



## Australian and New Zealand FORENSIC SCIENCE SOCIETY



March 2010  
Issue 28

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### NEXT MEETING:

Our next meeting is on  
Tuesday 23rd March:  
Contemporary Research  
from UTS Graduands

*Please see the flyer en-  
closed with this  
Newsletter*

## NSW Branch Newsletter

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

### Renewals Due Now

Just a friendly reminder that your membership renewals are due now. If you have not yet received your renewal notice, please contact the Secretary.

*Please also note that your ANZFSS membership renewal must be up-to-date before registering for the Symposium in order to qualify for the member price.*

### 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:

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

### New Society Members

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

Kristin ABELA  
Naomi CONDON  
Gary EDMOND  
Taegan EVANS  
Noel HENRIQUEZ  
John HUGEL  
Anne HYBINETT  
Chris KEIPERT  
Rolf MARSDEN  
Kelly McEWEN  
Laura McGRATH  
Talia NOVOS  
Erica PAULI

Karon ROBERTSON  
Deb SAYERS  
Alyce STEVENS  
Lauren THOMPSON  
Timothy VERDON  
Georgina WILLIAMSON  
Anna WOOD  
Linda XIAO





## Message from our President

Dear Members,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the start of another year in the forensic science calendar.

Since I reported to you last we saw out 2009 with another of our annual dinners. This was a great success, as always, and is reported on elsewhere in this edition of the Newsletter. A special highlight was the formal induction of **Carl Cameron** as a Life Member of the NSW Branch of the Society. Congratulations, Carl!

2010 will be memorable indeed because our Branch is hosting the 20th International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences in September. Claude Roux gives us a thorough update in the Newsletter. I can assure you that we are on track to deliver an exciting meeting. All of us on the Organising Committee have been delighted with the level of interest so far.

Although ANZFSS 2010 will dominate the second half of the year, we have a lot to look forward to before that. Among other things, your Branch Committee and I are planning another

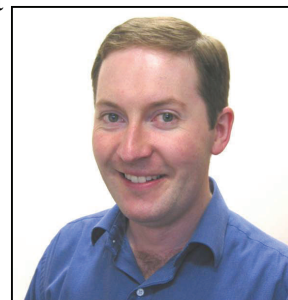
public night concerned with a notorious case - please keep an eye out for further details! It would be great to replicate the success of 2008 when we last held a public night, devoted to the Falconio investigation.

Another important event will be the Annual General Meeting in April. There is inevitable change from year to year in the makeup of the committee that runs the NSW Branch, so we are always looking for members who are keen to make a more formal contribution. With NSW being so much in the forensic spotlight this year there is no better time to decide to get involved. Please start giving thought now to whether you are interested - we would love to have you on board!

I wish you all a prosperous year ahead, and look forward to seeing you at a forthcoming meeting.

**Dr James Wallman**  
President

*23rd February 2010*



## **ANZFSS Symposium Scholarships Now Available**

The ANZFSS 2010 Symposium in Sydney is fast approaching.  
(We just passed the 6 months to go mark!)

***Scholarship applications are now being accepted.***

The NSW Branch will be offering scholarships totalling \$4,000.

The best applications from the NSW Branch will be forwarded to the National Body to be considered for further scholarship awards.

Application forms and details of the application process will be posted on the website shortly (<http://www.anzfss.org.au/nsw>).

***Deadline for scholarship applications: 30th April 2010***



## Update on 2010 ANZFSS Symposium



The ANZFSS symposium – **Forensic Science on Trial** - is upon us! The organisation of the forthcoming ANZFSS symposium to be held at Darling Harbour, Sydney, on 5-9 September, is progressing well. The Organising Committee is working hard, along with our Symposium Managers (Arinex Pty Ltd) and with the help of 33 Discipline Contacts and our major sponsors, Rofin Australia, Australian Federal Police, NSW Police Force and X-Tek to deliver a successful and memorable conference.

On behalf of the Organising Committee, I am pleased to inform the members that the following eight well-experienced and renowned individuals have confirmed their participation as plenary speakers:

***Prof Pierre Margot***

Professor of Forensic Science and Director  
Ecole des Sciences Criminelles  
(School of Criminal Sciences)  
University of Lausanne  
Lausanne, Switzerland

***Dr (Col) Frank Crispino***

Head of the Gendarmerie CID,  
Bordeaux, France

***Prof William C Thompson***

Professor of Criminology, Law, and Society and  
Psychology & Social Behavior  
School of Social Ecology  
University of California  
Irvine CA, USA

***Mr Pat Wertheim***

Forensic Identification Training Seminars, LLC,  
Tucson AZ, USA

***Prof James Robertson***

National Manager Forensic & Data Centres  
Australian Federal Police and University of Canberra  
Canberra, Australia

***Dr Keith Bedford***

General Manager  
Forensic, Institute of Environmental Science &  
Research  
Auckland, New Zealand

***Prof Gary Edmond***

Director  
Program on Expertise, Evidence and Law  
Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies of Law  
University of New South Wales  
Sydney, Australia

***Mr Alastair Ross***

Director  
ANZPAA – National Institute of Forensic Science  
(NIFS)  
Melbourne, Australia

This impressive line up will set the scene each day. Keynote speakers are being indentified. They will further address the topics presented by the plenary speakers. It is too early to give too much information about their identity, suffice to say that the keynote program should be no less attractive than the plenary sessions! And of course oral papers and poster presentation will complete the main scientific program.

A record number of workshops to be delivered before and after the main symposium are also being finalised. They will offer unique opportunities to learn new methods, techniques and practices or discuss 'hot topics' with leading scientists from Australia and overseas.

Finally, it would not be an ANZFSS symposium without an ambitious social program. An exciting event is being organised for each of the nights, including public presentations and the famous X-Tek night, which will be held at the Argyle Hotel at The Rocks.

I urge you to visit the symposium website for the latest news or to register: [www.anzfss2010.com](http://www.anzfss2010.com). I look forward to seeing you in Sydney on 5-9 September 2010.



***Prof. Claude Roux***

ANZFSS 2010 Symposium Chair

**Important Dates:**

*Deadline for Receipt of Abstracts: 10 March 2010*

*Authors Notified of Acceptance: 19 May 2010*

*Early Bird Registration Deadline: 2 June 2010*



## REVIEW: "Murder by Medical Malice: the Phenomenon of Doctors who Kill" by Dr Robert Kaplan ANZFSS Annual Dinner, Friday 20th November 2009

The annual dinner of the ANZFSS was held at the Marriott Parramatta on the 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 with members and guests entertained by Dr Robert Kaplan, Clinical Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Medicine University of Wollongong.

Dr Kaplan has published a book titled *Medical Murders – Disturbing Cases of Doctors who Kill*.

Dr Kaplan gave us a historical and forensic account of the phenomena of medical killings that he has termed *clincicide*. *Clinicide* is defined as the "death of multiple patients in the course of treatment by a doctor" in other words these doctors deliberately murder their patients. This definition differentiates from the manner of death termed *iatrogenic* being death of a patient due to medical intervention.

Dr Kaplan provided a forensic and historical account of various medical killers such as Harold Shipman, Michael Swango, Harry Bailey and Marcel Petiot.

Dr Kaplan divides *clincicide* into categories, these being: *medical serial killing*, *treatment killing* and *mass murders*.

French Doctor Marcel Petiot from 1926 to 1944 killed between 100 and 200 people making him France's worst serial killer. Dr Harold Shipman in the United Kingdom killed patients between 1974 and 1998 with a year off due to a drug addiction problem. Michael Swango killed 60 patients between 1983 and 1996 with a period of time spent in jail. Simpson and Swango accounted for 313 deaths. Dr Arthur Nesser killed 137 people over 50 years.

*Treatment killings* are patient deaths where it is not obvious the practitioner intended the patient to die. Treatment killers are profiled as hero killers – doctors who put patients under extreme risk only to be regarded as a hero's if saving the patient's life or profiled as mercy killers – rationalising that they are concerned about pain and suffering of patients.

Finally, *mass murders* - also known as *political murders* - are persons such as Dr Radovan Karadzic, a Psychiatrist involved in the Bosnian Genocide which led to 250,000 deaths and millions displaced. With the onset of World War I a number of doctors as Governors of Provinces led 'Special Organisations' against Armenians. Dr Kaplan details historically hundreds of thousands of men, women and children rounded up

and killed by various brutal methods such as drowning at sea, cutting throats, burying alive and injecting with petrol and phenol also mass rape and destroying property. Doctors did not just supervise but were active participants.

Dr Resid was an example known as the 'executioner governor' in which he participated in smashing skulls, nailing red hot horseshoes to chests and practicing crucifixion. Other doctors experimented by injecting diseases into their bodies.

Dr Kaplan described *CASK*, *carer assisted serial killing*. The Virginia State Crime Commission investigating undetected elderly homicides in 2001 claimed that 65% of all deaths of people over 65 years of age were not natural occurring through neglect, asphyxiation, starvation, medication issues, suicide, poisoning, exposure, choking or arson. In 2003 in the US at least 18 people were charged with killing a total of approximately 455 patients over 25 years. *CASK* is likely to increase as numbers of elderly increase in the population.

Dr Kaplan states that *clincicide* will continue and more cases will arise unfortunately when too late. Measures he states to prevent *clincicide* include more checking of past employment, medical and criminal records, reporting of all suspensions, disciplinary actions and dismissals, any suspicious death in hospital or nursing homes being treated as a crime scene, video surveillance, better training in death certification, and where possible autopsies, clinical and forensic being required.

On the last issues and taking a political swipe at the NSW Government with closure of forensic morgues, the practice to conduct forensic case reviews and externals only due to inordinate delays with coronial reports can only lead to system failure and the opportunity for these types of deaths to slip through the system particularly the most vulnerable in our society. We have had doctors already slip through the system in NSW and Queensland due to bureaucratic incompetence resulting in distress to families and patients.

An excellent presentation by Dr Kaplan and a book that you will not be able to put down.

*Review by Glenn Wilcher, RN.*



## REVIEW: "Murder by Medical Malice: the Phenomenon of Doctors who Kill" by Dr Robert Kaplan ANZFSS Annual Dinner, Friday 20th November 2009



*Above: Dr Robert Kaplan and his companion Lisa enjoying the dinner*

*Right: Dr James Wallman presenting Carl Cameron with Lifetime Membership of the NSW ANZFSS*

\*\*\*More photos from the Annual Dinner will be available on the website shortly\*\*\*



### Newsletter by Email

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please send an email indicating your name, membership number, and the recipient email address to the Secretary.

### 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:**  
<http://www.anzfss.org.au/nsw>

### Your Committee:

|                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>President:</b>               | James Wallman          |
| <b>Vice President:</b>          | Claude Roux            |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>               | Peter Jamieson         |
| <b>Secretary / Merchandise:</b> | Paul Donkin            |
| <b>Memberships:</b>             | Aldo Severino          |
| <b>Public Officer:</b>          | Denise Donlon          |
| <b>Newsletter:</b>              | Shaheen Aumeer-Donovan |
| <b>Website:</b>                 | Philip Maynard         |
| <b>Committee Members:</b>       | Harry Albani           |
|                                 | Aaron Heagney          |
|                                 | Eric Murray            |
|                                 | Alison Sears           |
|                                 | Meiya Sutisno          |
|                                 | Sonia Taflaga          |

### Final Words:

"Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall"  
**Confucius**