



## Message from Claude Roux – President

Dear ANZFSS Members,

Every year, the same thing happens; we reach the end of the first quarter, wondering where all this time went. Actually, the forensic science world started the year in full steam. Our Society is currently focusing on the final stages of the organisation of the 22nd International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences to be held in Adelaide on 31 August to 5 September 2014. It is worth remembering that, not only is such an event the highlight of the forensic science community over a two year period, but it is also an integral part of the professional development of forensic practitioners. For these reasons, attendance at this Symposium delivers tangible returns to the delegates and to the community as a whole. And as such, I look forward to meeting many of you in Adelaide later this year.

As a small indication of the scientific value of the Symposium, it is worth showcasing the plenary speakers:

- Prof. Christophe Champod, University of Lausanne, Switzerland - statistical evaluation of forensic identification techniques including fingerprints;
- Dr. Kimmo Himberg, Rector of the Police College of Finland - forensic science management;
- Dr. Max Houck, Director of the DC Department of Forensic Sciences - forensic science education, forensic enterprise and its industries;
- Prof. Niamh Nic Daéid, University of Strathclyde, Chair of the INTERPOL Forensic Science Managers Symposium - forensic chemistry and standards;
- Liesl Chapman SC, Adelaide - expert evidence;
- Dr. Bryan Found, Chief Forensic Scientist with the Victoria Police Forensic Services Department - handwriting science, interpretative evidence and cognitive factors;

- Sebastian Marino, Wellington - reality capture technology for crime scenes;
- Dr. Mark Reynolds, Perth - field and identification sciences, bloodstain pattern analysis.

Up to date information about the Symposium can be found at [www.anzfss2014.com.au](http://www.anzfss2014.com.au). The ANZFSS is offering a record number of travel scholarships to assist practitioners and students to attend this year. The list of successful recipients is published on page 4 of this newsletter, and will be supplemented by branch-based winners.

I am grateful for the fantastic efforts of David Eitzen, Chair of the Symposium, and his team. The ANZFSS Symposium Organising Committee will, once again, be a memorable event.

Overseas, the US Department of Justice and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) released the identity of members of the first US national commission on forensic science. This panel of 37 scientists, lawyers, forensics practitioners and law-enforcement officials met for the first time in Washington DC, not long before the recent American Academy meeting, with the aims to advise on government policies such as training and certification standards. In March, NIST will be setting up a parallel panel, a forensic-science standards board.

Without being too jingoistic, and without claiming that everything is perfect, it is interesting to note that many of these aims and initiatives have been well advanced in our part of the world. Those of you who may be frustrated by mundane daily activities will have difficulties to believe it, but, in fact, Australian and New Zealand forensic science is increasingly looked at with envy from overseas. In January, both Alastair Ross, Director of the National Institute of Forensic Science, and I received an invitation to speak at a plenary session of a conference on The Paradigm Shift for Forensic Science, funded by the Royal Society to be held in London in February 2015. It seems this is the first time ever the Royal Society is funding a conference on forensic science alone.

## President's Message cont.

In addition, as ANZFSS President, I received an invitation to join the 1st meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to be held in the Netherlands in June. According to the letter of invitation, participants will include "Presidents in office of a number of the most representative academic societies of the scientific community".

These invitations are clear indications that our Society (along with NIFS) is a voice that counts in global forensic science affairs.

The challenge now is to translate this high international standing into tangible value for our members. For this reason, rest assured that the current Executive and Council continue to work on a number of topics that will help us move towards a more professional Society; a Society that will deliver benefit to all members and to the forensic science community as a whole. I can only urge you to come to Adelaide in late August to find out what is in store for you... In the meantime, happy reading!

Forensically yours,  
Prof. Claude Roux

## ANZFSS 22nd International Symposium - 2014

### Update April 2014

It is a very exciting time for the committee, as the call for abstracts has closed and the program develops. It is early days, but we are quietly, very excited. At the time of writing this memo, we have received 550 applications in total, with the breakdown of 385 Orals, 148 Posters and 22 workshops.

These abstracts were made available to the Discipline Chairs and their teams on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March and their deliberations have been undertaken, so we'll be letting the authors now the result of the review process very soon. This will also allow us to finalise the program.

All the plenary speakers are also contributing to their individual streams, and along with a great mix of international and local identities it all goes well for a very strong scientific program. Although times are economically tough, the Trade have, once again, shown their support in the form of sponsorship and trade booths. We will make every effort to give our Trade Partners maximum exposure to the delegates.

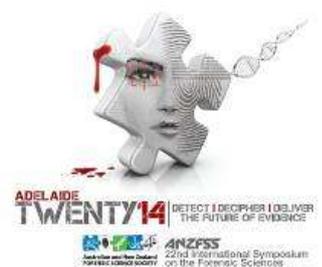
We will keep you posted with the two main social events, the Tuesday EXTREME NIGHT and the Thursday DINNER. I think it is fair to say, everything is in place for you to have a great time at both occasions, but more details to follow.

**Adelaide** – Clipsal, Adelaide Fringe, and more.....

The **ANZFSS 22<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium** ---- the place to be!!!!!!

**Look forward to welcoming you all.**

David Eitzen, Chair, Symposium Organising Committee



## Vale Tony Hill

**Dr Anthony John Hill 02/05/45 – 22/12/13**

The forensic and policing community have been greatly saddened by the death of Dr Tony Hill following a short battle with cancer. Tony played an integral part in the professional and intellectual development of forensic odontology over the last 21 years, and worked at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) until the last few weeks of his life. Tony was the Senior Forensic Odontologist at the VIFM (2007-2012), sat on the Australasian Disaster Victim Identification Committee (ADVIC) as scientific advisor (2005-2008) and was also the President of the Australian Society of Forensic Odontology (2009-2011). Tony was also heavily involved with founding the Medical Sciences Specialist Advisory Group of SMANZFL, and with facilitating recognition of forensic odontologists as a discrete specialty with the Australian Dental Association, and the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia.



Clinically, his depth of knowledge and experience was extraordinary, and he was well-known for his encyclopaedic knowledge base, thoroughness and perseverance with difficult problems. Tony spent 30 years as a general dental practitioner with a thriving practice in Werribee, Victoria. In 1992 Tony completed the Diploma of Forensic Odontology (University of Melbourne) and began work as a consultant forensic odontologist for the VIFM where he then applied and developed his dental knowledge by working on countless forensic cases, both in Australia and overseas. Tony also took every opportunity to pass his knowledge back to the dental and forensic community in the form of copious teaching to dental students, practicing or aspiring forensic odontologists, and police.



On a personal level, Tony was kind, generous man with an unusual sense of humour, and an innate sense of comedic timing. His focus was always the welfare of the deceased and their families, as well as the welfare of his colleagues, and he never lost sight of this. Tony's other focus was on ensuring collegiality and commitment to teaching in forensic odontology, and he

worked slowly and steadily to unite people, often under difficult circumstances.

Tony is survived by his partner Trish Hartshorn, and his children Zoe, Sebastian and Justin.

Thank you to Drs Melanie Archer and Soren Blau for putting this tribute together.

## Announcements:

The contribution of Mr John Kelleher has been recognised with the awarding of Membership of the Order of Australia announced on Australia Day 2014. His citation reads:

**“For significant service to the community, particularly as a forensic specialist in the field of fire and explosion investigation.”**

Congratulations, John, and well deserved.



## And the winners are:

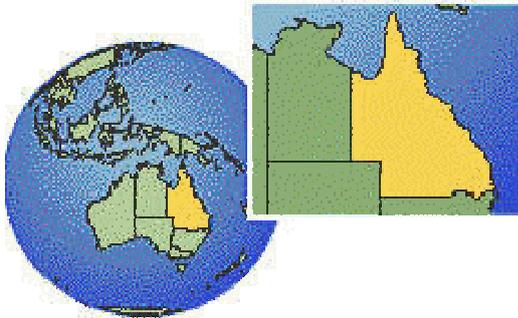
A Council subcommittee was formed to assess the 93 applications for the 50 scholarships available (Total cost = \$51,500). The subcommittee comprised James Wallman, Chris Lennard, Matt Gittos and Claude Roux. Generally speaking the applications were of a very high quality. The assessment criteria included both the quality of the abstract and the author's contribution to the Society. The scholarship comprises the registration to the Symposium (full/student on the basis of author's declaration). So without further ado.....

Barty Allison	NZ	McMenz Lyza-Jane	QLD
Beckett Nikkie	QLD	Morelato Marie	NSW
Bruce David	NSW	North John David	ACT
Burnell Bindi	NT	Nunn Josie	SA
Caruana (Borg) Alex	ACT	Ottens Renee	SA
Cashman Kate	TAS	Pagan Felicity	ACT
Ciaviaglia Sherryn	SA	Painter Ben	SA
Costello Penny	NZ	Pearson Jim	Vic
Cresswell Sarah	QLD	Perrault Kate	NSW
Dewhurst Tahnee	VIC	Psaroudis Janette	
Forrest Lynn	VIC	Quinn Cate	VIC
Franco Michele	NSW	Raymond Jen	NSW
Gray Kerry	TAS	Scott Sarah	NZ
Green Hadyn	WA	Simpson Ellie	SA
Green Jodie	ACT	Sly Nicola	SA
Grimwood Kate	NSW	Sowter Emily	TAS
Gerstner-Stevens Joanne	VIC	Taudte Regina Verena	NSW
Henry Julianne	SA	Templeton Jennifer	SA
Holt Melanie	NSW	Ueland Maiken	NSW
Kok Amy	TAS	Verdon Tim	Vic
Lee Rebecca	NSW	Voss Sasha	WA
Maroney Kerry-Anne	QLD	Walker Stewart	SA
Mason Kerry	SA	Williams Eletra	NZ
McCarthy Duncan	QLD	Williams Elisabeth	NZ
McGrath Laura	NSW	Young Jennifer	SA

The Council extends their warmest congratulations to the successful applicants.

## Branch Reports

### Calling: Queensland



Branch membership has continued to increase and we now have over 100 members, with around 20 – 40 attending meetings. At each meeting, we feature a guest speaker, invited to share their specialist knowledge. We held seven meetings during 2013 and concluded the year with a Christmas party in early December.

#### Meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013

The meeting was held at QHFSS in Coopers Plains. Our

guest speaker was Wayne Petherick, Associate Professor of Criminology at Bond University where he teaches Criminal Profiling, Applied Crime Analysis, Criminal Motivations and Crime and Deviance. His research areas of interest include stalking, personality disorder and self esteem and crime, and forensic victimology. Wayne has authored or co-authored texts on Serial Crime, Forensic Victimology and Forensic Criminology. In addition to his academic work and research, he also works on cases including risk and threat assessment, homicide, rape, and stalking.

Wayne's presentation reviewed a recent case that he consulted on. In the early morning hours of the 18th of October 2009, Richard John Vollmer stabbed his girlfriend, Alisa DeMonie, to death. Mr Vollmer was subsequently arrested for the offence, charged, and convicted and is currently serving a life sentence. To the jury it was a straightforward case - little to no evidence in Mr. Vollmer's favour was raised. Upon examination however, a wealth of evidence existed as to Ms. DeMonie's mental state and emotional disturbance - including chronic methamphetamine abuse - that may play a role in having the case re-examined.



**Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2013** The meeting was held at Queensland Police HQ, Roma St. Our guest speaker was Dr Michael Logan, Director of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Scientific Branch. He has been involved managing more than 1200 HAZMAT incidents across Queensland, Australia and internationally.

Michael holds a PhD in physical chemistry from the University of New South Wales and has been a Post Doctoral Fellow at the University of British Columbia. He also has various emergency management qualifications and is a HAZMAT specialist (NFPA 472). The Scientific Branch he leads provided training to more 500 fire-fighters every year, and responds to an incident on average every day. The Branch has also received more than \$1 million worth of research funding over the past five years particularly focused on fire-fighter exposure characterisation.

During his presentation, Michael described the role and activities of the Branch using examples ranging from the really serious and life threatening to the unbelievable and funny with lots of photos and questions for all. He also provided insight into some of the activities that improve the way incidents are managed, including collaborations with the Queensland Police Forensic specialists.

**Meeting – 16th May 2013** The meeting was again held at Queensland Police HQ, Roma St. This month, the Qld branch was addressed by the current national President of ANZFSS, Claude Roux. Claude holds the position of Professor of Forensic Science and the founding Director of the UTS Centre for Forensic Science (Research Strength). He obtained a BSc and a PhD from the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. He moved to Australia upon the completion of his PhD in 1996. Over the last 15 years, he has supervised and completed more than 60 forensic student research projects, including 5 University medals. He has attracted \$5M in competitive research grants in the last 5 years, including ARC, other Government and industry funding. He has a long and established reputation for effective collaboration with forensic and other government agencies in Australia and overseas as well as with other academic partners.



Claude's research activities cover a broad spectrum of forensic science including trace evidence and chemical criminalistics, documents and fingerprints. His research has been largely driven by his vision of forensic science as a genuine academic and research-based discipline. In addition to the publication of over 100 refereed papers and 25 book chapters and a large number of conference presentations, Claude's research has attracted significant media coverage and 20 awards. In addition, Claude is a member of the editorial board of five scientific journals and of a number of working groups in Australia and overseas.

**Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2013** The venue was again the Queensland Police HQ, Roma St. At this meeting, our invited speaker was Michael Holohan, a Barrister in practice at the private bar in Queensland. He is the holder of a Master of Laws, Bachelor of Laws, Master of Science (Forensic Science) and Bachelor of Science (Biology) degrees. He has over 13 years experience as a scientific officer with the Queensland Police Service where his duties included the examination of major crime scenes and the provision of expert evidence. He has also performed duties with the AFP in the areas of forensic counter terrorism, operational planning and computer forensics. He has also served as a Senior Legal Officer with the CMC. Michael is a sessional staff member with the QUT Legal Practice Course and Faculty of Science and Technology. He has recently commenced studies towards a PhD with the UNSW, Sydney, on the topic of the admissibility of forensic comparison evidence. Michael's presentation was about the admissibility of forensic evidence. The 2009 National Research Council Report, Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward, concluded that there are serious issues regarding the capacity and quality of the current forensic science system, yet, the courts continue to rely on forensic evidence without fully understanding and addressing the limitations of different forensic science disciplines. This presentation discussed the admissibility of forensic evidence and examined the court's reluctance to exclude forensic evidence although it had been demonstrated to be unreliable or weak. The presentation included a commentary of the recent UK case of R v T [2011] 1 Cr. App. R. 9 and recent cases out of the NSW Court of Appeal (Jeffrey Gilham and Gordon Wood) and their potential to effect the admissibility of forensic evidence in the future.



**Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2013** The meeting was held at QHFSS in Coopers Plains and incorporated our AGM. Jacqui Wilson and Julianne Farrell were re-elected to positions of President & Vice-President. Robert Morgan is the new Treasurer, and Biljana Micic has taken on the role of Secretary.

Guest speaker for the evening was Alex Forrest, who is currently Associate Professor of Forensic Odontology at Griffith University School of

Biomolecular and Physical Sciences. Alex graduated from the University of Queensland in 1979 and took an MDS from UQ in 1999. He is a Fellow of the Faculty of Maxillofacial Pathology in the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (Forensic Odontology), and a Fellow of the International College of Dentists. He has been a Consultant Forensic Odontologist with Queensland Health since 1994, and has performed forensic casework since 1985 with Queensland Health. Alex has given forensic evidence in all levels of Queensland Courts as well as interstate. In 2000, he was principal forensic witness in a landmark Queensland criminal case that triggered amendments to the Double Jeopardy rules around Australia. He has authored a number of papers and has co-authored a book on Forensic Pathology, and his particular interests lie with digital technologies in forensic identification, bite mark analysis and the use of RFID technologies in evidence tracking in mass disasters.

Alex's presentation, titled Death in the Dental Chair was very entertaining. Death resulting as a consequence of dental treatment is mercifully rare, however it has and will continue to occur. When such cases do occur, the forensic odontologist is commonly consulted in relation to the coronial investigation that ensues. The more common causes of such deaths published in the literature were briefly discussed, and relevant diagnostic and pathological features outlined for each.

**Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013** As both president and vice president were absent for this meeting, it was hosted by former president Donna MacGregor. Our guest speaker was forensic biologist, Kirsty Wright from Griffith University.

Kirsty has experience as a Major Crime Scientist and expert witness for the court and has led DNA Teams in a number of successful local and international forensic operations. She was involved in the 2002 Bali Bombings forensic operation and in 2005 was the DNA Team Leader for the International Disaster Victim Identification effort at the Thai Tsunami Victim Identification Centre in Phuket as part of the Australian Federal Police Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Team. In 2004 Kirsty was awarded the prestigious Churchill Fellowship to investigate methods of missing persons and DVI in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Kirsty led the successful expansion of the National Criminal Investigation DNA Database (NCIDD) as Program Manager for CrimTrac and implemented DNA forensic capabilities in the Northern Territory Police Forensic Biology laboratory for the analysis of human remains. She has provided forensic workshops for police, scientific and judicial groups locally and abroad and has been an invited speaker at numerous international conferences. Kirsty is also an officer in the Royal Australian Air Force and is assisting the Australian Defence Force improve forensic capabilities for current conflicts and for the identification of historical remains.

The 2013 branch Christmas party was held on 6<sup>th</sup> December at the Greystone Bar & Cellar in South Brisbane and was a very successful night with good member attendance. Many thanks to Adrian, Jenna and Robert for getting the event advertised and organised.

**Meeting – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014** Our first meeting of the year was held at Queensland Police HQ, Roma St. Guest speaker for the meeting was Rob Chopin, who is a Senior Transport Safety Investigator - Aviation, with the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB). His presentation covered the investigation into the causes of the Lake Eyre ABC television helicopter crash. Rob holds both fixed wing and helicopter pilot licences, is a licenced aircraft maintenance engineer whose helicopter experience has been in Australia and Papua New Guinea. He joined the



ATSB in 2007 and has been involved with about 30 on-site accidents both here in Australia and in Papua New Guinea. He has also worked with a multi-state DVI team at Kokoda, PNG in 2009 involving a 13-person fatal aircraft accident. Rob's presentation was very interesting and provided plenty of technical information explaining how the accident occurred and how it was investigated.



**Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014** Held at Queensland Police HQ, Roma St. Our guest speaker was forensic entomologist Assoc. Professor James Wallman from the University of Wollongong. His presentation explored how carrion-breeding insects, especially flies, reveal surprising yet crucial details of murders and other violent crimes. It also provided fascinating insights into the lives of insects found in corpses, and the history of social attitudes towards these creatures. An overview of recent developments in

forensic entomology research in Australia and the challenges in maintaining rigorous standards of evidence in this important discipline rounded out a very entertaining presentation. James is the Sub-Dean of Science and an Associate Professor of Biological Sciences in the Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health at the University of Wollongong. He has worked at UOW since 2001. Prior to that, he lectured in the Departments of Zoology and Environmental Biology at the University of Adelaide. Since 1990 he has researched the biology of flies and other insects infesting both live and dead humans and other animals, with a special focus on their application to forensic science. He has published numerous journal articles, as well as book chapters, on this topic. He acts regularly as a consultant in forensic entomology to state and federal police agencies and the private sector. He is a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society and the Faculty of Science of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia.

On behalf of the branch executive and members, I'd like to thank all our guest speakers for the efforts they put into their presentations and for being willing to come along to our meetings to share their knowledge. Thank you also to all the members who support the branch and guest speakers with regular attendances.

**Queensland branch Vice-President  
Julianne Farrell**

## Calling: **New Zealand**



Hello and warmest greetings to you all from the New Zealand Branches.

Firstly, I am happy to report that our Symposium Organising Committee have been busy laying the foundations for a fantastic and memorable 23rd Symposium of the Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society. Although we haven't been highly visible at this stage, the Organising Committee has been hard at work behind the scenes sorting out financial arrangements, contracts and budget forecasting. The theme and logo for Auckland 2016 are now in the final stages of refinement and once confirmed will be revealed to all. We have also been flooded with offers from members wanting to be involved and to help out wherever possible. This is just fantastic to receive these offers of support and we are going need you all. We are taking names and will be calling on you before long.

## **PHOTO COMPETITION**

Over Christmas and the holiday period, we engaged our NZFSS members in a photo competition with the aim to 'harvest' some stock images for use in the symposium website and promotional material. The generic forensic science images available have all been used a hundred times and don't reflect the 'real' forensic science we are all involved with from day to day. It is the members' symposium and we want as much involvement from the members as possible. We received some very interesting and 'unique' images from the members that reflected their concept of forensic science in their discipline. Thanks to those who responded.

## **CHRISTCHURCH 2.0**

We had a busy finish to 2013, with ANZFSS events all over New Zealand. First up, I am very happy to report that after a rather long hiatus (I think the last meeting was sometime in late 2007), we have had a rejuvenation of NZFSS in Christchurch, the Garden city. With a little bit of a kick start help from the NZFSS Council, and some very handy 'on the ground' support from our Auckland 2016 Symposium Organising Committee Chair, and of course the generous support of our Speaker David Scott, it was a very successful meeting which was well attended and enjoyed.

I am told that my representative who was to introduce the speaker and deliver a short ANZFSS update blurb on my behalf, did momentarily step out of the room to check with the door that all RSVPs and guests had arrived. During her short absence, the audience must have appeared so keen to receive David's presentation that the introduction of speaker and ANZFSS blurb were 'skipped' and they just got straight into the presentation. All joking aside, we are delighted to see a reinvigoration of the Christchurch Branch. It is good for the Garden City after such difficult and tiring recent times. I think the fellowship that the ANZFSS can provide is something to be encouraged and supported and as such, we are committed to continued support for the Christchurch Branch.

## **NEWS FROM THE CAPITAL**

The Wellington Branch ended 2013 with their now 'World Famous' in Wellington - annual Christmas Quiz night. A highlight of last year's speaking programme included Dr Sally Kelty of the University of Tasmania, as well as a lively mix of New Zealand based presenters. Wellington is kick starting 2014 with a talk by Detective Sergeant Mike Sears of the NZ Police, discussing the unsolved disappearance of Wellington woman Kaye Stewart. In May, they are hosting Dr Jan Jordan of Victoria University's Institute of Criminology. Dr Jordan will discuss her research on how survivors of attacks by serial rapist Malcolm Rewa coped psychologically with the rape and subsequent police and court processes.

The Wellington branch committee had a refresh last year and the new branch Chair, Delwynne Walsh, reports the new committee has found its feet, is working together well and looking forward to another busy and rewarding year.

## **NOW THAT'S THE SPIRIT**

Aside from being busy with the 2016 Symposium and being the home branch, the Auckland Branch also had a busy finish to the year with a presentation from Senior Fingerprint Officer Cobus Botha on his studies into Livescan Anomalies. Cobus's presentation was followed by an impromptu group discussion and contribution of ideas from the attending members. I think this truly reflects the spirit of the purpose of the Society – to not only bring members from our various disciplines together to network and share ideas, but also to provide a collaborative pool of thought which we can all draw upon to help find solutions to our problems. Collectively as a society we have a vast amount of knowledge and experience covering a variety of fields within our membership and it is wonderful to see members being able to draw on this collective expertise to enhance our science.

## A NEW BRANCH

Additionally we have the possibility of a new Dunedin or Otago/Southland Branch of NZFSS. I have had expressions of interest from members in the deep south who wish to hold meetings under the NZFSS banner and we are delighted to be asked to assist these members to get the ball rolling for an Otago/Southland Branch of NZFSS. I hope to bring you further news on these developments in the near future.

If you want to get more involved in your Society, with helping out at meetings through to organising speakers and meetings etc, then get in touch, as we would love to hear from you. Once again, my sincere thanks to all of our speakers and all the members who work to make these meetings and events possible. It is very encouraging to be to be a part of such a strong, vibrant and growing society, especially when we are now only two years and six months out from hosting delegates to our own Symposium in Auckland 2016.

Warmest regards to you all,  
Matt Gittos  
NZFSS President

## And now for something completely different a CAPTION COMPETITION

Send your best caption for this photo to [admin@forensicfoundations.com.au](mailto:admin@forensicfoundations.com.au) and we will announce the winner in the next newsletter.

