



Get CityMag in your inbox.



MEET DELIA OBST
SHE'S INTRIGUED BY SIMON'S REALLY BLOODY GOOD IDEA

AUGUST 10, 2018

HABITS

— PLATE AND CUP

The Stag Hotel reopens as The Stag Public House

On the 169th anniversary of its first liquor licence, The Stag this week reopened in a new guise.



WHAT'S ON



CHELSEA LEE
QUARTET AT NOLA



PSYCHACHE
EXHIBITION AT HOLY
ROLLERS

sports,” small-bar-operator-turned-publican Oliver Brown, says, showing us through to the sports lounge.

The room, adjunct to the bar, is lined with forest green carpet, earthy timber paneling, low booths, sports memorabilia (some of which, like the signed Ricciuto poster, was found in the Stag’s attic; others, like the glass case of SACA membership pins from the ‘70s and ‘80s, were sourced from Gumtree), and three mismatched televisions that will screen a mix of live sports and classic football matches.

In the bar proper, there is mixed format seating – booths, high and low tables, and, importantly, a return of stools to the bar.

“Before it was done up you couldn’t sit up at the bar,” co-owner Josh Talbot says.

“[We’re] bringing back the stools at the bar, and the counter meal, just encouraging that real interaction between the bar team and the public.”

A pool table sits in the back corner, an emblem of the pubs new community-focussed approach, with all

public on

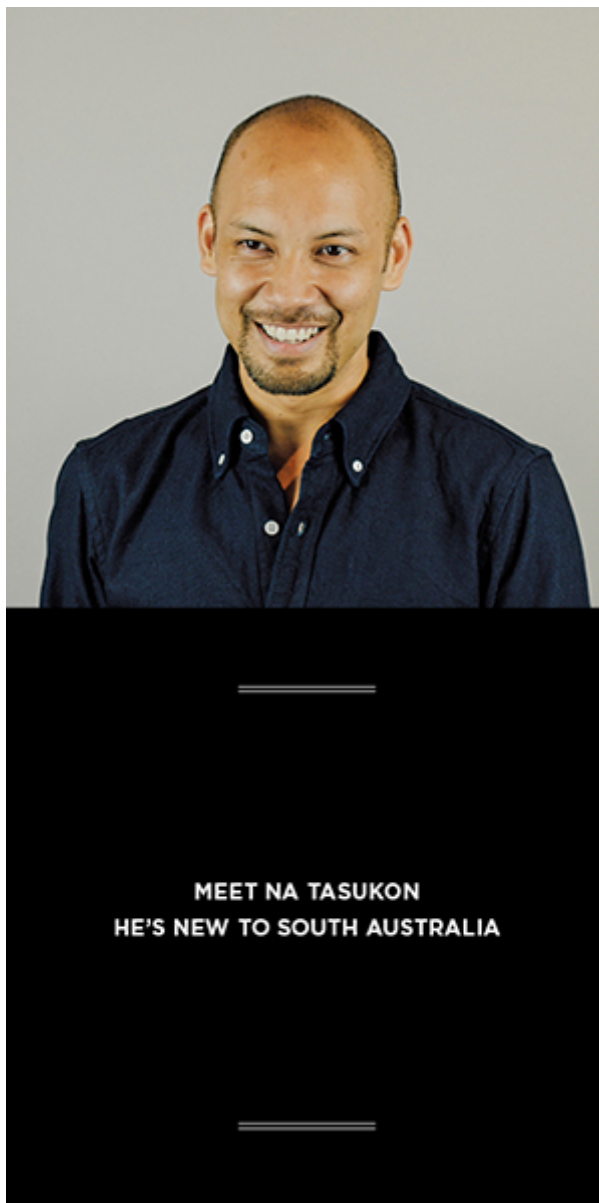
Thursday, 16 August.

ACCEPT & CONTINUE

typographic history and celebrates names both

an-eye-out-

100/ Cardon-avenue-mural/)



the coins that fall through the

CityMag uses cookies. By continuing to use our site you are agreeing to our cookie and privacy policy (<https://citymag.indaily.com.au/terms-conditions/>).

different cause each month.

ACCEPT & CONTINUE

Beer taps runs the length of the bar, featuring almost exclusively Australian craft brands, with the conspicuous addition of a West End decal sitting squarely in the middle of the corner bank of taps – a true testament to the cultish following the Port Road brewery has garnered in recent years.



The Vardon Avenue side of the building is still inaccessible, and is currently in the process of becoming Charlick's, a restaurant headed up by former Orana chef, Blake Drinkwater, set to open early September.

Upstairs is similarly under

works, and will become the venue's function room, with a

future long-term concept for the space yet to be decided upon.

ACCEPT & CONTINUE

Dividing the venue and staggering its launch has made the project more manageable – Josh and Oliver are more accustomed to building smaller venues, after all – but that doesn't make the project itself any less ambitious, particularly given the enormous task of shifting the identity of such an iconic building.

"The Stag definitely changed as I got older, I think," Oliver says.

"When I first started going out it was definitely the place to go, somewhat nightclubby, both up and down running simultaneously as a big pub in those late '00s. It was just a big pub that cranked, and had a big balcony, and was more about volume, I guess.

"We wanted to go back to what a pub originally was, which was that public house, somewhere for people to come and sit and enjoy, and that's where the pool table comes in, and that donation



of everything coming through

CityMag uses cookies. By continuing to use our site you are agreeing to our cookie and privacy policy (<https://citymag.indaily.com.au/terms-conditions/>).

there going to a local community group.

ACCEPT & CONTINUE

“It’s meant to be somewhere where everyone can walk in and sit down and feel like it’s their own.”

Through Sans-Arc’s design and Peculiar Familia’s branding, barely a remnant of The Stag’s former life feels present, yet it feels more of an encapsulation of the city than at any other time in recent memory – right down to the piping shrike and Sturt Desert Pea coaster.

This is the result of the inevitable graduation of young operators who got their start in the small bar scene moving up to larger projects, and could signal the return of the Great Australian Pub into contemporary culture.

“We never could have done this straight off the bat,” Oliver says.

“The evolution of the small bar has been because these younger people with a different concept and different ideas could have done it.

“I think that evolution will naturally go into a different offering in pubs, which

hopefully we do here.

CityMag uses cookies. By continuing to use our site you are agreeing to our cookie and privacy policy (<https://citymag.indaily.com.au/terms-conditions/>).

evolution.”

ACCEPT & CONTINUE

As for the site’s future, in regard to being broken up into separate venues, Maras Group managing director and CEO, Steve Maras, says there is precedent for such a project, and you only need to look a few meters down the road.

“I actually look at the Botanic Bar, and that’s quite interesting how that’s evolved,” he says.

“What once was a big bar with some function rooms, now it’s Botanic Bar, Africola, and Golden Boy.”

What it took was for young blood to change the direction and approach toward the project.

“When I started talking to the NOLA boys, they were interested in coming in, but they also intimated that hey, you want to get this right, changes need to be made,” Steve continues.

“We actually need people to back in the young upstarts and entrepreneurs and creatives who have got the ideas, and to be able to turn around places like The Stag



CEO of Maras Group and passionate mainstreets advocate, Steve Maras has invested in The Stag Public House’s renovations

Hotel into something fresh

CityMag uses cookies. By continuing to use our site you are agreeing to our cookie and privacy policy (<https://citymag.indaily.com.au/terms-conditions/>).

and new and somewhere
where people are actually
going to want to go.”

ACCEPT & CONTINUE

Josh and Oliver are similarly aware of just how big a part Steve and the Maras Group have played in where they are, and the influence that they’ve been able to have, both in the East End and Prospect.

“We wouldn’t have three venues if it wasn’t for Steve,” Josh says.

“We wouldn’t have one,” Oliver laughs.

“We loved the space that NOLA was in and always saw it, and he really put his trust in us. We learnt a lot from that process. I don’t really know how we got through it now, looking back.

“But he always supported us, never second-guessed us, and let us learn as we went along. From there, we’ve had a really good relationship. He’s brutally honest at times, but also our biggest supporter.”

The Stag Public House officially opens to the public on Thursday, 16 August, but the temptation to trade on the 169th anniversary of The Stag’s inaugural licence has

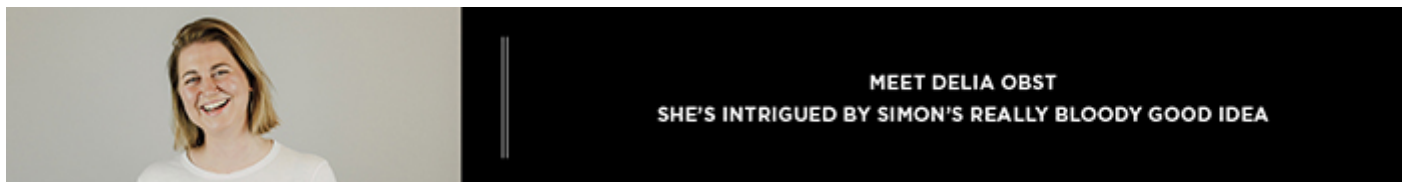
CityMag uses cookies. By continuing to use our site you are agreeing to our cookie and privacy policy (<https://citymag.indaily.com.au/terms-conditions/>).

just be able to grab a beer.

ACCEPT & CONTINUE

Charlick's, the adjoined restaurant under the stewardship of chef Blake Drinkwater is set to open early September.

SHARE —



AUG 27, 2018

HOME

RELATED ARTICLES



(<https://citymatters.org/fit/>)

Built to fit

(<https://citymag.indaily.com.au/habits/home/built-to-fit/>)



MORE

[\(HTTPS://CITYMAG.INDAILY.COM.AU/HABITS/HOME/BUILT-TO-FIT/\)](https://citymag.indaily.com.au/habits/home/built-to-fit/)

Four things we've got tickets to

AUG 21, 2018

PLATE AND
CUP



(<https://cityma>

and-
cup/four-
things-

we've got
cityma
tickets to
during-
barossa-
gourmet.
TIPS://CIT
weekend/

AUG 16, 2018

PLATE AND
CUP

A black and white photograph of three people standing in front of a wall covered in posters. On the left, a woman in a dark dress. In the center, a man in a blue button-down shirt and dark pants. On the right, a man in a dark jacket. The wall behind them is covered in various posters, including one that says 'ne/built-'. The text 'a' is visible on the far left edge of the image.

a ne/built-

<https://cormag.halait.com/eteau/habits/plate->

and-
cup/introducing-
herringbone/)

indulging you/habits/home/built- new

IC
.IND
UU

ILY.COM.AU/HABITS/HOME/BUILT-TO-FIT/)

(<https://citymag.indaily.com.au/habits-and-cup/introducing-herringbone/>)



MORE ([HTTPS://CITYMAG.INDAILY.COM.AU/HABITS/PLATE-AND-C](https://citymag.indaily.com.au/habits/plate-and-c))

CityMag uses cookies. By continuing to use our site you are agreeing to our cookie and privacy policy (<https://citymag.indaily.com.au/terms-conditions/>).

during Barossa Gourmet Weekend

ACCEPT & CONTINUE

(<https://citymag.indaily.com.au/habits/plate-and-cup/four-things-weve-got-tickets-to-during-barossa-gourmet-weekend/>)

➤ [MORE \(HTTPS://CITYMAG.INDAILY.COM.AU/HABITS/PLATE-AND-CUP/FOUR-THING](https://citymag.indaily.com.au/habits/plate-and-cup/four-things-weve-got-tickets-to-during-barossa-gourmet-weekend/)

[MORE ARTICLES \(HTTPS://CITYMAG.INDAILY.COM.AU/CATEGORY/HABITS/\)](https://citymag.indaily.com.au/category/habits/)



Back to top

CityMag uses cookies. By continuing to use our site you are agreeing to our cookie and privacy policy (<https://citymag.indaily.com.au/terms-conditions/>).

ACCEPT & CONTINUE

COMMERCE

([HTTPS://CITYMAG.INDAILY.COM.AU/CATEGORY/COMMERCE/](https://citymag.indaily.com.au/category/commerce/))

CULTURE ([HTTPS://CITYMAG.INDAILY.COM.AU/CATEGORY/CULTURE/](https://citymag.indaily.com.au/category/culture/))

ABOUT ([HTTPS://CITYMAG.INDAILY.COM.AU/ABOUT/](https://citymag.indaily.com.au/about/))

GET IN TOUCH ([HTTPS://CITYMAG.INDAILY.COM.AU/GET-IN-TOUCH/](https://citymag.indaily.com.au/get-in-touch/))



INDAILY

(<http://indaily.com.au/>) (<https://citymag.indaily.com.au/>)

Sign up to our weekly newsletter

Your email address

Follow CityMag

☐ I accept the [terms & conditions](https://citymag.indaily.com.au/terms-conditions/)
(<https://citymag.indaily.com.au/terms-conditions/>).

(<http://www.facebook.com/CityMagADL>) (<http://www.twitter.com/CityMagADL>) (<http://www.instagram.com/CityMagADL>)

SUBSCRIBE

Home (<https://citymag.indaily.com.au/>) About (<https://citymag.indaily.com.au/about/>)

Get in touch (<https://citymag.indaily.com.au/get-in-touch/>)

Advertising (<https://citymag.indaily.com.au/advertising/>)

Find CityMag (<http://citymag.com.au/find-citymag/>)

Terms & Conditions (<https://citymag.indaily.com.au/terms-conditions/>)

© Copyright 2018 Solstice Media (<http://solsticemedia.com.au/>)