



Australian and New Zealand FORENSIC SCIENCE SOCIETY



October 2005
Issue 15

Inside this Issue:

Message from the President 2

**Urgent Attention Required:
Special Meeting
26 October 2005** 2

October Meeting:
"Investigation into the Folbigg
Children Deaths"
by Det. Insp. Bernie Ryan
26 October 2005 3

November Meeting &
Annual Dinner:
25 November 2005 3

The Price of Petrol 3

Trust Nobody! 3

REVIEW
"Forensic Podiatry" by Jill Fogarty
ANZFSS Meeting
17 August 2005 4-5

REVIEW
International Association of
Forensic Sciences Conference
21-26 August 2005 6

Idiom Investigation:
Breaking Down the Lingo
By Donnah Day 7

Definitions of a Different Kind 8

Newsletter by Email 8

Contact Details 8

Keep an eye out in the mail
for additional information
and a registration form for the
November meeting

NSW Branch Newsletter

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

Murder in Anna Bay

How Forensic Investigation Solved the Murder of Judith Brown

PRESENTATION INFORMATION:

DATE: Friday 30th September 2005

TIME: 7:30 - 10:00pm (Doors open 6:30pm)

VENUE: Guthrie Theatre, Broadway Campus,
The University of Technology, Sydney (UTS)

COST: \$10 ANZFSS members
\$25 non-members

This 2 1/2 hour presentation by Detective Sergeant Peter Fox will take you through the investigation into the murder of Judith Brown in Anna Bay, NSW.

*There are still seats available for this public event. We are now able to accept payment on the night, however, you **MUST** book a place with the Secretary ahead of time to receive a registration number. No new registrations will be accepted on the night. Give Lisa a call on (02) 9514 1983 to confirm. We hope to see you there!*

Welcome to New Society Members

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

Ashley BRYANT
Grant HALLORAN
Barry HARBISHER
Melanie HOLT





Message from the President

Dear ANZFSS member,

What does a member of our branch do in a year with no ANZFSS symposium? Well, he or she takes over the world! This might be somewhat presumptuous, but it reflects the fantastic NSW representation at the recent symposium of the International Association of Forensic Sciences in Hong Kong. Collectively, branch members presented more than 45 papers, including four plenary papers. Interestingly, the education session was also largely dominated by Australian papers.

Notwithstanding the fact that the relative proximity of Hong Kong probably helped, this outstanding achievement clearly demonstrates the quality of the work undertaken in NSW and in Australia. Despite the fact that major improvements are always possible, Australia is really setting the international benchmark in many areas

of Forensic Science. We should not be too shy about it because it is too easy to think that the grass is greener somewhere else.

On behalf of the Society, I wish to congratulate our members who presented a paper in Hong Kong. I have no doubt our Society has a major role to perpetuate and support such efforts. For this reason, a number of branch scholarships will be offered in addition to the national scholarships to attend the 2006 ANZFSS symposium in Fremantle. Please read future Newsletters, or better, come along to the meetings, to get the necessary information. Good luck to the applicants!

Claude Roux
President
25th September, 2005



Urgent Attention Required:

Do you consider yourself to be “special”? Then please come to our:

Special Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, 26th October 2005

TIME: 6:30pm for light refreshments, 7:00pm start (this will only last around 15min hopefully)
(please note that a talk will follow - see page 3 for details)

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

This special meeting has been called to re-approve the changes made to our Constitution earlier in the year. As you may know, our Public Officer Mr Alan Hodda has been busily working on ensuring that our Society complies with the legal guidelines set by the Office of Fair Trading, a task that has become a fairly large undertaking. We recently received a letter from the department of fair trading stating that the Constitutional changes made earlier in the year were not lodged within the time permitted in Sect. 65(1) of the Associations Incorporation Act. Therefore, members are required to re-approve these changes in a special meeting in order to comply with the requirements.

Once again, it is important for you to attend, as failure to reach a quorum will mean that yet another special meeting will have to be called to rectify the problem. We have arranged to have the meeting on a day in which there is a very interesting talk by Detective Inspector Bernie Ryan (*see page 3*), so please consider participating in both events. We hope to see you there!





Upcoming Meeting: "Investigation into the Folbigg Children Deaths" by Detective Inspector Bernie Ryan

DATE: Wednesday, 26th October 2005
TIME: 6:30 for light refreshments, 7:15 pm start
VENUE: Department of Forensic Medicine,
 50 Parramatta Road, Glebe
COST: Free to members, \$5 for non-members

Bernie Ryan is a Detective Inspector with the NSW Police. He has been a Police Officer for the past seventeen years, and fourteen of those he spent in the field of criminal investigation and middle management. In 1998, Det. Insp. Ryan completed a Bachelor of Policing (Investigations). He is currently the Crime Manager in the Goulburn Local Area Command. He is responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating crime reduction strategies, supervision of all criminal investigations and liaising with the State Crime Command and other agencies involved in major criminal investigations. Det. Insp. Ryan is a guest lecturer for the NSW Police Senior Detectives Course, Homicide Course, and the Australian Federal Police Homicide

Course. We are very pleased that he is able to visit us to shed some light on the tragic deaths of the Folbigg children.

On 1st March 1999, Det. Insp. Ryan was a Detective Senior Constable at the Hunter Valley Local Area Command when he commenced an investigation into the deaths of the four Folbigg children. These children died between 20th February 1989 and 1st March 1999 at Mayfield (Newcastle), Thornton (Maitland), and Singleton.

This investigation utilised expert Forensic Paediatric Pathology opinion evidence from Australia, the UK, the USA and New Zealand. It resulted in the conviction of Kathleen Folbigg for manslaughter, maliciously inflicting grievous bodily harm and murder x 3.



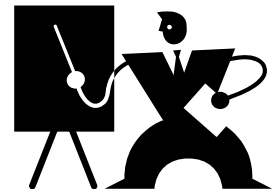
Annual Dinner

This year's Annual Dinner has been confirmed for:

Friday 25th November, 2005

The venue will be "The Lighthouse" in George Street, Parramatta.

An information flyer and registration form will be sent to you in the upcoming weeks. Due to the availability of limited seating, we will have to assume the "first-in-best-dressed" philosophy, so look out for it in your mailbox!



The Price of Petrol These Days



Trust Nobody!



No One Is Above Suspicion

Thank you to Tamara Sztynka for sending us these funnies!



REVIEW: "Forensic Podiatry" by Jill Fogarty ANZFSS Meeting, Wednesday 17th August 2005

We were pleased to have Jill Fogarty speak to us about her experience in Forensic Podiatry. She began by explaining how she got into the field. After obtaining her qualifications as a Podiatrist in England, Jill is now lecturing in Australia. She was approached by a police officer wanting to know if she could tell him anything about a black and white photograph of a footprint taken from a crime scene. The officer was quite surprised when she could!

Jill described the questions that need to be asked of a podiatrist when seeking assistance in relation to a forensic investigation. In particular:

- how long have they been practising?
- have they examined evidence before?
- have they prepared written legal reports before?
- are they prepared to act as an expert witness if the situation develops further?

In the beginning, a podiatrist should know as little as possible about the case, and the investigator should avoid the use of guiding questions, such as: "can you tell me what you see when you look at this footprint?"; "anything unusual about these shoes?"; or "are the feet in these two photographs one and the same pair". Questions such as "this shoe was found at the murder scene... can you tell me about it?" can lead to difficulties as there is an emotional impact associated with it. The shift of emphasis can be a distraction that can lead to bias, complications and a situation where the evidence is made to fit the crime or the scene.

An important exercise is to work backwards and try to disprove your evidence before presenting it. Conversely the investigating officer should also be asking the following type of questions:

A: Basic questions of the evidence:

- what is this a photograph of exactly?

B: A 2/3 dimensional photograph of a footprint:

- is it in a continuum - a series of walking prints in one direction?
- is it a "running" footprint?
- is it a standing footprint?
- is it one found at the bottom of a set of stairs?

C: A shoe or pair of shoes:

- how many people have handled them?
- were they found being worn by the suspect?
- has the suspect said they wear a size "x" shoe?
- what testing has been done already with these shoes?

- where were they found? (weather conditions can affect the material)
- how were they found? (a pair of shoes found scattered over an area or in close proximity?)

A podiatrist's advice could be helpful in the following situations:

- distinguishing imprints of one pair of feet from another
- where there is a foot deformity, nail or skin diseases
- distinguishing unique footprints
- distinguishing pictures of feet that are lifeless from those that are not
- projected outcomes of foot function following injury
- gait pattern analysis

And with footwear:

- footwear type (general style)
- variations in handmade / commercial sizing
- medical grade footwear variations
- sizing
- wear marks
- several foot/shoe matching probabilities

Jill then had us all with shoes in hand, looking at the basic construction of the shoe, searching for indications that it is handmade v. commercially made, and thinking about the weight, flexibility and quality of the shoes. We looked for manufacturing faults, wear marks, flexion creases, and some of the effects of age or improper use. A very interesting exercise!

We would like to thank Jill for her lecture on how forensic podiatry can be used to assist in investigations, and hope that she is now fully recovered from her recent illness.



Jill Fogarty



REVIEW: "Forensic Podiatry" by Jill Fogarty ANZFSS Meeting, Wednesday 17th August 2005

The following is a light-hearted look at Jill's presentation by Aldo Severino (thanks Aldo!):



Feet come in all sizes and shapes. In a court-room debacle they may even end up in your mouth!!!

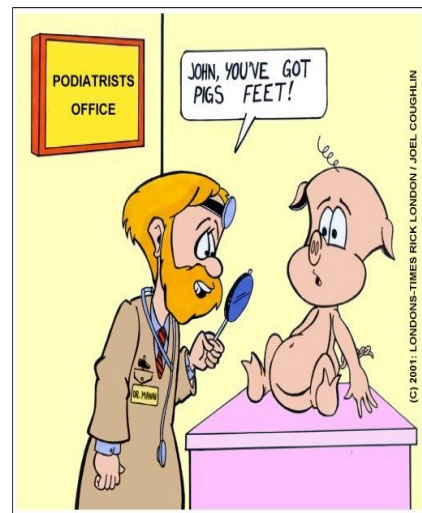


My feet are saintly, unfortunately the rest of my body is not...

Your feet have a 'mind' of their own and dictate how your shoes should behave, and, the way you should walk – at times, especially in the court-room, the way you talk. Most of the time they can be "saintly" even if you are 'full-of-wind'



A Podiatrist's lot is not all socks & shoes. at times, they are put to the test - especially if the 'absolute obvious' is known



Jill educated us on how to have "happy feet" and how to have our shoes live our lifestyle. Like plants shoes need to be 'spoken to' and closely examined.



Benefits of climbing Everest:
At least my rock shoes will now fit!

The gathered audience were exercised in this pleasurable encounter – "Get to know your shoe intimately" And, the audience surely did get to know the type of their neighbour's 'pedis quirks'!!



Sorry Jill -I have to sadly state that in my profession, "feet" in all their glory serve one purpose...

Aldo Severino
PaLMS Mortuary Services Manager





REVIEW: International Association of Forensic Science (IAFS) Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, 21 - 26 August 2005

Hong Kong, the Gateway to China, is a dazzling spectacle of lights over a busy harbour, juxtaposed with the peaceful countryside mountains. When we arrived it was difficult to see the boats for the rain, but as the conference progressed, Hong Kong warmed to our presence and we had some lovely days and very hot nights to explore the beautiful country.

The conference opening ceremony began with an interesting video on forensic science, followed by an entourage of bagpipers escorting in the officiating guests for a formal welcome. The Secretary for Justice, Elsie Leung, gave the first address. She described the contribution of Forensic Science to justice and Hong Kong, expressing her gratitude for our hard work. Ms Leung then forecasted the work ahead needed to maintain and further develop Forensic Science worldwide.

The President of IAFS, Mr Sze-chung Leung, welcomed us to the meeting, identified the various events that would take place over the course of the conference, and gave the sponsors a formal welcome. He then declared the conference officially open. To conclude the opening ceremony we were treated to the Lion Dance, a fantastic display of colour, athleticism and tradition.

What followed was a busy week of interesting lectures and posters that allowed us to compare work and ideas from different countries, and gave us insight into the challenges faced by different regions. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet and collaborate with experts from different fields in a very well organised conference setting. Australia was very well represented, and in particular many delegates were from NSW - well done guys!

Even during the conference dinner, we were treated to a banquet and some traditional Chinese artists showing us grass weaving, flower doll making, conventional and rainbow calligraphy, and drawing our cartoons and portraits. We were also entertained with the dragon dance, a mask dancer and some beautiful fan and ribbon dancers.

When we weren't at the conference, we were busy seeing the sights, and shopping in Kowloon. Unfortunately, I didn't get to see Jacky Chan, Jet Li, Chow Yun Fat, Michelle Yeoh or Zhang Ziyi while I was there (OK, so I'm a huge fan of the martial arts genre), but at least we got to see their hand prints in the Avenue of Stars!

We would like to thank Hong Kong for hosting this year's very successful IAFS meeting. See you in New Orleans in a few years' time! *Shaheen Aumeer-Donovan*

A



B



C



D



Photographs courtesy of Shaheen Aumeer-Donovan depict (A) Hong Kong from Kowloon, (B) Hong Kong from Victoria Peak, (C) Hong Kong by Night from Kowloon. Photograph courtesy of Christie Wallace-Kunkel depicts (D) The Dragon Dance at Conference Dinner.



IDIOM INVESTIGATION: Breaking Down the Lingo

By Donnah Day

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

ANATOMY:

Distal – further away from the centre of the body, eg. the elbow is distal to the shoulder

Proximal – closer toward the centre of the body

Superior – at or on top

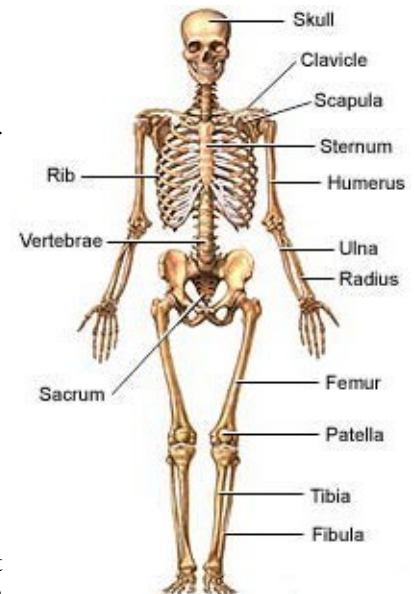
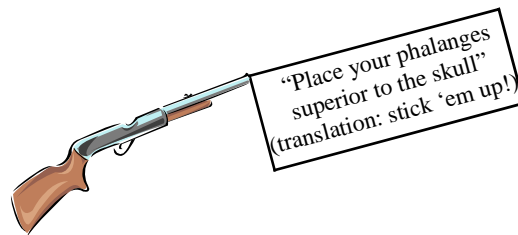
Anterior – underneath or below

Dorsal – of the back

Ventral – of the front

Cutaneous – of the skin

Subcutaneous – underneath the skin



BALLISTICS:

The seven steps of operation for every shot fired are listed below. The steps do not necessarily work in the same order; sometimes two or more of them occur at the same time. Every single one of these steps must be performed for every shot fired with any firearm.

- 1. Firing** – pulling the trigger releases a mechanism, either a hammer or a firing pin under spring tension that strikes the primer of the cartridge in the barrel's chamber. The primer is activated by the blow and ignites the powder charge which, in turn, generates propellant gas to drive the bullet down the barrel.
- 2. Unlocking** – the breech pressure required to drive a bullet must be contained until that bullet has left the bore. The breech must be locked securely against high pressure and before any following steps can occur the action must be unlocked. Unlocking is always performed by the very first part of the movement of operating lever, pump handle, bolt or operating rod.
- 3. Extraction** – The withdrawal of the fired, or empty, cartridge case from the chamber. Extraction is usually performed by a hook on the breechbolt that pulls the empty out as the bolt is withdrawn from the barrel.
- 4. Ejection** – The removal of the empty case from the gun. Ejection is generally performed at the end of the rearward stroke of the breechbolt, when the empty is flipped out of the gun.
- 5. Cocking** – Storage of energy in the firing-mechanism spring. It is accomplished by drawing and holding back either hammer or firing pin with a small part connected with the trigger, or by the trigger itself.
- 6. Feeding** – Moving the fresh, unfired cartridge from the magazine into the chamber of the barrel, ready for firing.
- 7. Locking** – The reverse of unlocking. Locking holds the breechblock securely against the gas pressure generated during firing. As a safety feature, most guns will not fire until they are fully and securely locked.

PATHOLOGY:

Cause of death – the pathological condition which produced the death.

Manner of death – the instrument or physical agent which was used

Mode of death – the intent when the instrument was employed and by whom. Four modes of death are possible; natural, accidental, suicidal or homicidal. For example: The cause of death may be a subdural hemorrhage. The manner of death may be an injury to the skull by blunt force. The mode of death may be homicide.

Antemortem – before death.

Perimortem – as dying.

Postmortem – after death.

Expert contributions are gladly accepted - Please send your definitions to the Editor



Definitions of a Different Kind *(Thanks Tamara!)*

AUTOMATE: A person who car pools with you.

CATEGORY: When your cat brings you its special "present" to the back door.

CONSERVE: When a prisoner has to wait tables in the jail cafeteria.

DISGUISE: When a group of girls gets together to criticize their boyfriends.

EXCLAIM: What a divorced spouse gets in the settlement.

FURROW: When alley cats get into a major fight.

KINDRED: The feeling you get when you have to visit relatives you are not fond of.

LIABILITY: How adept you are at not telling the truth.

PURPOSE: A very happy cat.

TANGENT: A man back from a sunny holiday.

FURNITURE: Chairs in which the cat sleeps.

ACUTE: Very aware of one's prettiness.

BARNACLES: Coins that stick to the pub tables.

DEPENDING: The possibility of a "heavy" moral at the story's finish.

LISTLESS: A dangerous way to go shopping.

CONCAVE: A criminal's hideout.

OVERDRAFT: A condition resulting from too much beer.

SHAMROCK: A fake boulder.

SILICONE: A funny looking holder for ice cream.

EXTENSION: Anxiety between you and your former spouse.

VALIANT: A hillside ant's cousin.

TREASON: A lumberjack's first-born.

PREDICTION: The stage just before a baby begins to talk.

Newsletter by Email

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please send me an email indicating your name, membership number, and the recipient email address. shaheen.aumeer@uts.edu.au

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 9514 1983

Fax: 02 9514 1460

Email: anzfss.nswsec@nifs.com.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
Treasurer:	Peter Jamieson
Secretary:	Lisa Mingari
Merchandise:	Alison Sears
Newsletter Editor:	Shaheen Aumeer-Donovan
Memberships:	Aldo Severino
Public Officer:	Allan Hodda
Committee Members:	Kirsten Adelstein
	Donnah Day
	Denise Donlon
	Shirleyann Gibbs
	Aaron Heagney
	Eric Murray
	Sarah Robinson
	Meiya Sutisno
	James Wallman
	Ian White

Final Words:

"I'm not trying to be mysterious about it, it's just that what I do is tough to explain"

- MacGyver (Jerico Games, Series 6)