

# News Release

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## Tony Piccolo MP

*State Member for Light  
Deputy Speaker, House of Assembly  
Chair, Volunteer Ministerial Advisory Group  
Deputy Chair, Business Development Council  
National Convenor, F.I.A.P.*

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2012

### **Kornacraft Stitch Up Craft and Sewing Market**

Craft and sewing enthusiasts have a new place to go to in Gawler to source all their supplies with the opening of the Kornacraft Sewing Centre at 108 Murray Street.

The new centre, which was officially opened by local State Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo on Friday, is the result of a merger of a number of small businesses which go back to the early '70's.

Mr Piccolo said from humble beginnings in 1973, to new premises and new name, the history of the Kornacraft Sewing Centre traverses a number of families and several businesses.

A dedicated crowd outside the Kornacraft Sewing Centre had smiles on their faces as Mr Piccolo spoke about the interesting history of the Kornacraft name.

The late Barry Lewis ran the Kornacraft business in Murray Street from the late '70s having taken over the business from his father who opened a store on Adelaide Road in 1973. In addition to craft supplies Barry also ran his framing business from the site.

While in 1970 Merle and Max Rodgers started the Gawler Singer Shop in what is now the Telstra Shop. While Max undertook repairs to sewing machines, Merle concentrated on the sale of fashion fabrics and accessories.

Mr Piccolo said he remembers going to the Singer Shop with his mother when he was a boy.

"In those days mum had limited English skills and I would interpret for her," Mr Piccolo said.

The Singer Sewing Shop became the Gawler & Barossa Sewing Centre in 1994 when Marie Argent purchased it. They ran a second store in Tanunda with the help of Max and Merle's daughter, Jenni Fenton, who currently works in the new Kornacraft Sewing Centre.

In late 1990 the 2 business joined and began trading from 144 Murray St and was purchased by current owners Kim and Chris Peake in 2005.

"In recognition and acknowledgment of the history of the Business, Kim and Chris have decided to pay their respects by renaming the business the Kornacraft Sewing Centre," Mr Piccolo said.

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