



WANDERING EYES: Researchers attach a tracking microchip to a black swan to trace mating habits

Science swansong for rakes of lakes

MELBOURNE: Swans have long been a symbol of monogamous love but it seems there are love rats aplenty in the matrimonial nest.

Research into the sex life of black swans shows infidelity is rife among the species famed for mating for life.

DNA paternity testing under-

taken by the University of Melbourne's zoology department has revealed about one in every six baby swans is a love child.

The university's Dr Raoul Mulder said the findings were unusual because male swans were typically very protective of their female com-

panions. Now the university is out to catch them in the act.

Researchers will use tracking devices to monitor the mating habits of black swans at Melbourne's Albert Park Lake. The technology will also track the males' philandering – the equivalent of a notch on the bed post.