Melbourne legends, stars mark our milestone

IT was aptly a headline-grabbing event celebrating the 25-year milestone of a news powerhouse.

About 350 prominent Melburnians gathered to honour the Herald Sun at a star-studded party at The Emerson in South Yarra last night.

Powerbrokers, including Eddie McGuire, Michael Gudinski, Jeanne Pratt, Robert Doyle and Jeff Kennett, joined legends, like Ian “Molly” Meldrum, Daryl Somers, Bert Newton and John Elliott, to pay tribute to Australia’s top-selling newspaper.

“The 25 years since 1990 have been so full of watching Melbourne become the most liveable city and the Herald Sun has been the heartbeat of that,” McGuire said.

The Magpies president’s beloved AFL team made front-page news, with the headline “Lethal’s Weapon”, in the very first issue of the Herald Sun on October 8, 1990.

NUR TE KOHA, JACKIE EPSTEIN AND LUKE DENEHY

Television legend Newton said: “Melbourne is a great city but it’s made even better by institutions like the Herald Sun.”

“I can’t imagine Melbourne without it.”

“I’m a Melbourne boy, born and bred, and the Herald Sun is one of the important traditions of living here.”

Acclaimed chef Shane Delia, of Maha, prepared a celebratory menu, while popular Sony Music stars Kate Ceberano and Nathaniel enhanced the night with song.

Aerial artist Simi Maie, from Sapphira’s Showgirls, dazzled the crowd by performing on silk ropes.

Broadcaster and comedian Dave Hughes put a hilarious spin on proceedings with a road map to Victoria’s favourite masthead.

He said the Herald Sun ousted him and then-girlfriend Holly before they had gone on a second date.

“We hadn’t had that chat,” Hughes said.

Holly, a journalist, started working at the Herald Sun as a “beautiful 22 year old,” he said.

“For 10 years, not one editor hit on her. What is going on there?” Hughes said.

He said media mogul Rupert Murdoch insisted Collingwood’s 1990 premiership win should take front page glory in the first ever issue of the Herald Sun.

“It’s a genius!” McGuire yelled from the floor.

News presenter Jennifer Keyte, who was master of ceremonies, said: “I remember when it became the Herald Sun and it was a new era and we thought it would be a major change for media. Little did I know what was going to happen in the future.”

“To consolidate and make it the one Melbourne paper was a great move and it’s just gone from strength to strength. I’m really honoured to be part of this celebration... It’s such a big part of Melbourne.”

Celebrity guests were in a cheeky mood when photographers tried to get a shot of the assemblage through.

“(Jeff) Kennett will break the camera,” John Elliott belled.

Kennett retorted: “The camera will break itself. It will be out of date before they take the shot.”

Music guru Molly Meldrum said: “All my life the Herald Sun was part of our family. We’d wait for the paper to arrive when we were at home. I entered all the competitions but never won anything. I still read it everyday.”

MasterChef’s George Calombaris said: “It’s lovely. I’ve been thinking about it because my restaurant (The Press Club) resides in the old building.”

THE FAMOUS FACES WHO HELPED INSPIRE A GREAT KNIGHT

FOR the past 25 years, they’ve dominated the news in their own right, but now our most famous and infamous faces have been brought together to celebrate the Herald Sun’s 25th anniversary.

From Tony Shaw celebrating Collingwood’s 1990 premiership that featured on the Herald Sun’s first front page, to the Hawk flying away with the past...