

# Irena & Locky

## We're HEALING TOGETHER'

THE NEWLYWEDS HAVE FACED CHALLENGES IN THEIR FIRST MONTHS OF MARRIAGE



Locky has been supporting Irena through the good times and bad.

In the whirlwind four months since Locky and Irena Gilbert tied the knot, the couple have experienced some amazing highs. The pair, who met while filming the 2020 season of *The Bachelor*, tied the knot during a surprise ceremony in Melbourne in March, before jetting straight off to Fiji for their romantic honeymoon.

"You know Locky, he's always on the move so we went snorkelling, hiking and out on a catamaran," Irena tells WHO with a laugh. "But there was also lots of laying around by the pool just relaxing too. It was blissful."

Upon returning to Perth, the nurse and adventure guide, both 33, were eager to get on with the next chapter of their lives. This included finishing the renovations on the home they purchased together in May 2022.

"We've finished all the painting and landscaping and added a second bathroom," Irena reveals. "I've even been getting on the tools myself."

It wasn't long before the thrill-seeking pair turned their thoughts to beginning their biggest adventure yet and starting a family.

"Right from our first date [on *The Bachelor*], Locky and I have been talking about having kids," Irena says. "He has twins in his family, so I've always thought how nice it would be to have twins."

Things got off to a "perfect start" when Irena quickly fell pregnant. "It was such a shock that it happened so quickly," Irena says. "We were absolutely over the moon."

But the celebrations were short-lived when Irena miscarried in June. It was her second experience with early pregnancy loss, having also suffered a miscarriage in 2021.

"It was a really emotional and difficult time for both of us, but Locky was my absolute rock," Irena says. "Being the



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 "I never thought I would get married," Irena tells us. "The best part of married life for me is knowing that Locky and I are starting our lives together, to know we'll always be there to support each other and start a family of our own."

Irena is the first to admit her picture-perfect life is, in reality, a mix of "highs and lows".

second time, it did raise a lot of issues for me. I started to ask myself, 'Am I too old? Have I missed the boat?'"

The extra support Irena needed came from an unexpected place, undergoing counselling through Red Nose Australia. The organisation, which has been instrumental in helping to decrease the rate of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome since the 1970s, has expanded its services to include supporting families following the tragic death of their baby or child during pregnancy, infancy and the younger years.

"They have an over-the-phone counselling service which is free to use," Irena explains.

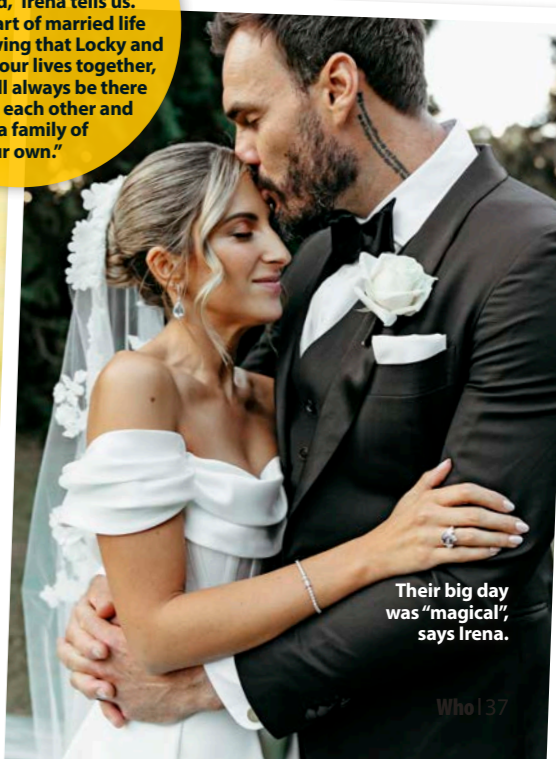
Following the supportive experience, Irena will be proud to "get a little silly for a serious cause" by donning a red nose on August 11 for the charity's annual fundraising appeal, Red Nose Day. She's also encouraging other women who are dealing with fertility issues or the loss of a child to talk about their experiences.

"So many women I know revealed that the same thing has happened to them but no-one talks about it," she says.

As for their future, Locky and Irena know their dreams will come true one day. "We'll keep trying and explore other options if necessary, but I will be a mum," Irena explains.

• By Kylie Walters  
 Register for a Red Nose Day event or make a donation at [rednoseday.org.au](http://rednoseday.org.au).

If this article raises any issues for you, please call the Red Nose 24/7 Support Line on 1300 308 307.



Their big day was "magical", says Irena.

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