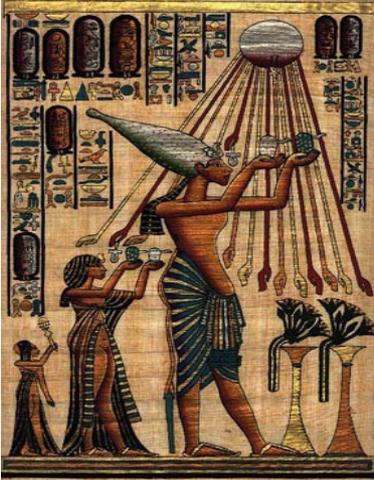




Royal Society of New South Wales
Southern Highlands Branch Thursday March 21st 2013 Lecture

Dr. Michael Birrell



Background - He studied Archaeology at Sydney University where he got an Undergraduate Honours Degree in 1988, and then went to Macquarie University where he completed an MA in 1992 and PhD in 1998 in Egyptology and worked in the Ancient History Department at Macquarie University, he participated in numerous excavations in Egypt and Israel. Since 2001 he has been running a specialist travel company which explores the history and archaeology of the ancient Mediterranean.

In the last month he returned from Amarna with new footage and information on Akhenaten. He has at least 10 publications, lectured for the last 15 years in Archaeology at Macquarie University and at Sydney University. He has given at least 15-20 public lectures and since 1986 has been involved in Archaeological fieldwork in Egypt and Israel.

Topic: King Akhenaten: Pharaoh, fanatic or freak?

King Akhenaten ruled Egypt for just 17 years in the mid 14th Century BC but his impact was enormous. The son of Amenhotep III, he abandoned Egypt's traditional religion for the worship of the sun god Aten, moved the capital to the new site of Amarna, and destroyed the images of the main state god Amun. Married to the beautiful **Queen Nefertiti**, representational art shows him with a peculiar physiology. Long considered the father of **Tutankhamun**, new DNA analysis has suggested that this might not be the case. In this lecture we will explore the most enigmatic figure from Egyptian history._

DATE: Thursday 21st March 2013 **TIME:** 6.30 PM

VENUE: Performance Arts Center. Chevalier. Bowral
Enter off Charlott St. Doors open 6 pm.

PRICES: Lecture only: Non-members \$10 (RS Members \$5)
Booking not required.

Following the lecture, there will be a dinner with the lecturer, open to Members and non members

[Bookings by Tuesday 19th March are essential for the dinner.](#)

[Any other queries please contact Hub 0411192917](#)