

**TRANSCRIPT OF AN INTERVIEW WITH DAVID LADD, A 13-YEAR-OLD AUSTRALIAN**

- INTERVIEWER:** Hello David. Thank you for taking the time to be interviewed today.
- DAVID:** It's a pleasure, Lee.
- INTERVIEWER:** David, you have just returned to Australia from an epic adventure. Can you tell us about it?
- DAVID:** Well, about four months ago, my Dad, who is an archaeologist, took me on a trip to Byblos, in Lebanon. He promised that when I turned 13, he would do this and he kept his word. I am very interested in archaeology, just like Dad. He lectures at university and his special area is the history of ancient Phoenicia.
- INTERVIEWER:** Where, exactly, is Byblos?
- DAVID:** Byblos is one of the oldest cities in the world. It is about 42 kilometres north of Beirut. It is in Lebanon and is on the Mediterranean coast.
- INTERVIEWER:** Wow, that's amazing. Why did your father take you to Byblos, rather than some other city?
- DAVID:** Dad is very interested in the history of Byblos because it was one of the first cities built by the Phoenicians. They were really into trading and were important because they created an alphabet and a number system that was adapted by the Greeks and Hebrews and other nations. The Phoenicians played a very important role in the history of writing.
- INTERVIEWER:** I believe something amazing happened to you while you were in Byblos. Tell me about that?
- DAVID:** I was helping Dad and his team at a dig, when I came across an old pot or bowl. After carefully dusting it, I noticed it had something inside it – like a scroll. There was some writing. Dad has taught me the ancient Phoenician alphabet, so I was able to decode the writing. It was a secret message that had been buried, with the pot, for centuries.
- INTERVIEWER:** What was the message?
- DAVID:** Translated, the message said: "The treasure is in an old well near the third pyramid."
- INTERVIEWER:** That is incredible! Do you know where the third pyramid is? Did you find the treasure?
- DAVID:** Dad and I, and the whole team, have come back to Australia to research the message at Dad's university. They have to do tests on

the pot and then try to figure out where the pyramid is. There is something important about the “third pyramid” and Dad knows where he needs to go to research and check his facts.

**INTERVIEWER:** What will you do next, David.

**DAVID:** Once Dad gets all the facts together, we will return to Byblos and then search for the treasure.

**INTERVIEWER:** Wow, you are a modern-day Indiana Jones! I hope everything goes well in your search. Stay safe, David.

**DAVID:** Thank you.