



International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG)

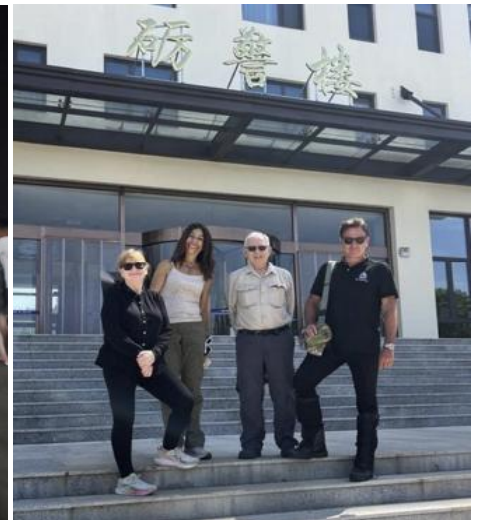
Monthly Update and Information for IUGS E-Bulletin, July 2026

Ministry of Public Security, Dalian Police Training Base, Liaoning Police College, China

Selected photographs are provided below showing the IUGS-IFG training in forensic geology for the Police in China, in June 2026. This was organised and attended by Dr Guo Hongling, Dr Laurance Donnelly, Prof Dame Lorna Dawson, Prof Robert Fitzpatrick and Dr Rosa Maria Di Maggio, as reported in the June 2026 issue of the IUGS-IFG monthly update.







Selected photographs, IUGS-IFG Training for the Ministry of Public Security, Dalian Police Training Base, Liaoning Police College, China (source, Dalian Police Training Base and IUGS-IFG).

Prof Dame Lorna Dawson

In July 2026, Prof Lorna Dawson was formally made Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) by His Majesty the King in the 2026 New Year Honours list.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/dame-scottish-cbe-high-court-inverness-b2891803.html>

Dr Mark Harrison, Outback Terror, Channel 4

In July 2026, Dr Mark Harrison led a Channel 4 (a British service television broadcaster) true crime documentary to revisit the 2001 murder and burial of British tourist Peter Falconio, and the attack of Joanne Lees. This took place in a remote part of the Australian outback. John Murdoch was subsequently found guilty of the crime. However, the body of Peter was never found. The documentary evaluates evidence and provide information on new possible search areas using a geoforensic approach.

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/outback-terror-the-falconio-murder>

Forensic Geology, Slovenia

On behalf of IUGS-IFG, Professor Duncan Pirrie delivered a one-day working on forensic soil sampling and analysis as part of the 41st International Conference of Environmental Geochemistry and Health (SEGH2026), Ljubljana, Slovenia, 13–17 July 2026. On the following day, Professor Pirrie delivered a keynote lecture co-authored with Dr Laurance Donnelly and Dame Professor Lorna Dawson.

SEGH2026 was organised by the Geological Survey of Slovenia, the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Engineering, and the Slovenian Geological Society.



Prof Duncan Pirrie, delivering a workshop on forensic geology, Slovenia (source, Prof Duncan Pirrie).

British Military, Search Training

On 1 July 2026, Dr Laurance Donnelly, was invited to provide training on ground search for burials for the UK military, Ministry of Defence, Munitions and Search (DEMS) Training Regiment. The focus of the search training was clandestine graves. He provided guidance on how to search and locate homicide graves, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and other buried devices.



Dr Laurance Donnelly providing forensic geology training in ground searches for graves and IEDs for the British military (source, Dr Laurance Donnelly).