



Dear NEAF Member,

Season's Greetings!

Thank you for being such a wonderful part of the NEAF community, and for your participation in and support of our NEAF activities during 2022.

As NEAF President, I've loved seeing people join our lectures and events by zoom from around Australia, the world, and where possible, in person.

[Acknowledging NEAF member support](#)

Member support of our events creates funding for grants for archaeological research. Thank you for supporting our grant programme. I am pleased to tell you that we have just awarded grants to three amazing young archaeologists. I look forward to sharing their stories and plans with you when the University scholarships office says I can! If you'd like to make an end of year donation to NEAF, you may do so [here](#). Thank you!

Some of us are packing our bags for the 2023 Pella in Jordan season. NEAF is proud to help support the Pella Project and we look forward to sharing news of volunteer experiences and archaeological discoveries with you in the New Year. Find out about volunteering for future Pella seasons [here](#).

[2023 and beyond](#)

- Save the date! The **NEAF Annual General Meeting (AGM)** is on Wednesday 22 March 2023 at 6.30pm. I am delighted to announce our speaker will be Dr Robert Bowker, a former Australian Ambassador to Jordan, Egypt and Syria. He has a great personal interest in middle eastern archaeology and culture and will talk about his book '*Tomorrow there will be Apricots*'.
- Dates for the **2023 lectures and events** programmes will be circulated soon. Look forward to more wonderful lectures and seminars delivered by expert archaeologists.
- New fun cultural events such as **food tours** are being planned by the NEAF Council. The inaugural *NEAF Food and Festive Safari* to Fairfield was sold out, with much enthusiasm, eating, shopping and learning about multicultural Sydney.
- Also, I plan to hold some 'crafty' **artisanal workshops** on ancient crafts and techniques. How about giving Roman stone mosaic a try?

[Tours](#)

Yes, tours are back! Ben Churcher and Dr John Tidmarsh are kindly supporting NEAF through their magnificent tour efforts with Academy Travel. Explore the [2023 tour programme](#), including Karen Hendrix's Alumni Travel tour to Egypt.

NEAF Membership – the unique Christmas gift

NEAF membership is a great Christmas present for the friend, family member, colleague, or young person who has everything. Be part of a strong community exploring the wonders of the ancient Near East together. For details on membership types, benefits and pricing, see our [Membership page](#)

NEAF website and podcasts

As you ease into a relaxing holiday period, explore the [NEAF website](#) and pop on the earphones to listen to some exciting [NEAF podcasts](#). You'll find some fascinating archaeological talks on topics from ancient glass, favourite finds from Pella, and Australia's history of archaeological excavation and research in Cyprus.

Watch this space for more. Our *You Said. We Did. We Will* summary below shows what we all achieved this year – and what's in store.

With best wishes for the Festive Season.

**Dr Peta Seaton AM and the NEAF Council
President, NEAF**

You Said. We Did. We Will

Your valuable feedback in the *NEAF Survey 2020* supported our achievements this year and will guide what we offer in 2023.

Here's how the NEAF Council is responding to your member preferences – and helping achieve our purpose.

In partnership with The University of Sydney, NEAF facilitates research in the archaeology of the Near East, Egypt and Cyprus, and bring the world of Near Eastern archaeology to the public:



My preferred NEAF focus area:

1. *Recent discoveries*
2. *Ideology and belief*
3. *Ancient technology*
4. *Virtual museum tours*

The 2022 Saturday Series were:

1. Technology and innovation in the ancient world
2. Dispatches from the trenches: New research and discoveries in the Near East

The 2023 Saturday Series will be on:

1. Ideology and belief
2. Details to follow

My preferred NEAF delivery methods are:

1. *Online evening lectures*
2. *Face to face eve. lectures*
3. *Online Saturday Series*
4. *Face to face Sat. Series*

Global and localised participation of NEAF members and guests was seen in 2022:

- Online = c600 people

The NEAF Council are committed to continuing to offer a range of online and/or face to face experiences in 2023 (public health orders permitting)