

For the busload of Thai pre-school children, 'home' meant shelters made of cardboard or plastic sheeting. Their parents had been too poor to register their births, so they had no rights to schooling. On weekdays, however, they were enrolled at Pattaya's Australian-run charitable Hand to Hand Foundation and one of its devoted volunteers had decided to shout them all a day out at an animal farm.

During one of her three-week stints at the charity, Anna Jadach took her 30 pre-schoolers around the Pattaya Sheep Farm's petting zoo, the fairy castle, Snow White and the dinosaurs - to the amazed enchantment of the slum children. At Pattaya she lets loose all her maternal instincts and the children are the blissful beneficiaries.



As a youngster herself, Anna lived beside beautiful Lake Como in Northern Italy. However the idyllic tourist brochures do not portray the lean times suffered by some inhabitants. Her father was a union leader in the cement industry. Her stay-at-home mother came from Reggio Calabria and had two brothers already happily resident in Adelaide. The Italian economy was not looking promising, so when Anna was nine years old the family and their closest relatives took the plunge and emigrated to Adelaide.

Her first school was run by Catholic nuns, who were very kind and helpful to the nine-year-old with no knowledge of English. Thankfully her Adelaide cousins were already enrolled at the same primary school, so there was no bullying of the newcomer.

High school was a different matter. An all-girl establishment, it featured a lot of harassment of migrant students, but not, surprisingly of Anna. Ever an original, never a victim, our Anna does not fit any of the conventional moulds. When she rose to defend other migrant girls, she demanded to know why were they being bullied, and not her. "You're different," was the reply. Vive la difference.

Her hardworking family prospering, Anna's first job was a fairly lowly office one at an agricultural machinery firm, and as soon as the bosses realised their luck she was put in charge of stock and despatch. Moving on to work on promotions for Phillip Morris, she married. Far too young : she was 19 and her delightful Argentinian husband just 22. They lasted four years together.

Husband No. 2 emerged when Anna moved to work in Sydney for Hanna Match, the promotional material distributors. This time her groom was an Australian. They travelled together as a successful sales team and bought a house on the Gold Coast. Her next employer was the well publicised developer Mike Gore, who was so very fond of white footwear. Sanctuary Cove was under construction and Anna was appointed as part of a two-person team to run events attracting crowds to the resort village. Their first was the International Boat Show, filling the marina with over 250 craft.

They ran jazz festivals (with stars like Tommy Emmanuel and James Morrison), attracted names like Ita Buttrose and Sonia McMahon to fashion parades, and for the 1988 official opening of the resort staged a concert featuring 'Ol Blue Eyes' Frank Sinatra, Whitney Houston and Peter Allen,

the latter delighting Anna by dancing on the piano. They regularly organised 60 events each year, endearing themselves to the Sanctuary Cove village tenants to such lengths that the grateful traders clubbed together to present them with two plaques of appreciation for their outstanding efforts.

Sadly the marriage dissolved in the late 1980s and in 1990 Anna took herself on a recuperative holiday to Club Med Moorea in Tahiti. Also holidaying there was a golf-mad art collector from Southern California, called Ron Jadach. This was one holiday romance that lasted the distance. After 'phone calls, letters and visits back and forth across the Pacific, Anna found herself celebrating her 1991 birthday in Southern California, where the enterprising Mr Jadach did not let on that he had applied for Australian residency.

So in October 1991 Ron moved to the Gold Coast for his dream job (and girlfriend) as Director of Golf at Sanctuary Cove. More than slightly fond of travel, they whisked around the world a bit and when walking on the Whitsunday's famous Whitehaven Beach one day she agreed to be brave and take the matrimonial plunge again. Their marriage was in Mauritius and the honeymoon in the Seychelles. Back on the Gold Coast Anna continued in her dynamic duo, running events at Sanctuary Cove, but in 2003 they saw a lovely townhouse in Coolum with a very Italian style private courtyard, so they bought it.

That townhouse now boasts many of Ron's favourite pieces of art. Undoubtedly the most amazing is the sculpture of a silverback gorilla gently cuddling a tiny kitten. And if you did not visit the San Francisco Zoo during her 46-year



lifetime, you would not recognise its famous inhabitant Koko, celebrated as the first gorilla to become fluent in American Sign Language. The very communicative Koko adored kittens, and had several as companions over the years.



When Ron was enticed by an offer to work as Manager of the Peregian Springs Golf Club, it became time for Anna to leave her dream job and join him on the Sunshine Coast. In 2004 she started working at the Coolum's Hyatt Spa, doing therapeutic massage and later that year took on Peregian Springs' Aveo Country Club as well. With a diploma in beauty therapy under her arm she now concentrates solely on her work at Aveo.

Travel entails at least one big trip each year. Europe features a lot, along with Mexico which was chosen for their 10th wedding anniversary. A standout success was the adventure inspired by the late Brian Goldberg, a fellow member of the Bridge Club. Coming from South Africa himself, Brian mapped out a marvellous itinerary which included Cape Town and a special game reserve

visit to Sabi Sands. The Jadachs (and the Thiebauds) also explored Botswana's Okavango Delta and Namibia's massive desert sand dunes at Sossusvlei. When you think 'sand dune', forget our local beaches : in Namibia they range in height to 383 metres.

Having dementia in the family can be tragic, but also swells bridge club enrolments across the world by those keen to avoid it. The ever energetic Anna decided to keep her own brain cells behaving themselves by joining our Club, taking lessons with the brilliant Lizzi French in 2014.

Anna has now taken over from Gayna Ryan the responsibility of handling entries for our Bridge Club congresses, helping with planning and supervising catering on the day. Participants are not promised Peter Allen dancing on the piano or even Sinatra (for a start both are no longer available to mere mortals). However our Anna is still in events mode. Vive la difference.



by Susie Osmaston