

Media Release:

20.12.2007

Break in at Australian Pearling Exhibition

The Australian Pearling Exhibition has closed earlier than planned this year due to a break-in that occurred yesterday at both the Australian Pearling Exhibition and Indo Pacific Marine.

Manager of the privately owned Indo Pacific Marine, John Ostara, said it looks like the thieves broke through a door at the facility.

“On Monday morning I arrived to open up and discovered the place had been broken into,” Mr Ostara said.

“They took a weeks takings in cash, as well as smashing a glass display cabinet that had pearl jewellery and barramundi leather wallets, all up there’s around \$3,500 worth of damage.

“I’m yet to get estimates on what the cost will be to repair the damage to the door and display cabinet.”

The Australian Pearling Exhibition, managed by the Northern Territory Government also had smashed doors and walls with the estimated damage around \$2,000.

The Australian Pearling Exhibition and Indo Pacific Marine are housed in the same building at the Darwin Wharf Precinct.

The Australian Pearling Exhibition displays material on the history of pearling in northern Australian waters to modern day pearl farming and will re-open March 2008.

The Pearling Exhibition usually closes over the Christmas period but due to this incident they have had to close their doors earlier.

Indo Pacific Marine, established in 1971 as a marine environmental and education resource centre will continue to operate as usual.

Police would like to hear form anyone who may have witnessed this incident, or has information that could assist them with their investigation to call 131 444 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact John Ostara on 8981 1294.

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