

Hooking a prize revamp

REVAMPING a South Brisbane eyesore into a food, retail and culture destination will see Aria Property Group recognised as a finalist at the Lord Mayor's Business Awards later this month.

Aria transformed a bin storage area and old carpark under the overhead rail line at Fish Lane into a thriving parkland, shopping, dining and event space.

Daily foot traffic through the laneway has grown from 400 people to 10,000 since Fish Lane and the Town Square were created.

The success of Fish Lane has resulted in Aria being named an Investment Category finalist for the Lord Mayor's Business Awards, sponsored by The Courier-Mail.

Winners will be announced at a black-tie gala dinner at City Hall on October 22.

Commercial manager Michael Zaicek said Aria, which also brought world-renowned croissant shop Lune to its luxury South Brisbane apartment project The Standard, would continue to invest in public realm infrastructure that emphasised "quality and sustainability in a uniquely subtropical Queensland setting".

"(That is) the template for all future projects," he said.

Bike rider's journey from DV victim to potential lifesaver

Changing the game



CORMAC PEARSON

AFTER using motorbike riding as an escape from a domestic violence situation, a Brisbane mother became something she never thought she would be, an inventor.

Stephanie Bofinger moved to Australia from Germany at 19, is now based in southwest Brisbane and is changing the game for women in impact sports. Ms Bofinger always wanted to ride motorbikes but had to wait as she was a professional swimmer and wanted her children to be older before she began.

"At the time I went through domestic violence and I needed to escape from my life ...



I got my licence and my life changed, it gave me that peace and the bubble I was looking for," she said. "It didn't matter what was

happening at home it had no impact because I was too busy making sure I was staying alive on the bike and I made friends I wouldn't have made."

It wasn't until a charity motorcycle ride in the Simpson Desert that she realised she wasn't alone in finding the female protective gear uncomfortable.

"I realised it wasn't just my problem it was everyone's problem."

For years female motor-enthusiasts had to choose between comfort and protection, with most protection suited for men.

But from the moment the idea popped into her head, it took just one year and four days until she had the completed product in her hands, and she said it has already saved lives.

"My life has totally changed and there is nothing better than waking up in the morning with a message saying someone has had a fall and not broken any ribs due to the product," she said.

The FemPro Armour can be used for women in impact sports and women over 60. It is designed to protect the chest without squashing the breasts, which are prone to tissue damage on impact.

Stephanie Bofinger has invented a revolutionary form of armour for impact sports for women. Picture: Zak Simmonds

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