



Silks at 10 paces in restaurant row

PROMINENT Melbourne restaurateur **Nick Zampelis** is embroiled in a bitter legal stoush with former Crown Casino boss **Lloyd Williams** (below) and his sons **Nick** and **John**. The imbroglio stems from guarantees allegedly made by the Williamses that Zampelis's two restaurants in Crown, Cafe Greco and Waterfront, would receive lease extensions, according to documents lodged in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Zampelis is believed to have splashed out more than \$7 million on refurbishments to the riverside eateries, before the Williams clan and Crown's leasing manager, **David Boesley**, allegedly reneged on the deal. Zampelis, who also owns the exclusive Silk Road nightclub, was turfed out and replaced by the Atlantic Group, which opened a 300-seat seafood restaurant on the site last Monday. Hospitality sources reckon Zampelis is fuming and will seek up to \$15 million from Crown. Heckler wants to know how Lloyd Williams could allegedly wield influence at the Southbank gambling mecca when he handed over the reins to **James Packer** back in 1999. Crown had no comment to make.





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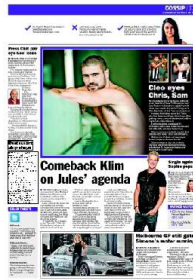
LUKE DENNEHY ON THE SPOT WITH JULIE KIRIACOUDIS



GOSSIP 109
 Sunday Herald Sun, March 20, 2011

<p>TUESDAY The Production Company 2011 season launch, Raheen.</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY Hugo Boss McLaren GP party, Chadstone.</p>	<p>THURSDAY 2011 Formula 1 Australian GP official welcoming party, Government House.</p>	
<p>WESTFIELD LADIES NIGHT OUT – Central Pier The Event: The Westfield L’Oreal Melbourne Fashion Festival Bar was the place to be on Tuesday night for the annual Ladies Night Out function, with some wives and girlfriends of AFL players in attendance.</p>	<p>Danielle Gardiner and Alicia Hampton.</p>	<p>Haylea Cooney, wife of Western Bulldogs champion Adam Cooney.</p>	<p>Channel 7’s Rachael Finch.</p>

WESTFIELD LADIES NIGHT OUT – Central Pier
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Restaurant ship-shape

■ THE new super-big restaurant, Atlantic, opened this week at Crown.

The team behind the Peninsula group enticed renowned celebrity chef **Donovan Cooke** back from overseas to head up the restaurant, which seats 380 people.

The venue has an impressive cocktail bar downstairs that was once a carpark at Crown casino.

Bookings have been steadily busy all week.

Partners **Hatem Saleh**, **Con Adronis** and **Tony Schiavello** sourced materials and design ideas from around the world, including New York and London, for the venue.



ENTERTAINMENT GOSSIP

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Alice Coster, Nicola Webber and Kate McMahon



Fashion forward

Kookai fashion parade

TUESDAY @ MAIA,
 CENTRAL PIER. DOCKLANDS

NEIGHBOURS beauties were kitted out in the latest catwalk looks as guests of honour at the Kookai runway event.

Eva Morey, who plays Ramsay St's Sonya Mitchell, said she was hoping to buy her beautiful dress after turning heads in the stunning silk creation.

Other celebrity guests at the show included *So You Think You Can Dance* judge **Jason Coleman**.

"It's great to see so many people here; I'm looking forward to the show," he said.



**OLIVIA COOK
 AND JAKE SOFO**

**JASON COLEMAN
 AND JOSHUA TONG**

**GEMMA PRANITA,
 VALENTINA
 NOVAKOVIC,
 JORDY LUCAS AND
 EVE MOREY**



ENTERTAINMENT GOSSIP

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With Alice Coster, Nicola Webber and Kate McMahon



Just two kids in love

FORMER *Kids WB* hosts **Shura Taft** and **Heidi Valkenburg** have confirmed they are an item.

The former Channel 9 presenters were glowing as they stepped out hand in hand for the L'Oreal Melbourne Fashion Festival GQ Menswear catwalk on Thursday night.

The pair met in January 2009, when Valkenburg was brought in to replace **Georgia Sinclair** on the hit kids' show. They both left the program last year to pursue other projects.

They have since been seen out and about, but have never confirmed they were an item.

Proving their partnership was just as good off-screen as on, the pair gazed into each other's eyes over a romantic meal in the Woolshed pub in Docklands before taking their seats at

the fash-o-ganza.

When asked if they were officially together, Taft shyly admitted: "Well, you know, we are spending a bit of time together now."

While neither one was keen to divulge details, Valkenburg hinted they had been together for a lot longer than anyone had suspected.

When asked if sparks flew while they were working together, she cheekily quipped: "Well, it's been two years now, so the sparks have well and truly flown."

Actress Valkenburg has just finished filming a guest role on new Channel 7 drama *Winners and Losers*, while Taft has been back and forth from New York for work commitments.

"This year is all about finding my feet. I'm feeling really positive," he said.

