



CENTENARY YEAR 1914-2014

The Royal Society  
of Western Australia

# THE BODY IN THE BAG: HOW FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY SOLVED A MURDER

## Assoc. Professor Bob Mead



Academic Chair: Bachelor of Science in Forensic  
Biology and Toxicology  
Murdoch University

### Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October

7.00 pm Kings Park Administration Building  
Fraser Ave

All welcome – no booking required

**ABSTRACT.** In the year 2000, two young lads discovered mummified human remains in a bag lying by the side of a road in Darnall in Sheffield, England. The person had been dead for several years, but who was he? Where had the body been kept for all of this time? Why did he die? Was he murdered and if so, who murdered him? The remains were sent to the Medico-legal Centre in Sheffield, where Dr Martin Evison, Adjunct Associate Professor of Forensic Science at Murdoch University and his team, conducted a full osteological examination. By deciphering the story of his life from information written on his bones they were able to generate a biography of the victim: his height, his build, his age, his ethnicity, his facial features, his medical history, his unusual dietary habits and even clues to his occupation were gleaned. Ultimately this “osteobiography” led to his identification and all of the questions were answered. His killers were brought to justice.

**ABOUT.** Bob Mead is a biochemist and molecular toxicologist. He established Murdoch University's Bachelor degree programme in Forensic Biology and Toxicology in 2004 and has developed, co-ordinated and taught many of the key units in the degree. He is the author of two text books and regularly delivers expert testimony in Court in cases involving drug-related deaths, alcohol-associated traffic crashes and drug-assisted sexual assault.



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Queries to [secretary@rswa.org.au](mailto:secretary@rswa.org.au)