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Paddington pub deal breaks the ice

FROM P38

Co-owner and manager Jacqueline Madden, who headed up the relaunch of the Fox Hotel, said it appealed to the stakeholders because "it's a great space in a dream position". She said the new name aimed to add some feminine appeal to the precinct's existing offering.

"It's still a space where everyone is welcome but we

also wanted to attract ladies and have that ladies' luncheon aspect in the forefront, so the new name plays on that," she said. Closed for about two months until this week, the first stage of its transformation included knocking down the walls between its restaurant and main bar.

The venue will be closed again for a few weeks in Janu-

ary while the second stage of the makeover, a revamp of the whole bar area, is completed.

JLL's Paul Fraser negotiated the leasing deal on behalf of the Mee family, who have owned the property since the 1920s, when they opened their Ithaca Iceworks business on the site. He said the deal also

included first rights to the freehold if the Mee family decided to divest the asset.