

# Diary in oils records an emotional cancer fight



**DIFFERENT:** The wife of the Governor-General, Marlena Jeffery, opened the exhibition of works by Peter Smith, created during his successful fight against cancer. He will donate 20 per cent of all sales profits to the Cancer Council. Picture: MELISSA ADAMS

When Peter Smith was diagnosed with liver cancer three years ago, his partner suggested he keep a diary to help him deal with his emotions. Instead, the former financial banker turned to art.

Smith's abstract oil paintings depict the different emotions he experienced in the first four months of his successful treatment for cancer.

They form part of his latest exhibition, *Too Different Books — Dove Lake and Bed of Roses*. He will donate 20 per cent of all sales profits to the Cancer Council.

The *Dove Lake* paintings are based on his sketches from a trip to Tasmania five years ago, while the *Bed of Roses* series of work is based on the sketches he made while in hospital.

"It was only a couple of months ago that I decided to create this series, as up until then the experience was too personal to share with others.

"Being diagnosed with cancer put my whole life upside down. I had a corporate career. It makes you re-evaluate your life.

"My partner suggested I keep a diary, but it is much easier for me to think in pictures than in words."

The wife of the Governor-General, Marlena Jeffery, opened the exhibition last night at the M16 Artspace in Mildura Street, Fyshwick.

— Catherine Naylor

**■ The gallery is open from noon to 5pm Wednesday to Sunday. The exhibition is on until September 11.**

# Generic & endanger

**By Ben Doherty**  
Assembly Reporter

The building and real estate industries have welcomed change. The ACT Government's asbestos strategy saying the removal of cor audits for home owners is a move.

But asbestos campaigner Beth Thurbon — whose husband Peter died from mesothelioma — has rejected the Government's decision, saying it will leave home owners and renovators particularly vulnerable.

The ACT Government announced yesterday it was changing its asbestos legislation, introducing laws which would have home owners to pay for a professional asbestos audit, instead of generic advice provided with homes being sold.

The move follows the release of a report from the ACT's Asbestos Audit Force, which conducted an audit of 600 homes throughout Canberra.

From the audit, the Government has created an information telling home owners, property owners and tradespeople asbestos is likely to be, depending on the age of the house.

About three in four homes in the territory contain asbestos in some form, and it is harmless if left undisturbed.

Materials containing asbestos were phased out of use in

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