

CLOCKWISE from left: rare sneakers at First in Flight; US collectables at Midwest Trader; have an ale at Belgian Beer Cafe Oostende; stock up at East End Cellars; denim hub Right Hand Distribution.

# ebenezer place

Go off the beaten track for edgy street fashion in this blossoming hidden laneway

words michael harry photography james knowler



Every hot young thing in Adelaide knows the Ebenezer Place and Vardon Avenue precinct is the place to go for a new outfit. Enter through heritage red-brick archways off Union Street and stroll past the shiny Vespas leaning against the graffiti mural. You'll find yourself in a vibrant (and very friendly) urban hub that is positively teeming with bold new ventures.

**Midwest Trader** There's usually death metal on the stereo and a tattooed babe behind the counter at this rockabilly clothing store. They stock exclusive vintage fashion, Ramones t-shirts (in dead-cute baby sizes), second-hand cowboy boots, offbeat books and boutique cosmetics. This month, look out for their 'Tattoo Tees' imported from California.

**Shop Five** Welcome to the design hub of Jessia Polk, the woman behind visionary label Oscar the Third. Her groovy warehouse space is stocked with floaty dresses, quirky homewares from Bali, India and Capetown, scarves and chunky bangles. June sees new pieces from Australian designer Shakuachi (a red-carpet favourite of The Veronicas), as well as belts, boots and bags from accessories leader Mogul.

**First in Flight** This trainer haven has been an Ebenezer staple since Ben Stephan opened it four years ago. A teal feature wall displays rare shoes in every colour and brand, from Nike, Reebok, Puma, New Balance and Asics. Find gems such as Reebok Pump\$ and Nike Airforce Ones, Japanese jeans and imported tees designed to match the shoes.

**Hero Designs & Vintage Deluxe** Here is one of the best vintage collections in SA – so much so that interstaters come here with empty suitcases. Shirley Luxton and daughter Chloe specialise in headwear from the '30s and '80s, eveningwear and those hard-to-find accessories. Check things out on Fridays, when new stock arrives from local markets, the UK, US and Europe.

**Moodswinger** This unisex boutique has been kitting out party-hoppers in custom t-shirts, hooded jumpers and fridge-cool jeans since 2005. Owners Tony Mitolo and Luke Schapel also feature underground Australian labels such as 1000 Reasons and Pop Issue.

**Right Hand Distribution** Andy Watson opened this denim hub in April that stocks street-smart international labels such as Garbstore, Sugarcane, Samurai and Nudie. Buyer beware,

prices climb past \$400 for a pair of jeans, but RHD is one of the coolest new stores we have seen in years.

**Nano Ready 2 Go** This wildly successful cafe moved from Hutt Street last year to the pedestrian square between Ebenezer Place and Vardon Avenue. Stefano Capoccia and family cook up spectacular pizzas, pastas and daily specials with top-notch coffee. A delight.

**Frank Gents Hairdresser** Frank Vaiana has been cutting hair for 50 years. His original barber shop moved from Rundle Street eight years ago. It's a retro outfit – chunky orange recliners, quality Italian toiletries, the red-and-white pole – with reasonable prices (\$15 for a cut or full shave).

**Belgian Beer Cafe Oostende** Since 2002, the bar and restaurant has served 30-plus varieties of beer. Try their crispy cones of golden pommes frites with rich mayo or hearty pots of mussels in tangy broth.

**East End Cellars** After 11 years, the EEC is still the place where serious wine connoisseurs stock their cellars. Owner Michael Andrewartha and his team know their wine; from a \$10 Hills chardonnay to a \$4000 Penfolds 1962 Bin 68. Prepare for their renowned tasting session in October. ☞



## ADDRESSBOOK

All stores on Ebenezer Place, except where stated.

**Belgian Beer Cafe Oostende**, shop 27-29, 8359 3400

**East End Cellars**, 22-26 Vardon Ave, 8232 5300

**First in Flight**, shop 7, 8232 9192

**Frank Gents Hairdresser**, 12-16 Vardon Ave, 8223 5580

**Hero Designs & Vintage Deluxe**, shop 5, 4-10, 8223 1626

**Midwest Trader**, shop 1/4-10, 8223 6606

**Moodswinger**, shop 11/7, 8232 5574

**Nano Ready 2 Go**, shop 23, 8227 0468

**Right Hand Distribution**, shop 22, 8359 3557

**Shop Five**, shop 5, 8232 1393