Membership

Just a friendly reminder that your membership renewals are due now. If you have not yet received your renewal notice, please contact the secretary. Also, a reminder that your name and contact details are retained securely by the NSW Branch and the National Executive. This allows the National Executive to send out newsletters and other information relating the National aspects of the Society.

Note About Email Accounts

While email is the fastest, cheapest, and most convenient method of communication, it is preferable that a personal email account in addition to a work email address be provided to us. We have found that many commercial and government agencies block emails which have an attachment, fearing that a virus may be in the attachment. Consequently, there have been instances where members have not received emails at their work addresses as they have been blocked by their employers.

To avoid missing out on information about our upcoming meetings, it is also advisable to check our website regularly:

New Society Members

The Society extends a warm welcome to our newly ratified members:

Navid AFSHARI
Richard BUTTON
Scott CHADWICK
Eric Pui Fung CHOW
Emma COLLINS
Ashley HAGARTY
Geoffrey MORRISON
Richard NEILAN
Steven POMEROY
Kimberley RHODES
LaTara RUST

Natasha VOS
Emma WAGNER
Michael WOOD

Aldo’s Imponderables:

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?
Dear Members,

As many of you will be aware, at the recent AGM of the ANZFSS at the Symposium in September, Claude Roux and I were elected as members of the National Executive of the Society. Claude is now the National President and I am the National Secretary (Professors James Robertson and Chris Lennard are the National Vice-President and Treasurer, respectively). Sadly, these new responsibilities required our resignation from our positions on the Executive of the NSW Branch, which took place prior to the last Committee Meeting of the Branch in October. At that meeting Alison Sears was elected as the new President, and Aaron Heagney elected the new Vice-President.

I have greatly enjoyed my involvement with the NSW Branch over the past nine years as Committee Member, Vice-President and President. I have made some great friendships, and enjoyed and received some wonderful support from others on the Committee. It has been a true privilege to be able to help develop and promote forensic science in New South Wales in this way.

I extend my most heartfelt thanks to all of the past and present members of the NSW Committee for their hard work and dedication, and hope that the future continues to be full of positive and exciting developments for the NSW Branch.

I especially thank Claude Roux for his support and sterling contributions over the years, and wish him well in his new position as National President of the Society. My gratitude and very best wishes go to Alison and Aaron in their new roles; in their hands I am sure that the NSW Branch will continue to flourish.

The Society would not exist without you, the members. I finally therefore thank you very much for your interest and participation in the Branch, and ask that you give the new leadership team your full support. Compliments of the Season, and a happy and prosperous New Year to you all.

Dr James Wallman
Departing President
25th November 2010

Dear Members,

As you are probably aware by now, the NSW branch has undergone a few changes since September last year. During the 2010 ANZFSS symposium in Sydney, the National Executive, headed by Mr Bill Crick in Queensland, stepped down. A contingent from Sydney, including A/Prof Claude Roux and Dr James Wallman (NSW Branch Vice President and President respectively) were successful in their bid.

This resulted in James and Claude having to resign from their position within the NSW branch. The committee ratified the resignation and elected in myself as your new Branch President, and Mr Aaron Heagney as your Vice President until the next AGM. Our move to these positions left a couple of vacancies on the Committee, and three new members were elected in - Tania Prolow from DAL, Alison Beavis from UTS and Jeff Shi from Sydney University. On behalf of the NSW Branch, I would like to thank James and Claude for their tireless efforts, and I look forward to a continued association with them through the National Executive.

For those who may not be aware, the National Executive support all the Australian and New Zealand Branches with their branch activities and assist in planning and organising the bi-annual conferences which have been increasingly successful over the years. For more information please refer to Claude Roux’s message on the following page.

The next few years are looking increasingly bright for the ANZFSS and I look forward to the continued support of the Society through attendance at the lectures and public nights held throughout the year.

Unfortunately, my first Presidents Report is also written with great sorrow. The end of 2010 brought great sadness with the sudden passing of Professor Michael Dawson. Michael has long been synonymous with the ANZFSS at a National and Branch level. He was a well respected lecturer at UTS and made significant contributions to the forensic and chemistry professions. A tribute to his life and contribution to forensic science has been prepared for this Newsletter by friend and colleague, NSW Branch member Dr Alison Beavis. On behalf of the NSW Branch, I would
Message from our Current President

like to offer my condolences to his wife Bronwyn, and their family. UTS has created a memorial award to support a student within the Faculty of Science Chemistry Department, in keeping with Michael’s firm commitment to student support. This has been supported by his family, and on behalf of all our members, in recognition of Michael’s contribution to the Forensic Sciences, the NSW branch has contributed $200 to this fund.

Lastly, a reminder that the next Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 13th April, 2011. Please note that if you are a member attending you must be financial to vote, so please get your membership renewals in! I look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

Sincerely,

Alison Sears
President

Message from our new National President

The 20th International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences hosted by the Australian & New Zealand Forensic Science Society was held on 5-9 September 2010 in Sydney. By all accounts, it was a fantastic scientific and networking success, as shown by the following figures:

♦ Over 950 delegates from 35 countries
♦ 700 abstracts
♦ 8 plenary and 34 keynote speakers
♦ 238 oral presenters
♦ 230 poster presenters
♦ 19 workshops

This event was even qualified as being the best ANZFSS symposium ever. In line with the theme of the symposium, Forensic Science on Trial, a number of presentations were totally fascinating. Many questions and possible answers emerged. For example: Do we deserve the term ‘science’? Are we just a marriage of convenience combining a number of siloed specialisations? Or are we a coherent scientific discipline with its own laws, axioms, principles? Are we a profession? As expected, we debated, agreed, disagreed, agreed to disagree and even disagreed to disagree.

The exhibition and the social program, both of the highest standard, contributed to the success of the symposium.

The ANZFSS 2010 Organising Committee expresses sincere gratitude to delegates and sponsors for making the 20th ANZFSS Symposium such a success. More information about the symposium and photos (available very soon) can be obtained from: http://www.anzfss2010.com/

The next ANZFSS symposium will be held in Hobart from 23 to 27 September 2012 at The Hotel Grand Chancellor. Gerard Dutton and the Organising Committee are now working hard to offer an even better event in Tasmania. Details about the 2012 symposium can be found at: http://www.anzfss2012.com.au/

During the symposium, the ANZFSS held its Annual General Meeting and, as a result, the new Office Bearers are:

♦ Claude Roux (President)
♦ James Robertson (Vice-President Australia)
♦ Maryanne Kregting (Vice-President New Zealand)
♦ James Wallman (Secretary)
♦ Chris Lennard (Treasurer)
♦ Anna Davey (Public Officer)
♦ Bill Crick (Immediate past President)

The new team started a policy and governance review to enable the ANZFSS to grow into a successful professional Society. The ANZFSS President will visit the branches this year to inform the members of these developments and also to gather valuable feedback. In the meantime, do not hesitate to contact him by email for any question or feedback:

president@anzfss.org.au

Claude Roux
ANZFSS National President

A few snapshots from the Symposium can be found at the end of the newsletter - Ed
A Tribute to Associate Professor Michael Dawson

By Dr Alison Beavis

Michael Dawson was a truly dedicated academic, friend, husband and father. He was loved by his many students, who will reflect on the wonderful lecturer he was and his infectious enthusiasm. His many friends will recall the countless good times, enjoying many laughs with Michael. His colleagues will reminisce of the selfless, supportive and passionate man who will never be forgotten.

Michael completed his undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Pharmacy at the University of Sydney. He spent a short time working as a pharmacist before his distinguished academic career beckoned in 1991. A lecturing position in Analytical and Environmental Chemistry at UTS was Michael’s first academic appointment. After 3 years in this position, Michael recognised the potential for the introduction of Australia’s first forensic science undergraduate degree, a vision and awareness that has had a significant influence on forensic science education in Australia.

Michael progressed through the ranks of academia to Associate Professor and to Head of the Department of Chemistry and Forensic Science at UTS. During his career, he was an active researcher in the field of analytical chemistry and its application to the analysis of licit and illicit drugs. His impact in this field could be gauged by his extensive publication record and the numerous requests for his expert evidence testimony in court cases.

Another passion of Michael’s was the topic of drug reform. He was a strong supporter and advocate, and was a valued member of many professional committees including the Pharmaceutical Sub-Committee of the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee. Michael’s passion for drug reform included his role as a Board Member and Treasurer of the charity Family Drug Support. He will also be remembered for his thought provoking comments during numerous letters to the editors of the Daily Telegraph and the Sydney Morning Herald. I still vividly recall the anticipation of attending Michael’s lectures as an undergraduate student to discuss his latest letter.

Michael will also be remembered for the invaluable contributions he made during his time as a committee member of the NSW Branch of the ANZFSS. He was also a member of the Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and the Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation.

In addition to his many professional achievements, Michael was truly a family man who was devoted to his wife and two daughters. One of my favourite memories of Michael was the smile on his face when he announced to our department that he and his wife were expecting twins. Michael was also a great handy man who took great pleasure in renovating.

I had the pleasure to work with Michael over the past 12 years. In this time he was my undergraduate lecturer, my honours and PhD supervisor and more recently my colleague and mentor as I began my academic career. During this time, he had a profound influence on both my personal and professional development and for this I am eternally grateful. I am a better scientist and a better person for having known Michael.
We are pleased to announce our:

2011 Annual General Meeting

DATE: Wednesday 13th April, 2011
TIME: 5:30pm for refreshments, 6:00pm start (an exciting presentation will follow)
VENUE: UTS Broadway Campus, CB06.03.22 (Building 6, Level 3, Room 22).

See ANZFSS NSW Branch website for maps of the venue.

Your attendance is important as failure to reach a quorum will result in the AGM being declared invalid and rescheduled. Ensure that your voice is heard by participating - and do not hesitate to bring along queries, concerns and topics for discussion.

Please also consider joining the NSW branch committee. We meet before the talks each month, co-ordinate and plan events, correspond with members, and ensure that the Society runs smoothly. Take the time to become involved and you will be sure to find this a very rewarding experience - and meet many interesting people. A nomination form for the 2011 NSW Branch ANZFSS Committee is included with this newsletter.

ANZFSS Public Night, Friday 18th June 2010

The NSW Branch of the ANZFSS presented on June 18th 2010 at the University of Technology, Sydney, a seminar on the forensic and criminal investigation of the infamous 2001 Gonzales family murder which attracted international attention especially in the Philippines.

The seminar audience in excess of 180 members with friends and associates including forensic experts who were directly involved in the investigation, were privileged to information which has never been presented in public by the NSW Police.

Detective Sergeant Bob Gibbs, Crime Scene Logistics Unit, Forensic Services Group, with 20 years experience as a Crime Scene Examiner, presented the forensic analysis of the crime scene and investigation. Detective Inspector Geoff Leonard, State Crime Command, with 34 years experience in the field of criminal investigations and currently the Investigations Coordinator of the Property Crime Squad, detailed the process of the criminal investigation.

At the time of the murders in July 2001, Detective Inspector Leonard was selected to lead Strike Force Tawas, the name given to the dedicated team of investigators into the murder of the Gonzales family members at their North Ryde Residence.

Background surrounding the family

The Gonzales family arrived in Australia in 1991. The family lived in Blacktown until early 2000. In July 2001, Teddy and Mary Gonzales resided at 6 Colins Street, North Ryde with their son Sef. Prior to the time of the murder, Sef’s sister Clodine was living and attending high school in Melbourne, studying for her Higher School Certificate.
At the time of the murders, Clodine was spending the school holidays at the family residence.

The murders

On the 10th July 2001 the parents attended their law practice at Blacktown, while Clodine remained at home and Sef attended University. On the afternoon of the same day, Sef travelled to the law practice at 1 pm and left between 3 and 4 pm to return home.

At approximately 4.30 pm, Sef entered his sister’s bedroom where she was studying. He was carrying a bat similar to a baseball bat with one or two kitchen knives retrieved from a block of knives in the kitchen. Sef attempted to strangle Clodine, striking her several times to the head with the bat and stabbing her multiples times. There were five major stab wounds to her neck and two major wounds to the chest and abdomen resulting in injuries to the liver, lung, heart and aorta. Clodine had also suffered a left sided skull fracture with a subarachnoid haemorrhage. Petechial haemorrhages were present on the chest wall, cheeks, gums and eyelids. The cause of death was a combination of compression of the neck, blunt force injuries to the head and stab wounds.

After killing Clodine, Sef remained in the house for several hours waiting for his parents. Just after 6pm, Emily Luna, Sef’s aunt came to the house, noticing Sef’s car parked in the driveway under the carport. She rang the doorbell but did not get a response. Emily Luna and her son thought there was someone inside the house at the time, and then thought the image was a clothing stand.

Mrs Gonzales then left the office at 4.50 pm, arriving home at 5.30 pm. On entering the house, Sef attacked his mother with the knives in the living / dining room of the house. Mrs Gonzales had 11 stab wounds to the face, neck, chest and abdomen with her trachea completely severed and defence wounds to both hands.

Mr Gonzales left his law office some time after his wife. Phone records detailed a mobile call from Sef to the house at 6.23 pm which was not answered. Mr Gonzales arrived home at approximately 6.50 pm and on entering the house was attacked with kitchen knives by Sef. Mr Gonzales had multiple stab wounds to the neck, chest, back, and abdomen with a stab wound penetrating his right lung, another to the heart, and a stab wound partially severing his spinal cord with defence wounds present on both hands.

Some time during the evening, Sef sprayed graffiti on the wall of the family room / kitchen with the words “Fuck off Asians KKK”. He disposed of the knives, his shoes, the baseball bat used to fracture his sisters skull, and his clothing, which has never been found to this day.

After committing the murders, Sef attended the residence of friend Sam Dacillos, arriving about 8 pm. Both Sef and Sam drove to the City in Sef’s car to Planet Hollywood in George Street then played video games at a store nearby. Sef then drove back to North Ryde, dropping Sam Dacillo off at his residence at about 11.30pm then proceeded to Collins Street.

On arriving at his street, Sef had expected that the bodies would have been found already. Sef made a chilling call to emergency 000 for an Ambulance stating that someone had shot his parents and that there was blood everywhere.

A neighbour, John Atamian, who resided opposite Sef’s house at 7 Collins Street was awakened by banging on his bedroom walls. On investigating, he found Sef distressed and saying his family had been killed. Another neighbour, Shane Hanley, who was watching television heard calls for help and also went outside.

Both Sef and Mr Hanley entered Sef’s home where they both saw the bodies of Mr and Mrs Gonzales. Sef straddled the bodies of each of his parents calling out “Papa” or “Mummy” and appeared overwhelmed with grief.
The poison

From the beginning of February to July 2001, Sef made internet searches of poisons, in particular poisonous plants and poisons from the seeds of two plants. Sef also made enquiries with seed suppliers who dispatched seeds that were received by Sef on or about the 29th June, 2001.

On Tuesday 3rd July 2001, Mrs Gonzales was admitted to the Seventh Day Adventist Hospital with signs and symptoms of worsening abdominal pain, diarrhea and bloody stools which was diagnosed as colitis. Mrs Gonzales attributed the illness to possibly food poisoning.

On the 2nd July a food manufacturer had received an anonymous letter stating its products had been tampered with and poisoned and they are on the shelves at supermarkets. The AFP and Australian Quarantine Inspection Service also received the letters.

A forensic computer expert was able to retrieve traces of the letters on Sef’s computer, and fingerprint examinations located Sef’s fingerprints on the sent envelopes.

On the 10th July Crime Scene found a film canister with an unknown liquid in Sef’s bedroom. Analysis of the contents overseas detected one of the two plant seed poisons in the liquid.

The motive for Sef sending letters to the food manufacturer was so if his mother was poisoned by consuming one of the company’s food products this would divert attention away from him.

Crime scene processing

The seminar provided information on crime scene processing and the collection of evidence, and looking at evidence in the context of the crime scene and events prior and after the criminal act. Information from crime scene processing provides objective data which provides and corroborates theories to assist in resolving the crime, and allowing the dismissal of testimonial evidence from witnesses and the offender/s. The evidence observed, documented, collected and analyzed demonstrates in the judicial system the conditions and circumstances determined by the crime scene.

The Detectives outlined in the presentation extensive physical and testimonial evidence, the physical evidence being items found at the scene, collected, photographed, documented for analysis and ultimate presentation judicially.

Specific evidence shown by Detective Gibbs demonstrated not all evidence is able to collected but is documented and photographed such as the position of personal effects around the body of Mr Gonzales, the blood spatter patterns, and shoeprint evidence enhanced chemically.

It was stated that the crime scene in the Gonzales murder was excellent from a processing aspect due to the security of the crime scene and the limited number of persons being only 4 people entering the scene with persons not causing cross contamination with inappropriate handling of evidence, and the potential for exposure of one type of evidence to another.

False trails

Detective Inspector Leonard gave an account of the testimonial evidence and the numerous false alibis and false trails by Sef Gonzales which included Sef stating he did not enter the property but sat in his vehicle and had then driven to Blacktown to visit a friend Raf DeLeon but was unable to find the house. Evidence from his friend Sam Dacillo and mobile phone record use by Sef led to self admissions by Sef of specific events being untruths. Other false alibis set up by Sef Gonzales involved visiting a prostitute at a brothel at Chatswood and convincing a taxi driver to provide a statutory declaration that he had picked up Sef in January 2002.


ANZFSS Public Night, Friday 18th June 2010
Physical evidence at the murder scene was the racist remark on the wall in paint. This was done by Sef to mislead the Police to believe and focus the investigation that the murders were a racist based crime, and lied further about an incident of road rage to add weight to the racist motive.

On the 31st May 2002 Sef also claimed he had been abducted and assaulted and had received threatening phone calls.

A multi-disciplinary approach

The Detectives outlined the multidisciplinary aspects of a criminal investigation and the numerous forensic expects and disciplines utilized to refute testimonial evidence and physical evidence.

Jason Beckett, a police computer expert, recovered searches on the internet made by Sef on poisonous plants, and the drafts of the threatening letters sent to the food and beverage company, AFP and Quarantine Service.

Patrick Houlcroft, Botanist and Horticulturist from Sydney’s Royal Botanic Gardens, identified the tree in the families garden that produced one of the two seeds Sef ordered, while a Major Rowell a Senior Medical Officer with the Incident Response Regiment of the Defence Forces provided evidence on the signs and symptoms of the poisons made from the seeds Sef allegedly ordered with respect to Mrs Gonzales gastrointestinal illness.

Outcome of the trial and the family home

On 17th September 2004 Sef Gonzales received three life sentences to be served concurrently, which means Sef will be in jail for the term of his natural life. The motives for the murder appeared to be financial gain and threatened loss of privileges.

In mid 2004 the executor of the estate Amelita put the Gonzales property on the market through agent LJ Hooker at North Ryde. Ellen Lin and her husband Derek Kwok of Carlingford made an offer for the property unaware of the morbid history. When finding out about the Gonzales murder their Buddhist religious beliefs and superstitions prevented them continuing with the purchase. Peter Hinto and his daughter Erica, the Real Estate agents, were fined $20,900 by Fair Trading for failing to disclose the history of the home to the couple. Another potential buyer was a British man named Gill who informed one media outlet he wanted to purchase the property as a tourist attraction. Christmas 2005 saw a family move in, purchasing the property for $720,000 after it failed to reach its reserve price at auction.

A very interesting presentation on what led a young man with a promising future and stable home life to slaughter his family.


By Glenn Wilcher
Laboratory Technician, NSW University Department of Medicine

James Wallman along with Detective Sergeant Bob Gibbs and Detective Inspector Geoff Leonard
The ANZFSS Meeting of Friday 28, July 2010 held at the University of Technology was privileged to have as a guest speaker Paul Westwood OAM Forensic Document Examiner. Paul was a former Director of Document examination with the Australian Federal Police, Department of Immigration and is now a private consultant. Paul received the Order of Australia Medal in 1982 for services to forensic document examination. Paul has been a Forensic Document Examiner for 45 years and Consultant for 28 years. Paul has fully equipped laboratories in Sydney and Canberra with field institutions in Hong Kong and Singapore. The Sydney laboratory also conducts fingerprint and computer forensics.

The Forensic Document Service Group (FDS Group), established in 1984, is the largest private independent handwriting and questioned document laboratory in the southern hemisphere. The many services provided by the FSD Group include the examination of:

- handwriting and signatures;
- anonymous letters, extortion notes;
- machine generated documents;
- travel and identity documents;
- typewriters and ribbons;
- dating of documents;
- alteration of documents and counterfeit documents;
- charcoal, shredded, and damaged documents;
- inks and papers;
- restoration of erased, bleached and obscured writing and latent writing impressions; and
- presentation of expert evidence.

The organisation commenced computer forensic examination and digital devices in 2003, analyzing computers, mobile devices / phones, recovery of data and electronic discovery.

The presentation consisted of many examples of actual cases involving a range of document examinations.

Historically, question document examination dates back to the 1600’s. A French monk named Jean Mabillon (1632 – 1707) founded the science called *diplomatics* or the analysis and verification of documents which now has developed into a complex specialty with extensive scientific knowledge.

The term *questioned documents* is defined as handwriting, typewriting, signatures, etc. when authenticity is questioned, and their investigation includes all the above examinations mentioned. The above examples of document examinations are in themselves sub-specialisations of forensic document examination.

Paul mentioned briefly and dismissed the handwriting analysis termed *graphology*. Graphology was alleged to quantitatively measure and provide a psychological profile of the writer.

In modern forensic science document examination, experts distinguish graphology from handwriting analysis and regard it as not being forensic science.

Examples of typewriter and printer analysis were given. Manual typewriters have many moving parts which like most tools deteriorate and have tiny markings from wear and tear and or faults with keys misaligned or damaged with age of the instrument. Typewriter ribbons may have an image of lettering and words in documents. In addition, rollers can have surface imperfections that are transferred to paper. These artifacts are able to be transferred to printed documents and comparisons made with original documents.

With modern electronic typewriters print is produced by a daisy wheel or a ball. Forensically, these instruments deteriorate with increased use, with faults developing which are transferred to documents. These flaws will be present in comparison documents.

Photocopiers may have faults on the camera lens, drum and other parts as well as dust particles on the glass sheet that are termed *trash marks*. These are copied onto the paper.
Paul discussed ink analysis and case histories with respect to forgeries such as cheques, wills and altered documents. Inks that appear to be the same colour can be chemically diverse. The examiner can utilise microscopy to detect changes in ink colour that may be indicative of altering documents, obliteration and overwriting. Ink may be analyzed by non-destructive techniques where the document’s integrity is maintained, or by destructive techniques which alters the documents integrity. Inks may fluoresce, or emit light, on exposure to UV light with other inks disappear. Techniques such as microspectrophotometry and spectroscopy are utilized in ink examination.

Paul showed slides of documents with specificity to the pen being used. Ballpoint pens can be distinguished from one another by examining areas known as striae within a line of writing with a microscope. Striae are caused by imperfections within the ball or ball housing of the pen. Some manufacturers are able to add a chemical tag which can indicate the year of manufacture.

Paul discussed the acquisition of ESDA, named after the process used called electrostatic detection. The instrument renders visible indented writing such as writing appearing as indentations on the next sheet of paper as in a writing pad. The instrument can read indentations up to ten pages thick.

Finally, Paul gave some advice when utilising a document examiner and sending documents for examination - ensure direct handling of document is minimal, avoid using paperclips, tweezers etc, avoid shuffling documents, use appropriate sized envelope to deliver, protect documents by placing between cardboard sheets and label the envelope prior to placing the document in the envelope.

A very informative presentation utilizing many case histories.

References: enotes
www.enotes.com/forensic-science/questioned-documents
www.enotes.com/forensic-science/ink-analysis
www.enotes.com/forensic-science/typewriter-printer-analysis
www.enotes.com/forensic-science/handwriting-analysis

Photograph from ANZFSS Annual Dinner 2010

Alison Sears with Sean Doyle
A Light-Hearted Slant on the Annual Dinner 2010 Talk
By Aldo Severino

A light-hearted slant on our Annual Dinner’s speaker Sean Doyle... Not the red wire!

Should I cut the red wire or the blue wire?

By a strange turn of events if you are fated with disabling a bomb... The red wire leads to one end of a sealed box and its soldered on; the other end leads to a second sealed box which it leads into it through a drilled hole, this is where both the red and blue wires are coming from....to further heighten your dilemma on this, let’s review dialogue by the two main characters of Lethal Weapon 3, Martin Riggs and Roger Murtaugh

....I thought you said you were gonna cut the red wire
....Well I did, didn't I?
....No! You cut the blue wire!
....Well I meant the red wire
....I should have cut the red wire.
....You did cut the red wire
....No, I didn't, I cut the blue wire.

.....That's what I meant- We should have waited

for the bomb squad!

The moral of this exercise – What are you doing fooling around with a “Bomb”

Army soldier disarming a bomb
Many Latin terms are used in the field of forensic science because forensics developed alongside the already established legal profession, which extensively uses phrases from the Latin language. The word forensic, itself, comes from the Latin word *forensis*, meaning of the forum. It originally applied to the marketplace areas within ancient Rome where many types of businesses and public affairs, such as governmental debates and actions by courts of law, were conducted. Entering the English vocabulary in 1659, the modern meaning of forensic is now limited to the areas of legal and criminal investigations.

Some commonly used Latin terms within the field of forensic science are listed below. A translation of the Latin appears in parentheses.

- *Aberemurder* (obsolete), willful murder
- *Abet* (to bait), to encourage another to commit a crime
- *Ab extra* (from outside), without
- *Actus reus* (guilty by act), wrongful deed performed with criminal intent
- *Ad hominem* (to the individual), relating to the preferences of a particular person
- *Amicus curiae* (friend of the court), person who is allowed to submit a point of view or intervene in a court case
- *Compos mentis* (of sound mind), legally responsible
- *Corpus delicti* (the body of the crime) fundamental facts that prove a crime
- *De novo* (new), trial that begins again without reference to previous trials
- *Fidei defensor* (defender of the faith), description of leaders especially with regards to British royalty
- *Flagrante delicto* (while the crime is blazing), caught in the act of a crime
- *Functus officio* (having served its purpose), expiration of someone's authority due to completion of duty or expired date
- *Habeas corpus* (that you have a body), writ issued to bring a party before a court or judge in order to release or continue to detain the party
- *In loco parentis* (in place of the parent), legal responsibility of a party to take on parental responsibilities
- *Indicia* (to point out), identifying marks or signs
- *In esse* (in existence), being
- *In extenso* (at full length), completely
- *In situ* (in its place), in its original position
- *Medias res* (the midst of things), middle of a series of events
- *Mens rea* (guilty in mind), intent or knowledge of performing a criminal act
- *Modus operandi* (method of operation), abbreviated M.O., particular way by which crimes are committed
- *Obiter dictum* (something said in passing), judge's observation on something not specifically before a court
- *Onus* (the burden), responsibility of governmental body or plaintiff to prove a case beyond reasonable doubt
- *Postmortem* (after death), autopsy performed after a person's death
- *Prima facie* (at first sight), evidence that appears to be sufficient to establish proof
- *Pro se* (on one's own behalf), person who presents their own case before a court without the use of lawyers
- *Res judicata* (the thing has been judged), case before a court that has already been decided by another court
- *Ultra vires* (without authority), outside the powers of legal authority.

In addition, many modern terms used commonly in forensic science have their roots in Latin. One such example is the word *inquest*, the term used for an inquiry into a death occurring under suspicious circumstances. The word comes from the Latin *in*, meaning into, and *quaro*, meaning to seek.

*Obtained from www.enotes.com*
A Few Snapshots from the 2010 ANZFSS Symposium

Top left: Commissioner Scipione opening the Symposium; Bottom right: Opening ceremony; Top right: Prof. Margot and his sons (XTek Night Out best dressed male); Bottom right: Jack the Ripper’s Harlettes (XTek Night Out best dressed female).

Contact Details

If you have any query, comment or suggestion about this newsletter or any information contained within, please do not hesitate to contact us. All correspondence regarding general enquiries, membership renewal, payment etc, can be addressed to:

NSW Branch ANZFSS
PO Box K208
Haymarket NSW 1240
Phone: 0406 931 619
Fax: 02 9514 1460
Email: nswbranch@anzfss.org.au

Specific recipients (eg. the President, Treasurer, Membership Officer, etc.) can be reached C/o the details above.

Website:

Your Committee:

Acting President: Alison Sears
Acting Vice President: Aaron Heagney
Treasurer: Peter Jamieson
Secretary / Merchandise: Paul Donkin
Memberships: Aldo Severino
Public Officer: Denise Donlon
Newsletter: Shaheen Aumeer-Donovan
Website: Philip Maynard
Committee Members:
Harry Albani
Alison Beavis
Eric Murray
Tania Prolov
Jeffrey Shi

Final Words:

"It always seems impossible until it’s done"

Nelson Mandela
COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

3.3 Election of Members:
   (1) Nominations of candidates for election as office-bearers of the association or as ordinary members of the committee -
       (a) shall be made in writing, signed by two members of the association and accompanied by the written consent of the
           candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination); and
       (b) shall be delivered to the secretary of the association not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the holding of the
           annual general meeting at which the election is to take place.

I …………………………………………………. being a financial member of the ANZFSS, accept this
nomination for the position of ……………………………………………………………………………………

Signed………………………………………………..

Proposed by…………………………………………….   Seconded by…………………………………..

Please either photocopy or cut out this form, fill it in, have it endorsed by two other financial
members, and send it to the Secretary at least 7 days before the AGM. We look forward to seeing
you there!

Please either photocopy or cut out this form, fill it in, have it endorsed by two other financial
members, and send it to the Secretary at least 7 days before the AGM. We look forward to seeing
you there!