

CANISW

NEWSLETTER

August 2026

In this issue we are delighted to share several upcoming events, along with a selection of notes and reflections on performances of Classical works, Classical languages, and the ancient world. In particular, please note the forthcoming Teaching Classical Languages Symposium and the CANSW Latin and Greek Reading Competition.

Forthcoming Events



A woman reading

Attic red-figure hydria, 475–425 BC, British Museum 1885, 1213.18

Image © The Trustees of the British Museum.

Teaching Classical Languages Symposium

The theme for this year's *Teaching Classical Languages Symposium* is 'Imagine the Perfect Textbook.' Speakers will address critical issues related to Classical Languages pedagogy, the full range of formats available in an increasingly hybrid world, the integration of social themes and Classical content and best practice in raising student confidence.

The full list of TCLS2026 speakers and titles is as follows:

- Philip Brophy (James Ruse)** “Co-textbooking” with Ørberg.
- Phillip Dupesovski (Newington/University of Sydney)** “Suburani: Learning Latin ‘Below the City’”
- Emily Gilbert (University of Melbourne)** “Between Textbook and Text: How Textbook Choice Shapes the Transition to Original Latin”
- John Tuckfield (University of Melbourne)** “Reflections on a new Textbook”
- Carla Hurt (Heathdale Christian College) KEYNOTE** “Classical languages as heritage language: why are we learning “dead” languages while indigenous languages are dying all around us?”
- Jamie Nguyen (Scotch / University of Sydney)** “Reconceptualising the textbook”
- Craig Barker, Yasmina Chotochova, & Julian Woods (Chau Chak Wing Museum, University of Sydney)**, “Artefact as textbook: Lessons from teaching classical languages in a museum context”
- **Kathryn Welch (University of Sydney)** “What should go in a Textbook. A View From the Roman Republic”
- **Monique Webber (Melbourne Girls’ Grammar / University of Melbourne)** “Material culture in the Latin Classroom: Provocations and practice”
- **Sota Maruono (Tokiwa University, Mito)** “Ancient Writing Systems”
- **Alison Griffith (Auckland), Elizabeth Minchin (ANU), Gary Morrison (Auckland), Alexander Madeira (Canberra Grammar School)** “Embracing “Grammar”:
 - The Longer History of ANU’s Traditional Grammar Experiment
 - Teaching Ancient Language in a Bums-on-Seats Tertiary Economy
 - Reflecting on Traditional Grammar from a Former Student’s Perspective”

We are delighted to announce that this year’s keynote speaker is Carla Hurt. Carla is a high-school Latin teacher and You-Tuber who has converted to input-based approaches. She is based in Melbourne. More about Carla can be found here:

<https://foundinantiquity.com/>

Date and venue: **14th August 2026, 9.00am-4.00pm, Vere Gordon Childe Centre**, University of Sydney. To register for TCLS2026 click [here](#).

For further information, please contact the convenors [Sarah Lawrence](#) and [Tamara Neal](#)

<https://classics.org.au/events/calendar/teaching-classical-languages-symposium-2026>



A woman teaching in Classical Athens

Red-figure kylix, Sabouroff Painter, 475–450 BC., Allard Pierson Museum, Amsterdam, 8210.

Image © Allard Pierson Museum

CANSW Latin and Greek Reading Competition

This competition for secondary schools (Years 10 and 11) is conducted each year in June and July. The trophy for the Year 10 Chorus is named in honour of the late Professor Kevin Lee. Further details may be obtained from the competition coordinator phillip.dupesovski@sydney.edu.au.

Monday 10th August: Level 2, F10 New Law Building, University of Sydney [Enter via Eastern Avenue]. Click [here](#) for map

[Classical Association of New South Wales — Latin and Greek Reading Competition](#)

Todd Lecture 2026: 'Exempla: the beating heart of philosophical traditions'

This year's Todd lecture will be presented by **Rebecca Langlands**, Professor of Classics at Exeter University. Professor Langlands has particular interests in Latin literature and Roman culture, ethics and exemplarity, the history of sexuality and classical reception.

17th September 2026, Chau Chak Wing Museum (Time TBC). Booking details will be made available closer to the date.



A woman grating cheese in Classical Athens

terracotta, 500–475 BC, Tanagra; Museum of Fine Arts Boston, 01.7783.

Image © MFA Boston

CANSW Annual Dinner

We are delighted to let you know that the special guest speaker for the annual dinner will be **Arlene Holmes-Henderson**, Professor of Classics Education and Public Policy at Durham University.

The Annual Dinner will be held at Emma's Snack Bar Enmore, on November 20, from 6pm. The venue offers a Middle Eastern banquet in a private covered courtyard. The price for the banquet includes wine and non-alcoholic drinks on entrance. The restaurant is BYO; please do bring the beverages that are suited to your tastes. Tickets are \$80. To book your place at the dinner, please make a reservation through the Eventbrite page linked below and make a payment via Electronic Financial Transfer to the CANSW account. All the information needed can be found at the link here: [CANSW ANNUAL DINNER](#)

For more information about Professor **Arlene Holmes-Henderson**:

<https://www.durham.ac.uk/staff/arlene-v-holmes-henderson/>

Further Forthcoming Events

An evening with Tristan Hughes

Tristan Hughes, presenter and producer at *History Hit* and host of *The Ancients* podcast, will appear live on stage across Australia and New Zealand for two myth-focused events exploring some of antiquity's most enduring stories.

In Canberra and Auckland, Tristan joins Jeremy Armstrong, Professor of Ancient History, to trace the legend of Romulus and Remus from its early narrative forms to its long afterlife in shaping ideas of Roman identity.

A second series of events in Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, and Melbourne sees Tristan in conversation with Alastair Blanshard, Professor of Classics and Ancient History, for an exploration of Heracles. Together they examine how the hero's extraordinary strength, suffering, and twelve labours have been retold from classical literature through to modern film and popular culture, and what historical realities may lie beneath the myth.

Further details, including ticketing information, are available online.

Monday August 3rd, Sydney City Recital Hall; 7:30pm

Tickets are available [here](#)

See also: [Classical Association of New South Wales — An evening with Tristan Hughes](#)

WEA Course: Goddess: Her Journey from Primordial Chaos to Mount Olympus

A short WEA Course over two sessions offered by Theodora Zourkas.

Dates and times: 6th and 13th or 7th and 14th August, 2-4.30pm

Location: Face to face (WEA Sydney 72 Bathurst Street Sydney) and online.

For more details, and to make your booking: [Goddess: Her Journey from Primordial Chaos to Mount Olympus | WEA Sydney](#)

Special Event at Gleebooks Friday 13 November

Join **Amy Poe** (ACU), **Sarah Lawrence** (UNE) and **Arlene Holmes-Henderson** (Durham) for a conversation about their work bringing ancient Greek literature and philosophy into prison education programs. The discussion will be moderated by **Tristan Bradshaw** (Wollongong/USyd).

Arlene Holmes-Henderson has developed an innovative project at Durham University to teach Aristotelian ethics and rhetoric in prisons. You can read more about Arlene's work here: [teaching-classics-uk-prisons](#)

You will need to book to attend this event; links for bookings will be added to the CANSW Events webpage when the tickets become available.

Classical Languages

Language Conference

The Ancient Today, a language conference held in Melbourne in July, brought together scholars working not only in ancient Greek and Latin but also Sanskrit, Classical Hebrew, Classical Arabic, and Classical Chinese. It was a genuinely inspiring event, animated throughout by a shared humanistic ideal that was both comforting and illuminating. A publication of the proceedings is forthcoming. The conference contributes to an Australian Research Council Discovery Project which aims to compare ancient language education across world cultures with 'classical' literatures.

One particularly promising development is that the organisers are preparing a statement for policymakers on the teaching and learning of ancient languages.

Secondary Teacher Position: Latin & Classical Greek

CANSW is pleased to note that Trinity Grammar School is seeking a teacher of Latin and Classical Greek. The appointment involves teaching across Stages 4–6, including both HSC and IB Diploma Latin. Applications close **12 August 2026**. Further details are available at: [Secondary Teacher - Latin/Classical Greek](#)

2026: The Year of the Trojan Horse

Secret Life of Books: The Odyssey

A lunchtime lecture about Homer's *Odyssey*, exploring its ancient origins, the legendary characters, its lasting influence on literature, and why it continues to inspire new adaptations.

Date and time: 11th August 2026, 1 pm – 2 pm

Location: Chau Chak Wing Museum

Make your booking here: [Secret Life of Books in the Museum: *The Odyssey* - The University of Sydney](#)

Homer goes to Hollywood

Craig Barker and Estelle Lazer offer an afternoon lecture about Homer, Hollywood and the never-ending quest to capture the ancient world on screen.

Date and time: 17th August 2026, 1 pm – 2 pm

Location: Chau Chak Wing Museum

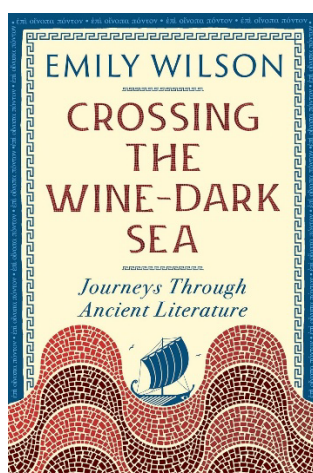
Make your booking here: [Homer Goes to Hollywood - The University of Sydney](#)

Ben Brown on Nolan's Odyssey

Have you seen Nolan's *Odyssey* yet? What do you think about the movie? Click the link below for some thoughts on the movie by Ben Brown.

[Odysseus gets lost in translation: What separates Homer's epic from Nolan's blockbuster? - ABC Religion & Ethics](#)

Publications



***Crossing the Wine-Dark Sea: Journeys through Ancient Literature* by Emily Wilson**

Published by *Liveright* 2026

Written by Emily Wilson, professor of classical studies at the University of Pennsylvania and acclaimed translator of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, this book is a series of essays on the challenges of translation and the pleasures and insights to be gained from reading the classics.

Wilson has written a review of Nolan's *Odyssey* that is critical of many aspects of the film, including in particular the script: *London Review of Books* vol. 48, no. 14.13 (August 2026). [Emily Wilson · An Uncomplicated Man](#).

Listen to Emily Wilson discussing Nolan's *Odyssey* with Thomas Jones here:

Apple: <https://lrb.me/odysseyapple>

Spotify: <https://lrb.me/odysseyspotify>

LR website: <https://lrb.me/odysseyweb>

For a review of Wilson's book by the *Guardian*'s Blake Morrison:

[Crossing the Wine Dark Sea by Emily Wilson review – a masterclass in translation | Classics | The Guardian](#)

♪ CLASSICAL NOTES ♪

CANSW Ian McLeod Award winners

The CANSW Ian McLeod Awards exist to support projects which will promote the development of Classical Studies in NSW. This year two projects have been supported with Ian McLeod awards:

1. The Antiques Roadshow: Object-Based Learning for Regional Classics Education. Dr Titania Bur

The *Antiquities Roadshow* is an innovative pilot project designed to bring Object-Based Learning (OBL) in Classics to secondary schools in regional and remote NSW. Led by Dr Tatiana Bur in collaboration with Dr Georgia Pike-Rowney, Curator of the ANU Classics Museum, the project will give students the rare opportunity to handle genuine ancient artefacts such as coins, lamps, pottery, glass, and sculptural fragments, alongside high-quality 3D prints from the Museum's collection. This sensory, hands-on engagement encourages curiosity, deepens retention, and highlights the interdisciplinary richness of Classical Studies.

The project responds to a clear need: while more than 7,700 students studied HSC Ancient History in 2025, many schools outside metropolitan centres cannot access museum excursions due to cost and distance. By travelling directly to schools with curated trays of objects, *Antiquities Roadshow* removes these barriers and offers tailored sessions that may include Greek and Latin tasters, discussions of cultural ownership and restitution, or explorations of everyday life in antiquity.

The Ian McLeod Award will provide crucial seed funding to launch this pilot, which will also build the track record needed for a future Regional Arts Touring Grant application. In its expanded form, the programme aims to reach schools beyond a 300km radius, incorporate postgraduate training, and collaborate with additional university collections. The project will also generate social-media

content to enhance visibility and promote the value of object-based learning across the humanities.

2. **Critical Antiquities.** Dr Tristan Bradshaw and Dr Tom Geue.

The Critical Antiquities Network (CAN), founded in 2020 by Tristan Bradshaw and Ben Brown, has been awarded funding from the Ian McLeod Award to support essential video-editing and design work that keeps CAN's NSW-based activities accessible to a global audience. CAN's two flagship initiatives, the biennial Critical Antiquities Public Lecture and the monthly Critical Antiquities Workshop, have been central to establishing Critical Antiquities as a recognised subfield within Classics. Together, these events have featured leading international scholars and attracted strong attendance, with recordings on CAN's YouTube channel receiving more than 13,000 views.

CAN sought funds to cover professional editing for upcoming recordings: the 2026 Public Lecture by Page Dubois, eight Workshops in 2026, and four Workshops in early 2027. Additional support was requested for ongoing design work for CAN's flyers. The award will ensure CAN continues delivering high-quality, accessible programming to its local and international community.

OBITUARY



[Image from [The Conversation](#) (where you will find articles by Marguerite)]

Professor Marguerite Johnson (1966–2026)

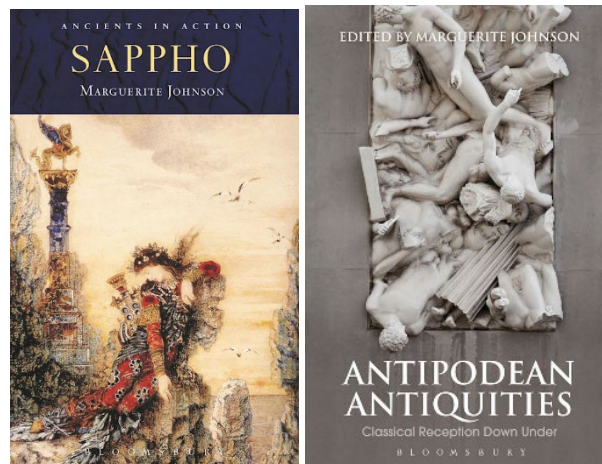
The Classical Association notes with deep sadness the recent passing of Emerita Professor Marguerite Johnson on the island of Lesvos. A distinguished scholar and a generous mentor, she was admired across Australia and internationally for her brilliance, kindness, and unwavering support of students and colleagues. Her loss will be felt keenly by all who knew her as a teacher, collaborator, mentor, friend and mother.

A graduate of the University of Newcastle, she completed her BA (Hons) in 1988, receiving the University Medal, and earned her PhD in 1997 with a thesis *O nimis optato saeculorum tempore natae: A Study of Catullus' Lesbia and her Early Greek Models*. She remained at Newcastle where she served as Professor of Classics until 2024. Over more than two decades at Newcastle, she taught, mentored, and inspired generations of students.

Marguerite was renowned for her work on ancient Greek and Latin literature, especially the poetry of Sappho, and her scholarship ranged widely across Greek, Roman, and Australian religions, magical practices, cultural history, lived experience, gender studies, and Classical reception. At the time of her passing she was Honorary Professor of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Queensland. She was elected to the Australian Academy of the Humanities in 2022

Many of us will remember the brilliant lecture Marguerite gave at the CANSW AGM in March 2023 on classical myths in early Australian colonial art.

Professor Johnson's legacy—intellectual, pedagogical, and personal—will endure. For her publications, see her Academia page: [Marguerite Johnson - The University of Queensland, Australia](#)





CANSW Membership

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>

Upcoming events

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

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

If you want to be added to the mailing list for the University of Sydney Classics and Ancient History seminars, please contact Dr Tamara Neal (t.neal@sydney.edu.au).

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Classical Association of New South Wales

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