

# FIREPOINT



IAAI JOURNAL



# Firepoint

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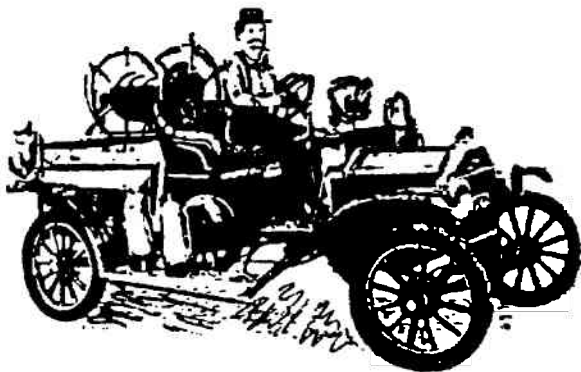
*On the 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2000 on ABC Television, the "Four Corners" program made serious allegations against a number of fire investigators, and against insurance companies, concerning their professional standards and conduct.*

*Were the claims sensational and untrue, or was there some truth in the allegations? There should be no rush to judgement. Nor should the matters be ignored.*

*The standing of persons involved in fire investigation is dependent upon ethical and proper standards. The issues raised need to be discussed calmly and openly.*

*Bodies such as our Associations and the Insurance Council of Australia need to carefully consider the facts, and not the innuendoes.*

*Wal Stern*



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## QUEENSLAND NEWS

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2000 we officially celebrated our 10th Anniversary as Chapter 59 of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

Over the past 10 years, our association has been quite active in holding training exercises and producing two training videos from the exercises carried out.

The conduct of these training exercises and training videos is due to the Presidents and the committees who have worked tirelessly and unselfishly to ensure that our association did not become a social club. The efforts and sacrifices by all persons who have devoted their time is greatly appreciated.

The Presidents for the past 10 years were personally acknowledged at the function and a certificate of recognition and appreciation were handed to each past President.

The Presidents for our first 10 years were as follows;

- ◆ Rod Bevan – 1990, 1991 & 1992
- ◆ Peter Thomas – 1993, 1994 & 1995
- ◆ Terry Casey – 1996, 1997
- ◆ Tom Dawson – 1998
- ◆ Bernice Norman – 1999

Certificates of Appreciation were also presented to acknowledge the support our Association has received from;

- ◆ QFRA – Fire Investigation Research Unit
- ◆ Queensland Police Service
- ◆ Dept. Mines & Energy – Electrical Safety Office
- ◆ National Institute of Forensic Science (NIFS)

Our association looks at working with both private organisations and government agencies to increase our knowledge of fires and the behaviour of fire with the aim of increasing our professionalism in the investigation of fires.

These lofty goals will undoubtedly continue. The association will continue these activities and over the next decade as we also aim to increase membership.

As a measurement of Chapter 59's success, Greg Hancock from the New South Wales chapter has nominated our Chapter for the IAAI "Outstanding Chapter Award". The recipient of this award will be announced at the 2001 IAAI Annual Convention & AGM held in the United States.

To those who have contributed over the past decade, well done and for the remainder of our members, please consider taking an active role in continuing the sound work already proven by the Presidents and Committee's of the first 10 years who ensured the association blossomed into a dynamic and successful association.

It is your valued skills that will ensure the future success of the association.

### **BEST WISHES**

As this is the final edition of Firepoint for 2000, on behalf of the QAFI Committee, I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.



## QUEENSLAND NEWS

### 4 CORNERS PROGRAM – 23/10/2000

"The committee of the Queensland Association of Fire Investigators are of the view that the 4 Corners program aired at 8.30pm on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October was biased and unbalanced.

A more detailed statement is inappropriate as matters referred to in the program are still before the Courts".

### LONG SERVING MEMBERS

At the recent 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon, the following members were acknowledged for their 10 years of continuous membership.

- Rowley Ahern, Wyatt Gallagher Bassett
- Brian Asher, Beaka Assessing & Investigation
- Rod Bevan, Brisbane Investigations
- Jon Capper, Pacific Adjusters
- Terry Casey, Forensic Services Aust.
- Ross Collins, Freemans Gold Coast
- Tony Cotter, McCullough Robertson
- Keith Ellis, Keith Ellis & Associates
- Graham Jones, Insurance Council of Australia
- Keith Lorimer, Basil Asher & Associates.
- David Muir, Deacons
- Quinlan Miller & Treston – Corporate membership
- Chris Odgers, Cushway Blackford Associates
- Earle Plummer, Freemans Toowoomba
- Rod Pullinger, Freemans Toowoomba
- Keith Spanswick, Forensic Services Australia.
- Peter Thomas, Peter Thomas & Associates
- Jim Webster, Webster O'keeffe & Associates.

### MEMBERS SURVEY

It was very disheartening when only 14 completed Membership Survey forms were received. The purpose of the Survey was to gain future direction for planning training seminars and educational activities that will benefit ALL our members.

Another copy of the Survey has been forwarded to members with their November/December QAFI Newsletter. PLEASE take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it to us by the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2000.

### UPCOMING FUNCTION

The members Christmas Breakfast Meeting will be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 7.15am at The Stamford Plaza (formerly The Heritage), Brisbane.

At this point in time, I am unable to confirm the guest speaker or presentation topic.

Formal notification will be forwarded to members with additional information being published in our Newsletter.

All inquiries for this function should be directed to Julianne Foley on (07) 3822 4700 or e-mail [admin\\_officer@qafi.asn.au](mailto:admin_officer@qafi.asn.au).

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Invoices for 2001 Membership renewal will be forwarded in mid-December and will be due for payment by the 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2000.

## VICTORIAN NEWS

### Training Sessions

The final session for the "Investigation Process of a House Fire", was the Court Room procedures held at the Victorian Police Academy, View Mount Rd. Glen Waverley on the Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2000. This was the charging and conviction of our arsonist, completing the process. Although not well attended those who were there gained a lot from the experience.

Thanks from the committee to those who where involved as presenters and to both the MFESB and Victoria Police for the use of their facilities.

The Tasmania Seminar 23/24 November 2000 is booked and ready to go and a full report will be in the next edition

Next years' training sessions have started to be planned. If anyone has any special requests or ideas please contact any of the committee.

Days and times for training sessions are planned to allow as many as possible to attend, but this means planning your own diary.

### Membership

The Chapter's membership list has been reviewed and it is pleasing to report that we have 154 financial members. This number was boosted by 12 new members being approved at the last committee meeting.

Remember that all members should be on the look out for any prospective new members.

### Committee News

Since the last Firepoint the Chapter committee has welcomed George Cooney Inspector in Charge of the Arson Squad, Victoria Police to the committee as a committee member. Welcome.

This fills the vacancy on the committee and gives the committee a full representation of all agencies.

### Name Change Comment

The Chapter's name change to Victorian Association of Fire Investigators has not changed our affiliation with the International Association of Arson Investigators and we still report to the International Body in America.

### Message from the Committee

Being the last Firepoint prior to Christmas and the Festive Season the Chapter committee wish the Chapter members and members Australia wide a merry Christmas and a safe and enjoyable break over the season.

## NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

### **A WORD FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT**

At the recent AGM of the NSW Association the following new Executive Members were elected:

President: Don Walshe  
(FIRU)

Secretary: Bob King  
(Thomas & Associates)

Treasurer: Trent Tosh  
(Green, Penkliss,  
Lawson)

The Olympics and Paralympics held in Sydney this year produced a very busy time for many of the NSW Committee members. This resulted in the NSW Chapter having to postpone our Committee meetings until the events concluded and the dust settled.

The next meeting (Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November) will be the first meeting of the new committee, and from then on it looks like a very eventful period ahead. I would like to welcome all new committee members and thank all members for

their involvement, knowing how busy everybody is, with all the demands placed on their time.

The previous committee has left the NSW Chapter in a very healthy position and hopefully we will be able to build on this solid foundation.

The IAAI President Gerard Naylis is calling for greater expansion of relations with kindred organizations plus the developing and delivering of training and education opportunities.

Our membership can only benefit from these objectives and we will be looking at ways of setting goals along these lines (see article by Gerald Naylis in this issue).

The agenda ahead looks like being a busy one, but I feel sure the committee will produce an interesting period for all our members.

Don Walshe  
NSW AFI President

### **NEW INTERNET SITE.**

Well known NSW fire investigator Tony Cafe has recently set up a new web page on the Internet at [www.tcforensic.com.au](http://www.tcforensic.com.au)

It is a useful link for all involved in the industry. It features articles Tony has written over the years, and others produced by Wal Stern, and by University of Technology Forensic Science students.

There are also feature articles and online news. There is an ideas page. What do you think about the possibility of a smoke detector being incorporated in a traveling clock? Could it save a life?

There is also a search facility, and an extensive list of links to other sites.

Well done, Tony.

(And if you have found a site you think members would be interested in, email details to the "Firepoint" Editor)

## A Report from the IAAI President

*Gerard J Naylis*

My travels on behalf of the IAAI took me to the National Fire Academy recently during which time I attended the annual memorial service to honor America's fallen fire fighters. This trip was more personal for me as I was here to not only remember all of the fire fighters being honored, but also to accept a flag on behalf of one of the fallen, Alton Lewis of Montour Falls, New York who was a member of the IAAI. In addition to being a full time private fire investigator, Al was a volunteer fire fighter who gave generously of his time and efforts for the benefit of others.

I first met Al during the planning stages of the 1988 IAAI AGM that was held in Niagara Falls, New York. We became fast friends and there were few that he did not have a smile, or story, or a laugh for. He was the butt of many a joke, but was fairly adept at giving a few jabs himself. During the 1988 AGM he worked extremely hard "for the cause."

Sadly, last November Al was returning from a rescue call with his fire company when he collapsed from a heart attack. He was 55 years old. I can remember receiving the call about his death from another close friend of both of us, former IAAI director Bill Vielhauer. We lamented that life is too short, and that it seems some of the best people get taken from us too soon. Such was the case with Al.

Also being honored was Joe McGroarty, another IAAI member from Syracuse, New York who died in the line of duty in April 1999 when a chimney fell on him during an investigation. Joe was recognized during this past year's AGM in Las Vegas.

Watching the children of these fire fighters who died in the line of duty reminded me that life is too short, and that we all need to remember where our priorities lie. Don't be afraid to make time to take of yourself, watch out for yourself, or to spend some quality time with those that

you love. We never know when we might have passed up on the last opportunity.

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The NFPA report on comments was released this month. A copy can be found on the NFPA's web site, [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

One of the proposals to be voted coming up at the NFPA's Fall Meeting in November will be those dealing with NFPA 921, Guide to Fire Investigation. There has been a tremendous deal of discussion regarding these proposals and the potential impact they will have on fire investigation. I would like to offer my analysis as well as what I intend to request the IAAI Board of Directors to do relative to the latest proposal.

At the IAAI Annual General Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan the members in attendance expressed their opinion regarding three of the proposals then on the table. These proposals dealt with what was termed "negative



corpus", spoliation of evidence and the impact on the public sector, and the use of the scientific method to describe the process of fire investigation. The members present clearly expressed the opinion that they were not in agreement with the language as proposed dealing with these three issues.

Subsequently, there was a meeting of the NFPA 921 Technical Committee in Louisville, Kentucky. During that meeting, these issues and the comments received on these and other proposals were discussed and acted on. What finally emerged based on those discussions were changes that I believe make the proposed edition of 921 a better document than the existing 1998 edition.

Let's look at the action that was taken. First the issue of "negative corpus." The term is in fact a slang term not a legal one. You will not find it in Black's Law Dictionary. The issue centered around using the process of elimination and whether or not an investigator could reasonably deduce or infer that a fire was intentional set by eliminating all other causes. In the current 1998 edition of 921 the answer

is no. If you did not have proof that the fire was intentionally set you must consider the fire to be undetermined.

Some of the proposals sought to strengthen this by suggesting that the wording be changed to say you must have direct physical evidence to support a conclusion that the fire was intentionally set. Fortunately, this proposal did not succeed.

What did go in, as a final proposal is that the process of elimination can be used as a viable investigative technique provided that all other causes are eliminated. Of course, this would require the investigator to set forth in detail how these other potential hypotheses were eliminated.

I believe that the wording as modified meets the intention of what the members of the association stated in their vote during the AGM.

The second issue dealt with spoliation and in particular, how it impacts the public sector. Ultimately, what the final proposal states is that a public agency should take all reasonable steps to notify affected parties prior

to conducting testing on any evidence seized to afford those parties the ability to witness and participate in the testing.

We are all keenly aware of the impact of mishandling evidence and the need to assure all parties due process. The care, custody and control of evidence is a critical matter that can have serious impact and consequences. I believe that asking a public agency to take all reasonable steps to notify affected parties does not place an excess burden on the public agency. In the end, it may actually end up assuring that a better job is done all around.

Again, I think that this language is better than what was before us in May of 2000 and the concerns of the IAAI membership were heard.

The third issue deals with use of the scientific method. In short, this methodology will remain. We can argue back and forth on this issue, suggesting that the term should be systematic method rather than scientific method. But in retrospect, isn't that what we are already doing? The only difference is that we use varying terminology to

say the same thing. These are all decision-making processes by which we ultimately arrive at a conclusion. While there are many within the IAAI who disagree with using the scientific method, I submit that what we as an organization need to do is train our members more thoroughly in how to use the scientific method as tool to advance what they are doing, rather than to hold it as something to fear.

My intention is to ask the IAAI Board of Director to recommend that we as an organization speak with a single voice and support these proposed changes. I strongly believe that what is being proposed is better than what exists in the current 1998 edition.

I would also encourage any of you who are NFPA members that plan on attending the Fall Meeting to vote in support of the proposed changes to NFPA 921.

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Now for an update on the various projects and initiatives that the IAAI is working on.

Abandoned Building Project – The IAAI has received official

notification that our proposal to develop job aids and support tools to address the problem of abandoned and vacant buildings has been approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA has asked us to target two cities in the Northeast part of the United States as part of this project.

We will be using the services of Jon Jones as our project manager and a graduate student intern from Worcester Polytechnical Institute to perform a majority of our fieldwork on this project. We also are assembling a seven person advisory group as part of this endeavor to provide guidance and assistance to the project team.

In addition to identifying job aids and support tools, this project will develop a fire company level lesson plan complete with support materials so that fire fighters can be trained in the dangers presented by abandoned and vacant buildings. The bulk of this project is expected to be done by June 1, 2001 with a final project report completed by August 1, 2001. The intent is to make all of the project deliverables available

electronically via the Internet.

Household Electrical Wiring Fire Project with CPSC – We have submitted an initial proposal to the Consumer Product Safety Commission to develop and conduct training sessions dealing with household electrical wiring fires. The fire death experience in the southeast area of the United States has been consistently higher than in other areas of the United States.

This project is designed to reduce the number of fire deaths attributed to electrical related fires. An IAAI project manager has been selected and we are working on the details of the proposal. The expected delivery of the first six program sessions will be sometime before September of 2001 to coincide with the federal government's fiscal year.

Certified Fire Scene Technician (CFST) initiative – The IAAI had proposed to the NFPA to partner on the development and implementation of a certification program aimed at individuals responsible for initial scene assessment, evidence recognition and

preservation. I received word from the NFPA that they are not prepared to allocate financial resources in their 2001 budget for new projects. As a result, we have begun the work on this initiative by ourselves.

While this will require a sizable investment, I believe that the end result will more than justify the fiscal investment. The first and second parts of this will be the development of a study guide and three 2-day training modules based on NFPA 921 and selected competencies from NFPA 1033.

Our intention is to enable a person to attend a residential class to take these training modules and to make them available through distance learning as well. This step alone will help us to meet the one request that we have heard from the membership for many years. Empower our members to get the training they want and need regardless of where they are located geographically. This portion should be completed by May 1, 2001.

Following that, we will be creating the certification test and the certification process. Our goal is to

have this program attain independent accreditation just as we have for our Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) program.

**Web Page** – The IAAI web page is being transitioned. Within the next month, you will see a new look to the page. Our new strategic partner in this endeavor is Firehouse.com who has agreed to handle all design and postings. An added benefit will be the daily posting of arson and fire investigation related news stories on this web page. Over the next six months, we hope to launch a member's only page on our web site that will provide increased membership services, a step to enhance the value added component of membership in the IAAI.

**Expert Witness Testimony Course** – A class is scheduled for February 9 – 11, 2001 at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This one step will enable us to add 24 more course facilitators who will be able to bring this critically acclaimed course to our chapters. If any chapter wants one of these courses delivered by the International for your chapter, please advise the office in St. Louis so we

can begin making arrangements.

**Fact Witness Testimony Course** – The IAAI is in the preliminary development stages of creating a training class dealing with fact witness testimony. This class is being designed with the intention of making it easier for the first responder to act as a fact witness. We expect to partner with the National Volunteer Fire Council on this project.

**Who's Minding the Store?** – Initially we had intended to call this class "Other People's Money." Unfortunately for us that title is already being used by another group for another training program. This class is currently being developed and will focus on training people on who to perform basic financial safeguards for not-for-profit entities.

Our project manager on this is Past President Bob Kramer who is working with a dedicated group of people from the ATF Audit Division to create this program. I expect to have more details from Bob at the upcoming mid-year Board of Directors meeting in Orlando, Florida in November.

## SECONDMENT WITH THE FIRIES.

*Kate Ridgway  
Carter Newell Lawyers  
Brisbane*

I was fortunate enough recently to undertake a secondment with the Queensland Fire & Rescue Authority Fire Investigation Research Unit. The purpose of the secondment was to gain an appreciation of how the Fire Investigation Research Unit operates.

The Unit is based at the Department of Emergency Services complex at Kedron. Greg Reynolds heads the Unit. Adrian Barry and Nev Roberts assist him.

I am an insurance lawyer with Carter Newell Lawyers in Brisbane and specialise in the areas of fraud and arson. Since the age of 5 and my visit to the Gympie Fire Station I have been interested in fires.

The investigation of the cause and origin of fires is critical to a lawyer such as myself advising an insurer whether to pay a fire claim. Usually I am appointed in circumstances where the fire appears to have been deliberately lit.

In advising an insurer a careful analysis is made of all of the evidence including factual and forensic evidence. In addition to the expert reports commissioned by me, those prepared by the police and fire authorities are considered.

Doing the secondment has enabled me to gain an understanding of what happens when a fire occurs; from the reporting of the fire to the authorities (via the Communications centre), to the arrival of the crew and extinguishment of the fire, to the securing of the scene by police and the subsequent involvement of several parties including police scientific, scenes of crime and fire investigators.

Whilst with the FIRU I attended at various fire scenes, observed live fire training sessions at the Authority's training facility at Lytton, studied the "Fundamentals of Fire" module of the fire investigation course, toured the Chermide Fire Station (enjoying delicious scones) and generally observed the Unit in its' work.

The Unit as the name suggests is involved in both the areas of fire investigation

and research. The Unit conducts training courses for new and existing fire investigators. There are approximately 75 throughout Queensland. The Unit also does research work. It co-ordinates the recording of data. The Unit gathers information and statistics in relation to the causes of fires, risks to property and life. This information is vital and often forms the basis of the Department's community safety programs.

The Unit has been heavily involved in the report to the Queensland Government recommending legislative changes as a result of the Childers Backpackers Fire.

I have no doubt that the secondment will be of assistance in how I do my work. For example when interviewing fire fighters, conferring with fire investigators in relation to their findings and liaising with experts in relation to their reports and the evidence to be presented in court.

I would like to thank the Authority and especially Greg, Adrian and Nev for allowing me the opportunity. I had an absolute ball and learnt a lot.

# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

TO THE SECRETARY. \_\_\_\_\_ CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

(Refer to the list of State office bearers on page 3 for the appropriate address).

*I hereby apply for membership of the \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators Inc. in accordance with its constitution and By-laws and agree to be bound thereby. I attach the sum of A\$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment of Annual Dues (\$ \_\_\_\_\_) and Initiation Fee (\$ \_\_\_\_\_).*

*All information recorded in this application is hereby warranted to be true and correct.*

1. NAME IN FULL \_\_\_\_\_ 2. DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

3. EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_ 4. POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

5. BUSINESS ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/SUBURB \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

6. HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/SUBURB \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

7. PHONE (BUS) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ HOME ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

8. PLEASE LIST ANY FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS (DEGREES, DIPLOMAS, CERTIFICATES etc. WITH THE NAME OF THE ISSUING AUTHORITY AND THE YEAR OF QUALIFICATION.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. MEMBERSHIP of OTHER ORGANISATIONS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONVICTED of a CRIME? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

11. FULL CONVICTION DETAILS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of the IAAI?

MEMBERSHIP No. \_\_\_\_\_

13. REFERENCES (Name, address, phone number, occupation)

A \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. RECOMMENDED by a MEMBER in GOOD STANDING

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

15. APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

# **Criminal Profiling:**

## **Applying the tenets of profiling to arson investigation**

**Professor Paul Wilson and Wayne Petherick**  
***Centre for Applied Psychology and Criminology, Bond University.***

A Talk Presented at the QAFI 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2000

Recently, with the bush fires surrounding parts of SE Queensland the importance of good fire investigation has been brought home to the public at large. I have met many fire investigators in the past and have worked with some and I respect your expertise and knowledge. Please don't think Wayne and myself are trying today to tell you how to do your job – we are not because you are the experts and not we.

But what we want to speak to you today about is the mating of fire investigation with criminal profiling techniques and the possible advantages to you, the investigators who are out on the jobs, of trying to bring each case to closure in as swift and efficient manner as possible.

In doing this, I will begin by discussing profiling in general, and then by discussing what profiling has to offer in arson cases. I am not going to try to sell you on one technique or method, but I will put some

evidence forward and leave you to make up your own minds about the utility of certain types of profiling in arson cases. It should also be noted that the cases and examples I use are highly simplified for illustrative purposes, and while some of the material may seem self evident, often a profile will delve much further into the psyche of the offender than I will demonstrate today.

Historically, profiling has been most utilised in crimes of interpersonal violence: rape, murder, assault and stalking. Much of the literature will tell us, for example, that crimes of interpersonal violence are most open to profiling as there is typically a greater level of interpersonal exchange, and therefore a higher degree of psychopathology can become evident. This is particularly true in crimes of sexual assault where the victim is raped but left alive.

Here, you have a primary source of information in that the victim can discuss with you what was said, the type and sequence of sexual acts, the speech patterns and common verbiage used by the offender.

Arson is one such crime that may be made difficult for a profiler as it usually involves the partial or complete destruction of property only. Also, by its very nature, arson is somewhat of a clandestine offence, committed by individuals who are cognisant of the intentional nature of the act, therefore attempting to cover as much as possible their behaviour.

Perhaps the best way to illustrate this is by providing an example. Imagine we have a sexual assault during which the victim is somewhat mollified by the offender. If she displays discomfort, he would stop, allow her time to move and get



comfortable before starting again. While not making it so easy for her as to get up and walk out, the offender still tries his best to make her as comfortable as possible.

After the assault has occurred, the victim is released and calls the police once back home. During the interview, she states that the offender complimented her on many occasions, stating how beautiful she was and the belief of the offender that she must have many boyfriends. Investigators are shocked to discover that the offender even gave her \$20 to pay for a taxi home!

A starting point for investigators here should be the victims statements about the behaviour of the offender as this tells you a lot about the motives of the offender, that is, the reason behind the attacks. Evidence suggests that in this case we are dealing with a compensatory offender, that is, one who sexually assaults to overcome feelings of inadequacy. The primary motive of the offence is for the offender to convince himself that "he still has it" with women, and that he is not a failure in relationships.

There is an analogy here with arson. Some crimes of arson are committed by arsonists that will often set fires to buildings without

people in them and will, when caught, genuinely apologise for their crimes. These arsonists are the inadequate, nuisance-type arsonists that correlate with the power-reassurance or compensatory rapist.

They could be contrasted with an arsonist who sets fire to an apartment building with people in it and takes pleasure in watching people die by burning alive or jumping out of the building – these are power-assertive arsonists or, in the case of sexual assault, rapists.

But in the example of compensatory rape I have given we can extrapolate from the information we obtain from law enforcement and from research obtained from both offenders and victims and draw some conclusions about the kinds of relationships the rapist may have had in the past, the relationships he has presently, and his general or overall social skills with other people.

We can pass this information on to investigators to assist them in narrowing down their suspect pools, to focus more tightly on particular types of suspects, case linkage, and in a dangerous assessment regarding the risk of escalation.

If we now look at arson cases, we can see the kinds of information that we can gather using a profiling framework.

Indeed, the FBI Profilers have done this, to turn for a moment to those people who commit bushfires and other forms of vandalism using fire as a means, and draw a distinction between VANDALISM-MOTIVATED ARSON (of which there are two types, willful and malicious mischief and peer group pressure) and EXCITEMENT MOTIVATED ARSON (of which there are four types: thrill seeker, attention seeker; hero; and sexual perversion).

These different types all have distinctive crime scene indicators and forensic findings and lead to different investigative considerations. But there can be no doubt that the FBI has found the use of basic profiling of this sort very useful in solving cases.

I do not have time to go into how the classification of arson-types using a profiling framework has helped in detail but let me give you a simple example. A call is put out to police and fire authorities at 12.30am in the morning.

When the fire fighters arrive, they find a single story property almost fully consumed in flame. Attempts to douse the fire are minimally successful with some areas of property saved from all but total destruction. Upon investigation, authorities find a pile of the owners personal possessions partially burnt upon the living room floor. It would appear that they were not placed here by accident, and that the items in the pile have sentimental value.

Furthermore, police searching the rear of the property find the owners' dog dead in the back yard. Veterinarians verify that the dog was in fact poisoned. The behaviour of the arsonist would seem to indicate that the motive for this crime is highly retaliatory, and that the owner of the property was actually the target without actually being a victim in the fire. Logical inferences would include looking for people who have a grudge against the owner of the property, former intimates, and depending upon the status of the victim, former and current work colleagues may become priority suspects.

Profiling advice may also be able to assist you in developing an idea of the likely geographical location of the arsonist, that is, his or her residence. If caught, the advice of a profiler may

also be able to provide interrogative strategies.

While the above example relies on deductive logic – that is a rational or logical examination of the evidence to arrive at conclusions – many inductive tools have been developed to assist in the profiling of arson cases.

Inductive tools are those that rely on statistical or actuarial assumptions about broad offender groups to develop a picture of the offender in the current crime. For example, David Canter from the University of Liverpool in the United Kingdom has developed a their known generally as the "circle hypothesis" which posits that offenders will belong to one of two types. The marauder, those who have a central "base" from which they commit their crimes, or the commuter, those who travel from a central base to another area for the purpose of crime commission.

Whilst this model was developed primarily to address the behaviour of serial rapists, research does suggest that the model applies in a limited sense in Australia, though application is far from universal. There are many factors that are likely to influence the geographical behaviour of offenders and so models such as this based on

predominantly statistical constructs may not satisfy investigative requirements. Further to this, the routine activities of other non-involved parties may influence the decision to offend, and development may further hamper the geographical behaviour of the arsonist.

When talking of profiling, we often discuss the presence of evidence. In sexual assault we talk about seminal fluid left at the scene, in murder we may talk of defensive wounds left on the victim which indicate a struggle, and in stalking we may discuss the presence of verbal behaviour in communications between the perpetrator and the victim. It should be noted however, that from a profiling point of view, the absence of evidence could be almost as telling as the presence of it.

To again use a comparison between sexual assault and arson, I will illustrate how the absence of evidence may be an important analysis to undertake. Say for example, we have a victim who reports sexual assault, and medical examination would confirm this, though we have no evidence of semen. There are primarily three reasons why no semen

would be left behind at the scene, and a further examination rules out two of these by finding lubricant consistent with that found on condoms. Here we have an offender who displays some forensic awareness, that is, knows that police can discover his blood type and possibly DNA profile from the seminal evidence he leaves behind.

Now let us consider arson; say investigators turn up at a house fire where the property has been mostly destroyed. Rigorous analysis fails to turn up any accelerant whatsoever, though the point of origin suggests somewhere in the middle of the living room. There are some burnt fragments of a material that appears to be consistent with vegetable matter over the point of origin, though that is as specific as investigators can be.

The fact that the arsonist used an accelerant that leaves virtually no trace indicates that he or she has some well-developed knowledge of the mechanics of fire and accelerant use.

While not a fan of using Hollywood depictions as an example, the film *Backdraft* did illustrate this concept rather well. In this depiction a fireman character played by Scott Glenn turned out to be the arsonist and while I will state again that this is a

popular depiction, the knowledge of fire and accelerants displayed by the offender in this case did suggest to me that he may belong to a fire profession, or perhaps one involving the use of chemicals, such as an industrial trade.

Perhaps you will be wondering why I deep drawing parallels between the crime of arson and others such as sexual assault. I would like to conclude by stating that regardless of the type of crime committed, the profiling tenets that are employed remain similar, and it is only the nature of evidence that will change, and not the nature of the method.

Intuitively fire investigators know most of this and apply it, if only intuitively. What specific training in profiling does is to allow you to systematise the experience that you have gained from your many investigations and to apply it in a powerful way with new cases. Profiling allows you to approach difficult cases with additional tools. If nothing else it allows fire investigators to use the past experiences of hundreds of cases, the experience of victims, and relate them to crime scene analysis.

It would have been virtually impossible to stand before you in this

limited time frame today and talk at length about the application of profiling techniques to arson investigation. What I hope I have passed onto you though is that profiling techniques do offer some important and insights into the behaviour of arsonists. This may be in the form of assessing a crime for case linkage, an examination of the motive of the crime, the modus operandi and signature of a crime (and the two are very different) or an assessment of the level of skill of the offender.

As more development occurs in the field of profiling over the next few years, I would be interested to hear from those of you assembled here today if and when you use profiling, and how it may have assisted you in your investigations.

And, with so much expertise assembled here today, both Wayne and I would (selfishly perhaps) be particularly interested in your experience with arsonists who commit the type of vandalistic arson we have seen recently in South East Queensland, if only because we wish to research this type of crime in more detail.