

THE ANU (CANBERRRA) FRIENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INSTITUTE AT ATHENS

invite you to an illustrated lecture by

Professor Harold Tarrant

(School of Humanities and Social Science, University of Newcastle)

Ancient Justifications for a Life of Thought: Lessons for Today?

WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL, AT 8.00PM

in the AEGEAN ROOM AT THE HELLENIC CLUB, MATILDA STREET,
WODEN

Some ancient Athenians viewed the dedicated intellectual as enfeebled and unfit to pursue his many duties. Others upheld the importance of intellectual activity regardless of whether the individual's goal was practical, intellectual, or simply hedonistic. This lecture will explore the phenomena of anti-intellectualism in ancient Athens using evidence from Aristophanes' *Clouds*, Euripides' *Antiope*, Plato's *Gorgias* and Aristotle's *Protrepticus*. Modern analogies and lessons will also be discussed.

Professor Harold Tarrant is Professor of Classics at the University of Newcastle. He studied at Cambridge and Durham in the UK and was a lecturer in the University of Sydney's Greek Department from 1973-1993. He has served as an Executive Member of the International Plato Society, and is on the Editorial Board of three North American journals dealing with ancient philosophy. His publications mainly concern ancient philosophy, particularly Platonism. He is the author of *Proclus: Commentary on Plato's Timaeus, vol. I. Proclus on the Socratic State and on Atlantis* (Cambridge, 2007).