



December 2012



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Message from Claude Roux—ANZFSS President

Dear ANZFSS Member,

The festive season is once again upon us and, if you are like me, you wonder where all this time went! This is a sign that 2012 has been a very interesting and busy year for forensic science and for our Society. And I am sure that 2013 will be just as exciting and challenging.

I will not repeat here the outcomes we achieved all together as a Society in 2012. For more information, the reader is directed to my report presented at the AGM in Hobart in September and reproduced on the next page. Suffice to say that the ANZFSS is a vibrant and healthy Society, with more than 1,000 members and a truly top-class international Symposium. But this is not enough. We are committed to the broad professionalisation agenda and the ANZFSS Executive and Council will continue to guide the Society in this direction in 2013.

Speaking of the ANZFSS Symposium, I thank the Tasmanian Organising Committee and Gerard Dutton in particular, Conference Design, the sponsors, speakers and delegates for their contribution to a memorable success. Once again, we demonstrated that we punch above our weight. This Symposium clearly showed that, from a convict past, we have risen to become a world-leading force in forensic science. Of course, critical issues and challenges exist. They will always be with us. But we should not be shy of the journey achieved so far and should be prepared to step into

the future with confidence.

In Hobart, I really enjoyed the Science & Justice sessions. And I was not the only one, considering that most presentations were given in a packed room. It is difficult to believe that such a topic barely attracted a handful of people in past symposia. In my views, this is a very positive development. We can have the best laboratory and the best analytical and validated procedures in place, but all this becomes useless if we do not know how the information and data gathered are interpreted, communicated and understood by all our 'clients'. It is becoming increasingly important to develop and foster a robust forensic science culture. And this also means that, despite its etymology, forensic science cannot solely be defined as a service to the Court. All our 'clients' must be catered for, including investigators and victims. Of course, this is not easy, as many directions seem to collide (e.g. requirements for delivering forensic intelligence and for managing contextual bias). However, not responding to this demand will undoubtedly lead us to drift away from the fundamental questions of security and justice that our science is supposed to address. No doubt we will continue to discuss such topics at future ANZFSS Symposia, first in Adelaide in 2014, and then in Auckland in 2016 and Perth in 2018.

I am pleased to announce that the new Rules of Association proposed and passed at the AGM in Hobart were approved by Consumer Affairs Victoria and became effective from 30 October 2012.

The Rules of Association describe how the Society operates on a national/international level. Since most of the branches are themselves incorporated, their own Rules of Association may be slightly different, however they will reflect the content that appears in the central set of Rules. These Rules can be seen at <http://anzfss.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Rules-of-Association-27-Sept-2012-V4.pdf>. Also new legislation has been passed in Victoria which will mean that there will have to be some further changes to our Rules. We will keep you informed as the Council works through these changes.

The new year will also bring some changes with respect to ANZFSS merchandise because our arrangement with Watchout Concepts will cease. A new business model will be adopted, and more information will be provided in due course. In the short-term, this means that approximately \$17,000 of merchandise already paid by the Executive will be distributed to the branches at no cost (except freight) on the basis of their membership size. Please contact your branch, as this may be an opportunity to seize a vintage ANZFSS polo shirt or USB wrist band!

Finally, we cannot wrap up the year without a thought for Linda and Ben Vining and their family. Like everyone, I was shocked and saddened by the passing of Ross, their beloved husband and father. I first met Ross at the IAFS meeting in Los Angeles in 1999. His enthusiasm for science, in general and forensic science in particular, his gentlemanly attitude and his leadership abilities were well known. I also knew he was an enthusiastic pilot. However, more than 13 years was not enough to appreciate his many facets and his passion for adventure, from rock climbing to sailing to trekking in Antarctica and so much more. It may be seen as a cliché but Ross really lived his life to the fullest. Like everyone, I will sorely miss him!

On behalf of the Executive and Council of the Australian & New Zealand Forensic Science Society, I wish you and your family a safe and happy festive season and a healthy, successful and fantastic new year.

Yours forensically,

Prof. Claude Roux
President ANZFSS



ANZFSS Annual General Meeting Sydney, 27 September 2012 President's Report

The 2012 ANZFSS Annual General Meeting formally concludes the first term in office of the current Executive. One term of two years is short in regards to the broad agenda for professionalisation that we identified as our target when we sought election at the 2010 Annual General Meeting in Sydney.

As we were constantly reminded during the week, the forensic science world is currently facing a number of challenges and experiencing significant changes. Examples include the closure of a large 'national forensic science organisation' overseas, criticisms with respect to quality, independence and efficiency coming from a number of commentators, and various reviews around the world. It is becoming increasingly important to develop and foster a robust forensic science culture. Not responding to this demand will undoubtedly lead us to drift away from the fundamental questions of security and justice that our science is supposed to address.

In this context, our Society has a unique opportunity to lead the way in making forensic science a stronger discipline and profession. The corollary is that we must be able to identify and implement the elements of professional conduct that underpin our activities.

For this reason, the Executive spent most of its time during this term in office identifying areas for improvement, organising an action plan and engaging with all the branches at Council level, as well as on the ground. The main outcomes of the first term in office can be summarised as follows:

- Adoption of quarterly business cycles for the Executive and Council meetings;
- Change of banking practice with the addition of an 'interest maximiser' account;
- Visits to all the branches by the President to engage with the broad membership, in general, and to seek feedback about our 'master plan' in particular;
- Publication of an electronic ANZFSS Newsletter;
- A new ANZFSS website with increased functionality (www.anzfss.org.au) and potential to become a 'one-stop shopfront' for membership applications and renewals in the future;
- Revised Rules of Association, primarily clarifying the role and responsibility of the ANZFSS Council vs. Executive and introducing the concept of professional practice;
- In principle-support from Council for a centrally managed membership database;
- Adelaide, Auckland and Perth identified as respective symposium venues for 2014, 2016 and 2018;
- Ongoing review of incorporation and registration requirements;
- Ongoing review of insurance requirements; and
- Ongoing review of processes with respect to merchandising.

An overall vibrant and healthy Society, with more than 1,000 members and a truly top-class international Symposium.

If re-elected, we will be fully committed to continue to pursue the professionalisation agenda we embarked on in 2010. This will include:

- A review of membership criteria and a discussion paper on professional membership;
- Review of the Code of Ethics and development of a broader code of professional conduct;
- Development of guidelines for continuing professional development;
- Development of guidelines for the organisation of symposia;
- Comprehensive review of the Rules of Association.

I wish to thank my colleagues of the Executive (and Office Bearers) who provided much-needed support and guidance during the last two years:

- Prof. James Robertson (Vice-President Australia)
- Maryanne Kregting and Matt Gittos (Vice-Presidents New Zealand)
- Assoc. Prof. James Wallman (Secretary)
- Prof. Chris Lennard (Treasurer)
- Anna Davey (Public Officer)
- Bill Crick (Immediate Past President)

I also wish to thank all Branch Presidents for their input into the National Council and for their cooperation in general. And ultimately, I thank all the members of the Society. Without you, there would be no Society, and you can rest assured that you have been central to any discussion that we have had this year, be at the Executive or Council levels.

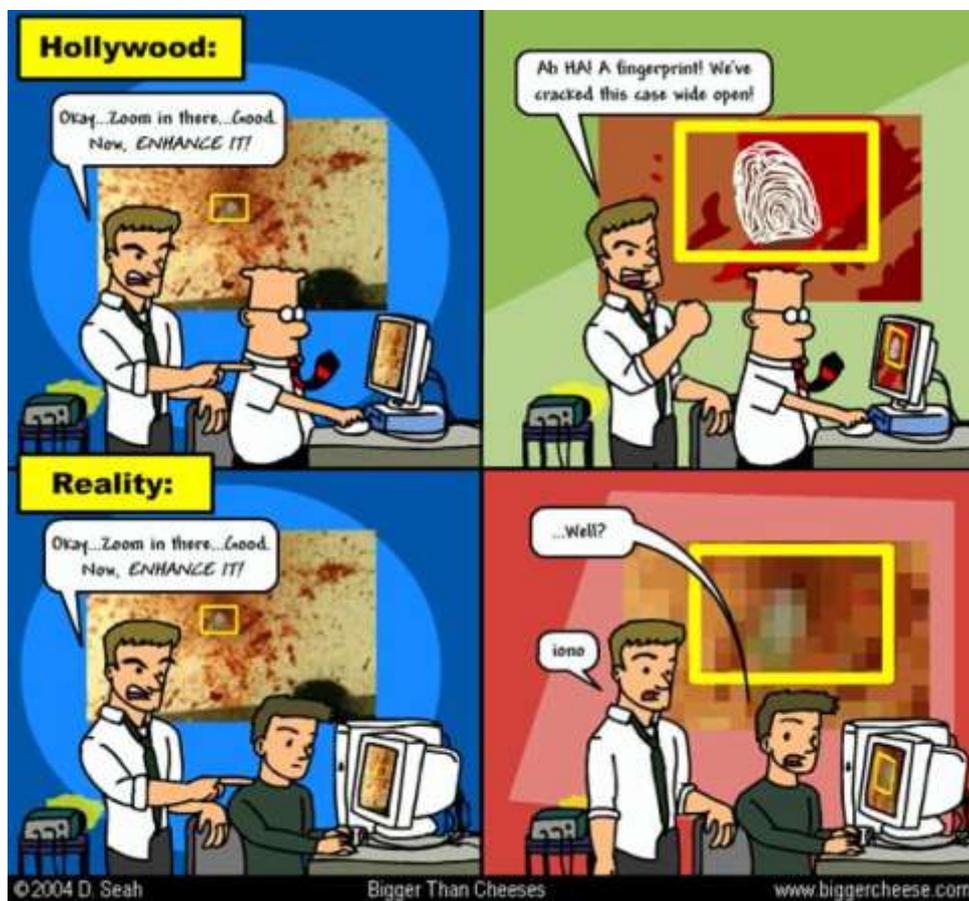
I take this opportunity to congratulate Gerard Dutton and the Tasmanian Organising Committee on a fantastic symposium. The feedback so far has been unanimously positive. I now look forward to the Official Dinner...



AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Allan Hodda Memorial Award is offered each year to allow a member of the ANZFSS to travel to any destination to further their own study, attend a notable forensic meeting or visit a laboratory of their choice. The Award is bestowed upon the applicant who can best demonstrate how they will benefit from this opportunity both personally and professionally. This year, we received ten very competitive applications of high standard and the choice was not easy. For this reason, the ANZFSS Council is particularly pleased to announce the 2012 winner of the Allan Hodda Memorial Award: **Dr Runa Daniel** (Victoria). Congratulations Runa! We all look forward to your report at the next ANZFSS Symposium and perhaps a story in the ANZFSS Newsletter...

The Ian Riebeling Memorial Medal is awarded to the best new practitioner who presents either a poster or paper at each ANZFSS International Symposium every two years. To be eligible, for the medal, the practitioner must have begun their career in the two years prior to the symposium. This year's Ian Riebeling Memorial Medal goes to **Ashleigh Fox** (New Zealand) for a paper entitled *Exploring the recovery of mRNA and DNA from chemically treated finger-marks in blood*. Congratulations Ashleigh; this is an excellent way to start your forensic career!



Jacqui Wilson—President, Qld Branch



Jacqui has been a scientist for 18 years having graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Science in 1995. She initially spent 11 years working with Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology working in various hospital laboratories across Brisbane that provide pathology services primarily to dedicated day patient Haematology & Oncology Clinics.

Jacqui then completed a Master of Science in Forensic Science in 2007.

Her forensic career began in 2006 upon commencement of employment with Queensland Health Forensic & Scientific Services within the DNA Analysis Unit where she is currently employed in the role of a Reporting Scientist.

Jacqui has been actively involved with ANZFSS for many years, has been a Queensland ANZFSS Branch committee member for a couple of years prior to taking on the roles of Treasurer in 2009 and President in 2012.

Darren Bails—President, SA Branch



An ANZFSS member since 1999, Darren has been on the SA Branch Committee since 2002 and served as Vice President, Branch President from 2005 to 2007, and now has been re-elected as President in the lead-up to the 2014 symposium in Adelaide.

Darren is currently a Training and Development Officer in the SA Police Forensic Services Branch and the Forensic Register Administrator and Project Leader for the Forensic Digital Implementation Project.

An Adelaide boy through and through, Darren joined South Australia Police in 1981. He spent his early career at general patrols, traffic, city watch house and country policing in idyllic Port Lincoln before accepting a position in the Technical Services Branch as a Police Photographer in 1989. Completing a Diploma of Photography (Commercial) and an Advanced Diploma in Policing, Darren also holds a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. A recipient of the Michael Duffy Travel Fellowship in 2004, Darren travelled internationally researching CCTV management and practices and has presented at three ANZFSS Symposia.

Whilst posted to the Police Photographic Section, Darren has been involved in the introduction of many new technological aids. Following a short stint as the Intelligence Imaging Specialist in the Investigation Support Branch, he returned to Forensic Services Branch in 2007 as a trainer, specialising in forensic and crime scene imaging, and information management applications. He is the current SAPOL representative in the Digital Imaging SWG within the Electronic Evidence Specialist Advisory Group and was Chair from 2008 to 2012, and Chair of the working group to revise the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines on Digital Imaging Processes in 2012.



Tribute to Professor Ross Vining - A Life Well Led

Professor Ross Vining, Director of Forensic Science SA (FSSA) was tragically killed on Thursday, 15 November 2012, when his SeaRey light aircraft crashed in Far North Queensland. Ross is well known to all in forensic science circles for his intellect, leadership and passion for science; but he led a double life, packing much into those hours

when he was not running scientific organisations.

Ross was a chemist by training, holding a BSc (Hons) in Pure and Applied Chemistry and a PhD in Nuclear Chemistry, both from the University of New South Wales. He began his scientific career in 1976, researching sex hormones at the Garvan Institute. His management capabilities were soon realised and in 1984 he was appointed Scientist-in-Charge of the Hormone Assay Service and then in 1986, Head of the Garvan's Diagnostic Hormone Assay Service. He combined this latter responsibility with study for his Masters in Business Administration. He topped the course in several topics, including winning the Westpac Prize for the most outstanding MBA student in "Venture Capital Finance".

In 1990, he moved back to Sydney to take up a role as General Manager of St Vincent's Pathology and in 1993 was appointed Deputy Director of the Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research (ICPMR) for the Western Sydney Area Health Service. The ICPMR included in its portfolio the forensic science laboratories of the Division of Analytical Laboratories (DAL), beginning Ross' love with forensic science. In 2004, Ross became Director of the ICPMR, but in 2008 was lured south to head up FSSA in Adelaide. At the time of his death, Ross was also Chair of the Senior Managers of Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Laboratories (SMANZFL) and preparing for the annual meeting in December.

But behind this highly successful career, Ross was busy doing so much more. At his funeral service his wife, Linda spoke of the four dimensions to Ross' life; his career, his adventuring, his flying and his family.

At University, he was a member of the Mountaineering Club, pioneering new climbing routes in the Blue Mountains. He was a white water canoeist and amongst the first to canoe down the Franklin River in the 1970s. He took up hang gliding when the sport was in its infancy, which is why he often walked with a limp. Between 1981 and 1987, he organised and led three major, private expeditions to Antarctica, combining scientific, conservation and adventure objectives. This included an expedition to Heard Island, where his team became the first to climb its tallest peak, Big Ben, Australia's highest mountain and only active volcano. Amongst other things, he was also a scuba diver, cross country skier and sailor.

And he was a pilot. He held a Twin Engine Commercial pilots licence, with command instrument rating, as well as an aerobatic licence. Ross had over 2000 hours of command experience flying in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and USA. He built two SeaRey amphibious light aircraft and was editor of the SeaRey newsletter. He loved nothing more

than flying low absorbing the landscape and landing on waterways.

The fourth dimension to Ross' life was his family. He and his wife Linda were a team; Ross the analytical, technologically oriented one, Linda the artistic communicator and marketeer. Many of Ross' ideas were reworked and fine-tuned with Linda over dinner or weekend caravanning trips. Although only in South Australia for 5 years, Ross and Linda made their mark on their local community. They befriended a Sudanese family, helped put the husband through a truck driving school to assist him gain employment and were making sure the children gained a good education. Ross loved adventure and spent considerable time with his son Ben, teaching him the wonders of nature, the outdoor life and more recently, flying. Ben spoke movingly at the service about the gap that Ross would leave in not only his own life but also that of the family he plans to have with his fiancée Sophie.

At the time of his accident, Ross was completing one of his major ambitions, to fly around the coast of Australia. Far North Queensland was the last piece. He had flown to Cairns with some others to watch the eclipse and wrote a captivating email describing his unbridled joy of witnessing the eclipse at 7,000 feet. From there he left his friends and flew up to the top of Cape York Peninsula, over-nighting at Bamaga. On the Thursday he flew south towards Weipa, but did not arrive.

It was Ross' integrity, commitment and enduring fascination for science that made him an outstanding Director of Forensic Science SA. He understood the value of research to an organisation such as FSSA and forged close ties with South Australia's universities. He encouraged staff to participate in research projects and to supervise students. He talked enthusiastically about technology and the breakthroughs he had recently read about.

Ross worked tirelessly as a leader and manager. He understood how organisations work and the importance of staff. His dedication and enthusiasm earned the respect and affection of his colleagues at FSSA. He was a great mentor and used his experience to good effect. He believed that scientists should be able to communicate in a way that makes their work interesting to the community. He had a strong aversion to cluttered Power Point Presentations with masses of text and data and revolutionised the way FSSA staff presented scientific posters.

Despite his considerable accomplishments, Ross was a humble person and this is probably why the extent of his achievements is not widely known. No sitting around describing the one that got away, Ross was too busy catching the next big fish.

His funeral service was held at the Cruising Yacht Club of South Australia, with many of his forensic science colleagues attending from around Australia and New Zealand. Ross had been undertaking his survival-at-sea courses there in preparation for this year's Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race and he and Linda had developed an affinity for the Club, its ambience and its views.

Ross will be remembered by many for his integrity, drive and commitment to whatever he was undertaking. Ross will be sorely missed by his family, mother Joyce, wife Linda, son Ben, Ben's fiancée Sophie and his colleagues from FSSA and further afield.

A truly great individual, his passion for science and enthusiasm for life and adventure is a lingering inspiration to us all. Vale.

Chris Pearman
FSSA

In addition to the very sad passing of Ross Vining, we are also saddened to hear of the passing of two further well-respected members of the forensic science community:

Graeme Johnstone

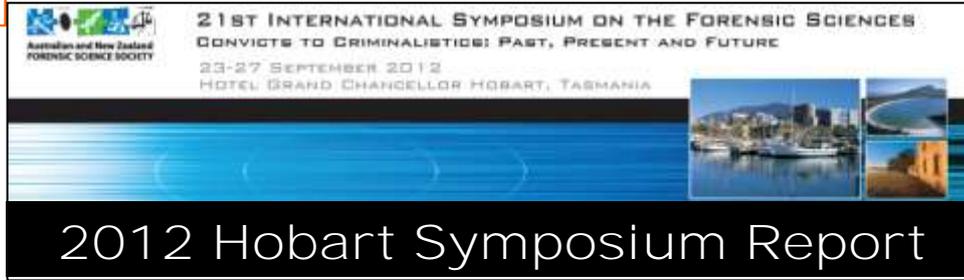
Graeme was the Victorian State Coroner from 1995—2007, after which time he returned to the Magistrate's Court. While State Coroner, he was also a member of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine's Council. Graeme's passion for coronership centred on his belief, that unless the learning from the Coroners' work was being applied to reduce accident and injury, huge opportunities were being lost. Over time, he convinced his colleagues locally and nationally to adopt this belief. Together with the VIFM, a number of significant initiatives were begun and developed. Principally, these were the NCIS, the Clinical Liaison Service and the Workplace Related Liaison Service (looking at deaths in the workplace). Graeme's view of this purpose for coronial work was endorsed by the Parliamentary Law Reform Committee's review of the *Coroners Act*, and was subsequently incorporated in the *Coroners Act* 2008.

Graeme was also a strong supporter of ANZFSS, serving both on the Victorian Committee and as President of the Victorian Branch.

Mac Vivian Clapperton

Mac was a Forensic Chemist for many years and was one of the founders of the Queensland Branch. He attended many meetings in the 1980s and 1990s.





2012 Hobart Symposium Report

From the 23rd to the 27th September 2012, the Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ANZFSS) held their 21st International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart. The event was a great success, attracting 780 delegates from 34 countries, including such far away places as Russia, Iran, Botswana, Norway and Tanzania to name just a few.

The last time the Symposium was held in Tasmania was 1992, when a very modest 170 delegates attended. The ANZFSS Symposium is now one of the largest in the world, rivalling the European Academy of Forensic Science (EAFS) and the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) meetings in quality and delegate attendance, despite our smaller local population base.

The Hobart meeting was over three years in the planning, with the Organising Committee consisting of Sgt Gerard Dutton from Tasmania Police, Dr Paul Holloway and Ms Claire Fulton from Forensic Science Service Tasmania, and Associate Professor Roberta Julian from the University of Tasmania. Of course, many dozens of other individuals and members from the local branch of ANZFSS and from interstate branches also pitched in by helping with various tasks as we prepared for the event.

Book-ended by thirteen workshops with a two day "Death Investigation/Forensic Pathology Seminar" amongst others, the four main days of the symposium consisted of morning plenary sessions with eleven high profile and respected commentators from Australia and overseas; the international plenary speakers flying in from the UK, USA, Austria, Canada and Switzerland.

The remainder of each day was then spent in concurrent sessions where delegates had the choice of attending any of seven different rooms running simultaneously, where presentations in different forensic disciplines were scheduled. Over 50 keynote and 230 other oral

presentations were delivered across all disciplines, with another 200 scientific posters adorning the walls of the venue. One of the few complaints was that there were too many interesting talks scheduled at the same time!

The forensic disciplines represented included:

- Archaeology, Anthropology and Odontology
- Biological Criminalistics
- Biometrics
- Blood Pattern Analysis
- Chemical Criminalistics
- Crime Scene Investigation
- Document Investigation
- Education and Training
- Electronic Evidence
- Fingerprint Examination
- Firearms and Toolmarks
- Fires and Explosives
- Illicit Drugs and Clandestine Laboratories
- Management and Quality Assurance
- Pathology and Clinical Medicine
- Science and Justice
- Toxicology and Pharmacology
- Wildlife Forensics, Entomology and Botany

A number of other meetings and Annual General Meetings (AGM) were held by affiliated societies during the week, including the ANZFSS AGM on the Thursday afternoon to deal with business matters. It is apparent that when so many specialists and subject matter experts gather in the one place at the one time the chance to conduct discipline specific meetings is too good an opportunity to pass, as it is one of the few times every two years when so many experts from around the world are together. A large exhibition and trade show was also held during the week giving delegates an opportunity to assess new equipment and speak to industry representatives.

One of the characteristics of the ANZFSS symposium is the strong social program and I was told by some of our international delegates this is missing from many forensic conferences overseas. Social activities were planned for

every evening and this gave delegates the opportunity to informally network, make new friends and chat with old ones. It cannot be underestimated how much good work gets done at these social events, particularly as there is limited time to converse in depth during the day due to the very busy schedule.

For me, the highlight of the social program was the Official Reception at Government House on Monday night, hosted by His Excellency the Honourable Peter Underwood, Governor of Tasmania and Mrs Underwood. Numbers were unfortunately limited to 270 for this event, with all who attended stating they were very impressed with His Excellency's hospitality. The exterior and interior of this magnificent sandstone building are exquisite and to drink a glass of smooth red wine in such splendour, whilst eating Tasmanian oysters and other delicacies, listening to duets being played by two gifted musicians on double bass and violin was an outstanding and very memorable experience.

Many who attended the week would argue that the masquerade ball at the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) the following evening was the highlight and it is hard to counter this. Interstate and overseas delegates who have never been to MONA were gobsmacked by the venue and as a location to hold a social event for hundreds of people, there can't be many better. Almost everyone who was there got into the spirit of the night and wore masks, including all the MONA staff. The food was excellent, the drinks kept flowing and everyone agreed it was a brilliant night. Tasmania is blessed that David Walsh not only decided to build that extraordinary building and showcase his eclectic art collection in Hobart but that he allows functions to be held there.

Overall, the symposium was greatly enjoyed by all who attended and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Very pleasing comments were received from Dwight Adams, Director of the Forensic Science Institute, University of Central Oklahoma USA. Dwight was one of our Plenary Speakers and in 2006, he retired as Director of the FBI Laboratory in Quantico, Virginia, USA – one of the largest and most complex laboratories of its type in the world, with an operating budget of more than \$100 million and 700 staff. Dwight said that he had participated in international meetings throughout the world and that the ANZFSS symposium was the finest international conference he had ever attended. He stated, "The organisational preparations and the attention to detail for this gathering were superb".

This is fantastic testimony to all the hard work put in by a large group of people, particularly from the Tasmanian branch of ANZFSS. My profound thanks must go to my colleagues on the Organising Committee, Anna Boyes from Conference Design and all the many others who pitched in in numerous ways. Unfortunately, they cannot all be mentioned here for that list is a lengthy one but all helped to make the symposium such a memorable one. I also thank Commissioner Darren Hine and His Excellency the Governor for participating in the Opening Ceremony.

At the time of going to press, the financial position was being finalised and we were on track to realise a profit of around \$100,000. This bodes well to fund the future activities of the Society, not the least being travel scholarships for members to attend subsequent conferences. For those who missed out on attending Hobart, photos from all aspects of the event can be viewed via the ANZFSS website (<http://anzfss.org.au/international-symposium>).

The next ANZFSS Symposium is scheduled for Adelaide from the 31st August to the 4th September 2014, followed by Auckland in 2016. I have no doubt these will also be terrific events which will again fly the ANZFSS flag high, confirming that Australia and New Zealand can more than hold our own in the forensic sciences when compared to other developed countries.

Gerard Dutton



ANZFSS Twenty14 update

The buzz from Hobart is slowly fading, but the memories remain. MONA is indelibly etched into our minds as the new standard for midweek 'networking' nights – and as a new Organising Committee, this sets probably an unachievable goal to be matched. But as each state (or country) puts their own flavour into every Symposium, so will Adelaide. We have some events planned that should entertain and amuse (and maybe even educate...), so stay tuned for more details.

On to the scientific side, the Scientific Discipline Chair has been appointed and we would like to welcome Professor Adrian Linacre from Flinders University into this role. He will be coordinating the Discipline Contacts and selecting a list of candidates very shortly to assist him in the process of screening the abstract submissions to produce a varied and informative program.

Carolyn Bird is our Workshop Coordinator and will be in charge of ensuring we have a great workshop program associated with the Symposium, and to assist all workshop facilitators in finding venues, costing out workshops, and having everything they need on the day.

We are currently in the process of listing and contacting sponsors/potential sponsors to ensure we get the level of support we need to make the Twenty14 Symposium a financial as well as social and scientific success. The sponsorship prospectus is about to be sent to the designer so will be available soon. The trade exhibition is also very important for the vendors we deal with to be able to ply their wares in person and put names to faces in the forensic community.

To everyone out there we ask a favour. Send us your ideas and suggestions for Plenary Speakers. As you all know we only have a limited number of funded positions for Plenary Speakers and these must be carefully selected so they reflect the theme and reputation of the Symposium. But we need you, as practitioners, to assist us by suggesting high-profile, maybe controversial, but certainly engaging speakers from your fields that we can select from.

The website is up and running at www.anzfss2014.com.au and if you have a spare 2 minutes 49 seconds, watch the video to get excited for 2014. We will be updating the website as we progress, so register to receive updates and don't miss out on any news.

Sgt. Darren Bails
ANZFSS Twenty14 Organising Committee

And if the ANZFSS Symposia weren't enough



Next September, Melbourne will play host to the 25th Congress of the International Society for Forensic Genetics. Not only is this the first time the ISFG has come to Australia, but it has only been held outside of Europe three times since its inception in 1969. This is a tremendous opportunity to showcase Australasian cutting-edge forensic genetic research and for early career forensic biologists and research students to meet the leaders in this field. It is also a privilege to be delegated the responsibility to host the 25th congress here in Australia.

The congress will run for six days with three days given over to workshops. The workshops are delivered by a who's who of forensic DNA with 15 international tutors to complement seven Australasian forensic geneticists. These workshops include: DNA Interpretation (standard), DNA Interpretation (advanced), DVI, Genomic Technologies, Body Fluid Typing, Forensic Phenotypic Testing, Ancestral Genetic Markers, Wildlife Forensic Science, Lineage Markers, and Ethical Issues with DNA typing. The conference part of the programme will start with an opening address from Prof. Sir Alec Jeffreys, who for many will be known as the founding father of DNA fingerprinting, yet few in Australasia have ever heard him speak yet alone met. The opening address will be followed by three packed days of oral presentations, including six invited speakers. The venue for the conference is the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre set on the banks of the Yarra and offering an excellent auditorium, extensive space for posters and sponsor exhibitors.

One of the hallmarks of an ISFG congress is that there is a mixture of presentations on methods that will be incorporated into forensic practice in the near future, and also concepts that are still distant but illustrate the potential of new technologies. It is unlikely that an ISFG congress will come back to Australasia for the foreseeable future so for many, this will be a once in a career opportunity to meet and talk to fellow forensic biologists from all around the world. The ISFG will leave a legacy for attendees from Australia and New Zealand who have never had the opportunity to attend a meeting of this significance before. It is notable that ISFG membership from Australia and New Zealand has increased from nine in 2010 to 39 currently. The difference in registration fee is equivalent to two years membership so there is an incentive to join. Anyone wishing to join requires two nominations of current members and if this is a problem please ask Linzi Wilson-Wilde (ANZPAA NIFS) or myself.

I first went to an ISFG congress in 1997 and have witnessed the number of delegates, and the number of countries represented, grow enormously. The ISFG is now truly the premier international DNA meeting of its kind. With this in mind, many of my colleagues in Europe and the US are already looking forward to visiting Melbourne next year. For many this will be their first time to this part of the world. All will return with great memories of the science, new friends, the city of Melbourne, and Australia.

Adrian Linacre
President of the 25th Congress of the ISFG



Wrap-up from WA

The WA Branch AGM was held on the 3rd December 2012. The 2012/13 committee are:

- Hadyn Green APM, President
- Kari Pitts, Vice-President and Membership Officer
- Denise McKenna, Secretary
- Robert Warburton, Treasurer

The newly created position of Membership Officer will coordinate the local administrative work and will be assisting with new initiatives:

- Commencing in 2013, new members will be issued with a certificate of membership upon joining the Society, to be presented at the next meeting.
- To make committee members more visible and approachable by new members, name badges have been ordered and will be worn at general gatherings.

The WA Branch will also continue its annual sponsorship of students at the Edith Cowan University, in terms of donating a \$200 prize for the best student in digital forensics.

News from New Zealand

Well, things have been very exciting since NZ was appointed the host branch for the 2016 ANZFSS Symposium. It has created a real buzz in NZ and we are greatly looking forward to showcasing our country and our science. The NZFSS Council have elected NZFSS council member and ESR Forensic Biologist, Sarah Scott, as our Chairperson of the 2016 Symposium Organising Committee. So warm congratulations to Sarah, who is to lead and manage the organisation of the Auckland 2016 Symposium. Many of you will know Sarah from previous ANZFSS Symposia. In fact, Sarah has attended four of the last five ANZFSS Symposia, so she has great ideas, energy and the necessary skills for this role. We have every confidence that the Organising Committee will deliver a world class conference in 2016.

Sarah and her team are currently in the process of engaging a Professional Conference Organiser to help with the organisation of the Symposium. Our first priority is to support Adelaide 2014 but we will be busy working away behind the scenes to ensure that we are fully ready to launch our Symposium at Adelaide.

Since the Hobart Symposium, NZFSS have hosted two very interesting and diverse presentation evenings. The Wellington Branch hosted Mr. Peter Graham, author of the book 'So Brilliantly Clever', which detailed the particularly grim and infamous murder of Honora Rieper in conservative 1954 Christchurch. The news that this horrific crime had been committed by two teenage girls, one of them the victim's daughter, shocked the world. Our Australian colleagues may recollect this homicide as it was portrayed in the 1994 film 'Heavenly Creatures', directed by Peter Jackson.

The Auckland Branch hosted New Zealand Police Criminal Profiler, Clinical Psychologist and English sports car enthusiast and single malt lover, David Scott, who was also a 2012 NZFSS Travel Award recipient and presented at the symposium in Hobart. David's presentation was very well attended and I hope to twist his arm into coming back for a second instalment next year. We also thank the NZ Police for enabling David to speak about his work with the Criminal Profiling Unit.

We wish all ANZFSS members and their families a very Merry Christmas and look forward to working with you all in the New Year.

Warm regards to all

Matthew Gittos
NZFSS President

Introducing Sarah Scott 2016 Symposium Organising Committee Chair

Sarah has always been a top scholar and has the accolades to match. After being Dux of her high school, she went on to achieve top honours in each of her university degrees. Sarah holds a Bachelor of Business Studies majoring in finance, and a Bachelor of Science majoring in biochemistry, both from Massey University. Sarah was awarded a Massey Scholarship from the College of Business as well as being on the prestigious Pro Vice Chancellors Merit List for the College of Sciences. She then went on to complete a Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic Science from the University of Auckland.

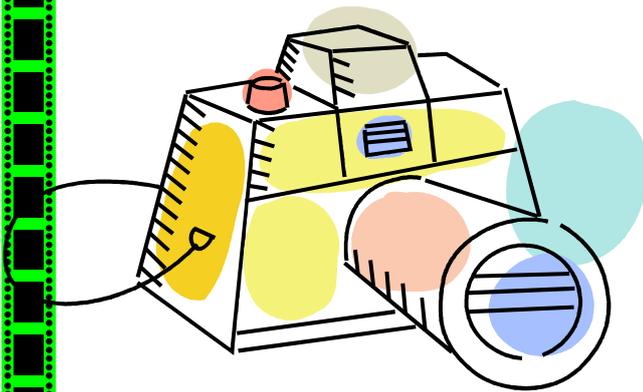


Realising a passion for forensic sciences, Sarah joined the Forensic Biology Group of ESR on the completion of her university education and she has not looked back in the 11 years since. Sarah has progressed through numerous roles within the team up to her current role of Scientist, specialising in forensic biology and DNA analysis. Amongst other things during this career, Sarah spent a period of time undertaking research work for the NZ biotechnology company ZyGEM Corporation, providing forensic validation as they entered the competitive biotechnology market.

Sarah has been an active member of the NZ branch of ANZFSS throughout her career and has been on the NZFSS Council since 2010. Sarah is also an active Toastmaster, currently at the level of Advanced Toastmaster Bronze, Advanced Leader Bronze. She is a past club President and Auckland Toastmaster of the Year. Sarah has won numerous Toastmasters awards and contests, including third place in the NZ Speech Evaluation finals in 2009. Sarah has also been involved with the establishment of a Toastmasters club at the Mount Albert Science Centre campus and won a trip to represent NZ at the Toastmasters International Convention in Las Vegas in 2011.

Sarah describes herself as a convention junkie. As well as regular participation in Toastmasters conventions, Sarah has attended and presented at numerous scientific conventions throughout NZ, Australia and USA, including four of the last five ANZFSS Symposia. Sarah is very excited at the opportunity to be involved with organising such a well-regarded, professional and fun symposium as ANZFSS. She believes she has the necessary skills to produce another high quality symposium and is relishing the opportunity to do so.

EESAG Advanced Alternate Light Source Photography Workshop



Preceding the EESAG meeting in Canberra this year was a workshop to examine methods of photography using alternate light sources as an enhancement medium. Twelve enthusiastic attendees from a variety of disciplines and mixture of police and forensic organisations attended the workshop, to be treated to an array of technical presentations, case studies, and a hands-on session with some of the equipment used in recent research projects that demon-

strate the techniques presented on different substrates.

An emerging trend is the use of modified digital SLR cameras as a screening tool for blood stains on dark clothing and substrates, and both South Australia and Victoria have adopted these cameras for this purpose, with other jurisdictions keen to get on board.

The different reflectivity of a variety of seemingly-similar dark-coloured fabrics was noted and prompted suggestions of further research required to identify the spectral response differences for similar-coloured fabric. Other novel uses for alternate light sources were also presented, including surveillance, fingerprint detection, bite-mark and tattoo enhancement, and the detection of capsicum spray residues.

While there was some crossover research identified due to a lack of awareness about what projects other agencies are running, there are moves afoot within EESAG to maintain a register of imaging-related research that may be of interest to other agencies. This will enable targeted research that is based on results of similar projects in other jurisdictions and provide contact details for key personnel. There was also a request to publish as much research as possible, to enable peer review and minimise duplication.

In the end, this workshop prompted discussion and ideas about the future of alternate light source photography in forensic agencies. The avenues for future research are widespread and include the appearance of different materials under infra-red and visible light, detecting blood under paint, chemical composition of fabrics and its impact on infra-red reflectivity, occurrence of false positives, and the application of these methods in the field.

Thanks must go to Chris Flight and Stuart Cross for their work in organising the workshop, ANZPAA NIFS for their support, AFP for hosting the workshop, and all attendees for their eager involvement on the day.

Sgt. Darren Bails (SAPOL)
Chair (2008-2012)
Digital Imaging Scientific Working Group

FROSTY GETS CAUGHT
PICKING HIS NOSE



Merry
Christmas