HGV

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PARAFFINALIA NEWSLETTER

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The HGV aims to provide a dynamic continuing education program in which all persons with an interest in Histology and Histotechnology are freely invited to participate.

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The members of the Histology Group of Victoria 2016 are:

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Mark Bromley	Melbourne Pathology
Elizabeth Baranyai	Cabrini Health
Samantha Arandelovic	St. John of God Pathology (Victoria)
James Cvetkovski	RMIT
Kellie Vukovic	Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
Sue Sturrock	Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
Kristy DeGeorge	Austin Pathology
Jesenka Jefic	Austin Health
Maria Flynn	Melbourne Pathology
Meghan Leo	Histolab
Kellie Madigan	Leica Biosystems
Aysha Yang Du	Box Hill Hospital
Hoang Yuyin	Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research
Kerrie Scott-Dowell	Dorevitch Pathology/Leica
Alison Boyd	St. Vincent's Pathology

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Author enquiries and readers wishing to contribute articles or reports can contact the Editor - editor@hgv.org.au

Please email articles (preferably Microsoft Word format) for inclusion in the next edition to editor@hgv.org.au All items submitted for publication will then become the sole property of the Histology Group of Victoria Inc.

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BLURB FROM THE BUSH

A few changes have occurred since our last newsletter. As you will see we have a fresh new look for our newsletter. Thanks to Thuy Phan for designing our new front cover. We also returned to an old stamping ground at St Vincent's Hospital pending the move to the new Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. Our next meeting is at the new PMAC which will include a tour of the facility. Your feedback following this scientific meeting will be greatly appreciated so we can establish if PMAC is where we want to be going forward.

The Trivia night was again a great success thanks in the main to Kellie Vukovic and the great work she puts into both the organising before and at the event. The St John of God Pathology teams went all out by arriving by limousine in what will be the final time before they are absorbed into Australian Clinical Laboratories.

The NSW and QLD groups are holding a joint conference in Port Macquarie over the AFL grand final weekend. So unless you are venturing to the MCG, we can highly recommend the program and the weather.

The National Meeting in Hobart continues its development. Sponsorship opportunities have been released to the trade and a good response has already been achieved. More information for prospective presenters will be released in September as we seek to fill the program and workshops.

Adrian Warmington
HGV President

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Review of The Fifth International Workshop in Diagnostic Immunohistochemistry-Part 3

Soft Tissue and Muscle tumours

John Slavin from St Vincent's Pathology in Melbourne, presented an interesting and informative talk on the immunohistochemistry of soft tissue tumours including muscle tumours. The various types of muscle tumours were discussed, including skeletal muscle (the muscle you can control) the benign form being rhabomyoma and malignant rhabdomyosarcoma and smooth muscle (involuntary), where benign tumours are known as leiomyoma, and malignant as leiomyosarcoma. Other muscle tumours mentioned included myofibroma, angiomyoma, lipoma, malignant mixed Mullerian tumours, MPNST, nephroblastoma and myoepithelial tumours.

Immunohistochemistry of muscle tumours involves using unique markers to help define cell lineage and the type of muscle. A number of markers were discussed including Desmin for both smooth and skeletal muscle, SMA for smooth muscle and myogen for skeletal muscle, along with some newer antibodies like smoothelin and caldesmon, both for smooth muscle.
Some case studies were included, one a 66 year old man with abdominal pain and a large intra abdominal mass, found to have a leiomyosacroma and the other a case of a 26 year old man with a two month history of sinusitis, headache, 5 days diplopia and a nasal mass on CT, found to be rhabdomyosarcoma.

This presentation highlighted yet again the importance of immunohistochemistry in diagnosis.

Reviewed by Alison Boyd

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2016 Trivia Night Review

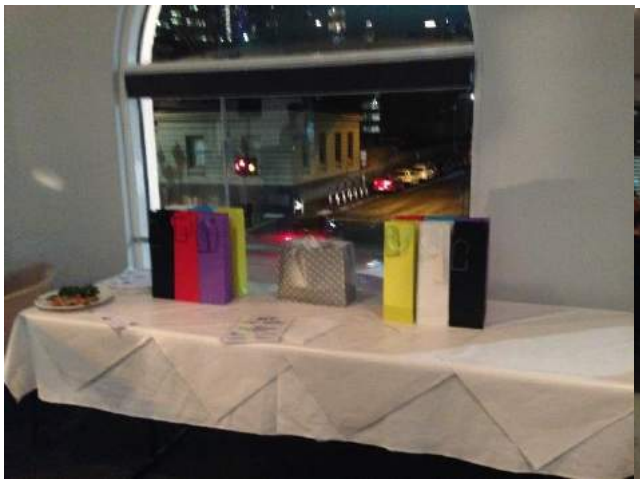
By Kellie Vukovic

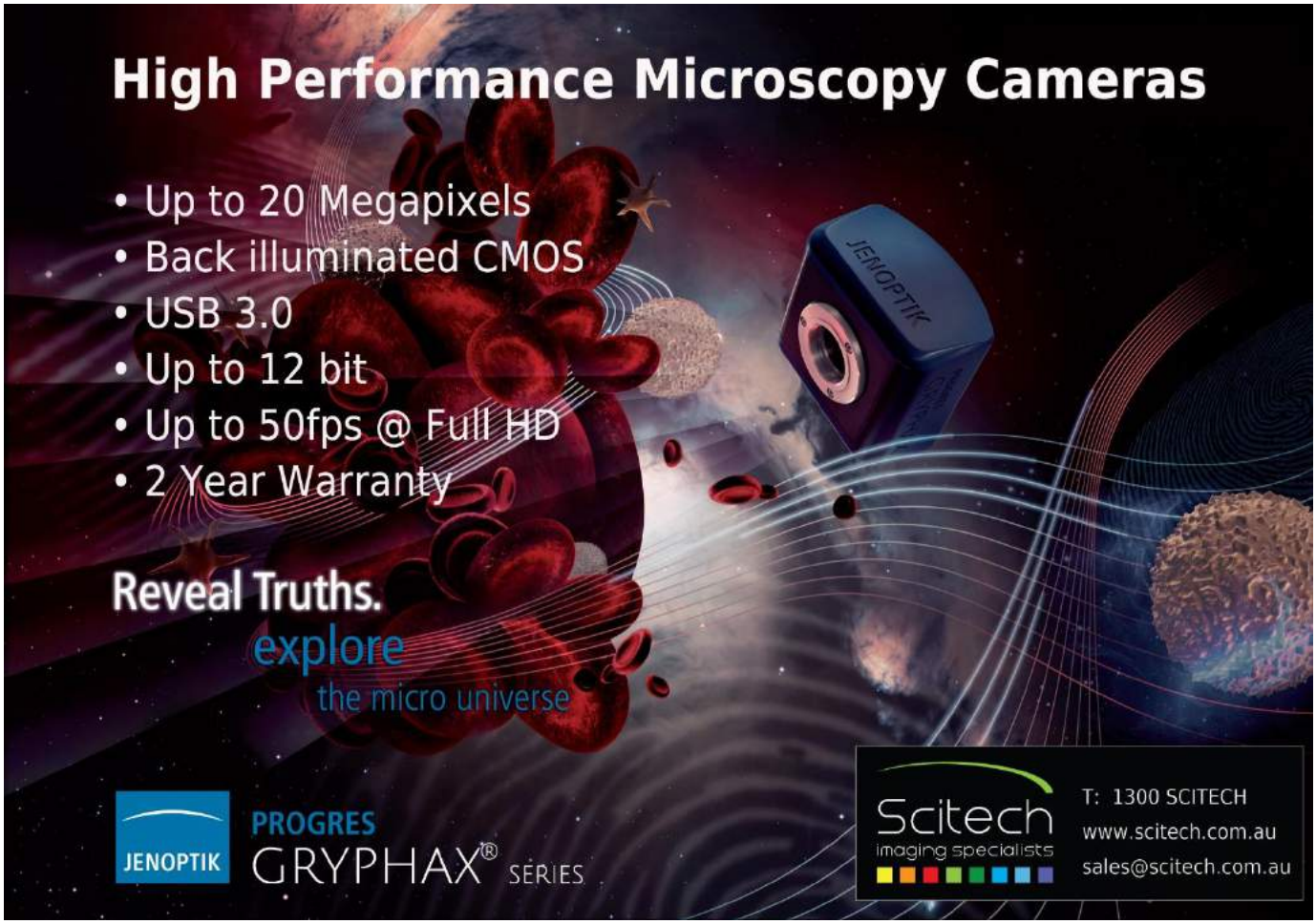
The 2016 Trivia night held on Friday 29th July at The Metropolitan Hotel was another huge success with 101 participants. There was good food, friendly staff, an entertaining host, movie tickets, wine, chocolates and even a limo that came from Geelong. Throughout the night there was fierce competition from the leading tables but it all came down to the wire in the Histology Round.

The results were:

Ranking	Team	Points
1st	PsychoPath (Royal Children's)	77
2nd	Austin Floaters (Austin)	75
3rd	Salami Pizza (SJOG)	74
4th	Lost in Processing (Melb Path)	72
5th	Kermit (RMIT)	69
6th	CXBX (SJOG)	68
7th	Sue Sturrock's Sexy Scientists (PMCC)	67
8th	Big Pounda (AnatPath)	65
9th	Malt Whiskey (Trade)	64

We would like to say a big thank you to our generous sponsors because without their support a night like this couldn't happen – Lecia, Metagene, Abacus, ThermoFisher, Roche and Dako!

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Under the Microscope with Ali Sert-Histolab

1. What was your first part-time job?

I worked for Colonel Sanders selling finger lickin' Kentucky fried chicken during the summer of '06 and held my position until I completed high school.

2. How long have you worked in histology?

3 years, give or take, I started off as an assistant accessioning specimens at Histolab then moved onto a scientist position during my final year at RMIT.

3. When people ask, "So, what do you do?" How do you explain Histology?

I open with "I'm a medical scientist who works with tissue" and end up giving a long winded explanation of formalin fixation, cut up, tissue processing and sectioning… only a few people have continued asking questions beyond that.

4. What is a skill you'd like to learn and why?

Whittling, I appreciate handmade gestures as much as the next guy and like to think of myself as a somewhat creative individual who's great with sharp objects and his hands.

5. If you won the lottery, what would you do?

I'd close all debts, buy a big property in a forest, build a nice big house and just enjoy it for the rest of my days. Whatever remained would be invested to fund my wilderness retreat.

6. Who do you most admire in life?

My wife Elif, she not only understands me, but puts up with me.

7. If you could witness any event of the past, present or future, what would it be?

The event I'd want to witness is the day everyone in the world just goes "stuff it, let's get along and help one another."

8. What is the best conference you have ever attended?

Nothing comes to mind, but I hear the HGV Tazzy conference is one not to be missed, so I am looking forward to that later this year.

9. If you could only keep five possessions, what would they be?

My house, car, phone, pup, and the pocket knife gifted to me by my best friend for my 18th.

10. What is your dream holiday destination and why?

Turkey, its where my roots are from and yet I've only seen a small fraction of it.

PHOTO

Reported by Kellie Vukovic

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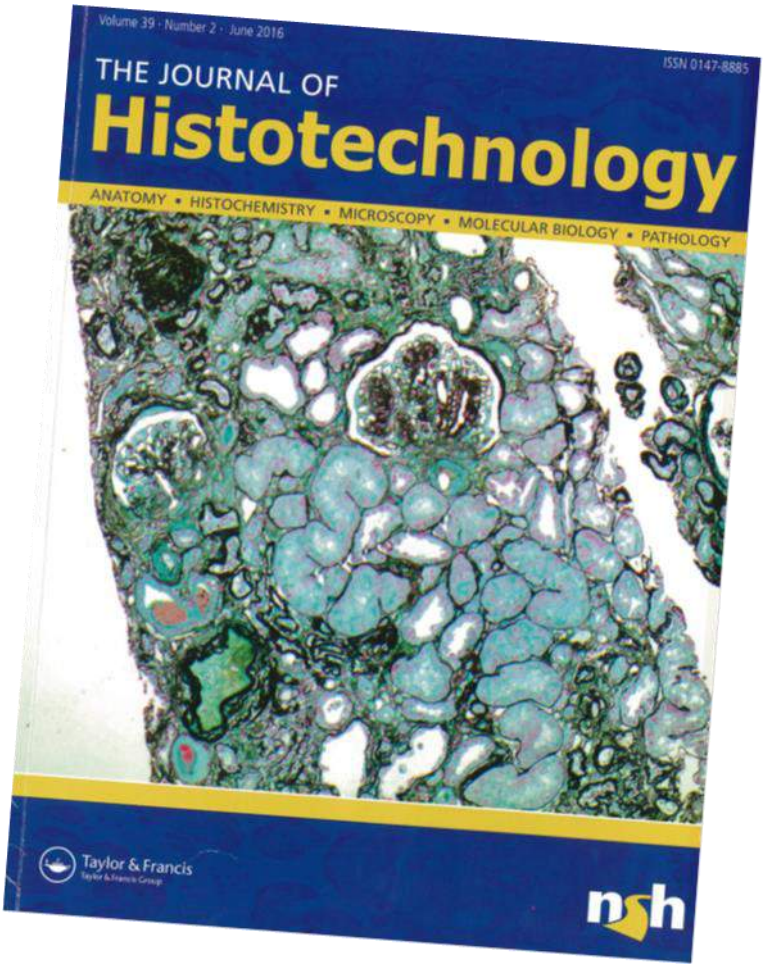
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALEX LASLOWSKI, Scientist at Monash Medical Centre Clayton

Alex was published in the latest Volume of the Journal of Histotechnology for his article *'A modified silver methenamine Masson trichrome using methyl green for staining of renal biopsies'*

Even better one of Alex's impressive images was used as the front cover.

Journal article review to follow in a later newsletter.



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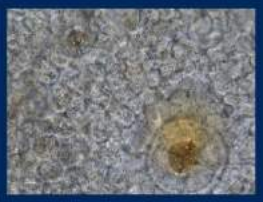

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Review of Scientific Meeting-Haematoxylin Blues and other Jazz-by Mike Rentsch

A Discussion of Stain Chemistry: The Hidden Science of Histology

The HGV was privileged to have Mike Rentsch from Australian Biostain come all the way from Traralgon on a Thursday evening to present for the June scientific meeting.

Mike was the fourth ever student to commence study in the RMIT Med Lab Technician course in its first intake. After graduating he worked at Queen Victoria Hospital for a short period before going to Gippsland Pathology Services to set-up a Histology lab in 1976. In 1988 Mike and his wife Jenny in order to produce a reliable source of concentrated formalin 'Confix' founded Australian Biostain. When there was a shortage of May-Grunwald stain powder Mike was able to fulfil the shortfall himself and a family business was born and continues to thrive to this day.

Mike explained how all labs have had H&E failures and some can be explained whereas some cannot and in order to work out why the failure occurred and how to fix it we need to return to the basics of science.

The basics of science has to do with a scientific approach being taken with everything that is done. Mike presented this with a lot of depth but basically it means that everything needs to be documented because if it isn't documented then it never happened!, there needs to be specifications for all ingredients, all equipment must be calibrated and used appropriately, there needs to be formulation of a protocol, results and performance should be assessed and finally everything must be retained and reviewed.

When it comes to the H&E stain it's all a "balancing act" and the pH plays a big part, especially with Eosin. Mike believes that running water is the most valuable and underrated reagent in a H&E stain and that slides should have at least 2 minutes in running water after Scott's Tap Water to make sure they remain colour fast and don't fade.
An extremely interesting thing that Mike brought up was that H&E methods have to be adjusted in different locations due to alums (double sulfates of any trivalent metal) in the local water supply, as the amount of alum in the water supply can affect the pH which in turn can affect the stain.

Mike's presentation concluded with him summing up some of what he believes is most important. That is, in order to achieve the best results you have to be prepared to modify your formula taking into consideration your location and the quality of the tap water being used.
That the initial quality and grade of all products is important and not to be overlooked.
That scientific knowledge is meant to be shared, not kept secret. That if you need help, ask for it and if help is ever asked for give it with willingness and share your knowledge.

The presentation Mike gave was very engaging, insightful and enjoyed by all who made it to the meeting. He provided a great many anecdotes and lot more information than I was able to provide in this review. Thankfully if you missed the presentation or just want to see it again it was filmed and a way to allow everyone to view it is currently being worked on so keep your eye out for it.

Reviewed by Meghan Leo

HISTOTECHNOLOGY SOCIETY OF NSW

Histotechnology Group of Queensland

Joint State Conference 2016

Port Macquarie

- ü **10 Speakers over 2 days - Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd October 2016**
- ü **2 Workshops - Friday September 30th 2016** (additional cost)
- ü **Conference Opening Ceremony**
- ü **Wine Tasting**
- ü **Winery Conference Dinner**
- ü **Trade Showcase**

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30th June 2016

Key Note Speaker:

Dr Joe McDermott
Technical Head
Anatomical Pathology,
LabPlus
New Zealand

Topic: Team Development

Other Topics Include:

- § Digital Pathology
- § Paediatric Tumours
- § Forensic Pathology
- § Biobanking & Misconceptions
- § 21st Century Learning for Laboratory Personnel

Workshops:
Friday 30th September 2016
Registration closes on **31st July 2016**

- § **Workshop 1**: IHC Validation by Tony Henwood, CHW, NSW
- § **Workshop 2**: Presentation Skills by Dr Joe McDermott, LabPlus, NZ

Workshop Prices:
Members: $50 Non-members: $65
Limited places only

Conference Information

Conference Venue: Panthers Port Macquarie

1 Bay St, Port Macquarie, NSW 2444

Conference Dinner Venue: Cassegrain Winery

764 Fernbank Creek Road, Port Macquarie, NSW 2444

Conference Package includes:

1. **Two-day conference registration** - Sat 1st and Sun 2nd October
2. **Opening Ceremony** - Friday 30th September
3. **Wine tasting** - Saturday 1st October
4. **Conference** - Saturday 1st October

Conference Package Prices:

Early Bird Registration: Closes on 31st July 2016

Members: $300 Non-members: $350

Full Registration: Purchased after 31st July to 14th September 2016

Members: $350 Non-members: $400
Student members: $100 Non-student members: $150

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Conference link for registrations & other details
http://histonsw.org.au/joint-state-conference-2016-info.

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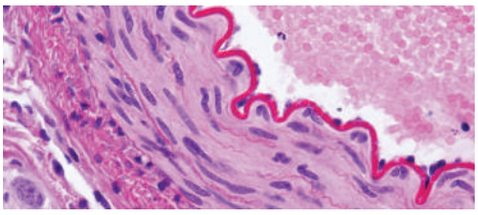

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The New Peter Mac Tour

Speaker: **Sue Sturrock**

Date: **Thursday 15th September, 2016**

Time: **6:15 – 6:45 Refreshments (location TBA)**
6:45 – 7:45 Presentation (location TBA)

Venue: **Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre**
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Melbourne VIC 3000
More information and maps to follow

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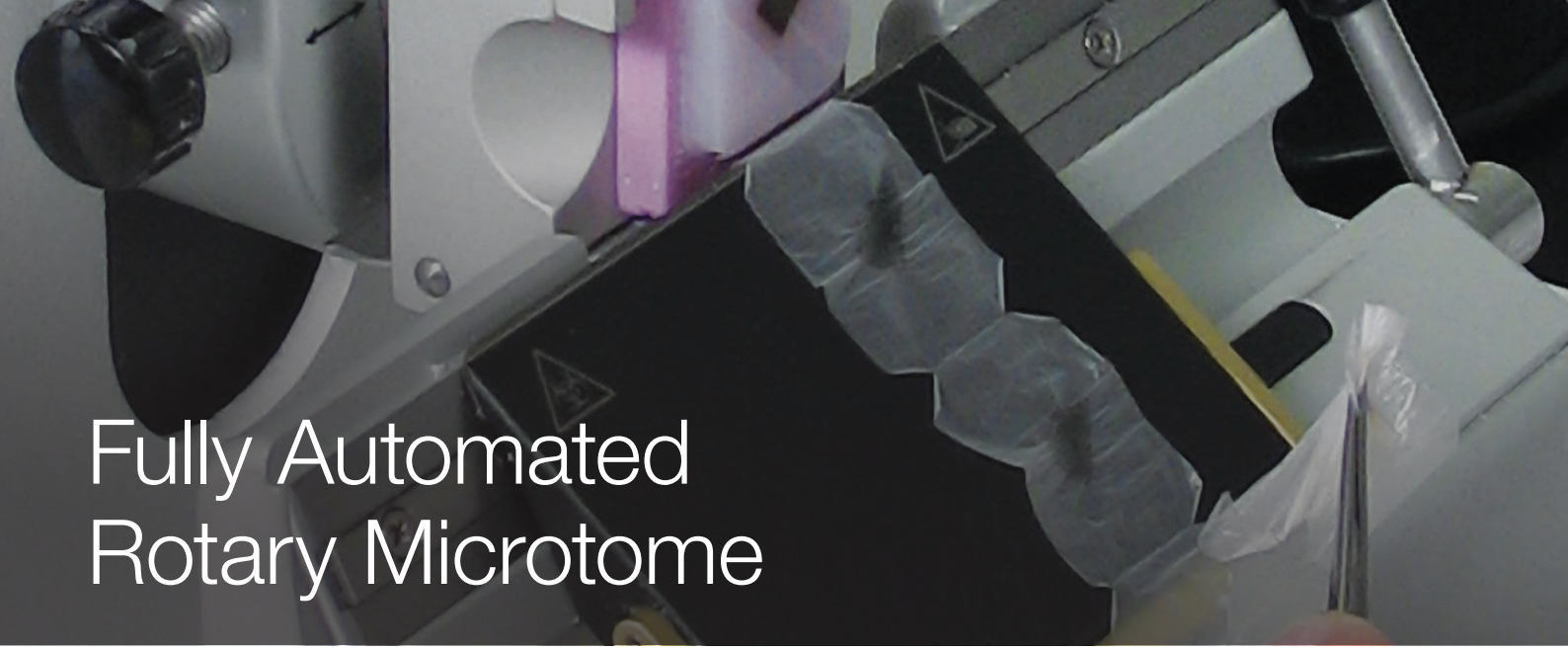

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Future Events: 2016

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~~**12-14 February**~~
~~Fifth International Workshop in Diagnostic Immunohistochemistry~~
~~Venue: Mantra Twin Towns, Coolangatta-Tweed Heads Qld/NSW~~

~~**Thursday 18th st February**~~
~~Scientific Meeting-RIMT Student Project Presentations~~
~~Venue: Peter Mac~~

~~**Thursday 14th April**~~
~~Scientific Meeting: Basic Molecular~~
~~Venue: Peter Mac~~

~~**Thursday 16th June**~~
~~Scientific Meeting: Haematoxylin Blues and other Jazz~~
~~Venue: St. Vincent's~~

~~**Friday 29th July**~~
~~Trivia night~~
~~Venue: Metropolitan Hotel~~
~~263 William St.~~
~~Melbourne VIC 3000~~

Thursday 15th September
Scientific Meeting: The New Peter Mac tour
Venue: Peter Mac

September 16-21
NSH Symposium/Convention
Longbeach, California
USA

September 30- October 2
Histotechnology Society of NSW
Histotechnology Group of Queensland
Joint State Conference
Port Macquarie Panthers

Thursday 10th November
Scientific Meeting/AGM: New Antibodies
Venue: Peter Mac

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See page U9, cat. no. UM-WBG

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See page U5, cat. no. UM-EC2800

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