

The voice of Docklands | 道克蘭之音

DOCKLANDS NEWS

■ Docklands residential real estate shake-up.

See Page 3

■ Movement on the sunken Lady Chelmsford.

See Page 5



■ Residents upset with Lend Lease's plans.

See Page 7

■ Tourist shuttle bus under funding threat.

See Page 9



Icehouse warms up Docklands

By Alison Kinkade

Docklands received a much-needed boost last month with the opening of the Icehouse in the Harbour Town precinct.

To fireworks, loud music and a crowd of hundreds, Premier John Brumby officially opened Docklands' newest attraction on Friday, February 12.

In his speech, Mr Brumby remarked at the significance of the ice-skating centre in drawing tourists and creating employment for Melbourne and Docklands.



At the launch, (from left) Katherine Firkin, Jules Lund, and Henri Dupont

"Docklands is a great place to live, work and invest and it is now a great place to go ice skating," Mr Brumby said.

Harbour Town retailers have also reacted positively to the venue that will be open 364 days a year.

Harbour Town Hotel manager, Mark Bailey, said he was looking forward to the increase in business as the months progress.

"So far we've experienced a slight increase in business but the Icehouse is only in its first week. We're definitely noticing more people are around at night after the shops have closed up which is good," Mr Bailey said.

The \$58 million complex, developed by ING Real Estate, features two Olympic-sized ice rinks, with seating for up to 1000 spectators, along with a winter sports training gym and medical facilities.

The centre was launched on the eve of the Vancouver Winter Olympics and will become home to the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia.

Mr Brumby said the Icehouse would translate into more and better athletes.

"If you want great athletes ... you've got to have great facilities," he said.

Icehouse general manager Darren Walls congratulated ING on getting the Icehouse off the ground, saying the facility was the last ING project to be approved internationally before funding was stopped due to the global financial crisis in 2008.

Mr Walls, who described the venue as a "world class facility", closed his speech by saying: "Welcome to the Icehouse, please make it your house."

Continued page 15



Wooden boat magic

The Chiera girls from Moonee Ponds were among the thousands who enjoyed Melbourne's inaugural Wooden Boat Festival in Docklands on February 20 and 21.

Teresa Chiera, (foreground) 9, and six-year-old twins Francesca (middle right) and Sophia (top left) were joined by 12-year-old Olivia Russell of Essendon (top right) on the visiting tall-ship One & All.

The South Australian-built replica brigatine was one of the features of the festival which has been hailed as a great success. *See our story on Page 8.*

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Deadline for the Apr edition is Mar 26.



Greener Apartment Living Forum

The City of Melbourne will be hosting on March 18 a second eco-city forum, Greener Apartment Living.

More than 70 per cent of residents in the City of Melbourne municipality live in high-rise apartments. Overall, residents account for 22 per cent of the municipality's water consumption, 7 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, and more than 14,000 tonnes of waste sent to landfill each year.

The forum, at Melbourne Town Hall, aims to provide information, skills and resources to apartment residents and building managers about how they can reduce their everyday environmental impact.

There will also be an open-mic session and opportunity for the community to learn about how the City of Melbourne's sustainability programs can be applied to apartments.

If you have any questions you would like addressed at the forum please email ecocityforum@melbourne.vic.gov.au by Thursday, March 11.

When: 7pm to 9pm, Thursday, March 18

Where: Swanston Hall, Melbourne Town Hall

RSVP: Monday, March 15 to ecocityforum@melbourne.vic.gov.au

For more information visit www.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Slick no cause for alarm

Residents concerned about appearance of oil in Victoria Harbour on the morning of Tuesday, February 9 can rest assured that it was only a very small amount and was taken care of promptly.

A spokesperson for Marine Safety Victoria said that it was unclear what caused the oil to be in the water, but it was only very small amount.

"It was a light sheen of diesel oil and it could have come from anything. The Melbourne Boat Show was on the weekend prior so perhaps, due to the influx of boats, it came from that."

The spokesperson said Marine Safety Victoria performed a very light clean with a boat and then let nature take its course.

He said residents should not be concerned.

"The oil was of no significance and we don't know what exactly caused it," he said.

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