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Ivy league party hits iceberg

- From: The Daily Telegraph (http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au)
- January 02, 2008 12:00AM

IT was a clash of the recovery bashes yesterday, with the first major event at Justin Hemmes' new venture ivy and the traditional New Year's Day knees-up at Bondi Icebergs competing for the cool crowd.

The entrance to bar tsar Hemmes' brand spankin' new super-duper venue

(http://www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/gallery/0,22056,5028614-5010141,00.html) the ivy still resembles a construction zone.

However, inside more than 1000 of the city's young and beautiful enjoyed the first two levels and beer garden for the Oneday presents Dayone party.

The venue - which had been strongly opposed by local police - had a strong security presence.

Tunes from Dirty Laundry, Tenzin and Jeff Drake overflowed on to an empty George St devoid of officegoers on the public holiday.

Perennial partygoers Luke Ricketson and Kate Waterhouse and Bondi Blonde babe Jaime Wright were among the eager beavers who fought off the previous night's largesse and made it to both soirees. (http://www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/gallery/0,22056,5028615-5010141,00.html)

"The ivy's a new venue so it's very exciting for everyone to come and check it out - but absolutely nothing beats Bondi Beach," Wright said.

In terms of big names, Icebergs also proved a super drawcard, pulling the likes of Superman Returns star Kate Bosworth, superfish lan Thorpe and former supermodel Gail Elliot.

While bikini-clad backpackers propped outside in fold-up chairs beside their campervan eating mangos, the A-list guests inside feasted on pizza, ricotta and spinach arancini and lemon meringue tartlets.

Sneaky Sound System, DJ Miss Annie and funnyman Austen Tayshus entertained the funky throng at the charity event for Norman Andrews House.

Sass & bide designer Heidi Middleton, who recently returned to work after battling breast cancer, said she was looking forward to putting the past year behind her.

"Eight is a lucky number - I feel absolutely vibrant and healthy and lucky to be alive," she told

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"The year 2007 was a challenge but 2008 is going to be all about new beginnings."

Icebergs owner **Maurice Terzini** spent the day on crutches after breaking his fibula in a fall last month - but that didn't seem to slow him down.