



Australian and New Zealand FORENSIC SCIENCE SOCIETY



November 2004
Issue 8

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**Don't forget to register for
the December meeting as
places are strictly limited -
Look out for the registration
form enclosed with this
newsletter, or email the
editor for another copy.**

NSW Branch Newsletter

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

Apology

Our apologies are extended to those members at DAL who did not receive last month's newsletter. Our committee members are trying to rectify this matter, which will hopefully mean you received this newsletter!

- Ed

Welcome to New Society Members

The NSW Branch extends a warm welcome to our newly ratified members:

Sarah AWAD
Judith BURNET
Jeff DAVIS
Sloane HAMILTON
Sarah JULIAN
Natalie KAPITZA
Laura McGRATH



NEXT MEETING: "Maritime Archaeology" - Dr Peter Gasner

DATE: Friday, 26th November 2004
TIME: 6:30pm for nibbles, 7:00pm start
VENUE: Institute of Forensic Medicine, Glebe
COST: Free to members, \$5 for non-members

Dr Peter Gasner is a Maritime Archaeologist at the Maritime Museum of Queensland.

He is kindly flying down to Sydney especially for this talk, which will detail his work at the Maritime Museum, and feature his involvement in the investigation of the *HMS Pandora* shipwreck.

This sounds like a very interesting topic - and we look forward to seeing you there!





Message from the President

Dear ANZFSS Members,

I can't believe it, but we are approaching the end of the year already. Apart from hectic times ahead, this also means that most organisations and societies try to offer some kind of festive events. Our Society is not different and an exciting social night has been organised thanks to a very active committee. This will be an excellent opportunity to share good food and drinks with friends. Entertaining speakers will review some old and new cases, the theme of the night being "Old School to New School: Comparing Investigative Technology over the last 50 Years".

There is no doubt that over this period, modern technology has radically changed the way forensic science and general policing are applied. Just think DNA or AFIS (fingerprint databases), and now lab-on-a-chip! We really live in exciting times. The risk, however, is to let our thinking to be driven by the technology, while it should be the other way around. This is the difference between Science vs. Technology. If we are realistic, fundamental concepts in Forensic Science have not evolved that much over the last 100 years. And there is no problem with that, Newton's laws are still fundamental to the Physicist.

In this context, I cannot miss this opportunity to quote Hanns Gross (no, the double 'nn' is not a typo), one of the less known forensic pioneers. At the end of the 19th century this Austrian lawyer realised that testimonial evidence had too much weight in the Criminal Justice System and suggested to systematically investigate crime scenes for physical evidence. He started to offer advice and training to investigating magistrates and then released in 1893 what is considered to be the first genuine crime scene manual entitled "Handbuch für Untersuchungsrichter" (Handbook for Investigating Judges). This book is fascinating because amongst many fundamental forensic concepts, we find the idea that "once the scene has been secured, scientifically trained specialists should collect and interpret traces left by the victim and offender". It then goes on to describe such things as what should be in a crime scene examiners field kit as well as novel techniques of the time, such as crime scene sketches, Plaster of Paris and magnifying lenses...

I hope to see you on this occasion.

Claude Roux
President
November 5th, 2004



NSW ASSOCIATION OF FIRE INVESTIGATORS MEETING Advances in Forensic Fire Investigation

DATE: Thursday 18th November, 2004

TIME: 6:30pm

VENUE: Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club, Ryedale Road, West Ryde

COST: Free

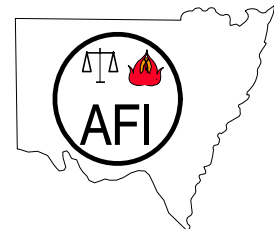
BOOKING: Essential to ensure a place: contact Belinda Jones by email: belinda.j.jones@uts.edu.au

SPEAKERS:

Joanne Hofstadler - "Changing Profile of Accelerants Over Time"

Daniel Massey - "Using Bayesian Probability to Assist Investigation of Electrical Ignition"

Sonia Casamento - "On-Site Detection Systems for Accelerants"



The evening will involve presentations from three UTS students covering the latest advances in forensic fire research. Current emerging techniques/technologies on a broad range of subjects will be discussed. You will find the research both thought-provoking and relevant. The speakers will present their findings and outcomes. Following this, the floor will be open for general discussion and questions. Don't miss this excellent opportunity to increase your knowledge and improve your skills relevant to fire investigation.

"Providing Fire Investigation Education... The Path to Prevention"



REVIEW: Increasing the Probability of Finding Clandestine Graves (While Saving Time & Money) - Emeritus Professor Richard Wright ANZFSS Meeting, 27th October 2004

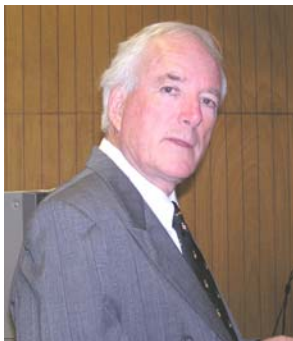
We were pleased to have Professor Wright speak to us about two fundamental principles that must be considered when optimising the investigation of clandestine graves.

The first deals with finding the grave before the body. It is often tempting to dig deep holes at potential sites searching for bodies where there may not have even been a grave to begin with. Professor Wright proposes that it is more prudent to scrape away the surface and look for signs of soil disturbance. This means it is possible to cover a larger area in less time, and money is saved by identifying "where not to dig". It is also advisable to use other information such as graveyard plans to eliminate search areas and identify potential dig sites. Professor Wright illustrated this using examples and photographs depicting the sorts of things an archaeologist is looking for.

The second principle involves the method of digging up the grave. The traditional technique is to dig the area around the grave (a trench) along with the grave. This could result in the loss of valuable evidence that may be found in the walls of the grave, such as toolmarks, footprints, and ballistic tracks (the latter particularly in the case of on-site executions). Professor Wright advises that where possible, the investigation should trace the originally cut sides of the grave, to maximise recovery of evidence.

This is not always possible, so using the trench method is useful where there is:

- an unstable deposit
- surface water and groundwater control problems
- deep deposits and many workers (to maximise utilisation of resources)
- a short excavation period
- no requirement to preserve the original grave cut



Professor Richard Wright

Professor Wright stressed that archaeologists must wear many hats to be effective in their work. In fact, they must be experts in such things as:

- recognising disturbed and undisturbed soils
- identifying differences in soil and vegetation that indicate the presence of a grave
- operation of machinery
- identification of seemingly insignificant details
- recording not only on the x-y coordinates, but also in the z direction
- recognising when they need to call in other expertise
- management of teams under often stressful and dangerous conditions
- solving novel problems

Professor Wright gave many examples of evidence found in graves that were used to corroborate eyewitness testimony, such as:

- grave stratification to indicate partial refilling of graves
- pieces of paper
- aerial photographs before, during and after grave robbing activity
- wind-up watches that stopped
- hay found in graves when the bodies were thought to be concealed under hay before burial
- balls of polystyrene that originated from insulation in the walls of the rooms they were killed in
- ligatures and blindfolds that indicate warcrimes
- cartridge casings indicating the victims killed at the gravesite

The biggest challenge facing this field is the under-utilisation of archaeologists and anthropologists. DIY grave recovery by specialists in other areas undermines the expert witness testimony, and does not maximise the chance of obtaining evidence. It is unknown why police do not call on archaeological and anthropological experts, and even decline their complimentary assistance. Some have even claimed that "there are no Archaeologists in Australia" to avoid the issue. Professor Wright recommends that the police Standard Operating Procedures need to be amended to include Archaeologists.

We would sincerely like to thank Professor Wright for providing us with this thought-provoking presentation.



DECEMBER EVENT:

“Old School to New School: Comparing Investigative Technology over the Last 50 Years”

DATE: Friday, 10th December 2004

VENUE:



The Encore Restaurant

353c Church Street

Parramatta

NSW 2150

Check out the venue at:

<http://www.amadeuscatering.com.au/restauranthome.htm>



THE EVENT:

3 Course Dinner + Talks by several experts in different fields.

TIME:

6:30 pm for a 7:00 start

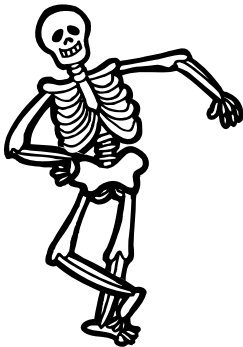
COST:

Members: \$35, Non-Members: \$45



TOPIC:

What happened to the humble magnifying glass? What did we do in the days before the comparison microscope? Why did we stop identifying drugs by taste?



Our speakers will talk about the investigative techniques and technology we used to use, how they have changed over the years, and how this has changed forensic science. There will be many case examples from 50 years ago to recent events such as the response effort at the Jakarta bombing.

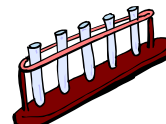
There will be a more detailed itinerary of speakers in the next newsletter.

REGISTRATION:

Please complete the registration form at the back of this newsletter and send it to us with your cheque or money order (please do not send cash). Address to: **December Meeting Registration**, The Secretary, NSW Branch ANZFSS, PO Box 207, Lidcombe NSW 1825

Places are limited and therefore we must assume a “first-in-best-dressed” philosophy. There will be strictly no registration on the night and no registration will be accepted without pre-payment.

So RSVP ASAP to ensure your place!





Upcoming Events

Workshops in Sydney:

Contact Anna Davey (anna.davey@nifs.com.au)

Conferences in Australia:

13 - 16 February 2005, Melbourne

"International Congress on the Removal or Destruction of Highly Toxic Chemical & Biological Contamination Decon Downunder"

www.dsto.defence.gov.au/corporate/conferences

2 - 7 April 2006, Freemantle, WA

"ANZFSS 18th International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences: Classroom to Courtroom"

No contact information available as yet

Conferences in the UK:

9 - 13 May 2005, Dunblane

"World Police Medical Officers Seventh International Conference on Clinical Forensic Medicine"

<http://www.apswweb.org.uk>

6 - 8 July 2005, Leeds

"British Society of Criminology Annual Conference: Reawakening Criminological Imagination"

<http://www.britsoccrim.org/>

Conference in Scotland

10 - 13 May 2005, Hilton Dunblane Hydro Hotel

"7th Triennial International Conference on Clinical Forensic Medicine"

email: WPMO2005@glascon.f.demon.co.uk

Conferences in the USA:

21 - 26 February 2005, New Orleans, Louisiana, TX

"57th American Academy of Forensic Science Annual Meeting"

Nancy Jackson, Director of Administration AAFS, PO Box 669, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0669, USA

26 February - 4 March 2005, San Antonio, TX

"94th Annual Meeting United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology"

<http://www.uscap.org>

14 - 19 March 2005, Chicago, IL

"Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Meeting"

www.acjs.org

5 - 7 April 2005, Monterey, CA

"Scanning 2005"

www.scanning.org

6 - 12 August 2005, Philadelphia, PA

"International Society of Criminology, Fourteenth World Congress of Criminology"

email: tony.peters@law.kuleuven.ac.be

11 - 17 February 2006, New Orleans, LA

"95th Annual Meeting United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology"

<http://www.uscap.org>

28 February - 4 March 2006, Baltimore, MD

"43rd Annual Meeting Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences"

<http://www.acjs.org>

1 - 4 November 2006, Los Angeles, CA

"American Society of Criminology Meeting"

www.asc41.com

Conference in Belgium

7 - 10 March 2005, Leuven

"3rd European Congress on Emergency Medicine"

<http://www.em2005congress.org>

Conference in Tunisia

22 - 25 June 2005, Monastir

"Second Mediterranean Academy of Forensic Sciences Meeting"

www.medlegmonastir.org

Conference in Hong Kong

21 - 26 August 2005, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

"The 17th Meeting International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS 2005)"

www.iafs2005.com

Conference in Portugal

13 - 17 September 2005, Ponta Delgada, Azores

"21st Congress of the International Society for Forensic Genetics"

<http://www.ipatimup.pt/isfg2005>

Conferences in Germany

17 - 18 March 2005, Rhein Ahr Campus, Remagen

"Reconstruction of Soft Facial Parts 2005"

www.rheinahrcampus.de/rsfp2005

19 - 24 September 2005, Hamburg

"6th International Symposium on Advances in Legal Medicine (6th ISALM)"

www.isalm2005.rechtsmed-hh.de

Conference in Canada

15 - 19 November 2005, Toronto

"American Society of Criminology Meeting"

www.asc41.com

Conference in Greece

29 May - 4 June 2005, Mykonos

"10th Greek/Australian International Legal & Medical Conference"

www.lmconference.com.au



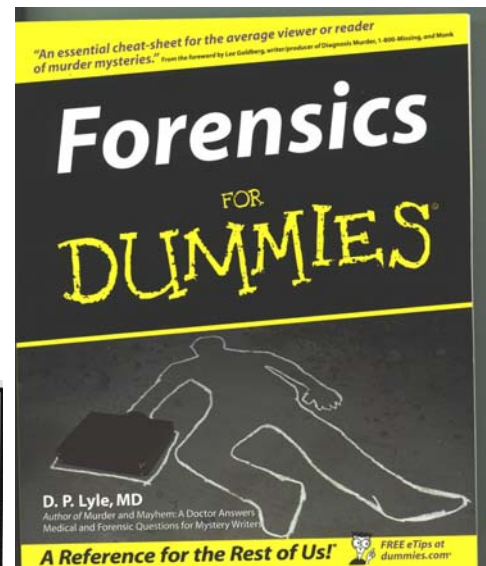
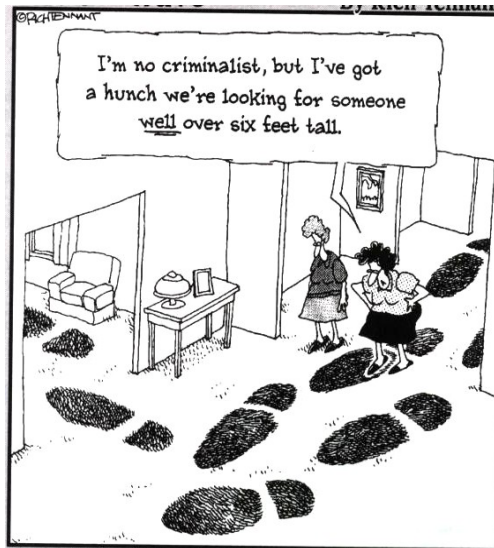
Book Review

Forensics for Dummies by Douglas P. Lyle

Book review by Aldo Severino

This book is “pure & simple” in delivery and approach. The subject material is succinct, with support from pertinent case studies. These case studies are used to illustrate what the reader has just read about the topic.

I particularly liked the cartoons that were used to introduce and relate to the title content of the chapters. Here is an example of that from “Part II - Uncovering the Evidence” that uses a “The 5th Wave” Cartoon by Rich Tennant:



If you have read a book lately, please share it with us - we would love to hear your opinion on which books we should get and which we should walk past in the store.

-Ed

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 207
Lidcombe NSW 1825

Phone: 02 9646 0222
Fax: 02 9646 0333

Email: anzfss@dal.wsahs.nsw.gov.au
Editor: shaheen.aumeer@uts.edu.au

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

Website:
<http://www.nifs.com.au/ANZFSS/ANZFSS.html?Index.asp&1>

Your Committee:

President:	Claude Roux
Vice President:	Kirsty McAllister
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Secretary:	Sarah Robinson
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	Shirleyann Gibbs
	Eric Murray
	Samantha Stewart
	Meiya Sutisno
	Tamara Szytynda
	Ross Vining
	James Wallman
	Ian White

Final Words:

“Only the paranoid survive” - Andrew Grove (1936-):
dictum on which he has long run his company, the Intel Corporation: in *New York Times* 18/12/94



**Australian and New Zealand
FORENSIC SCIENCE SOCIETY**

NSW Branch Registration Form



Registration Form for Meeting 10th December, 2004

Registrant's Name:.....

Contact Details:.....

Guest Information: (Please include details of all guests being registered so that we can prepare name tags for the night)

First Name	Surname	Occupation / Specialist Area	Membership Number
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

Special Dietary Requirements:.....

Payment Details:

Amount Enclosed: \$.....

Method of Payment (please circle one): Cheque / Money Order

****Please do not include a cash payment as there is no contingency plan in the case of lost mail****

Please Detach & Mail To:

December Meeting Registration
The Secretary
NSW Branch ANZFSS
PO Box 207
Lidcombe NSW 1825

See You there!!