



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT
Red Belly restaurant at The
Storrier; street-level bar at
Springfield's; suite at The
Storrier; Springfield's restaurant



welcome to springfield...

Avenue, that is. This once undesirable corner of Kings Cross is getting a new lease of life

There used to be an ATM near the corner of Springfield Plaza and Darlinghurst Road in Kings Cross that was the last place you'd ever want to withdraw a large quantity of money. We wouldn't want to cast aspersions about the character of the people who linger in this part of town, but you get the picture.

At the moment, however, there's a different vibe emerging. The ATM is gone and, until recently, the plaza itself was covered in mesh fences and hessian bags, as the council gave it some new paving and added seating down either side. And in the calm of the summer holidays, two new establishments opened there.

The first was The Storrier, the inaugural opening for the A Hotels Group, which plans to open a string of art-inspired boutique hotels in Australia. This one, with vibrant decor and the classic Tim Storrier painting *Evening Blaze Line* in the entry, has 70 rooms. The unique proportions of the art deco corner building mean that no two rooms are the same, but each has smart black and white stripe detailing, whether it be on a chair or a lampshade.

Downstairs, the restaurant, Red Belly, offers breakfast and dinner. The food by Coop Woodstone has been popular with locals as well as guests. The inexpensive menu has several entrée-sized dishes, perfect for sharing, while solo travellers can sit near the bar where the flat screen shows the Fashion TV channel.

Springfield's, a bar and restaurant stretching from Darlinghurst Road right through to Springfield Avenue on the old Hungry Jacks site, has also

been attracting some attention. The massive rendering of an orchid at the entrance is one of the reasons, but the chic multi-level design is another. The mussels on the bistro-style menu are already proving popular.

That's not the last of it either. The Hayson Group is working on a retail and commercial development on the old IGA supermarket site, while John Duncan and Fraser Short of Keystone Hospitality, which has Bungalow 8 and

theloft among other clubs, bars and pubs, have acquired the old Westpac building. "Kings Cross has come a long way," says Duncan on the decision to convert the building into a three-level bar and club complex. "There's been a lot of local development and it's in a prime position."

The good news is that they hope to open before Christmas this year.
The Storrier, (02) 8988 6999, thestorrier.com.au.
Springfield's Restaurant and Bar, (02) 8354 0164, springfieldsrestaurant.com.au.



ALSO ON THE AVENUE...

When photographers, creatives and media types come to town, one of their favourite hotels is Regents Court, as renowned for its impeccable service as for the modernist flourishes in the rooms, original art on the walls and decadent

floral arrangements. Artists and writers should check the hotel's website for details on the residency program. **(02) 9358 1533, regentscourt.com.au.**
A favourite with VE+T staff when looking for a tasty, low-key and quick

meal on Springfield Avenue is Bay Bua. At this Vietnamese spot, you can't go past the pork and prawn salad, crispy pancakes and five-spice duck (when it's on the menu). **(02) 9358 3234, baybua.com.au.**

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