An Insight Into 2019

2019 is shaping up to be another big year for ANZPAA NIFS with many activities and projects already well underway. We have already held an ANZFEC meeting and numerous other project and SAG meetings.

Planning
ANZPAA NIFS has been busy working with stakeholders on the next ANZPAA NIFS Service Level Agreement (SLA) which underpins ANZPAA NIFS’ operations. Coupled to the SLA is the next ANZPAA NIFS Strategic Plan 2019-22 which will articulate the direction of the Institute for the next three years. The Strategic Plan is implemented through the development of the ANZPAA NIFS Business Plan 2019-20. All three documents have now progressed through ANZFEC and the ANZPAA Board and will be uploaded to the ANZPAA NIFS website shortly. Look out for the new innovative design!

Projects
This newsletter includes updates on some of our major projects. Ongoing projects include the Forensic Fundamentals and Process Mapping projects (fingerprints and drug analysis) and projects due to be completed this year include the Parabon Phase 2, Double Blind Proficiency Testing, Understanding Peer Review and the AFSAB Review Implementation (due to go live 1 July 2019). New Projects include further Process Mapping (now Workflow Mapping) projects (DNA and toxicology), updating the Familial Searching Policy and Double Blind Proficiency Testing Phase 2.

Police Conference 2019
A big fixture on the ANZPAA calendar this year is the ANZPAA Police Conference 2019, 17-18 July 2019 to be held in Melbourne. The theme this year is Future Ready: Leading Innovation and Transformation in Policing. The exciting program includes presenters from companies such as Microsoft, Amazon, Linfox and BMW, innovative researchers and police leaders including the Police Commissioners who will be conducting a panel session with the ANZPAA CEO. Further information can be found later in this newsletter and at https://anzpaa-pc19.org.au/

Other Activities
I am also pleased to have joined the National Council of the Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) and I look forward to representing Academy members and working with the other Council members to continue to progress and improve the Academy.

On a personal note, ANZPAA NIFS team members Robert Morgan and Stephen Smith have each recently got married to their now respective wives. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating them the next time you see them. I would like to wish them and their partners all the best for the future.
Australia New Zealand Forensic Executive Committee (ANZFEC) Update

On 7 March 2019, the Australia New Zealand Forensic Executive Committee (ANZFEC) met for their first meeting of the year. The meeting set the tone for a busy year ahead which will undoubtedly produce great results.

The ‘future direction’ theme from ANZFEC 11 (October 2018) continued into ANZFEC meeting 12, with the committee engaging in a number of strategic discussions and reflecting on the current and potential future state of forensic science in Australia and New Zealand. The meeting concluded in approval of the 2019 – 2020 business plan, including a number of new projects (see Forensic Project Update), which will be made available early in the new financial year.

ANZPAA NIFS Project Support

With ANZPAA NIFS securing a limited amount of funding to support research and innovation initiatives aligned to the ANZPAA NIFS 2019 Annual Projects document, we put out a call for submissions late last year and were overwhelmed with the response. We received a total of 34 applications across two submission rounds. The projects that were approved for a funding contribution in the first round were:

- **Comparison of methods for 3D evidence reconstruction** (University of Adelaide)
- **Psychosocial support for forensic teams** (Queensland University of Technology)
- **Automated sperm identification in microscope slides** (Institute of Environmental Science and Research)
- **Exploring further value in the waste water stream: a multi-drug analytical approach** (Institute of Environmental Science and Research)
- **Improving jurors’ understanding of complex forensic medical evidence in court** (Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine)
- **Evaluating the efficacy of different forensic methods commonly utilised to aid the forensic identification of human remains** (NSW Health Pathology Forensic and Analytical Science Service)

Look out for an update in the next newsletter detailing the results of the second round of submissions and a bit more information about each of the projects from the lead agency.

Research and Innovation Advisory Committee

The ANZFEC approved the 2019 Annual Project Questions document which was developed in consultation with the ANZPAA NIFS Groups network and the Research and Innovation Advisory Committee (RIAC). This document details the research priorities for 2019 and we encourage anyone interested in undertaking research and innovation initiatives in forensic science to consider this list. The RIAC will meet again later in the year to review these priorities and provide advice, which along with feedback from the ANZPAA NIFS Groups network, will aid in the development of the 2020 document.

Congratulations!

We would like to congratulate Professor Olaf Heino Drummer on being awarded Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) as part of the Australia Day honours list in January 2019, for his distinguished service in the field of forensic toxicology.
Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ANZFSS) Update – Professional Membership

Adrian Linacre
(President)
Ali Sears
(Vice President, Australia)

At the ANZFSS symposium in Auckland (September 2016) it was agreed to proceed with a professional membership category. Turning this concept into reality has been the task since then and as members of our society may be asking what has happened, it is timely for an update.

One of the great things about the ANZFSS is that we have a wide range of specialism and backgrounds: operational, academic, legal to name the main areas. Developing any application process whereby those members that are meritorious of membership can attain the requirements has been a challenge and this required consideration of how to capture Continuing Professional Development. This will allow not only a simplified application process, both for the applicant and assessors, but also a potentially seamless process come renewal. A model has been produced and, with the help of some Branches, trialled by a number of members. Their feedback has been essential in modifying both the process and, as importantly, the information pack provided. A model is now in place that will capture those members for which the professional membership category was envisaged.

Questions asked are ‘what’s in it for me?’ and ‘what do I gain?’. The plan is for tangible benefits to be in place. Prime among these are generic and relevant workshops for professional members; either stand alone or associated with symposia. As important is the non-tangible. By attaining professional membership, a member of the ANZFSS is making a statement that they value forensic science as a profession and that professional standards are an integral part of being a forensic practitioner.

Recent Journal Publications

An introductory guide to evaluative reporting in forensic science
Dean Catoggio, Joanna Bunford, Duncan Taylor, Gerhard Wevers, Kaye Ballantyne and Robert Morgan

https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tajf20

Assessment of the potential investigative value of a decentralised rapid DNA workflow for reference DNA samples
Robert Morgan, Steffany Illidge, Linzi Wilson-Wilde

www.elsevier.com/locate/forsciint

Error rates in proficiency testing in Australia
Linzi Wilson-Wilde, Hannah Romano and Stephen Smith

https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tajf20

Gender equity: how do the forensic sciences fare?
Jodie Ward, Rebecca N. Johnson and Linzi Wilson-Wilde

https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tajf20

The international development of forensic science standards – A review
Linzi Wilson-Wilde

www.elsevier.com/locate/forsciint

This July, Melbourne will host Police Conference 2019, presented by the Australia and New Zealand Police Commissioners.

Over two days, delegates will experience a program unmissable for anyone engaged with policing and forensics.

Science-focused sessions and Police Commissioner discussions will speak to areas directly relevant to the forensic community, and for the first time, you will hear from global computing giant Microsoft about how digital transformation can help law enforcement agencies.

We will also bring you face to face with the NYPD, Amazon and thought leaders in neuroscience, technology and innovation.

Places are strictly limited, so act now to secure your place.

To register, go to: https://www.anzpaa-pc19.org.au/registration
Research Report:

Creating Expertise Research Summit 2019

Date: 7 to 8 February 2019
Location: Victoria Police

Jason Tangen, Rachel Searston, & Matthew Thompson
The University of Queensland, The University of Adelaide, Murdoch University

To kickstart the launch of the Creating Expertise ARC funded Linkage Project, representatives from academia and each of the major jurisdictions in Australia met in Melbourne to coordinate efforts, and engage jointly in planning and goal setting for the coming year.

“A win is a tangible outcome that is operationally focused.”
— Dr Linzi Wilson-Wilde, National Institute of Forensic Science

“A win is a validation of training time in order to justify the investment.”
— Jennifer Raymond, NSW Police

“A win is knowing how long it takes to get from novice to good performance.”
— Sarah Dale, Dept of Home Affairs

“A win is to better understand the link between our decision making and the risk.”
— Duncan McCarthy, Queensland Police Service

“A win is to make the challenging life of a fingerprint examiner a little easier.”
— Robert Hayes, Victoria Police

Fingerprint experts are astonishingly high performers. But we still don’t know what makes fingerprint experts special, or how best to create them. The broad aim of the Creating Expertise Project is to figure out the best way to turn a fingerprint novice into a fingerprint expert.

Attendees at this year’s Creating Expertise Research Summit articulated what a “win” looks like, and it became clear that everyone has a common goal: operationally focused training and assessment tools designed to create experts that are accurate, reliable, and continuously improving.

Much of the Summit was dedicated to the logistics of the project: how we will work together to develop a set of shared training materials, how to encourage collaboration, and how to put our findings into practice at the end of the project.

We stayed on board at Victoria Police for the week working with our colleagues in the fingerprint team and collecting data for the first Perceptual Experts Challenge: a series of 10 computer-based fingerprint tasks designed to tap into the core components of skilled fingerprint examination. We then made our way to Canberra and Sydney to work with our colleagues in fingerprints at the Australian Federal Police and the New South Wales Police Force.

Across the three agencies, more than 64 dedicated fingerprint examiners participated in the Challenge. The data from this first challenge will help us to create a highly diagnostic measure of perceptual expertise in fingerprints that will serve as a benchmark for the training tools we are developing over the life of the project.

We are thrilled by the enthusiasm of our colleagues in Australian fingerprints, inspired by the innovative ideas of contributors at the Summit, and excited to have kicked off the first chapter of the Creating Expertise Project 2019!
The Forensic Exhibit
News from the forensic community

IAFS2020

Claude Roux, IAFS President
30 years later, IAFS comes back to Australia – Come and join us to make history!

The 22nd Triennial Meeting of the International Association of Forensic Science (IAFS) in conjunction with the 25th Symposium of the Australian & New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ANZFSS) will be held in Sydney on 21-25 September 2020 (IAFS 2020). Under the theme “Forensic Science 2020 – Where to from here?” the Meeting will review contemporary practices and consider strategies to improve operational contributions and effectiveness in light of both current and future challenges. We will reach out across the medical, scientific, legal and policing communities, including those in emerging nations or representing emerging disciplines, to share data and information, best practice and expand education and research in the forensic sciences.

Building up on the strong reputation of the ANZFSS symposia, the Organising Committee has been working with enthusiasm in collaboration with the Advisory Committee, the Australian, New Zealand and international community and our Professional Conference Organiser (Arinex Pty Ltd) to propose the world’s most memorable meeting of practising professionals and academics in the forensic specialties. An exciting and thought-provoking plenary program is being finalised.

In addition to presentations by the recipients of the Adelaide Medal, the Doug Lucas Medal and the IAFS Humanitarian Award, it will comprise sessions focusing on the challenges and opportunities brought by digital transformations, biometrics and intelligence; on global strategies on missing persons and sexual violence and a panel discussion presenting different perspectives on “Where to from here?”. This theme will also be addressed through a number of mini-summits with the view to produce a strategic legacy after the conference. Keynotes, regular oral presentations and electronic posters will be delivered across twenty-two disciplines. Workshops and an entertaining social program will complement the conference. Many other activities and partnerships are being discussed. The call for abstracts will open on Monday 23 September 2019.

The promotion for the conference is going strong, like for example at the recent meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Baltimore, where we quickly ran out of our famous clip-on koalas and had a video played at their General Meeting. Future promotion at conferences include the 10th International Conference on Forensic Medicine and Sciences in Hurghada, Egypt and InterFORENSICS, the conference held by the Brazilian Academy of Forensic Sciences with some 2,000 delegates in Sao Paulo. However, the best promotion is working together to proudly showcase our innovative approaches to service delivery and quality systems, to cutting edge integrated education and research and to humanitarian assistance and support for developing countries. For this reason, I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support, including all discipline convenors whose response has been fantastic. Also, please note that a promotional slide and an email signature are available for your perusal – just drop us a line!

Further information
Finally, visit https://iafs2020.com.au/ for more information, and follow and like us on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/IAFS2020/) to stay abreast of our exciting news. Do not wait for 30 more years and instead be part of history in the making!

▲ Centre for Forensic Science members manning the IAFS 2020 booth at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting.
2019 After the Fact Crime Scene Proficiency Test

After the Fact (AtF) is an interactive, virtual reality software program designed for crime scene investigation proficiency testing within a quality management framework. AtF is the industry standard and replaces the costly and time consuming practice of creating mock crime scenes for the purpose of training and performance assessment. Each AtF assessment covers seven criteria critical to demonstrating competency as a crime scene investigator:

- Initial assessment of the crime scene
- Control of the crime scene
- Examination of the crime scene
- Interpretation of the evidence
- Recording the crime scene
- Exhibit/evidence collection
- Case management

The filming of the major and volume crime scene scenarios for this year’s AtF proficiency testing took place in February in Melbourne. The scenarios were developed by the Crime Scene Proficiency Advisory Committee (CSPAC) at their annual meeting in November 2018. The release date for the 2019 assessments will be communicated to Quality Managers in the coming months.

Jurisdictions are reminded to review the list of minimum system requirements for the HTML5 version of the AtF platform at www.webatf.com in preparation for the 2019 assessments.

www.webatf.com

▲ A screenshot from the AtF proficiency testing platform.
In brief:

AFSAB Review Implementation

Renaming Update: AFFSAB to AFSAB
In September 2018, the Australasian Forensic Field Sciences Accreditation Board (AFFSAB) was renamed to the Australasian Forensic Science Assessment Body (AFSAB) to better reflect the programs operating model. You will start to notice changes to the branding of forms and policies over the coming months. Any changes to processes and procedures will be communicated through the AFSAB communication pathways.

Assessment Re-development
The development of a new assessment process for all three disciplines (Fingerprints, Crime Scene and Firearms) is currently in progress. The new process will streamline and standardise assessments across the disciplines, where appropriate. A slight shift to current demonstrable expertise, including the addition of contemporary issues questions, is envisaged. It is anticipated that the new assessment process will go live on 1 July 2019. Further information will be provided as it becomes available through the AFSAB communication pathways.

Empirical Study Guideline
Practitioner feedback is currently being sought for this document with a view to having an updated version available in the new year. The feedback received from the international forensic community is also currently being incorporated into this revised version.

Gap Analysis
Working group members were identified from fingerprints, ballistics and explosives, and workshops were held to review the discipline specific claims identified and the empirical evidence that supports them. The outcomes of these workshops will be summarised and presented in a report to ANZFEC later in the year and will inform future research priorities.

Model Framework for Double Blind System Testing in Forensic Science
A comprehensive framework for conducting double blind, ground truth known testing of forensic science methods and processes has been developed, with valuable input from Quality Managers and discipline specialists across Australia and New Zealand. A key focus of the working group was to ensure that the program developed was used to monitor performance of the entire system to identify areas of potential improvement, rather than to test individuals. As such, the framework has been renamed to Double Blind System Testing (DBST). This shifts attention away from testing individual competencies, focusing on the collaborative nature of forensic casework and quality control.

Various options for administering DBST have been explored, along with the complexity of testing each discipline and laboratory under the proposed model. Drawing heavily on experiences in laboratories already utilising DBST and best-practice performance testing models, the framework details considerations for designing and creating tests, administration and assessment, and feedback to practitioners and laboratories regarding the system performance. Pilot plans for two disciplines have been developed, with plans for a practical trial to be conducted across 2019-2020 for interested laboratories in Phase 2 of the project.

Best Practice Guideline for Crime Scene Managers
Overview
The aim of this project is to develop a best practice guideline for crime scene managers that allows for a cross-discipline approach to the collection and management of forensic evidence for both intelligence and evidentiary purposes. The need for this project arose from discussions at the 2016 Australasian Forensic Science Summit, in relation to the future roles of crime scene managers.

Working Group
Jurisdictional process documents are currently being reviewed and a working group comprising a representative from Queensland Police, New South Wales Police, Australian Federal Police, Victoria Police, Tasmania Police, South Australia Police and Western Australia Police will be convened on 29 and 30 April. This working group will assist in the development of a guideline for cross-discipline evidence collection and management at the crime scene, as well as cross-discipline triage and evidence recovery at the laboratory.

Forensic Fundamentals - Phase 2

Overview
The aim of the Forensic Fundamentals project is to identify the underpinning science and validation requirements for forensic science disciplines. This project represents a long term activity for ANZPAA NIFS and will see a gap analysis performed for multiple forensic science disciplines. These gap analyses will inform ongoing updates to the Research and Innovation Roadmap Annual Project Questions document.
In brief:

Peer Review in Forensic Science

Overview
The aim of this project is to review the current processes for peer review of casefiles and reports in forensic biology and to develop a best practice risk-based approach for results that are intended for both intelligence and evidentiary purposes. The need for this project arose from discussions regarding the definition of an administrative and technical review and how these can be applied differently in different scenarios. The issue was raised for the attention of ANZPAA NIFS in the Western Australia Ross Report, 2017.

Working Group
A working group meeting was held in February and a draft document has been developed. Feedback has been sought from the Biology Specialist Advisory Group (SAG), as well as the Quality SAG at their recent workshop on risk-based thinking. It is anticipated that the final version of the document will be available on the ANZPAA NIFS website later in the year.

New ANZPAA NIFS Projects

The following projects will commence in the 2019 – 20 financial year:

- Workflow Mapping – Toxicology
- Workflow Mapping – Forensic Biology
- National Familial DNA Searching Policy Review
- Double Blind Systems Testing (Phase 2)
The Forensic Exhibit.
Meetings and workshops

Workshop Report:

Inaugural Face SAG Meeting

Date: 5 to 6 February
Location: Parramatta, Sydney

Jason Hutcheons
Tasmania Police and Chair of Face SAG meeting

In the wake of the ANZPAA NIFS Groups Review and following the successful ANZPAA NIFS Facial Identification project, a business case was favourably considered by ANZFEC and the Face SAG formally created.

The inaugural meeting was held at Parramatta Police HQ in the first week of February, a date selected to enable members to also attend the Unfamiliar Face Identification Group conference hosted by UNSW.

The first meeting saw representation from New Zealand and Australian police agencies. Attendees provided an excellent balance of practitioner level expertise and strategic insight, which was perfect for the new group. Although facial recognition technology is well established, the forensic use of face comparison is a new discipline that requires a regional consistency in practice.

There is little doubt the use of face technology is in the national spotlight, particularly with the deployment of the National Facial Biometric Matching Capability system. Although it will provide a powerful capability, it has deliberately not dictated the actual procedures for use. This provided plenty of discussion for the SAG.

Another significant agenda item was the consideration and training requirements for the three basic roles within the discipline.

- Facial Reviewer – utilises a biometric system and can review the gallery of results.

- Facial Examiner – As above but can perform a 1:1 facial comparison and comment on the matching.

- Forensic Facial Examiner (Expert) – A higher level that can compare and report on face comparisons to an evidentiary identification standard.

A third major agenda item considered consistency for reporting and how results would be ultimately provided to investigators. To assist, the group invited Dr Kaye Ballantyne, ANZPAA NIFS, who provided a valuable insight into Evaluative Reporting and how that framework could apply.

The meeting achieved some very positive outcomes and confirmed that all the jurisdictions have a consistency in thought around the practice as a whole. Being a new forensic discipline, the SAG left Sydney with a lot of follow-up action items, but nonetheless a way forward. The SAG also learned about the traffic congestion to Parramatta, and therefore, highly recommends the relaxing express train journey from Central Station!

7th Annual Unfamiliar Face Identification Group (UFIG) Meeting

Date: 8 to 9 September 2018
Location: University of New South Wales
Attendees: 100 delegates from over 30 agencies

UFIG is unique in the world in bringing together a wide range of agencies with a strong interest in facial identification, including from industry, government, police, vendors, academics and lawyers.

The popularity of UFIG continues to grow attracting presenters and delegates from around Australia and the world. Keynote speaker, Dr Ted Dunstan of Biometrix, perhaps best summed this up by beginning his opening address by saying it’s great to see so many familiar faces, but also great to see so many more unfamiliar faces.

This year’s special theme was super recognisers, people known for their significantly better-than-average face recognition ability. Keynote presenter Dr Josh Davis, University of Greenwich, explained how they are found, possible applications and the limitations of super recognisers. It has been reported that roughly a third of the 5000 convicted London 2011 rioters were initially identified by super recognisers through viewing thousands of hours of CCTV footage. Subsequently, the Metropolitan Police Service set up a dedicated super recognisers unit that has so far lead to the identification of 1000s of suspects in a wide range of crimes. Super recognisers are generally identified through tests, some of which are freely available online, such as the Cambridge face perception test or Glasgow Face Matching Test. Take the University of New South Wales Face test! - https://facetest.psy.unsw.edu.au/UNSWfacetest.html

Alice Trower (UNSW) presented on her work comparing the performance of super recognisers with trained facial examiners undertaking a European based proficiency test. While super recognisers tended to perform better in the number of correct face matches, interestingly the ones they got wrong were generally declared with a greater level of confidence than trained practitioners.

Dr Dunston presented on improving the performance of facial identification systems using multimodal fusion, that is, through interaction with multiple biometric information. The presentation spanned the multiple applications of new generation facial identification systems by business and law enforcement. He also raised the issue of possible criminal use of the technology and updated privacy protection.

Presentations, such as that by Carolyn Dutot on the forensic face expertise of the Canada Border Services Agency, painted a picture of the growing acceptance of facial identification as a forensic science discipline by law enforcement agencies around the world. The development of reliable facial identification training and processes are supported through research and standards progressed by an increasing number of international collaborations, such as through the NIST OSAC Facial Identification Subcommittee, ENFSI, the ANZPAA NIFS Face Specialist Advisory Group and, of course, forums such as UFIG.

For further information on UFIG’s past and future UFIG meetings visit http://forensic.psy.unsw.edu.au/ufig.html.
**Workshop Report:**

**BSAG Future Enhancement Workshop**

**Sharon Neville**  
*Branch Director Criminalistics, Forensic & Analytical Science Service*

In March 2019, ANZPAA NIFS hosted a Biology Specialist Advisory Group Future Service Enhancement workshop. This was prompted by a rapidly changing operating environment and a commitment to developing strategies to engage new technologies emerging as tools for criminal investigations. The aim of the workshop was to develop proposals for stakeholders outlining initiatives that have the potential to maximise the benefits of a range of new applications.

A key product which was explored in great depth was NCIDD-IFA and this new capability drove robust discussion, formulating a collaborative interagency pathway to full implementation. With the aim of identifying opportunities to capitalise on the new application, the benefits which could be realised by upgrading DNA profiles was demonstrated by case examples. The benefits were balanced against the significant cost and resources to achieve this upgrading on a jurisdictional and national level. As NCIDD-IFA provides the capability to carry out familial searching nationally, again real world casework examples were used to demonstrate how expanding the use of familial searching in the early stages of investigations may have significant impact, leading to earlier crime solving capability.

Stakeholders will be informed of the options and the initiatives that have the potential to assist in the resolution of crime.

NCIDD-IFA also brings new capability to efforts to identify long term missing persons nationally. Discussion on missing persons and unidentified remains was led by experts passionate about this humanitarian endeavour, Dr Jodie Ward, Specialist DNA Scientist NSW FASS and Dr Soren Blau, Senior Forensic Anthropologist VIFM, representing the medical SAG. Resolving missing persons in Australia is progressing through focused activity reconciling jurisdictional data to maximise the NCIDD-IFA capability for identification. The recommendation for an Australian Centre for Forensic Human Identification exclusively for missing persons was discussed and the concept of a ‘virtual’ model was mooted.

The use of Genetic Genealogy and DNA phenotyping is rapidly rising and BSAG are interested in how biologists can support the application of genetic genealogy in criminal investigation. To this end, the CEO of the totheletter DNA was an invited guest to workshop and explained how Genetic Genealogy works. This is a Brisbane based company that is receiving many enquiries from law enforcement, as are the forensic laboratories. While it offers a potentially powerful tool, there are considerations including quality and quantity of DNA, and contamination issues which can be minimised by involving forensic laboratories in the early stages of DNA extraction. The use of Phenotyping is increasing and can offer an additional benefit as having biogeographical ancestry information can be informative in assessing if genealogy would be useful for a particular case.

The term Forensic Intelligence is much used, but its meaning has been challenged. BSAG have been discussing our use of ‘intelligence’ and the discussion led to agreement to embrace more appropriate terminology. This is in recognition that forensic disciplines provide ‘information’ which is not ‘intelligence’ prior to analysis. DNA work is moving into early stages of investigations, so interaction with intelligence analysts is increasing and is prompting this requirement to use consistent terminology.

While DNA moves into the early stages of investigation, there will always be a requirement for the provision of expert testimony. However, it has been identified that to provide the answers the court is interested in, new capability in activity level reporting is required. Forensic biologists reporting on ‘who’ the DNA may have originated from, now find the question is on the method of deposition and ‘how’ the DNA evidence arose. A cooperative action plan to ensure every jurisdiction has the ability to either perform or access services for activity level reporting has been developed and may lead to network of specialist biologists in a ‘virtual’ reporting node across Australia/NZ.

Following the broad and exciting range of topics discussed, submissions will now be formulated for stakeholders, outlining options that will maximise the potential to use new capabilities to solve crime. BSAG have proactively assessed factors including resources, priorities, timeframe and impacts on operational laboratories to map a forward path. The three day workshop was highly productive and continued the strong collaboration of this group.

The National Criminal Investigation DNA Database (NCIDD) has expanded its applications enabling kinship matching, and familial searching. The NCIDD Integrated Forensic Analysis (NCIDD-IFA) functionality assists DVIs, missing persons and unidentified remains.

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**THE FORENSIC EXHIBIT.**

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2019

**MAY**

International Society for Forensic Radiology and Imaging (ISFRI) 2018: 8th Congress
- 16-18 May 2019
- Berlin, Germany
  - https://www.isfri2019.de/

45th Annual American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) Symposium
- 19-23 May 2019
- St Louis, Missouri, USA
  - Baltimore, Maryland, USA
  - https://www.ascldsymposium.com/

**JUNE**

3rd World Conference and Exhibition on Forensic Science
- 3-4 June 2019
- Berlin, Germany

Society for Wildlife Forensic Science 2019
- 10 – 14 June 2019
- Denver, Colorado, USA
  - https://www.wildlifeforensicscience.org/swfs-2019-colorado-meeting/

**JULY**

Crime, Justice & Social Democracy 5th Biennial International Conference
- 15-17 July 2019
- Surfers Paradise, Queensland, Australia

Police Conference 2019 – Future Ready: Leading Innovation and Transformation in Policing
- 16-17 July 2019
- Melbourne, Australia

**SEPTEMBER**

The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT) 2019 Conference
- 2-6 September 2019
- Birmingham, United Kingdom
  - http://www.tiaft.org/tiaft-agenda.html

28th Congress of the International Society for Forensic Genetics (ISFG)
- 9-14 September 2019
- Prague, Czech Republic

**OCTOBER**

Society of Forensic Toxicologists Annual Meeting 2019
- 13-18 October 2019
- San Antonio, Texas, USA
  - http://www.soft-tox.org/meeting

Australian Society of Forensic Odontology Symposium - Identification in the 21st Century
- 24-26 October 2019
- Sydney, Australia

**2020**

25th Symposium of the Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society

22nd Triennial Meeting of the International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS)
- 22-25 September 2020
- Sydney, Australia
In the next issue:

**Forensic project update**
- AFSAB Review Implementation
- Transition Technology from Lab to Field

**Meetings and Workshops**
- QSAG Risk Based Thinking Workshop
- RI2I Symposium Report

More information:

**Newsletter contributions**
If you would like any further information on ANZPAA NIFS or would like to contribute to the next edition of The Forensic Exhibit please contact Tracie Gould: tracie.gould@anzpaa.org.au

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