



Jeremy and Brittany Webling and their new business.
STEPHANIE MITCHELL/
STUFF

Pair's new baby and new burger business

STEPHANIE MITCHELL

A New Plymouth eatery that was once known as the go-to place for a burger at 3am on a Saturday night has new owners.

Jeremy and Brittany Webling are taking the experience they gained as part-owners of Westown's Little Fed and putting it in to their first solo venture, The Arizona.

The business was previously called Arizona and Rye, not because of the bread but because of an employee called Rye, but the Weblings said they wanted to stick with the Arizona theme.

"We didn't want to get rid of the Arizona because it's been around for 53, 54 years and is such an iconic space," Brittany said.

The couple had always dreamt of having their own restaurant business and thought what better time to launch into it than with a 10-week-old baby.

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"Going out on our own is a bit risky but we thought we'd give it a nudge."

They'd been looking on New Plymouth's Devon St for a while and when they walked through The Arizona, something clicked between them.

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Brittany Webling, joint burger bar boss

"When we went through it felt right," Brittany explained.

"It's a cool feel here; it's a cool part of the town we like with a lot going on," she added.

The pair bring different areas of expertise to the business with Jeremy being a trained chef and Brittany a teacher.

"Jeremy makes a pretty good burger and I'm the paperwork girl."

The space next door, once occupied by Lushington Jackets, is also part of The Arizona and they plan to expand and grow.

"Jeremy's always wanted to do his own restaurant.

"We are going to do a separate space in there."

There have also been minor

changes to the menu, although regulars will be happy to see the past is being respected.

"We've changed the menu a bit but kept a few of the favourites," Brittany said.

"We've got mac and cheese balls that are pretty mean.

"We're happy with the simplicity of it all, keeping fresh ingredients and sourcing as much local produce as we can."

Although the new owners want to pay homage to The Arizona's history don't expect them to be going back to its messy 3am roots.

"Gone are the days of us being functional at 3am," Brittany added.