



SYDNEY  
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**Demetrios Michaelides** is the Professor of Classical Archaeology at the University of Cyprus. He has directed excavations at ancient Berenice in Libya, at ancient and medieval Otranto in southern Italy, and at the Basilica of San Clemente in Rome. Since returning to Cyprus, he has excavated the House of Orpheus, the House of the Four Seasons, the Baths of the Triton and many other programmed or salvage excavations in and around Paphos.

He is now Director of the University of Cyprus investigation of an early Christian religious/funerary complex at Yeroskipou.

A world expert on ancient mosaics, he has published over one hundred articles and excavation reports and is the author or editor of twelve books. Since 1996, he has been the President of the International Committee for the Conservation of Mosaics. Among his many honours, he is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London.



## Nicholson Museum Invitation

**Wednesday 1 July 2009**

Professor Demetrios Michaelides

UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS

**Ayioi Pente: a new Early Christian religious complex at Yeroskipou, Cyprus**



The chance discovery in 2002 of Early Christian remains north of Yeroskipou (a township adjacent to Paphos), in an area renowned for its Late Bronze Age and Hellenistic tombs, came as a complete surprise.

After a small-scale investigation by the Department of Antiquities, the University of Cyprus undertook the systematic excavation and study of the site. Although the remains are extremely poorly preserved, it is clear that the focal point was a basilica around which there was a funerary and a monastic(?) complex. The basilica as well as many of the adjacent rooms were originally paved with mosaics. All of these were destroyed by either plough or bulldozer, save two that survive intact. Both are associated with burials – a very unusual feature for Cyprus. A room nearby housed four large ossuaries, which, even though looted, yielded important material including a considerable number of gold jewellery and around 900 bronze coins. The remains span the period from the 5th to the 7th centuries AD.

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**6 for 6.30 pm**

In the Nicholson Museum  
Main Quadrangle, University of Sydney

\$30 (\$20 Friends of the Nicholson Museum)  
includes champagne and our famous pies

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