Message from the Director

I will be retiring from my position at ANZPAA NIFS on Friday, 3 July 2015 and so this will be the last ANZPAA NIFS News for me.

I have had a direct involvement in NIFS and ANZPAA NIFS either as Director or Board member since NIFS began operations in 1992. I have had the privilege of watching closely the changes in the forensic science community during that time.

There have been marked changes resulting in what I describe as a very close knit Australia New Zealand forensic science community. That does not mean a community that is always of the same view, but a community that is collectively willing to vigorously debate and assess complex issues and much more often than not, come to a consensus position.

There is no doubt that ANZPAA NIFS has played a role in that along with the Senior Managers of Australian and New Zealand Forensic Laboratories (SMANZFL) and the Specialist Advisory Groups (SAGs). Focusing on the ANZPAA NIFS role for a moment, it has been made much easier by the fact that the forensic science community has the will, energy and commitment to make ANZPAA NIFS work. Australian and New Zealand forensic science is where it is today, at least up with the leaders internationally, because of that sustained and united effort.

The Police Ministers and Commissioners had the vision and commitment to establish NIFS in 1991 and we owe them our gratitude. Through the recent reviews, ANZPAA NIFS will change in terms of governance and funding arrangements.

However, it will likely be in a position following the review to have a greater capacity to work with, and impact the forensic science community and the justice system.

For my part it has been an absolute pleasure to work with, and for you and I sincerely appreciate all of the support that I personally, and ANZPAA NIFS organisationally have received over an extended period of time.

The team at ANZPAA NIFS are fantastic to work with and while obviously there have been some changes in 23 years, all have made a significant and lasting contribution.

Thank you to you all.

Alastair Ross AM
Director, ANZPAA NIFS

ANZPAA NIFS Update: Forensic Projects

End-to-end Forensic Investigation Process Project Phase 2

This project is a repeat of the End-to-End project phase 1 conducted between May and September 2011. The proposal to repeat this project was approved by the ANZPAA Board out-of-session at the end of January 2015. The aim of this repeat run is to measure improvements by the different jurisdictions against the baseline data. It will be conducted in the same 17 participating sites as phase 1, from 1 May to 30 September 2015.

The project team met at ANZPAA NIFS beginning of April 2015. Contact officers have been nominated by each of the 13 participating agencies. Their role is to collate data from non-aggravated burglary residential and non-residential burglary into a spreadsheet.
The data collated is extensive, commencing with the time and date the burglary is reported to the police and the time and date as the evidence moves through each of the five stages of the project (scene attendance, evidence submission, analysis, identification through database, and investigation).

The first round of data is to be sent to the ANZPAA NIFS project officer on 10 June 2015. The data will then be updated on a monthly basis with new data added to the spreadsheet. Data collection should be finalised by mid-December with a final report being available by April 2016.

The project team thanks the jurisdictions for their commitment and interest in this project.

**Interfaces Project Phase 2**

The Interfaces project phase 1 was conducted between 2011 and 2012. The proposal to repeat this project was approved by the ANZPAA Board out-of-session at the end of January 2015.

The key objectives were to identify communication patterns between medicine, science, law enforcement and law currently applied across Australia in the context of homicide and sexual assault investigations.

The aim of the phase 2 is to develop a flowchart of the range of disciplines and agencies involved in the complete process of child and adult sexual assault within Western Australia and develop a 'storyboard' for online awareness training for the agencies involved.

The contract for the project has been signed and the project will be carried out through the Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies (TILES).

The project team met in Hobart at the end of April 2015. Data collection, through interviews, is expected to begin in August 2015 with a final report being available by April 2016.

**ISO International Standard**

The development of the international ISO standard ISO/DIS 18385 – “Minimizing the risk of human DNA contamination in products used to collect and analyze biological material for forensic purposes” was discussed at the last TC 272 meeting Friday 24 to Monday 27 April 2015 in Washington, USA. The Committee resolved comments received from member country and resolved to forward the Standard to publication. This is great news for the international community. The Standard will now go for translation and then to ISO member countries for final voting. It is hoped the Standard will be published by the end of 2015.

At the TC 272 meeting in Washington the conversion of the PC to a TC was discussed and a Business Plan for the officially permanent committee is being developed. This will result in a new committee structure and new work items commenced if signed off by member countries and the ISO Technical Management Board.

**Rapid DNA Project**

ANZPAA NIFS has been working with New South Wales Police, Victoria Police, Australian Federal Police and CrimTrac to assess commercially available Rapid DNA instruments. Rapid DNA instruments are instruments that can analyse samples for DNA profile information in a very short space of time (approximately 90 minutes) without human intervention – i.e. sample into results out in one instrument. The testing of the instruments and data analysis is complete and the report has been distributed to the forensic science community.

The next stage of the project will look at a new Biochip released by one company that has been designed for low level DNA samples. Victoria Police will be conducting the analysis. The project is currently in the planning phase and testing is due to commence in June 2015.

**Forensic Intelligence**

Comments on the working draft have been received from some of the participants and others will follow in the week beginning 18 May 2015. Once the comments have been considered the document will be circulated for comment.

**Ethylene Oxide Project**

This project with University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and New South Wales Forensic and Analytical Science Service (FASS) was to investigate the effects of ethylene oxide (EO) treatment of forensic consumables on downstream DNA analysis. The project will also investigate the residual levels of EO following treatment and the dissipation rates on various non-porous consumables. EO is highly carcinogenic and therefore the dissipation rates will be important to ensure correct use of the consumables.
NIFS AWARDS FOR 2014

BEST PAPER IN A REFEREED JOURNAL

Winner

Duncan Taylor, Jo-Anne Bright and John Buckleton for their article ‘The interpretation of single source and mixed DNA profiles’.

Highly Commended

David DeTata, Peter Collins and Allan McKinley for their article ‘A fast liquid chromatography quadrupole time-of-flight mass spectrometry(LC-QToF-MS) method for the identification of organic explosives and propellants’.

Highly Commended

Marie Morelato, Simon Baechler, Olivier Ribaux, Alison Beavis, Mark Tahtouh, Paul Kirkbride, Claude Roux and Pierre Margot for their article ‘Forensic intelligence framework – Part 1: Induction of a transversal model by comparing illicit drugs and false identity documents monitoring’.

BEST TECHNICAL ARTICLE OR NOTE

Winner

Kylie Jones, Sarah Benson and Claude Roux for their article ‘The forensic analysis of office paper using carbon isotope ratio mass spectrometry-Part 2: Method development, validation and sample handling’.

Highly Commended

Jo-Anne Bright, Duncan Taylor, James Curran and John Buckleton for their article ‘Searching mixed DNA profiles directly against profile databases’.

BEST CHAPTER IN A BOOK

Winner

Robert Hayes, Sally Kelty and Roberta Julian for their article ‘The Impact of Forensic Evidence on Criminal Justice. Evidence from case processing studies’.

Highly Commended

Darren Quick, Ben Martini and Kim-Kwang Raymond Choo for their article ‘Forensic collection of cloud storage data: Does the act of collection result in changes to the data or its metadata?’

BEST LITERATURE REVIEW

Winner

Kerryn Mason, Jonathon Herbst, Roger Byard, John Gilbert, Cheryl Charlwood, Karen Heath, Carl Winskog and Neil Langlois for their article ‘Heat-related deaths in Adelaide, South Australia: Review of the literature and case findings – An Australian perspective’.

BEST CASE STUDY

Winner

Roger Byard, Chong Zhou, John Gilbert and Andrea Yool for their article ‘Basal epithelial formalin pigment deposition in the kidneys – A useful marker for ketoacidosis at autopsy’.

THE HENRY DELAFORCE AWARD

Winner

Sergeant Gerard Dutton. ‘A case study of the interpretation of extraordinary toolmarks on a fatal bullet’.

Reports

Overseas Travel report

This report, by Dr Linzi Wilson-Wilde covers the following meetings held in Washington 22-30 April 2015:

- Site Visits:
  - National Institute of Science and Technology 22 April 2015
  - Consolidated Forensic Laboratories 23 April 2015.
ISO TC272 - Forensic sciences meeting 24-26 April 2015.

International Forensic Strategic Alliance meeting 27 April 2015.

American Society for Crime Laboratory Directors Annual Symposium 28-30 April 2015.

Site Visits

The visit to the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST) was very informative and information on the status of Rapid DNA in the USA and developments in DNA were discussed.

A meeting was also arranged with the NIST individuals in charge of facilitating the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSACs) – Mark Stolorow, John Paul Jones II and Karen Reczek. The OSACs have a budget of US$3 million per year. The OSACs are an ongoing entity that are responsible for:

1. conducting a review of all forensic related standards and maintaining a database
2. establishing an endorsed list of approved/accepted forensic standards
3. the development of new standards.

The adoption/approval of standards onto the registry can be achieved by the OSACs through:

1. reviewing and adopting existing standards
2. developing standards through existing standard development organisations
3. development of standards through an OSAC process (to be established).

Affiliate membership is available to Australian and New Zealand experts via an online application: https://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac-application.cfm

The OSAC process is headed by the Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB), under which are three general Committees (Legal Resource, Quality Infrastructure and Human factors) and five Scientific Area Committees (Biology/DNA, Chemistry/Instrumental Analysis, Crime Scene/Death Investigation, Digital/Multimedia and Physics/Pattern). The work on Standards development however is conducted by Subcommittees, of which there are 24.

There is no crime scene subcommittee, as it was not viewed as a separate discipline; it is now under consideration along with a number of other committees that could be established.

The visit to the Washington laboratory was a useful exchange, in particular around the issues in DNA interpretation at the laboratory, the FBI hair examination issue with court testimony and the New York scientists suspension due to cheating on a proficiency test.

ISO TC 272 - Forensic Sciences Meeting

The fourth meeting of PC 272 was hosted by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD). Two Australian representatives attended – Dr Linzi Wilson-Wilde and David Neville, both funded by Standards Australia.

The Committee worked through the 188 comments received during the Draft International Standard Phase of ISO 18385 and by the end of the meeting the Committee resolved to progress the Standard through to Publication.
The Standard has been edited incorporating the decisions of the Committee meeting and will go to ISO for translation and then to member countries for voting. It is anticipated that if approved, the Standard will be published in the second half of 2015.

The Committee also considered the recent approval by ISO for the change in the Committee from a Project Committee (PC) to a Technical Committee (TC). The now TC 272 resolved that the title of the Committee will be TC 272 – Forensic Sciences. The scope was resolved as ‘Standardization in the field of forensic science’. This includes the products, techniques, methodology and reporting in broad general areas of forensic science such as: detection, collection and preservation of physical evidence, Analysis and interpretation of results and findings.

The Committee structure was reviewed and the following structure determined.

3. WG3 - Standard – Elevation of UK PAS 377 (nominated by the UK).

Proposals will need to be developed by project leaders (coming from TC 272) and forwarded to ISO for member country voting.

The next meeting will be in November or December 2015 at a location to be determined.

### International Forensic Strategic Alliance (IFSA) meeting

The International Forensic Strategic Alliance (IFSA) is a multilateral partnership between six regional networks of operational forensic laboratories. IFSA also works closely with United National Office on Drugs and Crime and INTERPOL.

A presentation was given by OSAC. The Minimum Requirements Documents were discussed along with the next documents to be developed. Favourable feedback was received on the Emerging Technologies paper developed by ANZPAA NIFS. It was requested that this document be reviewed for release to all internal networks.

A new website for IFSA hosted by ASCLD was discussed and a domain name chosen. ASCLD now has the presidency for IFSA and the next meeting will be at the INTERPOL International Forensic Science Managers Symposium in Lyon, France 2016.

### American Society for Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) Annual Symposium

The American Society for Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) Annual Symposium was a leadership and management focussed conference. I was invited to give a presentation to the ASCLD Board on the development of Standards at the international level.

Image: IFSA Meeting Participants.
Based on the positive feedback I was then invited to give the presentation to the whole ASCLD Symposium.

A large section of the Symposium was devoted to Standards and the work of the OSACs. Other presentations were on leadership – communication styles, people centred leadership, management philosophies and financial management.

Other general presentations were on standardised reporting, expert witness and jury perceptions and rapid DNA programs.

At the trade display associated with ASCLD, there were two new proficiency test suppliers. One had a fingerprint test only and the other had a series of tests that were designed to be more representative of real cases. The following sample tests were obtained for trial by Australian laboratories:

- Supplier 1
  - Forensic biology
  - Toolmarks
  - Ballistics
  - Fingerprints
- Supplier 2
  - Fingerprints

Volunteer laboratories were requested via the Quality Managers and all tests have been disseminated. Results of the trials will go to the Quality Managers and relevant SAGs for discussion.

Dr Linzi-Wilson Wilde OAM
ANZPAA NIFS

Documents Special Advisory Group

The Document Examination SAG (Doc-SAG) has been busy with their validation of examiner skills project. This project aims to skills test experts in a range of examinations to ensure that there is basis for their expertise. Three tests have now been released which have included the examination of text-based signatures, alterations and obliterated entries and the identification of printing processes.

With at least three more tests to be conducted, a second workshop is being held in May 2015 to learn how to use the data obtained. This is again being assisted by University of NSW researchers Kristy Martire and Richard Kemp.

The Doc-SAG has also been working with the ANZPAA Professionalisation, Standards and Education team to complete work on a standardised training guideline for the training of document examiners. At this stage, working group members nominated from all jurisdictions have had technical input into the document and consultation is occurring widely before board endorsement and publication in August. This is a big step forward for the Doc-SAG which will ensure greater standardisation across jurisdictions and an ability to better able to inform educational partners.

In addition to these activities, a revision of the handwriting and signature examination common method is planned for early July, in time for review by members of the Doc-SAG at the annual meeting in August this year.

Kylie Jones
Chair, Documents SAG

Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society Update

A one-day Executive workshop was held on 17 December 2014, with input from the ANZFSS Council to identify a firm roadmap to assist with the professionalisation agenda. This plan will be launched to the members upon approval by Council.

Ultimately, it is anticipated that a tangible proposal will be circulated to the membership with the view that it can be debated and voted on at the Auckland Symposium next year at the latest.

In line with our plan moving further towards a professional Society, a unified membership fee structure is now in effect across the whole Society.

Members join the ANZFSS and renew their membership through http://anzfss.org/join-the-anzfss-renew-membership. This is a great improvement that puts the ANZFSS on par with comparable societies overseas.
Further evidence of our support towards members, branches and professionalisation more broadly include the development of the following facilities as part of the Society’s IT platform:

- system that facilitates branches to manage events, e.g. registration for branch workshop or conference
- secured web-platform to circulate branch presentations across the whole Society in the form of streamed video or audio recording.

Thanks to the fantastic financial result of the Adelaide Symposium, the Society is in the lucky position of being able to support members and branches even further. At its April meeting, Council approved the following expenditure:

- $60,000 towards additional travel scholarships to attend the Auckland symposium (i.e. $30,000 more than the traditional support)
- $70,000 dividend to the branches
- $80,000 towards professional activities.

As preparations for the 23rd ANZFSS Symposium in Auckland in 2016 really begin to escalate, the conference team recently introduced their newest team member.

Sarah and Matt welcomed Rebecca Ivy Fair Gittos to the world on 30 December 2014. Congratulations!

As Rebecca might still need some professional development until she can secure a plenary presentation in Auckland, the Organising Committee is currently firming up a very attractive plenary program including outstanding local and international speakers. Please visit http://www.anzfss2016.org for regular updates.

Congratulations to Haydn R. Green APM who has been appointed the Chair of the Organising Committee for the 24th International Symposium to be held in Perth.

As usual, more news about the ANZFSS, including the latest ‘central’ and branch newsletters can be found at http://anzfss.org.

Prof. Claude Roux
President ANZFSS

Meetings and Workshops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CWALN Training</td>
<td>16-19 June 2015</td>
<td>DSTO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plassdata Sys 5 – DVI Intermediate (ADVIC)</td>
<td>8-10 July 2015</td>
<td>CrimTrac, Canberra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toxicology SAG Meeting</td>
<td>15-16 July 2015</td>
<td>VIFM, Melbourne</td>
<td>$150pp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fingerprint SAG Meeting</td>
<td>15-16 July 2015</td>
<td>ANZPAA, Melbourne</td>
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<td>Medical Sciences SAG Meeting</td>
<td>23-24 July 2015</td>
<td>ANZPAA, Melbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemical Criminalistics SAG Meeting</td>
<td>30-31 July 2015</td>
<td>ANZPAA, Melbourne</td>
<td>$150pp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illicit Drugs SAG Meeting</td>
<td>30-31 July 2015</td>
<td>NMI, Sydney</td>
<td>$150pp</td>
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Document SAG Meeting
Date: TBA August 2015
Location: Brisbane
Cost: $200pp

Biology SAG Meeting
Date: 3-5 August 2015
Location: Hobart
Cost: $150pp

Forensic Laser Scanning
Date: 17-18 August 2015
Location: VPFSD, Victoria
Cost: $150pp
Limited to 10 attendees.

Electronic Evidence SAG Meeting
Date: 19-20 August 2015
Location: VPFSD, Victoria
Cost: $150pp
Limited to 30 attendees.

Crime Scene and Ballistics SAG Meeting
Date: 25-27 August 2015
Location: Brisbane
Cost: $150pp
Limited to 13 attendees.

Events Calendar

2015

5th International Conference on Evidence Law and Forensic Science 2015 (ICELFS)
20–23 July 2015
Adelaide
https://law.adelaide.edu.au/icelfs

ICFS 2015
17th International Conference on Forensic Sciences
27-28 August 2015
London, United Kingdom
https://www.waset.org/conference/2015/06/london/ICFS

International Society for Forensic Genetics
26th Congress of the International Society for Forensic Genetics
31 August–5 September 2015
Krakow, Poland
http://www.isfg2015.org

European Academy of Forensic Sciences
7th European Academy of Forensic Sciences Conference
6–11 September 2015
Prague, Czech Republic
http://www.eafs2015.eu
Technicrim 2015
IX Cuban Forensic Science Symposium and II Biometric Identification Workshop
23–25 September 2015
Havana Convention Centre, Cuba
http://www.tecnicrim.co.cu/home.aspx

More Information

If you would like any further information on ANZPAA NIFS meetings and workshops or would like to add any dates into the next newsletter please forward to Nancy Bakker: nancy.bakker@anzpaa.org.au.

4th International Conference on Forensic Research & Technology
28–30 September 2015
Atlanta, USA
http://forensicresearch.conferenceseries.com

Disclaimer

This newsletter is for general information purposes only. The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of ANZPAA NIFS. ANZPAA NIFS has taken all reasonable measures to ensure that the material contained in this newsletter is correct at the time of release. However, ANZPAA NIFS gives no warranty and accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or the completeness of the material.

ARSC2015
The Australasian Road Safety Conference
14–16 October 2015
Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre, Queensland, Australia
http://australasianroadsafetyconference.com.au

Newsletter Contributions

Please forward all newsletter contributions to Nancy Bakker: nancy.bakker@anzpaa.org.au.

2016

ANZFSS
23rd International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences
18–23 September 2016
Auckland, New Zealand
http://www.anzfss2016.org