



14 FEB, 2024

LOVE RULES FOR TRUE SOULMATES

Adelaide Advertiser, Adelaide

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THE ADVERTISER




 HAPPY
 Valentine's Day

LOVE RULES FOR TRUE SOULMATES

'Until the depths do us part': Memorable and heartwarming romances

Evangeline Polymeneas

Love is in the air.

And South Australia is no exception.

In celebration of Valentine's Day, the Advertiser has collated some of the most memorable love stories from around the state that are bound to get you itching to say 'I do'.

From record-breaking ceremonies, high flying setups and doughnut shop weddings, here are some of the best.

HIRO YOSHIDA AND SANDRA SMITH

When Hiro Yoshida and Sandra Smith met in Vietnam in 2008 they were both diving instructors, six years later they broke a Guinness World Record for the deepest underwater wedding.

The couple tied the knot at 130m below the surface in a cave at Song Hong Lake, Trang, Thailand.

Originally from Japan Mr Yoshida and Ms Smith, from the US, now live in Adelaide with their four children.

While most weddings take planning and preparation, few require six hard months of the intensive training required for the couple to reach the record.

Throughout their vows the couple couldn't control their laughter as the helium in their gas mixture made their voices comically high pitched.

"As adventurous dive instructors, we crisscrossed the world, culminating in a breathtaking underwater wedding in a cave at the incredible depth of 130 metres," Mr Yoshida said.

"One of the quotes we had from our underwater wedding was, 'until the depths do us part'."

Mr Yoshida now teaches scientific diving at Flinders University while Ms Smith "dives into a sustainable future" with her master's in environmental management.

"Together we raise not just awareness but also beautiful children, surfacing joy and ad-

venture with every breath, above and below the waves," Mr Yoshida said.

ANITA AND EVAN LYMN

Evan Lymn had just finished a 15-day Contiki tour of New Zealand visiting Christchurch to Auckland when he made a last minute decision to extend his tour to continue to the Bay of Islands.

It was on that tour he met Anita.

"Eventually, we were intro-

duced by some friends that Evan had met while on the trip, who wanted us to connect, given we were the only travellers from Adelaide," Anita said.

"Evan sat next to me and promptly asked me to use my shoulder to have a nap, charmed by his move I said yes.

"It just goes to show how meaningful relationships can form from the most random encounters. If not for that New



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Zealand Contiki tour in 1994, well we wouldn't be here today."

The Contiki romance led to marriage and the couple now have two daughters.

The Lymn's weren't the only couple to get together from that 1994 New Zealand Contiki trip.

Janet and Michael from Canada both met on the same tour and continue to connect

with Anita and Evan to this day.

"I am so lucky that I found Michael. We are planning our retirement," Janet said.

"We met one another half-way around the world and are so grateful for the experience."

JOHN AND JOAN HUGHES

For Dr John Hughes and Mrs Joan Hughes, it was a cup of tea and a school pencil box in the middle of the Indian Ocean that set them on their path of marriage.

In 1957, John was the assistant ship's doctor on the P&O ship Arcadia, and Joan was a passenger, making her way to England with a friend to work as a physiotherapist.

"The steward was giving us a tour of the ship and stopped at John's cabin to introduce us," Joan recalls.

"Turns out John was having his after-lunch siesta. He woke up and came to the door in his dressing gown and slippers! My first thought was that he was a bit scruffy – but my opinion improved quickly after he invited us in for a cup of tea."

A fun activity on the voyage was for passengers to participate in a fancy hat parade. Joan decided to craft a hat and asked John if he had any supplies she could use.

"He pulled out his old school pencil box," Joan said. "I couldn't help but be impressed."

With Joan's career waiting for her in London, and John deployed on the Arcadia, it

wasn't smooth sailing for the couple, who settled into a long-distance relationship before they were engaged in 1958.

John agreed to move to Joan's hometown of Adelaide, and they were married at the Gartrell Memorial Church at Rose Park in 1969.

John had a successful career as an anaesthetist, opening his private practice in 1967.

Joan worked as a physiotherapist at Somerton Home, where she assisted children with polio and cerebral palsy, before going on to work for SCOSA.

Then, in 1998 they both retired and moved to a 10-acre farm at Inman Valley, where they bred alpacas.

The couple travelled extensively and even hopped on board a P&O Arcadia ship (not the original) in 2014 to celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary, and now enjoy life at Resthaven Malvern.

DARREN AND JENNIFER GROSSER

In the very late 1960s Jennifer Grosser's grandparents were left without a home or jobs after they had to leave their pub.

A publican named Douglas, who owned The British Hotel at Port Adelaide, heard what happened and asked them to manage his hotel and live in the upstairs accommodation.

Ten years later Darren Grosser was working as a casual barman at The Lockleys Hotel where Ms Grosser was socialising with old school friends.

After making subtle eye contact across the bar at each other Mr Grosser asked out Ms Grosser.

"On our first date we realised he was the son of the publican that threw my grandparents a life line," Ms Grosser said.

In another twist of fate, Ms Grosser's mother worked with Mr Grosser's aunty and would

often hang out together at family's houses.

"As our family paths had crossed many times we kind of feel that we were always meant to be," Mr Grosser said.

The couple began dating on March 30 in 1982, were engaged on December 24 in 1983, married on February 2 in 1985 and had children in 1990 and 1992.

"We love each other because we are best friends and

enjoy each other's company," Ms Grosser said.

"We both believe a marriage evolves throughout the years and you need to be prepared to work as a team for the long game."

IAN AND MEREDITH OTTWAY

A change in plans lead to love for Ian and Meredith Ottway.

In 2008, when Ian received the news he would have to alter plans for his upcoming holiday to Western Australia, little did he realise that Cupid's arrow was about to strike.

"I was living in Albury, Victoria, and I had a phone call to say the particular coach holiday I had booked was cancelled due to a lack of numbers," he said.

"The organiser offered me a spot at a different time, mentioning that the group would include some people from Adelaide. The change of date didn't bother me – I had retired from my career as a tailor in the army – so I said yes."

Also on that tour was Meredith, a retired schoolteacher from Prospect.

"We hit it off straight away," Meredith said.

"We always had things to talk about, and over the two-week holiday we found that our paths kept intertwining."

When the holiday finished, the couple shared a warm goodbye kiss, but they both knew they wanted to keep in



Anita and Evan Lymn





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touch.

Regular phone calls and visits took place, and it wasn't long before Ian made the move across the country.

He moved in with Meredith and, with the blessing of their children (they each have four), they decided to get married.

The couple tied the knot at Carrick Hill on May 13, 2012, surrounded by family and friends. Meredith was 73 and Ian was 77.

'When Meredith walked through the garden archway towards me, the foliage came up on either side and then dipped in the middle, forming the shape of a heart – it was just beautiful,' Ian said.

In 2022, Ian and Meredith moved into Resthaven Westbourne Park where they continue to enjoy life together.

CAROL PIETERSE AND CHRIS MORTON

Carol Pieterse placed an advertisement in The Advertiser the Friday before Valentine's Day in 2007 looking for love.

Chris Morton answered her calls and the pair have been inseparable ever since.

"We love each other as we have a lot of things in common from gaming Xbox, Star Wars, Star Trek, fishing, art and love rabbits," Ms Pieterse, 58, said.

The pair are parents to bunny Arbuke affectionately known as Arby.

Together for 18 years, Mr Morton, 47, became Ms Pieterse's full-time career nine years ago after she was diagnosed with degenerative scoliosis.



Hiro Yoshida and Sandra Smith with their children.



John and Joan Hughes



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Ian and Meredith Ottway



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Jennifer and Darren Grosser met in The Lockley's Pub and had more connection then they realised. Picture: Supplied