

The read

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'September, October and November are our busiest months, every single year'



IDEAL INTRODUCTIONS FOUNDER AND PROFESSIONAL MATCHMAKER LINDA PRESCOTT



SUMMER LOVIN'

HOT STUFF: THE APPROACHING QUEENSLAND SUMMER MAKES BRISBANE PEOPLE WANT TO PAIR UP. MAYBE IT'S ALL THE BARE SKIN, SHORT SHORTS, LONG DAYS AND HOT NIGHTS? WHATEVER IT IS, THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE APPROACHING FESTIVE SEASON THAT MOTIVATES SINGLES TO FIND THEIR PERFECT MATCH

BELIEVE it or not the urge to find a mate during the warmer months increases as summer approaches, according to dating experts.

Personally, there seems nothing more *unappealing* than sweaty summer sex but each to their own.

Perhaps it's all the rooftop parties and barbecues by the pool where everyone is half-naked and fully drunk.

Eyes meet, hands touch and before you know it, it's winter and you realise the couch potato sitting next to you is someone you barely know. Suddenly you find yourself wondering, "what the hell happened last

summer?". According to Ideal Introductions founder and professional matchmaker Linda Prescott, summer really was meant for lovin'.

"As soon as September happens and the sun comes out, we get a lot of applicants - it's usually straight after (television series) *Farmer Wants A Wife* finishes," Ms Prescott says.

"September, October and November are our busiest months, every single year."

While the latter part of December tends to be quiet, by mid-January people start acting on their New Year's resolutions to no longer be alone and business picks up again, says Ms Prescott.

"People are creatures of habit and this is my 20th year doing this. I can look back at every year at the amount of people who are joining and our database now is 20 per cent bigger than it was three years ago because it's becoming more socially acceptable but the actual increase statistically is still the same," she says.

US-based dating website Match.com marketing manager Missy Moore agreed that finding love was near the top of the list when it came to New Year's resolutions and more people tended to jump online during this time.

Match.com hosts sites in 25 countries, including



BLISS: Graham and Sarah Smithers met in 2008 through Ideal Introductions and married 18 months later.

DATING GAME: Jo Thomas plays Jezebel in the play *Often I Find That I Am Naked* at the Judith Wright Centre. Picture: PAUL GUY

She tries speed dating only to meet all the wrong men and progresses to internet dating, only to find herself becoming a bit of a stalker.

"In the play we also look at that sense of real loneliness that can come for single people - single households are the fastest growing households in Australia," Ms Thomas said.

Through Ideal Introductions, applicants must sit through a one-hour interview so Prescott and her team can figure out who will match up with whom.

This differs quite a bit to jumping online, posting a photo of yourself taken at the best angle and penning a 'profile' which may or may not be entirely true.

One 20-something who chose to join Ideal Introductions as the festive season approached is Sarah Smithers who eventually met her husband, Graham, through the agency.

Mrs Smithers was 26 and Graham, 28, when they met in March 2008.

She said she preferred the one-hour interview because she knew whomever she met through Prescott's service would go through the same thing. She and Graham were married in September 2009 and now have a nine-month old son, Adam.

Australia. A recent study of more than 11,000 people revealed one in five new committed relationships, including marriages, were between people who met on an online dating site.

But does using services such as Prescott's matchmaking or going through an online dating site really make a difference in finding "the one"?

Producer and star of the play *Often I Find That I Am Naked*, Jo Thomas, said finding someone to share your life with, was the eternal crusade.

"I sort of wonder if the technologies like internet and speed dating, are taking us further apart instead of

fostering good communication and that getting to know you stage," Ms Thomas says.

"It's so easy to break a date or dump someone via a text and I just wonder if we're losing those skills of real communication and conversation. Traditionally it's always been at work where you meet someone or through friends, but what do you do when all your friends are married and starting down the children line and you're the one who's left?"

Thomas takes the role of Jezebel in the play which opens tonight at the Judith Wright Centre.

Jezebel is a modern single girl trying to find a guy.