

NSW ANZFSS BRANCH LIFE MEMBER PROFILE

Allan Hodda

Allan was a well-known and respected scientist and individual. He was instrumental to the development of the NSW Branch of the ANZFSS. In 2004, he received the National President's Medal for his services to the Society.

Allan Hodda worked in the field of Forensic Toxicology for over 30 years. Dedicated to the progress of the forensic sciences, Allan joined the NSW Branch of ANZFSS when it first formed. He was a Committee member for many years, including periods as Secretary (1975-79), Vice President (1980, 1994-96) and Public Officer. Allan Hodda was the Deputy Director at the Division of Analytical Laboratories (DAL) in charge of Forensic Toxicology services. He became President of ANZFSS in March 1997 and would, always keenly, discuss the future of the Society and the need to attract forensic practitioners from a wide variety of specialities and also to foster their research and development. Allan Hodda was committed to the ANZFSS gaining greater recognition as a professional body. Sadly, he passed away in 2006.



*Allan Hodda, ANZFSS Life Member
(NSW Branch)*

His professional credentials and focus on quality and integrity were greatly appreciated by the forensic science community, as demonstrated by his various executive memberships, including being on the Panel of Advisers of the National Institute of Forensic Science (NIFS) and on NATA's Forensic Registration Advisory Committee. His dedication to training and education were also shown by his organisation of the (then annual) *Inside the Forensic World* seminar and his association with the University of Technology, Sydney. Allan was a true gentleman who possessed a fine sense of humour.

The Allan Hodda Memorial Award is offered each year by the NSW Branch to allow a member of the ANZFSS to travel to any destination to further their own study, attend a notable forensic meeting or visit a laboratory of their choice.

Allan once said the following in an interview capturing his attitude towards the future of forensic science: *"I still believe that the forensic application of science is undervalued by police and the courts. There are, of course, many police and lawyers who do see the value in using science to speed up the traditional "doorknock" approach to investigating a crime or the strength, in court, of an objectively assessed scientific observation. The solution to the problem lies within the scientific community. There is a need for more publicity explaining the forensic success of present technology and a greater effort to develop new technology to suit the unusual circumstances presented by crime. This development in technology requires money but it also requires high calibre scientists with the ability to "think outside the circle". I am pleased to say these people are now coming into the field and only need encouragement to deliver."* [NIFS Bulletin, November 2001]

The NSW Branch of ANZFSS proudly presents Allan Hodda as a Life Member.