Thank you to those members who renewed and paid via internet banking. However, there have been, during the course of the year, several persons who have paid their 2011 membership fees via internet banking but remain a ‘mystery’ to us as they have not included their name. These people will, therefore, not have received a 2011 membership card. If any of you know of someone who has made payment but has not received their 2011 membership card or who was a previous member and may not have received their renewal form, please contact the Secretary so that we can correct the situation and possibly have our ‘mystery payers’ identified. Thank you.

Remember that when making payments to the NSW Branch NAB account to please include your full name to avoid any delays or other issues.

I encourage new members to come along and enjoy the Annual Dinner in November. When purchasing a dinner ticket, new members (including student members) are offered a “combo” ticket giving a discount on 2012 membership when paid for at the same time as the Annual Dinner ticket. More details on the Annual Dinner flyer and registration website (link from www.anzfss.org.au/nsw).

New Society Members:
The NSW Branch of ANZFSS warmly welcomes the following new members:

Ashton BRIDGE
Annie CHEN
Melissa CULLEN
Andrea DEVLIN
Rebecca DOUGLAS
Pak Yin NG
Dani NUESSLE
Ron SHIMMON
Antony SPROULE
Wei-Jen TSAO

Save The Date:
Friday 25th November 2011 is the ANZFSS NSW Branch Annual Dinner & National Branch AGM. All members and their guests are invited to join us for a delicious 3-course meal and a special guest speaker at the exciting city venue with views: Aerial Function Centre at University of Technology (UTS). Attendees must register and pay online by 18th November. Your ticket includes a drinks package and complimentary parking.

PURCHASE ANNUAL DINNER TICKETS NOW AT:
www.anzfss.org.au/nsw
Dear Members,

Unfortunately, I begin this edition with some sad news. A dedicated member of our Society and a fellow Forensic Biologist from DAL, Rebecca Kendrew, recently passed away at only 34 years of age.

Rebecca’s life was one of great personal triumph. She was a dedicated scientist about to complete a Masters degree in Forensic Science from the University of Canberra, something I am sure her family are very proud of.

Rebecca was very involved in her young daughter’s education and cared very deeply for children whose families could not afford to send them to excursions. The NSW Branch plans to pay tribute to her caring and generous nature: more news regarding this will be announced soon.

Personally and professionally on behalf of the Society, I would like to express my deepest sympathy to Rebecca’s family and loved ones, and I know she will be sorely missed. Vale Rebecca Kendrew.

In other news, our Society proudly announces a successful event recently held at UTS. Inside the Forensic World was attended by over 80 students and participants from the public interested in finding out more about “real forensics”. Thank you all for helping us promote this bi-annual event to colleagues and students. We even signed up four new members on the day! Profiles of speakers who were featured at the seminar have been included in this edition and will continue over the next newsletter. Our thanks go to those speakers who gave their time generously and made the day informative and fun for all participants.

Somehow, the end of 2011 is already near (!) and I leave you with an invite to our Annual Dinner which will be held on Friday 25th November at Aerial Function Centre, UTS. Simply register and pay online through our branch website for a fun night with a delicious 3 course meal and a wonderful speaker to enthuse us all to continue the great work we do – I hope to see you there!

Alison Sears
President NSW Branch ANZFSS

Next Meeting - 12th October:

Dr Glenn Porter is a Senior Lecture and Head of Program for the Bachelor of Science (Forensic Science) degree at the University of Western Sydney (UWS). Glenn has 20 years experience as a forensic practitioner and before becoming an academic at UWS, he was a forensic photographer with the Australian Federal Police. Glenn’s PhD thesis is titled “The Reliability of CCTV Images as Forensic Evidence” and his research focus is the reliability of photographic evidence including: photographic comparison and interpretation, CCTV identification, intelligence and standards, and the application of visual evidence. Glenn’s presentation will examine various issues associated with recent cases in Australia and overseas when using CCTV images as a form of identification evidence. See flyer emailed separately.

WHERE: UTS Building 4, Level 2, Room 2.38 (corner of Thomas & Harris St, Ultimo, opposite ABC)
WHEN: Wednesday 12th October, 6:30pm refreshments for a 7:00pm start COST: FREE for members, $5 for non-members
Review: “Forensic Archeology: Approaches to Crime Scene Investigation” by Dr Ian Hanson. ANZFSS Branch Meeting Friday 16th September 2011.

Presenter: Dr Ian Hanson Senior Lecturer, Forensic Archaeology, Bournemouth University, UK

Review by Glenn Wilcher

An interesting and informative presentation was presented by Dr Hanson to over 40 members and non members, providing an insight into the location, identifying and examination of crime scenes for international human rights investigations and for domestic murder and missing person cases. Dr Hanson has worked as a professional research and rescue archaeologist in Europe, Africa, the Americas and Middle East since 1994. He has consulted as a leading authority on burial and forensic archaeology for the UN DPKO, UN ICTY, Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation, the Foreign and Commission Office (FCO), and the Police investigating missing persons, genocide, human rights and murder cases. Dr Hanson designs and implements forensic simulations training such as aircraft crashes, mass graves, temporary mortuaries, surface scatter and other scenes. He runs short courses to provide training, capacity building and research in forensic procedures, methods, management, logistics and planning. The previous 2 years Dr Hanson has worked for the International Commission for Missing Persons (ICMP) establishing and delivering training programs in Iraq to locate and identify an estimated 300,000 missing persons. Multidisciplinary investigations in Bosnia have been used to establish training and protocols that have been used now for 15 years.

What is Forensic Archaeology?
Forensic archaeology is the branch of archaeological investigations in which methods and approaches of archaeology are applied to legal uses and courts of law. It involves reconstruction of a chronology and sequence of events from deposits found within and around graves and burial sites for homicides and investigations into violation of human rights.

History of Forensic Archaeology
Forensic archaeology developed in the United States. In the early 1970’s anthropologists advocated the need for contextual information that could be provided about where and how remains were recovered in order to assist in personal identification. Forensic archaeology has only recently emerged as a distinct discipline with increasing options for training in North America and Britain. Archaeology has proven to be an effective forensic discipline domestically and internationally. Archaeologists have assisted in the investigations of local murder cases, multiple fatalities from natural, transportation, and fire disasters and terrorists incidents. Since the mid 1980’s archaeologists have been employed to investigate genocide and human rights atrocities. The past 15 years the United Nations (UN) and organizations such as Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) have utilized archaeologists to exhume individual and mass graves associated with political killings, war crimes and genocide in over a dozen countries. Examples of interventions include Argentina, East Timor, Rwanda, Solomon Islands and the Balkans. Dr Hanson described areas of investigation where archaeologists are able to assist such as search and location of evidence, recovery and excavation, and identification of human remains.

Test trenches and stratigraphic principles in investigations
Dr Hanson described archaeological investigation techniques in recovery and excavation to ensure maximum evidence is recovered from a scene. Test trenches are a rapid and inexpensive method of performing an archaeological evaluation to estimate the archaeological potential of a site, these trenches being located at intervals across a site. Dr Hanson mentioned stratigraphy the study / analysis of the sequence of deposits in the soil that have formed through natural or human activities. The layers known as strata’s build up gradually...
as terminus ante quem; the time before which an event must have occurred and the terminus post quem; the
time after which an event must have occurred. The layers are distinguished by differences in colour, texture,
grain size, and composition. Depositions vary due to climatic and environmental changes and human inter-
vention. According to superimposition principles older materials will tend to be at the bottom and more
recent ones on the top of the burial site. With forensic burials involving multiple bodies and evidence,
clandestine graves create new surfaces which are altered by offenders and considered as evidence on the
subterranean surface of a grave during burials.

Bioturbation
Dr Hanson discussed the process of bioturbation, which is defined as the mixing, displacement or
modification of the position of materials in the soil. Plants and animals are responsible for recognizable
forms of bioturbation which can determine the season of burial or year. Scavenging animals displace
evidence when digging and will carry remains back to their habitation area. Roots from plants can secure
evidentiary material or displace evidence.

Scavenging of remains and studies
Dr Hanson talked about the effects of scavenging on the distribution of remains and experiments using deer
carcasses conducted studying the effects of maggot mass and small objects filtering down through leaf litter.
Dr Hanson described an experiment conducted by PhD student Gemma Broadbridge using a shot deer
radiographed to establish the position of the projectile post mortem. The decomposition process observed
for 10 weeks showed differential depths up to 15cm, with the projectile moving due to the effects of the
maggot mass. Dr Hanson also showed using photographs how the maggot mass can be a strong heat signa-
ture which glows on infrared imagery that can be a tool to locate human remains. Animals displace evidence
when digging and carrying remains back to their habitats. Roots from plants can displace remains or hold
skeletal remains together. Growth rings of plants can determine the approximate year of death. Related to
tool mark evidence is evidence of where cut marks have been made into roots during digging of the graves.

Body silhouettes and soils
Dr Hanson discussed how decomposed remains impact on soil chemistry and how soils impact on
preservation of bodies, clothing and personal effects. Elements from human remains leach into the soil.
Archaeologists may see a body “ghost” or silhouette with a stain in the soil indicating where the remains are
or existed. There is rapid release of elements such as Sodium, Chlorides, Magnesium, Ammonium ions,
Calcium, Potassium and Sulphates. Volatile fatty acids are also released with breakdown of muscle and fats,
which in damp environments results in the formation of adipocere. The pH of the soil also determines the
degree of preservation of tissue, clothing and other material, with alkaline soils providing better
preservation.

Srebrenica Massacre – Bosnia 1995
Dr Hanson gave information about investigations of the Srebrenica massacre. From 1992-1995 Serbs from
heavily militarized villages around Srebrenica had forced thousands of Bosniak refugees to live in the
Srebrenica ghetto with little or no means of survival. Serbs around Srebrenica attacked neighbouring
Bosniak villages, frequently bombarding them from air. More than 400 Bosnian Muslim villages were
destroyed around Srebrenica in 1992. During the same year, Serbs killed at least 11,000 Bosniaks in Podrinje
(region encompassing Srebrenica). All these crimes against Bosnian Muslim civilians took place three years
before the Srebrenica genocide / gendercide. In July 1995 the Bosnian Serb army staged a takeover of
Srebrenica and surrounding areas, where they proceeded to commit genocide. Bosnian Serb soldiers and
paramilitary both known as "Chetniks", separated Bosniak families, forcibly expelled 30,000 Bosniaks, and
summarily executed at least 8,372 Bosnian Muslims - boys, men, and the elderly. Dr Hanson mentioned the
role of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) which was established by the
United Nations in 1993 to prosecute and try alleged perpetrators of four different types of offences: 1) grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, 2) war crimes, 3) genocide and 4) crimes against humanity, committed on the territory of former Yugoslavia since 1991. ICTY began mass-grave excavations in July 1996, the purpose as being threefold; corroborating witness testimony, recovering evidence related to events reported in indictments, and documentation of injuries and identifying the cause of death.

Dr Hanson explained that excavations by multidisciplinary teams with forensic archaeologists are conducted only pursuant to an investigation by the Prosecutor’s office. Only gravesites relevant to indictments issued or to be issued in the future are of interest to the prosecutors – and they are excavated only for reasons relating to prosecution charges.

The Tribunal determined that the number of Bosnian men and boys killed in Srebrenica was between 7,000 and 8,000. Evidence used to establish the number of people the Bosnian Serbs killed was from the mass graves. Evidence was reviewed from 21 mass graves that had been exhumed by the ICTY from 1996 to 2000. 14 graves were “primary gravesites”, where the victims’ bodies had been buried immediately after they were killed. Bosnian Serb forces subsequently disturbed eight of these primary gravesites in an attempt to cover up their crimes: during a period of several weeks in September and October 1995, removing bodies from the primary graves and reburied them in other locations known as “secondary gravesites.” Seven of the 21 mass graves were such “secondary” burial sites.

Bosnian Serb forces mutilated and dismembered many of the remains when they used heavy machinery to exhume and rebury bodies, with body parts from the same person found in two separate mass graves—a primary and a secondary one, complicating determining the number of actual bodies. Dr Hanson stated most victims were not killed in combat but in mass executions. In mass graves exhumed investigators found 448 blindfolds on or with the bodies as well as 423 pieces of cloth, string or wire, used to tie the victims’ hands. Also noted was that some victims in the mass graves were handicapped, and unlikely to have been combatants.

Missing persons
One of the entities to which ICTY releases human remains is The International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP), which was established at the G-7 Summit in Lyon in 1996 as a mission to the conflicts of the former Yugoslavia 1991–1995. In 1999 the mission was expanded to the Kosovo conflict, in 2001 to the Macedonia crisis, and in 2003 to the present situation in Iraq. The ICMP supports families of the missing undertaking the whole investigation process from collecting and analyzing ante-mortem and postmortem data, providing a positive identification of the dead with forensic pathologists issuing death certificates after formal identification processes is complete. Dr Hanson mentioned DNA-matching being used to positively identify deceased in the former Yugoslavia with 16,000 persons identified, 600 from the Srebrenica Massacre. Dr Hanson stated that over 80,000 blood samples had been received from families to assist DNA identification.
**REVIEW: “Forensic Archeology: Approaches to Crime Scene Investigation” by Dr Ian Hanson. ANZFSS Branch Meeting Friday 16th September 2011.**

The use of mitochondrial DNA with modifications to biochemical techniques have led to success with DNA matching using very degraded and poor biological material.

**Kravica Agricultural Co Op 1995**

Dr Hanson showed photographs of the massacre at Kravica on July 13, 1995. Muslim prisoners were detained and shot in what appeared to be a spontaneous event to a benign incident rather than a premeditated act in which prosecutors claimed over 1,000 people was executed. Dr Hanson showed photographs of the exterior and interior of the building riddled with bullet holes and casings.

Analyses of hair, blood and explosives residue collected at the Kravica Warehouse provided strong evidence of the killings. Experts determined the presence of bullet strikes, explosives residue, bullets and shell cases, as well as human blood, bones and tissue adhering to the walls and floors of the building. Forensic evidence presented by the ICTY Prosecutor established a link between the executions in Kravica and the ‘primary’ mass grave known as Glogova 2, in which the remains of 139 people were found. In the ‘secondary’ grave known as Zeleni Jadar 5 there were 145 bodies, a number of which were charred. Pieces of brick and window frame which were found in the Glogova 1 grave that was opened later also established a link with Kravica, with the remains of 191 victims found.

**Branjevo Military Farm, Pilica**

**Mass execution and burial of approximately 2000 Muslims, July 15-17, 1995**

Dr Hanson provided information on the massacre of Muslims that were detained at a school and then transported by trucks to a military farm. On the morning and early afternoon of July 16, 1995, approximately 1200 Muslims were executed at the Branjevo military farm and market garden in Pilica, in the municipality of Zvornik. The mass execution was carried out by members of the 10th Sabotage Detachment and the Bratunac Brigade using automatic weapons.

The following day, Serb soldiers executed 500 more captives being held in the Pilica Cultural Center. These corpses were transported to the Branjevo military farm, where the Zvornik Brigade's engineer squadron buried all of the victims, estimated at 2,000 bodies, in a mass grave. Satellite images provided evidence of the area prior, during and after the massacres.
Iraq

It is estimated that there are 300,000 to 1 million missing persons in Iraq from the Saddam Hussein era, with human remains likely to be located in marked and unmarked mass graves. Local communities continue to search for lost friends and family members. In 2004-05 Dr Hanson and colleagues at Bournemouth University hosted the first training programs for Iraqi doctors and scientists to begin formally learning skills needed to support and conduct future investigations. Since April 2009 Dr Hanson had spent time in Iraq developing further programs that introduce new trainees to investigations, the law and science involved in recovering evidence from the many mass graves that remain in the country, and establishing competencies and protocol for global scientific and legal standards.

The program includes explaining and educating the Iraqi Government, NGOs and other agencies on the requirements and the scale of work required in gathering evidence and identifying missing persons. Training and implementing management strategies for Heads of Departments and managers on the support requirements for investigations is a vital part of the work, as well as implementing best practice forensic science processes. Liaising with Ambassadors, diplomats and Consular staff from the main funders of the USA, UK, EU and UN, the program has increased its scope, resources and length.

Satellite images prove useful to show disturbed earth from above. The above image on the left is dated 5th July 1995. The satellite image on the right dated 17th July 1995 clearly shows significant earth disturbance, indicative of mass graves in Kozluk, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Images courtesy of www.militaryphotos.net

Aerial photography and satellite imagery

Aerial photography is frequently used in forensic archaeology to map large areas of ground in search of clues as to what may be buried in the area. Forensic archaeologists will often take aerial photos of their own and compare them with archived photos of the same area in search of any suspicious changes in topography or other geographical features. This gives forensic archaeologists a clue as to where to begin their investigation. For archaeologists investigating even larger areas of ground, satellite imaging is often a more effective option. Satellite imagery not only allows archaeologists to enlarge their field of search but also allows them to alter the parameters of their search to see things that they may not have noticed before. Dr Hanson showed photographs of before and after geographic images demonstrating changes in the topography of the land indicating potential mass graves and images picked up of the actual transportation of victims.
REVIEWS: “Forensic Archeology: Approaches to Crime Scene Investigation” by Dr. Ian Hanson. ANZFSS Branch Meeting Friday 16th September 2011.

Tool mark evidence
Dr Hanson showed photographs from mass grave excavations illustrating tool marks left in the process of burial and which can be dismissed as vital forensic evidence. The marks may be preserved above and below the ground surface. The type of soil will determine how well the evidence is preserved for photographing and making impressions/castings of tool marks and tyre tracks. Rocks and soils can adhere to tools and excavation equipment used to dig graves and can be used to match specific burial sites. Dr Hanson showed an example of a grader that had a tooth of the loader broken off which matched another burial site some distance away indicating the same machinery being used. Castings of tool marks and tyre tracks can be done. Paint chips may also be evident in soil on microscopy examination or in human remains.

Libya
Dr Hanson stated that forensic excavations will be long term programs over the next 30 years, with the conflicts in Libya the next chapter in human rights violations. The International Committee of the Red Cross has stated at least 13 mass graves have been found in Libya during September since Dr Hanson’s lecture. The Geneva-based Red Cross says its staff assisted in the recovery of 125 bodies found at 12 different sites in and around Tripoli mountain village of Galaa in western Libya. ICRC spokesman Steven Anderson stated that more mass graves are being found every week. The aid group says it is helping ensure the remains are properly recovered so that the identities of the dead can be established and relatives informed. They stated it is not involved in collecting evidence that could be used in war crimes or other legal proceedings. The National Transition Council (NTC) has stated that a grave near the Rixos Hotel where journalists were trapped contained 8 bodies. A mass grave with 1,200 bodies outside the capital has been found which was from the Abu Salim Prison massacre in 1996. Dr Hanson explained that all excavations of mass graves should be conducted to a standard applicable for future prosecution and admissibility of evidence, not just for the purpose of identification of human remains.

References
Images from www.militaryphotos.net
www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?storyCode=310375
www.martinfrost.ws/htmlfiles/srebrenica_massacre.html#Pilica_School
www.yale.edu/gsp/former_yugoslavia/GE_project/Branjevo_Military_Farm_GE.html

- Review by Glenn Wilcher

Inside the Forensic World 2011:

The ANZFSS NSW Branch held its ‘Inside the Forensic World’ Career Seminar on Saturday 17th September 2011 in University Hall at the University of Technology, Sydney. The successful event was well attended with informative sessions being led by seven professionals from a multitude of forensic disciplines. The speakers, all forensic specialists, presented information on the duties they perform in their occupation and their career path. This newsletter will feature speaker profiles and a review of each presentation in order of appearance on the day, over several editions. Read on...
Tu Nguyen, Scene of Crime Officer (SOCO), NSW Police:

Tu presented information on the role of a SOCO in the NSW Police as an ‘unsworn’ Scene Of Crime Officer. Incidents attended by SOCO’s include high volume crimes such as stolen vehicles, robberies, break and enters, and malicious damage. Tu defined what fingerprints are and explained that the study of fingerprints and the dermal ridges is known as ridgeology. Fingerprints are impressions of the friction ridges of all or any part of the finger. Fingerprint identification is known as dactyloscopy or palm print identification, and is the comparing of questioned and known ridge impressions.

Tu explained that friction ridges are formed during foetal development stating that identical twins do not have the same fingerprints. Fingerprints are deposited in natural secretions from eccrine glands present in friction ridge skin. Tu described the four distinct groups of patterns each possessing the same basic characteristics and resemblances. The major groups are arches, whorls, loops and composites. Within each group are subgroups such as plain and tented arches, radial and ulna loops etc. Other characteristics shown were islands, forks, downward ridge ending and scars.

Another form of fingerprinting is poroscopy. The study of the configuration of sweat pores in the skin that is unique. Tu defined the different types of prints:

- **Latent prints** are any chance or accidental prints left on a surface whether visible or invisible. Chemical, electronic or physical processing allow visualization whether from natural secretions of eccrine glands or the impression is made in a contaminant like grease, blood, ink etc.
- **Patent prints** are impressions obvious to the human eye and caused by the transfer of foreign material on the finger or palm onto a surface.
- **Plastic prints** are prints from a finger or palm, toe or foot, deposited in a material that retains the shape of the ridge detail. Examples include wax, putty, thick grease. Such points are already visible and need no enhancement.

Tu mentioned factors that influence the life of a fingerprint surviving, being security of the print and the surface not being disturbed, the amount of fingerprint deposited and the nature of the receiving surface, the environmental conditions and time elapsed since the impression was deposited. Tu also talked about DNA, what it is and how we inherit it from our parents, and talked about trace evidence and its collection. With respect to a career path Tu mentioned doing a university degree in Forensic Science that is offered at many universities. Tu also mentioned the stresses with the position being able to tolerate blood and the sensory impacts of what is seen at crime scenes. She also made note of the committed needed, as well as the long hours and challenging workloads.
Sim Te, Crime Scene Officer (Specialist Location & Recovery Unit) NSW Police:

To start the presentation off Sim organised for a male and female audience member to dress in personal protective equipment / clothing that is designed to prevent the transfer of evidence and prevent contamination. The pair stayed in the PPE for the duration of the talk to feel what it was like. Sim explained that Crime Scene Officer’s wear the PPE in all types of weather with external incidents and other environments and that it can be for many hours. At the end they stated it was warm and uncomfortable with them only wearing the gear for 30 minutes.

Sim explained the role of the Crime Scene Services Branch providing a specialised technical crime scene support service to all Police throughout NSW regarding criminal, coronial and incident investigations. The Crime Scene Officers examine, assess, record and collect physical evidence from scenes of crime and deaths forming evidence in briefs for the Coroner, in case of deaths under the jurisdiction of the Coroner, and other incidents for Judicial Courts.

The Crime Scene Services Branch is generally the first area to have contact with investigating police. They are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week attending crime scenes, fire scenes and vehicle collisions to assist disaster victim identification; examine blood stain patterns; tool, shoe and tyre marks; make photographic comparisons as well as sketch and make models of crime and accident scenes.

Forensic Ballistics Investigation, Incident Reconstruction, Video Operations and Engineering Investigation also form part of the Branch providing a specialist service to the Police Investigator including advanced fingerprint enhancement techniques, photogrammetry, vehicle identification and examination, ballistics and video support. Other specialist units and laboratories within the Crime Scene Services Branch include Biology, Botany, Clinical Forensic Medicine, Chemical Criminalistics, Special Chemistry, Document Examination and Microbiology.

Sim showed photographs of various crime scenes and examples of fingerprinting, footwear marks on clothing, use of lasers and Photoshop enhancements.

She explained that the extent of the crime scene is defined. If the crime is a homicide and there is a single victim who was killed in his home, the crime scene might be the house and the immediate vicinity outside, such as was the case in the Sef Gonzales murder. The goal of crime-scene documentation is to create a visual record. Digital and film cameras, different types of film, lenses, flashes, filters, etc and sketchpad, graph paper, pens and pencils, measuring tape, rulers and a notepad etc are usually carried in cases.
Depending on the incident or situation other specialists such as archaeologist for a grave site or entomologist for decomposed bodies may be called, or if a clandestine laboratory is raided, a Forensic Chemist.

Forensic staff will attend a crime scene, not only in an investigative role but also in an occupational health and safety role. If a clandestine drug lab is to be raided a forensic chemist will be on hand to ensure the many dangerous chemicals at such a lab can be secured and removed safely.

Typical kinds of evidence at a crime scene include: trace evidence (gunshot residue, paint residue, broken glass, unknown chemicals, and drugs); impressions evidence (fingerprints, footwear, tool marks); body fluids (blood, semen, saliva, vomit); hair (human and non human) and fibers from a variety of sources (carpets, clothing, cars, ligatures etc) plus weapons and firearms evidence (knives, guns, bullet holes, cartridge casings) and questioned documents (diaries, suicide note, drug ledgers, printers and electronic documents like answering machines and mobile phones).

If there is blood at the scene, there may also be blood spatter patterns. These patterns can reveal the type of weapon that was used. A "cast-off pattern" is left when something like a baseball bat contacts a blood source and then swings back. Blood spatter analysis can indicate which direction the blood came from and how many separate incidents created the pattern. The spatter can indicate an arterial bleed. Interestingly, cockroaches can produce a distinct smear of blood when they walk through blood. Analysing blood pattern involves studying the size and shape of the stain or blood droplets and the concentration of the droplets within the pattern. Pictures of the pattern are photographed and blood-spatter specialists may be consulted or at crime scene.

Footwear impressions and tool marks

Crime Scene Officers may make a casting at the scene of footprints or tyre tracks or tools. In toolmark analysis, the lab might determine what sort of tool made the mark and whether a tool in evidence is the tool that made it. It can also compare the tool mark in evidence to another toolmark to determine if the marks were made by the same tool. At autopsy, patterned wounds can be compared with tools found at the crime scene for comparison. Casts have been made for skull wounds and patterns in depressed fractures to later match a steering wheel lock, hammer or shoe tread.

Sim discussed career path options involving attending the Police Academy at Goulburn to complete a Degree in Policing and then doing two years as a general duties Police Officer, or completing a University Science degree. She explained the difference between police officers and SOCO’s; the latter not having arrest powers and being ‘unsworn’ officers.

She stressed the long, irregular hours and the length of time investigations can take. To be a Crime Scene Officer, one must “be able to cope with the sights and smells of the job”, she warned.
Rebecca Kendrew was a person who aspired to achieve her passion for Forensic Science. Sadly, Rebecca passed away in August this year.

Coming from medical receptionist employment, Rebecca in 2001 undertook the Certificate III Mortuary Practice TAFE course at the Sydney Institute of Technology, Ultimo. In 2002 she went onto gain her Certificate IV of Mortuary Practice and with an interest in Mortuary / Forensic Science she, in the same year, enrolled as a part-time student in Forensic Science at the University of Technology, Sydney. Upon graduation, she gained employment at the Division of Analytical Laboratories (DAL) as a Forensic Biologist. Rebecca was completing her Masters in Forensic Science at the University of Canberra.

Rebecca was happy to find an in-path through TAFE into the forensic field of study. In an interview piece for “My Career” (Sydney Morning Herald) at the time of her Certificate IV of Mortuary Practice graduation, Rebecca stated:

“My long-term goal is planning to become a crime scene investigator. I enjoy studying and felt I needed to have some knowledge before pursuing my career plans. TAFE has given me a practical view. We were eased into the practical side of the work, such as autopsies. I would recommend this course. It is one of the best things I’ve ever done. The course teaches reverence and to treat a body as if a member of that person’s family were watching you at work.”

With sadness to have lost an impressive young scientist, a work colleague and friend, we pay tribute to Rebecca Kendrew and the NSW Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ANZFSS) send sincere condolences to her young daughter Scarlett, and her family.

Rebecca was a caring and committed professional and will not be forgotten. Rebecca’s favourite charity was “Medecins Sans Frontieres Australia” (Doctors Without Borders). She believed in helping those less fortunate and the Society plans to continue this legacy. The NSW Branch of ANZFSS hopes to dedicate a Scholarship in Rebecca’s honour. More details regarding this will be announced soon.

ANZFSS Merchandise...’tis the season to shop!

Support your Society! All this and more available for purchase. Use the order form at www.anzfss.org.au to place your order today.

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Annual Dinner - Tickets on sale NOW:

**EAT DRINK BEMERRY**

The NSW Branch of the ANZFSS invites you to join us as we celebrate

**THE 2011 ANNUAL DINNER**

Friday 25th November, 2011
Aerial Function Centre
Level 7, Building 10
University of Technology, Sydney
235 Jones St Ultimo

Pre-dinner drinks from 7:00 pm

The Annual General Meeting of the ANZFSS (Natalional Executive) will be held on this night at 7:30 pm

Join us for a delicious 3-course meal including beer, wine and soft drinks.


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**RSVP BY 18th NOV**
Contact Details - Your Society:

If you have any query, comment, suggestion or content idea for this newsletter or any Branch activities, please do not hesitate to contact us. All correspondence regarding general enquiries, membership renewal, payment etc, can be addressed to:

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PO Box K208
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Email: nsw.anzfss@gmail.com

N.B Specific recipients (e.g. President, Treasurer, Membership Officer) can be reached close to these details.

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

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23-27 September 2012
Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart, Tasmania

SALLY FORTH

BY GREG HOWARD

Artwork © 2011 Greg Howard/ King Features