

Off Peak Weddings

- YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES -



ISSUE 12

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A BEAUTIFUL BEGINNING

There's nothing quite like a spring wedding, some believe it's the perfect time of year to marry as it's symbolic of the new life you begin together.

Spring is especially beautiful in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges with its gorgeously photographable gardens.

In this issue, you'll find fresh ideas for wedding cocktails, including non-alcoholic options, ideas for non-traditional wedding desserts, tips on creating a sustainable wedding as well as the perfect place to honeymoon in our beautiful region. OPW adores an elopement story, and holding a mid-week wedding is perfect for exactly that. We've rounded up some of the best reasons to marry mid-week.

Just as we did in our Winter issue, we've also included great ideas for grooms too. This issue it's all about useful gifts for your groomsmen and more.

As always, you'll also find plenty of inspiration on gorgeous venue spaces and professional suppliers.

Happy planning and happy spring,

The Off Peak Weddings Team





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Tipsy Pony

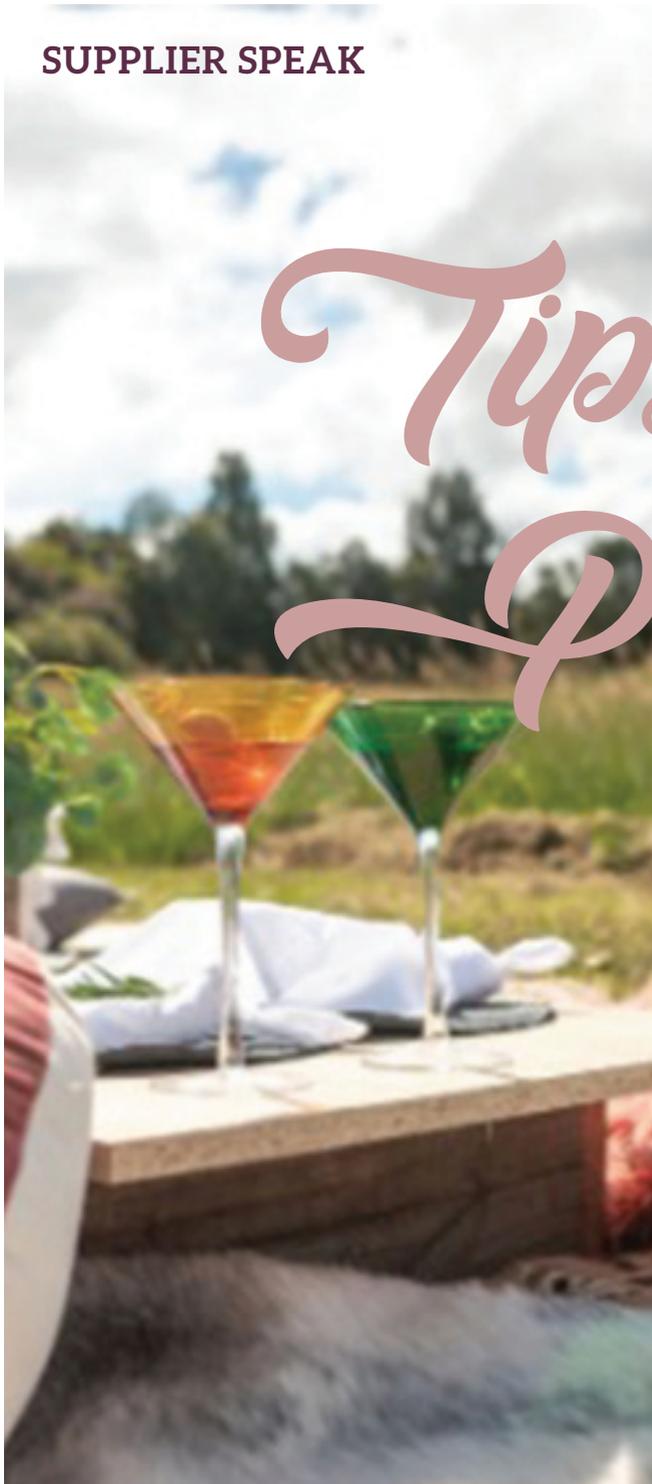
Business owner
Stefanie Cooper

WHO ARE TIPSY PONY AND WHAT DO YOU DO?

We are a small family business based on the outskirts of the Yarra Valley. We first started off with fancy portable toilets for weddings, however, whilst in the UK for a holiday we saw beautiful converted horse trailers and brought the idea home with us! We took advantage of last year's lockdown and purchased a beautiful horse float we named Rearing Roger! With help from my family and friends we converted Roger into a beautiful mobile bar and pop-up wedding trailer all-in-one!

Rearing Roger is ideal for couples who are looking to hold a wedding at their own property or on private land where a bar may not be accessible. The bar is dry which means you get to stock it with all your favourite drinks that suit your budget. We even have bartenders to serve you your favourite cocktails!

Rearing Roger is more than just a bar, for weddings we can pack up everything you require for your own pop-up weddings such as chairs, rugs, wine barrels, an arbour and so much more!



What can couples expect from a Topsy Pony wedding?

We wanted Topsy Pony to be budget and DIY friendly to suit all couples, so we have given our couples the option to build their own package, choosing which additional extras they may want for the day. Couples can choose to just hire out Rearing Roger or choose to add in everything they may require for their pop-up/micro wedding.

Our team will come to set up everything chosen in your package for your wedding and once the big day is over we pack it all away. All of our staff have their own RSA and able to serve you your favourite drinks throughout the day and night!

What are the benefits of having your own personal bar?

It's your bar your way! Couples are able to set their own budget and stock the bar with their preferred beer, wine and spirits which they can start collecting months in advance. Want to create your own signature wedding cocktail? Our staff can be there to serve them. Rearing Roger just gives you another element of personalisation to make your wedding day just that extra bit special!



Benefits of having your wedding at home or on private land?

We find that by having your wedding at home in your garden or on private land couples have so much flexibility to design a celebration that is completely unique.

Your favourite locations around the region for a Topsy Pony wedding?

We have so many favourite locations in the Yarra Valley, we're spoilt for choice! We do love the farm and the barn setup, but our bar also looks great at a Winery. We find that Rearing Roger can fit into any setting big or small, indoors and outdoors.

What else would couples need for their big day if they were to have a Topsy Pony wedding?

We've got the bar and ceremony decor covered however you would most likely need a celebrant, a caterers (unless you want to DIY), a photographer, a florist and entertainment.

SEASON SNAPSHOT

Gorgeous Garden Micro Weddings



Words Gwen Luscombe

What's a micro wedding? With the recent caps on guest numbers for wedding celebrations, micro weddings have become the standard. Typically, they sit somewhere between an elopement where it's just the two of you and a traditional larger group wedding. Roughly 20 to 30 people, they're a beautiful way to celebrate your day in an intimate way with your nearest and dearest.

The best bit? They can be organized nearly anywhere, from backyards to private homes, parks and especially beautiful spring gardens.

While many couples have had to reschedule their wedding dates (some more than once!) a micro wedding is an attractive option. It's not an elopement and still allows you to enjoy much of the same benefits you would from a traditional wedding.

Spring gardens are a perfect setting for your perfect day with their incredibly photographable views and backdrops for photos. From waterside to rustic to bursting with colourful spring blooms, the right garden to suit your style is right here in the Yarra Ranges.

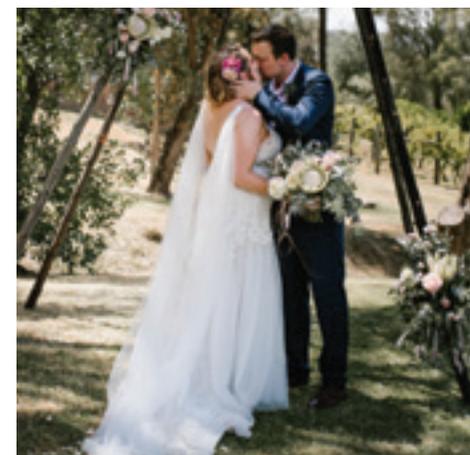
Potter's

Exchange your vows surrounded by Australian native gardens or underneath an enchanting wisteria-draped alfresco courtyard. Potter's offer a variety of beautiful places to capture that perfect photo and offer a range of 'build your own packages' with catering included for 5 to 50 guests.



Araluen

Holding your wedding at Araluen means you also have your boutique accommodation onsite all day, making it easy to get ready and wander your way to the garden. Small groups of up to 20 can also book the property together so post-celebration there's no need to worry about transport and everyone's fresh for a post-wedding group brunch.



Olinda Tea House

Lush gardens and beautiful bushland create the perfect backdrop for your ceremony. The bifold doors within the reception area also mean the views are enjoyed for the whole wedding. Couples can choose from three different ceremony locations, all of which are amongst the gardens and bushland environment and catering is done onsite.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NIK PHOTOGRAPHY





Alowyn Gardens

With six different areas all leading from one magnificent 100-metre long wisteria and rose-covered arbour, couples have a lot of choices at Alowyn Gardens. There's even a rustic, covered area that's perfect for your boho themed reception.



In The Valley

This private home is the ideal spot to gather your nearest and dearest for a small celebration among family and friends. The luxury accommodation for up to 27 guests over 10 bedrooms offers plenty of privacy and options for a beautiful and intimate ceremony on the grounds and catered dinner for your group of roughly 20 afterwards.



Cloudehill Gardens

Here you'll find everything from formal gardens, leaf-lined tunnels and stonewalls with hedges that'll make you feel like you've stepped into a romantic fairytale. Ceremonies can be scheduled any weekday and gardens are also available for photography. The onsite restaurant is also perfect for smaller receptions of up to 55, but can also host canapes and cocktails for larger groups

PUBLIC GARDENS

You'll find a huge range of gorgeous public parks and gardens where you can sneak off for a short sharp ceremony for a small group or a few beautiful wedding snaps. Consider spaces such as Pirianda Gardens in Olinda with its towering ash trees and private gardens, Alfred Nicholas Gardens with its oh-so-photographable water features, waterfalls and that iconic boatshed.

It's important to note that some public parks require permits for ceremonies.



PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

*Beautiful
Gardens*

FOR YOUR
WEDDING DAY



LOCATION TATRA RECEPTIONS
PHOTOGRAPHER EMOTIONS AND MATH



LOCATION MONTSALVAT
PHOTOGRAPHER LOST IN ART



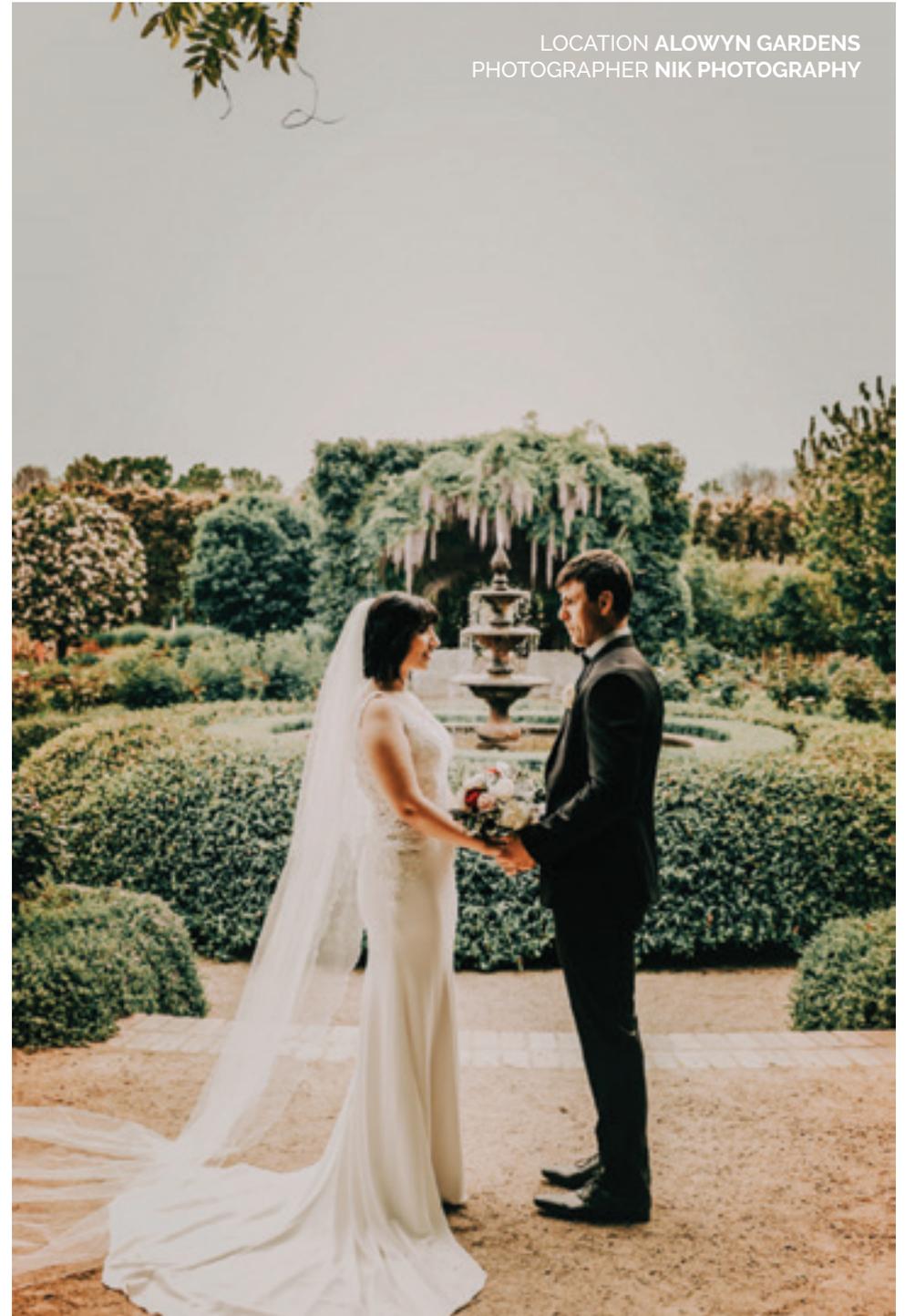
LOCATION OLINDA TEA HOUSE
PHOTOGRAPHER LOVE JOURNAL



LOCATION COOMBE ESTATE
PHOTOGRAPHER RICK LISTON



LOCATION PROJEKT 3488
PHOTOGRAPHER RICK LISTON



LOCATION ALOWYN GARDENS
PHOTOGRAPHER NIK PHOTOGRAPHY



Forest Weddings



MEET THE COUPLE

We have known each other since we were 13 but at the age of 28 we both found ourselves semi-homeless and looking for a new abode, so ended up as housemates! Our friendship blossomed pretty quickly but it took us a while to cross the line. Two years and few dodgy relationships later, well housemates became roommates. Two weeks later we bought a Gordon Setter together (that's a dog) and the rest is history really! Lyndon proposed in March 2019 and then we had our little daughter Frankie Dallas in July 2020. She was 7 months old on our wedding day (and sick with gastro!). We managed to squeeze the wedding in before conceiving number two, who is due in December.

Lyndon works in the hospitality industry. Lyndon has a couple of small wine shops and wine bars in Melbourne (Toorak Cellars, The Alps, Milton, The Hills, The Moon) as well as a wine import company (Foreign Fruits) and online wine store (DITC). He gets pretty excited about wine...and snowboarding. I am a neuropsychologist and work in brain injury rehabilitation.

WHO PROPOSED?

Lyndon. We were snowboarding in Gulmarg, Kashmir and he whipped out the ring from a snaplock bag at the top of 4440m high Mt Apharwat. I had no idea, neither did the four strangers standing next to me who we'd been snowboarding with all day. He didn't even tell my mum!

Why did you choose the Yarra Valley as your wedding location?

We had some pretty non-negotiable criteria that made most venues not work. We wanted somewhere within 1.5 hours from Melbourne and that had plenty of on-site accommodation options to give the feel of a destination wedding but also be close to home for the oldies and grandparents. We wanted to offer lots of accommodation options for people; free, pitch a tent, go luxury, or go back to the comfort of your own bed. Another key thing for us was that we wanted to be able to bring in all our own food and alcohol and not be locked into any food/beverage packages. We also ideally wanted somewhere with the infrastructure to support this, such as a commercial kitchen and

cool room to save us bringing it all in. Forest Weddings pretty much TICKED EVERY BOX. It sleeps 120 people in dorm-style bunks and they were happy for our guests to pitch tents, sleep in their car, go luxe in a glamping tent, or catch the bus home so we loved providing guests with all those options. It had all the amenities such as bathrooms, commercial kitchen, cool rooms and lots of parking. They were so accommodating to our requests and essentially gave us a blank canvas to work with and to make the day however we wanted. It was the first and only venue we looked at, so we were lucky in that way. I found them on a DIY wedding venue website, can't even remember the name of it!

How did you choose your ceremony and reception venue?

We chose the Ferny Glade ceremony site within the venue for our ceremony, it was so ethereal, and the afternoon light trickled through the trees so beautifully. Guests had to meander through the forest for 200m before coming to the clearing, so we liked the mystery and adventure that it brought to the start of the day. They also have some other beautiful ceremony sites at the venue to choose from. Our reception was outside under the large Hanger space. We had 170 seated, which was tight but with a bit of table tetris was achievable!

What made your wedding unique?

We don't feel there was anything particularly unique about it but felt it was a true representation of who we were as a couple. We wanted it to feel like the reception was an extension of our living room where our closest friends and family could enjoy some delicious food and open and share bottles of wine in a no fuss and relaxed way. Dance, sit, or go for a quick lie down, chose your own adventure was the theme of the night!





What were the highlights?

There were many, but dancing in a Congo line to 90's African music before we sat down for dinner definitely got the bloody pumping and set the tone for the night. Our celebrant stealing the mic and singing acapella to Amy Winehouse 'Valerie' was a close second.

Is there a story behind your dress?

Not really. I didn't spend a long time looking for a dress and only went to two different designers. It wasn't a big focus for me. All I knew is that I wanted a two-piece (top and skirt/pants) and something quite simple but structured that I could accessorize as much as I liked! I paired the dress with excellent fake Gucci's and incredible custom-made earrings from my very talented friend Georgia Bonsema from ByGeorgia jewellery.

Tell us about the groomsware, who chose the colour?

We're both a bit obsessed with green, so Lyndon couldn't go past wearing a green suit on his wedding day. He made the groomsmen also wear green suits so they looked like a line-up of tram conductors- not sure they'll wear them again! Lyndon paired his suit with some Christian Kimber sneakers.

What type of entertainment did you have?

At our ceremony site which was held in a clearing of the Kinglake Forest, we had a solo Peruvian pan flute player playing Andean music (Beto). We had grown up listening to him busking on Bourke St and when we saw the ceremony site we knew he'd be the perfect fit. He didn't have a website or wasn't searchable on google. My mum ended up tracking him down by calling the Melbourne City Council! Anyway he does play weddings and I could not recommend him more highly - his music is so ethereal.

During the reception, we had a line up of different DJ's, most of them our friends playing their own music for an hour or so. For the main segment, though, we had DJ Edd Fisher (one half of Waxo Paradiso) who is an old friend of both of ours. We wanted it to feel relaxed and intimate, where people could jump on if they wanted and knew what to do! In fact at about 10pm our celebrant Paris Wells (who also happens to be quite a well known singer) jumped on the mic and belted out the lyrics to Valerie, Amy Winehouse. One of the highlights of the night!





What was your wedding menu for the day? Did you have any special drinks for your guests?

We didn't use a caterer. We just wanted to design a simple menu that felt like we were sitting in our living room with 170 friends. Most of the food was cooked over an open fire in front of the guests by an incredibly talented chef and friend Charlie Sneddon-Wilson.

All drinks were supplied by Diggin in the Cellars (DITC). We kicked off the afternoon with some fizzy wine called Casa Caterina (Franciacorta) and a Spritz bar with choices of Bizzaro (Like Aperol, but better...and local), Stellacello (Grapefruit Goodness), and Yuzushu (Japanese Limencollo) with a large selection of wines. Bottles were plonked in large buckets at the end of each table and the guests helped themselves. Lyndon had hand-selected bottles for each table that he thought they would enjoy and spark conversation about the wine. There was other non-wine options such as craft beers and Strangelove soda's.

Canapes

- Fried potato, smoked eel
- Grilled bread, tomato
- Witlof, green olive
- Pickled mussel, pita
- Roast onion arancini

Entree

- Bread and butter
- Crudités, roast macadamia
- Charcuterie
- Anchovies
- Heirloom tomato, burnt miso, basil
- Raw kingfish, salted citrus, cucumber

Mains

- Asado lamb, salsa verde
- Smoked trout, celery, creme fraiche
- Hassleback potatoes
- Braised greens, garlic cream
- Iceberg, pecorino

Dessert

- Cakes by Milstone
- Cheese by Maker & Monger
- Tiramisu by Charlie Sneddon-Wilson

Was there any wedding vendor that particularly stood out on the day? If so, why?

We were so lucky – they were all bloody fantastic.

Advice for couples thinking of getting married in the Yarra Valley?

If you can rent a house nearby for 1-2 days before the wedding to get away with your nearest and dearest!



What makes your marriage amazing?

We were best friends first.

What's your best advice for planning the perfect wedding?

Just do it how you want it! Don't worry about doing things the way you're 'meant to' or how others expect you to, have fun with it. A little bit of stress is of course normal in the lead up, but planning a wedding should be fun so try not to lose sight of what's important and have a good time on the journey!

Anything else you'd love to share?

For couples getting married who have children and want them included on the day but also totally out of the way (haha) I could not recommend Event Nannies more highly. Melissa seriously took one for the team by looking after our sick baby all morning as I tried to get ready and finish my speech! She brought her to the ceremony and for photos, then took her back to a house we'd rented for a bath, bottle and bed and looked after her so well until midday the following day.

VENDOR CREDITS

Photographer Charlie Hawks

Florist Melissa from Vagary Events

Ceremony and Reception Venue Forest Weddings

Catering/ Cake & kind Chef Charlie Sneddon-Wilson (did not use a caterer), Dessert from Milstone

Stationery Sodaa

Celebrant Paris Wells

Entertainment Beto (Pan Flute), Edd Fisher from Waxo Paradiso (DJ)

Engagement ring Cushla Whiting

Wedding bands Cushla Whiting

Transport Private

Glamping Happy Glamper

DJ Equipment Bounce Audio

Babysitting agency Event Nannies

Styling support/Event Management (on the day) Steph Hagan

BRIDE CREDITS

Bridal gown designer One Day Bridal

Earrings ByGeorgia (custom)

Bridesmaid dresses Mix

GROOM CREDITS

Groom team Trunk Tailors

Non-Alcoholic Drinks

FOR YOUR BIG DAY

Words Belinda Jackson

Like many of us, Andi Davidson discovered non-alcoholic drinks when she was pregnant.

"The non-alcoholic drinks movement is definitely happening," says the wine educator, who runs wine-tasting experiences through the Yarra Valley. "At my very first wine discovery tour, I had three pregnant women in the group!"

The movement is gaining momentum as people steer clear of alcohol for health, religious and fitness reasons, not to mention the designated driver in the party and your pregnant

matron-of-honour. But who wants to sit on lemon, lime & bitters all night? It's time to put delicious non-alcoholic drinks on the wedding table.

Andi suggests kicking your wedding morning off in style, with delicious peach-loaded Bellinis as the prep gets underway. The mix of sparkling wine and peach nectar is a festive favourite, and a good budget option for sparkling wine is the Melbourne-made Songbird Sparkling Brut. Otherwise, try Plus & Minus' Blanc de Blanc, while the easily accessible Edenvale Sparkling Cuvée is available in most supermarkets.

Moving on to a simple, refreshing G&T, Australia's first non-alcoholic bar, distillery and bottle shop, Brunswick Aces, distils two non-alcoholic spirits; their London Dry style Spades Sapiir and the spicier Hearts Sapiir. Add the best tonic you can afford, says Brunswick Aces' Stuart Henshall – East Imperial mixers are the top-shelf choice – then go all-out on the garnishes. Try a wheel of dried lime or a sprig of slapped rosemary in Spades, while Hearts works with a garnish of rose petals, for the perfect wedding drink.

Alternatively, Melbourne newcomer Banks Botanicals sources water from the Yarra Valley for its sugar and gluten-free white spirit, perfect in an espresso martini or with pink grapefruit tonic and pomegranate seeds, for a sophisticated pink drink.

Beers are always a super starter, adds Andi Davidson, and it's easy to find non-alcoholic options. Her current favourite is the Athletic Brewing Co's Upside Dawn Golden Ale and her fall-back plan is Heineken Zero. Craft beer lovers should seek out Bridge Road Brewers' Free Time pale ale from Beechworth, the Aboriginal owned and led Sobah brews, which use Australian botanicals such as aniseed myrtle in its stout, or Mornington Free pale ale from Mornington Peninsula Brewery.



At dinner, alcohol-free wines will ensure your carefully chosen menu isn't drowned in a sea of sugary soft drinks. Requiring substantial investment, at the moment it's mainly the big players offering non-alcoholic wines, such as Giesen Sauvignon Blanc and McGuigan's Zero Dry Rose. Brunswick Aces, which recommends non-alcoholic wine lists and can arrange pre-bottled cocktails, also suggests the Vinada dealcoholised sparkling French chardonnay and Spanish rose. Closer to home, Non wines are made in Melbourne's eastern suburbs by local chefs, blended specifically to pair with sophisticated foods. The zero-alcohol wines have such delicious flavour profiles as Lemon Marmalade & Hibiscus, or Caramelised Pear & Kombu.

Most experts agree that alcohol-free whites are far superior than the reds at the moment, top picks at the moment are the wallet-friendly Lindemans Cabernet Sauvignon, Funky Monkey Pinot Gris from South Australia and the Plus & Minus Pinot Noir.

For mixed drinks as the night gets long, try Port Fairy's Monday Distillery, which makes seven alcohol-free mixed drinks including a Dark & Stormy and a Mezcal punch, or for a quick flavour flick to a good soda, add a bottle of bitters to your cocktail tray. Moving on from the old-school staple of Angostura Bitters, give soda a fizz with Fitzroy-based Mister Bitters' delicious fig & cinnamon or honeyed apricot & smoked hickory bitters.

To keep up with the news of the first non-alcoholic expo, see
vinspiration.com.au



Ones to try

Songbird Sparkling Brut
songbirdwine.com.au

Plus & Minus' Blanc de Blanc
fourthwavewine.com.au

Edenvale Sparkling Cuvée
edenvale.com.au

Spades Sapiir and Hearts Sapiir
brunswickaces.com

Banks Botanicals spirit
banksbotanicals.com

Athletic Brewing Co's Upside Dawn Golden Ale
athleticbrewing.com

Bridge Road Brewers' Free Time
bridgeroadbrewers.com.au

Sobah Aniseed Myrtle Stout
sobah.com.au

Mornington Free pale ale
mpbrew.com.au

Non wines
non.world

McGuigan's Zero Dry Rose
mcguiganwines.com.au

Lindemans Cabernet Sauvignon
lindemans.com

Monday Distillery mixed drinks
mondaydistillery.com

Mister Bitters Fig & Cinnamon bitters
mr-bitters.com





The Soundtrack

TO YOUR WEDDING DAY

Words Sarah Grimstone
Stone & Co

It's the moment we all dream about when we envision our wedding - The nerves building knowing your closest friends and family are waiting just a few moments away and it all dawns on you in that very second... Countless hours of patiently waiting and endless nights planning, designing and co-ordinating all lead up to this one very moment standing at the end of the altar locking eyes with the person you've chosen to spend the rest of your life with. You take a deep breath and it's like time stands still in this very moment.

The music begins and so does this new exciting chapter in your life.

I've been incredibly lucky over the last 5 years to witness this exact moment for so many incredible couples who I have had the privilege to sing down the aisle on their special day as a wedding singer. It's a feeling that never gets old and is a consistent reminder of how fortunate I am to be able to create the dream soundtrack to the moments of so many lives that are just as unique as their love story.

So why does music play such an important role in a wedding?

I have always envisioned music as the vessel that tells a story. Be it the first time you met or the first time you said I love you to your partner. Music brings emotion to these important moments and milestones in life and when it comes to your wedding day, music should be a celebration of the life you have lived together and the love you have created to share with those around you. Picking the music that is right for you to tell this story is a journey that requires a bit of self-discovery and reflection.

It is not an easy task at hand with so many incredible artists to choose from to make your day as perfect as you envision it to be! Which is why many couples turn to entertainment agencies to assist with the planning and coordination of their wedding day.



Q&A

I sat down with 2 Melbourne based wedding entertainment agencies Hey Jack and Allegro Entertainment Co who specialise in bringing your music and entertainment needs to life to discuss some frequently asked questions about the industry and to provide some top-tips to help you plan out your perfect entertainment day from beginning to end!

There are so many amazing wedding performers across Victoria; where should I start looking to find the perfect entertainment for my big day?

HJ Online wedding directories or a simple Google search (for your state/wedding location) is a great place to begin. The most important thing is to read reviews; other married couples who have already been through the process are a great source of reliable information. The more reviews, the better (it shows experience). Remember, you deserve a 5-star wedding, so look for as close to 5 stars as possible!

What does your 'perfect' day of entertainment look like from the Ceremony, Canapés right through to the Reception?

AE For me personally as director of my agency as well as a singer and DJ, I just want the perfect day to be filled with a mix of music and entertainment. I love a variety of acts - acoustic duo for the ceremony and canapes then a DJ, vocalist, sax and percussion building into the reception.

What's your top 3 tips when it comes to picking out the most suitable acoustic performer, band or DJ that's right for me?

HJ Work with what you have: Large guest lists and a grand hall with a large stage would be ideal for a live band! On the flip side, a live soloist or duo may work better for a small intimate wedding of fewer than 50 people .

Always ask: yes, logistics are important, but if you've always envisaged walking down the aisle to

a string quartet or having a big party style reception, ask your entertainment provider what's possible!

Be true to yourself: If you love R&B, rock, or smooth, soulful jazz, don't feel pressured to pick a different style just because it seems "more wedding-y". Pick an artist who will best convey your style and music taste!

I don't want to miss out on my favourite artist! How long before my confirmed wedding date should I be looking at booking my entertainment?

HJ Like all good things in life, the early bird gets the worm! To avoid disappointment, as soon as you know your performer and wedding date, lock them in. The rest of the finer details, including hours of coverage, can be finalised later! You want to be booking months, not weeks ahead. To give you an idea, our most popular line-ups are being booked out 9-12 months in advance.

Now I have my entertainment booked; what's your advice when it comes to picking out the perfect songs for the special key moments of the day?

AE If you have favourite must have songs, tell your entertainers or your agency representative throughout the early discussion process. It is what we specialise in so we can always help our couples with music selection as well as our DJ's knowing exactly how to read a crowd on the night. We personally meet with our clients to go over all the music for the night as well as get them to prepare a small playlist so we can get an idea of their music tastes.

I want to keep my guests grooving on the dance floor all night long! What's your go-to recommendations to keep the crowd pumped up?

HJ We're all about creating a slow build throughout the day that culminates in a mix of incredible dance-worthy tunes with a big finale! Your musician of choice will play a fun range of up-tempo, lively beats with their own unique twist, and can end with a megahit of your choice (think The Horses by Daryl Braithwaite) that everyone knows and loves! You can also add an interactive element to your entertainment – for example if you have a band on stage, they can be complemented by bongo drums, or a trumpet player or saxophonist weaving in and out of the crowd, hitting the big notes and encouraging guests to get up and dance!

As an entertainment provider specialising in live Melbourne wedding entertainment and wedding DJ's, what do you feel is the most important advice you can give to any couple hoping to tie the knot?

AE Choose entertainment that you connect with, it's super important! Book in sooner rather than later and enjoy the process, we are here for you and will make sure your entertainment is world class and you have the best night of your lives!

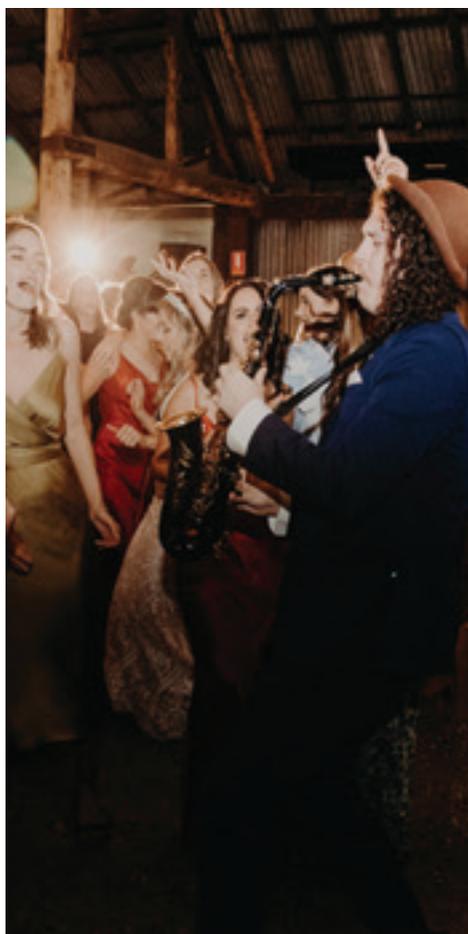


PHOTO COURTESY OF HEY JACK ENTERTAINMENT

And lastly, if you could pick one 'must have' song on the wedding song request list, what would it be?

HJ Eeep! This is like asking us to choose between pizza or champagne – they are both needed at different times!

First Dance: for a sweet, pure profession of heartfelt love, we love Calico Skies by Paul McCartney (there will be tears, have those tissues ready!).

Reception: for an absolute banger and one that gets every Aunt Betty on the d-floor (and one they know the lyrics to) we love ABBA's Gimme Gimme Gimme

It's such a commonly asked question that we have created options for your ceremony, first dance, reception entrance, farewell song, and many more on our website!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALLEGRO ENTERTAINMENT

Sarah Grimstone from Stone & Co is a local Yarra Valley based wedding singer specialising in acoustic duo, trio, band and vocal DJ performances. You can discover Sarah on Instagram at @stoneandcomusic and enquire about her wedding performance services via email at contact@sarahstonemusic.com

Melbourne's own Hey Jack is home to some of the best, super talented and skilful wedding musicians (and we also specialise in photography and film). The Hey Jack team know what it takes to make wedding magic – that's why we have continuously achieved 5-star reviews from real-life brides and grooms. We have a range of unique options suited to your personal music tastes! To find out more, head on over to heyjack.com.au

Allegro Entertainment Co is a Melbourne based Entertainment and talent agency. Specialising in DJ's, Photography, Singers, Acoustic Duos, LED light hire, Party Accessories and Event Styling. To find out more about our services and enquire today, please email hello@allegroentertainment.com.au

Wine for Weddings

BUDGET VS BLOW OUT

Words Belinda Jackson

Getting married in the Yarra Valley means you're going to have great wines at your wedding.



The Last Supper

Play it safe the night before the wedding with a slow glass of something delicious: try a low-alcohol natural rose, or sit on a spectacular syrah. Then, it's eye masks on and lights out early!

Budget Yarra Ranges Estate Dulce Natural Rosé \$29

Blowout Levantine Hill Melissa's Paddock Syrah 2016, \$200

Wedding breakfast

Take a moment amongst the chaos of hair, make-up and wardrobe adjustments to reflect on the day ahead. Named after Zonzo Estate owner Rod Micallef's wife Cristina, pop the cork on this Bellini and spy the little love heart etched into it. All together now... Awwwww.

Budget Zonzo Estate Bellini Di Cristina, \$25

Blow-out Tarrawarra Estate Blanc de Blanc, \$70

Toast with the most

Who doesn't love a blushing bride – or a blushing sparkling? Shaws Road sources grapes from its Stratheven vineyards for this blush pink pinot noir toast, while Levantine Hill's limited edition sparkling rose has a bouquet of brioche, strawberry Danish and rose petal.

Budget Shaws Road Sparkling Pinot Chardonnay 2016, \$35

Blow-out Levantine Hill Limited Edition Estate Sparkling Rosé 2015, \$150

Crowdpleasers

Zonzo Estate's Tarrawarra's new release rose should win a few fans, while Zonzo's sagrantino will kick-start the conversation. Oakridge's 864 chardonnay (2019) recently took home the top-rated chardonnay award at the recent Halliday Wine Companion Awards – no arguments here!

Budget Tarrawarra rose \$28, bottle, Zonzo Estate Scoperta Sagrantino 2020, \$35

Blow-out Oakridge Estate 864 Funder & Diamond Chardonnay 2019, \$90



One for the honeymoon suite

Leave something special in your room for the end of the night: curl up with a glass of Levantine Hill's golden dessert wine or go classic with De Bortoli's tried-and-true Noble One sticky.

Budget De Bortoli Noble One Botrytis Semillion, \$30

Blow-out Levantine Hill 2018 Mélange Botrytis \$60

Restart the party

Start married life with a slow, easy brunch. The Yarra Ranges Estate's spritzig is in the Austrian style of a light, low-fizz white with low alcohol, while Zonzo's vintage sparkling adds a sparkle to any day.

Budget Yarra Ranges Estate Spritzig Sauvignon Blanc \$25

Blow-out Zonzo Vintage Sparkling 2016, \$65



SUPPLIERS

De Bortoli
debortoli.com.au

Levantine Hill
levantinehill.com.au

Oakridge Wines
oakridgewines.com.au

Shaws Road Winery
shawsroad.com.au

Tarrawarra Estate
tarrawarra.com.au

Yarra Ranges Estate
yarrangesestate.com.au

Zonzo Estate
zonzo.com.au

The prices listed are for a single bottle bought from the cellar door, and don't include discounts for bulk buys.

Honeymoon Ideas

IN THE YARRA VALLEY AND DANDENONG RANGES

Words Belinda Jackson

Laze by a lake, explore forest trails by horseback, spend the day in a spa or stretch that brunch out until the sun sets – there's no timetable on your honeymoon.

Lake house

On the edge of a private lake sits the Nissan Hut, with its distinctive arched frame. Ideal for honeymoons, the secluded hut looks over the wetlands, bushland and private gardens of Glenlowren, a working cattle and sheep farm in Dixons Creek. Also on the property is the equally private Glenlowren cottage, a 19th-century timber cottage also with lake views, restored to catch the warm, morning light. Follow the creek line to spot wildlife on the property, or make a day visiting the nearby wineries, Alowyn Gardens and the Yarra Valley Chocolaterie. The Nissan hut costs from \$620 a night, the cottage costs from \$315 a night, glenlowren.com.au

Hit the trails

Don't want to stay in bed all day? Explore the upper reaches of the Yarra Ranges by horseback with Chum Creek Horse Rides. Horseman Clancy and his guides lead 2½-hour rides through the bush to reach a restored cattleman's refuge, on the edge of the Toolangi State Forest, where you can taste the wines of nearby vineyard Tokar Estate. "We're only an hour from Melbourne, but it feels like you're in the High Country here," says Clancy, who will point out wildlife such as eagles and wombats, and knows the best views of the Great Dividing Range. Chum Creek also takes full-day rides to De Bortoli Estate and can organise customised routes for just the two of you. From \$189 a person, chumcreek.net.au



First night stays

Towers aren't just for lovelorn princesses – watch the stars together on your first night from the tower at Sutherland Estate, in Dixons Creek. There are just two two-storey towers, either side of the cellar door, with the bedrooms at the top of a spiral staircase. Morning comes with a breakfast hamper to share on the deck as the sun washes over the vineyards and bushland of the 110-acre property, with views over the Yarra Valley and out to the Dandenong and Warburton ranges. From \$190 a night, sutherlandestate.com.au



For art's sake

Down a country lane sits the TarraWarra Museum of Art, which exhibits thought-provoking works by contemporary Australian artists. Admission is \$10, and volunteers (usually) lead free tours through the private collection twice a week, while you can follow the path through the property's grounds to discover its outdoor sculptures. Let that path lead you back to the gallery and its next-door neighbour, TarraWarra Estate, to visit its cellar door for a wine tasting, before sitting down to lunch or dinner in its hatted restaurant, headed up by chef Mark Ebbels, with its strong focus on locally sourced produce. heartswood.com.au



Spa days

For those who like to stay where the action is, choose the best bed in the house, in Balgownie Estate's deluxe spa suites, five minutes from Yarra Glen. Candles, rose petals, choc-dipped strawberries or the best bottle in the house – how romantic do you want to get? Located on the upper level of the resort, take a bottle on the private balcony for sunset views over the valley. Stay still, listen, and you'll hear the day spa calling. Book a couples massage and while away a few hours in the heated pool. The estate is also a ballooning base, so take your honeymoon to new heights with a ballooning champagne breakfast. From \$322 a night, balgownie.com

...and then we ate

With so many fabulous restaurants in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges, it's hard to know where to start. Making a tricky move between lockdowns, Jayden Ong Wines opened its winery and cellar bar in the centre of Healesville in January. Drop in to taste their four ranges of wines as well as Yarra Valley stand-outs and some international favourites, then stay for charcoal-grilled local produce. And just before the pandemic, Yarra Glen's gorgeous old Colonial Bank building was transformed into Heartswood, with serious coffee and local produce on its ever-changing menu. Drop in for a sunny brunch on the main street, www.jaydenong.com and heartswood.com.au

SUPPLIERS

Sutherland Estate
sutherlandestate.com.au

Balgownie Estate
balgownie.com

Tarrawarra Estate
tarrawarra.com.au

TarraWarra Museum of Art
twma.com.au



TREAD LIGHTLY

Sustainable Weddings

Words Belinda Jackson

Getting married doesn't have to cost the earth – literally. Sustainable weddings can be incredibly beautiful, just more mindful of your environmental footprint.

"One of the keys to planning an eco-wedding is putting quality over quantity," says Danielle Steele of Wild Heart Events. "Also choosing to work with suppliers who care and will minimise waste and avoid using harmful materials, such as floral foam," Danielle advises. A passionate advocate of low-waste events, she shares some tips on creating beautiful, sustainable weddings.



The Dress

Pre-loved wedding dresses are enjoying a revival, especially with vintage-styled weddings.

Try www.forevervintage.net.au, www.stillwite.com.au or www.idogowns.com.au Otherwise, why not ask your friends if you can borrow or buy their dress, or rent a designer gown for the day, see www.sunsetbridal.com.au, www.somethingborrowed.net.au or www.glamcorner.com.au

The Setting

"You can do some amazing styling without having to spend a crazy amount of money," says Danielle.

Firstly, if the season allows, choose an outdoor wedding and let the location be the hero. "A forest or a beach wedding means less décor is required, and keeping the location local to your guests also reduces transport emissions."

Smaller weddings and elopements may let you afford to hire a wedding stylist, so everything is styled to perfection. "I have a client who is hiring out a high-end B&B for her elopement, and is having a lavishly styled, intimate dinner on the property in lieu of a huge reception," says Danielle. "Her photos will be really special, like a magazine shoot."

The Guest List

Size matters. Unfortunately, most of us have had this option forced upon us due to COVID-19, making elopements and micro-weddings hot trends right now.

On the bright side, the smaller the wedding, the more sustainable it is. More intimate weddings also allow you to spend up on the things that matter to you – such as higher-quality food and drinks, or more luxurious honeymoon accommodation.

The Invitations

For a zero-waste approach, go online with e-invites, but if you prefer printed invitations, opt for recycled paper and card. Seed paper – where seeds are embedded into the paper and can be planted afterwards – is a sweet idea that helps spread the sustainability message.

Second time round: wedding dresses

"At a recent wedding I styled, the bride, Fran, found an original 1950s floor-length lace gown designed by Priscilla of Boston, who also created the bridesmaids' dresses for Grace Kelly's wedding to the Prince of Monaco," says Danielle. "She had the dress altered to fit her perfectly and she looked absolutely stunning." Fran found her vintage dress at www.forevervintage.net.au



At The Venue

Choose environmentally aware vendors who are eco-friendly, plastic free and low-waste oriented. Don't be afraid to ask those questions about packaging, food origins, recycling waste...

Some tweaks are obvious: replace dyed confetti with flower petals, or even make your own confetti using a hole punch on fragrant eucalyptus leaves (that's a job for the kids!), and just say no to balloons. Also, instead of buying props, use a prop hire company for such reusable items as easels and arbours.

On the table, replace individual printed menus with menus shared between 4-6 guests, it will get everyone chatting while saving paper. Alternatively, scrap the lot and replace with one large menu board. "It's about making small, conscious choices wherever you can," says Danielle

Wedding favours can eat up the budget, but if it's important to you, why not offer your guests a home-made jam or local, handmade chocolates, which can be eaten – preferably in bed – after a beautiful wedding? Alternatively, little potted flowers or plants can double up as table decorations and wedding favours, also cutting down on the flower bill.

"Otherwise, consider making a donation on behalf of your guests to a cause that resonates with you," advises Danielle. She suggests leaving a little card on the table about the donations, or display the info on a sign near the gift table.

The same is of wedding gifts – wishing wells are now commonplace to avoid that scenario of receiving three toasters, or consider asking your guests to contribute to a charity of your choice. Just make sure they use a reference code, eg. #Amal&George, so you can see the impact of your request.



The Menu

Seek out a zero-waste catering company that specialises in local and seasonal food. For food truck or cocktail style weddings, look at using recycled paper boxes and bamboo cutlery.

"Go local at the bar," says Danielle. "There are so many local distillers and brewers, there's no need to serve imported alcohol." Plastic straws are, of course, passe.

She also suggests making up old-school punches or lemonades and serving them in drink dispensers instead of opening hundreds of plastic and glass bottles. Similarly, choose kegs over cans and mobile bar services can dispense even wine and prosecco on tap.

SUPPLIERS

Photographer
Moss Wedding Photography
@moss.au on Instagram
mossweddings.com.au

Flowers
Wild Heart Events
@wild_heart_events_au on Instagram
wildheartevents.com.au

Bride & Groom
Francesca & Luke

Bridal Gown
Forever Vintage Shop
@forever_vintage_shop on Instagram

Gown Alterations
Heather Sellick
@heathersellick on Instagram



Five Reasons

TO HOLD A MID WEEK WEDDING

Words Gwen Luscombe

Mid-week weddings, once seen as a budget-friendly option are becoming way more popular, and not just for elopements, vow renewals and second weddings. While they're an excellent way to prevent budget blowout, there are several other advantages too.

Here are five great reasons why holding a mid-week wedding might be perfect for you.





Get your wedding 'dream team'.

Your perfect venue and suppliers are far more likely to be available on a Thursday afternoon than a Saturday. Weekends are incredibly popular, so if you have your heart set on a specific venue or photographer and everyone's booked for 20 months of weekends, you may not have to wait so long to assemble your perfect wedding without compromise. As a bonus, suppliers are as rushed mid-week as they might otherwise be on a weekend so they can often dedicate more time to your event.

Mid-week weddings can be more intimate.

Not always, but often smaller weddings, more intimate wedding ceremonies for just close friends and family are perfectly suited to mid-week. And if you love the idea of holding your wedding on a specific date (e.g. the anniversary of your first date, etc.) it won't matter if it doesn't fall on a weekend.

Save your budget. Accommodation, venues and suppliers might be less expensive mid-week. Discounted rates and mid-week specials can help you save your budget, which is excellent if you're saving for a house deposit or hoping to splash out a little bit more on your honeymoon. Oftentimes for couples doing vow

renewals, second weddings or elopements, the wedding budget might not be as substantial, so a mid-week wedding offers the perfect solution.

Less likely guests will have double booked. Selecting a day mid-week means your guest are more likely to have the day free (assuming of course they take the day off work.) Weekends, particularly in the warmer months, can be busy and choosing a weekday means fewer schedule conflicts.

Your guests get a day off (or a super-long weekend). Who doesn't love a day off? Holding your wedding means everyone gets a day off work. Alternatively, a twilight wedding can be beautiful and allow guests who might have tricky work schedules to better accommodate.

Choosing a Monday or the day before a long weekend (such as the day before Good Friday or the day before Anzac Day) means your guests get an extra-long weekend to boot.

No matter what day you choose as your special day, remember that your friends and family will no doubt make the effort to make it incredible.

Covid Hacks

TO KEEP YOU LOCKDOWN READY

Words Belinda Jackson

It's so much easier to get a refund if you book accommodation directly with a property, instead of going through a third-party booking site. We don't question accommodation or dining cancellations now, but it's like karma: you'll get your refund in full and hopefully you'll come back to us when you're able.

Also, don't assume we're in regional Victoria – here in the Yarra Ranges, we're classed as metropolitan Melbourne.

Michael Kennedy
Healesville Hotel
healesvillehotel.com.au

Do what love drives you to. Envelope your love now, and party later.

Christine Pedley
Wedding Celebrant
soulfulceremonies.com.au

Consider having a legal wedding now – you can have your celebration on your first anniversary and with a commitment ceremony. We've got to treat COVID-19 like a wet-weather day – just roll with it and go with an open heart.

Megan Jordan
Wedding Celebrant
meganjordan.com.au

If you've had to scale down your weekend winery wedding, consider the private rooms in the venue's restaurant. We're seeing 15-person daytime weddings with a ceremony followed by a beautiful lunch overlooking the vines. Livestreaming the micro-wedding lets your overseas and interstate guests still be part of the occasion.

Stacey Fitzmaurice
Oakridge Wines
oakridgewines.com.au

If you're afraid of the big financial commitment required to lock in a wedding venue, consider booking a caterer and holding your wedding at a community hall. There are some extremely pretty ones in the Yarra Valley, such as the Arthurs Creek Mechanics Institute and the modern Strathewen Public Hall.

Jan Miles
Shaws Road Wines
shawsroad.com.au



How Sweet (or Savoury) Love is

Words Gwen Luscombe

While wedding cakes are an iconic part of a wedding, couples are breaking tradition by serving alternative dessert options for their big celebration.

Not a sweet tooth or just not a cake fan? There's still plenty of ways to serve a crowd-pleasing dessert without serving an actual cake. Particularly over the last few years, the wedding industry has seen a rise in couples using alternatives such as cupcakes macarons, doughnuts and even wheels of cheese.

Using smaller sized desserts have proven to be a great way to ensure desserts can also be taken home if not eaten. So often, by the time the cake is cut many slices sit lonely on serving plates on the tables while your guests dance the night

away and never get eaten. Having an option like a cheese wheel (with accompanying charcuterie or antipasti) a grazing table of smaller sized sweets or boxing up treats as bonbonniere has been more popular too.

Some couples also opt to give a nod to their heritage by opting for something like a French croquembouche (a towering dessert made of choux puff pastry and filled with crème pâtissière) or Italian cannoli. Whatever is meaningful to your spouse, makes your celebration that much more personal.

From brownies, waffle towers, ice cream food trucks and everything in between, the options are endless. Get creative, make your choice reflective of you as a couple and enjoy.

Need ideas for alternatives? Why not try the following

Cupcakes

Stacking cupcakes on a tiered platter looks great and is a great option for guests bonbonniere as you can provide small boxes for them to take their treat home.

Cake pops

A great choice if you want something portable and they can also be made to match any colour scheme, so they're an easy addition to a dessert table too.

Doughnuts

Guests go nuts for doughnuts. Whether they're frosted, jam filled or decorated beautifully like the ones in pictures, you can stack these sweets and decorate with flowers, add them to a dessert grazing table or (assuming the toppings will stay on) create a doughnut wall for a bit of fun.



Cheese

No sweet tooth? No worries. Opt for stacked cheese wheels to create a tiered beauty and pair it with all the right accompaniments.

Macarons

Adding a variety of colourful macarons is a simple and unexpected idea. It also easily pairs with a smaller cake to have the best of both worlds.

Grazing sweets and lolly bars

Why not all of the above? Create a mix of lollies where guests can bag up a goody bag and nobble on it later or graze a table of sweet treats and mini desserts so no matter what their tastes, there'll be something everyone. Deck out a table filled with your favourite candies, cookies, mini cakes, fruits and everything in between to satisfy every sweet tooth.



ON THE DAY

Keep The Groom Tidy

Words Pete Dillon

If you've been honoured with the opportunity to be in a wedding party, try to remember a few basic rules and you will ace the job. Also remember - someone asked you to do this because they love you, respect you and mostly - need you to be the best version of yourself for the day. You've got this!

You are there to support the groom, to make sure he arrives appropriately attired and fresh - both fresh eyed and fresh smelling! You're to act as a witness for him and his spouse, to be his right-hand man in carrying out the duties of the ceremony and of course, to celebrate the biggest day of his life with him.

It is his day, try and go with the flow and remember to not judge but simply guide - emotions may be high. You've probably been with him for all the big-ticket items – choosing what the crew will wear, how they will look and how they will arrive. The main attendant and the crew should be trusted with arranging a vehicle for the groom to get to the wedding, helping him pack his bag and get it to the post wedding accommodation, acting as his liaison on the day and making sure the right people are paid the right amount of money. The best you can do is check this has all been done.

Unfortunately (or very fortunately) you have a job to do today so don't drink too much and watch his glass. People will be wanting to fill it up all morning, lunch and afternoon. Do your best to keep him safe until all the formalities are seen to. Often a hard ask but you were asked because you're up to the task.

A hotel sewing kit or similar is essential. A loose button can soon become a wedding event disaster. Some double sided tape can hold off the most unruly of hems for the duration of the day and is another must have in the kit. A second pair of cuff links (if he is wearing them) are absolutely necessary. We've been at more than one wedding where a cufflink was lost en-route. Some shoe polish wipes for one last go over is a must have in your kit as well, as is a single use toothbrush and paste. A last minute brush of the gnashers with a bottle of water will make him arrive with clean chompers and confidence.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICK LISTON

An emergency kit for the Groom Crew is pretty simple but absolutely necessary. Start with some pain killers, band aids and cotton buds. All of them are indispensable. Quite often the happy chappy might not have eaten enough, so some sweets in the kit might prevent a sugar crash. Always have a pen with you in your kit, along with a spare phone charger.

Remember, as you eye off that open bar, that there is as much to do after the wedding vows are said and the celebrations are winding up as before. Gifts need to be taken from the venue and delivered to the home, mildly boozy aunties need to be seen into Ubers or chauffeured home. Floral arrangements and table settings need to be collected, couples need to get to their hotel or home. The day after is also a busy time, but one where you can let your hair down a bit more. Many families get together with the happy duo prior to them jetting off on a honeymoon or making their way back to home base, so offer to help with lunch bookings, barbecue venues and shopping and perhaps have a Panadol or two on hand - just in case.

The groom's crew are important for the business as well as the fun. He'll thank you for the rest of your lives if you can help him hold this celebration together.

Next edition ... best ways a groom can thank his crew. Any suggestions email us at hitched@offpeakweddings.com.au and we'll look to include them in the summer edition.

GROOMS CREW

Grooms Gifts

The Grooms Crew are a pretty special bunch. Tasked with taking care of the groom, the broader wedding party and family on the day of the wedding, they have a pretty big commitment, not to mention having to deliver a funny, tasteful and fun speech.

A cheap pair of cufflinks or a box of hankies simply won't cut it these days, so we found some outstanding items to say thank to your Groom Crew.

Depending on the size of the crew, a distillery masterclass session might be the ideal thank you gift. Some small distillers offer a chance to develop your own signature version of a gin, rum or vodka. If this sounds a bit too challenging, Four Pillars Gin in Healesville have a cracking masterclass, where you can learn

how they make their iconic spirits, and you can buy a limited-edition spirit and finish with a wee tippie in the gin garden.

More of a rum man? No worries. Killik in Belgrave creates hand crafted rum that can be easily ordered online for delivery post-event or collected prior and gifted on the big day.

A brewery tour and lunch? Sounds like a great reason to get the gang together post-nuptials. Australia's home of craft beer is right here in the Yarra Valley. Matilda Bay first brewed Redback Beer back in the 80's and have four signature beers and the occasional new release. Take in a brewery tour, have some lunch and buy a few frothies to celebrate together post wedding.



Alternatively, get a 'behind the glass' look at the brewing process (with tastings of course) at Golden Hills Brewery. And remember, if you're taking the gang on a brew-hop, winery or distillery tour, why not make it easier and safer with a designated driver at the ready. Talk to The Yarra Valley Tourism Company or Yarra Valley A2B about creating a bespoke tour for your group, then kick back, relax and enjoy the day, worry-free.

Every occasion deserves a good bottle of Yarra Valley wine. But if it is a vintage wine, then it needs aeration. A range of aerators and decanters, which you can have personalised with engraving or a hanging tag can make a fine gift to the wine connoisseur in your party. At Halliday award-winning Yarra Yering, you'll find gorgeous wine gifts such as Reidel wine glasses accompanied with a bottle of their finest. Order online if it's easier and if you simply can't decide, you'll never go wrong with a gift voucher. Mandala Wines also have gorgeous gift packs ready to give (or ship).

Give the gift of music and let the good times continue. Rochford Wines has a range of experiences that can be booked or organised as a gift voucher such as gin tasting experiences, wine and food flights and even gift vouchers for tickets to some of their incredible outdoor music events held right at the winery.

It's true that marriage is an adventure, so why not commemorate the leap and gather



the guys for a day (or weekend) of adventure. Warburton Adventure Company offers gift vouchers for experiences like abseiling, caving, mountain biking and more.

Big 4 Yarra Valley has luxury glamping experiences perfect for weekend getaway and saying thank you for their help keeping your big day running smoothly, while a hot air balloon flight with Global Ballooning could be a great way to get some group snaps. Book in a group or organise vouchers for your main men when it suits them best.

Every one of us carries a credit card or debit card, a licence and a few other pieces of plastic. Choose a small leather card wallet for each of your Groom Crew, have the leather stamped with the date or a phrase which is meaningful just to you. It's something they can keep forever and reminds them to shout you a drink on occasion.

You can't go wrong with personalised luggage. Everything from a wet pack to a weekender can be a fine gift for your crew. While we may not be able to travel far, we can still travel in style. Find a local leather artisan and get their help.

Just as each member of your crew has a personality of their own, take the time to browse Mangana Olinda for the perfect piece that's just right for them. It's an absolute treasure trove of unique gifts that you won't find off the shelf anywhere else. P.S., They also have a wedding gift registry.

The Quickie

YARRA VALLEY'S FIRST MULTIPLE
ELOPEMENT EVENT

THURSDAY 11TH NOVEMBER

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tipsypony.com.au

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lisanewman.com.au

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perpetualexpressions.com.au

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directorsedge.com.au

LEI LEI CLAVEY



Lei Lei Clavey is a Melbourne based photographer who loves capturing stories through photography.

P. 0404 836 773
leileiclavey.com

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My Scandi Style Photography are the experts when it comes to capturing the unseen, in-between moments on your wedding day. Kelly will make you feel at ease in front of the camera, and deliver natural, high-quality photos that summarise you, the venue, your guests and the emotion of the day.

P. 0433 122 992
myscandistyle.com

RICK LISTON



Rick Liston is a Yarra Valley wedding photographer who loves joining adventurous wild hearts on their crazy journey from lovers to lifers.

P. 0475 604 713
rickliston.com

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yarravalleypetresort.com.au

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araluenlodge.com.au

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BALGOWNIE ESTATE



A unique advantage of having reception, ceremony and accommodation within the same beautiful location, alongside a host of other activities sure to enrich the essence of a destination winery wedding.

P. 9730 0787
balgownieestate.com.au

BIANCHET WINERY



Host your ceremony and reception all in one place, with stunning photo opportunities, contemporary food and excellent service, our experienced Wedding team will take care of everything for you.

P. 8288 1844
bianchetwinery.com.au

BULONG ESTATE



Put yourself and your guests in the most spectacular and private of locations. We will be with you every step of the way to make your special day just the way you want it.

P. 5967 1358
bulongestate.com.au

CHATEAU WYUNA



Chateau Wyuna is a rustic, award winning wedding venue built around a 1920s log cabin and featuring a 1909 heritage listed country Chapel.

P. 9736 2555
chateauwyuna.com.au

CLOUDEHILL



Cloudehill's display garden includes an outdoor theatre very appropriate for wedding ceremonies. The gardens are also perfect for wedding party photo shoots.

P. 9751 1009
cloudehill.com.au

COUNTRY PLACE



CountryPlace is a fabulous accommodation venue for family and friends attending a wedding in the Dandenong Ranges. Our award-winning property offers 60 ensuite bedrooms.

P. 9728 7000
countryplace.com.au

DE BORTOLI



De Bortoli Wines Yarra Valley Estate is in one of the most beautiful corners of a region renowned for its beauty, making it a unique and memorable venue for your wedding.

P. 5965 2271
debortoli.com.au

**FERGUSSON
WINERY**



Newly refurbished and sparkling with character Fergusson's is the perfect venue to host your wedding. A friendly, family owned business helps make your experience more personal and enjoyable.

P. 5965 2237
fergussonwinery.com.au

FONDATA 1872



Fondata 1872 is the contemporary revival of the iconic Weller's, originally established as a Cobb & Co circa 1872, it's a place where city style meets country hospitality.

P. 9712 0742
fondata1872.com

**FOOTHILLS
CONFERENCE
CENTRE**



Foothills Conference Centre offers the Bride and Groom and their guests the unique advantage of having their reception, ceremony and accommodation all within the same location.

P. 1300 341 630
foothillsconferencecentre.com.au

**FOREST
WEDDINGS**



Dreaming of a forest wedding? Let your wedding aisle be the magical forest floor.

P. 5786 5230
forestweddings.com.au

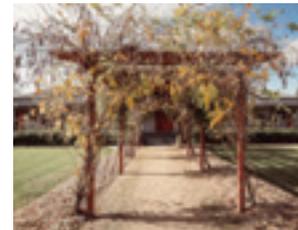
**HEALESVILLE
SANCTUARY**



Nestled in the natural bushland setting of this iconic Australian sanctuary, the Brolga room is the perfect backdrop for your special day.

P. 5957 2837
sanctuaryharvest.com.au

**IMMERSE
WINERY**



Nestled in the scenic Yarra Valley, Immerse is a breathtaking wedding venue, acclaimed restaurant, boutique winery and accommodation venue all rolled into one.

P. 5965 2444
immerse.com.au

IN THE VALLEY



Nestled within 2 acres of stunning gardens, this fully appointed private estate with pool & games zone is perfect for wedding guest accommodation, sleeping up to 30.

P. 0419 368 031
inthevalley.com.au

LEVANTINE HILL



Unforgettable events are created through great ideas and exceptional partnerships. That's what we offer at Levantine Hill. We bring together the unique skills of hatted chef Teage Ezard and renowned winemaker Paul Bridgeman to begin your journey for a perfect life together.

P. 5962 1333
levantinehill.com.au

MARYBROOKE MANOR



Marybrooke Manor is nestled on the edge of the majestic Sherbrooke Forest in the Dandenong Ranges.

P. 9755 2755
marybrooke.com.au

MATILDA BAY



Australia's original craft brewer, Matilda Bay, has been calling the pristine Yarra Valley home since 2019 and are now doing weddings from Monday - Thursdays.

P. 5957 3200
matildabay.com

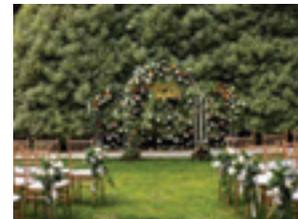
OAKRIDGE WINES



Oakridge is a family-owned, Yarra Valley winery, restaurant and cellar door, originally established in 1978 alongside a ridge of oak trees. Fabulous fare and spectacular views.

P. 9738 9900
oakridgewines.com.au

OLINDA TEA HOUSE



Nestled in the heart of the stunning Dandenong Ranges just 50km from the Melbourne CBD, the Olinda Tea House is a place like no other.

P. 9751 0556
olindateahouse.com.au

POTTERS RECEPTIONS



A wedding at Potters is a truly unforgettable experience. Set amid 6 acres of native landscaped gardens with breathtaking waterfalls, chandelier-lit reception, charming chapel & garden ceremony options, a bridal retreat, alfresco bar & wisteria-draped courtyard, Potters can cater to all desires.

P. 9844 1222
potters.com.au

PROJEKT 3488



Boutique & owner operated, Projekt 3488 are all about the details. They create an intimate, warm & inviting atmosphere - the perfect country getaway with a twist.

P. 0400 215 785
projekt3488.com.au

PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY



Situated in the picturesque and verdant Dandenong Ranges, only 60 minutes from Melbourne CBD, Puffing Billy Railway makes for a truly authentic and unique wedding setting.

P. 9757 0700
puffingbilly.com.au

RIVERSTONE ESTATE



The Riverstone Estate offers exclusive use of the property for weddings. The Estate is set on 75 acres of vines with panoramic views of the Yarra Valley.

P. 5962 3947
theriverstoneestate.com.au

SKYHIGH MT DANDENONG



Situated in the breathtaking Dandenong Ranges, SkyHigh Mount Dandenong provides the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable wedding. Surround yourself in colourful landscaped gardens and a panoramic view of the city and Yarra Valley. Why not book an Off Peak Wedding - you could save by securing

P. 9751 0450
skyhighmtdandenong.com.au

STONEHURST OF SASSAFRAS



This beautiful home is on two acres of thoughtfully landscaped gardens and surrounded by the tall forests of the Yarra Ranges. Stonehurst of SassafRAS is the perfect place for an intimate wedding, an exceptional pre-wedding preparation venue or a post-wedding relax.

P. 0434 965 793
stonehurstofsassafRAS.com

SUTHERLAND ESTATE



Celebrate with elegance and style in the heart of the Yarra Valley, enjoying fine wines and stunning views.

P. 0402 052 287
sutherlandestate.com.au

TARRAWARRA ESTATE



Only an hour outside Melbourne, the 400 acres of heritage bushland and lush vineyards are among the most picturesque in Australia. Weddings here are an exclusive affair.

P. 5957 3510
tarrawarra.com.au

VALLEY RANGES GETAWAYS



Luxury homes to stay and get ready for your big day in the Dandenong Ranges. Stay the night before your wedding at one of our beautiful properties.

P. 1300 488 448
valleyrangesgetaways.com.au

VUE ON HALCYON



This venue is the perfect blank canvas to create the wedding celebration you have always dreamed of, in an idyllic and memorable location – they really offer it all.

P. 9726 7111
vueonhalcyon.com.au

WARRATINA LAVENDER FARM



We have ample room for up to 100 guests with exclusive use of our venue and facilities. We have many areas around our farm where gazebos, food trucks, outdoor bars etc. can be installed. When hiring our venue you will also have full use of our grounds for photo opportunities.

P. 5964 4650
warratinalavender.com.au

YARRA RANGES ESTATE



Yarra Ranges Estate's stunning function centre features breathtaking views of our vineyard, gardens, forest and mountain ranges, Yarra Ranges Estate is where wedding dreams come true.

P. 0408 260 357
yarrarangesestate.com.au

YARRA VALLEY LODGE



The question has been popped and you're ready to take this next big step. We'd absolutely love to host your wedding at our place. We have everything you need to create the perfect all-inclusive destination wedding, right at the gateway to the Yarra Valley.

P. 9760 3341
yarravalleylodge.com

YERING MEADOWS GOLF CLUB



Located in the beautiful Yarra Valley, Yering Meadows Golf Club offers spectacular views from all vantage points. With immaculately maintained grounds, a historical homestead, floor to ceiling windows featuring beautiful vistas of the Yarra Ranges & Walnut Grove, the photo opportunities are endless.

P. 9738 9000
yeringmeadows.com.au

