

SUNDAY READ

Stylist to the stars

Sarah Mahoney talks with British-born hairdresser John Hynes about life on the Sunshine Coast and his vibrant career

FROM styling hair for model agencies in Europe, to giving celebrities a trim and colour, British-born hairdresser John Hynes' career has been a cut above the rest.

But since moving to the Sunshine Coast five years ago, John says the laid-back lifestyle here is more appealing.

While working at Amanda Hair Design in Mooloolaba, his industry knowledge and experiences have been generously shared with his salon co-workers and clients.

John found his footing in the United Kingdom's hairstyling industry when he began training as a hairdresser more than 30

years ago. During that time, he seized the opportunity to rub shoulders with celebrated industry professionals in several of London's West End salons.

Celebrity hairdressers Trevor Sorbie, Nicky Clarke, Keith Harris, and world-renowned British hair stylist and businessman Vidal Sassoon were some of those he worked alongside in a star-studded career.

John has also had his fair share of famous clients, with British celebs such as comedians Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders

entrusting him with their luscious locks. His career took him across Europe, travelling with Wella UK, to help educate and mentor apprentices in cutting and styling.

But John perhaps was at his most creative when working with high-fashion models at magazine photo shoots and shows.

"It was mainly working with big model agencies," he said.

"If they were doing a job for a big client like Gucci or Chanel, and needed to do a shoot in a magazine, they would get somebody just to do their hair for them.

"My job was to make sure the hair looked great."

Though he enjoyed his exciting job styling for the stars over many years, John eventually decided to make a sea change from the fast-paced city of London to a more relaxing Sunshine Coast.

Soon after the move with his family, he opened McQueens Hairdressing in Mooloolaba in 2006 and ran the salon for four years. "The idea was to live on the Coast and work in Brisbane, which was a great plan in London," John said.

"But when we got

here, we realised that wouldn't be the practical lifestyle.

"It wasn't what I came here for. I'm quite happy with what I'm doing at the moment, because it allows me to spend a lot more time with the family.

"I'm getting the best of both worlds at the moment.

"I'm getting a bit spoilt."

Though plans to open and run another salon are still in the pipeline, John is content to remain working with other hairdressers in Mooloolaba.

"If I feel like I'm in need of another challenging business, then that's something I will look at further down the line," he said.

"But for now, I'm really enjoying it."



BEST OF BOTH WORLDS: On the Sunshine Coast, John has more time to spend with his family.

PHOTO: KARI BOURNE



A CUT ABOVE: John Hynes worked with top models in London before arriving on the Coast.

PHOTO: KARI BOURNE

Is it still a small world?

By **MIKE SWIFT** of
THE SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

YAHOO and Facebook are joining forces to test an iconic 1960s-era social experiment that showed there are just six degrees of separation between most people on the planet.

The world's population has almost doubled since social psychologist Stanley Milgram's famous but flawed Small World experiment gave people a new way to visualise their interconnectedness with the rest of humanity.

Something else has also changed: the advent of online social networks, particularly Facebook's 750 million members, and that's what researchers plan to use.

Starting this week, social scientists from Facebook and Yahoo are hooking into that vast digital network to discover how many average online connections it takes for people to relay a message to a target: someone they don't know, in countries around the world.

The experiment could settle ongoing questions about whether the degrees of separation between people are as few as Milgram and other investigators concluded.

Milgram's conclusion was based on a small number of letters making it to their target, leaving room for doubt about his findings among many social scientists. The latest version of the experiment running could help erase those questions.

"You really couldn't have done this until very recently," said Duncan Watts, Yahoo's principal re-

search scientist who is leading the experiment.

"It's a milestone, in terms of it's the kind of research question you can answer now that you could have imagined 50 years ago, but that you couldn't have answered 50 years ago - or even 15 years ago."

On average, each of Facebook's members has 130 friends, and Facebook visualises that web of connections as a person's "social graph". The graph doesn't just grow wider as Facebook, which has tripled in size in the past two years, adds members.

Facebook chief data scientist Cameron Marlow said that also became denser as the gaps between people were filled in by new members.

While the digital record of that graph shows the far-flung web of



SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION: We're all interconnected somehow.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

connections between people, individuals might not always be aware of how large their network really is, because they don't always know the friends of their friends.

Therefore, it was important to test how effective people really

were at transmitting a message from friend to friend, Watts said, to gauge how closely connected people really were.

Anyone with a Facebook account can participate by going to small-world.sandbox.yahoo.com.