

CITY BEAT

WITH
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KIND OF BLUE

BRISBANE law firm owner James Stevens (illustrated) has only got limited experience in the hospitality space.

But that hasn't stopped him from rolling the dice and spending a bundle to launch the city's first very late night jazz bar.

Stevens leased the Heritage-listed building at 101 Edward Street in November and started renovations in January.

The result is the Doo-Bop Jazz Bar, which throws open its doors on Saturday for a sold-out inaugural party.

Stevens told *City Beat* yesterday that he took a few years searching for the right space, which had to have a basement and loading dock in an area ripe for live music.

He also needed a point of difference with the Brisbane Jazz Club, an institution in Kangaroo Point for more than 30 years, and he found one.

Bands cease playing at the Jazz Club at 10pm to appease nearby residents and it's not open for much of the week. By contrast, Stevens' joint will swing seven days a week and stay open until 3am each night.

"We really think Brisbane is ready for this," he said about the venue, which he modelled on New York City's legendary Village Vanguard.

No prizes for guessing that the 49-year-old legal eagle is a huge Miles Davis fan.

Back in his uni days, he used to indulge his passion by running a bookshop café in NSW, where patrons would read, play chess and listen to jazz.

When not digging the tunes these days, he's doing battle in court.

The Brisbane native launched Go To Court Lawyers in 2009 and it has now grown to 16 offices around the country employing about 150 staff.

PUB DRAMA

SPEAKING of hospitality, it looks like there are few dramas facing an arm of

Queensland's Weller hotel dynasty. The Brisbane-based group, which operates Fridays Riverside, has been building a pub in Logan under the auspices of Wellercorp Hotel Yarrabilba Pty Ltd.

City Beat spies report that the project has been plagued with cost over runs and delays in securing approvals.

Now it's emerged that architecture firm Loucas Zahos filed a winding up application against Wellercorp in the Supreme Court earlier this month. As of yesterday, no defence had been filed.

That action follows a wind up bid launched by engineering consultants Bornhurst + Ward in April. That matter was settled last month.

Wellercorp sole director Anthony Weller could not be reached yesterday and a message left with Weller Hotels & Taverns was not returned.

FLYING HIGH

LOOK for Flight Centre boss Graham "Skroo" Turner to launch his very first report in to the Australian travel sector tomorrow.

The so-called *Turner Report* purports to be "a definitive guide" to the nation's travel patterns, trends and experiences. It will be unveiled during a board room lunch at Flight Centre's you-beaut new HQ in South Brisbane.

The study's debut comes as plenty of aviation folk gathered yesterday for a powwow about the airline industry sponsored by The East Coast Forum, the brainchild of former Liberal MP Michael Johnson.

Virgin high flyer, Ann Elliott, and her counterpart at Singapore Airlines, Jacki D'Antonio, fronted a panel before the 60-strong crowd at Riparian Plaza.

Among those spied in the room were Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport chief Sara Hales, Queensland Airports director Nigel Chamier, the new state boss of China Eastern Airlines Gavin Jia, Trade and Investment Queensland supremo Virginia Greville and Microsoft state head Brett Lightfoot.

