

Stonnington Leader

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Toorak's walk of fame

By Lucy Townsend

A PLAN to create an Australian version of the Hollywood Walk of Fame in South Yarra has been unveiled by celebrity hairdresser Cal Rein.

Mr Rein, who recently opened a salon in South Yarra Square, wants to create a Walk of Stars along Toorak Rd to honour Australian entertainers and sporting greats.

"In the 1980s and early 1990s Toorak Rd was really buzzing and personalities used to flock to the area - it was the place to be seen," Mr Rein said.

"Now all we seem to be hearing about Toorak Rd is bad news, with complaints about traffic and the

recent tragic death of a young man parked on Toorak Rd. I want to bring back that excitement and put the area back on the map."

Mr Rein's plan involves laying gold stars along the footpath on either side of Toorak Rd. Each star would bear the name of a celebrity or sporting hero.

It is not known how many stars would be included in the

project, or which celebrity would have the honour of being the first.

But Mr Rein's list of possibilities included Ian "Molly" Meldrum, John Farnham, Bert Newton, Olivia Newton-John, Paul Hogan, Nicole Kidman, Cathy Freeman and even Phar Lap.

Mr Rein said the project would continue and could take 20 years to complete. He said each star would be placed individually, "a fair distance apart to encourage people to walk the length of the road".

The Walk of Stars

would be created on public land and council approval would be necessary.

Mr Rein has spoken to Stonnington Council about the plan and has 150 signatures of support from Toorak Rd traders and shoppers. He is yet to finalise funding details.

Toorak Rd South Yarra Traders' Association vice-president Liz Welsh said the plan had been received positively, but was not in the group's business plan for this year.

Stonnington Council spokeswoman Helen Preston confirmed

council officers had met Mr Rein to discuss the plan. It would need full support from traders before council approval could be given, she said.

Support for the plan can be shown by writing to Shop 7, 177 Toorak Rd, South Yarra, faxing 9827 7701 or via e-mail to stars@calrein.com.au.



Ian "Molly" Meldrum marks his spot on the proposed Walk of Stars.
Inset - What the stars could look like.
Picture: DAVID SMITH. N11MP509



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