The team already surveyed 200 archaeological sites/features including Palaeolithic sites, Neolithic/Predynastic sites, Old and Middle Kingdom camps linked with mining activity (copper), Roman/Byzantine settlements and cemeteries, a Coptic hermitage, rock art stations, cairns and unidentified stone features. Topography of the area was carefully studied in order to highlight the most characteristic elements of the milieu and to understand travelling practices of nomadic or semi-nomadic populations who frequented the Wâdî ‘Araba in the various periods of prehistory and antiquity.

Discoveries made since the beginning of the project cover all periods from prehistory to the present. The earliest remains discovered in the area are Paleolithic tools collected on small surface stations. More important is the discovery of a Neolithic site at Bir Buerat. Technological analysis makes it possible to interpret the flint assemblage both chronologically and functionally and to identify two different cultural groups on that site. The first one includes components such as blade arrowheads with tangs (fig. 3), one of them partially bifacial with notches (Helwan point); rough bladelets; and baked-bladelets which could clearly be identified as PPNB elements (Pre-Pottery Neolithic B, ca. 8th millennium BC). The second group is dominated by elements made of thick blades and debitage (waste material) scraps which...
indicate more recent industries: a scraper with a thick regular blade, the proximal part of a thick and regular blade, a straight blade and a portion of a bifacial tool. This group belongs to the Naqada III period or the beginning of the Old Kingdom.

Two Old Kingdom mining camps have been identified in the area of Qasr Girgis. Stone comb-like buildings are still preserved (fig. 3). The largest one measures 27m in length with a maximum width of 15m, with 7 compartments on each side of the central axis. Walls are preserved on an average height of 50cm, and up to 1.2m on its eastern side. Another is 25m long and 20m wide, with a total of 18 compartments around a central axis. Pottery and flint elements belong to the Old Kingdom. Stone hammers, open mine shafts and malachite fragments all over the site provide information concerning a local mining activity, the extraction of malachite.

At the foothill of North Galala, 8 km north of Qasr Girgis, Wadi Abü el-Maysa is a major Middle Kingdom mining camp. The settlement consists of several small huts built with stones. Middle Kingdom pottery sherds were scattered around the features as well as stone hammers. The settlement is situated on a small mound at the entrance of a wadi. On both sides of the wadi are a dozen galleries dug in the rock for a length of 10–15m (fig. 4). Malachite fragments and copper scoria are still present in the spoil heaps in front of the galleries. A 25km long pharaonic track links Ayn Barda, Bir Bikheit and Wadi Abü el-Maysa at the foot of North Galala. The track is marked regularly with stone tumuli (diameter c. 1–2m; height c. 40cm to 1m). We identified and tracked around 62 landmarks along the pharaonic track still visible in the environment. Along the track are also large concentrations of ceramic remains that include primarily Middle Kingdom pottery but also a few Old Kingdom sherds.

A very large cemetery was discovered on the eastern ridge of Wadi Abu Qasua, at the western part of the survey area. More than 150 graves were identified on the site (fig. 5). All of them were plundered recently as shown by the car tracks still visible near the tombs. This cemetery is the largest site discovered during the Wadi 'Araba Survey and should be considered as one of the most important archaeological sites in that area. Inside and around the tombs a large amount of pottery sherds that could be dated to the Late Roman period were found.

On the Galala North foothill, halfway up the slope, Bir Bikheit is a natural well on a high platform difficult to reach. Built against a large rock is a Coptic hermitage (fig. 6) consisting of three rooms, the largest 2m by 2.5m. Since the visit made in the 1960's by French scholars, it has been disturbed by thief-holes but still preserves parts of its architecture and of its interior plastered walls. This site deserves a more detailed study and a complete topographic survey, which will be carried out by Dr Victor Ghica in January 2012.

The first three seasons of Wadi 'Araba Project have shown that this dry valley is a very important archaeological region which has never been properly investigated. In a small area like Qasr Girgis and Wadi Bikheit, sites are numerous and sufficiently preserved to bring new information. Next season, planned for January–February 2012, will be focused on a complete topographic and archaeological survey of the Coptic hermitage in Wadi Bikheit and the Middle Kingdom camp in Wadi Abü el-Maysa. We will also continue our survey at the eastern edge of the Wâdi Araba.

Yann Tristant
For students of Egyptology at Macquarie University, it is one of the highlights of the year to attend the conferences presented by the Australian Centre for Egyptology, to hear our lecturers and mentors discuss their research topics and to familiarise ourselves with their work in Egyptology outside the classroom. This year, however, it was the students themselves who were put in the spotlight.

The inaugural Young Egyptology Forum was held on 11th September 2011 at Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club. Developed and organised by Leonie Donovan and Dr. Susanne Binder, this event was established out of a desire to give both undergraduate and postgraduate students at Macquarie University the opportunity to introduce themselves to the A.C.E community and to present their own research in a conference-style setting. As student coordinator, it was my happy task to promote this event to my peers who, like myself, were eager for this experience. We were fortunate to receive a range of offers, diverse in content, in this event to my peers who, like myself, were eager for this experience.

We were fortunate to receive a range of offers, diverse in content, in the stage of research and in the academic background of the speaker, providing an excellent cross-section of the nature of new research at Macquarie University.

The Forum, convened by Dr. Yann Tristant, consisted of ten speakers separated into three sessions. In Session One, ‘Archaeology and the Forum’, convened by Dr. Yann Tristant, consisted of ten speakers at Macquarie University. The event was established out of a desire to give both undergraduate and postgraduate students at Macquarie University the opportunity to introduce themselves to the A.C.E community and to present their own research in a conference-style setting. As student coordinator, it was my happy task to promote this event to my peers who, like myself, were eager for this experience.

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The Forum, convened by Dr. Yann Trissant, consisted of ten speakers separated into three sessions. In Session One, ‘Archeology and Funerary Art’, the first to take to the podium was Agie Oser, MA student, presenting on the Old Kingdom tomb of Niankhkhnum and Khnumhotep. She was followed by BA (Hons) candidate Emma Magro, who spoke on the false door panel of the Fifth and Sixth Dynasties and lastly Bonnie Clark, who completed her B.ArchHis (Hons) in 2010, on Unknown Man E from the royal mummy cache of Deir el Bahri.

Session Two, ‘Language’, began with Dr. Luis Siddall, who acquired his MA in Egyptology at Macquarie University, with a presentation on Amarna letters from Tyre, followed by Matthew George, a third-year B.ArchHis (Hons) student, on the textual portrayal of divine characters, and Evan Jewell and myself, BA students, presenting on Canopus and Memphis. The session was concluded by MA student Alex Thompson, speaking on the ostraca of Ptolemaic Egypt and the decrees of Canopus and Memphis. The session was concluded by MA student Alex Thompson, speaking on the ostraca of Ptolemaic Egypt and the decrees of Canopus and Memphis. The session was concluded by MA student Alex Thompson, speaking on the ostraca of Ptolemaic Egypt and the decrees of Canopus and Memphis. The session was concluded by MA student Alex Thompson, speaking on the ostraca of Ptolemaic Egypt and the decrees of Canopus and Memphis.

Session Three, ‘Art’, began with Susan Turner, PhD candidate, on Old Kingdom boat and the horse in ancient Egypt, followed by Samantha Dunnicliff, also a PhD candidate, on Old Kingdom boat fighting scenes. The final speaker of the day was Claire Hainey, B.ArchHis (Hons) candidate, presenting on the principles of composition in the battle scenes of Sety I.

As the first of many Young Egyptology Forums it is hoped to come, the day proved a success. As a speaker, I found it both fulfilling and inspiring to stand alongside my peers and present my own work, while as a coordinator of the event, I felt proud to have assisted in making it a reality. I would like once again to give thanks, firstly to Leonie Donovan for creating this fantastic opportunity, as well as to Susanne Binder and Yann Tristant for their academic guidance; secondly to each presenter for their willingness and enthusiasm, and finally to all those who were able to attend the event and show their support for the speakers.

We are pleased to announce that the Young Egyptology Forum No. 2 will be held on Sunday, 16th September, 2012. We look forward to hearing from a new line-up of presenters, as well as to giving the A.C.E. community another opportunity to come together and support Egyptology in Australia.

Alice McClymont, YEF Student Co-ordinator

FAREWELL CAROL

Volunteers in the A.C.E. office are saddened that a good friend and mainstay in the office is leaving. Carol Allen is retiring to move to Victoria to be near a daughter and a soon to be born grandchild.

Although a full-time teacher with TAFE, for the last 14 years Carol has contributed one day a week to the A.C.E. Her special contribution has been financial administration, although she has always willingly shouldered any task that came her way, at busy times taking the work home when it could not be completed in the office. From the early days following the retirement of Joan Beck, when with Gary Dibley and Carmel Amos she began as a volunteer, Carol’s support and willing cooperation have made it a pleasure to work with her. Carmel in particular, who shared their ‘working’ day and responsibilities for keeping an entirely volunteer office operating, wishes to thank Carol for her wonderful companionship. Carmel tells us she will miss all the talk and laughter – but is looking forward to the visits to Victoria.

We wish Carol many happy years in her new home in Victoria, gardening, doing her very beautiful embroidery and, of course, carrying out her grandmotherly duties.

The Australian Centre for Egyptology and the Activities Committee of the Rundle Foundation are also indebted and indeed grateful to Carol for the generous gift of her valuable time and the major part she has played in achieving a successful public outreach by the Rundle Foundation. Carol has promised she will come back for our conferences and we will make sure she sticks to that promise! So Farewell Carol not Goodbye.
2012 Annual Mini Conference

**Recent Excavations in Egypt**

_Sunday, April 1, 2012 at 1.00 pm sharp_

Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club Auditorium

Macquarie University Egyptologists will discuss their recent work in Egypt. Speakers will include Prof. Naguib Kanawati, A/Prof. Boyo Ockinga, Dr Yann Tristant and Dr Malcolm Choat.

A booking form is included with this Newsletter.

Cost $25 includes afternoon tea

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2012 Annual Conference

_Saturday August 11, 2012_

Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club Auditorium

9:30 for 10 am sharp

For this year’s conference we have invited two very well known scholars. One has accepted our invitation and the other is yet to reply as he is presently on fieldwork.

The speaker we have confirmation from is Dr Ian Shaw, Senior Lecturer in Egyptian Archaeology at the University of Liverpool, author of _Egyptian Warfare and Weapons and Hatnub: Quarrying Travertine in Ancient Egypt_, co-author of the British Museum Dictionary of Ancient Egypt and co-editor/author of Ancient Egyptian Materials and Technology.

Dr Shaw’s main research interests focus on ancient Egyptian artefacts, technology, innovation, warfare, urbanisation and social life. His fieldwork was initially mainly concerned with the city-site of Tell el-Amarna in Middle Egypt, but since 1985 he has surveyed and excavated a number of quarrying and mining sites dating from the Early Dynastic period through to Roman times (including the Hatnub travertine quarries, the Wadi el-Hudi amethyst mines, the Wadi Maghara turquoise mines, the Sikait-Zubara-Umm Kabu emerald mines, and the Gebel el-Asr anorthosite gneiss and carnelian quarries). Since 2005 he has undertaken two seasons of work on a new multi-disciplinary survey of the town and cemetery of Medinet el-Ghurob in the Faiyum region of Egypt. Dr Shaw has also surveyed and excavated at the tomb-site of Ankhtify at el-Moalla (information from the University of Liverpool web site).

This year the conference price will include morning tea, a light lunch and afternoon tea. As this is a catered function, tickets will be pre-sold and will not be held at the door unless they are already paid for. Only if the event is not sold out, will there be tickets for sale at the door.

Cost: Members $70, Non-Members $80
Students and Pensioners $50
School Groups with a minimum of 5 students $40 per student
Teacher with 5 students FREE
A booking form is included with this Newsletter.

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**New Publication**


The publication includes colour photographs, line drawings and a full commentary on all the scenes and inscriptions of the richly decorated chapel as well as the two superbly painted burial chambers of Pepyankh the middle and his wife, Hewetiaah. The tomb owner held very important positions in the Egyptian administration of the Sixth Dynasty, including those of the Vizier and the Overseer of Upper Egypt in the Middle provinces. The present monograph is based on the recent fieldwork at Meir (Assiut) by the Australian Centre for Egyptology funded by a grant from the Australian Research Council.

Price: $66

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**Recent Publications for Sale**


_N. Kanawati et al (2011) Mereruka and his Family, Part III: II. The Tomb of Mereruka, ACE Reports 30_

Price: $66 each