

Pella @ 40

A celebration of 40 years of fieldwork and research at Pella in Jordan



Friday-Saturday 19-20 July 2019

The University of Sydney's Pella Excavation Project celebrates forty years of fieldwork in 2019. It is the longest running and arguably the most influential Near Eastern archaeological project in Australia's post-war history. More than 20 PhD theses and upwards of 500 publications have so far resulted from research carried out at Pella.

Pella of the Decapolis, modern Tabaqat Fahl, is located in the eastern foothills of the central Jordan Valley of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Occupation on the central mound of Khirbet Fahl spans approximately 8000 years, stretching from initial occupation in the Neolithic through to early Ottoman times, featuring massive city fortifications, palaces and temples, elaborate housing complexes, and rich funerary installations across the ages.

In the hinterland of Pella, traces of occupation stretch back much further into the Lower Palaeolithic around half a million years ago, and feature the Natufian settlement of Wadi Hammeh 27. As well, forts and watchtowers, farms, roads and bridges, industrial and agricultural installations, and a variety of tomb monuments, dating from the Bronze Age to the recent past, populate the landscape.

The two-day (19-20 July) mini-conference aims to showcase significant discoveries made at Pella over the last 40 years. The first day of the conference will feature lectures on all periods investigated at Pella by project co-directors most concerned with their archaeology, including Phillip Edwards (La Trobe) on Natufian Wadi Hammeh 27, John Tidmarsh (USyd) on Hellenistic/Early Roman finds, Pamela Watson (UNE) and Kate da Costa (USyd) on aspects of Late Roman/Byzantine Pella, and Alan Walmsley (MacU) on Islamic period discoveries.

The first day will culminate with a public lecture by Stephen Bourke on 'Pella @ 40: Past Achievements and Future Goals'.

The second day of the conference will include presentations by around 15 postdoctoral and postgraduate researchers on aspects of ongoing studies, featuring old and new work on Chalcolithic period farming villages, monumental Bronze Age fortifications, temple and palace complexes, on tombs and their contents, anthropology and zoology, and the excavation, conservation and illustration of key artifacts. The second day will end with a celebratory dinner at a nearby local hotel.

Expression of Interest Yes No

Attend Friday 19th July Day 1 Session (10am-5pm)
 Attend Friday 19th July Evening Lecture (7pm-8.30pm)
 Attend Saturday 20th July Day 2 Session (9am-5pm)
 Attend Saturday Celebratory Dinner (7pm-10pm)
 Attend All Conference Sessions

Number of Attendees

The two-day celebration of work at Pella is free to all staff, students, volunteers and members of the general public who wish to attend. However, to aid in venue organization and catering, we ask that those wishing to attend all or part of the conference RSVP by Monday 8 July to the NEAF email (neaf.archaeology@sydney.edu.au).

As currently planned, the Day Sessions will be held at CCANESA (Madsen Building), and the evening lecture at a USyd venue (probably GLT 1 or the Old Geology Building Theatre), to be advised. Day catering will be tea/coffee and biscuits only, with lunch bought privately. There will be no catering at evening events, although people will be able to purchase individually food and drink at the local venue so designated.

Tentative Running Sheet

Day 1 – 19 July 2019

10:00-10:30am	Welcome (SJB)
10:30-11:15am	Phillip Edwards (Wadi Hammeh)
11:15-11:30am	Morning Tea
11:30-12:15pm	Stephen Bourke (Bronze/Iron Ages)
12:15-1:00pm	John Tidmarsh (Hellenistic/Early Roman)
1:00-2:00pm	Lunch
2:00-2:45pm	Pamela Watson (Byzantine/Husn)
2:45-3:30pm	Kate da Costa (Byzantine/Martyrium)
3:00-4:45pm	Alan Walmsley (Islamic/Khandaq)
5:00-7:00pm	Drinks
7:00-8:00pm	Stephen Bourke (Pella @ 40: A Secret Country in the Ground)

Day 2 – 20 July 2019

9:30-10:00am	Peta Seaton (Chalcolithic Sartaba/Husn)
10:00-10:30am	Jaimie Lovell (Chalco el-Khawarij)
10:30-11:00am	James Fraser (EBA Hinterland/Tombs)
11:00-11:15am	Morning Tea
11:15-11:45am	Samantha Gibbins (EBA Husn)
11:45-12:15pm	Melissa Kennedy (EBA Hammeh)
12:15-12:45pm	Anne Dighton (Botany/Olives)
12:45-1:30pm	Lunch
1:30-2:00pm	Holly Winter (Palace Function)
2:00-2:30pm	Ruth Ward (Temple Function)
2:30-3:00pm	Karyn Wesselingh (Bronze Age Zoology)
3:00-3:30pm	Karen Hendrix (Bronze/Iron Age Anthropology)
3:30-3:45pm	Afternoon Tea
3:45-4:15pm	Wendy Reade (Late Antique Glass)
4:15-4:45pm	Bernadette Drabsch (Art/Drawing at Pella)
4:45-5:15pm	Sandra Gordon (Decapolis Coinage)
6:00-9:00pm	Pub Dinner