

# NOLA team to revive historic East End venue

GIUSEPPE TAURIELLO

THE former Stag Hotel will re-open next month following a major revamp led by the team behind popular East End beer and whisky haunt NOLA.

Oliver Brown and Joshua Talbot – two of NOLA's four owners – are putting the finishing touches to a new fit-out, which will become home to a new restaurant, front bar and function space.

The renamed Stag Public House will deliver "Aussie pub classics with a twist" in the front bar, while "casual fine dining" restaurant Charlick's will complete the transformation of the heritage building.

Mr Brown said talks with landlord Maras Group to take over the historic venue kicked off after previous operator The Fat Stag fell into administration in April.

"It's been a problem site in the past few years and probably hasn't taken off the way we thought it really could – it's a really exciting challenge," he said.

"We thought the space as a whole was a bit big, cavernous and open and we wanted to break it down into three distinct areas."

Mr Brown said fresh local produce would inspire the menu at Charlick's – named after William Charlick who developed the East End's Adelaide Fruit and Produce Exchange in 1904.

"It will be quite a refined



REVAMP: NOLA co-owner Oliver Brown and, inset, the former Stag Hotel.

Main picture: AAP/RUSSELL MILLARD

high level but still quite accessible for the punter – honest and nostalgic food," he said.

"Staff will bring in family recipes and we'll tweak them to what we do, and everything will be shared – it will be like a big family kitchen feel but with a refined touch to it."

Matiya Marovic – who has inspired the interiors of a string of bars across Adelaide including NOLA and Pink Moon Saloon – has designed the new fit-out, which will "completely change the look" of the venue.

"We wanted to add some character and bring that warm feel and honesty to the place, which was really a big open faceless venue," Mr Brown said.

"Food is going to play a really big part at Stag Public House. We're bringing back the Aussie pub classics – we'll do schnitzels and steak sangers but with our own twist.

"And it's going to be super local – we'll support local producers from farmers in Murray Bridge to local wines, too."

The venue's upstairs space will initially be made available for functions but there are long-term plans to convert it into a live music venue.

The NOLA team has partnered with the Maras Group before, most recently opening pizzeria and bar Anchovy Bandid at the developer's Palace Nova project at Prospect.

"We've developed a great rapport with these guys and they're intent on making this a completely different offering from what it's ever been be-

fore," Maras Group managing director Steve Maras said.

"The one thing that nailed it from my perspective was the fact they are young, enthusiastic and willing to take the next step up from running a small bar to running something bigger.

Mr Brown said a re-opened venue at the former Stag site would add to the momentum building in Adelaide's East End. Stag Public House will open next month, followed by Charlick's in August.

## Challenge to 'unfair' potato contracts

DAVID SIGSTON

AUSTRALIA's largest potato wholesaler, Mitolo, is facing legal action after being accused of entering into unfair contracts with its potato farmer suppliers.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) yesterday said it had started Federal Court proceedings against the South Australian company – the first legal action taken under the recently introduced Horticulture Code.

Mitolo, a major supplier to Woolworths and Coles, is facing allegations of unfair contract terms including signing exclusive supply contracts that allow it to vary prices unilaterally and prevent farmers from selling to other buyers.

ACCC deputy chair Mick Keogh said Mitolo's exclusive contracts also did not specify how and when the price of potatoes would be determined.

"These are some of the most egregious terms we have seen in agricultural contracts and are key examples of the contracting practices in the sector that we want to address," Mr Keogh said.

The consumer watchdog said the contracts were usually signed prior to, or during harvest, but would not determine the price until afterwards.

"We believe these terms have caused, or could cause, significant detriment to farmers, by passing a heavy burden of risk down to farmers, the most vulnerable player in the supply chain," Mr Keogh said.

Mitolo have been contacted for comment.

## Accounting merger benefits local office

MID-TIER accounting firm UHY Haines Norton will boost its brand presence across Australia and New Zealand through a merger with national network Sothertons.

The tie-up will bring together 42 partners and 250 staff under the UHY brand, with

Sothertons' Adelaide office to be rebranded to UHY Sothertons from July 1. It will remain an independent firm.

UHY Haines Norton chairman Michael Coughtrey said the deal would strengthen the expanded group's national and international offerings.

"Most mid-tier accounting networks are finding it difficult to attract new members who can underpin the expertise of the wider group while aligning with the core values of our member firms," he said. "It's very positive that we have been able to expand our network."

## Fortescue protests Rinehart's Atlas bid

ANDREW Forrest's Fortescue Metals is seeking to have Gina Rinehart's \$390 million takeover attempt on Atlas Iron halted, alleging there are misleading statements and omissions in her company's bid.

A Fortescue company has gone to the Takeovers Panel

asking that Redstone – a subsidiary of Ms Rinehart's Hancock Prospecting – be prevented from advancing its takeover of Atlas or acquiring any more shares in the junior miner.

Hancock Prospecting emerged last week as the winner of a three-way battle for

Atlas, beating Fortescue and Mineral Resources.

Fortescue subsidiary NCZ has claimed Redstone's bidder's statement has "misleading statements and material omissions" about its intentions towards Atlas's business, assets and employees.

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