



## Australian and New Zealand FORENSIC SCIENCE SOCIETY



August 2011  
Issue 32

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Reserve the following  
dates in your diary:

### 17th September 2011

IFW  
(flyer enclosed)

### 12th October 2011

The Application &  
Issues of Forensic  
Identification Methods  
from CCTV  
By Dr Glenn Porter  
(details to be advised)

### 25th November 2011

ANZFSS NSW Branch  
Annual Dinner  
(details to be advised)

## NSW Branch Newsletter

NSW Branch ANZFSS Inc ABN 33-502-753-392

### National ANZFSS Newsletter

The ANZFSS executive body has now released a newsletter to update the Society on national matters. If you have not already received the National newsletter, you can find it on our NSW Branch website under the “Links” section:

<http://www.anzfss.org.au/nsw/links.htm>

You may need to right click on “National Newsletter” and save the pdf file on your hard drive before opening.

### Message from the Treasurer

With a membership as large as ours, and with so many events being organised, you can imagine that the job of our Treasurer is a colossal one! Unfortunately, of late, Peter has had to spend a lot of time chasing up seemingly random transactions for our Branch as there is no information included with the deposits about what or who the payment is for. Thankfully, we can make Peter’s job a little easier by ensuring that:

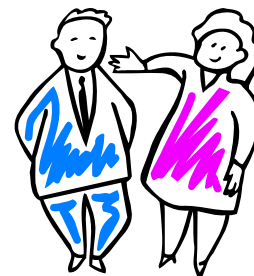
- ◆ We record our name on the reverse side of money orders in the space provided.
- ◆ We include something to identify ourselves in electronic transfers (such as our last name).

Thank you so much for your assistance!

### New Society Members

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

Ardishir AKHONDZADEH-BASTY  
Tony CHARLES  
Jeffrey LOY  
Melanie MEREDITH  
Rebecca NEUMANN  
Lyndall SMYTHE



### Newsletter Articles

Suggestions and contributions are welcome for inclusion in the newsletter - please forward all articles to the NSW Branch email address c/- Shaheen at:

[nsw.anzfss@gmail.com](mailto:nsw.anzfss@gmail.com)

Please note that these inclusions will be made at the discretion of the Committee based on their content.



## Message from the President

Dear Members,

June saw a fantastic branch meeting held at the Australian Museum, with an excellent presentation by Dr Rebecca Johnson who is currently Head of Research in the DNA Laboratory at the Museum. She gave an interesting account of the wildlife forensic cases she has been involved with and her work in general at the Museum. For those members who were unable to attend, there is a nice summary of her presentation written by our committee member Glenn Wilcher in this newsletter.

July marked the opening of a new joint training facility between the NSW Police Force and the University of Western Sydney, of which I was fortunate to have been a part of. Built on the campus of the University of Western Sydney, the facility is used by the students attending the Bachelor of Science (Forensic Science) course, as well as used by NSW Police Force Training Unit for training their Forensic Investigators in certain practical aspects of crime scene investigation. The opening was a grand affair, with many distinguished guests including State Parliament representatives, Academics from the University as well as high ranking Officers from the NSW Police Force attending for the official opening. Perhaps this is one venue that could provide an interesting branch presentation in the coming year – our committee will investigate this!

Our next exciting branch event will be held Friday 16th September. We are fortunate to have forensic archeologist Dr Ian Hanson, from Strathbourne University, visiting Australia from the UK. He has agreed to share some of his time and experience in the world of forensic archaeology. Ian has worked on many international mass grave excavations, from the detection of the grave sites to the process of identification of the grave remains. He has worked in many parts of the world including Iraq, Europe, West Africa and Australasia. Dr Hanson has performed work with IC-MP and for the UN. Look out for a flyer coming out with details soon!



*Crime House at UWS*

The IFW has had to be moved to 17th September. If you know anyone who would be interested in attending, please pass this information on. Details can be found at the end of the newsletter, and on our Branch website.

In October we are planning another branch meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> October, with Dr Glenn Porter of the University of Western Sydney presenting his work on facial Identification/using CCTV evidence. This presentation will encompass work Glenn has just completed for his successful PhD award.

Lastly, our annual dinner has been planned for the 25<sup>th</sup> November. These dinners are always delicious and lots of fun and always has an entertaining speaker. Please note this date down, and further details will be forthcoming.

Hope to see you all at our future meetings!

Alison Sears  
**President**  
**NSW Branch ANZFSS**





## REVIEW: "Wildlife Forensics" by Dr Rebecca Johnson ANZFSS Meeting, Wednesday 29th June 2011

Members and guest attended the June Branch meeting at the 183 year old Australian Museum in College Street, Sydney where Dr Rebecca Johnson introduced members and guests to the developing forensic field of wildlife forensics.

Dr Johnson has a Science degree with honours from the University of Sydney and has a PhD in the field of molecular evolutionary genetics from Latrobe University.

Dr Johnson has been at the Australian Museum since 2003 where she has established the Museum as one of the leaders in wildlife forensics. The laboratory carries out DNA – based wildlife identification for various agencies in Australia and New Zealand on sample types such as shark fins, embryos, gall bladders, seized fish meat, animal skins, bones, and horns to mention a few.

The laboratory has a frozen tissue sample bank with 70,000 samples held for genetic studies, of which some animal samples are very rare, endangered or extinct and is an invaluable reference collection for research and as validated reference material for forensic analyses. The Frozen Tissue Collection is held in 6 freezers at  $-86^{\circ}\text{C}$ , which is connected to an emergency backup system. Examples of frozen specimen references at the museum are bats from New Guinea, Whales from southern Australian waters, snails from the Artesian Springs, and fish from the Philippines.



Dr Johnson's presentation included what wildlife forensics and DNA - based wildlife forensics is, why it is useful, and provided numerous case



studies. The history and role of CITES was detailed and the role of the Australian Museum in wildlife forensics including the wildlife frozen tissue samples and the utilization of mitochondrial DNA in investigations.

### *What is wildlife forensics?*

Wildlife forensics is a field of criminal investigation using scientific investigation to examine, identify, and compare evidence from crime scenes and link the evidence with a suspect and victim which specifically are animals or animal products and plants.

DNA-based wildlife forensics is where extracted DNA from an unknown sample is attempted to be matched to a known sample from a reference collection.

DNA-based analysis is useful when animal tissue is unidentifiable to species because:

- ◆ it has been treated (i.e., tanned to make leather)
- ◆ it has been mutilated (i.e., only blood, tissue remains)
- ◆ it has been filleted (i.e., commercial meat)
- ◆ the animal is not well developed enough to identify to species and there is no possibility for it developing into an adult with identifiable characters.

DNA is found in two different parts of the cell the nucleus (genomic DNA) and in the mitochondria (mitochondrial DNA mtDNA). Animals generally inherit the mitochondrial DNA from the maternal line and therefore are the same in

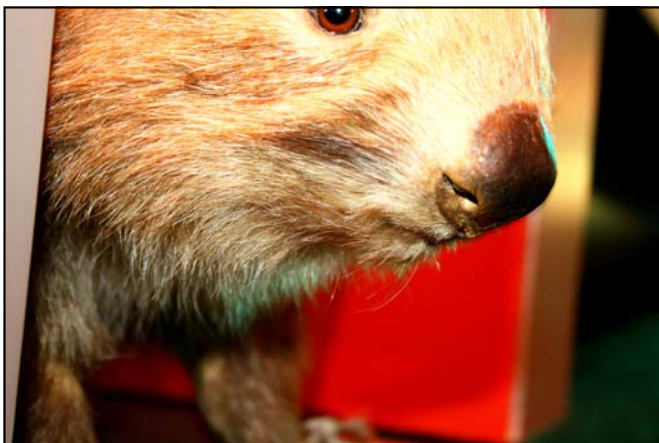


## REVIEW: "Wildlife Forensics"

by Dr Rebecca Johnson

ANZFSS Meeting, Wednesday 29th June 2011

mothers and their offspring. mtDNA can be isolated from hairs, bones and teeth and there is a greater chance of identifying mtDNA than genomic DNA. mtDNA is well established for species and population identifications and sequence analysis for identifying the source of samples thought to be derived from threatened or endangered species. mtDNA is suitable for determining the animal or plant species a material comes from such as powders, ivory etc. Examples of these include elephant leather which is actually cow, and Great White Shark at fish markets sold as fillets.



### *Types of evidence.*

Evidence analysed by a wildlife forensic scientist include any part of an animal such as blood and tissue, carcasses, hair, teeth, bones, claws, talons, feathers, tusks, hides, fur, and stomach contents, to mention a few. Materials used in the killing and or harming of animals are also investigated. Products made from animals such as leather goods, medicines, ornaments etc are examined.

Identification of a species is important in determining if a protected animal has been killed or one which is not protected.

### *CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).*

Dr Johnson mentioned CITES, which is the international organisation that monitors trade in wild animals and plants, being a voluntary agreement between governments ensuring that trade does not threaten a species. CITES was a result of a

resolution adopted in 1963 by members of the World Conservation Union which came into force in July 1975, with parties numbering 175 now. CITES works by subjecting international trade in specimens of selected species to certain controls. Species covered by the agreement are listed in 3 appendices according to the degree of protection required:

- ◆ *Appendices I* includes species threatened with extinction with trade only in exceptional circumstances.
- ◆ *Appendices II* trade is controlled to avoid utilisation being incompatible with survival of the species
- ◆ *Appendices III*, the species is controlled in at least one country which requests other parties to assist in the control of trading.

Approximately 5,000 species of animals and 28,000 species of plants are protected by CITES.

The following are examples of case reports presented by Dr Johnson, some which have been publicized on programs such as Catalyst on the ABC. Note: *Names of offenders mentioned are public record under the Australian Customs website detailing case histories of prosecutions.*

### Shark fin Case.

A tuna long lining Australian fishing vessel fishing between Sydney and the South Coast was found to have 87 shark fins for purpose of making shark fin soup. The fins came from 22 sharks using 'fining' in which the shark fins are removed from the sharks while they are alive and then put back in the water resulting in drowning. DNA sequencing analysis and looking at the closest match from reference samples by Dr Johnson and the museum identified 5 different species of shark which were vulnerable or threatened species, enabling a prosecution to proceed.

### The Harbord Squirrel Case - 2008

In December 2008 a live squirrel enclosed in a sock in incoming international mail from Bali Indonesia was intercepted at the Clyde Sydney Gateway Postal Facility due to packaging being X-rayed. The package was labeled "DVDs". Search and seizure warrants were issued to 2



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by Dr Rebecca Johnson

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Harbord residences. The squirrel had to be euthanized due to the poor condition of the animal. This import was a threat to agriculture.

### Egg Smuggling 2007.

August 2007a French national freelance photographer named Della Zuana was stopped by customs officials after a flight from Bangkok to Sydney and found to be wearing a white vest containing 23 eggs of different size, weight and different stages of development. At the time, bird flu was a concern with overseas travelers coming from Asia. Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis was conducted to determine the species. Testing determined 6 different parrots and species of cockatoos. Species were Moluccan cockatoos, Edlectus parrots, African Grey parrots, Macaws and a Salmon Crested Cockatoo. The eggs were irradiated as a quarantine measure.

### Aviation strikes by Birds and Animals.

Regulations require that a collision between an aircraft and an animal is to be reported to the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) within 72 hours in the manner of a 'bird strike report'. There has been an increasing trend for aircraft strikes with birds, with 1200 strikes in 2006 increasing to 1340 strikes in 2009. Over 2/3 of strikes occur with landing and takeoffs, with engine ingestion accounting for 11% of occurrences. Animals other than birds such as rabbits, kangaroos, livestock and wallabies account for an average of 11.5 strikes per annum.

The cost of bird strikes worldwide is \$1.3 Billion. The wings of planes and rotor helicopter blades are the most common part damaged with aircraft. The types of bird species are lapwings/plovers, bats, galahs, and kites. Accurate species identification is re-



quired for effective management of what are 'high risk species'.

Identifications have been done visually by pilots, crew, traffic controllers, and from carcass remains.

In 2006 a report was published on "*Forensic Identification of Aviation Bird Strikes in Australia*", the result of research by Dr Johnson and her colleagues into DNA analysis of bird strike remains, and the effect of various variables such as heat, time since death etc on the ability to perform DNA analysis for species identification.

Accurate identification of birds is important because:

- ◆ species weight and size estimates provide engineers data for assessment of potential damage to aircraft
- ◆ predictions can be made as to whether it is a 'flocking' or 'solitary' bird species, allowing estimation of numbers
- ◆ assessments can be made concerning migratory birds at specific time of the year, and
- ◆ it enables the reduction of the level of unknown species, enabling better management of real problem species.

### Mutilation of Birds Sutherland.

NSW police and the RSPCA investigated reports of a driver proceeding to drive through a flock of cockatoos (*Cacatua galerita*) at a park in the Sutherland Area. Blood was taken from the motor vehicle for DNA testing determining the species as a Sulphur Crested Cockatoo. The driver had a previous history of killing a pedestrian.

### Live Fish Smuggling Melbourne June 2005

In Melbourne Customs noticed a strange 'sloshing' sound with a passenger.



## REVIEW: "Wildlife Forensics"

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*Dr Rebecca Johnson with Dr James Wallman*

The 45 year old female had 51 live tropical fish concealed under her skirt. There was a total of 15 water filled plastic bags consisting of tropical catfish.

### Pedigree studies.

An example of where pedigree studies are done was with venomous Broadhead Snakes in NSW. The snake's habitat in the sandstone Sutherland Region requires a permit of captivity. Genotyping is done to assist prosecutions with poaching.

Dr Johnson's presentation was very informative with detailed case histories, and providing an understanding of the applications of DNA analysis in this developing area of forensic science.

### References

[www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/3185178.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/3185178.htm) 7 April 2011 Fin Forensics  
[www.customs.gov.au/site/content11108.asp](http://www.customs.gov.au/site/content11108.asp)  
[www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/s2069466.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/s2069466.htm) 25 October 2007  
 Forensic Identification of Aviation Bird Strikes in Australia. June 2006:  
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[www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)  
<http://australianmuseum.net.au/Wildlife-Forensics/>

*Review by Glenn Wilcher,  
 Photographs by Annalise Wrzeczycki*

## REVIEW: "Improvised Explosive Devices"

by Sean Doyle

ANZFSS Annual Dinner 2010

At the Annual General Dinner of the ANZFSS NSW Branch, Sean Doyle presented members and guests a presentation on improvised explosive devices (IED's) The presentation illustrated elements of IED's, showing actual components making up the devices and also discussed the chemicals used for the explosives. Sean provided information on the history of IED's and talked about the IRA (Irish Republican Army) providing information on incidents of publicized terrorists attacks that have occurred, and the types of IUD's used in those incidents.

In providing information on Sean's presentation I have expanded on some of the information provided for the interest of members.

### ***Sean Doyle's Background.***

*Sean Doyle has over 26 years casework experience in forensic science and given evidence in high profile cases in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the EU involving both the prosecution and defense. Sean holds a degree in Applied*

*Chemistry with qualifications in advanced analytical chemistry. Sean is currently Director of Linked Forensic Consultants Ltd registered in New Zealand working to assure reliability of scientific evidence and enhance the reputation of forensic science and the delivery of justice. From July to September 1998 he served as an expert member of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) weapons inspection team in Iraq and New York. Sean is a member and director of Quality of the Forensic Isotope Mass Spectrometry (FIRMS) Network. He is also a member and former Secretary dealing with the explosives Expert Working Group Institutes (EWG) of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI). Sean has also represented the Forensic Explosives Laboratories on the Board of the Association of Forensic Science Providers (AFSP).*

Sean began with the history of IED's and the key elements of an IED explosive.



## REVIEW: "Improvised Explosive Devices"

by Sean Doyle

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Wall Street bombing, 1920

An IED is defined as an explosive device that is placed or fabricated in an improvised manner, incorporates destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic or incendiary chemicals, and is designed to destroy, incapacitate, harm or distract.

Sean described the key elements of an IED showing photographs of devices and differentiating between high and low explosions. The elements of IED's consist of a variety of components including the initiator, switch, main charge power source and container. IED's may be surrounded by "enhancements" such as nails, glass, and metal fragments surrounding or packed with the device. Photographs of the devices were shown.

Sean detailed available materials such as fertilizer, gunpowder and hydrogen peroxide that are easily available with formulations and instructions for the making of bombs available on the internet.

Historically groups have used IED's for political causes or to wear down their enemies.

In the United States the use of

IED's dates back to the 1920's. On the 16<sup>th</sup> September 1920 a horse drawn cart carrying dynamite and metal slugs exploded killing 3 to 40 (depending on sources) people and injuring hundreds. The offenders were never captured.

The first example of a large-scale use of IED's was in the Belarusian Rail War against the Germans in World War II that derailed trains.

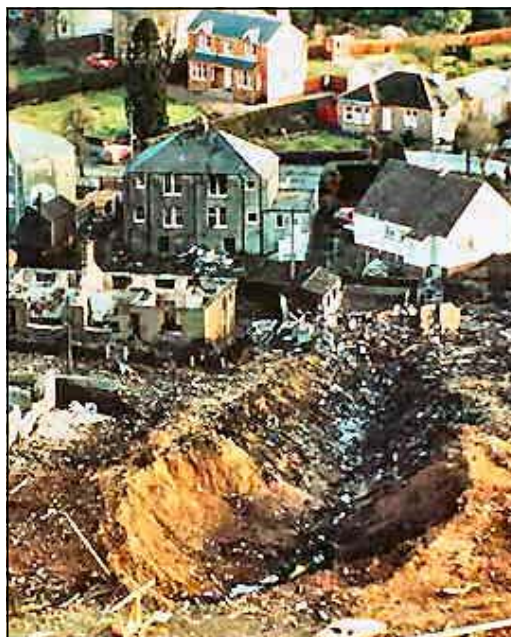
The term *IED* is derived from the British Army after the IRA produced bombs made of fertilizers and Semtex.

In the 1970's Northern Ireland's issues concerning the constitutional status of Northern Ireland led to the use of IED's.

Sean described designs of devices that could be set to accurately detonate weeks after the device was hidden. He described also the roadside bombs that were common and that Semtex H was smuggled in from Libya to Britain in the 80's.

Photographs were shown of the Lockerbie Disaster. Pan Am Flight 103 London to New York crashed into the small town of Lockerbie on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 1988, 38 minutes after take off at a height of 31000 ft. A device concealed in a radio

exploded killing 259 passengers and crew with 11 persons killed on the ground. Sean described the constituents of the bomb that were detected as being *pentaerythritol tetranitrate* (PETN) and *cyclotrimethylene trinitramine*, being components of Semtex. The bombing was alleged to be retaliatory attack due to the accidental attack on a Iranian Airbus A300 by a cruise missile launched from the USS Vincennes.



Lockerbie air disaster, 1988



## REVIEW: "Improvised Explosive Devices"

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*Leeds bomb making factory*

Sean gave examples of explosives including ammonium nitrate and fuel oil used in the Oklahoma City Bombing, *Triacetone Triperoxide* (TATP) used in bombings in London and Semtex C-4 used by the IRA and urea nitrate used in the World Trade Centre bombing. TATP is a highly volatile explosive made from widely available chemicals being acetone, hydrogen peroxide and other chemicals such as drain cleaner. The chemical is sensitive to shock and electrostatic stimuli. The chemical produces a gas that expands outward producing a shockwave with a detonation velocity of 5250m/s. Sean showed audiovisual examples explosions of small amounts of TATP and its force.

A search by me of the internet on Facebook and YouTube found dozens of film clips of TATP being used and how to manufacture TATP and acetone peroxide in the home (or garage).

Sean talked about Hexamethylenetriperoxid-diamine (HMTD) first synthesized by Legler in 1885. The chemical is unstable and a highly explosive organic compound. Again, the chemical is able to be manufactured from materials purchased at shops such as the component *urintropine* which are heating tablets to light fires that are purchased from camping stores. The chemical being sensitive acts as an *initiator* described as the energy for the explosive event. The velocity of HMTD is 4511m/s. On *YouTube* an example of 2.5 mls homemade HMTD is used to destroy a large concrete cement block. *YouTube* provides instruction in the manufacture of HMTD like TATP even including the manufacture of precu-

sors if you are unable to purchase chemicals. HMTD was used for the planned attack on the Los Angeles Airport LAX, New Years Eve 1999/2000, known as the Millenium bomb, which was foiled by law enforcement agencies.

Sean talked about the July 7, 2005 London bombings that were coordinated suicide attacks using the public transport system during the 'rush hour'. Four militants detonated four bombs, three in the London underground and the fourth on a double decker bus in Tavistock Square. The explosives an organic peroxide device was carried in rucksacks. Sean showed CCTV images of the bombers entering the underground and carrying rucksacks. Raids on a residence at 18 Alexander Grove, Leeds found a bomb making factory for HMTD with instructions for high explosives, detonators present with respirators for the boiling down of hydrogen peroxide, and containers of pepper. The explosions contained 10kg concentrated hydrogen peroxide and pepper detonated with a 9 volt battery.



*IRA Bishopsgate bombing*

Sean talked about the Bishopsgates Bombing on the April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1993. A Ford Ireko tipper truck was stolen and smuggled into England containing one tonne of fertilizer bomb made by the IRA South Armagh Brigade. The truck was parked outside the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank exploding and causing 1 Billion Pounds damage with 1.5 million sq ft office space and 500 tonnes of broken glass damage. The explosive consisted of 500 kgs of ammonium nitrate and sugar.





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Other incidents utilizing fertilizer bombs were the Manchester bombing June 15<sup>th</sup> 1996 and foiled Heysham Lorry Bomb June 12, 1994.

The Manchester Bombing was a Ford truck parked outside Marks and Spencers by the IRA containing 1500kg of Semtex, plastic explosives and the fertilizer ammonium nitrate. It was designed to cause infrastructure and economic damage. A total of 212 people were injured. An attempt by the bomb squad to defuse the bomb with a robot failed.

The foiled Heysham bomb attempt at Lancashire was a lorry with explosives concealed in apartments welded in the bottom of the truck. Photographs of the lorry and the concealed bomb was shown by Sean. The force of the bomb if it had been detonated would have been twice the power of the Bishopsgates bomb in 1993.

Sean talked about Richard Reid known as the 'Shoe Bomber' a member of al-Qaeda who pleaded guilty in 2003 for terrorism, with an attempt to destroy a commercial aircraft on flight from Paris to Miami, by detonating explosives hidden in his shoes. On December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2001 on Flight 63 Reid attempted to detonate 283g of *Pentaerthrol tetranitrate* (PETN) concealed in trainer shoes he was wearing. Reid attempted to detonate the shoe bomb with paper encasing TATP that was to be ignited by lighting a fuse protruding from the shoe. He failed to detonate the bomb with other passengers smelling smoke and overpowering him with the crews assistance. Perspiration from his trainers caused the fuse to be damp and unable to ignite properly. An associate of Reid named Saajid Badat, a British man, had booked a ticket to fly from Manchester to Amsterdam to detonate a bomb as well. Before



Shoe bombs

boarding the flight he changed his mind and returned to the UK with the bomb still in his possession. Badat concealed the detonator and explosive in the bedroom of his residence that was discovered by a raid on the property by police. Telephone cards established links to Badat with the attempted coordinated bomb plan.

Sean talked about misjustice in forensics and mentioned the case of the Birmingham Six. The 'Birmingham Six' their surnames, Callaghan, Hill, Hunter, Walker, McIlkenny and Power, were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1975 in the UK for the Birmingham Pub bombing. Due

to police fabrication, suppression of evidence and obtaining evidence through beatings and the discrediting of forensic evidence in the case, the convictions were declared unsafe and overturned eventually by the Court of Appeal on the 14/3/1991.

Significant to the Court of Appeal was the forensic evidence by Dr Frank Skuse who used the results of the *Griess Test* to get convictions claiming that Patrick Hill and William Power had handled explosives and been in contact with nitroglycerine. Later GC/MS tests were negative for Power and contradicted initial results for Hill.

The Court of Appeal stated:

*"Dr Skuses conclusion was wrong, and demonstrably wrong, judged even by the state of forensic science in 1974".*

The collapse of the case and other miscarriages of justice caused the Home secretary to set up a Royal commission on Criminal Justice in 1991. The Commission led to the Criminal Appeals Act 1995 and establishment of the Criminal Cases Review Commission in 1997.



## REVIEW: "Improvised Explosive Devices"

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In Australia, cases of injustice in forensics have been reported in South Australia concerning Dr Colin Manock, the previous Chief Forensic Pathologist. *Network Knowledge* an organization publishing legal material and investigates and provides information on alleged miscarriages of justice has detailed extensively cases in the South Australian coronial services. The web page Net-

worked knowledge has a Dr Manock Homepage: <http://netk.net.au/ManockHome.asp> Members may be interested in reading the history of the cases connected with Dr Manock.

An interesting presentation by Sean Doyle.

*Review by Glenn Wilcher*

## Member Profile

### Kate Grimwood (joint Secretary)

Katharine (Kate) Grimwood is currently completing her PhD in Science at the Centre for Forensic Science, University of Technology Sydney. She has also undertaken extensive Fire and Explosion Investigation training with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Kate's work focuses on the pre-flame and post suppression gas emissions from flexible polyurethane foam. In addition Kate is currently investigating the time it takes to reach flashover as a function of the amount of polyurethane present in a cell or structure.



## 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:*

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

Website: <http://www.anzfss.org.au/nsw>

## Your Committee:

<b>President:</b>	Alison Sears
<b>Vice President / Newsletter:</b>	Shaheen Aumeer-Donovan
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Peter Jamieson
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<b>Website:</b>	Philip Maynard
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Harry Albani
	Paul Donkin
	Eric Murray
	Tania Prolov
	Dianne Reader
	Jeffrey Shi
	Glenn Wilcher
	Annalise Wrzeczycki

## Final Words:

"Chance favours the prepared mind"  
Louis Pasteur