



Felicity O'Donohue makes soaps from goats milk from her Merrylands home.

Picture: PHIL ROGERS
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So far soap good for business

IN the kitchen of her Merrylands home, Felicity O'Donohue makes soap that is almost good enough to eat.

Her handmade soaps are made from fresh goat's milk direct from a local supplier, setting her products apart from other soaps made of powdered milk and synthetic materials.

"Others use powder because it's cheaper. But the milk I use is fresh; the goats are milked by hand, it's freshly bottled," she said.

The Karma Soap Company, the name of Mrs O'Donohue's home-based business, was brought to life several months ago.

A small family tradition of

GOOD OIL ON GOAT'S MILK SOAP

The pH level of goat's milk is similar to that of human skin. The soaps are without alcohol, petroleum and preservatives, which help to reduce skin irritations like eczema, acne, dermatitis, dry skin and psoriasis

exchanging handmade gifts inspired her to set up the business.

Mrs O'Donohue learnt soap-making techniques and taught herself the saponification process through her own research.

Though recently established, The Karma Soap Company is already

flourishing and gaining widespread popularity.

"Our Facebook page reached a thousand likes over the weekend, Mrs O'Donohue said. "I never imagined it to grow this fast."

Mrs O'Donohue is also a finalist in the new business category for the upcoming Holroyd Local Business Awards.

"The most popular soaps are plain, oatmeal and frangipani," she said.

■ For more information visit www.facebook.com/thekarmasoapcompany or call 0424 170 .

— by work experience intern Jennine Abdul Khalik

Off-limits to yahoos

DI BARTOK

STEVE Anstis has run big pubs and is not interested in opening one again.

But he is planning a small, "boutique bar" in Charles St, Parramatta – a place where business people can relax after work, definitely off-limits to "yahoos who just want to fill up".

Mr Anstis has a development application before Parramatta Council for a 50-person bar/restaurant in a former Korean restaurant, close to the ferry.

"This will be a boutique bar, a place where people can come for a drink or a meal," he said.

"It will only seat 50 people and we are likely to close about 10pm, so it will not be a place where people can top up on alcohol after being somewhere else."

The businessman, who has run hotels and motels in Queensland, was responding to Parramatta police commander Robert Redfern's statement that "we don't need another pub in Parramatta".

"You couldn't really call my development a pub but we have to apply for a pub licence because we want to be able to serve alcohol without food, although people will be able to



Steve Anstis at his boutique bar in Charles St, Parramatta.

eat here," Mr Anstis said. "We will be serving good wines and a few boutique beers. The bar will be aimed at the 30-50ish age group who don't want to go to the big pubs.

"The business community has welcomed this as have the residents of the Meriton apartments above."

Mr Anstis said his bar, to be called 4 Degrees (the ideal temperature of draught beer), would fill a gap in the market in Parramatta.

"There is not a place like this anywhere else in Parramatta CBD, at least not down this part of town," he said.

Parramatta Council received no objections to the proposal, and have sent it to police for comment.

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