

CELEBRATING *Family Owned Business*

Barossa Palms and Angaston Vineyards Motels



Grayson Hoyt, Elizabeth Hoyt, Evelyn Hoyt and Dan Hoyt.

How many years has your family-owned business been operating, and how did it all begin?

Barossa Palms Motel (formerly the Gateway Motel) has been in and out of the family since 1999, and the Angaston Vineyards Motel since 2013.

My parents, Geoff and Judy Payne, first moved to the Barossa in 1999. I spent years working and studying abroad — in China, Kenya, Mexico and the US — before life eventually led my husband and I back to the Valley to take on the family businesses. The Barossa is a

wonderful place to raise a family and enjoy world-class wine and food!

How has your business evolved over the years?

My brother Geoff and his wife Danielle ran the Angaston Vineyards Motel for about 10 years, doing a fantastic job rejuvenating it before moving on to new ventures. They currently run Bazinga Cards, Collectibles & Arcade and Little Rockets Play Café in the Barossa. Dan and I are now continuing the family legacy at the Vineyards Motel with plenty of exciting projects in the works.

Since taking over Barossa Palms Motel in October last year, we've introduced a fitness centre, a day spa with zero-gravity massage chairs, a wellness lounge and boutique gift shop, a coffee bar and pool table in the lobby, and a communal kitchen — all designed to help guests relax, connect, and truly enjoy their stay.

How does being a family-run business shape your values and daily decisions?

Family always comes first. We feel grateful to have the flexibility to spend time with our young children while running the business. They even help out as our "junior managers" on weekends — greeting guests and learning the ropes. It's beautiful to see

them take pride in being part of it all.

What sets your family business apart?

Guests know that when they stay with us, they'll be cared for — because we genuinely care. We go the extra mile for special occasions or simply when someone needs a little extra kindness. Our kids, Evelyn (aged seven) and Grayson (nine), are customer service naturals, often offering guests extra cookies, drinks, or kindness cards. Guests love it and that heartfelt touch is something you only find in a true family-run business.

Can you share a time your family values helped you overcome a challenge?

Renovating motels while staying fully booked is no small feat! There have been many late nights ensuring everything is guest-ready. But our close-knit team — family and staff alike — always pulls together. That teamwork, shared passion and sense of family are what make it all worthwhile.

How do you build customer loyalty?

We treat every guest like family. Many of our regulars have become dear friends. We are part of their story, and they are part of ours. That genuine connection keeps people coming back.

Mayor's Message: Celebrating the Redevelopment of Barossa Palms

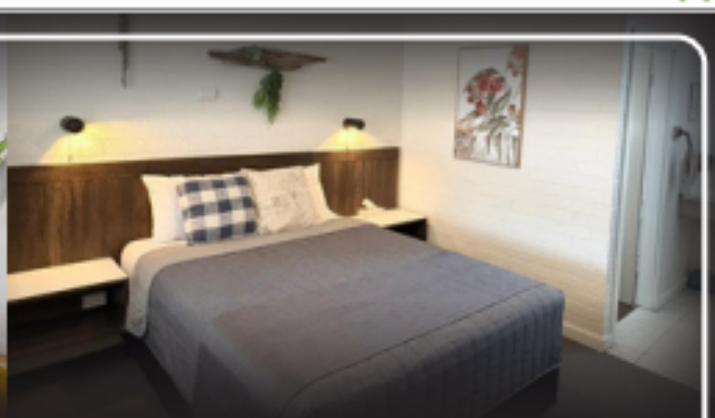
On behalf of the Light Regional Council, I would like to congratulate Elizabeth and Dan Hoyt and their team on the impressive redevelopment of Barossa Palms.

The transformation of Barossa Palms into a boutique wellness accommodation retreat not only revitalises a well-known local site but also strengthens our tourism offering across the region. I'm additionally delighted by the rebranding of this site into "Barossa Palms", given the cultural and historical significance of Palm Trees to the region.

On a personal note, I've had the pleasure of knowing Elizabeth since 2001, when she spent six months living and studying in China with my daughter, Sarah Close. If she approaches Barossa Palms with the same passion, curiosity, and sense of adventure she showed then, I have every confidence the continued redevelopment of Barossa Palms will be a great success.

Congratulations once again to Elizabeth and Dan and everyone involved in this exciting new chapter for Barossa Palms — a testament to how creativity, courage, and true family spirit continue to shape the future of our local small businesses and our region.

Mayor Bill Close - Light Regional Council



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5-9 Kalimna Road, Nuriootpa
+61 8 8562 1033 | stay@barossapalms.com
barossapalms.com f @



LOCAL FAMILY RUN BUSINESS

751 Stockwell Road, Angaston
+61 8 8564 2404 | stay@angastonvineyardsmotel.com
f @ angastonvineyardsmotel.com