



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA

RD MILNS

# ANTIQUITIES MUSEUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



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## Public availability note

This volume is available from the RD Milns Antiquities Museum, Level 2, Building 9, University of Queensland, St Lucia, 4072 or online at <http://www.uq.edu.au/antiquities/annualreport>

## Correction

The RD Milns Antiquities Museum 2014 Annual Report incorrectly reported the total number of visitors at 9865. This figure should be corrected to read 8025 visitors.

## Interpreter Service Statement

The University of Queensland is committed to providing accessible services to people from all culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. If you have difficulty in understanding the annual report, please contact UQ's Institute of Modern Languages on (07) 3346 8200 to arrange an interpreter to effectively communicate this report to you.

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Prepared by Mr J Donaldson and the Office of Marketing and Communications, UQ for the RD Milns Antiquities Museum.

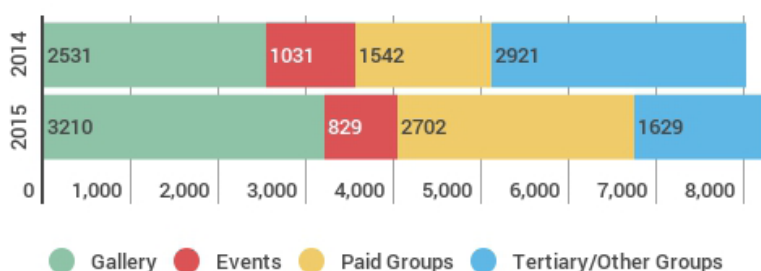
Front cover image: Cypriot Youth Dancers, Brisbane, perform at the opening of *Cyprus: An Island and A People*.

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

2015 has been another memorable year for the RD Milns Antiquities Museum, and we are proud of the important role we play at the University of Queensland. The Museum Team has helped to accommodate 8370 visitors through facilitating our diverse range of workshops, masterclasses, programs and events, not only supporting staff and students from the University itself, but also primary and secondary school students, and members of the wider Brisbane community. We have taken on a diverse range of challenges in conjunction with both maintaining our wonderful collection of ancient artefacts, and striving to provide an accessible and inspiring gallery space. As this report demonstrates, we always strive to achieve our best.

We could not achieve all that we do without the support of our donors; some have provided monetary donations, used both for the purchase of artefacts and for conservation of the existing collection. Others have loaned us items from their personal or institutional collections. We are truly honoured to share the passion of our donors via these artefacts with all our visitors, not only through exhibitions, but also also research and teaching. It is with much pleasure that I acknowledge the generous donation made by Dr Glenda Powell AM in memory of her late husband Dr Owen Powell OAM, which enabled us not only to acquire a remarkable Roman medical kit, but also to house and display the collection safely in the gallery.

Visitation Compared: 2014-2015



Through our major exhibition for 2015-2016 *Cyprus: An Island and A People*, we were able to share the rich cultural heritage of modern and ancient Cyprus with our established audiences, and make many new friends amongst the Cypriot Community of Brisbane. Their generosity and support was truly appreciated by all Museum staff, and helped to make all our events and programs associated with this exhibition extremely successful. The exhibition was also made possible through loans from The Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology, Caboolture, The Fryer Library (UQ), The Museum of Antiquities (UNE), Dr Craig Barker (USyd), Dr Andrew Sneddon (UQ), and Dr Laila Hugland.

# 8370

Visitors in 2015

# 4.3%

Increased  
Visitation  
2014-15

In 2015 we also continued to grow our schools programs: the unexpected increase in numbers of Year 7 students did put a lot of pressure on our small team of staff and tour guides. However, we have now formulated a new set of goals to help meet this new demand successfully over the next few years. This will allow us to continue to inspire future generations of students to come to UQ through developing their interest in the wonders of the ancient world.

We also facilitated access to the collection for students from Classics and Ancient History, Archaeology, Art History and Museum Studies via tutorials, assignments, workshops, internships, summer scholarships, and the International Museum Internship and Field School held in Rome and Tuscany. Museum staff remain committed to providing hands-on, work-integrated learning experiences to help students prepare for their future careers.

The Museum receives much needed support from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and I would like to thank the Executive Dean of the Faculty, Professor Tim Dunne, Mr David Mayocchi, Faculty Executive Manager, and the HASS team from Marketing and Engagement. The School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry also played an important role in helping and supporting the Museum throughout the year, and I would like to thank Associate Professor Martin Crotty, Head of the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry, for believing in the Museum and its staff, and for promoting the importance of the Museum within the University. Beck Hurst, School Manager, and Cat Curnow, Finance Officer, were, as always, stalwart supporters, and I am truly grateful for everything they have done, and continue to do for us.

I would like acknowledge the hard work of the Museum Administrative team comprising James Donaldson, Katee Dean, Rebecca Smith and Charlotte Mann, who helped to oversee the day-to-day activities of the Museum, and that of all the tour guides, volunteers and interns. I would also like to thank Professor Alastair Blanshard and all my Classics and Ancient History colleagues for their ongoing support.

Finally, I would like to thank all our 2015 visitors. We look forward to welcoming you again in 2016 to the RD Milns Antiquities Museum.



**Dr Janette McWilliam**

Director/Curator

# SUPPORTERS

The RD Milns Antiquities Museum has traditionally received assistance from individuals and groups who make donations of money or artefacts, or who offer on loan items from personal collections. This body of supporters, through their generous philanthropy, help the Museum to fulfill its mission to educate and inspire its audiences about the past.



Lid of Medicine-Box , 15.001 a (i),  
Bronze, Silver, Niello, Copper, Rome,  
AD 1-200, Purchased from Charles Ede  
Ltd, London, with funds from Dr Glenda  
Powell AM in memory of Dr Owen  
Powell OAM.

## Gifts

Donations of funds to the Antiquities Museum not only support the Museum's teaching, research and outreach roles, but also help us both to continue to develop our world-class collection through strategic acquisitions, and to preserve the collection for future generations.

The Museum would like to acknowledge and thank the following donors for their support in 2015:

**\$10,000+**

Dr G Powell AM

**\$5,000 -  
\$9,999**

No donations at this level

**\$1,000 -  
\$4,999**

Australian Association for  
Byzantine Studies  
Cypriot Community Association  
of Queensland Inc.  
Professor A Blanshard  
Emeritus Professor B Nurcombe

**<\$1,000**

Ms R Jackson  
Ms J Macfadyen  
Emeritus Professor R Milns AM  
& Mrs L Milns  
Queensland Friends of the Australian  
Archaeological Institute at Athens  
Mrs M Rahman  
Ms F Sutton  
One Anonymous Donor



The Museum is also pleased to acknowledge the ongoing support of Mr Ian Thomson who generously donated two vases from his private collection in 2015. These artefacts, a complete Near Eastern Jug from the Roman period and a Hellenistic/Roman *unguentarium*, were both purchased on the New York Art Market and are important additions to the Museum's Roman holdings.

Jug, 16.001, Terracotta, AD 200-500, Gift of Mr I Thomson, Brisbane, 2016.



## Dr Owen Powell OAM Medical Collection

In 2015, the Antiquities Museum acquired a rare and internationally significant Roman medical kit. It comprises a medicine-box decorated with the figure of Asclepius and a full set of medical instruments including probes, scalpels, forceps, and a rare bone-lever. Originally in a Japanese private collection prior to 1992, the Museum acquired this important group of medical artefacts from a French private collection through Charles Ede Ltd, London.

The acquisition of this world-class medical collection was made possible through a generous donation by Dr Glenda Powell AM in memory of her late husband, Dr Owen Powell OAM.

Dr Owen Powell graduated from the UQ School of Medicine in 1948. His chosen field of specialisation was gastroenterology. Dr Powell was appointed as the First Medical Superintendent of the Princess Alexandra Hospital in 1956, and in 1962, he was awarded his Medical Doctorate (MD). In 1972 Dr Powell was appointed Director of the Research and Planning Department at Queensland Health, where he remained until his retirement in 1981. Dr Powell then returned to UQ to complete a Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours (1987) and a Master of Arts (1994), both in Classics and Ancient History.

The Museum will present the collection for permanent display in 2016.



The Dr Owen Powell OAM Medical Collection.



Professor Alastair Blanshard (HPI) and Dr Glenda Powell AM, with Associate Professor Martin Crotty (HPI) and Professor Darrell Crawford (Medicine).

## Loans

As part of its *Cyprus: An Island and A People* exhibition in 2015/16, the Antiquities Museum supplemented its own collection through a number of important loans from its partner institutions around Australia. In particular, the Museum would like to acknowledge loans of Cypriot material from:

- Abbey Museum or Art and Archaeology, Caboolture
- Fryer Library, University of Queensland Library
- Museum of Antiquities, University of New England
- Dr Craig Barker, University of Sydney Paphos Archaeological Project
- Dr Andrew Sneddon, UQ-Alambra Archaeological Mission
- Dr Laila Haglund



Terracotta Bowl with Archangel, AD 1200 – 1300, Lapithos, Cyprus. On Loan from the Museum of Antiquities, University of New England, 2015.





# STRATEGY

The RD Milns Antiquities Museum introduced a new strategic plan in 2015, in which we outlined our vision for the Museum over the next three years. This strategic plan reinforces the Museum's mission of not only engaging our communities with the past through educative and innovative programming, but also of caring for and preserving our world-class collection. As we move into the second year of this renewed strategic plan, we are pleased to announce that we have made significant progress towards achieving our goals.

Members of the Cypriot Youth Dancers, Brisbane, prepare for a performance at the opening of *Cyprus: An Island and A People*



## Vision Statement

RD Milns Antiquities Museum: Preserving, Connecting, and Inspiring

## Progress Statement

The Museum's strategic direction from 2015 – 2017 focused on four key areas: People and Communities, Research and Innovation, Preservation and Presentation, and Education and Engagement.

### People and Communities

At the core of the Museum's strategy are the people that make it a success, both its enthusiastic team of staff and volunteers and its equally dedicated audiences who bring their passion for the past to the Museum. There are seven key areas in which we measure our success in this area:

- Increased volunteer job satisfaction, recognition and development, and project outcomes.
  - o In 2015 the Museum put in place a new training and recognition program for its volunteers. This resulted in increased volunteer retention and significant progress in volunteer projects.
- Increased engagement with students through classes and public programs.
  - o Nine undergraduate courses made use of the collection in 2015, alongside two collection masterclasses. This hands-on access to collections for teaching remains core business for the Museum.
- Improved use of surveys and feedback across all Museum programs.
  - o The use of surveys across all Museum programs continued in 2015. The most significant change in this area was the transfer of all surveys to an online system which increased the reliability of results.
- Improved visitor attendance and satisfaction with all Museum programs and staff.
  - o From 2014 – 2015 the Museum saw an overall increase in visitation of 4.3%, up 345 visitors from 8025 to 8370. This upward trend is a positive indicator of the Museum's future success.
- A wider range of off-campus engagement activities with the Brisbane community.
  - o No off-campus engagement activities were undertaken in 2015. More is planned in this area in 2016-17.
- Increased staff leadership, job satisfaction, recognition and development.
  - o The Museum successfully recruited a full-time and continuing Senior Museum Officer and a casual Engagement Officer in 2015, providing increased security for the Museum's programing into the future.
- Improved staff safety.
  - o A collection-wide Preservation Needs Assessment and an Occupational Health and Safety Review both resulted in improvements to the Museum's staff training program.

# 3210

Record general visitation  
to the Museum's gallery

# 36%

Increase in gallery  
visitation 2014/15

## Research and Innovation

Innovative research and approaches to the past are at the core of the Museum's vision for the future. There are three key areas in which we measure our success in this area:

- Development of strategic national and international research and exhibition partnerships.
  - o The Museum continues to build strong relationships with partner institutions through loans for its exhibition program. These collaborations also form important relationships between institutions.
- Improved collaboration with industry and academic colleagues.
  - o Significant progress was made in 2015 towards collaborative projects with academic colleagues, including a proposed Honours-level research cluster with the Discipline of Archaeology, Dr McWilliam's participation in a successful UQ Major Infrastructure and NHMC Grant 'Operationalising Research Collections in Archaeological Science and Museum Studies' and in a successful UQ Technology Enhanced Learning Grant for the project 'Developing Digital Humanities student capabilities in the Faculty of HASS through the AustLit Resource.'
- Increased publication output for the Museum's collection and other activities.
  - o The Museum was invited to publish four artefacts from its collection in an edited volume celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Australasian Society for Classical Studies to be published in 2016-17.

## Preservation and Presentation

To ensure the long-term success of the Museum, the ongoing preservation of its world-class collection is imperative. Likewise, the collection must be accessible to the public and presented in an engaging format through traditional methods and emerging technologies and techniques. There are eight key areas in which we measure our success in this area:

- Improved range of innovative and engaging exhibitions linking communities to the past.
  - o The Museum's major exhibition for 2015, *Cyprus: An Island and A People* was sponsored by the Cypriot Community Association of Queensland and many Cypriots have visited the exhibition and public programs.
- Increased use of digital and other technologies for presenting the museum to the public.
  - o The Museum continued to utilise social media in 2015 and developed a social media strategy for 2016 using a variety of media management tools to streamline processes.
- Improved visitor satisfaction ratings for the Museum's gallery and atmosphere.
  - o At all events in 2015, visitor satisfaction ratings for the gallery's atmosphere remained high.
- Improved Museum collection and path-finding signage.
  - o In 2015 the Museum installed new signage in its gallery to aid visitor navigation. Two new permanent displays were also installed with high-quality interpretation for visitors.
- Increased proportion of Museum collection in high-quality storage systems.
  - o Over 90% of the Museum's ceramic fragments are now in high-quality storage, while over 40% of the Museum's research collection have been provided with new custom enclosures in 2015.



New welcome signage in the Museum gallery.



- Strategic acquisition of artefacts in target areas.
  - o With the acquisition of a significant Roman medical collection in 2015, the Museum substantially increased its Roman social history holdings which are a strategic area of development for the collection.
- Improved access to conservation measures for the preservation of the collection.
  - o A Preservation Needs Assessment was commissioned by the Museum with a specialist conservator in 2015. This assessment marks the first step in a more active program of conservation which will continue in 2016.
- Improved quality and scope of data recorded about the Museum collection.
  - o A range of projects in 2015 aimed to improve the quality and scope of information about the Museum collection. Priorities were high-quality photography and data-cleaning of cultural origin information.

## Education and Engagement

Innovative engagement with the full range of the Museum's audiences is important for ensuring its place in building knowledge for the next generation. There are six key areas in which we measure our success in this area:

- Maintain a public programs calendar while improving the diversity of offerings.
  - o There were few new offerings of public programs in 2015, and the format of the Museum's Saturday Series was diversified. Further changes will be made to the program in 2016, subject to funding.
- Improved engagement of new audiences with the Museum's collection and the past.
  - o In 2015 the Museum worked closely with the Cypriot Community Association of Queensland to engage members of the Brisbane Cypriot community with the Museum's 2015/16 exhibition.
- Increased attendance at secondary school programs.
  - o Participation in paid school programs increased 49% in 2015 to 2294. Most of the additional students come from the Grade 7 demographic.
- Increased attendance at tertiary student programs.
  - o Visitation from Tertiary Students as part of classes was down in 2015 due to fewer courses being offered at 2000 level by various Schools.
- Increased visitation to the Museum by non-student audiences.
  - o General visitation to the Museum gallery increased from 2351 in 2014, to 3210 in 2015. Anecdotal evidence suggests that many of the new visitors were from the non-student demographic.
- Improved access to collection information and other resources for teachers and students.
  - o Teachers and students continue to be able to access the Museum's full collection database online. Improvements to images and data quality have increased the usability of this data in 2015.



The Cypriot Youth Dancers, Brisbane, perform at the opening of *Cyprus: An Island and A People*.

# COLLECTION

Preserving its world-class collection forms a core part of the Museum's role, as reflected in its mission statement, and enables us to provide innovative programs. Researching, recording and conserving the collection are therefore critical areas for the Museum. Underpinning all our exhibitions and events, our online database and our hands-on programs, is a great deal of research, planning and data preparation and interpretation. This is carried out regularly behind the scenes both in order to maintain the collection and to learn more about the artefacts it houses.

In 2015, the Museum began a number of long-term projects designed to document, look after, and make available its amazing collection of resources, both as physical objects and through the creation of digital archives.



Shabti for Wedja-Hor, 91.006, Faience,  
Egypt, 664-525 BC, Gift of Dr J  
Tranberg, Hill End, 1991.





## Research

As part of the development of the *Egypt: Land of the Pharaohs* permanent exhibition, extensive research was undertaken into the Museum's Egyptian collection. For many objects, this was the first time in several decades that they had been researched in a systematic way. This project allowed the Museum to update its knowledge about many of its Egyptian artefacts significantly.

One of the most important findings of this research was the translation of the hieroglyphic spell on the Museum's 26th Dynasty (664-525 BC) Shabti figurine. Shabti figures were included in tombs to serve the deceased in the afterlife. Many were engraved with a short spell from Chapter 6 of the Book of the Dead, naming the deceased and animating the figurine to work for them. Working with the standard text on the subject, Schneider's 1977 work *Shabtis*, it was possible to identify the precise form of the spell used and provide a translation for visitors to the Museum gallery and online catalogue for the first time.

The hieroglyphics are inscribed in three vertical panels down the legs of the figure and read: "Oh, these shabtis, if one counts off the Osiris Wedja-Hor, born of Ast-em-Khebit, to do every work (in) the god's land - 'here I am', [you] shall say." The text is a shorter version of Schneider's version VIIA.1 shabti-spell text.

The Antiquities Museum was also invited to contribute four artefacts to a volume of 50 antiquities from Australasian university collections. This volume will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Australasian Society for Classical Studies, and will be published in 2016-17. Selections for the volume include a Hellenistic Gold Earring in the form of a water-bird, previously in the Bochberg Collection and acquired in 2008, and a Roman Piriform Juglet from North Africa featuring an inscription naming the Pentasi, an association of professional gladiatorial fighters active in Thysdrus (El Djem) and Hadrumetum (Sousse) in the third and fourth centuries AD. Inclusion of these treasures from the Antiquities Museum in this volume is an excellent demonstration of the world-class quality of the Museum's collection.

Jug, 05.003, Terracotta, North Africa, AD 200-300, Purchased from Charles Ede Ltd, London, with funds donated by Assoc Prof D Watts, 2005.

## Conservation

In March, the Antiquities Museum worked with conservator Kate Stanway to prepare a Preservation Needs Assessment for the Museum collection. The Preservation Needs Assessment document was created following the guidelines used by the majority of Australian museums and galleries to assess their current preventative and active conservation measures. The resulting report not only records what we are doing well, but more importantly, recommends what can be done more effectively, and identifies artefacts that may be at risk now or in the future. It is a critical tool in the Museum's mission to preserve its collection at a high standard.

The report made 14 key recommendations to improve the Museum's conservation measures, including: updating policies and procedures around object handling, reducing light levels in the Museum gallery, revising cleaning and pest monitoring activities, and preparing a disaster plan for the Museum. The final recommendations of this report were implemented by Museum staff in November 2015, but many activities, such as cleaning, will continue over the coming years to keep the Museum collection in top condition. This initial work was essential in bringing the Museum up to industry standards and provides a foundation for future conservation work. In 2016, conservation treatments are planned on a number of at-risk objects, including the Museum's Coptic textile (83.107-108) and a fine Islamic bowl dating to AD 1100-1400 (13.025).

Collection volunteers also worked across the year to rehouse collection items into custom-built enclosures. This project aims to provide high-quality storage for the entire Museum collection by 2017 and was started due to recommendations from the Museum's Preservation Needs Assessment. A team of four volunteers worked with James Donaldson, Senior Museum Officer, to assess each object, create a custom enclosure from conservation grade materials, and store artefacts within standardised boxes and cartons for easy movement.

### Preservation Needs Assessment Progress



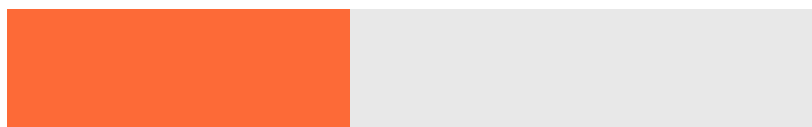
● 100% Complete: 100

### Fragments Rehousing Project Progress



● 92% Complete: 92

### Collection Rehousing Project Progress



● 42% Complete: 42



## Summer Scholars

Over the 2015/16 Summer break, the Antiquities Museum hosted two Summer Scholars who worked with Museum staff to complete the 2015 collection stocktake. This project is an essential yearly task undertaken to ensure the accuracy of collection records.

Ms Tyla Cascaes and Ms Kimberley Connor worked tirelessly with Mr James Donaldson, Senior Museum Officer, to complete the collection stocktake of over 6000 individual artefacts. Along the way the team successfully dealt with a great number of historical collection issues such as identifying objects with missing or damaged registration numbers, refitting fragments of vases to allow more accurate records into the future, and updating the locations of incorrectly stored objects. These student interns gain valuable hands-on experience with the Museum's collection database, KE EMu, and also get an insight into the behind the scenes work of a real Museum. The stocktake also gives the Museum a more accurate picture of its current holdings, allowing it to identify objects which are lost or missing.



Museum Summer Scholars, Tyla Cascaes and Kim Connor.

## Collection Access

In 2015, the Museum provided artefacts and resources for nine tertiary courses across three Schools in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. These classes included visits to the Antiquities Museum for tours, hands-on sessions in classes, tutorial and other assignment work, and technical classes for Museum Studies students. Courses featuring a Museum component in 2015 included:

- ANCH1240: Rise of Ancient Greece- One Tutorial (298 students)
- ANCH2030: Myth, Magic and Religion- One Tutorial (40 students)
- ANCH2230: The Age of Imperial Rome- One Tutorial (95 students)
- ANCH2280: Roman Society & Civilisation- One Tutorial (64 students)
- ANCH2290: Art & Archaeology of Ancient Greece- Two Tutorials (51 students)
- ARCA2140: Egyptian Archaeology: Past, Present and Future- Two Tutorials (125 students)
- ARCS2000: Science in Archaeology- One Tutorial (49 students)
- ARTT1100: Looking At Art- One Tutorial (140 students)
- MUSM7002: Collections- Course Orientation and Tutorial (20 students)



New custom built enclosures for two of the Museum's south Italian figurines.

# EXHIBITIONS

Exhibitions are the key way in which the RD Milns Antiquities Museum connects with its audiences about the past. In 2015, the Museum curated a thought-provoking range of exhibitions, covering a diverse range of topics including portraits on Roman coins and the changing story of ancient Egypt.



Detail from the exhibition  
*Cyprus: An Island and A People.*

**Kition**



## Cyprus: An Island and A People

The Museum's major exhibition for 2015-2016 explores the complex and fascinating history of ancient Cyprus. Partnering with the Cypriot Community Association of Queensland, and utilising loans from a variety of Australian cultural institutions, the exhibition extended its scope into the modern day where the island's continues to play a key role in the formation of Cypriot personal and collective identity.

According to the 1st century AD Roman writer Pliny the Elder, author of the *Historia Naturalis*, Cyprus became an island when torn from mainland Syria. Cyprus' position, in the Pamphylian Sea down from the gulf of Issus (today known as the Eastern Mediterranean), was one of great importance. Not only was the island itself rich in natural resources in the ancient world, but its ports became trading hubs visited by people of many nationalities including the Phoenicians, Anatolians and Syrians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans and Africans.

This far-reaching story of Cyprus fascinated our audiences and the exhibition has been understandably popular with Brisbane's Cypriot community. The Exhibition has also been visited by Her Excellency, Ioanna Malliotis, High Commissioner for Cyprus to Australia, and Mr Vakis Zisimos, Consul General of the High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus. However, many other visitors have commented on their own personal interest in Cyprus and staff have enjoyed these discussions at various events immensely.

The opening of *Cyprus: An Island and A People* was a Cypriot festival, with music, dancing, food and wine. The Cypriot Community Association of Queensland generously donated a feast of Cypriot delicacies including *koupepia* (Cypriot stuffed grape leaves), *keftedes* (meatballs) and *spanakopita* (cheese and spinach pie). Visitors were also treated to a performance of traditional Cypriot dance by the Cypriot Youth Dancers of Brisbane and the Melodia music group. A short catalogue to accompany the show was published in late 2015 and there has been strong media interest in the exhibition, including several Greek-language media outlets.

Colleagues and friends were deeply saddened by the loss of Dr Sandra Christou, co-curator of the exhibition, in mid -2015.

*Until May 2016*

Curated by Dr Amelia Brown, the late Dr Sandra Christou, Mr James Donaldson, Dr Judith Powell, and Dr Janette McWilliam.

Exhibition Partners:

Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology, Caboolture  
Cypriot Community Association of Queensland  
Fryer Library, The University of Queensland Library  
Museum of Antiquities, University of New England, Armidale.

*"It has truly been a blessing to be able to discuss our home country's history with the Museum and the entire community has been overwhelmed by their cooperation, respect and excitement."*

Mr Stathi Zambas, President,  
Cypriot Community Association  
of Queensland



Members of the Cypriot Ladies' Auxillary with their Cypriot feast.

## Faces of the Empire

The coinage of the Roman Empire provides a unique insight into the faces of the men and women who held positions of power and influence in Roman society. During the early Imperial period, this coinage was associated with one family, known as the Julio-Claudian dynasty, descendants of Augustus.

The exhibition *Faces of the Empire* explored the relationships between this important family by tracing their portraits and commemoration on coinage held in the Antiquities Museum's permanent collection. A simplified family tree provided visitors with information on relationships between members of the family, while individual coins provided glimpses of the people behind the history.

This exhibition supported the Museum's teaching and learning activities as part of the Classics and Ancient History course ANCH2230: The Age of Imperial Rome and was also utilised by secondary school visitors studying ancient Roman political systems.

*Until February 2016*

Curated by James Donaldson

## 2015 Internship Exhibition: Roads to Rome

In second semester each year, the Antiquities Museum hosts a group of undergraduate student interns enrolled in a second-year Classics and Ancient History course. These students undertake a competitive application process and work closely with Museum staff to develop a small exhibition on a topic associated with the Museum's current major exhibition. The Internship is an important way for undergraduate students to gain vital industry experience through learning practical and transferable skills. Many past interns have gone on to work in cultural institutions around Australia and throughout the world.

The 2015 Museum Interns curated an exhibition entitled *Roads to Rome* which aimed to investigate the various foreign sources of both luxury and staple goods needed in Rome and throughout Italy. The exhibition highlighted the importance of Rome's provinces in providing not only luxury imports, but more importantly, staples to feed the masses.

The interns found the experience of working closely with Museum staff to research and develop an exhibition very valuable. One intern commented, "It's a labour of love for all of us, we've all brought our own skills to it, and it's definitely a team effort."

*Until September 2016*

Curated by Ms Sarah Dickinson, Ms Bethany Hawkins, Mr Lincoln Morse, Mr Dominic Ragonesi, assisted by Mr James Donaldson and Dr Janette McWilliam.

Detail from the 2015 Intern Exhibition, *Roads to Rome*.







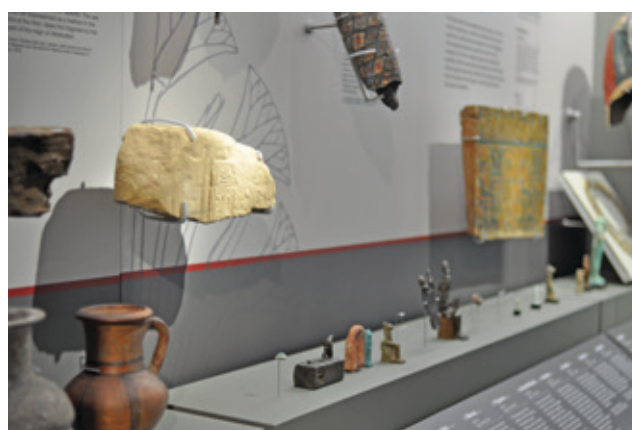
## Permanent Displays

To continue the revitalisation of its gallery, the Antiquities Museum also developed two new permanent displays in 2015. These new exhibitions allow visitors to access high-quality information about artefacts held in the Museum's permanent collection. In particular, these permanent exhibitions support the Museum's education programs for primary, secondary and tertiary students.

*Egypt: Land of the Pharaohs* explores the changing story of ancient Egypt, from the institution of the Pharaoh-king to their distinctive religious and funerary practices. Ancient Egypt has an enduring appeal in the modern day and this exhibition is already proving very popular with visitors and school groups. Highlights include the Museum's stunning death mask (98.001), a fragment of wooden coffin with a hieroglyphic spell (80.001), and four beautiful Romano-Egyptian gold earrings (83.013-016).

The second permanent exhibition to open recently at the Antiquities Museum is the *Dr Owen Powell OAM Medical Collection*. This rare and internationally significant Roman medical collection was acquired by the Museum in 2015 in memory of the late Dr Owen Powell. The medical kit comprises a bronze box for medicines and instruments, decorated with an image of Asclepius the Greco-Roman god of healing and patron of doctors. It also includes two additional bronze storage containers, one with residues of ancient medicines, and a range of beautifully crafted medical instruments including probes, forceps, scalpels and a rare bone lever. The collection is now on permanent display in a custom showcase in the Museum gallery.

*Egypt: Land of the Pharaohs* and the *Dr Owen Powell OAM Medical Collection* are ongoing exhibitions curated by Mr James Donaldson and Dr Janette McWilliam.



Above: The Dr Owen Powell OAM Medical Collection.

Right: Detail from the exhibition, *Egypt: Land of the Pharaohs*.





# ENGAGEMENT

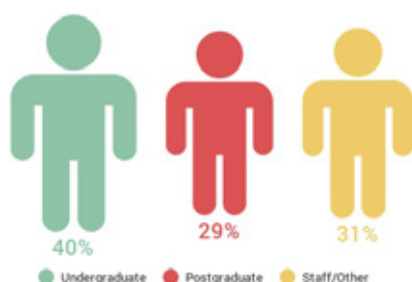
The Museum's vision statement: Preserving, Connecting and Inspiring, conceptually links our collection, and its ongoing preservation with the importance of actively engaging with our communities and with the past. Therefore, alongside our collection development and exhibition activities, the RD Milns Antiquities Museum also seeks to engage with our audiences through high quality public programs and events that go beyond the traditional 'objects in cases' approach to Museums. In 2015, a range of activities provided opportunities for our diverse audiences to engage closely with our collection, and with the past.



*"A thoroughly enjoyable evening. The lecture was truly excellent."*

Lemuria Praise

Lemuria 2015 demographics



**+49%**

Increase in School Program visitors 2014/15

**2294**

Total School Program visitors in 2015

## Carpe Noctem

The Antiquities Museum's popular Carpe Noctem series returned for the fourth time in 2015, with the traditional Lemuria event held in semester one and the end-of-year Saturnalia event in semester two. These evening events were targeted at student audiences and featured a themed lecture and photo booth to engage students with the Museum collection in a different way.

In semester one *Lemuria: A Festival of Mysteries* drew a thematic parallel between the mystery cults of the ancient Mediterranean and the emphasis upon funerary items within the Museum's exhibition *A Study in Stone*. Fifty-one visitors, dressed as cult initiates or Greco-Roman deities, enjoyed a special lecture presented by Dr Chris Malone, a 'Villa of the Mysteries' themed photo booth, wine and canapés. Guest feedback from this event was very positive, with 71% of visitors rating the lecture as "Excellent" and 57% rating the atmosphere as "Very Good" or better.

*Saturnalia: A Festival of the Gods* served as the Museum's end of year event, and was attended by 65 students and members of staff. The evening featured the opening of the 2015 Museum Interns' exhibition, *Roads to Rome*, a special guest lecture by Dr Amelia Brown on travel, trade, and the Roman gods, and a Roman temple themed photo booth. Many attendees donned costumes for the occasion. Saturnalia 2015 signalled the end of the Carpe Noctem series of events with a renewed program of student-focused events in development for 2016.

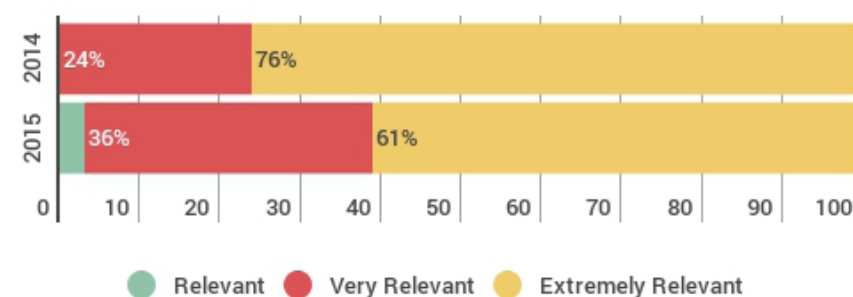
## School Programs

Education programs for Primary and Secondary school students in Queensland are a key way that the Museum engages with the next generation of ancient historians, archaeologists and museum professionals.

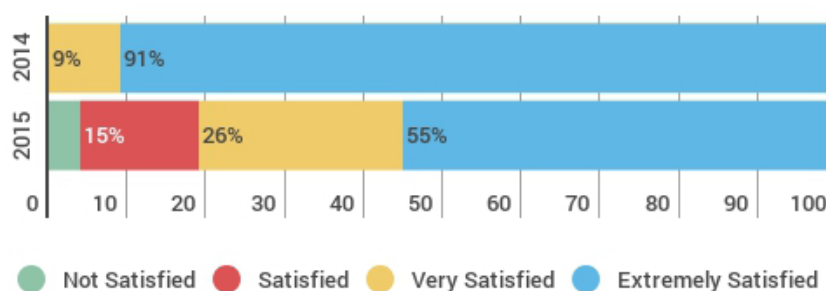
From 139 individual groups, some 2512 students, accompanied by 190 teachers or parents visited the Museum for education programs in 2015. This figure is a significant increase of almost 1000 students from 2014 levels. The biggest increase was seen in the Grade 7 demographic who moved to high schools in 2015.

This dramatic increase in attendance put the Museum's education program under increased pressure during 2015 and this had an effect on feedback ratings from teachers. The collection of feedback also changed in 2015 with forms now emailed to teachers following a visit, rather than collected on site during programs. This resulted in a decreased response rate which may be a factor in changes to overall feedback statistics.

School Program Relevance Rating



#### School Program Staff Satisfaction Rating



*“We have experienced the workshops for a few years, and the students always come away with valuable information.”*

#### School Program Praise

Only 28 (32%) of the 72 teachers surveyed responded to the feedback appraisal. When asked to rate the relevance of the program to their studies, 17 teachers (61%) rated the program ‘Extremely Relevant’, while 10 (36%) rated it ‘Very Relevant’ and 1 (3%) rated the program ‘Relevant’.

When asked how satisfied they were with the staff member(s) leading their booking, 15 teachers (53%) were ‘Extremely Satisfied’, while 7 (25%) were ‘Very Satisfied’ and 4 (14%) were ‘Satisfied’. One teacher (4%) responded ‘Not Satisfied’. These figures demonstrate a reduction in staff satisfaction ratings since 2014, when 85% responded that they were ‘Extremely Satisfied’ with staff.

As a result of this feedback, the Museum put in place a review of school programs. This review recognised the dramatic increase in visitation during 2015 that placed increased pressure on our fantastic team of casual tour guides, but also made recommendations for the future. These included a review of the number of workshops that are part of the education program, a review of workshop content based on consultation with tour guides, and increased staff training and resources. The recommendations of this review were implemented over the 2015/2016 summer break and will be evaluated during 2016.

### Masterclasses

Drawing on the expertise of academic staff, visiting scholars and postgraduate students, the Museum presented three extra-curricular masterclasses in 2015. These special programs were developed for undergraduate students and members of the general public who wished to broaden their understanding of ancient material culture with the guidance of specialists in the field.

In semester one, a course in archaeological illustration was led by Senior Museum Officer, James Donaldson. The session examined both the history of archaeological illustration and archaeological drawing practices, allowing eighteen students to try their hand at drawing objects from the Museum collection using their newly-acquired drawing skills.

In semester two, a class on Greek vase attribution was led by the 2015 Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens Visiting Professor, Professor John Oakley. During this class, twelve students examined a range of Greek vase fragments in order to attribute them to known painters. Professor Oakley’s masterclass was a valuable addition to the Museum’s program and gave students and staff alike the opportunity to work closely with a respected international scholar.

The masterclass series was concluded by a workshop on ancient Roman Numismatics (study of currency and coins) led by Administrative Officer, Charlotte Mann. Twelve students were taught to recognise and interpret the iconography, language and symbols struck upon Roman coins in the Museum’s collection, a critical skill for scholars of the ancient world.

These masterclass events were very popular and consistently over-booked, receiving excellent feedback from students in attendance. The courses will continue in 2016.

*“Very stimulating, well-run and enjoyable event. Thank you.”*

#### Saturday Series Praise

### Saturday Series

Continuing the success of this program in 2014, the Museum hosted two Saturday Series events during the second half of 2015, associated with the *Cyprus: An Island and A People* exhibition. These events are intended to provide local and professional audiences, including donors and alumni, with high-quality public lectures and panels relating to the Museum's collections and exhibitions.

The first Saturday Series event was held on Saturday 6 June, the day after the opening of the *Cyprus: An Island and A People* exhibition. This event was a curator panel, featuring Dr Janette McWilliam in conversation with Dr Judith Powell and Mr James Donaldson. Attendance was strong with 50 visitors comprising 20 members of UQ staff and established Museum supporters, and 30 others, mostly members of the Brisbane Cypriot community. Feedback on this panel was broadly positive, with all survey respondents rating the panel 'Excellent' or 'Very Good'.

The second Saturday Series for the exhibition *Cyprus: An Island and A People* included a panel discussion on the topic of 'Doing Archaeology on Modern Cyprus' with archaeologists Dr Andrew Sneddon (University of Queensland) and Dr Craig Barker (University of Sydney) in conversation with Dr Janette McWilliam. A total of 57 guests attended the event and 100% of survey respondents rated the panel 'Excellent' or 'Very Good'.





# PEOPLE

The RD Milns Antiquities Museum team is at the heart of its success in achieving its vision to preserve the past and to connect our audiences to it in an inspirational way. The Museum Team comprises the Director/Curator, Museum Administrative Staff, Tour Guides and Volunteers. All play an important part in the Museum's success. In 2015, the Museum welcomed several new faces to the team, and farewelled some longstanding members who have moved on to new opportunities.

Daniel Press, has moved to Oxford in the United Kingdom and taken up a position with a rare print and map gallery there, while Jessica Dowdell also moved to the United Kingdom and is now a Collections and Learning Curator at Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service. We wish Daniel and Jessica all the best in their future endeavours.

Image: Museum volunteer Lincoln Morse assists James Donaldson, Senior Museum Officer to move a Palmyrene Funerary Stele from the first century AD.





Dr Janette McWilliam, Director/Curator



James Donaldson,  
Senior Museum Officer



Katee Dean, Engagement Officer  
(Jan-Jun 2015)



Rebecca Smith, Engagement Officer  
(from Jun 2015)

## Our Team

A number of staff achieved significant milestones and awards in 2015 that demonstrate their dedication to the Museum's mission to educate and inspire our communities about the past.

- Dr Janette McWilliam, Director/Curator continues to lead the Museum Team, and to fulfil her role as Lecturer in Classics and Ancient History. She was invited guest speaker for the Lyceum Club Brisbane, and panellist for the workshop *What Do Teachers Want from Museum Spaces*, held at St Laurence's College Brisbane.
- Mr James Donaldson, Senior Museum Officer, successfully reapplied for his position with the Museum early in 2015 when it was made permanent and full time after a competitive application process. In October 2015 James was invited to present the Annual Maurice Kelly Lecture at the University of New England, Armidale, where he spoke on the topic of 'Reimagining Antiquity: Lessons from the RD Milns Antiquities Museum'.
- Ms Katee Dean moved into the position of Engagement Officer during the first half of 2015 while continuing her studies for a Graduate Diploma in Museum Studies. Katee stepped back from this role in the middle of the year to focus on her studies and will commence a Master of Philosophy in Ancient History in 2016.
- Ms Rebecca Smith joined the Museum team in the middle of 2015 as Engagement Officer. Rebecca completed her Master of Philosophy degree with the University of Queensland in 2013 and since then has spent time at the University of Queensland and the University of New England as a Sessional Academic. She has also worked extensively with the Museum in the past as a tour guide. Rebecca is studying for her Graduate Diploma in Museum Studies with Deakin University.
- Ms Charlotte Mann, Administrative Officer, received a First Class Honours degree in Ancient History with the University of Queensland. Charlotte is now studying for a Diploma of Classical Languages while applying for postgraduate research opportunities overseas.



Museum Administrative Officer, Charlotte Mann (foreground right), sorts Roman ceramic fragments as part of the RD Milns International Museum Internship Program and Field School.

## Tour Guides

Our dedicated team of tour guides met the challenge of increased education program visitation in 2015 and school teachers remained very satisfied with the quality of the Museum's staff. In the second half of 2015, the Museum launched a review of the way we train our tour guides so that these front-line staff can continue to perform at their peak. The 2015 tour guide team was:

- Amy van der Boor
- Wesley Theobald
- Kate McKelliget
- Catherine Smallcombe
- Alana Strong
- Mariangela Osiecki
- Adam Brennan
- Dustin McKenzie
- Georgia O'Bryne
- Alice O'Brien

## Internship

Each year, the Antiquities Museum offers students enrolled in an advanced-level Ancient History course the opportunity to take part in a curatorial internship. In 2015, the Antiquities Museum Internship was part of the ANCH2280: Roman Society and Civilisation Course and four student interns were selected to work with Museum staff in the development of an exhibition relating to ancient Roman trading practices.

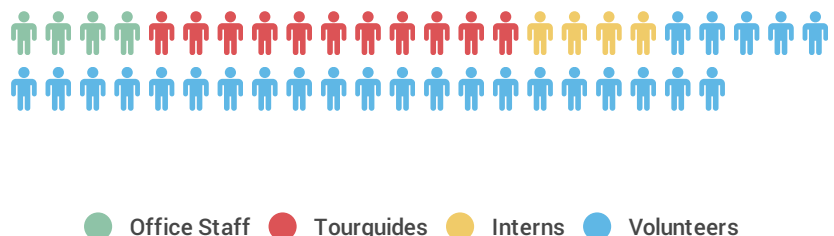
Guided by Museum staff, these student interns experienced first-hand the process of developing an exhibition from initial concept, to research, development and installation. The culmination of the program was an exhibition opening event held in the last teaching week of semester where the students took the role of curators and presented their exhibition to the public. The 2015 Interns were:

- Sarah Dickinson
- Bethany Hawkins
- Lincoln Morse
- Dominic Ragonesi

*"The internship has really sparked my interest in future museum work and I am looking forward to working closely with the collection again in the future."*

Lincoln Morse, Intern

Museum Team Breakdown 2015







Students analyse a mandible during the RD Milns International Museum Internship Program and Field School.

*"I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in the Material Studies Field School. It was an amazing experience, and I have gained skills which will be invaluable to my future career."*

Sarah Dickson, Student



2015 Alberese Team explore local sites.

## Volunteers

Volunteering is a valuable way that students can gain meaningful experience in the museum industry, often leading to future employment opportunities. In 2015, the Antiquities Museum welcomed 26 volunteers into a revitalised volunteering program that placed emphasis on developing volunteer skills and providing substantial outcomes through real-world projects.

Volunteer projects in 2015 included important visitor service roles, exhibition research, data cleaning, photography processing, 3D scanning and collection rehousing. Without the input of its volunteers in these diverse projects, the Museum would not be able to meet its yearly goals and we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the 2015 volunteer team:

- Joel Scott
- Rachael Woodman
- Oscar Goldman
- Alice O'Brien
- Morvarid Mazhari
- Brendan Walsh
- Katherine Kent
- Kelly Khuu
- Alana Strong
- Catherine Smallcombe
- Dustin McKenzie
- Joel Gillham
- Andrea Reidy
- Sarah Dickinson
- Taylor Hickman
- Victoria Worral
- Ansam Hummadi
- Nicholas Clarke
- Charmaine Howie
- Teresa Smalberger
- Marc Hunter
- Mike Bull
- Madeline Thomson
- Lincoln Morse
- Julia Piagno
- Margaret Morrissey

## RD Milns International Museum Internship Program and Field School 2015

In January-February 2015, students participated in the RD Milns International Internship Program and Alberese Material Culture Field School in Italy. This globally enriching, work integrated learning program helps students to develop transferrable research and practical skills. It is organized and led by Dr Janette McWilliam, Museum Director/Curator, in conjunction with staff from the Alberese Archaeological Project.

Students spent time in Rome visiting major Museums and many remarkable archaeological sites including the Colosseum and Forum, the Crypta Balbi theatre excavations, and the Vatican Excavations under St Peters Basilica, before travelling out to the Labs of the University of Siena at Grosseto in Southern Tuscany for 4 weeks.

The team worked extremely hard to analyse and catalogue finds from the recent archaeological excavations, including 7276 glass fragments (with 367 drawings), 3200 pottery fragments (with 124 drawings) and 200 small finds (with 213 drawings). They were rewarded on Fridays with trips to local museums and excavation sites around Tuscany. Well done to the following team members:

- Hannah Cran
- Sarah Dickinson
- Rachel Dowe
- Lynelle Gale
- Charmaine Howie
- Charlotte Mann
- Lincoln Morse
- Georgia O'Byrne
- Rachel O'Malley
- Alana Strong
- Marc Hunter






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