



Looking for the harbour of classical Torone, Greece: Underwater Exploration and Geophysical Prospection

SEMINAR PRESENTED BY THE CENTRE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SCIENCE (CAS)

DATE: THURSDAY 23RD MARCH
TIME: 12:30-13:30PM
VENUE: 41.G03A, UOW
NTERS: A/PROF TOM HILLARD & DR LEA BENESS

Associate Professor Tom Hillard and Dr Lea Beness have both been members of the Ancient History staff at the Departments of Ancient History at Macquarie University and the University of New England, and are currently teaching at Macquarie. Their research focuses primarily on the politics of the Late Roman Republic, Roman social history and underwater archaeology. Beness is the editor of Macquarie's journal *Ancient History: Resources for Teachers* and Convenor of the Department of Ancient History. Hillard has worked on archaeological sites in Greece, Syria, Cyprus and Israel, and Beness in Greece and Israel. Hillard led the Australian team that explored Torone's paleo-shoreline in 1993 and together they are co-ordinating a geophysical survey of Torone's floodplains, in collaboration with colleagues from the Aristotle University at Thessaloniki.

SEMINAR OVERVIEW:

"Geoarchaeology is the key to the study of ancient ports and harbours" A. Kotarba (IKUWA 2016)

Ancient Torone was a Bronze Age emporium and a celebrated port in the classical, Hellenistic & Roman periods. With a privileged position at the southern tip of Sithonia in the Chalkidiki, it was frequently a point of violent contention — and remained so until 1659 when the Venetian Morosini took the Turkish fortress there. Our underwater exploration of the putative harbour area began in 1993, the ultimate result of which was the revelation of an extended part of the terrestrial site (now submerged) and the mapping of the ancient shoreline. Anchorage in the lee of the site's distinctive promontory would have been possible (and it is almost certain that dock facilities existed here) but was considerably more restricted than might have been imagined. In 1999, our attention shifted to the large floodplain immediately to the northeast of the classical city and behind the modern beach-barrier. Hand-augering produced cores indicating a marine embayment in this area. ERT, undertaken in 2015 and 2016, indicates that this embayment may at one time have had a depth of around 30m in parts. Coring, proposed for this year, will seek to reveal the chronology and the nature of the bay's (or lagoon's) infill.



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

