

Message from the Director



Welcome to the second edition of *The Forensic Exhibit* newsletter for 2023. We are pleased to present you with an overview of the exciting work of the Australia New Zealand Forensic Science community.

The ANZPAA NIFS team were delighted to meet The Australian New Zealand Forensic Executive Committee in Darwin in July for the ANZFEC 25 meeting. Most of the ANZFEC membership took the opportunity to escape the winter cold for warm and sunny Northern Territory weather. In addition to having a highly productive board meeting and tours of the NT forensic facilities there were also opportunities to enjoy the famous Darwin sunsets and hospitality. Many thanks to Dr Jo Lee and the Northern Territory Police for hosting.

Outcomes from ANZFEC 25 included the approval of the formation for three project working groups (PWGs) to support on-going enhancement of best practice, and the formation of an ANZFEC Firearm Subcommittee to progress the recommendations from the Firearm Examination Capability Roadmap 2023-25.

We have continued to see ANZPAA NIFS groups come together and meet face-to-face, taking the opportunity to host productive meetings and catch-up with new and familiar faces. Over the last few months, the Biology Specialist Advisory Group (SAG), Crime Scene SAG and CWALN have held in-person meetings and the Chemical Criminalistics SAG and Fingerprint SAG both held in-person ANZFEC approved workshops.

ANZPAA NIFS remains committed to supporting new and innovative research, recently awarding over \$100,000 across 11 projects. It was great to see so many high-quality applications and we encourage ANZFEC agencies to continue investing time and resources into such important research, particularly projects with a focus on addressing opportunities identified in the Forensic Fundamentals project or align to the Forensic Fundamentals research areas of the Research and Innovation Roadmap 2020-2025.

The IAFS/ANZFSS Symposium is fast approaching, and we are excited to announce strong attendance by ANZPAA NIFS. We look forward to seeing many of you there and engaging in exciting and innovative forensic science research.

The ANZPAA Police Conference 2023 (PC23) is another highlight in our calendar, to be held in Melbourne 9-10 November. This year, PC23 will explore the dynamic policing environment, with particular focus on 'The Power of Partnerships,'

The second half of 2023 is looking to be a busy time with several important dates to mark in your calendar. This includes:

- **NIFS Best Paper Awards** – the final date for NIFS Best Paper submission is 31 August 2023. An ANZFEC Judging Committee has been formed and are looking forward to reading your submissions.
- **ANZPAA NIFS Groups Workshop Proposals** – a call for Forensic Science Workshops 2024 has been put out, with proposals due by 25 September 2023. We kindly remind ANZPAA NIFS Group Chairs that ANZFEC Mentors should

- **ANZPAA NIFS Group Chairs Day** – a virtual Chairs presentation day has been scheduled for 12 October 2023. We encourage members to RSVP attendance as soon as possible.

ANZPAA NIFS is delighted to welcome Dr Jacqueline Fuller to the team. Jacqueline has joined the team on a 12-month secondment from the ANZPAA Policy and Projects Team. We have also welcomed the assistance of Anavieve Culph-Belmont from the ANZPAA team to help alleviate some of our administrative load relating to programs such as distribution list management and the proficiency test program.

Around the ANZFEC table we welcomed back Dr Simon Walsh (AFP) and John Doherty (Forensic Science SA). A warm welcome to Inspector Sonya Douglas representing New Zealand Police, and thank you to acting member Matthew Gittos. We thank all ANZFEC members for their continued support.

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The Forensic Exhibit.

NIFS Update

Welcome

Please join us in welcoming the latest members to the ANZPAA NIFS Team, Dr Jacqueline Fuller and Anavieve Culph-Belmont.



Jacqueline joined us in May coming from her substantive role in the Policy and Projects Team in ANZPAA, where she has led and ensured the successful delivery of police policy instruments and education and training products for Australia and New Zealand. Jacqueline also brings extensive research knowledge and experience.



Anavieve joined ANZPAA in March as an Administrative Officer after graduating from a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in International Politics and European languages, and is excited to begin her career in the public service. Ana will be assisting the NIFS team with our distribution list management and administration of the proficiency test program.

ANZPAA NIFS Best Paper Awards

The ANZPAA NIFS Best Paper Awards are presented yearly and recognise the contribution of members of the Australia New Zealand forensic science community in improving the forensic sciences and increasing the body of knowledge available to the forensic and wider communities.

Applications for the ANZPAA NIFS Best Paper Awards for 2023 close **31 August 2023**. An ANZFEC Judging Committee will review the submissions over the coming months and the winners will be confirmed in November 2023. A list of all submissions and the winners will be featured on the ANZPAA NIFS website.

For further information on the awards, entry conditions and to download the application form, please visit:

<https://www.anzpaa.org.au/forensic-science/awards/best-paper-awards>

Research and Innovation Roadmap

The purpose of the ANZPAA NIFS Research and Innovation Roadmap 2020-2025 is to promote the investment of funding and resources in research that is operationally relevant and of vital importance to forensic science service provision in Australia and New Zealand. ANZPAA NIFS developed the Roadmap through extensive engagement with the forensic community. It defines research areas that are important to strengthening current forensic science processes and building future capability. The figure right summarises the Roadmap research areas aligned to the ANZPAA Strategic Priorities.

Promoting Research in Forensic Science

ANZPAA Strategic Priority	Research Area
Address Risk →	Forensic Fundamentals Human Factors
Enhancing Practice →	Data Sets New Tools
Shaping Stronger Connections →	Forensic Intelligence

You can find more information on the Roadmap via the following link:
<https://www.anzpaa.org.au/forensic-science/services/research-and-innovation>

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Workshops and Meetings

Fingerprint SAG Workshop - Refresh of National Fingerprint Training

Mark Jeanes

**Queensland Police Service
Fingerprint Specialist Advisory Group**

In late June 2023, members of the Fingerprint Specialist Advisory Group (SAG) gathered in Melbourne and on-line, to attend a combined three-day workshop and Annual General Meeting. Hosted by Victoria Police, the meeting was represented by all Australian police jurisdictions and New Zealand Police. The workshop entitled 'Refresh of National Fingerprint Training' was brought together for SAG members to discuss the current fingerprint training environment, changes to the Graduate Certificate in Forensic Fingerprint Investigation (GCFFI) and the ANZPAA Guidelines and formulate plans on the future direction of national fingerprint training.

On day 1, ANZPAA Assistant Director, Policy and Projects, Jacqueline Durand, took centre stage providing a comprehensive overview of the current National training environment. Durand shed light on the intricacies of ANZPAA's role in the framework of forensic qualifications; the purpose of the Graduate Certificate and the ANZPAA Guidelines, and how they combine to assist jurisdictions in delivering their training programs.

Following Durand's presentation, New Zealand Police National Fingerprint Training Officer Julian Atkins took the floor, delivering a compelling presentation on the changes to the GCFFI. Atkins who was seconded to ANZPAA as a Senior Education and Training Officer in 2022, worked with members of the advisory group and other fingerprint experts, spearheading an extensive review into the GCFFI. His presentation delved into the rationale behind the revisions, emphasizing the need to maintain alignment with emerging forensic standards, enhance the curriculum, and address any gaps in knowledge and skills. Atkins delivery of the changes painted a picture of the critical role these updates play in equipping fingerprint practitioners with the expertise required for the ever-evolving landscape of the profession.

The combined insights of Durand and Atkins set the stage for the SAG to discuss training pathways, collaboration, and research projects.

As the workshop progressed, the focus turned toward charting the path forward. Discussions explored how the Fingerprint Investigative Training Implementation Framework (FIT) could serve as a guiding beacon for jurisdictions in their development and design endeavours for workshops and assessments. Additionally, the importance of consistency and standardisation across the nation was recognised by the group, with the FIT viewed as a tool for aligning the Australian Fingerprint Reference Manual modules (AFRM) with the GCFFI. By leveraging the FIT's structure, jurisdictions could ensure a cohesive approach to fingerprint training and assessment. The advisory group emphasised the need for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and ongoing communication to foster a strong network that promotes excellence and quality assurance.

With the purpose of the FIT recognised, action to review and update the FIT along with the AFRM modules was determined to forge a unified path, where the jurisdictions could collectively elevate the standards of fingerprint practice nationwide. This commitment to co-operation and knowledge exchange led to the groups discussion to share training materials, organise workshops, and devise a shared calendar to foster a collective learning environment.

Following these discussions, the SAG shifted their focus to a comprehensive

discussion regarding ongoing fingerprint research projects. The hottest topic of discussion was the research into finding a replacement for HFE7100, with many of the jurisdictions agreeing to collaborate research into finding a suitable solution.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to address any potential challenges associated with the impending implementation of NextGen, which was set to launch at the end of June 2023. The group openly discussed their concerns including such issues as a smooth transition process, the potential backlog of work, and the effect on current and future training and assessment materials.

The three-day workshop wrapped up with a presentation by Professor Jason Tangen and Dr Rachel Searston, who provided an update on their team's 'Creating Perceptual Expertise' research. The team has been working on a training package, PrintGym, to augment current training methods. This is based on the research the team has conducted into what key ingredients define a fingerprint expert. PrintGym is designed to be versatile and not limited to a specific audience, it could be harnessed by both trainers and trainees alike. It is highly adaptable, accommodating beginners seeking a solid foundation, intermediate practitioner's aiming to refine their skills, and even seasoned experts yearning to push their boundaries further. The presentation was an inspiring way to end the workshop, embodying the SAG's focus to continue Australia and New Zealand as world recognised leaders in fingerprint policing investigation.



▲ Professor Jason Tangen and Dr Rachel Searston, present to the Fingerprint SAG.

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News from the forensic community

AFP - Underwater Search and Evidence Recovery (USER)

Dr Eva Bruenisholz

Australian Federal Police

In a bid to enhance our investigative capabilities, in May 2023, AFP Forensics developed an innovative pilot program aimed at improving forensic awareness in underwater search and evidence recovery (USER). Following an environmental scan undertaken within all Australian law enforcement agencies, it was found that no such program existed in Australia.

Australia is surrounded by water, as well as having numerous inland waterways and lakes, and it is well established that bodies of water are prime mediums for disposing of and concealing evidence. Crimes committed in or around water bodies, such as rivers, lakes, and even the ocean, present unique challenges for investigations. Traditional search and recovery techniques often fall short in these situations, necessitating a specialised skill set to collect and preserve evidence effectively. Indeed, an underwater scene should not be considered any different from a dry land scene, and all efforts should be made to fully exploit any evidence located underwater.

Specialised diving skills and extensive training are required to effectively examine an underwater crime scene. These skills and capabilities are usually outside of the remit of Forensic Crime Scene Investigators (CSI). Equally, divers lack knowledge in forensic science and crime scene collection techniques.

To address this gap, AFP Forensics staff and AFP divers from four teams (Crime

Scene, Evidence Recovery, Forensic Operation and Strategy, Performance and Innovation), organised a pilot forensic awareness training program that focused on underwater evidence search and recovery, and the unique challenges posed by aquatic crime scenes. The training draws upon the expertise of experienced divers and forensic specialists, based on a research project conducted in Switzerland and the subsequent training developed for and given to the Swiss Police divers. The trainers shared their knowledge and provided hands-on experience to participants, equipping them with the necessary skills to navigate and investigate underwater environments.

The pilot training program covered a wide range of topics essential for successful underwater evidence search and recovery. It consisted of a presentation explaining the general principles of forensic science, challenges created by an underwater intervention, effect of water on various forensic traces, as a remnant of past activities, underwater photography and handling of exhibits during collection. Divers learned how to assess underwater crime scenes, implement effective search patterns to locate items, identify potential evidence, and recover the items while protecting potential latent evidence.

The program placed a strong emphasis on practical exercises and simulations to reinforce the theoretical knowledge gained. Participants engaged in simple simulated scenes in a controlled underwater environment (pool), allowing them to apply their skills in real-life scenarios. These exercises focused on critical aspects like underwater photography, scene description, and evidence documentation and collection, ensuring that officers developed a thorough understanding

of the entire process. During their work underwater, divers communicated with CSI on dry land, collaborating to ensure the best outcome.

Considering the wide range of skills needed, the success of processing an underwater scene relies heavily on collaboration. Therefore, in line with the AFP Forensics consultancy model, the course stressed the importance of early engagement with AFP forensic experts and continuous communication and teamwork, to ensure the work undertaken underwater considers forensic needs and the divers' limitations.

The implementation of this pilot forensic awareness training program marks a significant step forward in underwater scene exploitation. By equipping divers with specialised skills in underwater evidence search and recovery, the AFP anticipates an improvement in solving crimes that occur in aquatic environments. Further, by fostering strong partnerships between divers and forensic specialists, the AFP demonstrates its commitment to staying at the forefront of best practices.

Very positive feedback was received from the divers with opportunities to now further develop, tailor and implement this training for more divers, around the end of the year in Jervis Bay. This location will allow exploring more complex scenes in an ocean environment and with the participation of CSIs and an experienced American forensic diver. These conditions will not only be closer to the reality of investigations, but it will also strengthen the partnership with CSIs further. Upon refining of the course, there could be an opportunity to expand it to other Australian law enforcement agencies in collaboration with their CSIs.



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News from the forensic community

Disaster Victim Identification Phase Coordinator Workshop

Scott White

Australian Federal Police

The AFP recently ran a two and a half day Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Phase Coordinator Workshop at the Forensic Facility in Canberra, 26-28 June 2023.

The DVI Coordination Team hosted representatives from a number of domestic and international Agencies including participants from Pacific countries (Solomon Islands, PNG, Fiji and Tonga), the Joint Military Policing Unit from Australia Defence Force and AFP members from ACTP, Eastern Command and Forensics.

The workshop was opened by the AFP Chief Scientist Dr Simon Walsh. Dr Walsh welcomed all of the guest agencies and reinforced the need to work collaboratively during a DVI Incident. He also discussed a number of DVI incidents where the AFP have taken a lead role and developed a strong reputation on the international stage.

The workshop was led by one of the AFP DVI Commanders Inspector Rod Anderson from ACTP, with guest presenters including Inspector Wayne Martin from Victoria Police and Senior Sergeant Richie Callaghan from Queensland Police Service. All three presenters shared their vast experiences with the group and acted as mentors to help facilitate the syndicate work.

Inspector Rod Anderson said, "It was great to hear the discussions within the syndicate exercises, share experiences and build networks across Australia and with our pacific partners."

The AFP's newly-appointed second DVI Commander, Dr Mark Tahtouh, also participated in the workshop, telling members that DVI operations are rarely isolated to a single jurisdiction.

"This course provided an opportunity to better understand the perspectives and capabilities of domestic and international partners and how everyone can operate collaboratively."

The workshop covered all of the DVI phases of a major operation with participants exposed to several case studies - the emphasis being on lessons learnt from previous deployments and the need to work collaboratively to meet the mission requirements. In mixed syndicate groups, participants also discussed the different DVI Phases, through a series of rolling scenarios.

For the Pacific participants the program aligns with the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police Pacific Forensic Working Group learning guide and aims to formalise and consolidate forensic training programs across the Pacific. The AFP will continue to work closely with our Pacific Partners as they continue to prepare to respond

natural and man-made disasters and plan for large events such as the Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands in November 2023.



▲ Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Phase Coordinator Workshop



▲ Dr Simon Walsh, AFP, addressing the group at the opening

Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences



Australian Academy
of Forensic Sciences

Anna Davey

Secretary, Victorian Chapter

On the 3 June 2023 the Victorian Chapter hosted a full day seminar 'Forensic Science in the Justice System: Lessons from the Queensland DNA Inquiry' and we were privileged that Mr Walter Sofronoff KC was able to join us and present an overview of the Inquiry and his findings.

Mr Sofronoff's presentation was followed by other short presentations and a panel discussion canvassing the views of both science and law practitioners. 57 people participated in the day and a report of the day and an overview of the discussion will be published in the *Australian Journal of Forensic Sciences*.

<https://forensicacademy.com.au/secretary-general@forensicacademy.org>

The Forensic Exhibit. Events

IAFS 2023 - Three Months Away!

Distinguished Professor Claude Roux
President, International Association
of Forensic Sciences, University of
Technology Sydney

It is hard to believe, but we are three months away from IAFS 2023, the 23rd Triennial Meeting of the International Association of Forensic Sciences to be held in conjunction with the 26th Symposium of the Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society, in Sydney, Australia, from 20-24 November 2023.

The Organising Committee, in collaboration with the Advisory Committee, sponsors and stakeholders, have released an exciting program under the theme "Where to from here?" that includes:

- Four plenary sessions (one per day):
 - » Forensic Science in a Post-Pandemic World (3 speakers)
 - » Forensic Intelligence (4 Speakers)
 - » Global Strategies on Gender-Based Violence & Missing Persons (3 speakers)
 - » "Where to from here?" panel session (6 speakers)
- Ten disciplinary parallel breakout sessions per day over 4 days (22 disciplines):
 - » 56 x 30-min keynote presentations
 - » 544 x 15-min delegate oral presentations
 - » 580 digital posters
- Two separate multidisciplinary sessions:
 - » Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy (FIGG)

» Queensland DNA Commission of Inquiry

- Other special sessions being planned (awardee keynotes, AFP seminars, Sydney Declaration)

Do not hesitate to check the details by visiting <https://iafs2023.com.au/program/>

If this is not enough to convince you to attend the meeting, check out our 40 workshops on offer: Explore cutting-edge techniques, engage in interactive sessions, and learn from top experts in the field. Discover the latest advancements in DNA analysis, crime scene investigation, biometrics, and more. Expand your expertise and join us for an unforgettable learning experience by registering to one (or several) workshop: <https://iafs2023.com.au/workshops/>

Would you like to contribute more? Join the series of strategic mini-summits organised in most disciplines. Discussion points will include challenges and opportunities related to integration, research & technology, quality management, education & training, etc. Delegates will be able to provide input before the panel sessions and for a short period after the meeting. Stay tuned for more information soon.

Still not convinced? Check this out: The social program will showcase Sydney's hallmarks— with fantastic food, wine and entertainment for our international and local guests. While the Welcome Reception will

showcase Australia, the highlight of the social program is the Gala Night at Luna Park, with uninterrupted views of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House. The ANZFSS Social Night will be held at the beautiful Doltone House Darling Island Wharf, with additional views of the harbour and the bridge.

More than 1,200 delegates have registered. Don't miss out and be part of the ultimate Forensic Science Meeting: [Register now.](#)

As usual, we thank all our sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, delegates, suppliers and the Australian Government for their unwavering support. The IAFS Meeting in Australia will be bigger and better than ever.

We look forward to welcoming you to IAFS 2023. In the meantime, please join our mailing list by visiting www.iafs2023.com.au and keep up with the latest news on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Don't forget to contribute to the #iafs2023 (in)famous koala stories by sending a photo to iafs2023@arinex.com.au.

For any queries, please contact the IAFS 2023 Meeting Managers, Arinex, via www.iafs2023.com.au or email iafs2023@arinex.com.au.

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23rd Triennial Meeting of the
International Association of Forensic Sciences
20-24 November 2023, Sydney, Australia
in conjunction with the 26th ANZFSS Forensic Science Symposium
Web: www.iafs2023.com.au Email: iafs2023@arinex.com.au

Meeting Hosts



Australian and New Zealand
FORENSIC SCIENCE SOCIETY

UTS UNIVERSITY
OF TECHNOLOGY
SYDNEY

The Forensic Exhibit. Events

ANZPAA Police Conference 2023 - Registrations Open



PC/
ANZPAA
POLICE CONFERENCE
2023

**» THE POWER
OF PARTNERSHIPS**
9-10 NOVEMBER

Presented by the Australia and New Zealand Police Commissioners, this two day conference will bring together police personnel and the law enforcement community and industry.

**Registrations may be co-ordinated by your jurisdictions or are by invitation only. Please check with the Commissioners' office prior to registration.

See you at #PC23 @MCEC

**REGISTER
NOW**

ANZPAA
Australia New Zealand
Policing Advisory Agency

[ANZPAACONFERENCE.COM.AU](https://anzpaaconference.com.au)

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Events Calendar

2023

AUGUST

60th International Congress of Forensic Toxicologists

27 – 31 August 2023

Rome, Italy

► <http://www.tiaft2023.org>

NOVEMBER (cont.)

Asia Pacific Coroners Society Conference

13 - 15 November 2023

Sydney, Australia

► <http://www.dccconferences.com.au/apcsc2023>
apcsc2023@dccconferences.com.au

NOVEMBER

X International Conference on Novel Psychoactive Substances

6 - 8 November 2023

Abu Dhabi, UAE

► <http://www.novelpsychoactivesubstances.org>

23rd Triennial Meeting of the International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS) in conjunction with the 26th Symposium of the Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ANZFSS)

20 - 24 November 2023

Sydney, Australia

► <http://iafs2023.com.au>

#IAFS2023

ANZPAA National Police Conference 2023 (PC23)

9 - 10 November 2023

Melbourne, Australia

► <https://anzpaaconference.com.au/>

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More information

Acknowledgement of Country

ANZPAA NIFS acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are Australia's first peoples and the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we work. ANZPAA NIFS is committed to fulfilling the principles of New Zealand's founding document The Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi). Central to the principles is a common understanding that all parties will relate and participate with each other in good faith with mutual respect, co-operation and trust.

The Forensic Exhibit is committed to fulfilling the intent of international treaties and human rights legislation applicable to the various jurisdictions in which we operate, our obligations to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the principles of the New Zealand (Aotearoa) Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi).

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 ANZPAA NIFS Secretariat: secretariat.nifs@anzpaa.org.au

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