

A message to the community

From the desk of Elizabeth Hoyt

I have been deeply moved by the incredible community support for the one-year anniversary of Barossa Palms.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our business partners, neighbours, sporting colleagues, friends, and family who have helped champion the growth and renewal of the Barossa Palms Motel.

Revitalising the Barossa's oldest motel has been a true passion project. Although this is very much my second career, I feel that every step of my journey has led me here and prepared me for this point in time.

For 17 years, I worked in government, including with the United Nations in Kenya and China, as an economic adviser in the Prime Minister's Department under Prime Ministers' Rudd, Gillard, Abbott and Turnbull, and with the US Government.

Those years honed my skills in project management, marketing, and communications — all of which have proven invaluable in this new chapter.

During that time, my husband Dan Hoyt and I also renovated 11 homes over 10 years and managed some of them as Airbnbs, developing a love for design, transformation and the art of hospitality.

While living in the United States for six years, including through the COVID-19 pandemic, my priorities shifted.

I longed to return to Australia and

pursue something more tangible, creative and in line with the renovating, which I loved — something that also brought people joy and connection.

When my Dad, who owned the Barossa Gateway Motel, suggested we might like to take the motel on, the idea sparked something special.

Having already managed several successful short-term rentals in Canberra, Idaho and Tennessee, Dan and I knew we were ready for a new challenge.

After much thought, we decided to take the leap — to bring new life to the motel and test our skills on a grander scale.

I officially took over management on October 1, 2024.

The transformation I envisioned called for a complete rebrand, and after much reflection, the name Barossa Palms felt perfect.

Palm trees, to me, evoke a sense of calm and escape — that feeling of being on holiday.

It was also symbolic, as my Dad had planted several palms around the property back in 1999.

Beyond that, palm trees are woven into the cultural fabric of the Barossa, with Seppeltsfield's historic palms serving as a reminder of community resilience during the Depression era.

From these inspirations — a love of nature, health, and wellness — the vision for Barossa Palms was born.



Dan and Elizabeth Hoyt with their two children, Evelyn, aged seven and Grayson, aged nine.

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A complete reimagining



Elizabeth Hoyt and her father Geoff Payne, who was the former owner of the Hotel.

"This is more than a renovation, it's a complete reimagining of what the property can offer," says Elizabeth Hoyt, owner of Barossa Palms.

Over the past 12 months, the property has undergone extensive renovations and refurbishments to elevate the experience for guests.

Elizabeth worked with local interior designer Janelle Hueppauff from The Design Studio Barossa, to enhance both the comfort and functionality of the rooms.

Deluxe Queen Rooms were stripped down and redesigned, and now showcase

Mediterranean sandstone tiles, with luxury gold fixtures.

Beyond the rooms, Barossa Palms has introduced a selection of amenities as part of the renovations that enhance relaxation, wellness and convenience.

Guests can enjoy access to a fully equipped fitness centre, day spa, champagne and coffee lounge with a communal leisure space, whiskey parlour in the rediscovered cellar, wellness lounge, gift shop and communal kitchen.

The transformation also introduces new accommodation options, including the Spa Apartment, designed to offer an immersive wellness retreat within a private space; with its own hot tub, living room, modern neon selfie sign, and a Balinese hut with hanging pod chair.

Looking ahead, additional health and wellness amenities are slated for 2026, further enriching the guest experience.

"Barossa Palms was created to provide guests with a space that combines comfort, wellness, and functionality while maintaining the approachable charm of the Barossa Valley," said Elizabeth.

Every corner of Barossa Palms has been passionately designed with wellness, community, and relaxation at its heart.

Barossa Palms now stands as a welcoming destination for travellers seeking leisure or a temporary home base in the heart of one of Australia's most iconic wine regions.



Staying at 'The Palms'



The Barossa Palms Motel is a family-owned and operated property, offering a warm, personalised experience.

As the oldest motel in the Barossa Valley, the Barossa Palms carries a touch of local history.

Not only does its charming retro design evoke a sense of nostalgia, its recent renovations mean customers are afforded the comfort and convenience of modern amenities.

Owner Elizabeth Hoyt says guests love the motel's "classic drive-up style".

"Many people book at Barossa Palms because they love the convenience, security and ease of being able to drive straight up to their room," she said.

"It's ideal for travellers with lots of luggage, guests with mobility considerations, or anyone who simply enjoys having their vehicle close by."

Barossa Palms offers an affordable and convenient base for those looking to explore everything the region has to offer.

The 19 ground-floor units include a private ensuite, TV and kitchen, providing guests a comfortable place to relax and to easily prepare breakfast or light meals in-room.

Elizabeth said that modern lifestyles

have changed since the hotel was built in the 1960s, and that she noticed guests were becoming more health conscious.

As part of the renovations, she made sure Barossa Palms included a new fitness centre, day spa and wellness lounge, with complimentary herbal teas, a small shop, and cosy seating.

The fitness centre features both cardio and strength training zones and if you're looking to relax and rejuvenate, the day spa is the perfect place to recharge with zero-gravity massage chairs and ionic detox foot spas.

Guests can enjoy a modern breakfast room and guest lounge with complimentary coffee bar and custom pool table, a soon to be open whiskey parlour in the rediscovered cellar and a new communal kitchen, which allows guests to prepare and enjoy home-style meals during their stay.

The communal kitchen and dining area is also ideal hosting small group meetings.

And for those looking to share their stay on social media, the green garden wall in the champagne lounge is the perfect spot to snap some photos with friends and family.

GRATEFUL FOR THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ANGASTON VINEYARDS MOTEL AND BAROSSA PALMS



We're raising a glass
(of Barossa Shiraz, of course) to my
wife Elizabeth and the Barossa Palms
team on their stunning refurbishment
of the Valley's oldest motel.

From one family run motel
to another, congratulations on your
brilliant transformation.

I couldn't be prouder... or more excited
and inspired to keep up!

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A place to relax and rejuvenate



Kiesha Johnson, Elizabeth Hoyt and Belinda Kerezsi in the fully equipped Fitness Centre at Barossa Palms.

By Elizabeth Hoyt

Health and wellness are woven throughout every aspect of Barossa Palms.

Wellness has always been deeply important to me – I have a longstanding passion for holistic health, nutrition, and fitness.

Feeling physically and mentally strong allows me to bring my best to both work and life.

When I travel, I'm drawn to places that feel fresh, clean, and uplifting, and that same philosophy underpins everything we create at Barossa Palms.

At Barossa Palms, wellness isn't just an added feature – it's a core part of our philosophy.

Modern travellers increasingly seek more than a comfortable bed; they look for spaces that nurture both body and mind.

Our aim is to provide an environment that supports physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing – from restful sleep and invigorating workouts to calm, restorative spaces designed for relaxation.

Guests can enjoy a range of thoughtfully curated amenities designed to enhance

their stay in the beautiful Barossa Valley. Fitness Centre – A fully equipped gym featuring both cardio and strength training zones.

Massage Room – Offering zero-gravity massage chairs and ionic foot spa services for ultimate relaxation.

Wellness Lounge – A tranquil space serving complimentary herbal teas and featuring a boutique gift shop showcasing local artisanal products.

Communal Kitchen and Dining Room – Perfect for group bookings, complete with a small hand-selected library to encourage conversation and connection.

Coming Soon: A Whiskey and Wine Cellar Lounge, created to inspire joy, connection, and shared experiences.

Wellness at Barossa Palms extends beyond the gym and wellness lounge.

The newly refurbished Deluxe Queen Rooms feature calming lighting, natural textures, rainfall shower heads, and a soothing aesthetic that encourages deep rest and relaxation.

At Barossa Palms, every detail has been thoughtfully considered to create a restorative and memorable experience – a place where guests can relax, recharge, and reconnect with themselves in the heart of the Barossa Valley.

Congratulations to the Barossa Palms!

It's great to see new life breathed into a much-loved local business, with the recent renovations at the Barossa Palms Motel marking a positive step forward for both the motel and the wider Barossa community.

The upgraded rooms, fresh modern look and improved amenities will make a real difference for visitors coming to experience everything our region has to offer.

From world-class wineries to local markets and small businesses that give the Barossa its unique charm.

Local accommodation providers like the Barossa Palms play an important role in supporting tourism and creating local jobs.

When visitors stay longer, they visit our shops and enjoy our hospitality, keeping our regional economy strong.

I want to congratulate Elizabeth and her staff for their hard work and vision in bringing this project to life. It's a great example of a small business investing in the community's future.

The Barossa Valley has always been about warmth, connection and pride, and the newly renovated Barossa Palms Motel captures exactly that spirit.



**Tony Pasin MP,
Federal Member for Barker**



Kiesha Johnson and Elizabeth Hoyt in the Wellness Lounge and Gift Shop.



Mayor Lange dropped in to view the new renovations to the Barossa Palms Motel at Nuriootpa and congratulated Elizabeth and her crew for the significant investment and the enhancement of the facility. Mayor Lange commended Elizabeth on the quality of the rooms, including the gym and the overall presentation of the Motel.



A Whiskey and Wine Cellar Lounge is the latest edition for Barossa Palms.



The wellness spa is a place where guests are able to relax and rejuvenate.



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1962

1974

1991

1999



Barossa Palms was built by businessman Ron Carrera from 1962 onward. He built it with bricks from the local brickworks at Nuriootpa. It was originally built on the Sturt Highway before the Sturt Highway moved.



In 1974 Ron and Von Hudson took over the motel as a family. It was known as the Sturt Highway Motel. The restaurant was known as the Shiraz Room, which was a popular local restaurant, and they owned it for four years.



Even The Leader's own Tony Robinson held his 21st Birthday in the 'Shiraz Room'.



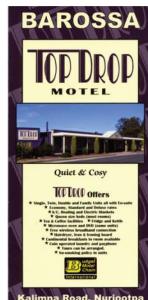
New owners called it the Barossa Gateway Motor Inn. The property was operated by Anne McDonald.



From 1991 it was owned by Rita Kuhl/Modistach. The name was changed from Barossa Gateway Motor Inn to Barossa Gateway Motel. The restaurant was a Dutch restaurant due to Rita's Dutch heritage offering Dutch foods such as Dutch croquettes, pea soup, and Oliebollen (Dutch donuts).



Geoff and Judy Payne moved from the Murray Mallee and bought the motel on February 10, 1999, renaming it the Barossa Gateway Motel. Elizabeth Hoyt (nee Elizabeth Payne) had her 21st birthday at the motel in 2002.



Geoffrey Payne and Rowena Lauson operated the motel from 2014 with various managers assisting, under the former name, the Barossa Gateway Motel.



2024



Elizabeth Hoyt took ownership of the Barossa Gateway Motel on October 1, 2024, rebranding it under its current name, the Barossa Palms Motel.

2014

2005



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Belinda Kerezsi
What is your role?

Guest Services Manager.

What do you love about living in the Barossa?

What's not to love? It's in a central position to be close enough to major shops etc, without being too close to the city.

What is something you do to remain fit and healthy?

Limit my sugar intake, get my steps in, drink plenty of water and exercise when I can. After work one day we did a massage session, yoga session and then jumped in the sauna. That was nice. I don't know many workplaces that would do that.


Dan Hoyt
What does a typical day look like for you?

I am at the Angaston Vineyards Motel everyday but if time allows, I like to go have lunch with my wife at Barossa Palms or at local cafes and restaurants.

Do you have a funny or memorable story to share?

My wife trying to sledgehammer three layers and 60 years of tiles off the floor.

What is something you do to remain fit and healthy?

I try and keep up with my son on runs as well as mowing lawns.


Kiesha Johnson
What is your role?

I'm the Manager of Guest Services here at Barossa Palms. My role covers a little bit of everything, from looking after our guests and overseeing the daily operations to helping with styling, creative projects, and social media. Every day brings something new, and I love being part of creating an experience that feels welcoming and memorable for every guest.

What does a typical day look like for you?

No two days ever look the same, which keeps things exciting! Most mornings start with opening up the property, getting everything ready for the day, and making sure our guests have the best possible stay. Some days are all about cleaning and organising, others might be spent in front (or behind) the camera for content shoots or working on creative ideas. It's busy, but I love the variety and energy of it all.

Do you have a funny or memorable story to share?

Some of my favourite moments come from the stories shared by our guests. People come to the Barossa for so many different reasons such as birthdays, anniversaries, reunions, or just to unwind. Hearing their experiences and memories is honestly such a highlight...


Elizabeth Hoyt
What is your role?

Everything from cleaning rooms and managing guest services to bookkeeping, inventory, laundry, marketing, social media, comms, maintenance, renovations, and all things design and styling. I wear a lot of hats! Every detail matters when it comes to creating a space that feels special for our guests.

What does a typical day look like for you?

I wouldn't say we have a typical type of day, however each day revolves around making the guest experience as seamless and enjoyable as possible. I'm constantly thinking of new ways to add warmth, improve, and create relaxing spaces and small, personalised touches that help people unwind and truly enjoy their stay.

What is the best part about working at Barossa Palms?

I love that we're building a space centred around health, wellness, and restoration. Everyone needs that in their lives, and it's such a privilege to offer it to our guests. I also love the friendships that form — many of our guests are return guests and become part of the Barossa Palms family. Those connections are special.

What is something you do to remain fit and healthy?

Health and fitness are a big part of my life. I was super into athletics while in high school, and my love for running has always stayed with me. I do Park Runs in the Bushgardens (though I can't quite keep up with my son — he's amazing!). I earned my yoga teacher certification while living in Boise, Idaho, and I still practise semi-regularly. I played basketball for the Angaston Panthers for two seasons and proudly received the Team Spirit Award both years — I'm definitely a loud cheerer!


Paul Braunack
What is your role?

Maintenance Manager - General preventative maintenance, renovations, and special projects as required.

What is the best part about working for Barossa Palms?

To simply feel welcome and be a part of this innovative team and to be able to share my experience, knowledge and gifts and skills, combined with collective skills focussed on a shared common outlook. Helping each other reach goals through continuous improvement both personally and professionally...


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