

Smooth Sailing for the PIF Charity Sailing Event

by Anita van Rooyen, Property Industry Foundation

The Property Industry Foundation (PIF) held its inaugural Charity Sailing Challenge on 1st April at the Royal Brighton Yacht Club, raising over \$70,000 net for homeless children in Melbourne. Principal sponsor, Colliers International, was joined by the Australian Property Institute as the industry partner.

With almost 30 yachts in the fleet and perfect weather conditions, the scene was set for a great day of fun and fundraising. Race Patron and RBYC member John Bertrand provided the safety briefing for the mostly 'new to sailing' corporate teams and skippered Adrian Fitzpatrick's *Loki* to an honourable second place.

All yachts were donated to maximise the fundraising dollars, with skippers and crew being invited to the New York Hamptons themed after party at the club rooms.

Young people and carers from event beneficiary, the Lighthouse Foundation, sailed on Rosie Colahan's *Ingenué*. "It was the best day of my life", said Kylie*, one of the Lighthouse young people. "I got to steer and John Bertrand came and talked to us all about sailing."

Funds raised from the charity event are being used to fund a primary carer at the Boronia Lighthouse, which accommodates and supports four young homeless people.

The event will be repeated and expanded in 2012. A special thank you to all of the skippers and crew from RBYC and other local clubs that made the event such a success – your contribution was invaluable.

In Victoria, PIF currently supports two charities that benefit homeless children and those at risk of homelessness. There are over 9,200 homeless young people in Victoria every night. Last



John Bertrand AM at the safety briefing

year, PIF raised more than \$1.7 million nationally for children's charities which care for homeless youth.

For more information contact Property Industry Foundation Victoria (www.pif.com.au) on 03 9629 9246 or eventsvic@pif.com.au.

*name changed



Loki heading out



Young people from the Lighthouse Foundation (courtesy Steb Fisher)