

# *Influential Women in Forensics in the ACT*

Please join us to celebrate International Women's Day and hear from some influential women in forensics in the ACT. These women are from varying disciplines and backgrounds and will be presenting about their journey, how they got to where they are and some challenges that they met along the way. There will also be a panel discussion so that you can ask any burning questions that you may have in regard to career paths or how to juggle your work-life balance. Our presenters include:



## *Dr Sarah Benson*

### **Chief Forensic Scientist, Specialist Operations, Australian Federal Police**

Dr Sarah Benson is currently employed as the Australian Federal Police (AFP) Chief Forensic Scientist. In this role Sarah leads and manages the AFP Forensics function providing operational support leadership across the entire range of AFP's domestic and international policing responsibilities and provides high-level strategic and operational advice to the AFP Executive and external working groups and committees. Sarah recently led the development and implementation of structural reform across the Forensics portfolio, repositioning AFP Forensics to be more operationally responsive and effective in the changing and complex law enforcement environment.

Sarah joined the AFP in 2000 upon graduation from the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Chemistry – Forensic Science (Honours). Sarah has over seventeen years of operational experience in support of community, national and international policing. Sarah's experience has been drawn locally in support of ACT Policing and AFP national operations including illegal importations and counter terrorism disruption operations. Sarah has undertaken deployments to countries in South East Asia to assist local authorities with scene and laboratory examinations, and performed the Forensics-DVI Commander role in The Netherlands and Ukraine in support of the MH17 disaster (2014).

Sarah performed the Capability Advisor role to the Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee (ANZCTC) Forensic Support Capability between 2014-2016, ensuring best practice forensic science in support of CT operations; high level advice to government and national policy development. Prior to this, Sarah drove the establishment of the Australian Forensic Explosives Chemist Network (2007) and played a key role as the ANZCTC Forensic Assistant Capability Advisor (2009-2013) in the development of the National Guide for Forensic Support to Multi-Jurisdictional Counter Terrorism Operations and the development of the first ANZCTC Forensic Coordinators course, both in 2011.

Sarah was awarded a PhD in 2009 for her thesis on the application of isotope ratio mass spectrometry (IRMS) for the forensic analysis of explosives. Sarah has authored a number of peer-reviewed publications across a range of forensic capabilities and technologies and received awards for these. In September 2015, Sarah was awarded the Bravery Award at the 2015 Excellence in Policing Awards acknowledging bravery required to improve policing for all members of the community. The award recognised her international expertise used in numerous priority operations and contribution to enhanced forensic science capabilities in Australia and overseas.



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## *Associate Professor Jamsin Kelly*

*Program Director (Forensic and Environmental Sciences), University of Canberra*

Associate Professor Tamsin Kelly completed a Bachelor of Science (First Class Honours) – Applied Chemistry in Forensic Science, followed by a PhD in Forensic Toxicology at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), before undertaking a post-doctoral fellowship at the National Institute on Drug Abuse in Baltimore (USA, 2004 - 2006). She was also a member of the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Drug Testing team at the Australian Sports Drug Testing Laboratory (Pymble, NSW). She is now the Program Director (Forensic and Environmental Sciences) within the Faculty of Science and Technology at the University of Canberra. She is an active researcher, and a chief investigator on a current Cooperative Research Centre Project Grant (CRC-P, 2017 – 2020); her research interests including forensic toxicology, application of analytical chemistry to forensic and health related analyses and chemical education.

## *Kate Sloan*

*A/g Coordinator Criminalistics, Specialist Operations, Australian Federal Police,*

Kate completed her undergraduate studies at University of Technology, Sydney and began working with the Australian Federal Police in 2007. Kate is currently Team Leader of Chemical Criminalistics team, where she specializes in paint, fibres and textile damage examinations. Kate is completing her PhD through the University of Canberra investigating the standardisation of textile damage examinations, and is the current Chair of the Textile Damage Working Group, within the Chemical Criminalistics Specialist Advisory Group.

## *Amy Sutton*

*Senior Forensic Chemist, ACT Government Analytical Laboratory*

Amy Sutton is a senior forensic chemist in the Forensic Chemistry and Toxicology unit of the ACT Government Analytical Laboratory (ACTGAL). Amy joined ACTGAL in early 2015 and works in the Controlled Substances area with a specialisation in clandestine laboratory (Clan lab) investigation. Prior to working in the ACT Amy began her career working with Victoria Police in the analysis of controlled substances before moving to the NSW Forensic & Analytical Science Service where she was an analyst involved in the routine investigation of clandestine laboratories



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Canberra Institute  
of Technology

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**Location: CIT Bruce Campus  
Room: Block K, 107**

**Time: 6:30pm for 7:00pm start**

**Entry: Members- Free**

**Non-members- \$5**

**RSVP: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March @  
<https://members.anzfss.org/booking.php?id=61>**

For any enquiries please contact the secretary:

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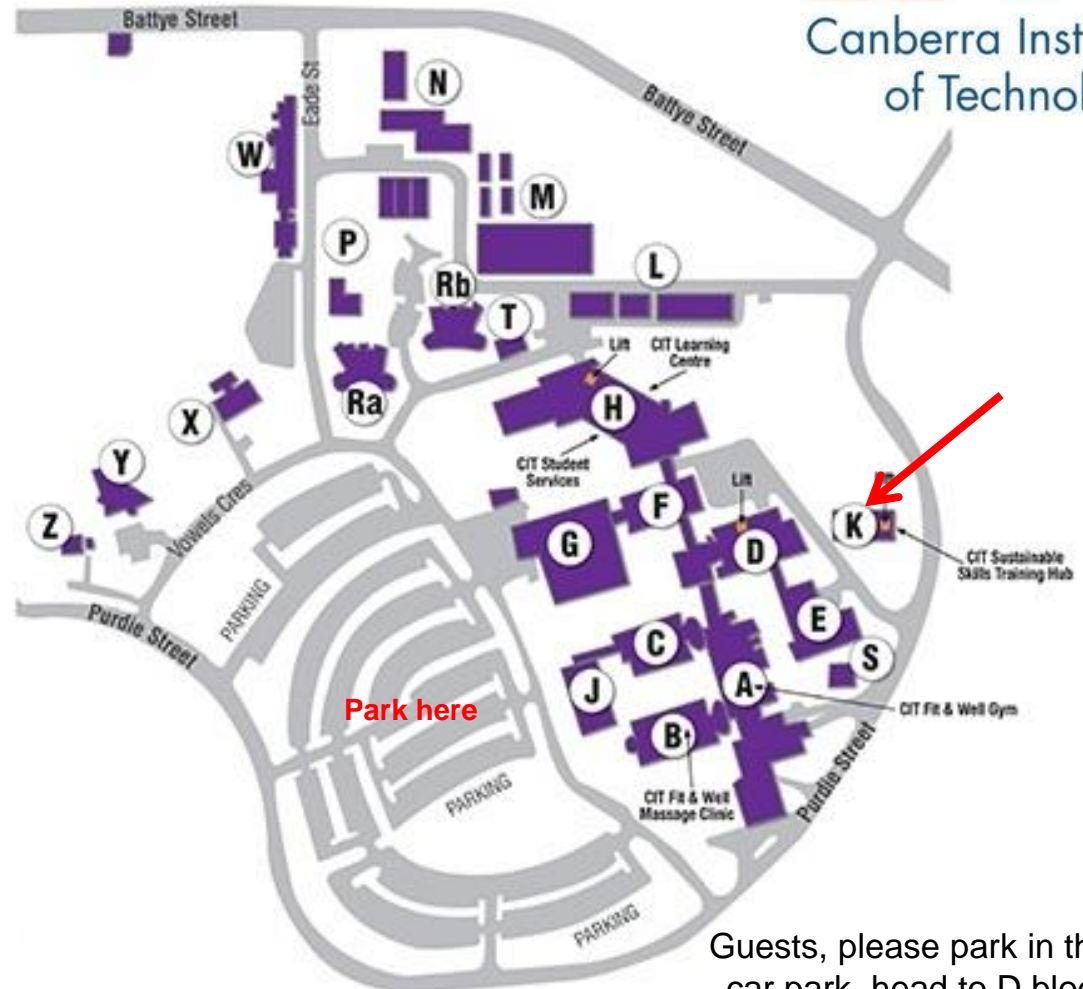


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## CIT BRUCE CAMPUS MAP



Canberra Institute  
of Technology



Guests, please park in the main car park, head to D block and across link bridge to K block.