

THE FORENSIC EXHIBIT.

Forensic Science Australia (FSA) is a national organisation that represents the forensic science community in Australia. It is a not-for-profit organisation that provides a range of services to its members, including advocacy, education, training, and research. FSA is also involved in the development of standards and best practice guidelines for the forensic science industry. The Forensic Exhibit is a quarterly newsletter that provides news and information about the forensic science community in Australia. It is a free publication that is available to all members of FSA. The Forensic Exhibit is also available to non-members on a subscription basis. The Forensic Exhibit is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the forensic science industry. It provides a comprehensive overview of the latest news and developments in the field. The Forensic Exhibit is also a great way to stay up-to-date on the activities of the forensic science community in Australia. The Forensic Exhibit is a must-read for anyone in the forensic science industry.

Volume 4
Issue 2

June 2021

Shining a spotlight on the work of the Australia New Zealand forensic science community

Welcome message from our new NIFS Director



Vanessa Goodall
Director, ANZPAA NIFS

I am both excited and grateful to be taking over the reins at ANZPAA NIFS. The directorate has achieved some excellent outcomes for the forensic science community under former NIFS Director Dr Linzi Wilson-Wilde's leadership, many of which are highlighted in this quarter's newsletter. I also feel exceptionally fortunate to be working with such a highly talented and committed team as we take ANZPAA NIFS into the future.

After completing my forensic science qualifications at Flinders University, I commenced what was to be a very exciting and rewarding career as a crime scene examiner with the Australian Federal Police (AFP). A two-year secondment to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as a senior advisor in forensic science, was a turning point in my career. Following this, I spent the last 10 years working in strategic advisory roles within police executive and senior forensic management teams at the state and federal level.

Through these experiences, I've been able to see up-close how all parts of the justice system work together in an incredible partnership to solve and prevent crimes. It also cemented my passion for building and being part of collaborative cross-jurisdictional networks. I am hoping to bring much of this knowledge to ANZPAA NIFS.

We are all aware of the huge risks and challenges facing forensic science currently, whether these relate to increasing service demands and cost pressures, or the public scrutiny around the perceived reliability of forensic science. I firmly believe that ANZPAA NIFS is ideally placed to provide the right connections and guidance to address some of these challenges and embrace any resulting opportunities.

ANZPAA is a unique agency, providing a critical service to policing and forensic science communities in Australia and New Zealand. It's my privilege to be working as part of Katherine Van Gorp's Executive Leadership Team. Every day I am impressed by the high-quality products and broad-ranging programs that the various ANZPAA teams deliver under her direction to our policing partners.

I am also really enjoying my individual connections with each of the Australia New Zealand Forensic Executive Committee (ANZFEC) members. It has been so inspiring to listen to their ideas and vision for the future direction of forensic science and to better understand the challenges they face in their jurisdictions.

Over the coming weeks, the team and I will be taking some time out to stop, take a breath and think about our purpose, operating model, and strategic priorities. We will also be considering what key projects ANZPAA NIFS will need to undertake and focus on, as we reflect on how forensic science fits more broadly into the criminal justice system.

In terms of exciting things happening at ANZPAA NIFS, we have just opened nominations for the Best Paper Awards (<https://www.anzpaa.org.au/forensic-science/our-work/awards/best-paper>). ANZPAA NIFS has run these awards since they first began in 1994 – demonstrating the importance of research and innovation across our sector. They recognise the great work that is being done in helping to solve our everyday challenges, better understanding our limitations, and

identifying new and improved ways of doing business.

From what I have seen in my first month, I know that we have a wonderful team of people committed to embedding a networked approach and delivering on our purpose to promote and facilitate excellence in forensic science.

As the COVID travel restrictions ease, we look forward to connecting with you more in person and building on our already strong partnerships. To those of you that dedicate your time and efforts to support our many advisory and working groups, thank you for your part in making a real difference.

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ANZPAA
Australia New Zealand
Policing Advisory Agency



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News from the forensic community

Congratulations - Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit

We would like to congratulate Dr SallyAnn Harbison on being awarded a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in the 2021 awards list for services to forensic science.

Congratulations – Queens Birthday 2021 Honours

We would like to congratulate Dr Soren Blau on being appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) and Dr Sarah Benson on being awarded a Public Service Medal (PSM) in the recent Queen's Birthday 2021 Honours List.

Dr Blau was recognised for significant service to forensic medicine, and to scientific organisations. Dr Benson was recognised for outstanding public service through driving innovation and forensic science capability for the Australian Federal Police.

NIFS Best Paper Awards

NIFS AWARDS

Entries are currently open for the **ANZPAA NIFS Best Paper Awards.**

These awards encourage 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.

Best Paper Award Categories

- Best Paper: Forensic Fundamentals
- Best Paper: Capability Enhancement and Innovation
- Best New Publisher in a Refereed Journal
- Best Technical Article or Note
- Best Literature Review
- Best Case Study
- The Henry Delaforce Award

The descriptions for each award category have been updated for 2021! Visit <http://www.anzpaa.org.au/forensic-science/our-work/awards/best-paper> for further information about the award categories and to download an application form. **Entries close 31 August 2021.**



▲ NIFS Dean Catoggio presents the Henry Delaforce Award to A/Insp Cameron Forsyth



▲ A/Insp Cameron Forsyth and Superintendent Grant Healy

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News from the forensic community



ENGENDER CHANGE

Transforming Culture Through Leadership

Engender Change

Launched by ANZPAA NIFS in 2020, the Engender Change Program brings together the national forensic science community to make gender equity and inclusion a reality in the workplace through leadership.

Learn how you can join the movement and make transformative and accountable change at:

<https://www.anzpaa.org.au/forensic-science/engender-change>.

ANZFSS Brisbane 2022



Donna McGregor

Lecturer in Forensic Science at Griffith University; and Chair, Organising Committee ANZFSS 2022

Planning for ANZFSS 2022 is progressing well. Since the last update, we have locked in most of the discipline chairs and many of the discipline assistants. Thank you to everyone who has agreed to come onboard in these roles and join us in Brisbane in September next year. The level of support out in the forensic community nationally has

been overwhelming and appreciated. It is so encouraging in these uncertain times to see that so many in our forensic community want the opportunity to get together again.

We have also locked in two international plenary speakers from the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) discipline. All going well, we hope to see them in Brisbane next year; however, they have agreed to a remote presentation should they not be able to attend in person. At this stage we cannot release their names until their organisations grant the appropriate permissions and this will be updated on the official ANZFSS 2022 website in the near future.

Also, we have a theme. Many people may have thought the theme was "Let's Reconnect" but that was simply used for our banners and marketing. The theme

for the 25th International Symposium of the Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society to be held in Brisbane next year is "*Forensics: Designing the future*". Please start thinking about your abstracts/presentations and any workshops that you may like to host. The call for Abstracts and Workshops will open on the 15th of September this year.



For all correspondence regarding the symposium please email:

anzfss2022@encanta.com.au

As more information becomes available, the official website www.anzfss2022.com will be updated.

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News from the forensic community

Forensic Science Principles – Paving the way for IAFS 2023

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

As described in *The Forensic Exhibit's* last issue, we have embarked on the organisation, or re-organisation..., of the 23rd Triennial Meeting of the International Association of Forensic Sciences planned to be held in conjunction with the 26th Symposium of the Australian & New Zealand Forensic Science Society in Sydney from 20 - 24 November 2023.

To acknowledge the excellent work and tremendous support for the cancelled IAFS 2020, a live-streamed and recorded event entitled '**Forensic Science Principles - Paving the Way for IAFS 2023**' on 18 May 2021 covered current and future challenges in forensic science under the IAFS 2023 theme of 'where to from here?'. Attendees gained early access to **The Sydney Declaration**, the outcome of a profound reflection by 15 world-leading forensic scientists on the essence of forensic science, its purpose and its fundamental principles. The virtual event was a fantastic success. It included 13 speakers from North America, Europe, Asia and Australia and attracted more than 1,000 registered attendees spread across 91 countries. You can watch (or re-watch) the thought-provoking presentations and the Q&A sessions and obtain more information on The Sydney Declaration from <https://iafs2023.com.au/virtualevent/>.

It is hoped that this discussion is a significant step forward for future improvements in forensic science, including in education, training, research and development, and operational practices. Please stay tuned for future initiatives in this space.

As usual, on behalf of the Organising Committee of IAFS 2020, we thank you for your continued support and commitment

to the IAFS Meeting. In addition, we appreciate the unwavering support of our sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, delegates, suppliers and the Australian Government.

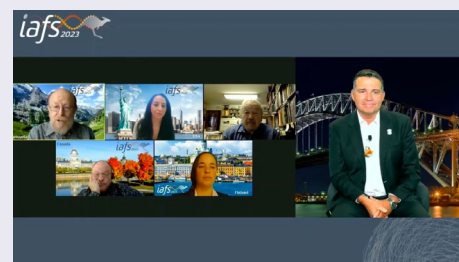
Please look after yourself and those around you so that we can enjoy your company in Sydney for a momentous IAFS Meeting in November 2023.

For any queries, please contact the IAFS 2023 Meeting Managers via:
iafs2023@arinex.com.au.

Our new website is up and running:
www.iafs2023.com.au



▲ Behind the scenes with IAFS President Claude Roux presenting at the 'Forensic Science Principles - Paving the Way for IAFS 2023' virtual event.



▲ Presenters Profs. Pierre Margot (Switzerland), Michelle Miranda, Peter De Forest (both USA), Claude Roux, Frank Crispino (Canada) and Dr Rebecca Bucht (Finland) on screen.



▲ The virtual event had wide forensic community engagement.

Stay up-to-date with all the latest information by joining the IAFS [mailing list](#).

www.facebook.com/IAFS2023/
[@iafs2023](https://twitter.com/iafs2023)

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News from the forensic community

AAFS Update



Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences

Dr Yvonne Skinner,

President, Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences

We have all experienced difficult times in 2020. Closure of state borders, barriers to travel within states and anxiety related to travel have led to difficulties in communication between professionals. The Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences was forced to cancel plenary sessions, which since 1968 have been important face-to-face meetings with professionals from a range of disciplines exchanging ideas.

In 2021 we have set up our new website: <https://forensicacademy.com.au>

On the website you will be able to view information about the Academy and about future meetings, including events of the Victorian and ACT chapters. It is proposed that online payments for subscriptions and functions will become available in the future, but at present The Royal Australian College of Pathologists manages payments for memberships and functions.

The Australian Journal of Forensic Sciences has now expanded to six issues per year and enhanced in status and reputation. The Journal presents high quality articles by researchers from various disciplines.

The Academy maintains an Education and Research Fund which supports the award of a Research Fellowship for researchers living and working in Australia. In order to broaden support for research and in recognition of the many ways in which COVID-19 has been disruptive, the Academy Council has decided to award two Research Fellowships for 2021, both valued at \$15,000. Applications have now closed.

We are pleased to have received a significant number of applications for the Academy Research Fellowship and we will be reviewing these with a view to announcing the successful applicants at the August 2021 meeting. If you have submitted an application and have not yet received confirmation of receipt, please contact the Secretary-General via secretary-general@forensicacademy.org Information regarding the scholarships is available on the Academy website: <https://forensicacademy.com.au/research-fellowship/>

Past scholarship topics include: The Role of Guardianship Legislation in the Treatment of Anorexia Patients in NSW; Children's eyewitness memory; Larval taxonomy of forensically-important blowflies; Impact of environmental exposure on the quality of DNA profiling of tissue in forensic and archaeological settings.

I would appreciate your assistance in disseminating information. Would you help by passing on information about the scholarships to colleagues, other persons, groups or institutions who might be interested in future research scholarships? This should arouse interest from interested parties and others who did not apply this year, but might be interested at a future date. I hope that researchers will consider possible applications for the Academy scholarship when planning future research projects.

We look forward to a more active and fruitful year in 2021.

NSW Fingerprint Operations - Experts Conference

NSW Fingerprint Operations will be holding an Experts Conference on **10 and 11 November 2021** in Sydney at the Mantra Hotel, Parramatta.

NSW Fingerprint Operations are seeking expressions of interest from anyone wanting to attend and/or present at the conference from across the jurisdictions. We are predominately interested in fingerprint investigation specific case studies, topical/contemporary fingerprint related issues, or any specific fingerprint related research that has a clear practical application for operational fingerprint technicians and experts.

There is no registration fee, and morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided for those attending. However, any costs associated with travel and accommodation will be the attendee's responsibility.

There is a possibility that the conference may be broadcast (or selected parts of it) via MS Teams. Depending on any identified security issues relating to disclosure of any of the presentations outside of the conference environment, we intend to make the link available to a nominated person within each jurisdiction to enable access to other staff wanting to join the conference and watch any presentations that might be of interest.

The closing date for submission of abstracts for anyone interested in presenting is **Friday 1 October, 2021**. For further information or to register your interest in attending, please contact S/Sgt Rick Sinclair sinc1ric@police.nsw.gov.au or CSO Michael Whyte whyt2mic@police.nsw.gov.au. Any presentation abstract submissions (maximum 300 words) can also be submitted directly to either Rick or Michael via email.

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Forensic project update

In brief:

Education and Training Product Review – Stages 1 and 2

New

ANZPAA are soon to commence a review of the ANZPAA Education and Training Products for forensic policing disciplines. The review of the ANZPAA Education and Training Guidelines and aligned Police Training Package (POLTP) Qualifications will help ensure continuous improvement in education and training within the forensic community and ensure the guidelines and qualifications are current and fit for purpose. The product review will be performed in three stages:

- **Stage 1** - Review of the Forensic Investigation Guideline and aligned POLTP Qualifications (base products)
- **Stage 2** - Review of the Crime Scene, Fingerprint and Firearm Examination Guidelines and POLTP Qualifications (ensuring these discipline specific products are consistent with the base products)
- **Stage 3** - Review of the Audio-Visual Examination, Document Examination and Clandestine Laboratories Guidelines, which do not align with POLTP Qualifications.

ANZPAA are recruiting a suitably qualified person to lead priority stages 1 and 2 of the project supported by existing ANZPAA education and training expertise. We anticipate stages 1 and 2, which link to pre-requisite qualifications for AFSAB certification, will take 12 months to complete.

Standardised Consumables Pricing Arrangement

New

The recently completed *Workflow Mapping – Drug Analysis Project* highlighted opportunities for potential cost savings through establishing standardised

consumable pricing arrangements between ANZFEC agencies and suppliers. In July 2021, ANZPAA NIFS will commence a project to investigate the feasibility of establishing a standardised pricing arrangement for analytical chemistry consumables used by ANZFEC member agencies in high volume. Agency requirements for high volume analytical consumables, including procurement policies and processes will be considered.

A standardised consumables pricing framework will also be developed. The framework will be designed so that it can be used by ANZPAA NIFS and ANZPAA NIFS Groups to efficiently establish cross-agency pricing arrangements for other forensic disciplines. ANZPAA NIFS have recently advertised a fixed-term senior forensic project officer role to assist the team in completing this project and the expansion of the forensic fundamentals project (see below).

Forensic Fundamentals - Phase 2

Update

Overview

The aim of the Forensic Fundamentals project is to identify the underpinning science and validation requirements for forensic science disciplines. This project involves conducting a gap analysis for multiple forensic science disciplines. These gap analyses will inform ongoing updates to the Research and Innovation Roadmap Annual Projects document.

Claim Assessment & Gap Analysis

Working groups map the claims made within their discipline, including claims surrounding underpinning principles and expert knowledge and interpretative ability. Scientific literature is then assessed for each claim to determine the level of empirical support that exists (assessed in accordance with the Empirical Study Guideline available on the NIFS website <http://www.anzpaa.org.au/forensic-science/our-work/products/publications>).

The Drug, Toxicology (drug interpretation claims), and Audio Video working groups have now completed their assessments. The gap analysis report for these three disciplines will be presented at ANZFEC 19 (July 2021). Clandestine Laboratory, Anthropology and Textile Damage are currently completing their reviews of relevant literature.

2021-22

The 2021-22 round of the Forensic Fundamentals project will be expanded to cover nine disciplines. The disciplines for 2021-22 will be determined by ANZFEC members at ANZFEC 19. To increase our capacity to cover extra disciplines, ANZPAA NIFS will be assisted by an extra staff member in the recently advertised fixed-term senior forensic project officer role. We will also be seeking expressions of interest later this year for working group participation for the approved disciplines.

AFSAB Overview

Update



Australasian Forensic Science
Assessment Body

AFSAB Recertifications

The ANZPAA NIFS team have been busy processing Australasian Forensic Science Assessment Body (AFSAB) annual and five-yearly recertifications following delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We anticipate that recertification notifications will be forwarded to practitioners before the end of the month. We thank you for your support and the provision of timely responses to our queries over the past six-months. We look forward to engaging with the community to further streamline the certification process shortly.

AFSAB Enhancement Project

The AFSAB Enhancement project was established at the time of closing of the AFSAB Review Implementation project and is the next phase of improvements to the AFSAB framework.

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Forensic project update – continued

This month our AFSAB practitioner management database has gone live! This has been a huge achievement for the ANZPAA NIFS team and enables us to move toward digital management of the AFSAB certification program and subsequently streamline administration processes for all involved. We are excited about the opportunities this presents. A special shoutout to Dean Catoggio for the countless hours spent developing the in-house product – a real labour of love!

AFSAB Policy and Processes for Certification (June 2021)

On 10 June 2021, the AFSAB Board met virtually and approved an updated *AFSAB Policy and Processes for Certification* (the Policy) which will be distributed to AFSAB certified practitioners, assessors and current Australia New Zealand crime scene, firearm, and fingerprint trainees in the coming days.

Important updates include:

- A 12-month extension to the grandfather clause for AFSAB Board Approved Assessors
- Transfer of AFSAB Board responsibilities and governance information from the Policy to a newly developed *AFSAB Board Terms of Reference*
- Addition of a process for jurisdictions that do not have an AFSAB Board Approved Assessor available for AFSAB assessments
- Addition of further details regarding five-yearly recertification requirements following career breaks
- Clarification of the Education and Training pre-requisites for each discipline
- Inclusion of the accepted qualifications for AFSAB Board Approved Assessors.

Forensic Standards Development

Update

The Standards Australia CH-041 Forensic Analysis committee comprises representatives from ANZPAA NIFS, forensic services and academia. The current focus for CH-041 is reviewing country member comments and establishing an Australian position on draft forensic science standards developed by the International Standards Organisation TC 272 committee. Dr Linzi Wilson-Wilde OAM of Forensic Science South Australia chairs both committees as Standards Australia holds the secretariat position on the ISO committee. Inspector David Neville of Queensland Police Service currently represents CH-041 on TC-272. Both committees meet throughout the year but have recently moved online due to the COVID-19 environment. CH-041 committee reviews the Australia Standards following the publication of the equivalent international standards.

The published ISO forensic science standards are:

- ISO 18385:2016 Minimizing the risk of human DNA contamination in products used to collect, store and analyze biological material for forensic purposes — Requirements
- ISO 21043-1:2018 Forensic sciences — Part 1: Terms and definitions
- ISO 21043-2:2018 Forensic sciences — Part 2: Recognition, recording, collecting, transport and storage of items

The ISO standards currently under development are:

- ISO/CD 21043:3 – Forensic Sciences – Analysis
- ISO/CD 21043:4 – Forensic Sciences – Interpretation
- ISO/CD 21043:5 – Forensic Sciences – Reporting

You can find more information on forensic science standards development via the following links:

- <https://www.iso.org/committee/4395817.html>
- <https://www.standards.org.au/standards-catalogue/sa-snz/manufacturing/ch-041>

Research and Innovation Roadmap

Update

In case you missed it in a previous edition of *The Forensic Exhibit*, the ANZPAA NIFS Research and Innovation Roadmap 2020-2025 is available to download from the ANZPAA website <https://www.anzpaa.org.au/forensic-science/our-work/projects/research-and-innovation-project>

ANZPAA NIFS will use the Roadmap to direct investment in research that will benefit government forensic science agencies in Australia and New Zealand. Academic institutions and forensic service providers can connect through the Roadmap, working together to undertake research, reduce duplication of effort and help drive research funding further. When applying for grants, researchers can use the Roadmap to demonstrate the relevance of their research to operational forensic service providers in Australia and New Zealand.



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Events Calendar

2021

JUNE

Canadian Society of Forensic Science Virtual Conference - Forensic Science: A World of Opportunities

21 - 24 June 2021

Continental USA timezones

► <https://www.csfs.ca/conference/>

JULY

DFRWS USA 2021 (Digital forensic conference)

12 - 15 July 2021

Continental USA timezones

► <https://dfrws.org/conferences/dfrws-usa-2021/>

SEPTEMBER

32nd International Symposium on Human Identification (ISHI)

12 - 16 September 2021

Orlando, Florida

► <http://www.ishinews.com>

OCTOBER

New South Wales Police Force Crime Scene Services Branch Inaugural Expert Conference

27 October 2021

Sydney, Australia

NOVEMBER

NSW Fingerprint Experts Conference

10 - 11 November 2021

Sydney, Australia

Forensic and Clinical Toxicology Association (FACTA) 2021

14 - 17 November 2021

Brisbane, Australia

► <http://facta2021.com.au/>

2022

JANUARY

58th Annual The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT) Meeting

30 January - 3 February 2022

Cape Town, South Africa

► <https://tiaft2021.co.za/>

MAY

9th European Academy of Forensic Science Conference (EAFS)

30 May - 3 June 2022

Stockholm, Sweden

► <https://www.eafs2022.eu/>

AUGUST

29th Congress of the International Society for Forensic Genetics (ISFG)

29 August - 2 September 2022

Washington, DC

► <http://www.isfg2021.org>

SEPTEMBER

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

11 - 15 September 2022

Brisbane, Australia

► <http://www.anzfss2022.com/>

2023

NOVEMBER

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

► <https://iafs2023.com.au/>

#IAFS2023

The Forensic Exhibit.

Next edition focus

In the next issue:

- ANZPAA NIFS Project Update
- Research and Innovation Advisory Committee (RIAC)

Acknowledgement of Country:



ANZPAA 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 is committed to fulfilling the principles of New Zealand's founding document The Treaty of 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.

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 Hannah Jarman:
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