The Leta-Leta Cave, located at Langen Island, El Nido, Palawan, is an important burial site under the Late Neolithic Period of the Philippines. Discovered by Dr. Robert Fox in 1965.


**Yawning Jarlet**

The Leta Leta Cave burial site is a distinctive and enigmatic site of the Philippine Neolithic, discovered by Robert Fox in 1965. Containing a number of burials, its unusual earthenware pottery including the ‘Yawning Jarlet’, this artifact is an earthen jar that looks similar a yawning man. This is the reason why he called it “The Yawning Jarlet.”

In addition to the human remains and earthenware, Fox recovered a sizeable assemblage of shell artefacts which, as with other material remains recovered from Leta Leta, were only cursorily reported in print before his death. Recent analysis of the Leta Leta worked shell has revealed the deposition of unfinished as well as finished shell artefacts in mortuary contexts. As well as giving rare insights into manufacturing protocols in an island where the Neolithic and Metal Age records are characterized virtually solely by mortuary deposits, the deposition of unfinished artefacts opens new avenues for the discussion of Neolithic mortuary practices in Palawan. Results of a study of the worked shell assemblage, in addition to recent radiocarbon determinations for the site.

**Chronology table**

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