New cancer test shows promise

BY BRENDA HARKNESS

Monash University scientists have developed a new diagnostic test for cervical cancer which promises to be more reliable than the Pap Smear.

The technique, which uses infrared spectroscopy, can detect chemical changes in the cells lining the cervix long before they develop into the visible abnormalities which are known to precede cancer.

"Using this method, we can identify changes in the cells much earlier than with current tests such as the Pap Smear," said co-researchers Dr Don McNab and Mr Bayden Wood from Monash's Chemistry department.

"While still a long way off from becoming a routine diagnostic test, this method can pick up signs of abnormalities or irregularities before they can be seen under the microscope."

According to the researchers, the technique can also potentially reduce the number of false negatives associated with the Pap Smear and more recent Pap Net routine screening tests.

Both tests largely rely on the ability of pathologists to detect signs of irregularity or abnormalities in cell samples. If there is an abnormality, a biopsy sample is then analysed to test whether the abnormality is cancerous or non-cancerous.

"When infrared radiation is applied to the cell sample, its infrared absorption spectrum can be compared to that of a healthy cell. If the spectrum is different, the sample is abnormal," Dr McNab said.

"Using this method, we can identify the chemical fingerprint of a healthy cell, compare it to the fingerprint of a cell from a biopsy sample, and see if there is a difference."

"This fingerprint reveals which cells are healthy and which are abnormal. By comparing the fingerprints, we can tell whether the cell is cancerous or non-cancerous."

The Pap Smear and the Pap Net screening tests have a 20 per cent false negative rate (where an abnormality goes undetected) and a false positive rate of up to 50 per cent (where an abnormality is indicated to the patient and later proves to be normal).

Using the new infrared method, the Monash researchers examine the molecular structure of cells.

"Monash's Chemistry department is one of a handful of universities in the world doing this sort of research. We believe our method can potentially be used as a routine screening test, or to confirm a positive result from a biopsy," Dr McNab said.

Dr McNab said that using infrared spectroscopy rather than visual inspection of smears would allow much earlier diagnosis of cancerous abnormalities.

"It is this fingerprint which reveals whether a cell is healthy or cancerous. By comparing the fingerprints, we can tell whether the cell is cancerous or non-cancerous."

"This method can be used to diagnose cancer in a biopsy sample, and it is likely that we will be able to develop a rapid diagnostic test for cervical cancer."

The project team is currently screening patients with a 20 per cent false negative rate. The team is working on a new method to identify abnormalities which can be indicative of either cancerous or non-cancerous abnormalities.

Laboratory trials on cell samples provided by the Royal Women's Hospital's Dysplasia Clinic were used to confirm that the method is as good as, if not better than, the Pap Smear.

In order to test the effectiveness of the method, the research team has extended the research in a collaborative project involving Associate Professor Michael Quinn of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology department at the University of Melbourne and several postgraduate researchers in Monash's Chemistry department.

The project team is currently testing the results of the infrared method with those of at least 3000 biopsy samples supplied by the Royal Women's Hospital's Dysplasia Clinic.

"We are currently two-thirds of the way through this study, which is enabling us to assess, on a much larger scale, the accuracy of our method in identifying cancerous and non-cancerous abnormalities against those identified in the Pap Smear," Dr McNab said.

In conjunction with the new diagnostic test, the researchers are developing a computer software system which recognises the differences between the results of the biopsy and the results using the spectra in order to provide the comparison data.

The next stage will be to develop a major long-term study in normal populations. Dr McNab said this would have to involve a major collaboration with medical practitioners and healthcare professionals to provide the necessary tracking and follow-up of patients who have undergone a Pap Smear test.

While the new method is still in its early days of development, the researchers believe it also signals new possibilities for the application of infrared spectroscopy in health and medicine.

For instance, they said, cervical smear tests could be developed using fibre optics, which would be less invasive than the medical instruments currently used for cervical smear tests.
Hands-on tips at Monash Day

Solar cycles, performance robots, abselling and lion dancing all added to the festivity of Monash Day last month. But it wasn't all fun and games. Thousands of visitors received important course and careers advice about courses offered at Monash's six Victorian campuses during the annual weekend.

One of the activities were academically based, with secondary school students visiting the Caulfield campus getting hands-on bridge-building experience. Civil Engineering's 'Bridge in the Box' competition tested students' understanding of structural mechanics and gave them the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to build a light but strong structure.

Some first-year university students even attended their usual week-day practical sessions on the weekend, giving visitors a real taste of university life.

Making their mark. Gippsland visual arts students Felicity Beasley, Susan Gardiner, Jes Hughes and Charli Muller demonstrate the art of screen printing for visitors during Monash Day.

Justice pilot a success

Academics from Monash University and the University of Melbourne plan to develop an Internet-assisted research methods program for justice studies after the success of an international pilot.

The director of Monash's Centre for Police and Justice Studies at Caulfield, Associate Professor Arthur Veno, and Dr Veno.

The project was attended by representatives from South Africa and the UK were also interested in becoming involved.

Justice expert	

The event will provide a forum for academics and postgraduate students to present their research, to network, and to learn of new developments in the field," Mr Watanabe said.

"As well as the direct academic benefits, organising and administering a conference of this nature provides a valuable opportunity for Monash postgraduate students to enrich their PhD experience by honing their leadership skills.

"Themes to be covered include intellectual and cultural history, survey methods, and observational skills. For lecturers, the program offers flexibility and a wide selection of material."

Dr Tait said the technology offered an exciting opportunity for Monash and Melbourne University staff to coordinate their resources in an effective and creative way."Everyone has access to this technology, unlike video and other resources," he said.

Chilhood experts meet

Researchers from around Australia and overseas will head for Monash University's Caulfield campus in early October for a major conference on childhood studies.

Organised by students of the Monash University's Centre, "Representing the Child" will draw together academics and researchers from a broad range of disciplines.

The conference, to be held on 2 and 3 October, will also be used to launch Monash's new masters program in childhood studies.

One of the conference co-facilitators, Tetsuta Watanabe, a PhD student in Monash's Linguistics department, said more than 60 research papers would be presented during the conference.

Students get taste of Aussie nursing

Japanese nursing students have been honing both their English and nursing skills through a one-month program at Monash University.

The eight students have been studying at the Monash English Language Centre as well as participating in a range of Monash Peninsula School of Nursing activities.

For more information about the conference, contact Professor Terry Threadgold on terry.threadgold@arts.monash.edu.au

"The potential for programs with other faculties is very exciting," Dr Watts said. "Conference participants are interested in how their Australian counterparts study and work, and the papers have added insights into a variety of cultural differences."

The program includes pairings with Monash nursing students to attend lectures, tutorials and practical sessions, and visits to Monash Medical Centre, the Monash Gippsland and Peninsula campuses, a country hospital, and community aged and child care facilities.

BRIEFS

Alumni honoured

A lawyer, an actor and a political scientist have been chosen to receive Monash University's 1998 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

Aboriginal community leader and lawyer Mick Dodson, actor and satirist Max Gillies, and political scientist and vice-chancellor of Indonesia's Gadjah Mada University Professor Ichsan Anral were recognised for their outstanding professional achievements, leadership and exceptional human qualities.

Centre to open

A new centre specialising in disability health will be officially opened by the State Health Minister, Mr Rob Knowles, on 18 September.

The Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria is a joint initiative of Monash University's Departments of Community Medicine and General Practice and Melbourne University's Department of General Practice and Public Health.

Based at Oakleigh, the centre provides clinical services and educational programs and is involved in research activities.

It was set up to improve the quality of health care for people with developmental disabilities and to promote health care issues among medical and health professionals and service providers.

Students get taste of Aussie nursing

Japanese nursing students Ayaka Shihara (left) and Ranille Watanabe chat with Mrs foil Bomly, director of Deeannam, during a recent visit to Mornington Peninsula Hospital in Frankston, part of their Monash University study program.

"The potential for programs with other faculties is very exciting," Dr Watts said. "Conference participants are interested in how their Australian counterparts study and work, and the papers have added insights into a variety of cultural differences."

The program includes pairings with Monash nursing students to attend lectures, tutorials and practical sessions, and visits to Monash Medical Centre, the Monash Gippsland and Peninsula campuses, a country hospital, and community aged and child care facilities.
New hospital partnership sealed

BY DAVID BRUCE

The education and training of doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other health professionals has received a boost under a new partnership between Monash University and Australian Hospital Care in the new Latrobe Regional Hospital.

Over the last 12 months, the Victorian Premier, Mr Jeff Kennett, the new hospital has replaced several smaller and older hospitals in a number of Gippsland towns.

The 257-bed $55.9 million Latrobe Regional Hospital near Traralgon is unique in that it is Victoria's first privately-owned, built and operated 'public' hospital. It is one of more than 60 hospitals across Victoria that provide clinical experience for Monash undergraduate medical and nursing students.

A major component of the Monash presence at the new hospital will be taken up by the Centre for Rural Health, which coordinates the placements for Monash students in medicine, nursing and pharmacy. At its new home at the Latrobe Regional Hospital, the centre has access to a 100-seat lecture theatre and several clinical tutorial rooms.

According to the new Dean of Medicine at Monash, Professor Nick Saunders, the Latrobe Regional Hospital is the most important hospital in the Faculty of Medicine's ongoing commitment to health care in rural Australia.

"Medical students at Monash rotate through several large and small, public and private clinical settings throughout their six-year course," Professor Saunders said. "Rural experience is provided for students in every year of their course, and all students spend some time in the Latrobe Valley."

The introduction of Monash academic activities at the Latrobe Regional Hospital follows another recent initiative between the Medicine Faculty and the private health sector.

"Traditionally, most clinical placements have been in public hospitals, but given that half of our students will eventually work in the private sector, our course must provide a total range of clinical experiences," Professor Saunders said.

New book on Kennett

A new book co-edited by two Monash University academics will provide an in-depth look at the impact of the Kennett years on Victoria.

Associate Professor Brian Costar, based in the School of History and Public Policy at Canfield, and Mr Nick Economou, a politics lecturer at Clayton, have edited "Revolution?", a detailed study of the Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett's influence on state politics and the public service.

The project brought together 20 academics from Melbourne, Monash, Swinburne and Latrobe universities and the Victorian Foundation.

Each has written a chapter about an aspect of Jeff Kennett's premiership, with topics ranging from industrial relations, law, justice and accountability to the Premier's use of the media, education, the environment and social policy.

Mr David Baker, a lecturer in Monash's School of Humanities and Public Policy, discussed whether or not the police policy and practice had radically changed under the Kennett government.

Several postgraduate politics students Alastair Harkness and James Rowe contributed chapters on the Victorian Parliament and drug reform.

The book will be published by the University of New South Wales Press early next year.

Mr Nick Economou looks at the Kennett factor on page 5.

Growth zones still in the suburbs, report

BY DAVID BRUCE

Despite the much-reported residential 'boom' in the inner suburbs, Melbourne's main social and economic activity zones are still to be found in its middle and outer suburbs, according to Monash University researchers.

"They claim that the 'boom' has had little impact on the relative importance of the inner city, with the real growth occurring well beyond the CBD."

In studying Census journey-to-work information, the researchers have concluded that the bulk of employment growth has been in Melbourne's middle suburbs, with most workers also living in these suburbs. In contrast, jobs in the inner city have become less significant and many inner-city residents have had to commute to other areas for work.

Associated Professor Kevin O'Connor and Dr Bob Birrell, from the Centre for Population and Urban Research, compiled the data as part of the first stage of a major research project funded by the Monash Research Fund.

They believe governments need to adopt a new strategic approach to cope with the major changes in suburban regions.

Researchers to examine privatisation impact

BY PETER GOLDE

By the time public enterprises are privatised, most of the significant changes have already been made, Monash researchers say.

Almost all 'marketplace' efficiency reforms and restructuring have already been undertaken, with the process rapidly slowing or stalling after privatisation, according to the researchers.

This could be one of the reasons why workers are not necessarily worse off under privatisation but may instead see comparative growth in employment levels and wages and improved conditions.

"Emerging theories are the basis of a six-country research project aimed at filling the umpteen vacuums surrounding the effects of privatisation on the relationship between labour and management post-privatisation."

Monash University's National Key Centre in Industrial Relations is undertaking the Australian research project Industrial Relations and Australian Privatisation: The State, Management and Labour Within the Context of Global Restructuring.

The Australian work will complement similar studies in the UK, New Zealand, Denmark, Holland and Poland. The international effort is being coordinated by Dr Peter Fairbrother, director of the Centre for Comparative Labour Studies at the University of Warwick in the UK and an honorary research fellow at the National Key Centre in Industrial Relations.

According to the Australian team leader, Associate Professor Julian Teicher, research to date is throwing up interesting results.

"The main business of reform occurs in the process leading up to privatisation and the dispute between those who call the 'corporatisation phase'. We are told that this phase is not privatisation at all but part of privatisation because you are introducing private sector disciplines," Dr Teicher says.

Teicher's research to date is throwing up interesting results.

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Gardens transform the Clayton 'farm'

Many people may not realise it, but Monash University's Clayton campus is home to more than students and 1960s-style buildings. In the first of an occasional series, Josie Gibson looks at how an oasis in suburbia was created.

When Johan de Bree does his rounds, he could be gone for days. Well, not quite. But the man responsible for overseeing the grounds of Monash University's 100-hectare Clayton campus does face a herculean task. In the 30-odd years since landscaping efforts began in earnest, the farm at Clayton has been transformed into a world-class campus featuring lush plantings of Australia.

With everything from foalberry melicodina to towering gums and delicate hibiscus, the Monash gardens are also a magnet for bird species and native fauna seeking a haven from encroaching development.

"There's something flowering every day," Mr de Bree says. "And the gardens are highly attractive to native birds."

Monash's decision to go 'native' in the 1960s was largely due to the vision of Professor Jack Marshall, who convinced the then Professorial Board to accept the proposal. There were, he argued, no universities in Australia where you could find a representative collection of native flora. As well, native trees would best encourage native birds.

Today, the university's Clayton campus is home to about 2000 species of native plants, with specialist plantings providing valuable teaching material as well as ornamental value around the campus.

The Monash System Garden, for example, is a living laboratory for students. Others, including the Western Australian wildflower gardens and Victorian Koori garden and fern gardens, give very different views of the generic term 'Australian native'.

The System Garden, so-called because it was created from scratch by family, has links with universities and botanic gardens around the world, and local groups are also starting to tap into this important community resource for tours and lectures.

Johan de Bree says transforming what was essentially a green field site with a few windbreaks into luxuriant semi-parkland was no mean feat.

"It's a pretty tough site - fairly flat and exposed to prevailing southerly winds," he explains. "The original topsoil was pretty thin, with an underlying layer of almost impermeable clay. Planting has involved some trial and error over the years, but the resulting vegetation is testimony to the fact that we're succeeding in our plantings projects."

Another aim of the landscaping is conservation, preserving some rare and endangered plant species seldom seen in Australian gardens as well as regenerating sites around the campus to improve local wildlife habitats.

From an environmental viewpoint, natives can adapt to lower watering regimes than exotics and require minimal fertilisation and intervention with insecticides and fungicides.

Mr de Bree believes the native planting policy at Monash has created a unique asset that the university and local community can be proud of and showcase to international visitors.

"From my own perspective, Australians are still pretty shy about what they've got," he says. "It's an Australian university and it's important that we display our native plants. We should be proud of what we've got."

At Clayton has been transfomed into a world-class campus featuring lush plantings of Australia.

Enjoying the peace and solitude.

Displaying the peace and solitude of the rainforest at the west end of the Union building, one of the many feature gardens at Monash's Clayton campus.

"Designing a future"

Mark Pestkowski (centre) and Justin Thompson receive their awards from Paul Simon, executive in charge of design at GMH.

BY FIONA PERRY

Winning the national 1997 Holden Design Award would have been a dream come true for third-year Monash Industrial design students Justin Thompson and Mark Pestkowski.

But when Justin and Mark were presented with their prize — three months' work experience with the company — they realised they had been given the chance of a lifetime.

The car giant judged their Transportation design portfolio to be the best submitted by university students in their penultimate year of study in Australia last year.

And the company's confidence in the students has only grown since.

It has been so impressed with the students' work that it has extended their work experience for a further three months, with the students combining their part-time work at Holden with their final-year studies at Monash.

As part of his work experience, Justin spends three days a week in the Holden Design studio, working on projects such as concept generation — developing illustrations of automotive designs from briefs — and 3D modelling using computer software.

"I'm really enjoying the work at Holden," he said. "I'm gaining a lot of confidence in my skills, which is helping me with my studies.

"It has really opened my eyes to what industrial design is all about — being in the workplace has made me fully appreciate all the different aspects that are involved in the manufacturing of cars." The work-study program is a unique arrangement that is giving the students the chance to apply the skills they learn in class, according to Monash product design lecturer Mark Wilton.

"Mark's and Justin's awards are an outstanding achievement. It's the first time the award has been presented to two winners, and both are Monash students," he said.

"At Holden, they're getting the kind of experience that money can't buy. It's the first time we've allowed students to combine employment with study in this way, but it has worked out well for everyone."

"Turmoil recalled"

By Josie Gibson

Professor Ichlasul Amal remembers the day in May when he had to choose.

The rector of Indonesia's prestigious Universitas Gadjah Mada, winner of a 1999 Monash University Distinguished Alumni Award, was met by students who had been demonstrating on the Gadjah Mada campus against a visit by a Soeharto Government minister.

"When the minister left, the students reminded me that I had been elected by the students, supported by the students. They wanted to know if my position was the same as it had been before," he recalled during a recent visit to Melbourne.

"I told them that as long as they demonstrated inside the campus, I was responsible for the demonstration. I guaranteed that they would be protected by the university."

Professor Amal said it was the first time a university rector had publicly taken such a stand in the turmoil leading up to the end of the Soeharto regime on 21 May.

"At first the authorities weren't happy about that, but as the number of students had been so large, the topic of the demonstrations (corruption and crookedness) had become very relevant to the students, especially with the economic crisis."
Monash News September 1998

Facts belie the metro myths

The Australian Football League's decision to turn its back on Waverley in favour of the Docklands, and an apparent boom in inner-city residential real estate, might suggest a major change in the pattern of Melbourne's development. Not so, according to Dr Kevin O'Connor, who says the march to the outer suburbs is far from over.

For those who have lived and worked in Melbourne's inner-city in the past few years, the frenzied activity of bid, painters, printers and real estate agents could lead them to think their world is changing. The facts tell a different story. In population terms, the much-reported population and housing boom in the inner suburbs has had very little impact on the relative importance of the inner city within the metropolitan area. Despite the café society hype, Melbourne's main social and economic activity remains still to be found in self-contained suburban areas.

 Census data gives a clearer picture. The bulk of job growth has been in Melbourne's middle suburbs (Table 1), and over time, a higher share of workers living in that part of Melbourne have found jobs in the same area (Table 2). In contrast, jobs in the inner city have become less significant in total (although the absolute decline shown in the table may reflect some of the problems in the data), and residents of this region have had to look to other regions for work.

The inner-city area has been marked by the emergence of a 'new and different' Melbourne. With the exception of specific area groups, migration flows have flowed from the middle to the outer suburbs. And some changes don't conform to popularly-held beliefs. For example, in the inner southern region - middle suburbs - has seen significant increases in higher-density building, showing that it's not only inner-city residents who prefer this form of dwelling. Perhaps we need to take a new approach to the inner-urban outer argument. Maybe we should differentiate, as some researchers have done, between city inhabitants, commuters and users. In some European cities, for example, the users - business people, workers, tourists and others - for outnumber the other groups in the inner city.

That approach suggests that the reality of the inner city is not shaped by local population trends, but rather by the global and national role of the city, and the policies of governments to provide facilities, such as a casino or a convention centre, and encourage events designed to attract tourists.

Thus, the long-term character of inner Melbourne now depends not on its residential population, but on its success in attracting visitors and users. Such an outcome will be shaped by the decisions of major corporations, tourism operators, major event custodians and local capacity to provide the facilities needed to meet their demands.

Finally, the government population of the metropolitan population can now view the inner city as a place to visit irregularly, rather than a place that is part of their own city or community. They too are 'visitors' attending for sporting, cultural events and entertainment, but relying on their home region for retail, medical and education services.

Dr Kevin O'Connor is an associate professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Science at Monash University.

Table 1. Number of jobs in zones of the metropolitan area, 1976 and 1996

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Inner</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>Outer</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>306,199</td>
<td>338,916</td>
<td>802,130</td>
<td>1,447,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>366,054</td>
<td>338,916</td>
<td>802,130</td>
<td>1,447,245</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Share of workforce who live and work in each zone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Inner</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>Outer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census journey to work data for município allocated to zones, as specified in Mahler (1992). New municipalities assigned to zones as best fit. Results not directly comparable.

Kennett-Howard rivalry a clash of ideals

With a federal election now set for 3 October, Victoria's Premier Jeff Kennett, is burying his differences with John Howard to campaign for the federal government. What a difference an election makes, writes political analyst Mr Nick Economou.

Although it took several years to impact on Australian politics and economics, the 1983 stock market crash stands as a turning point that marked the beginning of the end of a political era dominated by the Australian Labor Party.

In 1990, interest rates ballooned, unemployment rose, and the then federal treasurer, Paul Keating, made his famous utterance about the recession that Australia had to have. Three years later, Liberal and Liberal-National governments had been elected in every state and territory; and the expiration was that a federal Coalition government, under the leadership of the economically dry Dr John Hewson, was only an election away.

It is now history that the Coalition lost the 'valuable' federal election, thus denying Dr Hewson the chance to be the prominent dry, economic rationalist Liberal to lead the rechristening of Australian politics that had occurred in the 1990s. Indeed, the ascendancy of John Howard to the prime ministership exacerbated a very strong sense of rivalry between the two men. While both men are committed to economic rationalism, Kennett and Howard actually reflect the extremes between modernity and romanticism (some might say reaction) in non-Labor politics made all the more obvious in the aftermath of the rise of Pauline Hanson and her One Nation movement.

The rivalry between Kennett and Howard has thus been about much more than simply whether the Victorian Premier will move into federal politics. In a sense, the Kennett-Howard rivalry has constituted a struggle for the leadership of the way the Liberal Party approaches politics into the next millennium. In this leadership battle, Howard represents the Liberal Party that teases to weld its traditional conservatism to dry economics. The more libertarian Kennett, on the other hand, prefers to amalgamate neoliberal economics with a more modern, multicultural and globally-focused agenda for Australia (the very approach, it should be noted, that Howard and his colleagues criticized as 'political correctness' when associated with the outlook of the then Labor prime minister, Paul Keating).

As the national debate grapples with tax reform and the ramifications of Pauline Hanson, Jeff Kennett has become a major player in national politics without having to take up a place in the Australian Parliament - an interesting point for those who think state politics is irrelevant. Kennett-watch has become an interesting and important pastime, not so much for the ebb and flow that occurs in Victorian politics, but rather for this shift in the leadership struggle between the old and the new that has been going on in the Liberal Party and the centre-right in Australian politics.

Mr Nick Economou is a lecturer in Politics at Monash University.
**6 ARTS**

**Actors/directors John Britton and Hilary Elliot based energetic theatre that "respects its classic story of power, with the issues of human weakness, people's fears and insecurities, and enhances its fresh and vibrant appeal."**

With Hanson's growing status, her work has attracted considerable interest and has a major acting profile. "When I decided to be an actor, I had no idea of the extent of her emerging political profile." Britton and Elliot are professional actors and directors, recognized for their dedication to theatre and creating productions that resonate with audiences on an extraordinary and often challenging journey. With the latest production of "The Feel Good Cat," they have continued to explore complex themes and narratives, capturing the essence of Aboriginal culture and diversity.

**Student actors enhance performance**

Since being appointed co-artistic directors of Monash Student Theatre this year, professional actors/directors John Britton and Hilary Elliot (pictured) have inspired a new physical, actor-based performance style.

**'Cat' work for show**

By SHAHEDA HARNESS

Artist Andrew Sibley is both amused and exhilarated at the interest in his portrait of One Nation Party leader Pauline Hanson.

"I decided to show it in Canberra, it was a political gesture," Sibley says. He had privately hoped Hanson might see it, but at that time, he says, he had no idea of the extent of her political influence.

"I painted 'The Feel Good Cat'," Sibley says, "I never imagined Pauline Hanson would become such a dominating media figure." Sibley told Monash News, "I decided to paint her after seeing her being interviewed early in her political career. She comes from Ipswich, Queensland, which is not far from where I grew up... I listened to her speaking in her uneducated and personally philosophical style and I thought she would be a strongly attractive political figure to paint.

"The painting went into storage for a while, but the word seems to have gone around about it. I guess I am still surprised and amazed at the interest in it, and the way that My Place has generally been received."

In stark contrast, most of the other works in the exhibition are about people with no profile. According to Sibley, the people represented are those he sees around him, but no-one in particular. They are the people that a critic once called "the family who inhabit Sibley's paintings."

Sibley says his works have always shown a concern for society and the people he paints are anonymous - "the ones that never receive recognition."

"The 'feel good works', according to Sibley, reveal the energy that is unleashed by political events, as opposed to the actual political messages themselves."

**Tale uplifting**

By SHAHEDA HARNESS

Lisa Maza, co-star of Jimmy Choo's latest flamboyant musical Corroboree Road, would love to take a night off from the show. But it's not because the actress is tired of the current award-winning Black Swan Theatre production. Maza says she would like to be part of the audience and experience the same energy charges that so many Corroboree Road scenes send through them.

"It's such a great production - a full hour-and-a-half of drams, singing, dancing and laughs... and it makes people come away feeling really good," Maza told Monash News. "Having heard so many good things about it, I have always said I'd like to sit back and see it at least once."

Corroboree Road, which opens for its only Melbourne season at Monash University's Alexander Theatre on 15 September, tells an uplifting Australian tale about mental health.

The story line - told through music, song, dance and humour - takes audiences on an extraordinary and often challenging journey with Bob 'Two Bob', played by Stephen 'Bambara' Albert, as he deals with his psychological demons.

According to Maza, who plays Bob's first sweetheart Fiona, the play evokes many contemporary political messages about racism and discrimination, such as the treatment of and attitudes towards Aboriginals, gays and the mentally ill.

But essentially, Maza believes, it's a story about compassion and hope. Jimmy Choo, musician, author and songwriter, first hit the arts spotlight with his critically acclaimed musical Black Swan Dae. In Corroboree Road, he has collaborated with Knuckles and the Flamin' Groovies to create a memory-making score.

**Sacred and profane**

By SHAHEDA HARNESS

Monash University's Robert Blackwood Hall, with its vast auditorium, resonates with the mystical sounds of Carl Orff's powerful choral force, Carmina Burana.

In what is billed as one of Melbourne's biggest concerts this year, more than 350 artists will take centre stage to perform the great operatic work, one of the world's most loved and most played pieces. The large-scale production is conducted by Andre de Quadros and features Russian pianist Yuri Rimma, the New Monash Orchestra, a grand symphony orchestra of 100 musicians, and a massed choir of more than 250 singers comprising VIVA VOCE, Monash Women's Choir, Victoria Chorale, Voice Box, the Victorian Boys Choir and Wesley Adult Choir.

Solos include Melbourne's Merlyn Quaif (soprano), Giselle English (treble) and Ian Coullain (bass-tenor). Concert manager Mr Larry Boyd said staging, consuming and lighting had been skillfully enhanced to create the power of the work, which Orff composed from an original 13th-century manuscript of medieval poetry, about love, simplicity, religion and mysticism.
New Monash history charts big changes

A new history of Monash University charts the institution's transformation since the mid-1980s against a backdrop of significant national and international change, according to its author, Dr Simon Marginson.

Marginson, a reader in Monash's Education Faculty, said the principal theme of Monash: The Making of a Modern University was how the university had managed to totally redefine itself over the last 100 years and early 1990s.

"Monash went from being a middle-sized, good academic institution to one of a much different character - much larger, more varied portfolio of courses and more international, with a distinctive identity of its own," he said. "It's that kind of cultural transformation which is the centrepiece of the history." A respected commentator on education issues, Dr Marginson joined Monash's Centre for Research into Education Issues, Dr Marginson project in November 1995. About 80 interviews and hours of archival digging later, he has virtually completed the volume, due for publication in early 1999.

Dr Marginson said the history touched on the university's early years but focused mostly on contemporary developments, especially the mergers and Monash's development as a "global" university.

"The Monash of today is a fundamentally different beast from the Monash of the mid-1980s," he said. "I've attempted to interpret events and developments in a fair way, and not shy away from contentious issues such as the mergers." The book is due to be completed the volume, due for publication in early 1999.

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Monash gears up for 1998 Uni Games

Top university athletes are in final training for one of the country's largest sporting events, the 1998 Australian University Games, now only a few weeks away.

Jointly hosted by Monash University and the University of Melbourne, the games will be held between 27 September and 2 October at many of Melbourne's top sporting venues.

The event will draw nearly 6000 elite student athletes from 50 campuses around the country, as well as four campuses from Monash University.

Monash Vice-Chancellor Professor David Robinson said students valued sport and interuniversity competition as an important part of their university experience.

Many Australian athletes, such as Emma George, Kathy Watts and Monash alumnus Paul McNamara, have used university competition as a springboard to national and international competitions.

"Both institutions are committed to providing students with a university experience that is enriched by cultural and sporting opportunities, and we are confident that the games will be a success," Professor Robinson said.

As part of the new spirit of cooperation, the universities will jointly host a Sport's Legends Lunch on Tuesday 29 September.

Guests will include many sporting greats, such as marathon runner Steve Moneghetti, AFL coach David Parkin and acrobatics champion Sue Stanley, who have agreed to act as sports patrons for this year's games.

Monash University skiers headed for the slopes in August to compete in the Australian Universities Alpine Championships at Falls Creek.

Hosted by the Monash University Student Union, the championships are traditionally the second-largest annual university sporting event in Australia after the Australian University Games.

This year's championships involved more than 500 competitors and officials from 20 universities in Victoria and interstate.

Monash fielded a team of about 45, including alpine and cross-country skiers and snow-boarders. The team had participants in all events.

Team manager Ed Bobseff said the Monash team had performed well, notching up bronze medals in the women's cross-country individual and border cross, and a fifth in the women's slalom.

Olympic chief warns 'guerillas'

Companies involved in guerilla marketing in the lead-up to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games would be dealt with severely, the head of the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games, Mr John Moore, has warned.

In an interview with Monash University sports marketing researcher Mr Francis Farrelly, the SOCOG chief said any company that tried to capitalise illegally on the games would be penalised.

"We see the legislation, which is very powerful in this country, to stop that instantaneously if we can," Mr Moore said.

Mr Moore was referring to anti-Olympic ambush marketing by some sports brands during the Atlanta Olympic Games. Ambush marketing is where companies falsely represent themselves as sponsors at events.

"When you attract the world to a city, and you tell the world's media to come and watch us, it doesn't take too many brains to figure out that there's an opportunity for presence marketing, whether you're a sponsor or not," Mr Moore said.

"My view is that the internal guerilla marketing of some sports brands that's happened within the Olympic movement will hopefully be quietened down by the code of conduct they've all signed," Mr Moore said.

The Sydney Olympic organizers have made major sponsorship deals with nearly 20 Australian and international companies.

Mr Moore said SOCOG had been careful to choose sponsors who would reflect a higher concept of corporate commitment and involvement, beyond just filling up the books.

"The perfect fit is the company that says 'I've got a good brand maturing but I'd like a way of aligning it to the values of the Olympic Games'," he said.

Mr Francis Farrelly interviewed the SOCOG chief as part of a joint research project on global sports marketing with Mr Rick Burton, from the University of Oregon.

Ms Farrelly presented findings from the interview and related research at The Sports Executive Retreat in the US last month.

Attendees included senior directors of each of the four major US sporting leagues and the professor of communication at the Harvard Business School.

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