



Australian and New Zealand FORENSIC SCIENCE SOCIETY



March 2005
Issue 10

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NSW Branch Newsletter

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

Letters to the Editor

I would like to share some of the feedback we received about the last newsletter (Issue 9).

Thank you to David Bruce, and Philippe Gray-Grzeszkiewicz who sent us a correction to the meaning of the term *voir dire*. The correct meaning is:

"A *voir dire* is a hearing in the absence of a jury to determine the admissibility of evidence (i.e. whether or not the jury can hear the evidence). It applies to both civil and criminal law."

Philippe has kindly agreed to assist with law definitions in the future.

Thank you also to Andrew Aiton for pointing out that discrepancy, and for the following kind words:

"Thanks for the great newsletter - best one yet I reckon.

I particularly like Tamara's Idiom Investigation corner which is very useful for a layman like myself...

... There was an interesting *voir dire* at the murder trial of Irena Hatfield a few years ago where the judge considered to what extent a professional person could be forced to give evidence which might endanger her professional reputation and to what extent the Court could prevent the evidence from being used by her Association in disciplinary proceedings against her. This may be relevant for a few forensic scientists.

Keep these newsletters coming!"

Likewise - keep the feedback coming!

- Ed



Message from the President

Dear ANZFSS member,

Recently, we all heard of Cornelia Rau and the very sad story of this mentally ill woman mistakenly believed to be an illegal immigrant. As a result she spent 10 months in immigration detention. I found this case very interesting from a forensic viewpoint. Her family had apparently lost track of her on numerous occasions, reporting her as a missing person, both in Australia and internationally. According to several media outlets, Cornelia had a long track record of 'leaving traces': jumping from a train, surviving police chases, traffic accidents and a near drowning, many events ending in hospital or in police stations. Despite all this, she was eventually identified more by chance than by a systematic use of the available data. In other words, this case is a typical example of "linkage blindness".

Can forensic science and law enforcement learn from this? Asking the question is partly answering it. It is known that linkage blindness is a real issue and can be reduced through coordi-

nation and communication between the various police forces, laboratories and other actors of the criminal justice system. There is little doubt that in modern policing, identifying links (even potential ones) is as important, if not more important than identifying the author or the authors. Ultimately, Forensic Science has a major role to play in the process. Many jurisdictions and NIFS have become proactive and take the concept of Forensic Intelligence very seriously. As forensic professionals, we 'just' have to make it happen...

Incidentally, one of our planned meetings for the year will focus on 'missing persons'. Read the Newsletter for the details.

I hope to see you on this occasion.

Claude Roux
President
February 4th, 2005



Welcome to New Society Members

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

Dawn ROMERO
Claire SCHIEMER
Kara WILSON



ARE YOU A PSYCHOPATH? (Part I)

Read this question, come up with an answer and then refer to page 8. This is not a trick question. It is as it reads. No one has gotten it right--including me.

A woman, while at the funeral of her own mother, met this guy whom she did not know. She thought this guy was amazing, so much her dream guy she believed him to be just that! She fell in love with him right there, but never asked for his number and could not find him. A few days later she killed her sister.

Question: What is her motive in killing her sister? Give this some thought before you answer.



UPDATED TIMETABLE FOR 2005

Our plans for this year are falling into place very quickly. There was a bit of confusion in the last newsletter, with the dates being swapped around, etc. Please note that these dates and topics are still **tentative** unless a definite notice has been given in the newsletter. **The AGM will be in April.**

Put these dates in your diary:

Wednesday, 23rd March	“Contemporary Research in Forensic Science” (See Page 5)
Wednesday, 27th April	AGM (See Page 5) “Missing Persons”
Wednesday, 25th May	TBA
Wednesday, 22nd June	TBA
Saturday, 16th July	Inside the Forensic World
Wednesday, 24th August	TBA
Wednesday, 28th September	Peter Ellis
Wednesday, 26th October	Derek Hinds
Wednesday, 30th November	Possibly a Social Event + Talks

NEXT MEETING: “Contemporary Research in Forensic Science” by UTS Honours Graduands

DATE: Wednesday, 23rd March 2005

TIME: 6:30 for light refreshments, 7:00pm start

VENUE: Department of Forensic Medicine,
50 Parramatta Road, Glebe

COST: Free to members, \$5 for non-members

Find out about some of the latest research in Forensic Science by coming to our March Branch Meeting. Three Graduands from the Forensic Science Degree at the University of Technology, Sydney, will present the outcomes of their Honours research.

Lisa Mingari will talk about how she was able to detect and characterise accelerants on simulated fire victims by analysing fly larvae.



Sam Luff will explain how he developed a reliable method for sequencing indented writing and ink writing on paper using the ElectroStatic Detection Apparatus (ESDA).



Nikki Deery will describe how she developed a new method for the analysis of explosive residue, employing High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) coupled with Photodiode Array and Mass Spectrometry.



Please be aware that the order of speakers may change on the night without notice.

**REMINDER:**

2005 Annual General Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, 27th April 2005

TIME: 5:30pm for light refreshments, 6:00pm start (note that a talk will follow)

VENUE: Department of Forensic Medicine, 50 Parramatta Road, Glebe

Our AGM must be held within 6 months of the end of the Society's financial year (Jan-Dec), and has been scheduled in April to comply with this. Your attendance is important as failure to reach a quorum will result in the AGM being declared invalid and rescheduled. **Ensure that your voice is heard** by participating - and don't be afraid to bring along queries, concerns and topics for discussion.

Please also consider joining the NSW branch committee. We meet (in general) before the talks each month, co-ordinate and plan events, correspond with members, and ensure that the Society runs smoothly. Take the time to become involved and you will be sure to find this a very rewarding experience - and meet many interesting people.

ERRATUM

In the last newsletter, I reviewed a talk by Dr. Meiya Sutisno at our December meeting that described her work on the Jakarta bombing suspects. Some of this information may be misleading or incorrect, and may present problems in her upcoming court case. Dr. Sutisno has therefore prepared the following notes to clear that up, and has agreed to prepare an article for us in the future.

1. Facial reconstruction methods could not be used as the bony structure of the face was missing, and Dr. Sutisno was shown photos of possible suspects.

2. Odontological evidence could not be used as there were no ante mortem dental records.

3. Dr. Sutisno resorted to using 'face & body mapping' to successfully identify the 2 suspected bombers who turned out to be victims themselves.

4. Subsequent DNA results supported her findings.

My apologies for the misinformation.

- Ed

Change of Email Address

The kind folks at NIFS have set us up with our own email address. You can now email the Secretary with general enquiries etc. at this address:

anzfss.nsw.sec@nifs.com.au

For all newsletter-related correspondence, please continue to use the following address:

shaheen.aumeer@uts.edu.au

Remember to update your address books and please do not use the DAL email address in the future as you will no longer get a response!



REVIEW: "Disaster Victim Identification - An Indonesian Perspective" - Dr Peter Sahelangi, ANZFSS Meeting, 23rd February, 2005

Dr. Peter Sahelangi was visiting Australia to speak at the Police Summit held in Sydney on the 23rd - 24th February this year. We invited him to present his experience with Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) in Indonesia, and were pleased when Dr. Sahelangi accepted.

As the Director of Bhayangkara Police Hospital in Makassar and a member of the Interpol Standing Committee for the Indonesian National Police Central Bureau, Dr. Sahelangi is responsible for co-ordinating the DVI Unit's response to disasters in Indonesia.

Dr. Sahelangi spoke about the different disasters that have occurred in Indonesia. He highlighted some of the issues faced and how the approach to DVI has evolved.

On 11th January, 1981, the Tampomas II disaster occurred. Of over 1000 victims, 800 were buried in mass graves and a total of only 25 were identified.

In 1987, the Garuda plane crash occurred in Medan, North Sumatra. Dr. Sahelangi described how a Japanese passenger was identified by the exclusion method, that is, when all other passengers were accounted for, it was assumed that the remaining body was that of the Japanese traveller. The body was shipped over to Japan, where confirmatory tests were to be carried out using odontological evidence. There were so many differences between ante mortem data and the body that Japan sent the body back.

In 1997, the Silk Air disaster occurred in Palembang. Of 104 passengers, 4 were identified. As soon as one of the victims, Susan Picarello, was identified by odontological evidence, her husband brought a law suit against the airline.

The next disaster was the Sari Nightclub bombing in Bali. Dr. Sahelangi showed us video footage of the scene on the fourth day after the



Dr Peter Sahelangi & Kirsty McAllister

attack. He mentioned that even though many shop windows were broken, you could see no thieves as the Balinese believe so strongly in Karma.

After the Kuta bombing, INTERPOL sent ante-mortem data by email to assist in the DVI process. We saw video footage of the dental post mortem identifications carried out at the time, as well as the work being done to reconcile post mortem data with ante mortem data.

Dr. Sahelangi also talked about the different methods of identification used during the DVI process after the Bali bombing, Makassar Bombing, Marriott Hotel Bombing, Jakarta Australian Embassy Bombing, and the Tsunami disaster in Aceh. In the latter case, Dr. Sahelangi found it amazing that after the Tsunami had flattened most of Aceh, it was still possible to see churches and mosques still standing.

Dr. Sahelangi pointed out that if a doctor ordinarily sees 10 patients in a day for DVI, they will become very tired very quickly, however during the Aceh disaster, over 260 bodies were being found every day in the local area. He mentioned his appreciation of the Australian assistance, and showed us pictures of John Howard's visit to the region.



REVIEW: "Disaster Victim Identification - An Indonesian Perspective"

Dr Peter Sahelangi, ...Continued from Page 5

Some of the obstacles that were faced during the Tsunami DVI effort were:

- limited forensic expertise,
- limited equipment (such as refrigeration, mobile x-ray units, protective clothing),
- limited facilities and conditions (such as no body bags, transportation, field facilities, and the socio-cultural issues that were not always conducive to the DVI process),
- limited awareness regarding the importance of DVI (ie. lack of ante-mortem data since Indonesians seldom visit the dentist, and no standard dental chart).

The Indonesians are now using experience from

other countries to give training to their forensic experts. The new JCLEC Anti-Terrorism Centre in Semarang, Central Java donated by Australia, and the Detective Academy Zutphen Holland are an excellent starting point, however, Dr. Sahelangi stresses that more importantly, they need the human resources. So, next time you are planning an overseas visit, you are always welcome to go to Indonesia and donate some of your expertise!

We are very grateful to Dr. Sahelangi's charismatic presentation on DVI in Indonesia, intermingled with personal accounts and observations. This was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

BOOK LAUNCH: "Forensic DNA Evidence Interpretation"

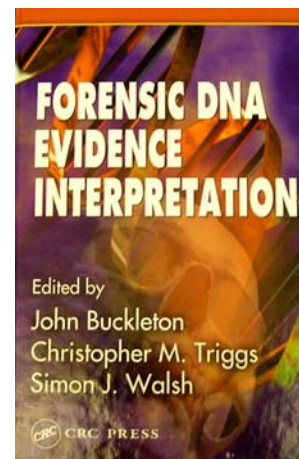
21st February, 2005 - University of Technology, Sydney

Prof. Tony Moon formally opened the book launch at UTS in the Dean's absence. In attendance were two of the book's co-authors, Simon Walsh (an ANZFSS NSW Branch member, and lecturer at UTS) and Dr. John Buckleton (a Forensic Scientist from New Zealand). The third co-author, A/Prof. Christopher Triggs (University of Auckland statistician) was unfortunately unable to attend.

Prof. Claude Roux introduced Dr. Tony Raymond, Director of NIFS, to speak about the book, entitled "Forensic DNA Evidence Interpretation". The book fills a significant gap in the literature which until now has catered for scientists but not a lay audience.



Simon Walsh, Dr. John Buckleton,
Prof. Claude Roux & Dr. Tony Raymond



Prof. Claude Roux then introduced John Buckleton and Simon Walsh, two of the authors present at the launch, by recounting some amusing anecdotes.

The authors then gave their perspective on producing a book of this calibre, and gave their acknowledgements to the people that contributed to the final product.

We wish the authors all the best with their new book, which will no doubt become the definitive DNA handbook for forensic scientists worldwide.



IDIOM INVESTIGATION: Breaking Down the Lingo

By Dr Tamara Szynda

Ever had trouble understanding a forensic scientist, police officer or lawyer? Never fear! Tamara is here to analyse the jargon for us.

Biology

Plasma – Fluid component of blood which has been prepared using an anti-coagulant so contains clotting factors

Serum – Fluid component of blood which has been prepared after blood has been allowed to clot. It contains no clotting factors, and less of other soluble factors (including drugs) as some lost in the clot

Police

SOCO - Scene of Crime Officer (Australia and UK) equivalent to a Crime Scene Investigator or Crime Scene Examiner (US and UK), more often now civilian scientists working for the police who collect evidence from crime scenes. Not all SOCO's originally trained as scientist but often have some form of scientific training such as nursing, TAFE diplomas etc. who receive additional on the job training in the collection of physical evidence. In Australia, ballistics, blood spatter and motor vehicle accident SOCO's tend to still be trained Police officers with very specific specialized training.

Photogrammetry - is the art, science, and technology of obtaining reliable information about physical objects and the environment through the processes of recording, measuring, and interpreting photographic images and patterns of electromagnetic radiant energy and other phenomena.

The technique measures objects in 2D or 3D from photo-grammes. We say commonly photographs, but it may be also imagery stored electronically on tape or disk taken by video or CCD cameras or radiation sensors such as scanners.

The results can be:

- * coordinates of the required object-points
- * topographical and thematical maps
- * rectified photographs (orthophoto)

Among the users of close-range photogrammetry are architects and civil engineers (to supervise buildings, document their current state, deformations or damages), archaeologists, surgeons (plastic surgery) or police departments (documentation of traffic accidents and crime scenes)

Pathology

Asphyxia - Impaired or absent exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide on a ventilatory basis

Choking - acute asphyxia due to inhalation of food (café coronary)

Smothering - asphyxia by covering the nose and mouth

Strangulation - asphyxia by compression on the trachea by a ligature (eg hanging)

Throttling - strangulation by hands

Garrote - (also spelled garrote, can be used as noun or verb) an instrument of execution for execution by strangulation, strangled with an iron collar.

Drowning - asphyxia by means of water

Dry Drowning - laryngeal spasm leading to asphyxia when cold water enters the throat

Freshwater Drowning - also called "wet lung" drownings, are not simply due to oxygen not getting into the lungs but also the absorption of water by the lungs and an acute increase in blood volume with concomitant electrolyte (salts) and osmotic imbalance which results in cardiac (heart) failure.

Expert contributions are gladly accepted - Please send your definitions to:

Tamara.Szynda@uts.edu.au



COMPETITION

We are offering a new competition to test your artistic skills... Design the 2006 Membership Card and win the ANZFSS T-Shirt!!

Entries must include the following:

- "NSW Branch of the Australian & New Zealand Forensic Science Society, Inc."
- The logo (please email shaheen.aumeer@uts.edu.au for a copy of the logo)
- "2006 Membership Card"

Please send all entries to shaheen.aumeer@uts.edu.au

The competition will close on 31st August, 2005, with the winning entry announced in the October 2005 Newsletter.

Enter as many times as you like!!

Human Identification E-Symposium International Web Conference, 14th April, 2005

The leading scientific, legal and law enforcement experts & practitioners of Human Identification are coming together at the 1st International Human Identification E-Symposium and you are invited to register free of charge.

This groundbreaking E-Symposium will be held online on the 14 April 2005, thus allowing you to attend it from the comfort of your own office. Its international outreach, cutting edge topics and line-up of world-renowned experts already makes it one of the 'must-attend' fixtures of this

year for the legal, law enforcement and academic communities. Should you not be free to view the live event on the day, it is nonetheless worth registering as the entire web conference will be archived for future viewing.

Take a look at the program now, and register online, free of charge:

<http://www.humid.e-symposium.com/speaker-program.php>

ARE YOU A PSYCHOPATH? (Part II)

Answer: She was hoping that the guy would appear at the funeral again. If you answered this correctly, you think like a psychopath. This was a test by a famous American Psychologist used to test if one has the same mentality as a killer. Many arrested serial killers took part in the test and answered the question correctly.

If you didn't answer the question correctly good for you. If you got the answer correct, please let me know so I can take you off of my mailing list unless that will tick you off, in which case, I'll just be extra nice to you from now on.

We would love to hear comments from psychologists on this subject! Thank you to Kathy Takayama for sending us this email.



Receive the Newsletter by Email - in COLOUR!!!

I have received numerous complaints about newsletters taking a long time (in excess of 2 weeks) to reach its destination. This may or may not be a problem with Australia Post either at the distribution centre or the local delivery centres, because some people receive their mail within 2 days, and some take over 2 weeks. The Committee has endeavoured to rectify the matter by contacting Australia Post, and the relevant central mail centres for affected bulk mail, but a resolution via this avenue has yet to be reached.

We understand that it is important that newsletters reach their destinations on time given that some notice is necessary for meetings, etc. We have therefore provided a tentative timetable for meetings that will be updated each month as we receive the relevant information.

In addition to that, we are now pleased to offer you the opportunity to receive the newsletter by email (in .pdf format) instead of by post.

The advantages of receiving newsletters by email are:

- You will receive the email *almost* immediately (in most cases the delay will depend on the receiving email account, but is generally less than a day for a worst-case scenario). You will not have to wait two weeks for the postal service to deliver.
- The newsletter can be viewed in COLOUR!!
- We can save some trees.
- We can save Shaheen lots of time and stress for printing and collating and sending newsletters (we like that!)
- We can save \$\$\$, which will leave more funds available for importing speakers, scholarships and other subsidies currently offered by the Society.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please send an email to:

shaheen.aumeer@uts.edu.au

Please indicate your name, membership number & the recipient email address.

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.nifs.com.au/ANZFSS/ANZFSS.html?Index.asp&1>

Your Committee:

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Final Words:

“You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end, each of us must work for our own improvement and, at the same time, share a general responsibility for all humanity.”

Marie Curie (1867 - 1934)