



**The Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society
South Australian Branch, Inc**

**MINUTES OF 52nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 18th August 2020**

Held at 6:15 pm on Tuesday 18th August, 2020 at Braggs Theatre, North Terrace Campus, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia.

Date: Tuesday 18th August 2020

Time: 6:15 – 6:45pm

Venue: Braggs Lecture Theatre, University of Adelaide, North Terrace, Adelaide

Business

1. Welcome to Country - by President Julianne Henry

1. Annual Reports

Presidents report (Julianne Henry):

After her second term as President, Julianne thanked the 2019-2020 Committee for their support, particularly during the challenges of the COVID-19 global pandemic. Julianne then went over the previous years meetings, until we needed to cancel due to the pandemic. It is hoped that the new Committee will be able to reschedule these meetings when restrictions in SA are loosened. Further details of Julianne's report, including updates from throughout the first half of 2020, can be found in the attached report.

Treasurers report (Julianne Henry on behalf of Kerryn Mason):

Julianne read out the report on behalf of the Treasurer, Kerryn Mason. It provided a summary of the financial status, including main sources of income and expenditures. See the attached document for details.

2. Election of Committee

Many thanks to the outgoing Committee of 2019-2020:

President: Julianne Henry

Vice President: Denice Higgins

Treasurer: Kerryn Mason

Secretary: Danielle Butzbach

Merchandising Officer: Julianne Farrell

Editor: Jennifer Young

Publicity Officer: Luke Volgin

Public Officer: David Eitzen

Ordinary Committee Members:

Natalie Daou Lenara Scandrett

Andrew Murphy Stewart Walker

Darren Bails David Kuchenmeister*

Meghan McKinnon April Rivers-Kennedy*

*David Kuchenmeister retired from the Committee during the year and was replaced by April Rivers-Kennedy.

The following members were Elected to the 2020-2021 Committee (officiated by Immediate Past-President, Julianne Henry):

President: Denice Higgins
Vice President: Jennifer Young
Treasurer: Kerry Mason
Secretary: Natalie Daou
Merchandising Officer: Julianne Farrell
Editor: Stewart Walker
Publicity Officer: Felicia Bardan
Public Officer: David Eitzen
Ordinary Committee Members:

Dan Bonsu	Andrew Murphy
Darren Bails	Amelia Norrington
Matthew Sorell	Meghan McKinnon
April Rivers-Kennedy	

3. Merchandise update

Merchandise Officer Julianne Farrell gave an update on the new range that is now available from the SA Branch.

Danielle Butzbach
2019-2020 Secretary
ANZFSS, SA Branch Inc
Incorporation Registration No. A9026



ANZFSS SA Branch Presidents Report 2019/20

18th August 2020

This was my second term as President, and it has been my pleasure to represent ANZFSS SA Branch members in this role. Although it has been another successful year for the Branch, it has been unique and challenging due to the widespread impacts of COVID-19.

Any society is only as good as the committee that sits behind it and the team we had this year was exceptional. We had four new Committee members this year which brought a fresh dynamic. The dedication, flexibility, and enthusiasm of the Committee this year allowed us to continue to work hard behind the scenes to achieve outcomes for the Branch despite the difficulties. We even had our first ever Committee meeting via Zoom.

I would especially like to thank Vice President, Denice Higgins, for stepping in for me at the end of 2019 while I was recovering from major surgery. I would also like to thank Dan Butzbach for being such a competent, knowledgeable, and organised Secretary. Nothing is ever too much trouble for Dan, and she has been a wonderful support to me in the President role, but also to the Committee as a whole. I would also like to recognise our Treasurer, Kerryn Mason. Kerryn has worked tirelessly for many months to contemporise and complete external audits of all our historical financial records. This process was very complex and lengthy, but I am pleased to report that it is now complete. Finally, I would like to thank Julianne Farrell. Julianne was new to the Committee this year and stepped into the role of Merchandise Officer. Julianne headed a small sub-committee to create a fresh and new range of winter merchandise for our members, complete with an updated logo, which is now available for purchase. We hope you enjoy it.

I would also like to give my sincere thanks to the remainder of the Committee for all their hard work and dedication this past year:

Jennifer Young – Editor

Luke Volgin – Publicity Officer

Dave Kuchenmeister, Andrew (Spud) Murphy, Darren (Stix) Bails, Natalie Daou, Meghan McKinnon, April Rivers-Kennedy, Lenara Scandrett, and Stewart Walker – Ordinary Committee Members.

Some current Committee members are not renominating for the upcoming year, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their individual contributions to the Branch.

At the end of the 2019/20 year, the SA Branch had a total of 160 members. This is the same number as the previous year where we had 161 members. Only a very small number of members have taken up Professional Membership. While it was good to see that membership remained stable, attracting new members to the society has been difficult due to minimal public meetings this year.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Committee was only able to bring two face-to-face scientific meetings to members this year. The year began with a joint presentation by Forensic Science SA's Peter Stockham and Emma Partridge outlining the collaborative work they are undertaking with four major Adelaide hospitals to monitor drug trends in the community, particularly those relating to novel psychoactive substances. The second presentation was an entertaining report by Professor Roger Byard on international forensic pathology initiatives he is currently involved with. Both presentations were well supported with an average of 50 members and 25 non-members in attendance. Unfortunately, further presentations organised by the Committee on new frontiers in disaster victim identification and the discovery of the remains of Khandalyce Pearce in a suitcase near Wynarka, had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, I am sure the incoming Committee will endeavour to bring these presentations to members in the coming year should restrictions on gatherings remain eased.

The Executive and National Council of ANZFSS worked together after the COVID-19 outbreak to organise an online alternative for Branches in lieu of face-to-face meetings in the form of a 1000 person Zoom licence. While the SA Branch did not offer a presentation via this platform prior to restrictions on gatherings being lifted, it was pleasing that SA Branch members were able to access presentations from the WA and NSW Branches. It is my hope that National Executive will continue to support this Zoom licence, even post-COVID, to enable ANZFSS members to attend any live presentations around the country. As an alternative to face-to-face meetings, the SA Branch Committee also advertised many virtual conferences, webinars, and online presentations to members via our Facebook page. I hope that members appreciated and took advantage of these options.

In addition to our formal presentations throughout the year, we aim to provide a fun end of year event where members can enjoy a night out with their family and friends. We celebrated the end of 2019 with a sold-out Musical Bingo event with 80 attendees. Like the Trivia Night held the previous year, the Musical Bingo night was a fun event that received a lot of positive feedback from those that attended. Hopefully, the Committee can deliver another fun event to conclude 2020 but this will depend on how things play out over the next couple of months.

2020 was earmarked as an exciting year for ANZFSS as our 25th Symposium was to be held in conjunction with the 22nd Triennial Symposium of the International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS) in Sydney in September. Notably, the IAFS Symposium was last held in Australia in 1990. Therefore, this joint conference presented a unique opportunity for ANZFSS members to experience and build new networks at an IAFS conference. Sadly, this Symposium is now postponed until May 2021 due to COVID-19. Prior to this postponement, 25 SA Branch members applied for an ANZFSS Symposium Award to support their attendance at this meeting. Fifteen of these members received a National Award which covered their registration cost. However, it is extremely difficult for SA Branch members to attend an interstate conference without further support in the way of funding for airfares and accommodation. For this reason, and enabled by our very strong financial position, the SA Branch Committee provided an unprecedented amount of funding, \$29,300 in total, as top-up funding to 14 members and standalone funding to a further 3 members. Of the 17 members that received SA Branch funding, eight were students and I am very proud of the way our Branch supports our up-and-coming forensic practitioners. The SA Branch Committee again recognised the most outstanding Symposium Award applications from both a general and student member in the form of the Sandy Congdon and Ross Vining Memorial Scholarships. These scholarships were awarded to Dr. Denice Higgins and PhD student, Meghan McKinnon. My personal congratulations go to both Denice

and Meghan. All Symposium Awards are currently held over for the new 2021 Symposium date. However, it can be seen from the recent second waves of COVID-19 in Victoria and NSW, that holding a high-profile international conference in 8 months' time will present many challenges. I am sure it will become clearer in the coming months how the Symposium Organising Committee will address these challenges.

As part of the 22nd triennial meeting of IAFS, the SA Branch was involved in administering the award of the Adelaide Medal. The Adelaide Medal is awarded at each IAFS meeting to commemorate the holding of the 12th meeting of IAFS in Adelaide in 1990. The Medal is awarded to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding scientific achievement that had a marked influence on the forensic sciences from an international perspective. The ANZFSS SA Branch sought nominations from numerous global forensic science associations and received three high profile and worthy nominations. I am pleased to report that the nomination recommended by IAFS sees the Adelaide Medal being awarded to someone from our own region - a wonderful way to celebrate the return of the IAFS meeting to Australia. The recipient of the Adelaide Medal will be announced at the ANZFSS/IAFS Symposium in May, so stay tuned!

One of the major initiatives of the SA Branch in the 2018/19 year was the establishment of the ANZFSS SA Branch Professional Development Award. The inaugural awardee, Pam Fietz, has been utilising her \$3000 scholarship this year to undertake a course through the University of Lausanne in evaluative reporting of DNA evidence. However, Pam's completion of this course has been delayed due to COVID-19 so she is yet to present the outcome to Branch members. I am sure we will get to hear a presentation from Pam in the year ahead. I also take this opportunity to remind members that applications for the 2021 Professional Development Award will open at the end of the year and I encourage you all to apply.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the SA Branch members for their continued support of the Society over the last year. Without your discussions, feedback, and continued attendance at events and meetings such as tonight's, our Society would not be as successful as it is. You will see from the agenda that I have decided not to renominate for the 20/21 Committee. I have been a member of the SA Branch Committee since 2006 serving as an Ordinary Member, Treasurer and, most recently, President. After 14 years of service, I feel it is time to take a break. However, it has been my pleasure to represent the SA Branch membership in this way and support the outstanding forensic community we have in this state. Based on the nominations we have already received for the 20/21 Committee, you will have a wonderful team working for you in the coming year. Farewell, for now.



Dr. Julianne Henry

President, ANZFSS SA Branch

Australia and New Zealand Forensic Science Society (SA Branch)

1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

Income

Subscriptions	6,310.00
Non-member fees	1,850.00
Merchandise sales	167.00
Interest paid to term deposits	2,545.65
Speaker funding from National Exec	754.20
Symposium funds	3,958.00
Fee Reimbursement	28.37
Musical Bingo	59.00
EFT return	19.30

Total Income **15,691.52**

Expenses

Capitation	1,708.00
Meeting Costs	1,149.60
GST (memberships)	573.64
Personal Development Award	3,000.00
Donation (Catherine House)	200.00
Insurance	500.00
Australia Post	302.00
Online booking fees	212.80
Bank fees	27.48

Total Expenses **7,673.52**

Net movement in cash **8,018.00**

Balance sheet as of 30/6/2020

Opening Balance	113,093.93
Net movement in cash	8,018.00
Closing Balance	121,111.93

Composition of closing balance

Treasurer: cash in hand	349.00
Merchandise: cash on hand	688.00
S&L cheque accounts	45,669.47
Police Credit Union Term deposit	74,405.46

TOTAL ASSETS **121,111.93**