



Seaworthy: Out to Lunch is lifted into the water at Rye last week.

Pictures: Anthony Opitz

Out with the homes and in with the cat



Here's cheers: Darren and Jenni Hart toast a successful launch and a new career.

By **Mike Hast**

DARREN Hart was tired of building houses, so he's built a 12-metre catamaran and all his adventures will now be at sea.

Mr Hart and his wife Jenni, of Blairgowrie, have started a charter boat business based around their new craft, Out to Lunch, which was launched at Rye last week.

Mr Hart and his apprentice Jason Steylen built the Fusion 40, designed by Australian Gary Lidgard, at the back of a factory in Rosebud over 18 months.

Then came the tricky part — getting it out of the yard and into the water.

First they hired a 50-tonne crane to lift the cat onto the street.

It spent a night in the open, guarded by Mr Hart and some mates, who told tall tales while sitting around a fire in a drum.

Last Sunday week, Out to Lunch was trucked along Point Nepean Road early in the morning to the foreshore at Rye.

The next day, a 100-tonne crane lifted the 6.8-tonne craft into the water.

Dozens of Rye residents watched the delicate operation and then cheered spontaneously when the vessel was successfully launched.

Darren and Jenni Hart toasted success on board with a glass of bubbles.

Out to Lunch had its 17-metre

Monday and the sails fitted on Tuesday.

After sea trials and marine safety inspections, it will be ready to carry people up and down Port Phillip on tours and private functions.

The first public outing is likely to be at Sorrento Sailing Club Boat

'We are about to start living our dream.'

Jenni Hart

Club's opening day on Saturday, October 27 followed by a 50th birthday party out of Sandringham a few days later.

Out to Lunch will be moored at Blairgowrie, within site of the Harts' home, but will range far and wide on Port Phillip.

The catamaran would cost about \$850,000 to buy 'off the shelf'.

It's 12 metres long and 7.3 metres wide and has four queen cabins.

Mrs Hart said her husband, who has sailed all his life including the past 10 years at Sorrento, always wanted to make sailing a career.

"We are about to start living our dream," she said.

Details: Adventure Sails on 0418374912.