

# Yorkes

magazine



COVER

**Kate Brokate  
bares all**

From riding railway lines to raising funds for cancer research

INSIDE

**Great heights**

Amanda's new view on life thanks to skydiving

**Searching for  
the Narungga**

Why a shipwreck can tell so much about culture

**The improbable  
life of John Olsen**

Mayor, MP, Premier, Ambassador, football lover

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## Contributors

**MANAGING DIRECTOR**  
Michael Ellis  
director@yorkesmag.com.au

**EDITOR**  
Rhiannon Koch  
editor@yorkesmag.com.au

**ADVERTISING MANAGER**  
Bernice Williams  
sales@yorkesmag.com.au

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
Jess Liddy  
Erica Andrews  
Michelle Daw  
Sarah Herrmann  
Joanna Tucker  
Rachel Hagan  
Wilson McShane  
Brett Bowden

**DESIGN**  
Lindsay Rover  
Ian "Bodgie" Shaw  
Justin Price  
Rod Penna  
Lachlan Newbold

**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Rod Penna  
Matt Carty

**PUBLISHER**  
Yorke Peninsula Country Times  
31 Goyder Street, Kadina  
8821 1155  
info@yorkesmag.com.au

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## Editor's letter

# Our appetite for change

THEY say a change is as good as a holiday, but if they were the only two options I had, I'd choose holiday every time.

Change can be scary and daunting, and uncomfortable.

But we all learn to grow and adapt through change, it makes us better people.

In this issue of Yorkes Magazine, we're exploring some big changes.

For some, a different point of view has given them a lease on life they never knew possible, while others have changed their lives for the betterment of others.

There's tales of hard work and dedication to bring change for others — from new football clubrooms to justice for Vegemite.

We also talk to someone who faced changes no one would ever want to, but through her character and community, kept pushing to create positive changes.

Change can also bring about loss, and this issue explores the physical loss of culture and Country.

In change, we gain courage and adaptability as well as one of the most powerful commodities — hope.

Of course, we also explore changes in the garden, in your seafood diets and even holiday choices.

As always, we're proud to shed light on the untold stories of our community, and we hope you enjoy our Spring 2024 edition.

Rhiannon Koch

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The Yorke Peninsula Country Times respects the fundamental role of the Narungga people as the First Nations custodians of the country known as Yorke Peninsula and the seas surrounding it.



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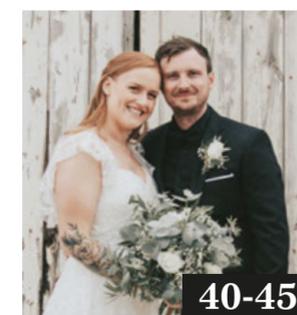
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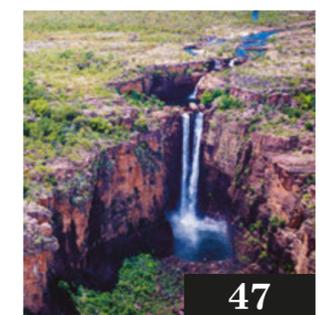
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# The most improbable journey from humble beginnings

Words Joanna Tucker

Photos Adelaide Football Club, John Olsen

MANY know the story of John Olsen, who went from Kadina mayor to state politician, to Senator then Premier.

But for Kadina born and raised John, the road has always been uncertain.

“Mine has been the most improbable journey,” John said.

While the path has been winding, even taking him overseas, he’s always had a love of Australian rules football.

His late father Stanley served as president of the Kadina Football Club, with John following the tradition and serving as team manager.

During that time, he was also mayor of the Corporation of Kadina and led the way on the construction of the Kadina and District Recreation Centre.

“The football facilities were under the grandstand at the showgrounds,” he said.

“It was old, and it didn’t meet modern standards.”

Councillors, sporting bodies and community members all banded together to secure funds, and seek state and federal support, for the centre.

“To see that dream, that vision, become a reality — that was one of what I’d call the most memorable, enjoyable moments,” John said.

“It (the sporting complex) has gone from strength to strength from there.”

John took over the family business in Kadina, a motor vehicle and agricultural machinery dealership, after his father died.

After serving as a councillor for three years,

and mayor for another three, he ran for state president of the Liberal Party and was successful.

John’s brother Winton took over business operations, but when he suddenly died, John was ably supported by his staff.

“I ran the business by fax machine with the support of the staff who, at the time, stepped up to assist at a local level,” John said.

“But it was obvious that my career path in politics was too difficult, so I ended up selling.”

From president, John launched himself into state politics and, by the time he was Opposition leader, his love of football was again at the fore — as number one ticket holder for West Adelaide Football Club in the South Australian National Football League.

His sole allegiance, however, went to the Adelaide Football Club on its entry into the Australian Football League in 1991.

After his time in state politics was at an end, John held two diplomatic postings, as consul-general in Los Angeles and New York.

“Who would have thought — certainly I didn’t — that a kid from Kadina could end up representing Australia in New York?” John said.

John wanted to give Americans an understanding of Australia which was based on more than kangaroos and Vegemite — leading him to create the G’Day USA program.

“Their knowledge and understanding of us as a modern, sophisticated society in the world’s largest growing and expanding region — the Asia Pacific — was appalling,” John said.



PHOTO: Ian Shuttleworth



*Clockwise from top left: John Olsen at the first ever V8 Supercar series with Craig Lowndes. John Olsen with George Bush. Julie Olsen, Russell Crowe, John Olsen. John Olsen with Rupert Murdoch. John Olsen with Queen Elizabeth II.*

"G'Day USA was designed to reset that. "I was in Los Angeles, and then I was posted in New York, so we changed it from the original G'Day LA to G'Day USA.

"That program now runs over seven or eight cities across the US on a wide range of issues from defence, food and beverage, film production, and the arts.

"It's great to see how it's just carried on and expanded.

"The goodwill towards Australia and Australians knows no bounds in the US."

While he may have met famous faces like Rupert Murdoch, George Bush, Henry Kissinger, Russell Crowe and Olivia Newton-John, one of John's most memorable moments comes on home soil while he was Premier.

"Being at the Adelaide Town Hall when King William Street was full as far as the eye could see with people when the Crows won their first AFL grand final in 1997 and when enthusiasm and confidence was just overwhelming — was an extraordinary experience," John said.

"It was just infectious and electric to see what a grand final win could do.

"I totally underestimated how the win was so unifying, exhilarating, exciting and confidence boosting for the whole state — this was one of the pinnacle moments."

When John returned from his overseas postings, he was approached to take on a role at the SANFL, leading him to be chair of the organisation for 10 years.

"During that time, we did the redevelopment of Adelaide Oval and I was deputy chair and chair of Adelaide Oval during that," he said.

"When I finished as chair of SANFL it was suggested I take on the role of the Adelaide Football Club (as chair) which I really enjoy.

"It's challenging, but I really enjoy being involved with the club."

John has lived by the motto of the former Kadina Memorial High School, "Opportunitas semel", which translates as "The dawn of opportunity".

"Sometimes it was a good decision, and on other occasions it was challenging and that's just life, it has its peaks and its troughs and you work your way through it," he said.

"Always seize an opportunity, give it your best shot, and life will always take care of itself from there." ■



Julie Olsen and husband John



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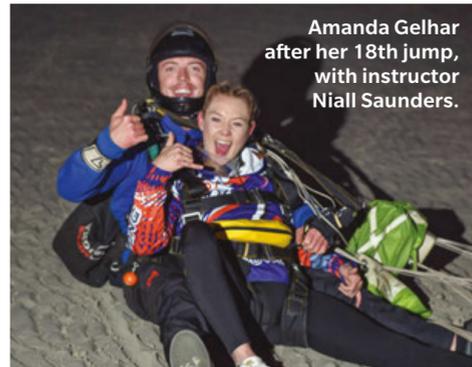
# Amanda's view from the top of the world

**Words:** Sarah Herrmann  
**Photos:** Rod Penna, supplied

WHEN Amanda Gelhar was a child, she never imagined her daydreams would become a reality, let alone save her life. "I remember going to school on the bus and I could see the parachuters coming out of the sky," she said. "They used to jump at Goolwa airfields and I said to myself 'one day I'm gonna do that!'"

The 35-year-old North Beach Kitchen manager grew up on the southern coast of South Australia before moving inland at 18.

In the Barossa Valley, she became a qualified chef, working at some of the flashiest restaurants in the state — but she missed the ocean. So Amanda has called Yorke Peninsula home for over a decade now, continuing her hospitality career on the Copper Coast. But three years ago, she decided to make her first dream — and destiny — come true. "I needed to find myself a hobby; I'm a single mum of two kids and I needed something for myself," Amanda said. "I was sitting at my back table one night and I booked it."



Amanda Gelhar after her 18th jump, with instructor Niall Saunders.



“**I mentally prepare myself to let go of everything that's gone wrong in my life on the edge of that plane, and it's gone.**”

— Amanda Gelhar

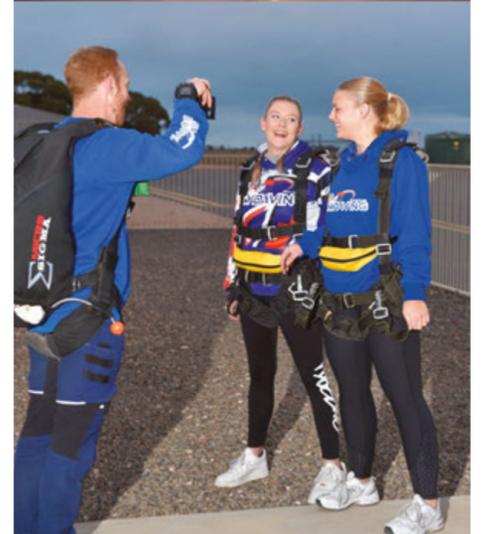


"I didn't really think about it." The panic soon set in, with Amanda unable to sleep the night before her jump, but she was saved by bad weather. SA Skydiving's first visit to Kadina was postponed, and so Amanda spent those months building up her confidence. "Spontaneously doing something, to me, is like a sign," she said. "If I spontaneously make a choice, there's a reason why. "I told myself 'You said when you were a little girl that you wanted to do this. You're going to do it.' "And I've never looked back."

From school bus to plane, the window from which she does her musing is now much further off the ground: she is a serial skydiver. Despite not planning on it being more than a singular affair, Amanda has skydived 18 times. And there's no final number, age or bucket list entry to cross off before she calls it a day, it's just something she wants to do for the rest of her life. Amanda still gets nervous, but she has her strategies, including playing a carefully curated skydiving-themed playlist. "It's a huge thing throwing yourself out of a plane," she said. "I usually pace up and down my back lawn, listen to some music and get myself into the feeling for it. "It just takes over you."

Before she takes on her most recent jump, she joins the team in preparation at the Wallaroo Holiday Park before suiting up at the Kadina airfield. There are no chairs in this six-seater plane and everybody is facing backwards, looking at the plane's tail. Flying to 4000 feet (1220 metres) is bumpy, but it's fairly smooth once they

reach the cloud line. "It's like a whole new world up there," Amanda said. "The colour we see here, times that by 10 above the clouds." It's also a lot colder. "Once the door opens though — you feel like you're going to get sucked out of the bugger — and you're ready to go, you don't even think about it," she said. Amanda tends to jump from 15,000 feet (4580m), with 20 minutes of climbing over in less than five minutes of falling. She hurtles at 220 kilometres per hour for about 60 seconds. "You don't actually know how fast you're falling until your parachute goes off," Amanda said. "The canopy opens and it's dead silent. "No birds, no people, no nothing — it's just you and your parachute up there. "And I couldn't think of anything better." What runs through her mind isn't groundbreaking. "I love this. I love being up here. I don't want to come down. Stay up longer. I want to be up here forever," she said. She hits the ground, shaking and shivering, but the magic lasts for days. Amanda is not unfamiliar with the feeling of flying. "I was a drug addict for 10 years," she said. "I started using when I was 19 and I gave it up when I was 28. "I needed something that was better than that, and the adrenaline (from skydiving) is so much more. "I never wanted to be back there, and this is what's pulled me out of it." Amanda said she could never regret skydiving because of what it's done for her mental health.



Top: Amanda during her 18th jump. Middle: The view from the plane window during Amanda's 18th jump. Bottom: Amanda Gelhar and fellow diver Ebony Mustard being interviewed by SA Skydiving's Matt Teager.

"I mentally prepare myself to let go of everything that's gone wrong in my life on the edge of that plane, and it's gone," she said.

"If there's something I've gone through since my last jump, I think about those things while we're climbing, and I let it all go.

"And I feel a hell of a lot better afterwards."

She's thrown herself into the sport, taking on a solo course after just three tandem jumps. Her licence will allow her to dive without being strapped to an instructor, and to do so from any drop zone in the world.

However, this too hasn't been traversed without struggle.

Amanda admits she almost backed out of a dive at the last minute.

She hadn't done a solo for 18 months, got up to height, and hesitated for the first time.

"My instructor goes 'Well, either you go down with the plane, or you jump out of the plane, up to you' and I'm like I can't go down in the plane, that just doesn't sound right, and I ended up doing it."

On another occasion, she completed three dives on the same day.

"I had to sit on the ground and be coached by all these people," Amanda said.

"I remember landing in the paddock and they all come running over to me like 'Yeah! Congratulations! Well done!'

"And it was just an amazing moment, to feel so much support.

"I felt like I was invincible."

As serious as skydiving may seem, there is as much laughter as tears.

"Once, my instructor was telling me to deploy the parachute but I was actually grabbing his arse," Amanda laughed.

"I grabbed his arse three times trying to deploy it.

"When I got down I was like 'I'm so sorry!' and he goes 'That's a first for me!'"

Amanda's become extremely close with the SA Skydiving community and is considered their YP "local legend".

"She's our legend. She's our star. She's an inspirational woman. She's a single mum. She manages that place (North Beach Kitchen). And she gets behind us and makes it all happen. Everyone thinks it just happens but it doesn't just happen," SA Skydiving director and senior pilot Greg "Miff" Smith said.

Amanda was the one to convince the company to offer jumps over the beach at Wallaroo, rather than the local airfield.

She was blown away by seeing her home from an entirely new perspective.

"You can see further than Moonta, further than Port Broughton," she said.

"And that was over Kadina; over the beach was 10 times better.

"It opens your eyes to something much more incredible."

Amanda's also had a huge hand in garnering local interest in the sport.

"I've been approached by so many people when I'm wearing the (SA Skydiving) jumper around town and they're like 'how do you do it?' and I'm like 'why don't you give it a go?'" she said.

"Nine out of 10 times they love it and they

want to do it again.

"My son wants to do it, all my friends want to do it and it's like a big community that brings joy and love."

Amanda's daughter Layla has been her most enthusiastic recruit, catching the skydiving bug after jumping alongside her mum.

"I jumped out after her, but I tracked and went 300km/h to beat her down, landed and watched her come in," Amanda said.

"I've never seen a smile so big on her face."

Layla dived three more times at just 12 years old before the age limit was changed to 16.

"I think it was three days before I was supposed to go for my fifth, they ended up saying no more exemption," Layla said.

"It was quite heartbreaking.

"I remember sitting on the ground watching Mum go up, and the feeling that I was supposed to be in the load was so bad.

"It still gets like that every time (I watch) but I've just learned to get used to it."

Layla's having a skydiving party for her 16th birthday but, in the meantime, she watches Amanda every time she jumps, and notices how the act has transformed her mother.

"You should see us at the dinner table talking about it," Layla said.

"She's definitely gotten a lot happier.

"I know that's a really summed up word for it, but she's branched out to so many new things and she's realised that there's more to life, I think."

"You're going to make me cry," Amanda added.

It's clear to see they can't wait to share the sky again. ■



Top: Amanda hugs her daughter Layla after Layla's first jump. Bottom: Amanda Gelhar after her 18th jump. Left: Sitting in the plane at Kadina airfield.

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## CAT RESCUE MISSION

# ALABOUR OF LOVE



Eliza, daughter of Little Claws Rescue's Amy Ferguson, enjoys a cuddle with one of the cats waiting to be rehomed at the rescue's Wallaroo

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**Words:** Wilson McShane  
**Photos:** Rod Penna

WHEN a fire broke out at a Wallaroo pharmacy and Amy Ferguson's nearby cat-rescue centre was flooded with toxic smoke, she did not hesitate to run into the building to save more than 30 felines.

Coughing and spluttering, Amy safely removed the cats, with the help of firefighters and her family.

This commitment to her Little Claws Rescue centre came as little surprise to Amy's family and friends, who have watched her dedicate much of her life to caring for animals.

Now in her 30s, Amy, of Moonta, started the centre about seven years ago after an animal shelter closed and there was suddenly a rush of cats needing owners.

So, in she stepped.

"Never in my life did I think I would,"

Amy said.

"It just popped up.

"I think it was more the fact there was no rescue around that would help cats.

"And back then, there were always giveaways on Facebook."

There was a dog rescue organisation in the area, but nothing for cats, she said.

It was through her day job in vet nursing that Amy first realised how necessary a cat rescue service is.

"The vet clinic I work at can only take two or three kittens at a time and there would often be more than that, so I was like 'oh, maybe I can help do that'," she said.

"I spoke to my boss one day about starting a rescue and, seven years down the track, we're still going."

Amy, a mother of two, primarily funds the centre herself and said there is always a steady flow of cats needing homes.

She has housed more than 500 cats since Little Claws began.

While running the "shop" is a challenge, her love for all types of animals, which stems from her grandparents, helps her stay enthusiastic.

"My poppa (the late Malcolm Dohnt) had the Wallaroo fauna park for 25 years, so I was always with kangaroos, wombats, emus," Amy said.

"I think I developed that passion with animals from my poppa, he was my best friend growing up.

"We always had little joeys and all that stuff."

Amy said Yorke Peninsula cats are often unfairly mistreated because they are an introduced species, are in large numbers and hunt native species such as parrots and lizards.

The federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water estimates there are up to 5.6 million feral cats in Australia.

A 2008 National Land and Water Resources audit found central and northern South Australia, which includes YP, has one of the highest concentrations in the country.

Then there is a 2012 federal mammal action plan, and a subsequent report released in 2014, identifying feral cats as the single-biggest threat to native mammals — almost double that of the second-highest threat, foxes.

They are believed to kill up to two billion native animals per year, or six million per night.

The number of cats on YP has grown so large, Dhillba Guuranda-Innes National Park authorities have implemented a combination of strategies, including baiting and trapping, to help reduce the number of cats on southern YP.

But Amy said cats' reputations can often make them a target of mistreatment or abuse, so she feels someone has to help look after them.

"It is not their fault and I just wonder what would happen to them if I didn't have a rescue," she said.

"So, it's more the fact that the rescue is just there to help, to save them."

She takes a moment to pause, knowing she can't save every stray.

"It is hard," Amy said.

"I get abused all the time and I think it can just get to you.

"A lot of people expect you to take the cats then and there.

"They expect you to be rich and be able to afford everything.

"They don't understand that we don't have the facility or foster carers to take all of them.

"The biggest threat we get is 'oh I'll just drown them' or 'I'll just dump them somewhere'.

"I can't help you if that's how you're going to act.

"And we pass them out to other rescues if we can't save them, but we do get abused.

"Sadly, it's just one of those things."

Little Claws is the only cat rescue service on Yorke Peninsula — the next closest ones are in Port Pirie and Adelaide.

Amy relies on donations and community support to keep going, as there is so much to do and pay for.

Keeping up with rent, power costs, and vet, litter and food bills are Little Claws' biggest challenges.

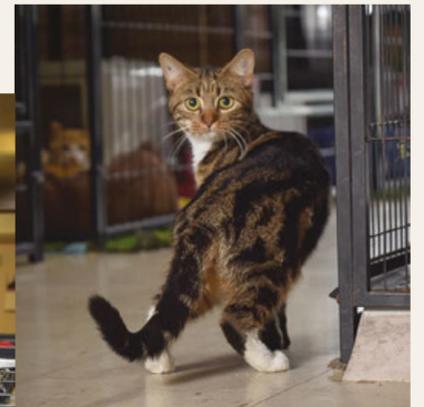
"Every now and then there are medical issues with a cat, or the cat flu goes through and then they need antibiotics, so it's mainly the cost of everything that we have to keep on top of," Amy said.

Little Claws has about eight volunteers who help with day-to-day operations.

Amy said she is grateful for all the volunteers, but more can be done, and the centre is always seeking more financial assistance and foster carers.

Little Claws' longest-serving cat, Possum, has been there for about three years; there are other cats also searching for forever homes.

To donate to Little Claws Rescue, go to [littleclawsrescue.com](http://littleclawsrescue.com). ■



Left: Amy Ferguson founded Little Claws Rescue in 2017.

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# Bright spark makes her mark

**Words:** Michelle Daw  
**Photos:** Rod Penna

FROM the endless Australian outback to the big-city buzz of New York, the close-knit community of Bute or fundraising at bowling clubs up and down Yorke Peninsula, Kate Brokate brings her trademark charm and energy wherever she goes. Her battle with breast cancer made news when she had both breasts removed and posed topless to show off her tattooed chest. Since finishing chemotherapy six years ago, she has got bowlers in the Northern YP and Southern YP Bowling Associations behind her fundraising idea for cancer research. In alternate seasons, Kate has

encouraged local bowlers to chip in a “buck a bowler” to support research into breast and prostate cancer during the Pink or Blue Round. Kate, 58, is keen to spread the concept across Australia, with Bowls SA agreeing to promote it in other country associations later this year. This year is full of excitement for Kate, as she is celebrating three of her great passions. It has been 20 years since she helmed the first Ghan train from Adelaide to go beyond Alice Springs to Darwin as train manager for Great Southern Rail, and she’ll share her experiences at a fundraiser for cancer research — the cause closest to Kate’s heart — in Bute during October.

Kate will also ride her vintage bicycle as part of a street parade for the centenary celebrations of her beloved Bute Bowling Club, a vital part of the town she loves. Despite growing up in Adelaide and moving to Moonta two years ago with her family, for Kate, Bute is home. “Bute is where my heart is — it’s where I feel like I belong,” she said. The quiet town is a world away from the hustle and bustle of New York, where Kate worked for three years as visa officer for the Australian Consulate, located next door to the iconic Rockefeller Center. “It was a really responsible job — issuing visas for people to come to Australia,” she said.



“Then the next minute I have a kid, and I’m working even harder, and getting paid nothing... I thought I could manage a train, therefore I could manage a baby. I was wrong.”

— Kate Brokate

Kate Brokate recreates the image of a local girl depicted on a silo at Bute.

Kate Brokate has pioneered Pink and Blue Rounds at Yorke Peninsula bowling clubs, to raise money for cancer research.



“Because we were the lowest of the low in the consulate, every time there was a function, we had to staff it, be the waiters and the waitresses.

“There were some really famous people who came along, like Mel Gibson and Cate Blanchett.

“I loved it, just loved it. We went to Broadway and off Broadway (theatre productions) and I did some volunteer work in Brooklyn. I just made it my home.”

Kate returned to Adelaide in 1991 and worked in hospitality.

In 1997, she started her 10-year stint with Great Southern Rail as a restaurant manager, and recalls navigating the swaying train holding eight full cups of coffee.

Within a year, she was promoted to train manager but first had to study railway signals and learn how to drive a train.

“When you’re driving over the Nullabor, and the driver has a heart attack, you can step up and take the train orders, so if something happens you can actually get the train from A to B,” Kate said.

Kate had 14 staff, including two outsourced drivers, two chefs, a night manager, a passenger manager and hospitality staff, under her command.

She was responsible for getting the train to all its destinations, picking up and dropping off mail along the way, and taking on water as needed.

“By magic, I found the right fit for my personality,” Kate said.

“It was never boring; it was always different. I used to sit in my little office sometimes and just watch the countryside go by and think ‘this is not real!’”

After working on the trains, Kate took up a job at the Jackson Mine in southwest Queensland, where she met her future husband, Greg.

The couple bought a gracious old homestead near Bute as their FIFO base, fulfilling Kate’s lifelong dream.

“My grandmother lived in a beautiful country house at Dowlingville (near Ardrossan) and she had a barter system going (for produce),” Kate said.

“I wanted to emulate that in my adult life, that country garden and growing your own food.

“So that’s what I did, then I got pregnant at 42.

“I didn’t think it would happen.”

If becoming pregnant was a surprise, the demands of motherhood were a shock to Kate.

“I had no idea how much hard work being a mother is,” she said.

“I have looked after lots of staff and been in lots of emergency situations but got paid serious money for doing that and had people telling me I was doing a good job.

“Then the next minute I have a kid, and I’m working even harder, and getting paid nothing.

“I thought I could manage a train, therefore I could manage a baby. I was wrong.

“He (son Jack) was an easy baby, apparently.

“I put his first nappy on backwards. I literally had not held a baby — that was not my frame of reference at all.”

Kate credited the farming women of the Bute district for showing her how motherhood could be combined with other facets of life.

“I watched these amazing women who had multiple children, and they’re doing sport, they’re strong, they’re being accountants, they’re running food out to people, and moving chaser bins.

“They don’t even realise how amazing they are. They think that’s just what you do.

“They could be the CEO of the biggest company that you know — their time management skills, their teamwork skills, and they have deal to with huge bills.”

The women of Bute rallied around Kate as a first-time mum, and were again her support system during her next big challenge — being diagnosed with breast cancer in September 2017.

She faced it with typical energy and style, adopting brightly coloured tutus as her battle dress for chemotherapy.

“Chemo is a state of mind; I say that because I swear, I felt as sick as most people feel in chemo,” Kate said.

Kate was determined to do things her way, including when she would attend chemotherapy at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

“First of all, it was going to be every week,” she said.



**Top:** Kate in her role as train manager of the Indian Pacific, with the late Keith Castle, who was the station master of Platform One, Sydney Central Station. **Bottom:** Kate Brokate (right) on a special Indian Pacific Christmas train, with Great Southern Rail colleague Jacky Pampling (left) and pop star Nikki Webster. **Right:** Kate with Bute Bowling Club secretary Raelene Taylor and president Milton Green.

“I said that’s not how it’s going to go. I have a child and a husband who works away (at the mines). So, make it stronger and we will do it once a month or once every three weeks.”

Kate won the argument and challenged the clinicians about her mastectomy.

“We had a screaming match at the RAH,” Kate said.

“I had to explain to her (the surgeon) why I wanted healthy flesh off, because she’s a doctor and you don’t cut off healthy flesh.

“For me, it was because I didn’t want to wear a bra all the time, just to be even. I wanted to be brasless. I always hated bras.

“For her, a lot of people think they won’t get cancer back again if they have the other breast off, which is incorrect, I didn’t think that all.”

Kate won the argument — and celebrated her victory over cancer by getting tattoos on her chest and then being photographed topless in The Advertiser.

Despite her bravery, cancer took its toll on Kate and prompted her family’s move two years ago from the big house and property at Bute to a more manageable home at Moonta Bay.

One of her mentors through cancer was Pat Daniel, a fellow cancer survivor who is now the president of the Northern Yorke Peninsula branch of the Cancer Council SA.

Pat said Kate’s ideas and sense of fun have helped get the Pink and Blue Rounds taken up by bowling clubs on YP.

“She seems to be able to get people involved without them even knowing it,” Pat said.

Bute Bowling Club president Milton Green and secretary Raelene Taylor both praised Kate’s contribution as a club member.

“She’s a bright and bubbly person who is a bundle of energy — she livens the place up,” Raelene said.

Kate estimated that NYPBA has raised about \$20,000 for cancer research since it adopted Pink and Blue Rounds five years ago.

“You don’t realise how much support and research is needed until you become affected by cancer,” she said.

“I guarantee every (bowling) club has someone who’s been affected by cancer.”



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# HOOK, LINE & sinker

## Fishing comp reels in tourism opportunities

**Words:** Jess Liddy  
**Photos:** JT Media

THE thrill of the chase and thirst for competition will reel you in and leave you wanting more.

Northbank has become more than a brand and more than just a fishing competition.

In the underwater world of professional and novice anglers, the South Australian boat maker has become a cult icon.

And in Wallaroo the dedicated owners love nothing more than to feature in the annual SA Northbank Fishing Competition.

Owner Rob Cuming was a Northbank dealer back in the day, at Christies Beach Marine, and took over the company in 2003.

“We grew up fishing and have great childhood memories doing so,” Rob said.

“We’re all a mob of mad fishos, so we thought we could design a pretty good boat.

“When we bought the business Northbank wasn’t well known in South Australia; our main goal was to make it a national product, which we did, the journey was long and tiresome.

“We have gone from building 24 units (a year) to now nearly 60 units, so the growth has been huge.

“It has been a great journey where great customers have turned into great friends.”

Rob started the Northbank Fishing Competition, and has run it for the past 13 years.

However, new managing director Andrew Harris will tackle his first year at the helm — Northbank’s 14th year of launching its boats and competition off the pristine shores of Wallaroo.

“Northbank has been around since 1996 and our community of owners is second to none,” Andrew said.

“Their passion and love for the product is what drove the original owners of Northbank to start up the competition.”

Northbank has always been a strong brand in South Australia and on Yorke Peninsula.

“Wallaroo is a great location with an amazing coastline and great fishing,” Andrew said.

“It’s a relatively short drive from Adelaide and was a perfect, in the middle, location to hold an event.





Top right: Ready for the 2024 competition are Martin Borlace, Kym Hodgeman, Des Westlake and Paul Schultz.

“It brings together avid anglers, families, and friends for a weekend of friendly competition and camaraderie.

“The event features a variety of categories, an impressive prize pool, and is supported by generous sponsors, making it a highlight for so many Northbank owners each year.

“The support we get from the community throughout the weekend is also one of the main motivations for continuing in Wallaroo all these years — without their help it wouldn’t be possible.”

The event brings between 130 to 150 competitors to the town each year who take full advantage of all Wallaroo has to offer.

“We have people from all over the state travel to Wallaroo for this event,” Andrew said.

“Some come from as far as Victoria, but most crews consist of three or more people who all require accommodation, fuel, bait and food.

“It was estimated that last year the competition generated about \$60,000 into the town which is a huge grab.

“While it may only be a weekend fishing competition, the people, the places, all encourage our competitors to come back with their family and friends to explore the region even more.”

The Northbank Fishing Competition generally runs across the October long weekend.

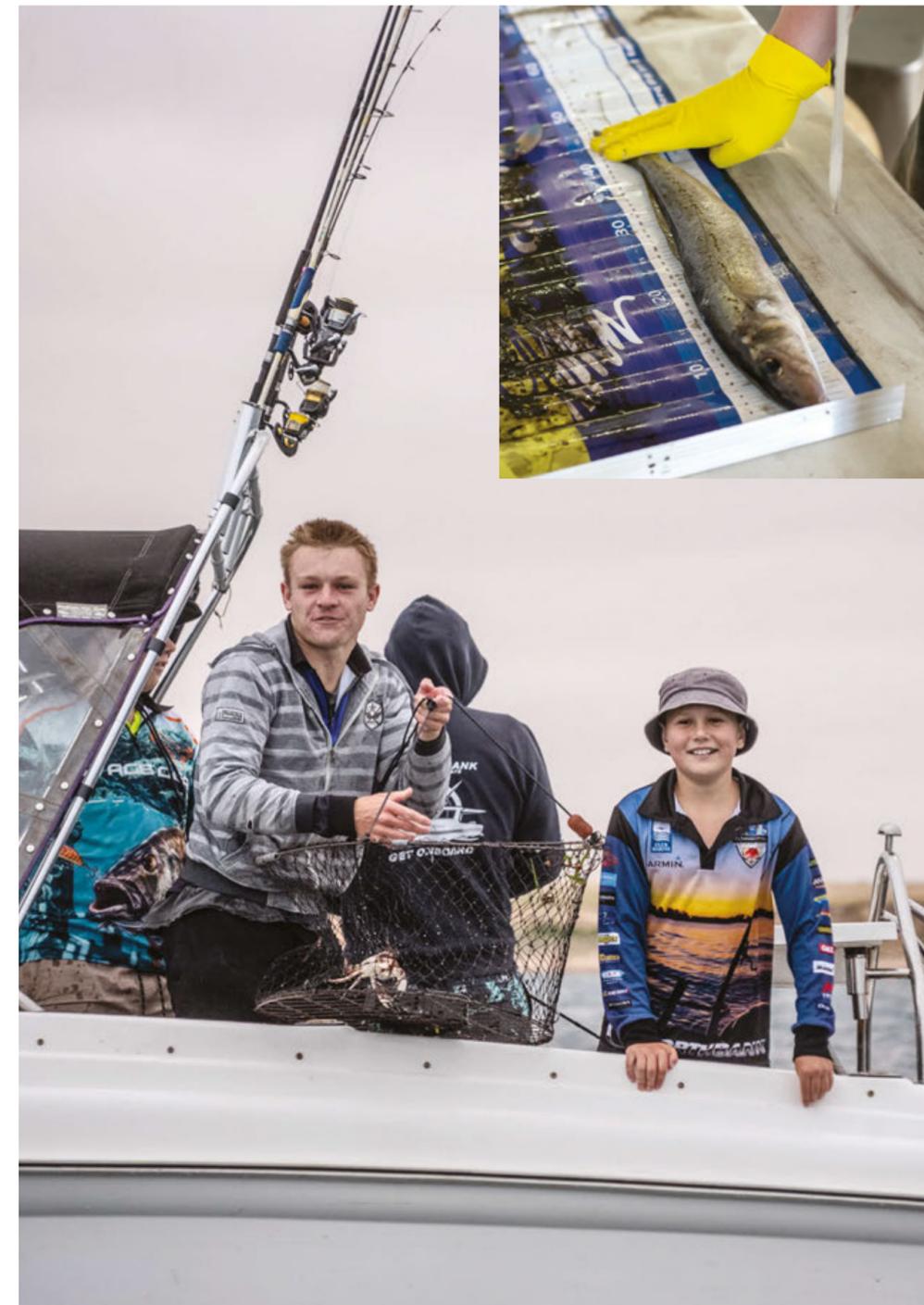
“Competitors stroll in on Friday for a briefing and catch up, usually with a lot of banter in the mix,” Andrew said.

“Saturday, the gloves come off, or the rods go in, for the beginning of the competition which always ends with presentations and dinner at the Wallaroo Football Club that night, who we are now major sponsors of.

“The footy club opens up the grounds for owners to camp on the oval, if need be, and use its facilities.

“Most competitors make the event a family trip away staying the remainder of the weekend or a couple of extra days.

“It’s more than just a fishing competition!” ■



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# The search for the *Narungga*

**Words:** Rachel Hagan  
**Photos:** Matt Carty

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this article may contain images and names of deceased persons.

THE *Narungga* ketch may be lost, but it will not be forgotten, even if it is never seen again.

Australia's perceived history and the identity the country has placed on its First Nations has been challenged by the tale of the *Narungga*.

The ketch may seem like just one of the many wrecks dotting our deadly coastline, but the *Narungga* is more than just a rotting ghost of the deep, it symbolises the resilience of the Narungga community.

Narungga have always been saltwater people, and Waraldi (Wardang Island) has always been a place of great significance.

Before colonial practices such as sand mining destroyed much of the environment on Waraldi, it was a sacred pristine place where Narungga people would regularly hunt and fish.

The *Narungga* had the capacity to transport more than 160 sheep, and was used by the community to shift livestock along a route that had been travelled for thousands of years: to and from Waraldi.

The island also served as an important place for Narungga men, who would swim across from Burgiyana (Point Pearce) as a part of their initiation into manhood.

Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation executive and Elder Doug Milera, who has lived part of his life on Waraldi, said there was a trick to the crossing, but no matter the tides, it always involved a risky deep sea swim.

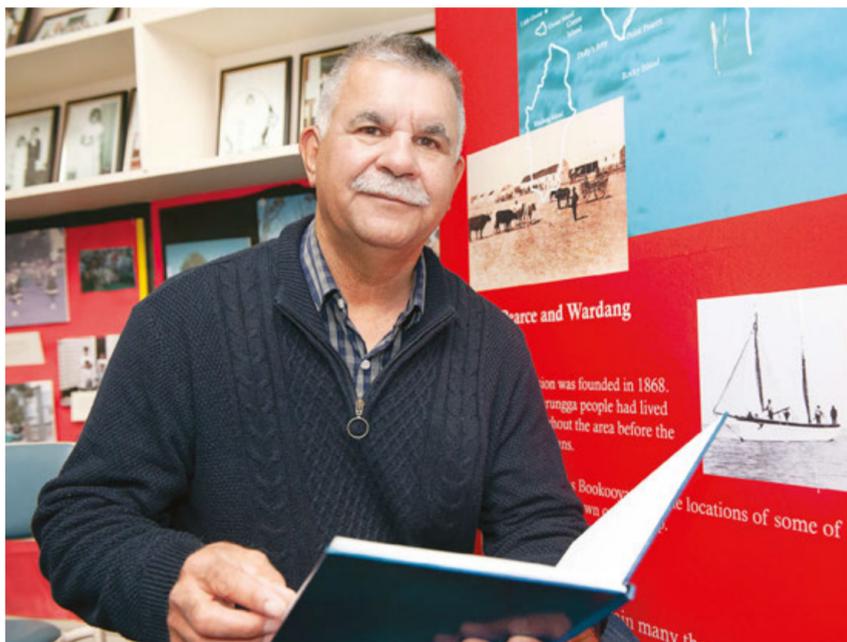
"You had to swim to the island, stay there, survive and then swim back," Doug said.

"That meant you had a really strong affiliation and connection, spiritually and culturally to the island."

Part of caring for this connection is caring for culture, and part of caring for culture is understanding the history which has influenced and created the identity of the community.

The centre of Guuranda (Yorke Peninsula) contains soil which produces some of the best agricultural land in the country, and today is colloquially referred to as the Magic Mile.

This was once fertile Country cared for by Narungga people, continuously for tens of thousands of years.



About 200 years ago, as settlers acquired more and more farming land, Narungga people were forcibly removed from prosperous environments, such as the Magic Mile, which could bring wealth to the new colony.

"Our Mob became fringe dwellers in that area, and then along came the missionaries who thought that there needed to be a place for Narungga to be, protected from the colonisers," Doug said.

Point Pearce Mission was formed in 1868 by Moravian missionary Reverend Julius Kühn.

First Nations people from all over the state were forced to live in the designated area, and work the land using European farming methods, in an attempt to erase their cultural identity and practices.

"It wasn't harmonious because you had different groups living together and it broke down all of Narungga's social structures," Doug said.

Though Doug has many happy memories growing up in Burgiyana with his grandparents, colonial control and brutality were a constant threat to him and his community.

The Aborigines Amendment Act 1939 had the legislative power to hold power over First Nations people, which included the power to exclude certain people from the Point Pearce Mission.

But it also perpetuated a class system where colonists could train First Nations people as labourers and servants for their own interests.

This was difficult for young Doug because it meant he could no longer legally see his own mother, who had left Point Pearce to visit family in Port Augusta.

"The superintendents saw her, as well as a few others, as people who could disrupt the status quo here and entice others to leave the community," he said.

Sneaking away under the cover of night to Hollywood Beach (west of the township) and hiding in the bushes with his grandfather, just so he could have a moment with his mother, is a vivid memory for Doug.

"It brings back a lot of hurt and frustration," he said.

"Being told when you could come and go was a bit of a hard pill to swallow, and some people still haven't come to terms with that grief and loss around family."



**Above:** Doug Milera and Deanne Power at the remains of the launch site of the *Narungga* ketch, Dolly's Jetty.

**Right:** (Re)locating *Narungga* Project field work crew: Doug Milera, Eddie Newchurch, Amy Roberts, John Naumann, Kurt Bennett, Madeline Fowler and Jennifer McKinnon. PHOTO CREDIT: Jason Raupp

**Left:** A photo of the *Narungga* (to Doug's right) is proudly displayed at the entrance of the Point Pearce Cultural Room.



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**Left: Doug Milera surrounded by his ancestors and all their achievements while living on the mission.**

**Above: Doug will be looking out for the ketch on his upcoming dives around some of the suspected locations.**

There would be severe consequences for those caught trying to meet loved ones at Hollywood Beach.

"You would be fined or not given rations, and quite often police would come to arrest you," Doug said.

"As a kid growing up here in Point Pearce there was police brutality, the local coppers would come in and try to lay the law down, so to speak."

In addition to being confined to the mission and forced to assimilate, those who took up agricultural work were not paid a wage equal to what white colonists received for the same work.

As a kid, Doug remembered being so cold one night in his stone cottage without a fire, that he had to knock on the local priest's door to ask for blankets for his family.

"But you had to survive, and by way of surviving was asking and losing all dignity around that," he said.

"We try to look at the positive side of history, but there is that deep dark side of history that still hurts people."

"Knowing what our people have been through, the resilience for us today is that we've hung on to our culture and our history."

The *Narungga* ketch was built in 1903 by the community at Burgiyana, and is one of the only recorded European maritime vessels to be constructed, launched and used by First Nations people.

Though the ketch is one of the only recorded cases, our history books are likely not telling the true story about First Nations involvement in agriculture and maritime industries, as Flinders University Professor Amy Roberts discovered while searching for the shipwreck.

"Sometimes with the historical record you can't be sure if it's just an omission, particularly when there is prejudice against Aboriginal people, or if there was a hesitancy to celebrate the achievements of Aboriginal people because of that prejudice," she said.

"And that's one thing we explore when we research these projects."

were held by the older generation.

Amy said oral history is vital to today's researchers because western society had not produced an accurate record of our past.

"Some things were not privileged by European observers, so oral history is often the only record that we have of those things," she said.

"And that is also true of the interactions of Narungga and Point Pearce people with the maritime industries."

"People who worked on other boats and who were employed in other ways within that industry, often their names don't get in the records."

"So, it is only through the memories of families, elders and others that those life experiences get preserved."

Despite the many geophysical surveys conducted in this project, the team was unable to locate the sunken ketch.

Doug said the ketch was a symbol and one of those history lines that would be forever talked about in the Narungga community.

"We've always known our community built this ketch and utilised it to carry livestock and supplies back and forth from Wardang Island," he said.

"Growing up with that sort of knowledge, seeing old photos and elders talking to us about those days, it was always there around how we interpreted the history of our community. And sadly it's not still available as even a museum piece."

However, all is not lost because that part of Narungga history has been corrected, and the story of the *Narungga* will be there in the books to inspire and educate future generations.

And Doug has not given up on finding the ship quite yet.

"It's still in the back of my mind, we've got a few spots where it might be, so we're going to continue to search for it and maybe with technology improving in sonar and scanning, we can maybe find it someday soon," he said.

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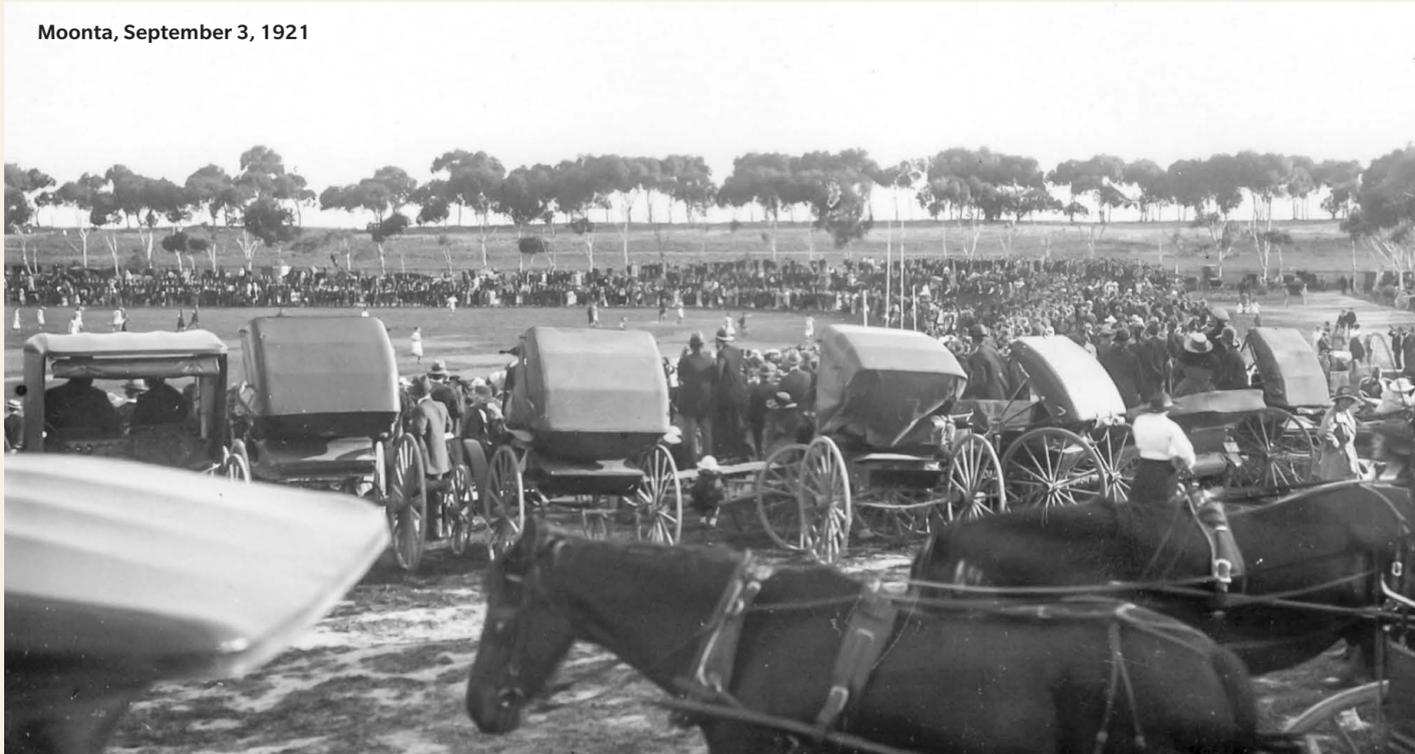
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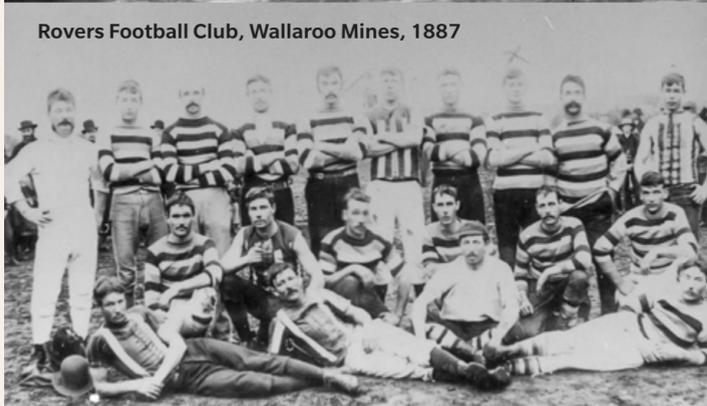
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Moonta, September 3, 1921



Rovers Football Club, Wallaroo Mines, 1887



YP 1924



Moonta Mines 1921



# Fielding sporting dreams for 150 years

**Words:** Brett Bowden  
**Photos:** Rod Penna, supplied

THIS year marked the 150th anniversary of the first game of football between Moonta and Wallaroo, which provides the ideal opportunity for historical perspective.

The clubs had only been in existence for a matter of months before they took to the field, according to the match report from the Wallaroo Times and Mining Journal (Saturday, September 12, 1874).

By comparison Port Adelaide Football Club, the oldest professional football club in South Australia, was founded in 1870.

Powerhouse clubs of the now Australian Football League, Melbourne and Geelong, were founded in 1858 and 1859 respectively. Collingwood didn't exist until 1892.

The Journal report suggested the game was likely a hybrid of rugby and Australian rules.

"On the afternoon of Wednesday, 9th September, was played the first actual match ever played on the Peninsula," the report read.

"The contest was on the ground of the Wallaroo Football Club, near the residence of Mr J B Shepherdson, S M, by the Wallaroo Football Club against that of Moonta.

"The weather was anything but propitious, there being a steady drizzling rain from

before the hour fixed for the contest, and all through the afternoon. Notwithstanding this, such was the interest taken by the public in the game, that a large number of spectators, including many ladies, were present from beginning to end."

The match began with much fanfare as Moonta's arrival was preceded by the Moonta Brass Band.

"Play was immediately commenced; Mr Howie acting as captain for the Moonta side; and Mr Geo. Ireland for the Wallaroo side," the report read.

"For the Moonta Club 22 played, and the distinguishing colour was pink. For the Wallaroo Club 21 played, and the colour blue.

"After a good hour and a-half's work was done, with little or no progress, a change of goals took place. The change seemed admirably to answer the purpose of the Wallaroo Club, as the new tactics had not long been in operation, when, at a distance on an angle of fifty yards, a splendid kick was made by Mr Ireland, the ball going straight through the top bar and the cross bar, and interspace of 10 feet.

"During the whole of the play, the ball was kept in very close proximity to the Moonta goal.

"Capital play was shown by both sides, proving that practice is regularly kept up.

“ On the afternoon of Wednesday, 9th September, was played the first actual match ever played on the Peninsula.

– Wallaroo Times and Mining Journal; September 12, 1874

"However, it was only by dint of very hard work and a great struggle that even one goal was taken, although on the part of Mr Whittington, a player on the Wallaroo side, capital play was made, and a splendid kick given, the ball striking the cross bar and falling back. This, we need scarcely remark, was more annoying than exciting."

The following week, The Journal ran a letter from Moonta captain G Howie critiquing the report.

"I was surprised to find that you say, 'During the whole of the play, the ball was kept in very close proximity to the Moonta goal'," he wrote.

"This is certainly an error, and unless corrected would lead to the impression that the Moonta players were greatly overmatched by the Wallaroo team.

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Above: Umpires Nathan Rowe, Lachie Vandeppeer and Nathan Daniel supervise the coin toss by team captains Ryley Maitland (Moonta) and Dylan Westlake (Wallaroo). Right: Moonta (wearing pink) and Wallaroo (blue) A grade teams before their 150th anniversary clash. In no particular order are Moonta coach Gavin Adams, Wallaroo coach Corey Smelt, Moonta players Matthew Altman, Braden Aldridge, Leon Fry, Alex Elsworth, Dylan Aldridge, Matthew Appleton, Seth Gregory, Harry Williams, Tyler Andrews, Harrison Hatcher, Oliver Mullins, Patrick Fry, Troy Colliver, Dylan Mansell, Dylan Slack, Ryley Maitland, Brock Pollard, Tom Hancocks, Brodie Maitland, Aidan Turner and Jayga Warmington, and Wallaroo players Brodie Case, Jonte Hunter-Price, Anthony Bagnato, Dylan Niotis, Chase Martin, Luke Faint, Jacob Tidswell, Steven Clay, Zak Cuthill, Nathan Fletcher, Alex Cavenett, Thomas Grillet, Zyndel Galvez, Connor Smelt, Zac Fairlie, Dylan Westlake, Angus Johns, Riley Miller, Skeet Manuell, Jack Mumford and Jaydan Trott.

"Such, however, was not the case both sides being as evenly matched as they well could be, and the general impression among the spectators was, that but for the splendid free kick made by Mr Ireland, neither party would have secured a goal, and during the whole of the afternoon, the ball was as frequently in close proximity to the Wallaroo goal, as it was to the Moonta one."

While the match report also suggests it was the first game to be played on Yorke Peninsula, the paper also reported on a match a month earlier.

"The opening game of the Wallaroo Bay Football Club was played on the ground in front of the residence of Mr J B Shepherdson, on Thursday last (6 August 1874), that day being observed as a public holiday," the report read.

"During the early part of the day the weather was fine, but about noon it commenced to rain very heavy, and at intervals during the afternoon, making the ground anything but pleasant for football.

"Shortly after two o'clock sides were chosen, reds versus blues, and play commenced, each side obtaining a goal.

"Mr Watts, of the Ship Inn, had a booth on the ground, from which refreshments were dispensed.

"The Wallaroo Brass Band was in attendance, and between the showers, numbers of persons visited the ground."

Football has been, and remains to be an important part of life on the peninsula. ■



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# Spring INTO YOUR GARDEN

**Words** Bruce Liebelt, YorkKreation Garden Centre

There are so many things you can do to bring your garden back to life after a cold winter and prepare it for a hot summer. From regular maintenance tips to fertilisation and everything in between, we've got you sorted.



### LAWNS

LAWNS are one of those areas that often need attention, with weeds probably taking hold over winter. Depending on the type of lawn, weed control may require some careful planning as certain methods can have a detrimental effect. Broadleaf weed control can have devastating effects on buffalo varieties. If using a weed and feed product, make sure it's suitable for your lawn type, and be careful of plants in or around the edges of your lawn. We have seen devastated gardeners come in with dying or damaged plants due to spray. Spot spraying with a non-selective herbicide can work on large thistle and dandelion weeds. Couch, buffalo or kikuyu lawns benefit from a hard cut back to remove all the thatch. If possible, aerate or core your lawn, scarifying to help rejuvenate it. Seed type lawns, like fescue, ryegrass or clover, will also benefit from aeration and scarifying. Once this is done, it may be time to add a fertiliser. Organic fertilisers like Sudden Impact or Blade Runner are great, try a faster action fertiliser like Green Up, or a fine granule slow release like a lawn builder. A topdressing — a layer of soil raked over to level out any low patches or slow growing areas — may also be necessary. Re-seeding or laying some new runners may also be beneficial. Once all this is done, a wetting agent should be added to your lawn as this will help water penetrate the soil and retain moisture for longer. Your lawn will also grow stronger and healthier with long, deep watering.

### GARDEN MAINTENANCE

IRRIGATION systems need attention too, with little use over winter, so it's important to check them by flushing them out. Ants, insects, soil or salts may have clogged your sprinklers, drippers or sprayers. Doing this now will have you ready to go when the warm weather hits. Now may also be the time to buy a new hose, sprinklers or connectors so everything is in working order.

### PLANTING

SPRING and summer vegetables are now in stock, and with the cost of living, it may be a great time to start growing your own produce as it is better for you and tastier. You can plant vegetables from seeds or seedlings, with the time prime for beans, capsicum, carrots, chilli, cucumber, lettuce, onion, pumpkin, radish, silverbeet, squash, sweetcorn, tomatoes, zucchini. Herbs are also plentiful with basil, chives, dill, fennel, marjoram, oregano, parsley, rosemary and wormwood ready to go. Flowers will brighten your garden in spring and summer. They can also be beneficial, bringing in bees to pollinate your vegetables. Alyssum, antirrhinum, asters, begonia, cosmos, dianthus, dahlias, geraniums, impatiens, marigolds, nasturtiums, petunias, portulaca, phlox, salvia, sunflower, verbena, vinca and zinnia are perfect for this time of year.

### PEST CONTROL

WITH all your spring planting under control, the last thing you want is bugs. Earwigs and snails can devour your effort in one night and, while earwig control is challenging, there are a few ways to control or deter them. One way is to lay rolled up newspapers on the ground. The earwigs will crawl in overnight and in the morning, you can empty them into a bucket and feed them to your chooks. You can make your own traps by laying a shallow lid, like a margarine lid, on the soil and fill with some used cooking oil. The earwigs go in and drown in the oil. Another way is to sprinkle some diatomaceous earth after watering in your seedlings. This will need reapplying after rain or watering as the leaves need to remain coated. You could also give your plants a spray with Pyro-ag, a wood vinegar which may help deter earwigs, while also helping your plants to grow stronger.

Snails may be controlled with snail bait, some being friendlier to pets and the environment than others. Even crushed up eggshells can help as a barrier around your plants. Be on the lookout for aphids and other pests, using various methods of control, natural or otherwise.

### DISEASE CONTROL

FUNGUS is another thing to be on the look out for, especially on fruit trees. Timing of spray application is critical. Spray at pink bud stage, and then after petal fall. Never spray when in flower, as the spray can contaminate the pollen and cause minimal fruit set. Use a preventative, copper-based spray to control curly leaf on peaches and nectarines while roses will need to be watched for black spot and powdery mildew. Control these at the first sign of disease.

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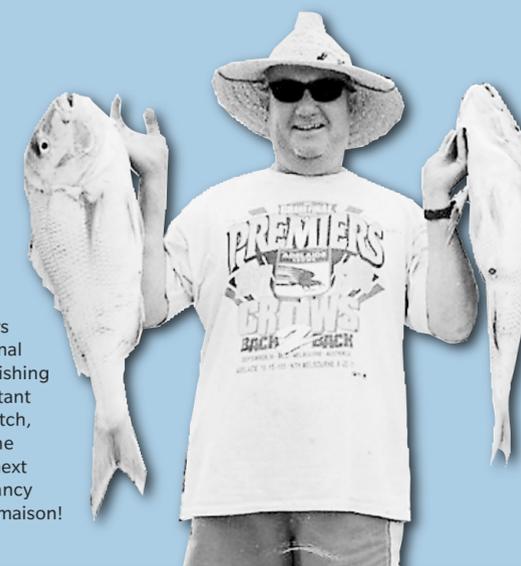


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# CATCH IT COOK IT EAT IT

Words: Greg James

YORKE Peninsula enjoys national and international fame for its wonderful fishing and seafood. It's important then to know how to catch, cook and eat some of the region's best produce next time you wet a line or fancy yourself as the chef de maison!



## Red nannygai

### Catch it

Red nannygai (also known as red snapper, or bight redfish in Western Australia) can be caught along southern parts of Yorke Peninsula at anything from 10 metres to 450m deep. Recreational fishers often catch red nannys when fishing for tuna, kingfish, trevalley and sweep, using simple lures and a jiggling/moving bait set below a reasonably heavy sinker.

### Cook it

#### Pan-fried nannygai

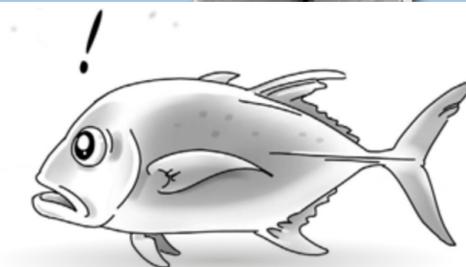
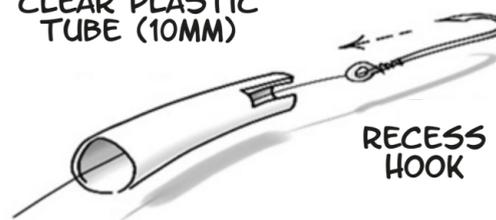
**Ingredients:** 6 fish fillets, crushed garlic, oil, fish sauce, chopped shallots, lime juice, seasoning, coriander.

**Preparation:** Heat oil in a pan and cook fillets (skin-side down) for one minute and set aside. Cook remaining ingredients in same pan for 30 seconds, then add fish fillets and cook for a further two minutes. Serve topped with some chopped coriander and seasoning.

### Eat it

I would recommend a lovely South Australian Pinot Grigio.

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## Trevalley

### Catch it

There are several species of trevalley known in South Australia. Trevalley are a prized target amongst recreational anglers on Yorke Peninsula and can be caught by trolling and flicking lures along the surface over a broken/rocky bottom, or by dropping baits near deep water bommies and reefs.

### Cook it

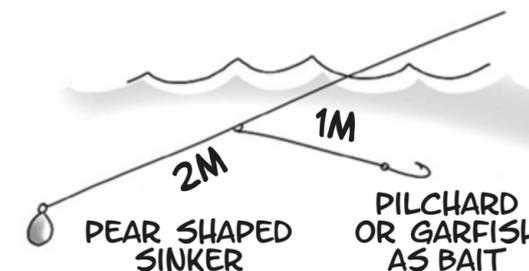
#### Baked trevalley

**Ingredients:** 1 whole trevalley (cleaned), ginger, coconut cream, 1 chopped mango, 2 chopped brown onions, oil.

**Preparation:** Ensure fish is fully cleaned and gutted. Stuff cavity with chopped onion and mango. Pour coconut cream into cavity and wrap fish in foil. Cook in an oven or Weber-style barbecue for 10 minutes and turn. Cook parcel for a further 10 minutes and serve.

### Eat it

I would recommend an old-fashioned SA Chardonnay.



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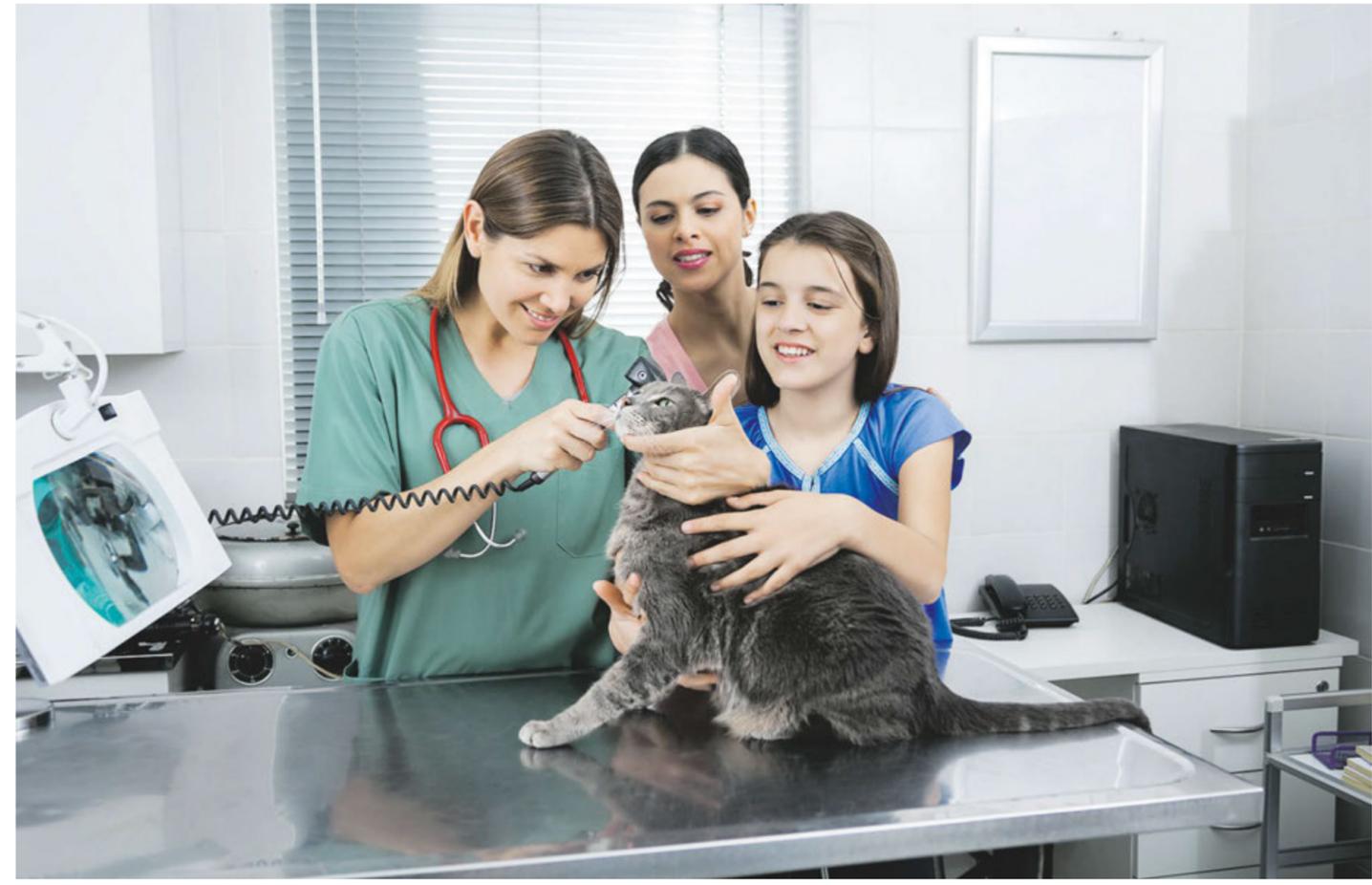
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# Stress-free VET VISITS

**Words** Amanda Bunney  
Seaside Vet Surgery  
Wallaroo

AS pet owners, we strive to provide the best care for our furry companions. However, pet anxiety can be challenging, and a trip to the vet can sometimes be overwhelming or even terrifying. Recognising early signs of anxiety in your pet is crucial for ensuring a positive vet visit experience.

Dogs may show anxiety through over-excitability, trembling, drooling, panting or even aggression.

Cats, being naturally more anxious in unfamiliar environments, may hide, flatten their ears, tuck their tails or vocalise.

To make a vet visit more positive for both you and your pet, consider the following tips:

- ✓ Bring your pet's favourite treat as a reward for bravery.
- ✓ For smaller pets, use an enclosed carrier with a blanket from home to provide a familiar scent and avoid spooking them in the waiting room.
- ✓ Schedule "social" visits to the clinic for anxious dogs, allowing them to receive treats and sit on the scales without any medical procedures.
- ✓ Enrol puppies in the Seaside Vets' Puppy Preschool Program to foster a positive relationship with the clinic from an early age.

If your pet remains unsettled during visits, and this affects our ability to provide effective care, your vet may prescribe anxiety medication.

This medication, administered at home under supervision two hours before the appointment, helps relax and calm your pet while keeping them aware of their surroundings.

This facilitates thorough examinations and necessary procedures, making the visit smoother and quicker.

The effects of the medication typically last a few hours, with your pet often sleeping off the remaining dose once home.

Consult with our vets to determine the best approach for your pet's needs.

With the right support, we can help ensure your pet's next vet visit is fear-free.



# ALICIA *and* RYDER

Married in Kadina  
**15.04.2023**

FAMILY and sentiment were two themes woven throughout Alicia Walkley and Ryder Bussenschutt's wedding celebration — so a small, private wedding ceremony held in Ryder's family backyard was everything the couple could have dreamt of.

Surrounded by their nearest and dearest, the couple walked down the aisle to an acoustic version of Bullet for My Valentine's Forever and Always — a song they have both loved for years.



"Ryder and I had our first look moment in our own front garden before heading out together to the ceremony," Alicia said.

"This helped take the edge off and ease the nerves a little."

The couple walked down the aisle together, hand-in-hand.

"This had always been my dream, as my father had passed away when I was 10 years old," Alicia said.

Alicia was wearing a dress she had picked out with her best friend, Dana Cavenett, which was called Halo.

"I took it as a sentimental sign from my beautiful mother-in-law, Meagan, who passed back in 2016," Alicia said.

Their intimate ceremony opened to their favourite song, In Memoria Di by Polaris, with the lyrics meaning plenty to the couple.

"Dearly beloved gathered here, dearly departed forever near, in hearts and minds of those you leave behind, your names will live beyond the grave."

The ceremony was officiated by family friend, Bev Munchenberg, who became a celebrant just to marry the pair.

The wedding reception was held in the couple's own backyard

Alicia and Ryder's first dance included extra guests, with their daughters Everly and Kaylee taking to the floor too.

"We danced to a beautiful acoustic cover of Iris by Nate Vickers," Alicia said.

Alicia and Ryder officially met in reception but didn't get to know each other until their first year of high school.

"We had the same taste in music and a few other things in common, and we got along — well, most of the time," Alicia said.

As the years passed, the teens had an on-and-off-again relationship, meeting each other's parents as their relationship continued to blossom.

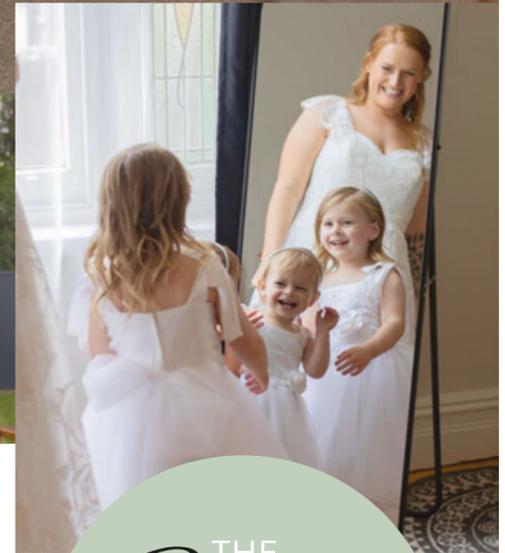
"We spent most of our spare time together hanging out in the band room, watching Friends, camping and making memories," Alicia said.

"Ryder pretty much lived with me and my family from the age of 15."

Alicia and Ryder moved in together in 2016, and bought their first home in Kadina in 2017.

"As the years passed and life went forward, our relationship grew stronger and stronger through everything life threw our way," Alicia said.

Ryder then took on a new career, becoming a FIFO worker in Roxby Downs, which was a lifestyle change for them both.



Their wedding party consisted of Alicia and Ryder's closest and oldest friends.

Dana was her maid of honour with Alicia's sister, Amber Walkley, and friends Bree-anna Ramsey, Melissa Angus and Sophie Parker as bridesmaids.

"I honestly couldn't have made it through the day without each and every one of them," Alicia said.

Ryder's best man, Beau Neale, and groomsmen Alex Krieg, Max Bussenschutt, Cade Angus and Luke McKenzie completed the wedding party.

"Those boys have been with us from the very beginning, and we love and appreciate all of them dearly," Alicia said.

The pair honeymooned at Mount Lofty House.

"We indulged in scrumptious food and spectacular views — a little escape from reality," Alicia said.

"Our wedding day was all we could have hoped for, and we wouldn't change a thing." ■

## THE *Finer* DETAILS

- Venue:** Ryder's family home
- Photographer:** Sarah King Photography
- Bride's dress:** Luv Bridal
- Hair:** Amelia Heddle
- Makeup:** Renee Ireland
- Event hire:** Mid North Party Hire
- Caterer:** YP Wood Oven Pizza
- Bar:** Royal Exchange Hotel

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# TAI *and* LIAM

Married at Hard Days  
Night, Adelaide  
**24.02.2024**

UNIQUE and fabulous vibes were on the mind of couple Tai Curtis and Liam Cranwell when booking their dream wedding destination at Hard Days Night in Adelaide.

When visiting for the first time with friends and seeing the entire venue decked out with maximalist decor, they both knew straight away it was where they would marry.

Tai and Liam connected through social media, and to meet in person for the first time, Tai secretly left her house.

The pair walked the streets of Adelaide for hours.

"After that day, we were inseparable — constantly talking, always meeting up and our relationship flourished," Tai said.

Every detail of Tai and Liam's wedding, big or small, had significance for the couple, including their wedding date.

Initially wanting to marry on Friday, October 13 or October 31, the pair opted for a closer date with just as much meaning.

"We wanted to get married as soon as possible, so Liam picked the date 24.02.2024 and it was perfect as it was a patterned number with the symbols 222," Tai said.

The meaning of 222 encourages open communication, understanding, and compromise if you are in a relationship, Tai said.

"It reminds you to work together as a team and support each other's growth, and for those seeking love, angel number 222 may indicate that you are about to encounter a significant romantic partnership."

This could not have been a more perfect, meaningful date for the pair.

Liam's proposal was "awfully suspicious" according to Tai.

Tai said she knew Liam was hiding a secret when they went shopping for anniversary gifts.

They had planned to welcome in the New Year with Liam's family and childhood friends in Wallaroo.

"I always told him, the only thing I'd want out of us getting engaged was to be proposed to in his country hometown, so he could have another beautiful memory there, and I could have my first," Tai said.

"When the fireworks went off at the beach, Liam asked me to marry him.

"It was one of the happiest nights of my life."

The ring Tai had pointed out during that shopping trip, was in a beautifully hand-crafted box created by Liam's dad, Greg Cranwell.

Almost 90 of Tai and Liam's closest friends and family attended the intimate occasion.

Everything from Tai's dress and makeup to Liam's suit and the food was specific to the couple, with Tai doing her own makeup on the day and both ensuring alterations on their special outfits were perfect.

"They (the food vendors) even gave me a handful of pickles due to it being one of my favourite foods," Tai said.

During their wedding day, Tai had given her sister Kaycee Mellors-Curtis two jobs — bring makeup wipes, and make sure her partner picked up the rings.

The rings were secured before travelling to the ceremony, but that didn't stop a slight hiccup.

"During our ceremony, our celebrant Tita asked where the rings were, and when I turned to her she had no idea where they were," Tai said.

"She started freaking out, and ran to go find them.

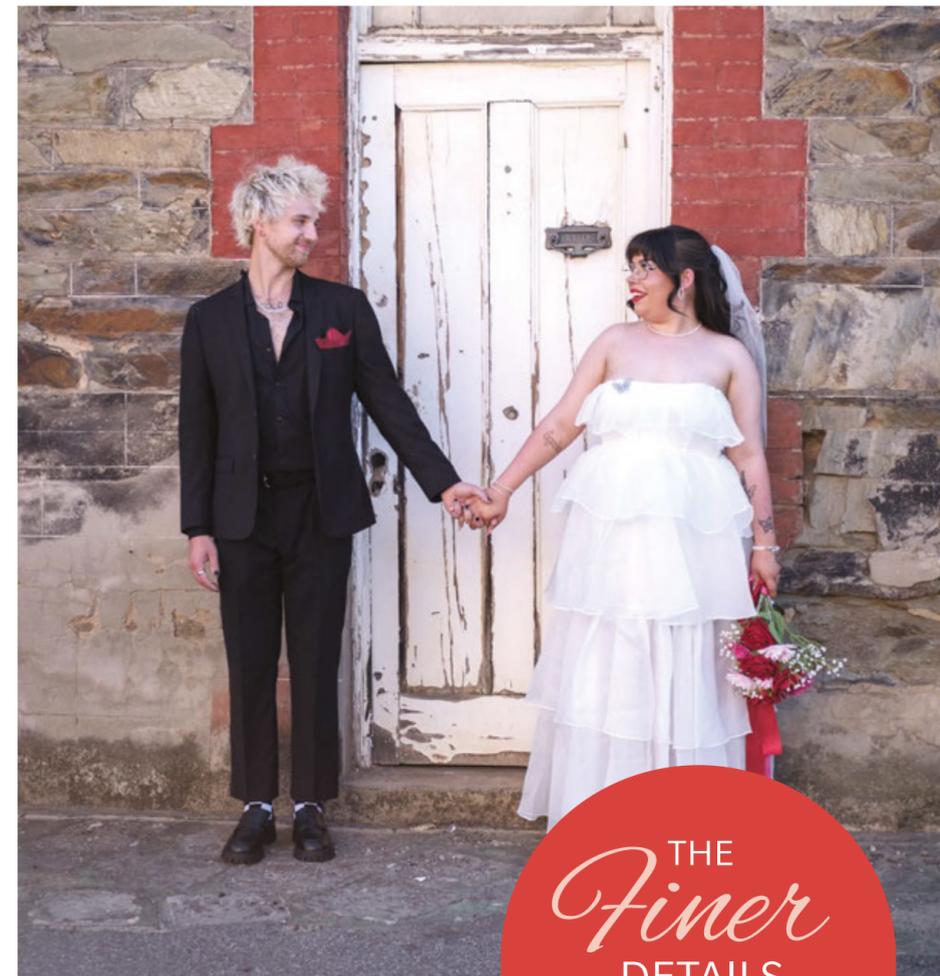
"When she brought them out, everyone clapped, thankful we had them.

"Everyone thought it was planned, but it really was not — she forgot the one thing I reminded her not to forget!"

A Valentine's Day tradition was continued for the couple's honeymoon, and they spent the day at entertainment centre Timezone in Adelaide for a day.

"We played all the arcade games for hours, and we won more than 12,000 tickets and redeemed them on our favourite lollies and a bouncy ball Liam still has," Tai said.

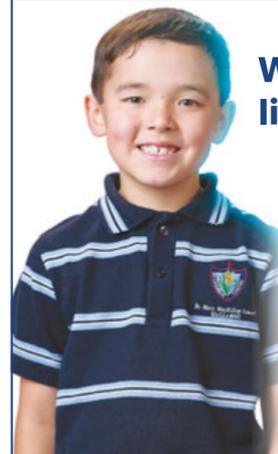
Tai is the daughter of Jodie Mellors and Bill Curtis, of Adelaide, and Liam is the son of Sheila and Greg Cranwell, of Wallaroo. ■



## THE *Finer* DETAILS

- Venue:** Hard Days Night
- Photographer:** Dylan and Shannon Kutcher
- Bride's dress:** Bought from Selfie Leslie and altered by Olga Koloskova
- Hair:** Lisa Robertson from The Parlour, Glenelg
- Makeup:** Tai did her own makeup
- Flowers:** Hand-crafted silk flowers made by Tai
- Celebrant:** Tita from Por Vida Ceremonies
- Caterer:** WhoopiGoldburger
- Cake:** family friend

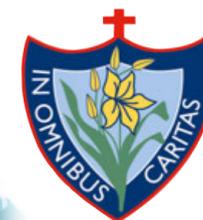
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"I like living in Kadina, it is safe and it's quiet. I like to go swimming at the Leisure Centre in Kadina." — Isabelle Year 5



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# ERIN *and* TYSON

Married at Peter Lehmann Wines, Tanunda  
**06.04.2024**

THE difficult question of ‘should we have kids at the wedding?’ was taken off Erin Roocke and Tyson Hartley’s hands by the very kids themselves.

Prior to their big day in the Barossa Valley, the teachers from Harvest Christian College, Kadina, got a very special practise run thanks to their students.

“They threw us a mock wedding in our school assembly,” Erin said.

“We went through the whole process of getting ready for the wedding and the first dance and all that sort of stuff, which was really fun.

“I think the kids probably had more fun than what Tyson and I did; they loved it.”

Erin and Tyson met when they started teaching at Harvest in 2021.

And a little piece of the school remained with them at their real nuptials, with head of senior school Scott Carson officiating the ceremony and former fellow teacher Victoria Janetzki as bridesmaid.

Both the ceremony and reception were held at Peter Lehmann Wines in Tanunda, a central meeting point for 85 of their nearest and dearest.

“We really just appreciated everyone taking time out of their schedules to travel and spend the day with us,” Erin said.

“The speeches, particularly from parents and family, were really heartfelt and warming, which I think just made it more special for Tyson and I, because we’re quite close with our families.”

The wine-and-cheese-platter spirit of the wedding venue had been a cornerstone of the couple’s courtship and also played a part in their engagement.

“We went on a holiday down the Great Ocean Road to visit some family and, on the way back, we thought ‘it’s school holidays, we’ve got some time, we’ll go have a look around,’” Erin said.

“It’s been something that we both wanted to do for a really long time.

“We went just down from the Twelve Apostles and found a little secret lookout up one of the hills.

“We kind of went ‘oh, it looks a bit sketchy but we’ll give it a go anyway’.

“The view was beautiful, so we went up and did the wine and cheese platter up there and Tyson proposed.”

The newlyweds had their first dance to You and Me by The Dreggs, and spent two weeks honeymooning in New Zealand.

The couple’s bridal party consisted of bridesmaids Victoria Janetzki, Tabrett Roocke and Rachel Moore; groomsmen Jonathon Hartley, Jackson Hartley and Trent Crockett; and flower girl Nellie Hartley.

Erin is the daughter of Teresa and Nigel Roocke, of Nuriootpa, and Tyson is the son of Penelope and Peter Hartley, of Loxton. ■



## THE *Finer* DETAILS

**Venue:** Peter Lehmann Wines  
**Photographer and videographer:** Will and Co Photography  
**Dresses:** The Bride Lab and Alena Leena Bridal  
**Suits:** Tarocash  
**Hair and makeup:** Sarah Craker  
**Flowers:** Floral Soiree  
**Rings:** Michael Hill  
**Celebrant:** Scott Carson  
**Catering:** Vintage Chef Catering  
**Entertainment:** Entertainment Adelaide

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# Cheating Mother Nature

**Words:** David Kluske  
 YP World Travel

IT has been a cold winter and, while some people will embrace this time of the year, others can't wait to book a holiday just to cheat winter.

The sun chasers leave, looking for warmth and the caravanners leave in droves to somewhere warmer.

While some people can leave for months on end, for many of us, a sunny week away is all we can manage.

The top end of Australia is a wonderful place to visit, or journeys overseas always beckon.

Events are plentiful wherever you go, with live music in the streets, and delicious foods you can wash down with your favourite beverage.

Places like Ireland are beautiful this time of year, with fields of green and a temperature around the low to mid 20s.

In London, life is busy, and the temperature is warmer.

A great personal highlight for me was a day trip to Stonehenge, where on a balmy evening we gathered around the stones as the sun started setting.

France is also beautiful and a visit to the Reims region is green with vineyards as they prepare to make their

famous Champagne.

If you cross the border into Spain, temperatures will range from the mid 20s to low 30s, and you'll find food and wine festivals across the region.

You'll find temperatures in the mid to high 20s in Canada; and it's a brilliant time to visit with the snow melting, bears coming out of hibernation and everything in full bloom.

The options are also unlimited for people who love the chilly weather, but still want a few days away to recharge the batteries.

Imagine heading to the bottom of Yorke Peninsula with a view of the sea, a good book and a warm fire crackling in the background.

There's also nothing like the caravan life, sitting around a campfire and telling stories while looking up at the stars.

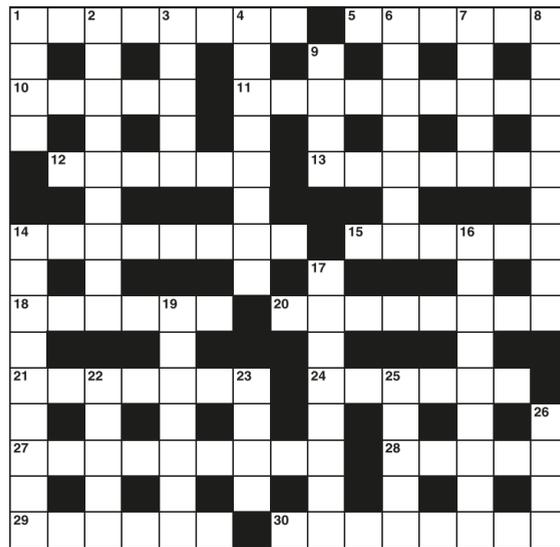
You also can't go past those memorable winter trips with family and friends to the ski fields. Skiing, snowboarding riding and chairlift rides are all a part of the fun, and we shouldn't forget the most important part of a holiday, the snow.

In the end, the choice is yours, embrace the cold weather or cheat Mother Nature, either way get out and explore!

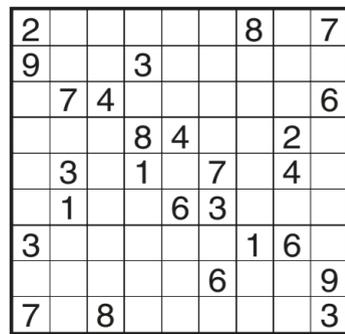


**QUICK CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**  
 1 Copying (8)  
 5 Bank order (6)  
 10 Disconnected (5)  
 11 Speed of pulse (5,4)  
 12 Downhill ski race (6)  
 13 Repeating (7)  
 14 Large Australian spider (8)  
 15 Man's name (6)  
 18 Perforate (6)  
 20 Gleeefully (8)  
 21 Against the law (7)  
 24 Comic character, - the Menace (6)  
 27 Pathological self-admirer (9)  
 28 Watercrafts (5)  
 29 English county (6)  
 30 Appraised (8)
- DOWN**  
 1 Show sullenness (4)  
 2 Laziness (9)  
 3 Of the tide (5)  
 4 Book of the Hebrew Bible (8)  
 6 Small axe (7)  
 7 Resembling (5)  
 8 Crisis (9)  
 9 Sham (4)  
 14 Pleasure (9)  
 16 Carnivals (9)  
 17 Leads an orchestra (8)  
 19 Related (7)  
 22 Fierce animals (5)  
 23 Den (4)  
 25 Illustrious (5)  
 26 Accustomed (4)

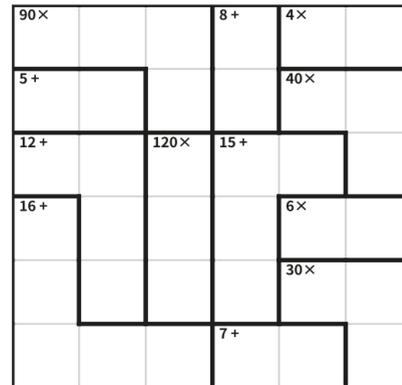


**SUDOKU**



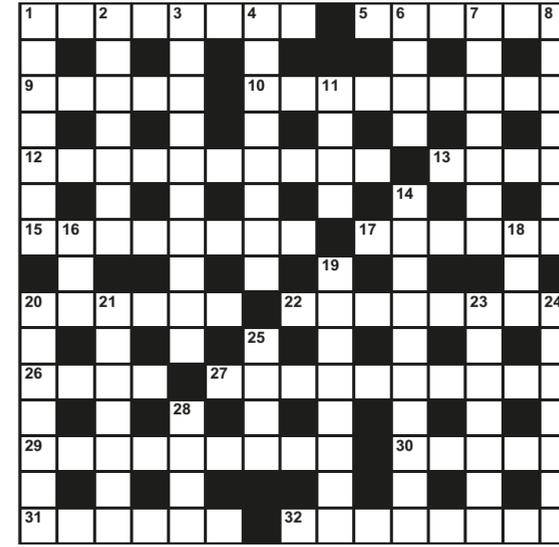
**CALCUDOKU**

Every row and column must contain the numbers 1 to 6 once each, with each outlined section equal to the number in the top left of the area when the noted mathematical operation is used. For subtraction and division, start with the largest number in the section.



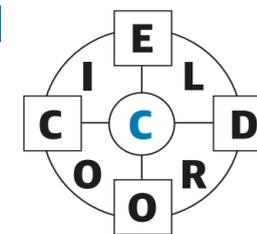
**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**  
 1 'Alien', screened by Universal, is trivial (8)  
 5 Capital of Belgium survives explosions (6)  
 9 Bloodtype used up? Almost (5)  
 10 Name mutation of giant seed (9)  
 12 What's a connoisseur saying about roast cooked in a special way? (10)  
 13 Farewell members of regiment at attention (2-2)  
 15 Ship carrying right flag (8)  
 17 Indecent extra messed up first part of dialogue (1-5)  
 20 Fellow facing a colliery's shortage of essential supplies (6)  
 22 Expert is, in area of garden, christened (8)  
 26 Building blocks, say, located in middle of plot (4)  
 27 The jewellery on display in great conventions (10)  
 29 Visionaries unravelled details located at island's centre (9)  
 30 Corporate identity that is plugged by local publication (5)  
 31 Iron played in benefit may be misjudged (6)  
 32 Liberal rushed in to lease (8)
- DOWN**  
 1 Head of group, taking part in organised search, demands payment (7)  
 2 Patron runs after snoops in disguise (7)  
 3 Hosts come in with special offering of satin (10)  
 4 Vulnerable independent dealt with resentment (2,6)  
 6 Members set up head of state (4)  
 7 Condiment sale ended early in an established centre (3,4)  
 8 Attendant cooked food before a doctor turned up (7)  
 11 Amounts of money university specified in text (4)  
 14 Fellow organised retainers to keep company (10)  
 16 People working together nearly finished meal (3)  
 18 Stock farmed in New England? (3)  
 19 Scottish son of doctor admitting his virility (8)  
 20 Almost everyone involved in affair is going down (7)  
 21 Small generator agent fixed in little time (7)  
 23 I'm not represented in reformed Tasmanian music band (7)  
 24 Critically examine sides involved with court (7)  
 25 Ship, with silver on board, sinks (4)  
 28 Hint left written in reminder (4)



**9-LETTER WORD**

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".

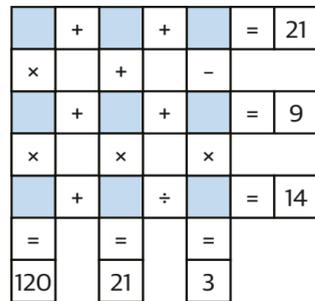


**TODAY'S AIM**  
 19 words: **Good**  
 28 words: **Very good**  
 38 words: **Excellent**

**4x4**

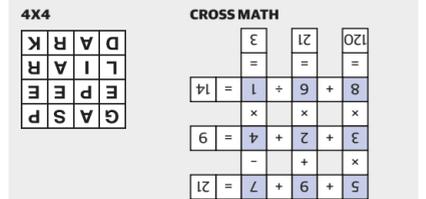
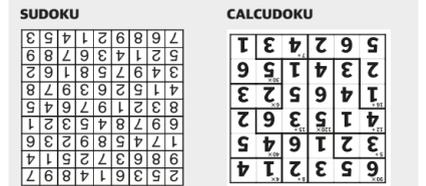
- ACROSS**  
 1 Catch one's breath  
 5 Fencing sword  
 6 Pseudologist  
 7 Unlit
- DOWN**  
 1 Neuter  
 2 Capital of Samoa  
 3 Burn  
 4 Benefit

**CROSS MATH**



Insert each number from 1 to 9 in the shaded squares to solve all the horizontal and vertical equations.  
**Multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.**

**SOLUTIONS**



**9-LETTER WORD**  
 locl, locco, loccedo, oledc, recoll, rellic, rice, CROCODILE, decor, dice, dicer, docile, iced, lice, cooler, coill, cord, core, cred, creda, cred, colled, cold, colder, cole, colic, coled, coiled, coor, ciero, cider, circle, circled, clerck, clod, code, coll.

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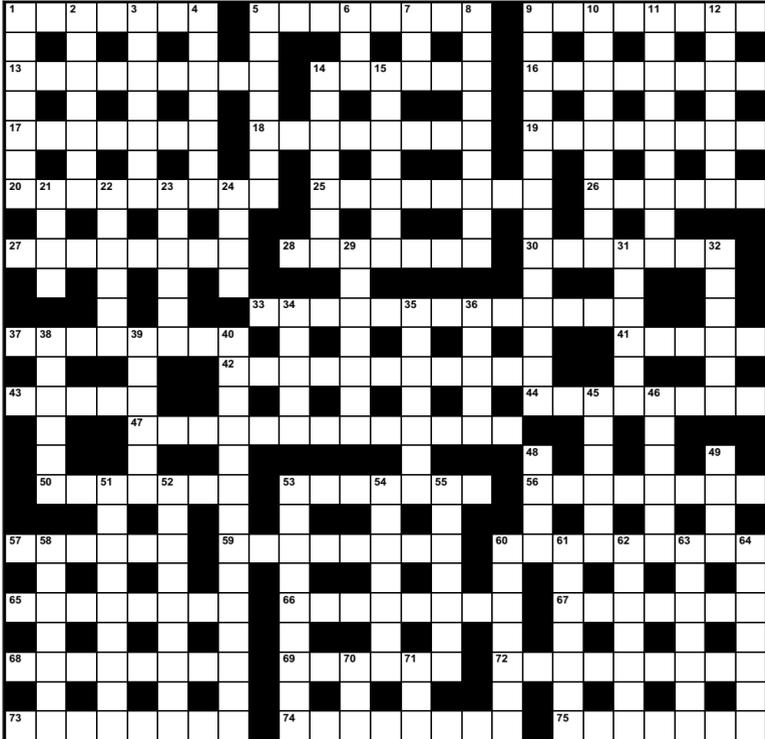
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**GIANT CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Unopened flower (7)
  - 5 Leads astray, morally (8)
  - 9 *Wicked and Cats*, for example (8)
  - 13 Body of work (9)
  - 14 African desert (6)
  - 16 Block of flats (8)
  - 17 Caesar salad fish (7)
  - 18 Lays roof with hay (8)
  - 19 Done to death (8)
  - 20 Sang lovingly to (9)
  - 25 Bloodsucker (8)
  - 26 Kicks out (6)
  - 27 Word-for-word (8)
  - 28 Aesthetic object (7)
  - 30 The very best (7)
  - 33 Acknowledgements of gratitude (13)
  - 37 Capital of Finland (8)
  - 41 Set free from binds (5)
  - 42 Lacking distinct features (11)
  - 43 Pack tightly (5)
  - 44 Computer programs (8)
  - 47 Listening in (13)
  - 50 Sakura, cherry - (7)
  - 53 Detectives (7)
  - 56 Laughing like a witch (8)
  - 57 Hitchcock film (6)
  - 59 Sled (8)
  - 60 *Addams Family* daughter (9)
  - 65 Casino game (8)
  - 66 California's prison island (8)
  - 67 Foolishly sentimental (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 Says again (7)
  - 2 More neatly dressed (7)
  - 3 Ignoramus (7)
  - 4 Late, as a train (7)
  - 5 Thickened and lumpy (7)
  - 6 Ribonucleic acid (1,1,1)
  - 7 It may disturb a princess' rest (3)
  - 8 Three Stooges' comedy style (9)
  - 9 Weather experts (14)
  - 10 Most heartfelt (9)
  - 11 Marx ideology (9)
  - 12 Not overly strict (7)
  - 14 Trip on one's words (7)
  - 15 War film, - *Ridge* (7)
  - 21 Female sheep (pl) (4)
  - 22 Funnybone locations (6)
  - 23 When leaves fall, perhaps (6)
  - 24 EGOT award (4)
  - 29 53-down's missile (7)
  - 31 Abusive remark (6)
  - 32 More slothful (6)
  - 34 Longed for (5)
- ACROSS**
- 35 Pilot's domain (7)
  - 36 Bird flu, - influenza (5)
  - 38 Lay to rest, bury (6)
  - 39 Concludes (6)
  - 40 At random intervals (14)
  - 45 Bird of prey (6)
  - 46 Captain Ahab's quarries (6)
  - 48 Deep pain (4)
  - 49 Irish singer (4)
  - 51 Swing back and forth (9)
  - 52 Flattest (9)
  - 53 Periscope warship (9)
  - 54 Raise in quality (7)
  - 55 C amount, to the Romans (7)
  - 58 Kilt pouch (7)
  - 60 Shrivelled with age (7)
  - 61 Harms (7)
  - 62 Educated (7)
  - 63 Most boring (7)
  - 64 Great river of China (7)
  - 70 Christen (3)
  - 71 Historical period (3)

**SOLUTION**



**BITS N PIECES**

Each of the clues corresponds to a five-letter word that contains the two red letters and three of the black letters below. The black letters may only be used once each.

**SOLUTION**  
UNDER, AZURE, TRUCE, GROUP

**RU + A C D E E E G N O P T Z**

- 1. Below
- 2. Sky-blue
- 3. Armistice
- 4. Aggregation

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