

Sixty years with a pair of scissors

By TIM WILLIAMS

VARDON ST: Barber Frank Vaiana was shaving other men's faces long before he could grow any stubble of his own.

Working in a relative's barber shop in his native Italy from the age of nine, he had to stand on a box to reach his clients.

Mr Vaiana, 72, as much an East End institution as the facades of the old produce markets, says his father had him try all manner of other jobs as a labourer, tailor, cabinet maker, french polisher and shoe repairer.

But he always came back his first love.

"You can never get bored of the job of a barber," he says.

"You deal with different people every day.

"For everyone you do a different cut."

Mr Vaiana followed his father to Australia and took up work in an East Tce barber shop in 1957.

In the 1960s he opened his own business on Rundle St, where he stayed for 35 years until a development forced him to move Frank's Gents Barber Shop into nearby Vardon St 12 years ago.

Mr Vaiana says the East End was more "colourful" in the days when it was filled with the bustle, noise

You can never get bored of the job of a barber... for everyone you do a different cut.

Frank Vaiana

and smell of the old markets, and there was a greater variety of businesses along Rundle St.

But he is philosophical about the market's transformation into a residential area and Rundle St's concentration of eateries and fashion houses.

"The older generation has to accept what the new one wanted," he says.

One thing that won't change is Mr Vaiana's prodigious work ethic.

He opens his doors at 7.30am Monday to Saturday.

"Sunday I come in and wash the floor," he says.



CLOSE SHAVE: Frank Vaiana has been cutting people's hair in the city since 1957.

Picture: Keryn Stevens H0443669

Stone fruit makes way for apples

By KARA ADAMS

PRODUCE: Fresh autumn produce including grapes, apples and rockmelon will fill inner-north fruit and veg markets this week.

Adelaide Produce woman Wendy Helps says the change of season means stone fruits will soon be in season. She says the best stone fruits such as apricots and peaches are available over the week.

"At the moment you can still get a good amount of stone fruit, especially plums," she says.

Ms Helps says peaches are still available. She says the advantage of stone fruit is that they are still available.

Ms Helps says peaches are still available. She says the advantage of stone fruit is that they are still available.

"It's harvest season for pears, so we'll see a lot of varieties coming in," she says.

"Grapes have been in season and we've had a good supply coming from Victorian farmers."

SA-grown strawberries are also expected to be in season, Ms Helps says.

"We've had perfect weather. A lot of fruit growers have had a good harvest."

Cauliflowers, iceberg lettuce, celery, carrots, potatoes, eggplant, and cabbages are Ms Helps' hot picks for the week.