

# Beer festival is on for young and old



Dave Sinclair, of Gordon, savours an ale yesterday, above, and brewer Peter Clegg, of Manly, displays the key ingredients, right.

PHOTOS: KATE LEITH



By MICHAEL INMAN

ALE AFICIONADOS quaffed more than 6000 litres of beer as the National Capital Craft Beer Festival kicked off at Ollims Hotel at Braddon yesterday.

The combination of fine weather and 80 beers from 13 breweries lured about 1000 to the festival.

The turnout more than doubled last year's figure and is the most successful since the inaugural event in 2008.

But the biggest surprise was the ratio of young female drinkers attending yesterday's opening day, Ollims executive assistant manager Daniel Gaul said.

"We're so impressed with the ratio of sexes - it's about 50:50," Mr Gaul said.

"Overall the crowd is much younger this year, aged between 21 and 35, so it's a young hip crowd."

The warm weather gave festival-goers a mighty thirst, leaving breweries fearing the beer might run dry.

But Mr Gaul said restocking efforts overnight would keep today's revellers well watered.

Highlights today include a beer cook-off between four of the city's best chefs.

"It's food day [today] and it will all be matched with beer," Mr Gaul said.

"We've got two chefs from Debaule in Braddon, one from All Bar Nun in O'Connor and a young chef from Ollims in the competition.

"They'll be cooking food using craft-style beers as an ingredient and the meal matched to beer."

■ The National Capital Craft Beer Festival, Ollims Hotel, Braddon, 11am to 5pm today. Tickets \$20.