



**Architect David Burton from Williams Burton at the Darling building redevelopment on Franklin St. Picture: Calum Robertson**

# Rebirth of a Darling space

Sam Kelton

**D**ormant for almost 20 years, the 100-year-old State Heritage-listed Darling Building on Franklin St is nearing renovation completion. Earlier this month, scaffolding surrounding the once dilapidated exterior came down, revealing the first stage of the \$4 million head-turning refurbishment which has reinvigorated the streetscape. The joint venture group includes the directors of Adelaide firm Williams Burton Architects, who will relocate to the top floor of the building, while tenants will be sought

for two levels of offices. Discussions are also being held with a graphic design firm and co-working spaces are being considered while Williams Burton director David Burton said there were opportunities for a retail space on the ground floor and a small bar in the building's basement. "There were a lot of pigeons and broken windows when we first came through the building but we saw the potential of what could be done. There's a lot of potential for retail on the ground floor and also for a small bar in the basement with the lightwell that runs through the building providing lots of beautiful natural light. We think

someone could do something pretty special with this space," he said. The building was completed in 1916 for John Darling & Son, which by the end of the 19th century was the biggest exporter of Australian wheat. With a number of groups interested in the building, Mr Burton said the project has the potential to become an Adelaide design hub. "We're offering a unique canvas for a unique community. We're hoping the building becomes a known design hub with like-minded businesses that can help provide even more interesting spaces to enliven the city."

# Things set to look a little sketchy at coffee lounge

Sarah Spencer

**I**MAGINE a sushi train, but remove the circulating belt and replace the sushi with sweets and pastries – and you have a tâtisserie. That's the vision behind Adelaide's new Blue-Bird Coffee Lounge. "From the moment you order coffee, the place is yours," owner Rob de Kok says. "You can take what you like and eat what you like. It's the bastard child of sushi train and a tâtisserie." The coffee lounge, which opened yester-

day, is run by de Kok whose wife, Sue Fleming, owns the Wunderkammer Gallery on the floor above. "I've always been talking about a cafe and thought it's now or never," he says. "It's a little pocket of Europe or Melbourne. I can't spend this year in Europe, so I brought Europe here." Kicking things off with a bang, the venue is also hosting a drawing class called Sketchy, run by Archibald Prize winner Fran Callen. "From live bands and pub culture to people socialising and a dog in the street, I draw right in the moment," Callen says.

"I get inspired by human behaviour and body language. I really like people's reactions and drawing fast, often without looking at the page. As part of Sketchy people will get to experience drawing techniques and learn to draw movement quick from life." Sketchy with Fran Callen is on April 16 and May 7. Blue-Bird Coffee Lounge is having an official launch on April 23-24, when the tâtisserie starts, coffee's are half price and there is live music on the Sunday. **For more information visit blue-bird-coffee-lounge.com**



Fran Callen



**Puppy raiser adviser Jade Currie and puppy raiser Alix Katala with Nova and Helix.**

# Pawsome way to give back to community

Stephanie Timotheou

**T**wo years ago, Alix Katala became a Guide Dogs SA/NT puppy raiser as a way of giving back to the community while supporting her family. "My cousin's son had a stroke a number of years ago ... he's 14 now, but will require a seeing eye dog once he's 18," the 25-year-old says. "That really inspired me to get involved and it was important for me to do something that contributed to what will soon change his life."

She says 30 puppies are waiting for volunteers to take them under their wings, and more litters are due by the end of the year. "More people need guide dogs and more puppies need volunteer raisers and it can't happen without us ... it's a piece of the process that's integral to Guide Dogs SA/NT and the community," she says. Guide Dogs SA/NT puppy raiser Jade Currie says volunteers not only teach the puppies obedience, but help them explore the big, wide world by taking them to cafes, shopping centres and on public transport. "It's a learning and growing experience and an investment into another's life," Currie says. Katala, along with fellow puppy raiser Di Rule, will speak at the Guide Dogs SA/NT puppy raising information session on Wednesday, April 20, at 251 Morphett St, from 10am. **Visit [guidedogs.org.au/](http://guidedogs.org.au/) support or 8115 6050 to register for the session.**

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