In January this year I visited Egypt as part of the preparations for the exhibition Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs. I was given full access to sites at Giza, Saqqara and Thebes and was able to discuss with fellow archaeologists the most recent discoveries, and the challenges of preservation of the ancient sites. I also had the opportunity to visit a number of museums, including the Egyptian Museum where the wonderful objects found in the tomb of Tutankhamun are displayed. This talk will take the audience on a visit to the important sites, illustrated with photographs that I took throughout the visit.

Patrick Greene is CEO of Museum Victoria and an archaeologist

Dr. Patrick Greene – An archaeologist visits Ancient Egypt

The incredible quantity of gold employed for the material found within Tutankhamun’s tomb indicates the wealth of the ancient Egyptian monarchy. The main source of the gold was beyond the borders of Egypt within the Sudan, and this region was annexed to Egypt along with others on her borders to form a sphere of influence extending from Syria to the Sudan, from the Libyan desert to the Red Sea. This talk will discuss the political history of Egypt during the 18th Dynasty, the period to which Tutankhamun belonged, often referred to as the Egyptian Empire, and examine some of the key figures and events that made Egypt the most powerful kingdom of the day.

Dr. Colin A. Hope is an associate professor at Monash University and director of the Centre for Archaeology & Ancient History

Dr. Colin Hope – Tutankhamun’s Egypt: the golden age

When the tomb was discovered little was known about the king buried within, who ruled Egypt for ten years only. Fortunately much more information is available to us now and in this talk the events of the king’s reign will be discussed in light of new discoveries, including the examination of his mummy, and it will discuss members of his family: his possible father, Akhenaten, famous for his changes to religious beliefs; his mother, and her identity is still speculated upon; his wife, probably his half-sister; and then grandparents, Amenhotep III and Queen Tiye, Tiye’s parents, Yuya and Tuyu, objects from whose burial are in the exhibition.

Dr. Colin Hope – Who was Tutankhamun?

When Tutankhamun died the throne passed to a series of men from the army; this was not a coup but may have been negotiated. One of these was Aye, who may have been a brother of the king’s grandmother, Queen Tiye; another was Horemheb who had led the army for Tutankhamun, and whose spectacular tomb built before he became king was found at Saqqara containing elaborate decoration - when he became king he built another impressive tomb in the Valley of the Kings. Eventually the throne passed into the hands of a military family from of Egypt, the family that produced the great Ramesses II who ruled for 67 years. This talk will examine the century following Tutankhamun when Egypt struggled to maintain its supremacy in the Near East.

Dr. Colin Hope – Egypt after Tutankhamun
TUESDAY 26 JULY
Dr Gillian Bowen – Tutankhamun’s wardrobe

The tomb of Tutankhamun has yielded the largest collection of clothes and footwear that we have from ancient Egypt. This talk will examine items of his wardrobe to show the range of clothes from underwear to formal attire and discuss the textile industry and range of materials used.

Dr Gillian Bowen is the Senior lecturer in Archaeology and Ancient History, Monash University

TUESDAY 9 AUGUST
Dr Elizabeth Bloxam – Forgotten landscapes: the quarries and mines of the New Kingdom pharaohs

The extraordinary use of gold in Tutankhamun’s tomb has always been one of the key aspects of his funerary regalia. Yet, our understanding of the mines and quarries from which gold and other prized resources were procured at this time is limited. The New Kingdom saw an explosion in procurement of not only gold, but other resources such as stone that held ‘solar’ associations. Quartzite, gold and other minerals that ‘glittered’ became prized resources and expeditions to procure these extended far and wide across Egypt and beyond. As the ‘ghost towns’ of antiquity, stone quarries and gold mines can reveal the often hidden side of life outside of royalty and the elite. These forgotten places and landscapes can tell us about technological innovation, logistics and the social organisation behind large-scale resource procurement.

This lecture will examine the archaeological record at some key quarries and mines and discuss what these might reveal about everyday life in the New Kingdom.

Dr Elizabeth Bloxam is a Lecturer in Egyptian Archaeology at Monash University

TUESDAY 23 AUGUST
Professor Richard Rouse – Dining in the age of Tutankhamun – All of Egypt is the gift of the Nile

It can be said that all of Egypt is the gift of the Nile. Having witnessed the recent widespread flooding of vast tracts of the country, you’ll be fascinated to learn how the nourishing annual floods of the Nile contrast with the situation in Australia and other places in the world, including Brazil, which have been inundated with extraordinary water flows. On route, you’ll discover society’s reliance on water, agriculture and a stable plentiful food supply in order to prosper, grow rich, and provide the time and money to pursue art and scholarship.

Professor Rick Rouse is Dean of the Melbourne School of Land and Environment

TUESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER
Mark Eccleston – The making of Tutankhamun’s Treasures

Objects made in Ancient Egypt and found in Tutankhamun’s tomb included ceramics, glass, faience, metals, stone and textiles. How might have these objects been made? Were they made locally or traded from afar? How were industries such as the workshops of the Ancient Egyptians organised? Where were they situated? How do we know? Dr Mark Eccleston will provide us with a rare insight into the crafts, arts and technologies of the day and highlight some of the objects in the exhibition.

Mr Eccleston specialises in Ancient Egyptian industry and technology. He is the Manager of Heritage Assessments for Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and is a Research Fellow in the Archaeology Program at La Trobe University.
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MELBOURNE WINTER MASTERPIECES

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AT MELBOURNE MUSEUM – MUSEUM THEATRETTE – 6.30PM Cont’d

TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER
Dr Andrew Jamieson and Ms Christine Elias – Egyptian antiquities at the University of Melbourne:
Sir Flinders Petrie and a Tale of Two Brothers (living in Melbourne)

We all know of Captain Matthew Flinders as a famous antipodean explorer, but what is less well known is that his not-so-famous grandson, William Matthew Flinders Petrie, is the founder of the study of Egyptian archaeology. Many of Australia’s connections to ancient Egypt came through Flinders Petrie, who was directly involved with the creation of two groups of Egyptian artefacts at the University of Melbourne. In this lecture, the origins and historical significance of the Dodgson and Miller collections will be revealed. The two collections, which reflect the interests of their collectors and typify the era in which they were collected, were both created through links with Petrie and contain a range of fascinating objects including shabti, amulets, jewellery, figurines.

Dr Andrew Jamieson is a lecturer and curator of Classics and Archaeology at the University of Melbourne
Ms Christine Elias works in registration, collection and exhibition management at the University of Melbourne

TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER
Professor Boyo Ockinga – The man behind the golden mask: Tutankhamun’s Chief Goldsmith

The treasures from the tomb of Tutankhamun are known all around the world, but what do we know of the craftsmen who actually created these works? In this lecture the spotlight will be on one of them, the Overseer of Craftsmen and Chief Goldsmith of the king, Amenemone. His tomb at Saqqara was excavated and published by Australian Egyptologist Dr Boyo Ockinga. Learn about the excavation of the tomb and what it tells us about Amenemone and his family. Dr Ockinga will also look at what is known about the other craftsmen of this time and the role they played in Tutankhamun’s Egypt.

Dr Boyo Ockinga is Associate Professor in the Department of Ancient History, Macquarie University

AT MELBOURNE MUSEUM – MIND AND BODY PROGRAM SPACE
11.30AM

THIS LECTURE IS FREE BUT BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL
BOOK ONLINE AT WWW.MAV.VIC.EDU.AU/ACTIVITIES/PUBLIC-LECTURES

SUNDAY 26 JUNE
Marty Ross – The Pyramids, the Sphinx and other riddles

We are still able to witness the architectural marvels of Ancient Egypt. But what of Egypt’s mathematical marvels? Is all that stuff about the pyramids actually true, or is it just silly pseudomathematics? What is an Egyptian fraction, and why would we care? In this lecture, we’ll investigate the mathematics of Ancient Egypt and of even older civilisations. We’ll try to separate fact from myth, to determine how mathematically advanced these civilisations actually were. Along the way, we’ll have fun with the fun stuff. And, we’ll make fun of the silly stuff.

Marty Ross is a mathematical nomad, writer and lecturer, working with Burkard Polster to popularise mathematics

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The exhibition is organised by the National Geographic Society, Arts and Exhibitions International and IMG, with cooperation from the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities
Follow the steps that led to the discovery of Tutankhamun’s tomb and along the way discover the essence of the discoverer himself. On 4 November 1922, Howard Carter discovered the steps leading to Tutankhamun’s tomb, by far the best preserved and most intact ever found in the Valley of the Kings. With his patron Lord Carnarvon in attendance, Carter made a small breach in the top left hand corner of the doorway. When Carnarvon asked him if he saw anything, Carter replied: ‘Yes, wonderful things’.

Professor Emeritus Ronald Ridley taught Ancient History at the University of Melbourne from 1965 until 2005.

Got a sneaking suspicion that the pyramids of Egypt were actually built by aliens? Like to know what King Tut and Lance Armstrong have in common? Engineers are the people who design, build and manage the constructed and technological world in which we live. In this presentation you will be taken back in time to look at some of the feats of ancient engineers and explore the intersection between modern and ancient engineering marvels.

Jamie Evans and Andrew Ooi are professors in the Melbourne School of Engineering at the University of Melbourne.

Modern forensic techniques can reveal much about how the ancient Egyptians lived and died. It’s well known that mummification of the body was essential to ensure ancient Egyptians a happy ‘afterlife’ and that preserving the body, wrapping it with linen and including precious objects in the tomb would guarantee peace and contentment. What we also know, but the ancient Egyptians would not have expected, is that their mummified bodies would allow modern experts to use modern medical and scientific technology to discover diseases, injuries and cause of death. This lecture will examine mummification practices within the setting of the time of Tutankhamun, the research carried out on his body over time, and what the various findings tell us about the king’s life and death.

Dr Pamela Craig is a dentist and a senior lecturer at the Melbourne Dental School.

Janet Davey is a forensic Egyptologist, currently studying for her PhD at Monash University.
Dr Patrick Greene – An archaeologist visits Ancient Egypt

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Patrick Greene is CEO of Museum Victoria and an archaeologist

THIS LECTURE IS FREE BUT BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL
TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER – CRAIG’S ROYAL HOTEL, BALLARAT
6–7PM followed by drinks

Professor Richard Rouse – Dining in the age of Tutankhamun – All of Egypt is the gift of the Nile

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