

Editorial

The most observant will have noticed that the Institute has a new address. As this volume is published a building at LaTrobe University is being renovated in readiness for the Institute to move in later this year. It will be the first time in its history that the Institute has been able to bring all its assets together in one building.

The association with LaTrobe University promises to be a stimulating one. Many of the objects in the Institute's care have not been seriously studied and we expect that the facilities available to us will allow that to be remedied.

This volume of *Buried History* begins with a tribute to a long time supporter of the Institute, Mary Dolan, who died in 2004 while travelling to a conference as the Institute's representative. We are pleased that Professor Greg Horsley, a colleague of Mary's at the University of New England, was able to provide the tribute. Mary was a remarkable woman of extraordinary energy; our condolences go to her family.

The volume ends with a paper by Mary that she was preparing at the time of her death. We are indebted to Bill Leng who prepared the paper for publication. He retained Mary's writing character while completing unfinished portions, adding introductions and conclusions and finalising references. Again the observant will have noted that Bill has recently joined the Institute's Council. We thank him for his contribution.

Continuing the tradition started in the last volume we publish Professor Alan Millard's 2004 Petrie Oration. The Institute was delighted to have Alan and his wife Margaret as visitors during the year. Alan worked on the Institute's cuneiform material and we expect that the next volume of *Buried History* will include a paper reporting on some of that work.

Dr Gillian Bowen has provided a report on the work she has undertaken at the Dahkleh Oasis in Egypt with a Monash University team. She acknowledges that excavations within the Christian cemetery are directed by Dr J. E. Molto, formerly of Lakehead University, Ontario, Canada, while overall direction of excavation for the Dakhleh Oasis Project is by Dr Colin A. Hope, Centre for Archaeology & Ancient History, School of Historical Studies, Monash University. We are delighted to have her contribution. For those who are interested, their excavation team re-inters skeletal material after analysis is complete.

Professor Sue Balderstone's paper on early Christian churches was presented at a conference a couple of years ago and we are pleased that she has decided to publish it in *Buried History*. Sue has recently retired as a conservation architect with Heritage Victoria and has been working on early ecclesiastical architecture in Jordan for over twenty-five years.

Christopher J Davey
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The Building at LaTrobe University where the Institute will be located from 2005