

# Students find this course cool

Ice event has them sliding, sweeping at the Docklands

**Sport | Elizabeth Allen**

ROXBURGH College students are trying their hand at a cool new sport... getting their skates on for the school's curling program.

Students in years 9 to 11 have been visiting the Medibank Icehouse at Docklands where teacher and coach Frederic Legrand has taught them the skills of curling- delivery, sliding, sweeping and strategy.

Mr Legrand, who hails from Canada, said the school was the only one in Victoria to have a curling program.

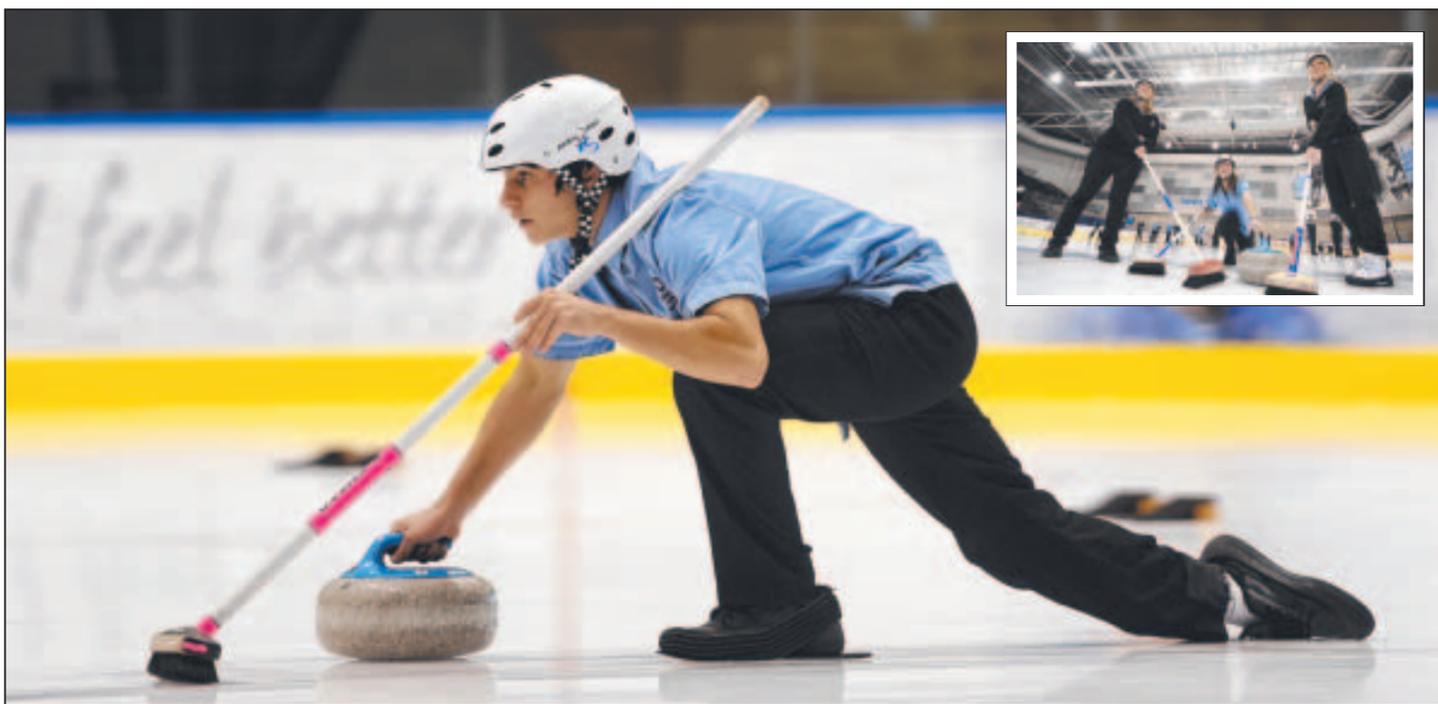
"I wanted to provide students at the college a chance to try something new," Mr Legrand said.

"A lot of them had never been on ice before. It looks easy but it's a lot more difficult than what it looks."

Curling involves teams of four players who each slide a stone across the ice with the aim of having it stop closer than the opponent's stone to the centre of a target.

Two sweepers use brushes to sweep the ice in front of the curling stone to make it smooth and allow the stone to travel further and straighter.

So far 80 students have taken part



Roxburgh College student AJ is a mover and shaker during curling training at the Icehouse in Docklands and (inset) Shontelle, Stephannie and Johanna are ready for action.

Pictures: KYLIE ELSE N48H0504

in the program, with some planning to try out for the Australian Junior Men's and Women's Curling Teams to represent Australia at the Pacific Junior Curling Championships in January next year.

"A couple of them have been like ducks to water and the comrade-

ship is really brilliant between the kids in years 9, 10 and 11," Mr Legrand said.

He and principal Fernando Ianni have designed the curling program to also teach students the history and rules of curling as well as sportsmanship.

Year 10 student Shontelle Walker

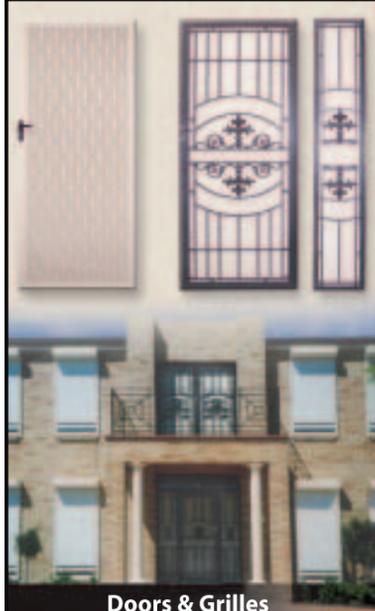
said she'd taken a couple of minor tumbles on the ice since starting curling but her skills as a netballer had helped her with balance while year 9 student Jay Cooke said he had wanted to try curling as another winter sport and hoped to continue with it.

"I found it a bit challenging and

fun," he said. "I'd love to be in the Australian junior team."

Mr Legrand, who began curling as a student and has since coached curling teams, said he hoped curling events at the Icehouse would help the sport grow.

For more information call Mr Legrand on 9930 8100.





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