

Start-up plan opens doors



ANDREW HOUGH

A landmark scheme that matches new businesses into empty shops or buildings is poised to expand across Adelaide.

Renew Adelaide's annual report, released today, shows 30 disused properties have been overhauled in the past 12 months, with 130 young entrepreneurs supported to launch start-up businesses across retail, the arts and culture sectors.

General manager Lily Jacobs, a member of the government's Economic Development Board, said other councils were keen to adopt the project to trigger new economic activity.

"I have had a huge amount of queries from a range of councils – there has been a lot of interest in other areas," said Ms Jacobs, 32, a former commercial lawyer.

"We have started initial discussions and I think there will be some growth soon."

Under the scheme, which started in the CBD in 2010, landlords of vacant shops and offices are persuaded to allow use by short-term tenants keen to start up a business.

The scheme, which has helped transform scores of properties, is backed by the State Government, which has just approved a further \$800,000 in funding, Adelaide City Council and the property industry.

Renew Adelaide negotiates low, or no-rent, leases for a period and helps aspiring owners navigate red tape. Its annual report reveals more than 30 properties have been



Amy Roberts opened fashion store The Town Local.

Picture: MIKE BURTON

overhauled in the city and Port Adelaide this year, compared to 11 in 2013 and nine over the previous three years.

Figures show more than 130 young entrepreneurs have been supported to launch start-up businesses but an economic impact study is still to be completed.

Chairman and property developer Steve Maras said the city's creative spirit was "well and truly alive" and that vacancies could be reduced through innovation.

Daniel Gannon, the state executive director of the Property Council, said: "Renew Adelaide should be commended for its positive approach during challenging economic times."

The group has helped Amy Roberts, 26, launch her fashion store The Town Local in King William St almost a year ago.

"Adelaide is still a blank canvas and there are so many young creatives that just need a small opportunity to kickstart," she said.

BIG IDEAS

- 45 successful projects since 2012
- More than 130 entrepreneurs helped last financial year
- 240% increase in applicants for space over the past financial year
- 300% increase in activations - or using empty space - over the past financial year

Teen suffers health scare

A teenage student is the 10th case of meningococcal this month. The 19-year-old woman is in hospital in a stable condition.

She is a student at the University of Adelaide and a boarder at St Ann's University Residential College.

SA Health chief medical officer Professor Paddy Phillips said they were working with both organisations to identify possible contacts and provide information about symptoms.

"Symptoms of meningococcal infection may include fever, headache, vomiting, stiff neck and sore muscles, followed in some cases by a rash of red and purple spots," Professor Phillips said.

This is the 22nd case of invasive meningococcal disease reported in South Australia during 2014, and the 10th case this month.

Mayor claim is lordly matter

A tiff has erupted over Stephen Yarwood's record as Adelaide's youngest Lord Mayor.

After his historic election in 2010, Mr Yarwood, then aged 39, was widely viewed as the youngest elected head of Adelaide City Council.

But rival candidate Kelly Henderson has claimed that honour should go to Mayor Sir John Lavington Bonython, a former *Advertiser* editor, who took the title by more than three years.

Mr Yarwood said he was the youngest Lord Mayor – not Mayor – "a subtle, but important distinction".

Adelaide City Council records show the position of Mayor was changed to Lord Mayor in November 1919.

Sir John was elected mayor in 1911, aged 36, and eventually served two years in the role.

He was later elected Lord Mayor in 1927.

Residents want light shed on safety situation

Andrew Hough

Residents in the city's southwest pocket are demanding more lighting and CCTV to keep them safe.

Residents told *The City* there had been a rise in thefts, property damage and illegal rubbish dumping in the past 12 months around alleyways and streets in areas between Wakefield St and South Tce.

Anna Napper, 27, who lives on the parklands fringe, had her Mazda 323 vandalised two months ago in an attack that also damaged neighbouring vehicles.

"I feel very nervous when the sun goes down as we are on the parklands fringe

and it is not very well lit," Ms Napper said.

Toni Leverink, 39, and her husband Danny, 42, said they were forced to spend \$8000 on CCTV cameras after they opened Bici Espresso e Pasticceria on Hutt St last year due to vandalism and theft.

Mrs Leverink said she "absolutely" backed calls for more lighting and security cameras throughout the area.

Alex Antic, a local resident who is seeking election to Adelaide City Council, said the southeast had been the "poor cousin for far too long".

He said if elected he would lobby for more lighting and security cameras to address vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

"We have seen lighting and CCTV operating cheaply and effectively in other areas around the city. There is no reason why ... [it] can't happen here," Mr Antic said.

The council's program manager of city safety and customer services, Sean McNamara, said at least 20 projects such as more lighting and tree trimming had occurred over the past four years.

He said the southwest corner was not a priority for lighting or CCTV and that the West End, Adelaide Oval and Riverbank Precincts were at the top of the list.

Do you live in the southwest pocket? Does it need more lighting? CCTV? Tell us at advertiser.com.au

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