

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

2019 Year in Review



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Welcome to the last newsletter for 2019. It has been a huge year for the ANZPAA NIFS team and the forensic science community as a whole. Collectively we have achieved so much in 2019.

Early this year, we signed another three-year Service Level Agreement with our stakeholders to continue support to ANZPAA NIFS. With this, we have developed a new look three-year ANZPAA NIFS Strategic Plan 2019-22, see

<http://www.anzpa.org.au/forensic-science/our-work/products/publications>

Our project activities included:

- The **Forensic Fundamentals** project, which reduces risk to forensic science service providers by providing greater visibility of the underpinning science behind the forensic science disciplines, and proactively identifies areas for further research and empirical testing. We also finalised the Empirical Study Design in Forensic Science – A Guideline to Forensic Fundamentals.
- A **Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Crime Scene Management** guideline, which shares the learnings from jurisdictions that have made significant process and practice changes in recent years with those that may be interested in taking a similar approach.

- A **Model Framework for Double Blind System Testing in Forensic Science** that will improve quality, mitigate risk, increase standardisation, reduce duplication, and aid understanding of sources and rates of error in forensic casework.
- The **Drug and Fingerprint Analysis Workflow Mapping** Projects identified workflow efficiencies for jurisdictions.
- The **Case Record Review in Forensic Biology** represents a co-ordinated effort to address the risks raised in the Ross Inquiry (WA). It will assist in addressing an identified gap in understanding within the forensic community in relation to the implementation of a risk-based approach, entailed in new accreditation (ISO 17025) requirements.
- A guideline for **Transitioning Technology from the Laboratory to the Field** which provides a standardised and streamlined approach to these transitions to reduce duplication.
- We completed the **Australasian Forensic Science Assessment Body (AFSAB)** Review Implementation Project and commenced an AFSAB Enhancement Project. You can find more about AFSAB at

<http://www.anzpa.org.au/forensic-science/resources/afsab>

See <http://www.anzpa.org.au/forensic-science/our-work/products/publications> for all ANZPAA NIFS published products.

We also saw changes to our governance group, the Australia New Zealand Forensic Executive Committee (ANZFEC). We said goodbye to Daniel Andres and Ian Fox and welcomed new members Rebecca Kogios, Michael Fitzgerald, John Venditto, Anthony Lee and Jade Redfern. We have also enjoyed the company of other temporary members, observers and presenters: Michael Bell, Sharon Neville, Jan De Kinder, Wayne Hawes, Anne Coxon, Rebecca Gigli, Hazel Rivera, David Ranson, John Robertson, Jeremy Johnson, Andrew Wall, Jennifer Raymond, Alison Sears, Brenton Searle,

Ian Dempster, Bjorn Sutherland, Santiago Vazquez, Michael Taylor, Tim Altamore and Katrina Edmondson. I would like to thank them and all our ANZFEC members for their continued hard work, advice and support to ANZPAA NIFS.

In the ANZAPAA NIFS team Robert Morgan went on secondment to the Victoria Police Forensic Services Department and Dr Kaye Ballantyne extended her secondment to cover Robert's absence.

Next Year

2020 looks to be another big year for ANZPAA NIFS and the forensic science community. The 22nd Triennial meeting of the International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS), in conjunction with the 25th Symposium of the Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ANZFSS) Symposium (21-25 September 2020) is shaping up to be a huge event. ANZPAA NIFS will be there to contribute and support the conference, where we will also be running the Ian Riebeling New Practitioner Workshop.

2020 will also see the launch of the John Harber Phillips Award (JHP Award), which will be presented at the IAFS/ANZFSS Gala Dinner on 25 September. Nominations open for the JHP Award on 2 March 2020 and close 12 June 2020. I encourage all of you to consider worthy applicants who have demonstrated sustained excellence and contribution to forensic science, and to nominate them.

In 2020, ANZPAA NIFS will also be relocating offices. We will be moving to new Victoria Police premises at 311 Spencer Street, Melbourne. More details to follow in the New Year.

Finally, thank you to our ANZFEC members and all stakeholders who have helped us deliver some amazing products to benefit the forensic community. I wish you and your families all the best for the festive season and I look forward to working with all our stakeholders again in 2020, for what will be another big year.

The Forensic Exhibit.

News from the forensic community

2019 Best Paper Award Winners

ANZPAA NIFS would like to congratulate the following recipients of the 2019 ANZPAA NIFS Best Paper Awards:

Best Paper in a Refereed Journal Winner

Andrew Camilleri, Damien Abarno, Carlyne Bird, Anne Coxon, Natasha Mitchell, Kahlee Redman, Nicol Sly, Stephen Wills, Edmund Silenieks, Ellie Simpson and Heather Lindsay.

A risk-based approach to cognitive bias in forensic science.

Highly Commended

Duncan Taylor, James Curran and John Buckleton.

Likelihood ratio development for mixed Y-STR profiles.

Kelsey Seyfang, Nick Lucas, Kahlee Redman, Rachel Popelka-Filcoff, Hilton Kobus and Paul Kirkbride.

Glass-containing gunshot residues and particles of industrial and occupational origins: Considerations for evaluating GSR traces.

Best Technical Article or Note Winner

Duncan Taylor, Emily Rowe, Maarten Kruijver, Damien Abarno, Jo-Anne Bright and John Buckleton.

Inter-sample contamination detection using mixture deconvolution comparison.

Best Chapter in a Book Winner

No winner.

Best Literature Review Winner

Roland van Oorschot, Bianca Szkuta, Georgina Meakin, Bas Kokshoorn and Mariya Goray.

DNA transfer in forensic science: A review.

Highly Commended

Duncan Taylor, Bas Kokshoorn and Alex Biedermann.

Evaluation of forensic genetics findings given activity level propositions: A review.

Best Case Study Winner

Emma Partridge, Stephen Trobbiani, Peter Stockham, Cheryl Charlwood and Chris Kostakis.

A case study involving U-47700, Diclazepam and Flubromazepam - application of retrospective analysis of HRMS data.

Highly Commended

Christine Nash, Danielle Butzbach, Peter Stockham, Timothy Scott, Greg Abroe, Ben Painter, John Gilbert and Chris Kostakis.

A fatality involving furanylfentanyl and MMMP, with presumptive identification of three MMMP metabolites in urine.

The Henry Delaforce Award Winner

Chris Flight, Max Jones & Kaye Ballantyne

Determination of the maximum distance blood spatter travels from a vertical impact.

2019 Best Paper Award Winners from Forensic Science SA



The Forensic Exhibit.

News from the forensic community



Police Conference 2019



Face Specialist Advisory Group (SAG) meeting



Hayley Brown (Forensic Science SA) receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for her valued contribution as Chair of the Chemical Criminalistics SAG



Electronic Evidence Specialist Advisory Group meeting



Research and Innovation Advisory Committee meeting



International Organization for Standardization (ISO) / TC 272 meeting St Louis, USA



Crime Scene Proficiency Advisory Committee meeting



Anthropology Technical Advisory Group meeting



NIFS presenting at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) meeting



Quality Specialist Advisory Group meeting



Chemical Criminalistics SAG - Interpretation of Glass Evidence using Bayesian and Chemometric Approaches Workshop



Publications 2019

The Forensic Exhibit.

More information



Merry Christmas

SEASONS GREETINGS

Thank you for your support in 2019.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season and look forward to working with you in the new year.



Disclaimer

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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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