

CANSW

Newsletter

January 2026

Welcome to the New Year. The CANSW Council is currently planning an exciting schedule of events for 2026. First up will be the AGM.

AGM Details:

Speaker: The invited speaker for the AGM is Professor Alanna Nobbs (AM).

Alanna will lead a discussion on the topic, 'Engaged not Endangered: Ideas for the future of NSW Classics'. Everyone is welcome. Please come along and join the discussion on this very important subject.

Date and venue: AGM will be held on the 27th March at 5.30pm in the Boardroom of the Vere Gordon Childe Centre, Level 4, Madsen Building, University of Sydney.

This link will take you to the map: <https://maps.sydney.edu.au/?room=F09>



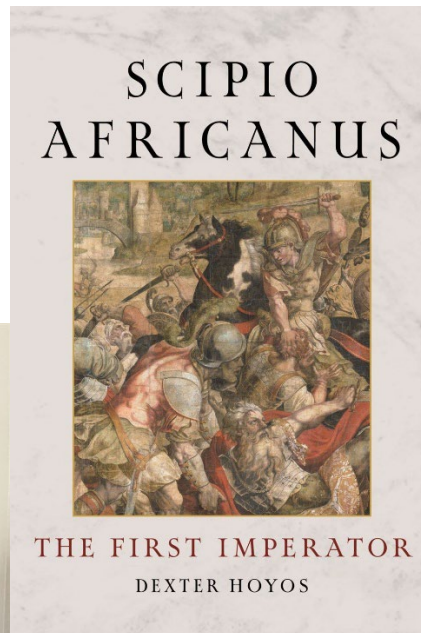
Now would be a good time for you to renew your membership. Please follow this link for the details:

<https://classics.org.au/association/membership>

Events planned for CANSW will be posted on the Association's website.

<https://classics.org.au/>

If you are looking for something to read or other items of Classical interest, please follow the links below!



1. New Book: Dexter Hoyos, *Scipio Africanus: The First Emperor*

Congratulations to Dexter Hoyos on his recent publication, *Scipio Africanus: The First Emperor*. His book was published towards the end of 2025 by Reaktion Books. For more information (and to order your own copy):

<https://newsouthbooks.com.au/books/scipio-africanus/>

2. Articles from *The Conversation*

A timely and entertaining piece on ancient partying: <https://theconversation.com/how-to-party-like-an-ancient-greek-270060>

And, depending on when you read this, perhaps even more relevant:

<https://theconversation.com/what-were-books-like-in-ancient-greece-and-rome-267872>

3. Exhibition: *ROME – Empire, Power, People*

A major exhibition on ancient Rome is coming to Melbourne. **Dates:** Wednesday 1 April – Sunday 25 October

Details: <https://museums victoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/whats-on/rome-empire-power-people/>

4. Christopher Nolan's *Odyssey*

Nolan's adaptation of *The Odyssey* is set for release on **17 July 2026**, using new IMAX® film technology. The official trailer is now available—complete with much-discussed Batman-style helmets. Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mzw2ttJD2qQ>

We are planning a private screening of *The Odyssey for CANSW*. We'll announce the details when they are confirmed.

5. Natalie Haynes: New Work and New Media

Natalie Haynes continues to delight with her podcast (a light-hearted take on all things classical): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b077x8pc>

Her latest novel, *No Friend to This House* (2025), has been warmly received. Review: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2025/sep/11/no-friend-to-this-house-by-natalie-haynes-review-a-thrilling-take-on-the-golden-fleece-myth>

She also appears on History Hit in *Divine Fury: Demeter and Persephone*: <https://access.historyhit.com/videos/divine-fury-1>

6. *Mediterraneum: Trade and Sesterces*

Dr Jacopo Napoli has created a free educational video game set in the Mediterranean between 160 and 150 BCE. Players take on the role of a Roman merchant based on Delos, striving to build wealth through trade. Game link: <https://cigno1.itch.io/mediterraneumtradeandsesterces>

The creator welcomes feedback. Napoli notes: “*Regarding the banking system used by the player character, I designed it this way because I did not want to make it too easy for players to accumulate wealth, and because I was not sure that all banks could perform transfers, so I chose to use ‘branches’ instead of banks of acquainted people. I was thinking of specifying it in a ‘historical notes’ section.*”

7. Yann Martel's New Novel: *Son of Nobody*

From the author of *The Life of Pi*. Book link: <https://www.textpublishing.com.au/books/son-of-nobody>

Publisher's blurb (excerpt): Harlow Donne, a scholar devoted to the Classical world, is invited to Oxford to work on a set of obscure papyrus fragments—an academic dream. While studying in the Bodleian Library, he discovers a previously unknown account of the Trojan War, centred on a commoner named Psoas, “the son of nobody.”

8. Latin and Greek at the WEA

For those wanting more language study, the WEA is again offering Latin classes:

<https://www.weasydney.com.au/courses/Languages/Latin>

They also offer courses in Ancient Greek and Ancient Greek music:

<https://www.weasydney.com.au/courses?s=ancient%20greek>

9. New Discoveries at Pompeii

Recent excavations have revealed more frescoes and decorative features. Article:

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/archaeologists-discover-sumptuous-frescoes-at-ancient-villa-preserved-by-mount-vesuvius-eruption-180987951/>

10. Advances in Herculaneum Papyri Research

A fascinating new technique—pulsed thermographic analysis—offers non-destructive insights into papyri fragments. Read more: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-025-19911-w>

11. *Ephebeia*, Fall 2025

The Paideia Institute has released the inaugural issue of *Ephebeia*, an online journal showcasing the writing of high-school students. A wonderful initiative.

https://www.paideiainstitute.org/ephebeia_fall_2025?utm_campaign=ephebeia_f25_publication_annou&utm_medium=email&utm_source=paideiainstitute