



The Barkins outlet at Southport . . . the first on the Coast for the distributor

Barkins makes Southport debut

by Travis Lye
business property editor

A NATIONAL women's fashion distributor has set up shop in premises at Southport formerly occupied by Warehouse for Fashions.

The move into 430sqm premises at 73 Scarborough Street represents a debut Gold Coast foray for Barkins, owned by Jonathon Baral.

The tenancy, next to Australia Fair and Suncorp bank, has been repainted and fitted with new flooring.

It is leased for a seven-year term, with no options, at an undisclosed rate.

The distributor has a number of stores across Australia that supply clothes and accessories to well known fashion outlets.

The leasing deal was negotiated by Kym Thrift and Jillian Pratt, of Bayliss & Samra Commercial Realtors.

Miss Thrift said the property was vacant for only a few weeks after closure of Warehouse for Fashions.

She said the space provided a rare opportunity within the Gold Coast's fastest-growing business precinct for the fashion company.

"Barkins chose the site for its first Gold Coast store due to the large amount of passing traffic and the proximity to Australia Fair and other quality fashion retailers," she said.

In a separate deal, Miss Thrift and Miss Pratt recently leased a 320sqm retail space at 47 Scarborough Street to a national franchise company, MBE.

The business-to-business company's services include offset printing and digital copying to packaging and courier and design services.

Franchisee Brendan Richards has signed a five-year lease with options at an undisclosed rate for the two-level building.

A refit is under way and the business is expected to open in two weeks.

MBE has franchises at more than 5000 locations in 30 countries.

Miss Thrift said retail and office space in Southport's business hub was still in demand by quality operators.

"Most national groups we have been dealing with find Southport to be the ideal location because of its central position, with all facilities at hand," she said.

Miss Thrift said retail properties in the precinct leased at rental rates ranging from \$500/sqm to \$1000/sqm, depending on size, location and building finish.

"Office space is much the same as retail," she said.

"Rates are dependent on the grade of the building, its position in Southport and its outlook; they can range from \$300/sqm to \$500/sqm."