulander is a long-standing Member of NEAF. She has a first-class honours degree from University of Newcastle and a Graduate credentials from CSU in Information Studies. She is a professional Librarian, with a strong customer and student focus and a background in which she has developed innovative digital and other research tools. She has a business and dentistry background, and happily for us absolutely loves archaeology as a private interest. We know that Jennie will bring all these skills to help us connect even better with our members in the sort of ways the Member Survey identified.

I am delighted that both Margaret and Jennie have offered to serve on the NEAF Council – thank you both.

Conclusion

As President, thank you to everyone who has been part of the NEAF family in the last year. I am confident we will have a great 2022, with tours, some actual get-togethers, some new activities and new opportunities to engage in Near Eastern Archaeology learning and research.

Consolidated Financial Statements

Consolidated Financial Statements are appended to this report.