



## Fire starter

For Camden Corbett, there was plenty to get fired up about as he put a spark into celebrations for the forthcoming opening of The Substation arts and cultural hub. Michael Stewart, from the Newport Fiddle and Folk Club, and drummer Boubacar Gaye look on. Full story, page 7.

**Picture: Craig Cahill**



**Sub starter:** Fire breather Camden Corbet and Boubacar Gaye, left, Tori Gibbs and Slavkah Popouska, from Bayside College, and Michael Stewart, from the Newport Fiddle and Folk Club, are gearing up for The Substation opening next week.

Picture: Craig Cahill

## Arts hub rises from derelict substation site

WHAT a difference seven years has made to a once-derelict railway substation on Market Street, Newport.

The much-anticipated opening of The Substation arts and cultural hub will take place on Saturday, November 22, after seven years of construction and 12 years of planning.

When the committee of management obtained the lease for the property from the State Government in 1996, the building had been derelict for 35 years.

The amazing transformation was nearing completion when the *Advertiser* visited last week. The building will feature seven galleries, four workshops, a function area, cafe/bar, 14 artists studios and 300 square metres of performance floor space. The project cost about \$5 million and involved hiring about 100 long-term unemployed people.

Hobsons Bay Community Art Centre president Darren Williams said The Substation would be an arts hub for the entire western region.

"Cultural integration of the community is one of the cornerstones of society and for it to be used to display and create different facets of art is a great transformation of this building," he said.

One of the first exhibitions will be VCE work from western region schools including Werribee and Bayside secondary colleges, Williamstown High School and Westbourne Grammar.

Mr Williams said 26 weeks of next year were already booked out with exhibitions.

**The opening of The Substation, at 1 Market Street, Newport, will be at 3pm on November 22. Arts Minister Lynne Kosky and Hobsons Bay Mayor Bill Baarini will officially open the building.**

Laura Luvara