

# Sharing the knowledge

**An exchange program between the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), and the prestigious University of Lausanne in Switzerland has led to collaborative forensic science projects involving the two universities and the Australian Federal Police.**

Director of the Centre for Forensic Science and Course Co-ordinator of the Forensic Science program at UTS, Associate Professor Claude Roux, said two PhD students from Lausanne's School of Forensic Science and Criminology spent two months working on illicit drugs projects with the AFP and a second collaboration is planned for the New Year.

"This new PhD research project co-supervised by Professor Christophe Champod in Lausanne and Dr Chris Lennard of the AFP will explore the very challenging topic of statistical identification of fingerprints," Professor Roux said.

"The AFP's involvement is very valuable. They provide co-supervision of research degree projects, seized drug samples, fingerprints from the central database, funding support and broad guidance and expert advice.

"A number of UTS doctoral students have benefited from our relationship with Lausanne and the AFP. One specialising in research into fibres, a DNA researcher, and two other students researching fires have taken the opportunity to work with their Lausanne co-supervisors in Switzerland," he said.

PhD candidate Simon Walsh who has worked on DNA research in New Zealand says he chose to undertake his PhD at UTS because of the reputation of its Forensic Science program and its connection with Lausanne.

"Lausanne is one of the world's two centres for forensic research," he said.

"When Professor Claude Roux joined the UTS forensic science program I was keen to study with him and one of his Swiss associates Professor Olivier Ribaux, who is a world expert in crime analysis and forensic intelligence.

Lausanne students Balthazar Jung and Stefan Dydak have taken advantage of the exchange program to spend a year in Australia to study subjects offered in the UTS undergraduate degree, as well as learn how to surf, play rugby and see the sights.



Simon Walsh (right) pictured with his PhD supervisor Professor Olivier Ribaux with the Matterhorn in the background.

"For Stefan and me 'down under' is the destination of dreams," Mr Jung said.

"We bought an old Falcon and drove to Lake Mungo, Uluru, Darwin and back in three weeks. The only problem we faced happened after driving for a day and not seeing any vehicles, a police car appeared out of nowhere and we got a speeding fine!"