



Forensics Breakfast Seminar Series Program

Time: Each session runs from 7.45am – 8.45am
Location: The Law Society of NSW 170 Phillip St Sydney

Date	Topic	Overview	Speake
15 February	Forensics seminar series: Using Images as Forensic Evidence	A discussion of the current state of methodological knowledge concerning the interpretation of images and of the issues legal practitioners need to be aware of regarding the reliability of this type of forensic evidence. The exponential increase in images captured on mobile phones and public and private security cameras, and their sharing on social media, has significantly impacted on how visual evidence is considered and presented as forensic evidence in Court, and the use of this type of evidence will only continue to increase.	Assoc Professor Glenn Porter PhD: Glenn Porter is an Associate Professor in Photomedia at James Cook University. He was the founding academic and Head of Program of the Bachelor of Science (Forensic Science) degree at the University of Western Sydney (UWS) and a forensic photographer with the Australian Federal Police (AFP). He has a Master of Applied Science (Photography) from RMIT and his PhD thesis was “The Reliability of CCTV Images as Forensic Evidence” at University of Western Sydney. He has published extensively including on the digital imaging of fingerprints, the recording and validity of bite mark evidence, the detection of latent bloodstains beneath painted surfaces, identification evidence derived from photographic and video images and facial imaging.

<p>22 February</p>	<p>Forensics seminar series: Pharmacology – Drugs & Alcohol</p>	<p>Forensic aspects of the effects of drugs and alcohol on human behaviour: Humans have used drugs and alcohol throughout history. Knowledge of the effects of various drugs on relevant skills, performance and behaviour can be used to assess the degree to which performance is likely to have been impaired at a particular time, the extent of the impairment and whether or not that impairment was likely to have contributed to a collision or other incident, or if it contributed to the severity of injuries suffered. The session includes ample opportunity to discuss specific matters of interest.</p>	<p>Professor Edward Ogden PSM. Professor Ogden is Deputy Director (Addiction and Forensic Medicine) Department of Psychopharmacology Swinburne University of Technology and a consultant in the Department of Addiction Medicine St Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne. He was employed by the Victoria Police in various roles from 1978 to 2012 including 11 years full-time in the Department of Forensic Medicine and 17 years as Principal Medical Advisor with responsibility for research into drugs and motor accidents. He has a Diploma in Criminology and was a visiting lecturer in Criminology at the University of Melbourne from 1990-2003. He is a member of the Executive Board of the International Council on Alcohol Drugs and Traffic Safety and a member of the International Working Party on Prescribed Medication and Driving. He was Medical Director of Ambulance Service NSW in 2004. He was awarded the Public Service Medal for services to forensic medicine on Australia Day 2005.</p>
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<p>1 March</p>	<p>Forensics seminar series: Fire and Explosion Investigation</p>	<p>The scientific method as it applies to the investigation of the origin and cause of a fire or explosion (including NFPA Standard 921). A discussion of the evidentiary issues that arise when much of the relevant evidence has been burned or blown away by the event being investigated, how fire investigators work backward from what remains to determine the “area of origin” at which the fire or explosion originated, when the use of other experts is required eg an expert in the operation of the particular machine that caught fire, why identifying the origin is so important to identifying the physical (not legal) cause of the event, the limits on the ability of a fire investigator to provide an opinion or firm opinion when the post event evidence is extremely limited and often highly water damaged, and the difficulties in moving from an opinion that arson is the cause, or probable cause, of a fire or explosion to identifying who committed arson.</p>	<p>James (Jim) Munday and Belinda (BJ) Jones: Jim Munday joined the (UK) Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory in 1972 working with forensic analysis relating to drugs and toxicology, criminalistics, crime scene examination and evidence retrieval before transferring in 1979 to the specialist Fire Investigation Unit. He remained in that role with what became known as the (UK) Forensic Science Service till 1998 when he commenced his own firm. He has examined the scenes of more than 1800 fires and explosions including over 350 fatalities as well as providing expert opinions in criminal, civil and coronial proceedings and giving evidence in Courts numerous times.</p> <p>Belinda Jones did her BSc (App Chem) in validating Canine Accelerant Detection in a program with NSW Fire Brigade and her MSc (Forensic Science) in relation to Accelerants for the Development of a Biosensor. She worked as a crime scene investigator with NSW Police Service for 5 years dealing with evidence collection including gross and trace DNA, clothing, finger prints, scene and victim photography and completion of forensic procedures including a secondment to Westmead Laboratory for sample identification. She then worked for a leading insurer as a fire investigator before joining Jim Munday as a principal investigator. She has examined over 400 incident scenes including structures, vehicles and machinery including mining and ship/boat machinery.</p>
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8 March	Forensics seminar series: Forensic Pathology	An introduction to forensic pathology: including a discussion of how a forensic pathologist investigates injury mechanism and cause of death, the different issues in respect of which a forensic pathologist can provide opinions, and the materials a forensic pathologist needs from legal practitioners to allow them to provide a reliable opinion.	Jo Du Flou is MBChB MMedPath(Forens) FRCPA is one of the best known forensic pathologists in Australia. He was Clinical Director Department of Forensic Medicine Sydney from 2002-2015. His duties included death investigations for the coroner, extensive attendance at various courts in a number of different countries as an expert witness, teaching of medical and other undergraduate and postgraduate students at the University of Sydney, University of NSW, Notre Dame University and University of Technology Sydney (UTS), and training and supervision of pathology registrars for admission to Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia.
15 March	Forensics seminar series: Bio-Mechanics of Injury Causation	An introduction bio-mechanics and injury causation in the forensic context, including a discussion of the modelling and other analytical techniques currently available, their benefits and limitations, and of areas in which bio- mechanists provide forensic opinions (criminal and civil) including: human falls whether from a balcony, machine or floor; the causation of specific injuries and their consistency with different scenarios; assault and battery analysis; industrial accidents; motor vehicle accidents; equipment design and design flaws.	Dr Tom Gibson PhD: Tom Gibson has a Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering, a Master of Science in Automotive Engineering, and his PhD in Biomedical Engineering. He helped establish Australia's first multi-disciplinary crash investigation team in 1984-85 at the NH&MRC Road Accident Research Unit in Adelaide and was an early developer of the use of mathematical / computerised simulations. He is a leading bio-mechanist and accident reconstruction expert who has provided extensive expert opinion evidence on the causes of human injury from falls, blows, industrial accidents, motor vehicle accidents and from a wide range of other circumstances.

<p>22 March</p>	<p>Forensics seminar series: Forensic Accounting</p>	<p>How forensic accountants analyse primary and secondary accounting records and source materials to provide opinions, whether on the true financial status of an enterprise or person or other issue, and the role of the instructing legal practitioner in that process. Including a discussion of how those principles apply to a range of different situations such as: fraud investigations (criminal and civil); determining the sources of funds; assessing solvency and insolvent trading; assessing business interruption losses, commercial losses, personal injury damages, and family law assets; as well as other areas.</p>	<p>David Watt, Chartered Accountant: David Watt has specialised in providing forensic accounting opinions since 1990. He worked with Horwath (NSW) Pty Limited as a Director, Deloitte Touche Tomatsu as a Partner and Marsh Pty Ltd as a Principal before commencing his own practice. He has extensive experience providing forensic accounting expert opinions and giving evidence across a wide range of areas (criminal and civil) and jurisdictions including the Supreme, District and Dust Diseases Tribunals in NSW, and the Federal and Family Courts.</p>
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