

Why the Grices have joined a wave of migrants to SA

This beach is better, mum

WOLVERHAMPTON

- > **Population:** 239,100
- > **Average temperature:** Summer 21C, winter 7C
- > **Places to visit:** Aerospace Museum, Bilston Craft Gallery and Museum, Weston Park, Wolverhampton Art Gallery and Wightwick Manor
- > **Good points:** Close to London, Wolverhampton has a history spanning more than 1000 years. Close to Birmingham shopping centres and the city has a strong car manufacturing industry
- > **Bad points:** High cost of living, traffic is congested and there is cold weather most months. Many beaches covered in rocks and shingles

ADELAIDE

- > **Population:** 1,079,200
- > **Average temperature:** Summer 29C, winter 15C
- > **Places to visit:** Central Market, beaches, Botanic Garden, SA Museum, SA Art Galley, Jetty Rd shopping precinct, parklands, Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale
- > **Good points:** Affordable cost of living, easy to get to destinations by car and accessible wineries and beaches. Relaxed lifestyle
- > **Bad points:** Are you kidding?

PORT NOARLUNGA



THIS IS THE LIFE: Nick and Liz Grice with their daughters Poppy (left) and Kizzy at sandy Port Noarlunga beach. **Picture:** Dylan Coker

Sophie Elsworth

THEY came in their droves in the 1960s and now South Australia is experiencing another wave of migrants from the United Kingdom.

Latest figures show 1725 Britons settled here in the 2004-05 financial year.

It is the highest number in a decade - the lowest level was 495 in 2000-01.

In total, 6364 migrants moved to SA with a significant influx also from China (513), Sudan (407), India (404) and New Zealand (327).

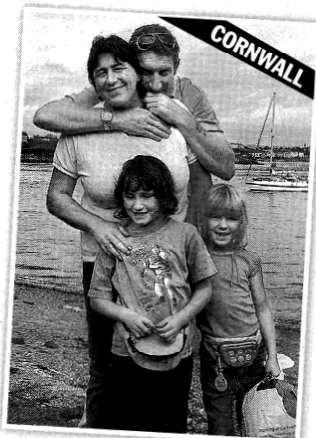
The significant increase is due largely to a new scheme aimed at overcoming a chronic shortage of skilled workers.

Underpinning that is a steady increase in those moving for a better lifestyle.

Typical of those who have moved here is the Grice family, who bought a house at Morphet Vale almost 12 months ago - and say it's the best thing they've done.

Nick, 42, and Liz, 40, and daughters Kizzy, 9, and Poppy, 8, left Wolverhampton, in England, and describe their new surrounds as "amazing".

University of Adelaide geography professor,



OUCH: On the shingle beach at Mt Edgecumbe - where shoes are a must

Graeme Hugo, said extensive recruiting for workers had paid off. "SA and the UK traditionally have a strong link, more so than some of the other states, whereas in Sydney and Melbourne you'll get more Asian migrants," he said.

Under a Federal Government scheme, migrants in high-demand

trend over the past decade," Immigration Minister Senator Amanda Vanstone said.

"There had been a gradual increase in the number of migrants in the past 10 years; in 1994-95 just 87,000 settlers arrived.

"Australia has a wonderfully rich and diverse society as a result, with nearly one in four of 20 million people born overseas.

"Our ongoing commitment to new and innovative visa programs... means Australia continues to attract more and more people from around the globe."

Mrs Grice says life in Australia has been "so much better".

"We were living in a two-bedroom house with a postage stamp-sized garden in England and now live in a four-bedroom house with two bathrooms and a big garden," she said.

"We'd seen lots of brochures and found information on the Internet about Adelaide and decided we wanted to move."

"The Skilled Independent Regional Visa made it easier for us to move."

Mr Grice said the change of lifestyle had been "amazing".

"We didn't own a house and now we do," he said. "We're so much happier."

jobs are given special dispensation to settle in SA and other so-called "regional areas" away from the major cities on the eastern seaboard.

More than 123,000 people settled in Australia in the 2004-05 period, an increase of more than 11,000 on the previous year.

"This rise is in line with a general upwards