

Off Peak Weddings

- YARRA VALLEY & DANDELONG RANGES -



getting
hitched
your way



ISSUE 8

SPRING

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Photo: at Potters Receptions by Tizia May Photography

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Cover Image: Kristy and Marc at Zonzo Estate
Photo: Ada and Ivy Photography

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Editor:
Lindy Schneider

Production:
Giovanna Ostacchini

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Destination

Yarra Valley & Dandenong Ranges



Photo: at Potters Reception by Aria Photography

The Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges takes a breath with you as the season sheds her winter coat and the buds and trees burst back into life as spring announces her arrival. How do we rise and fall to meet the everchanging conditions of life? The expansions, the contractions, the togetherness, the separations - all become part of a new type of normal, where love endures and the things we value most are each other and the small part of the world in which we live.

What gives you comfort? What does your heart yearn for when lockdowns ease and we can meet once again – even if only to bump elbows? This special part of the world holds many of the dreaming spaces that may have occupied our periods of isolation.

What do you need? Vast open skies spilling over with fresh air? Mountain tops to survey the world, some with views to the city? Vineyards that vibe with fresh green shoots and line the road trips you plan with your besties? A deep velvety forest with trees that defy time? Or an English garden where bulbs and blooms peek through curated lawns and driveways lined with oaks and amber?

This is the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges we know intimately. This is the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges that we love to share with you. This is your open invitation to be among the beauty that makes this region so special, every season of the year, but especially now, especially with the way we need to live to keep each other safe. Where there is nature, there is love. Wherever there is love, there is kindness.

Wherever you are, dream about being here and we will see you soon.

The Love Train

Weddings with Puffing Billy



Photo: Courtesy of Puffing Billy Railway

There is a special moment when your wedding begins. The moment when guests hear the first note of music and turn to welcome the bridal party, that moment when all the planning unfolds to bring two people together forever. Imagine if that first note of music was instead the cheerful sound of a train whistle! And walking up the aisle means travelling to your ceremony in an iconic train and alighting on an historic platform. The love train, with all the right stops for your big day, is the much-loved Puffing Billy Railway.

For those looking for a distinctive wedding that gives every guest a unique experience to remember, the opportunity to share your ceremony on the train or at the station is full of unforgettable moments.

Seeped in childhood memories, a Puffing Billy wedding is an elegant response to those wanting 'something old and something new' that draws on the natural beauty of the Dandenong Ranges and provides a stunning 'built-in' theme for photos. The spectacular lush forests and fern gullies that surround one of Australia's oldest and best-preserved heritage steam railways makes for a truly authentic wedding setting.

"Puffing Billy is a delightful wedding transport you can charter to get you and your guests to your venue, and there are several options to choose from for those wanting a wedding reception along the railway line corridor."



Photos: Courtesy of Puffing Billy Railway



Photo: Courtesy of Puffing Billy Railway

Choose from two reception venues. The Menzies Creek Museum holds some of Australia's rarest and most unique railway related artefacts and will come alive as a rustic wedding reception space set to your requirements. There is also the Nobelius Heritage Packing Shed in Emerald, a beautifully restored early twentieth century building that provides the ideal intimate and rustic wedding venue, with an open fire place to keep you warm and cosy in winter. The option is yours to choose from inhouse catering or call in your favourite caterer and realise your dream wedding. Smaller weddings may also consider an 'all aboard wedding dinner' on the train.

The Puffing Billy events co-ordinator will be delighted to help you plan your day, your way. From the first stop to the last, love is the destination on Puffing Billy!

For further information, visit puffingbilly.com.au or contact puffing.billy@pbr.org.au



Photo: Rick Liston Photography

Spring

Perfection

Things are a little different this spring, and that's ok. Just like the daffodils, the jonquils and the tulips we have been in hibernation, underground, waiting for the time when we can emerge, and it's no different with weddings. Spring, a time of growth and renewal, is also a time for contemplation and reassessment. Plans have changed, we have changed – and there is a profoundly deep sense of valuing the small things, the people we love, the moments we connect.

Weddings too have found a new way forward. For those planning spring weddings, the postponement of the big day until next year provides extra time for planning and dreaming. For couples who want to be married sooner rather than later, the coming of spring brings a welcome opportunity to plan a wedding that is the 'essence' of their hearts. Micro, intimate, pop-up weddings and elopements are exciting options that for many provide an easier, budget friendly and timely response. After all this, a spring wedding and a fresh start in married life is really the only thing that matters.

Spring is a time of perfection in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges. Gardens burst into life, the vines awaken and send their tiny tendrils into the sky preparing for the next batch of grapes we love so much. The vegetable gardens tended over winter are full of possibility, and the blossom in the orchards is soft and sweetly perfumed. In the forest and along the rivers the native wattle brightens our day with millions of golden orbs in flower. The world is alive, love shines and getting hitched is the perfect celebration for lovebirds with new beginnings written on their hearts.



Photo: at Forest Weddings by Journey By Light

Kari & Nick

Get Hitched

@Forest Weddings

.....

Meet the couple

Kari Beddall and Nicholas Tonkin met in Melbourne in 2014 when Kari was house-sharing in St Kilda with Nick's cousin. They spent a few months seeing each other intermittently as Nick was working away and Kari was working a crazy job managing a nightclub. It took a year before they fully got together. They took off to South America together and moved to Canada briefly before Nick was called back to work in Australia. He spent a year travelling to Canada to see Kari on his breaks before they finally moved to Melbourne together. They are settled in the Eastern suburbs and have a rescue dog and a baby on the way.

Who proposed?

"Nick proposed in Tulum, Mexico in 2017 on the beach with a ring that was custom made in Melbourne. He was so nervous, but of course I said yes and we spent a week in Tulum together enjoying the beach and food," says Kari.

How did you choose your ceremony and reception venue?

"We wanted something outdoors with a woodsy/natural feel. Nick is from Kinglake, so it was one of the first places we started looking for venues. We found [Forest Weddings](#) (at Kinglake Forest Adventures) online and went for a showing with Michelle – we knew straight away it was where we wanted to be married."



Photo: at Forest Weddings by Journey By Light

What was your wedding theme?

No theme. We had a small ceremony with only four guests and the celebrant.

What made your wedding unique?

Our plans were interrupted by COVID-19 but not in the way you might think. We had always planned for a small simple ceremony and just our parents in attendance. But when we couldn't have seven people outdoors together for the ceremony it was put on hold. I had luckily purchased my dress earlier in the year but due to all the shopping centre closures Nick didn't have a suit, nor did any of the guests have any outfits organised. It was a bit of a mad dash to get them all sorted.

And I also fell pregnant! So, I was 12 weeks pregnant during the ceremony, which we knew might be a possibility when we picked our dates.

My parents also happened to be in Australia – which they are for only five months each year. But they spend four months in QLD and our wedding date was chosen based on them being in Melbourne for 48 hours before flying home to Canada. This was all decided before COVID-19 so when we got the go ahead for our ceremony (because the restrictions lifted to 10 people at weddings), we decided to proceed as we weren't sure when my parents would be able to come back to Australia.

The biggest downfall was not being able to go out for dinner afterward. It would've been lovely to enjoy a meal out and celebrate the new coming together of families. Instead we had an Airbnb booked that we went to after the ceremony – leaving our parents to relax at our house.

Is there a story behind your dress?

I found my dress on stillwhite.com as someone bought it and had it altered but it never showed in time for their wedding date. I was lucky it still fitted me when I was 12 weeks pregnant. The dress was from Wear Your Love XO.



Photo: at Forest Weddings by Journey By Light

Tell us what made your day special.

Our wedding was special because we had our closest family with us in a small intimate ceremony. Our celebrant Zena Lythgo did a fantastic job in writing our ceremony and making everyone feel calm and comfortable. She was highly professional and everyone was very impressed with her and what she was able to capture about our relationship.

We were a 45-minute drive from our house to the venue. Nick and my dad had arrived at the venue to decorate the arbour with flowers. I stayed back to get ready with my mum and MIL. My MIL's partner arrived and drove us to the venue but halfway there we realised I'd left my bouquet at home. We decided to turn around and get it which made us 40 minutes late for the ceremony. Driving into Kinglake it started to pour with rain. If we weren't late it would've downpoured in the middle of the ceremony!

We knew this time of year was tricky and rain was always a possibility. We waited in the car and after a few minutes the rain stopped. The forest floor was wet, but it wasn't an issue. It made for beautiful photos.



Photo: at Forest Weddings by Journey By Light

What makes your marriage?

Nick and I have spent much of our five years together, apart. He has worked away from the day I met him until March this year. We have lived in separate countries, but we have always maintained a strong relationship.

Our marriage is only seven weeks old but since we have lived together for years and had long bouts of time apart it feels like we have been married for the last few years anyway. Our marriage is based on communication, honesty and trust. Without those three things, we wouldn't be married today.

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

Keep it simple! And do exactly what you want. Don't worry about what anyone else wants as it's your ceremony and your day.

*"Having only
two weeks to plan
makes it a lot
easier too."*



Photo: at Forest Weddings by Journey By Light

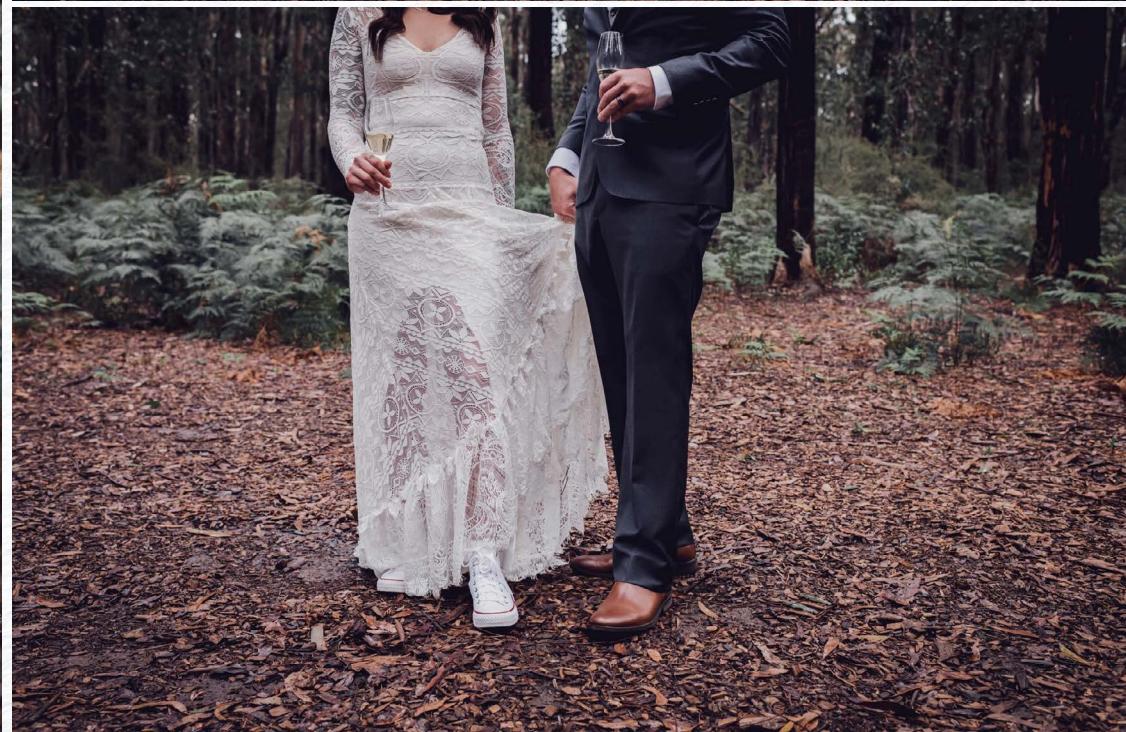


Photo: at Forest Weddings by Journey By Light



Photo: at Forest Weddings by Journey By Light

What were the highlights?

Being in the hometown where Nick grew up and getting married in the bushland where the fire came through had significant meaning to us. It was oddly beautiful with all the burnt trees and new growth intertwining – a juxtaposition of hard times and persistence.”

Vendor Credits

Ceremony and Reception Venue Forest Weddings

Photographer Journey by Light

Rings Jasmine Fraser Jewellery

Wedding Bands Her: Brilliant Earth, Him: GN Jewellers

BRIDE CREDITS

Bridal gown Wear Your Love XO

Number of Guests: 4 / **Budget:** \$4,000 / **Wedding Date:** 31 May 2020

Read more stories and find out more about our
Off Peak Weddings partners on our website

offpeakweddings.com.au

where you can make direct enquiries,
create 'favourite' lists and plan your day, your way!

Intimate Wedding Venues

with an emphasis on safety & privacy

There's been a noticeable trend towards smaller Off Peak Weddings and many couples are opting for a 'less is more' approach to getting married. The intimate wedding is now a real consideration for couples wanting to get hitched despite restrictions on guest numbers. So many amazing venues in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges have risen to the times to offer micro and intimate wedding packages that meet all the needs you and your guests have for a safe celebration. You may even find you can consider venues you'd previously ruled out!

So don't delay your beautiful day – a gorgeous ceremony and reception that meets the prevailing restrictions is still a possibility.



Love these micro-wedding suggestions:

[Seville Estate](#) is an award-winning winery set among impressive gardens and undulating vineyards. Enjoy exquisite estate wines matched with Chef's menu – a memorable combination that will be the toast of your guests – after you, of course! The newly renovated Homestead offers dining rooms that seat 7-10 people each with dedicated bathrooms and facilities. The main restaurant space can also host weddings depending on your needs and state of restrictions.

Say I do at [Vue on Halcyon](#) who are pleased to offer elopement style weddings and short lead time weddings in response to restrictions associated with COVID-19. With rolling hills and a contemporary chapel this is a perfect spot to create your happily ever after moment. Enjoy a winery reception with elegant dishes complemented by estate wines. You can even exchange vows in the vineyard.

[Immerse Yarra Valley's](#) intimate wedding package provides exclusive use of the restaurant and choice of reception locations from either the Vineyard Chapel or Garden Chapel. There is minimum 40 (max 70) people and three hours of venue use for your special ceremony and reception lunch on weekends in 2020-21. A picturesque vineyard wedding with much to love.

[Zonzo Estate](#) are offering 'Ready, set, wed!' A 'Micro Weddings' Package – making it easier to say 'I do' in the time of COVID-19. Includes a 1.5-hour Package (ceremony, photos and canapés), on-site ceremony in the Capella, a selection of canapés and beverages post ceremony, and use of the property for photos.

Set among stunning gardens, perfect for a ceremony or al fresco dining, the [Olinda Tea House](#) offers an exquisite range of menu options and private dining opportunities. Choose from one of the delightful gazebos for complete privacy for you and your guests and appreciate a unique approach to intimate weddings.

Hitched at Olinda Tea House iso-style

Jace and Abigail Denny were married in July 2020 at Olinda Tea House.

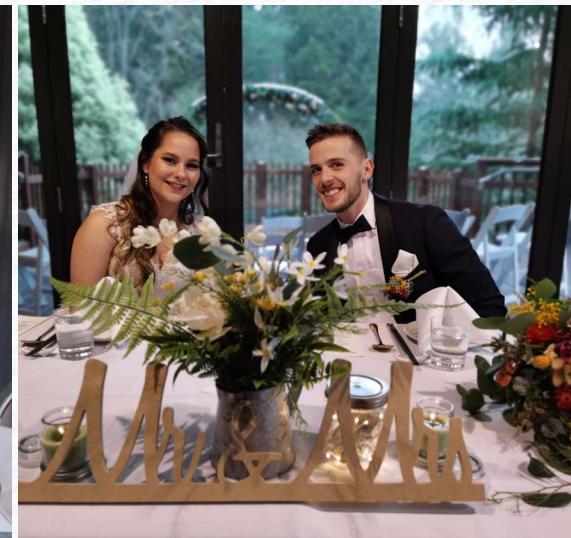
"We chose the Olinda Tea House for our wedding for many reasons. Beautiful gardens and views; the forest, the hedge, the Chinese gardens and bridge. The llamas are so cool. And the food is incredible. We loved the private dining options.

When we first heard about the wedding restrictions because of Coronavirus we were disappointed. We always wanted an intimate wedding but at one point we could only have five people, which we wouldn't consider, so when it went up to 20 we were happy. The venue handled the social distancing and health and safety requirements so perfectly. The seating arrangements were great. It was a bit weird having everyone's temperature taken but it had to be done.

One of the advantages of a smaller wedding is there is a lot less stress and we had delightful attention from the venue and event manager. A smaller wedding means it's easier to interact with guests as there is not as much separation. It was much harder to find a venue that would cater for a smaller wedding. Even during COVID-19 restrictions so many venues would still ask for minimum payments for a larger wedding even though we could only have 20 guests.

There were lots of advantages to having a July wedding. The rain gave the photos character and they were brilliant, no harsh shadows like on a sunny day. The clouds in the background made for a great atmosphere. It was very cold just 3 degrees on the day!

We were very happy to have a small wedding. It was super intimate, very comfortable and fun. We had a lot of fun. If anyone is thinking of having a small wedding, just do it. No regrets, don't wait!"



Photos: Courtesy of Olinda Tea House

Spring Wedding Cocktails

with love from Four Pillars Gin

Simple and delicious, these cocktails let the star of the show shine through! Yes, of course you're the real star, but these sexy wedding cocktails (which truly can be enjoyed anytime, even the day after the night before) are always going to win a round of applause.

No need to overcomplicate perfection – that could just be the right theme for your wedding day as well!

Cheers.

Bloody Shiraz Spritz

30ml Four Pillars Bloody Shiraz Gin
30ml ruby grapefruit juice
Sparkling wine

Add Bloody Shiraz Gin and juice to a champagne flute. Top with sparkling wine.



Photos: Four Pillars Gin



Tom Collins

50ml Rare Dry Gin
25ml fresh lemon juice
15ml sugar syrup
Soda water
Lemon

Shake the gin, lemon and sugar syrup over ice. Strain into a highball with ice. Top with soda water. Garnish with a wheel of lemon.

Red Snapper (recovery next day)

45ml Rare Dry Gin
100ml fresh tomato juice
20ml fresh lemon juice
15ml Worcestershire sauce
Tabasco sauce
Lemon
Celery

Build in a highball over ice. Stir well to combine. Garnish with a celery stick and lemon wedge.



Special thanks to Four Pillars Gin resident Brand Ambassador and cocktail guru Missy Kesseler

Top Tips

for organising your wedding transport

By Yarra Valley A2B

Finding the right wedding transport might not be the first thing you have on your list of things to do to plan your day, but it can be one of the most important when it comes to your day being as easy and as comfortable as possible. Cath and Donna from [Yarra Valley A2B](#) share their top tips for planning your day, your way.

- 1. Get in early** - From September through to end March the Yarra Valley is a very popular choice for spring and summer weddings. With only a handful of transport providers, weekend dates get booked out quickly.
- 2. When you send out the invites** include an option for guests to choose if they would like transport to and from their accommodation. Once they return their RSVP you can then develop a list of names and their accommodation to provide to the transport company.
- 3. Offer guests some 'close by' accommodation suggestions** to make transport easier and more cost effective. For example, if you have guests spread over the entire Yarra Valley in small BnBs people will be sitting for long periods enroute to and from the venue.
- 4. Use a reputable, well established and experienced company.** You are trusting them with your most important friends and family so check that they have appropriate insurances, accreditation and registration.



- 5. Cheapest isn't always best.** Have a budget in mind but remember a professional business will be able to handle any contingencies, alterations and remove any stress in getting your guests to and from your wedding. They will be worth it.
- 6. Ask the wedding venue for transport recommendations.** Most will be able to provide you with a list of local companies to contact and will be able to advise on the ones they work with often that provide excellent service.
- 7. Don't forget about family.** Offering a smaller, luxury mini bus for parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters and children can be a really nice way to look after your immediate family who are not travelling in bridal cars.
- 8. Keep your guests hydrated.** Some companies will provide bottled water to each guest for the return journey. You want your family and friends to have the best experience from when they get collected to when they get back home.



9. Choose a company that provides door-to-door service. Leaving guests to navigate their way to central pick up and return locations can be difficult, especially in high heels or bad weather when they are unfamiliar with the area. The best transport companies will provide you with a personalised run sheet so every guest will know when they will be collected from their accommodation to be on time for your special day. The transport provider can even text pick up reminders on the day.

10. Consider a company that can offer transport to take children or older guests back to accommodation earlier. This gives great flexibility for everyone to enjoy the whole reception.

Photos: Rick Liston Photography

Meet Donna and Cath

Donna and Cath established Yarra Valley A2B to provide safe and caring transport in the Yarra Valley for the most important people in the world – you and your wedding guests! Their mission is to ensure everyone has a great experience from the moment they are picked up until they are returned to their door. This dynamic couple are the perfect combination of attention to detail and service beyond expectations. They are true ambassadors for the region and love sharing their love for the amenities that make every guest feel special. Their mantra is ‘You are the centre of our everything’ and they love playing their part in making memories on your big day.



Honeymoon

here this year

LINGER LONGER

The interstate or overseas honeymoon you were planning may not be possible at the moment, but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy a week or two of loved up time together post-ceremony a little closer to home (restrictions permitting).

The Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges were once the honeymoon capital of Melbourne, and in these times we can return to a simpler, yet completely luscious, newlywed getaway that places you deep within Australia's best wine country, with plenty of activities to fill your days.

If you've ever enjoyed a weekend away in the region, consider how delightful a week or more can be. Choose to be out and about, or completely ensconced in a delightful hideaway in the forest for utter seclusion and sweet time with one another. These honeymoon recommendations will provide you with soft landing pads after the busyness of wedding preparations, and provide cherished moments to start the story of married life together.

And if you love a little exploring in the great outdoors, you'll be surprised how central the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges is. Just an hour's drive can have you anywhere...but you'll most likely find it hard to leave!

Things to do

You'll absolutely need a day or two for winery explorations, a day for cycling the trails or walking the forests, a day for village wanders, a day for museums and the arts, and plenty of time for dining (breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner!) in our amazing restaurants. And of course there are those nothing days in between, where you sleep late, graze local produce by the fire, toast the sunset and chill together at your accommodation without the need to do anything. Bliss starts here.

Whether you're seeking views of vineyards, the quintessential farmhouse, or a secret location in the forest, fall in love all over again in the Yarra Valley.

For privacy, beauty and luxury stays, we love:

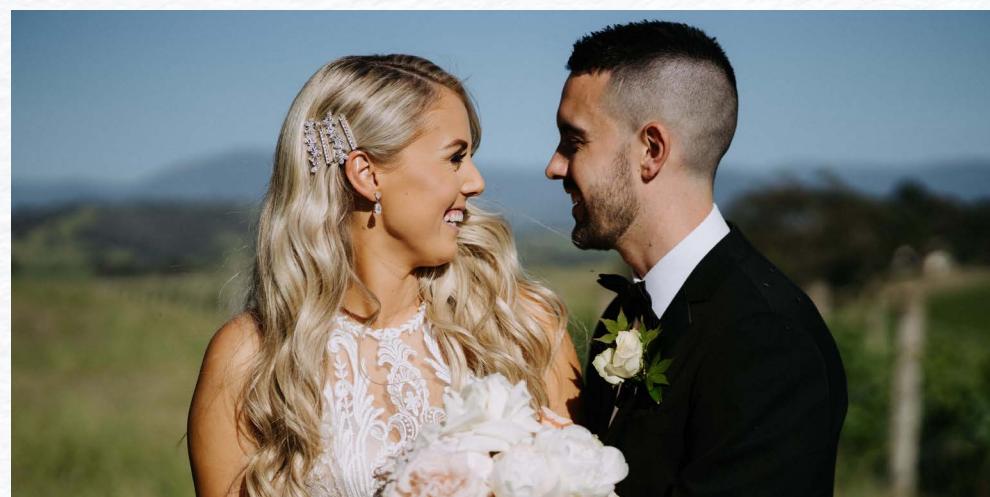
[Wiggley Bottom Farm](#), Badger Creek – Nestled at the end of a willow lined driveway, this boutique pet friendly, farmstay situated on 15 acres means you can honeymoon with your pooch. Go for gorgeous country walks with your dog (there's 15 acres to explore) and meet/feed/pat the animals (miniature goats, horses and geese). Wiggley can arrange a gourmet hamper and a bottle of celebratory bubbles for couples to enjoy – perfect for a lazy summer's picnic on the cottage lawn with your dog, or to curl up with in front of the fire in winter.



[Araluen Boutique Accommodation](#), Yarra Glen – Award-winning boutique bed and breakfast accommodation with solar heated pool and outdoor entertaining. Luxurious self-contained spa villas. Relax and indulge in some ‘us’ time.



[Balgownie Estate and Resort](#), Yarra Glen – With onsite pampering in the Day Spa and breathtaking views over an idyllic landscape, this 4.5 star resort has everything you need, and every reason to stay longer. Luxury plus with a range of onsite activities to enjoy. You may never leave.



[In the Valley](#), Yarra Glen – Self-contained intimate studio suites with balconies overlooking fabulous rose gardens – sheer modern indulgence and relaxation with spas and fireplaces in every suite.



[Valley Ranges Getaways](#) are your go-to for 33 accommodation options in the Dandenong Ranges – all perfect for honeymooners. Think generous beds, secluded cottages, continental breakfasts and a home away from home vibe. Suggestions include:

- The Blackwood, Sassafras – A private haven from city life, only a one-minute walk from Sassafras. Elegant classical design with state-of-the-art technology.



- Magnolia on Mernda, Olinda – A stunning spacious home in a natural setting. Serenity assured. Generous and indulgent (and pet friendly).



- Twilight Cottage, Olinda – Enjoy your own special world with spa under the stars in a sweet cosy cottage just for two.



- Merrow Gatehouse Cottage, Mt Dandenong – Set in 10 acres of forest, indulgence guaranteed with four poster bed and spa with forest view.



Bookings can be made direct with the venue so secure your dates post-lockdown.

Little Big Vows

The pop-up wedding

by Louise Cranwell

Micro, elopement, pop up, bespoke seems to be the pivoting language we are hearing a lot right now, but to be honest these styles of weddings have been around for some time. Many wedding industry greats have always offered this type of wedding.

A micro or pop-up wedding is an intimate occasion that includes a small number of guests to witness a marriage ceremony and often includes an intimate celebration with food and beverages to be enjoyed and shared over a few hours. It may take place in an amazing winery or venue, or you may have a special place such as family property that can be transformed into a romantic setting.

Elopement weddings may suit couples that have chosen to share their vows with just each other. They may include two special people in their lives to witness this exchange or even a photographer can be a witness. The couple may have already been married before or time is not on their side – there are lots of reasons why this option is desirable. The point is – your wedding day should be unique to you and reflect your personalities.

Couples choosing to have a micro wedding or elope are often wanting to take the sometimes stressful, time consuming planning and the large cost out of this age-old tradition. They may also want to take advantage of an amazing venue, stylist, photographer or celebrant that was possibly out of their budget or in high demand. They also don't care if they get married on a Tuesday if it means not settling on style and professionalism.



TRENDS

Photo : at Riverstone Estate by Ateia

Most importantly, weddings in any shape or form are monumental events in our life. My mum, who unfortunately is not with us anymore, has taught me how short life really is and that the significance of special events are to be treasured no matter what shape or size!

If a micro or elopement wedding is sounding like something that ticks all your boxes make sure you choose suppliers such as celebrants or photographers that you align with – maybe you are both loud and crazy so choose someone to marry you that is also! Remember, you won't have your "tribe" around you to help create an atmosphere, so choose suppliers who are going to reflect your vibe and contribute to making your day wonderfully memorable.

About Louise Cranwell

After years of being in a career I hated, I finally found something I was good at! Connecting, organising, meeting people, executing events and most importantly waving off a couple at the end of their wedding knowing that I had contributed to one of their biggest memories – starting a life with the one you want to spend the rest of it with! I have created a 'hub' to connect the right people to each other. In addition to Loubelle events and co. I have "given life" to Little Big Vows: bringing together our industry greats that want to see and give love on a weekday too. Little Big Vows is just that, Little weddings with your Big Vow promises. Having grown up in the Yarra Valley, I know what beautiful venues are out there (I've enjoyed too much wine at some of them) and I know they don't just open on a Saturday or Sunday. Little Big Vows is for the couple that wants to get married now, simple, meaningful, bespoke and unique to you – taking the overcomplication out of this age-old tradition.



Married in between lockdowns

Sara and Lincoln get hitched @Zonzo Estate

REAL WEDDING

Meet the couple

The couple met in July 2013 when Sara started working at a call centre with Lincoln. After working on a tricky customer together, Lincoln asked Sara on a date but on the day he nearly cancelled at 9pm as he assumed Sara was going to cancel and he wanted to get in first! Turns out Sara just super loves Ikea! So when she finally messaged to say she was home, they went to Bar None in Camberwell and have been together ever since. Over the six years of dating, they moved in together, travelled and adopted Billy the chihuahua. Over the years, they have worked separately, and now are working together again at a marketing agency. They got married the day before their seventh anniversary.

Who proposed?

Lincoln proposed on their six-year anniversary at Bar None.

How did you choose your ceremony and reception venue?

"When we originally came across Zonzo Estate online, we thought that it would be perfect as Sara's family is Italian and we were attracted to the Italian feast style reception (especially the woodfired pizza!). We didn't want to do the traditional chicken/beef alternate drop cookie-cutter type deal. We also loved the indoor ceremony space offerings. We opted for the Capella over the Barrel Room as it was a winter wedding, and we needed somewhere that was warm and matched our vibe! The price was a little out of our budget, so we had initially ruled it out. However, they offered a winter discount and we decided to go ahead!"



Photo : at Zonzo Estate by Emily Howlett



Photo : at Zonzo Estate by Emily Howlett

What was your wedding theme?

No theme specifically. We wanted darker colours (deep greens/reds) for winter, to make ethical and sustainable choices where possible, native Australian florals and nods to some wedding traditions. We were (mostly) able to pull this off – near the end we had to be a bit flexible though!

What made your wedding unique?

We didn't have a dance floor. By the time of our wedding, we had to cull our numbers to 20 guests, and we thought that it was too small to have dancing. Instead, we had Awkward Portraits come and set up where the dance floor would have been. Everyone loved it – it was a perfect alternative! Because we didn't have dancing and mingling was tricky, halfway through the night we went outside for photos under the lights. We shuffled seats so people sat with different people, and Zonzo Estate had an opportunity to sanitise.

Tell us about any special elements of your day.

We tried to include a few traditional touches in the day. We gave sugared almonds as bonbonniere, we did something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue. Sara's dad, along with her mum, walked her down the aisle.

We also had one of our best friends design our stationery and Sara's aunt did our bouquets – unique and special to us. On the day, we enjoyed some downtime after the chaos of planning and shared a glass of cognac with our parents and close friends.

What makes your marriage?

Simple – communication! We value honesty above everything else, and we've never "shelved" the relationship under the assumption that issues are resolved and we can stop working on them. We work hard to never take one another for granted, and always put the relationship first over our own personal wants or needs. In addition, we love to laugh and find fun in every day we spend together.



Photo : at Zonzo Estate by Emily Howlett

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

We're not sure that there is such a thing as a perfect wedding! But perhaps we're feeling a touch jaded as our wedding was in the middle of a global pandemic. We started wedding planning before we even knew the word 'Coronavirus'.

Organising an iso-wedding was stressful as we had to adapt to new restrictions almost weekly in the lead up. It was vital that we were flexible. Things didn't go to plan (and they won't, even in perfect circumstances) so it was helpful to have a contingency plan for everything. We had planned a 'if A falls through - we'll do B instead' for almost every aspect of the day – including the dress and the venue.



Photo : at Zonzo Estate by Emily Howlett



Photo : at Zonzo Estate by Emily Howlett

What were the highlights?

I think the number one highlight for both of us was sitting in our seats at the reception and watching everyone else have a wicked time. The wedding was between two lockdowns and everyone was relaxed and happy to be out. The laughter coming from the Awkward Portraits set up was so enjoyable.

The music was fantastic – Garth & Mark did an incredible job of nailing the vibe, even with some curly requests. We've been enjoying reliving the day with our photographs. Emily was incredible to work with. She came to us very last minute after our original photographer cancelled four weeks before the wedding.

"Don't rule out winter as a great option to have a wedding"



Photos : at Zonzo Estate by Emily Howlett

Photos : at Zonzo Estate by Emily Howlett

Anything else you'd like to share?

Don't rule out winter as a great option to have a wedding. It is risky with the weather (but it can rain in summer too!), but if you plan for rain - it's perfect! Photographers and Videographers prefer it when it isn't sunny as it means they're not competing with sun/shadows, your guests won't be too sweaty and hot to enjoy your ceremony, you can choose your date without having to negotiate and you may also enjoy better prices from your vendors as it's off peak.

We know a few couples who are due to get married whose plans have been impacted by Coronavirus and are postponing the wedding or just not sure what to do. Hearing how grateful our vendors were for work in the current climate was enough for us to know that we made a good choice.

Although it wasn't our 'dream wedding', we're looking forward to dragging the celebration out for as long as possible and celebrating with our friends and family once we're able to."



Photos : at Zonzo Estate by Emily Howlett

Vendor Credits

Photographer Emily Howlett

Videographer Four by Four Films

Bouquets Sara's aunt, Anne Spence

Ceremony and Reception Venue Zonzo Estate

Catering/Cake & kind Miss Ladybirds Cakes

Stationery Brian Cheung

Printer PrintTogether

Celebrant GoLightly Celebrants

Entertainment The White Tree (Garth Ploog & Mark Brunott;
Awkward Portraits)

Engagement Rings Moi Moi Fine Jewellery

Wedding Bands Michael Hills Jewellers

Accommodation The Vines and Stefani Estate Wines

BRIDE CREDITS

Jewellery Swavroski

Bridesmaid dresses Pilgrim

Hair & Makeup Hair by Inez

GROOM CREDITS

Groom & groomsmen attire YSG & Co

Number of Guests: 20 / **Wedding Date:** 4 July 2020

Awkward Photography

Photography and weddings are inseparable – but how about a photo shoot that redefines getting dressed up!

What started as an 'Ugly Sweater' photo shoot party for photographer Karin Locke and her friends has now become a unique entertainment option for your wedding or event.

A Pop Up 'Awkward Portraits' photo shoot, just like our Real Weddings couple Sara and Lincoln shared with their guests (see page 40), is a super fun way to get people mingling at your wedding, and has them leaving with a totally unique keepsake via an instant print or online gallery! Themes include Classic, Glamour, Christmas, Troppo, Space, Graduation and more.



Awkward Portraits arrive with everything needed to create truly awkward photos that are everything you've tried to forget from the 1990s! There are backdrops, themed props and costumes to tickle your fancy and heaps of clothing options for people of all shapes and sizes, babies, toddlers and everything in between. Ugly jumpers, skivvies, appliquéd vests, jackets, blouses, baby onesies, tiny dresses and even dog clothing!

Sometimes we just need a good daggy laugh, and a happy occasion such as a wedding is a perfect setting for some unforgettable fun.

For more information: awkwardportraits.com

Photos : Courtesy of Awkward Portraits

PHOTOGRAPHY



Let's "I Do" This

1. Choose bite-sized individual wedding cakes. Think cupcakes or High Tea style delicacies, rather than tiered cakes to share.

2. Outdoor wedding ceremonies - let the view be your chapel and nature your backdrop.

3. Livestreaming - you've culled the guest list (ouch, we feel you) but that doesn't mean people can't be part of the experience by attending virtually.

4. Alfresco dining - socially distanced tables outside so there's plenty of fresh air. And take advantage of larger venues that are now accepting smaller guests lists so you can 'spread out' to meet the 1.5 metres requirement indoors.

5. The new bonbonniere is hand sanitiser - provide each guest with their own personal bottle as a keepsake.

Top 10 ISO wedding hacks

How do you adapt to the raft of restrictions that determine how and where we can gather? Understandably these conditions can and will change week to week, even day to day but here are our best ideas for planning your iso wedding day. Sometimes you just don't want to wait to get hitched.

6. Plated food to each individual's tastes – the grazing table trend we love so much is most likely on hold for a little while, so a return to a la carte dining is a great alternative.

7. Temperature check guests on arrival and pop sanitiser stations in various locations around your ceremony and reception.

8. Plan to limit the timeframe of your wedding. Have a defined start and end time, and choose to minimise the number of hours people are in contact as much as possible.

9. Have a micro wedding now and plan for a big party celebration when restrictions ease.

10. Simplify everything. And let love lead the way.

Summer Weddings

Endless hours of sunshine, and evenings that let us linger outdoors in gardens, under arbours and by the water. Summer has a special vibe in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges. The promise of holidays and celebrations, of new year cheers and time outdoors is what makes summer so anticipated and there's a distinct appetite for more relaxing, more alfresco dining, more local wine. Summer weddings sit so well in the region's landscape because regardless of the temperature there are always green fields and verdant vineyards restful to the eye and cooling in nature.

In the evening the cool breezes of the mountains flow down into the valley, providing perfect conditions for outdoor life, for lovers and those they love. Cellar doors, barrel rooms, historic stone buildings provide cool respite during warm days.

Summer weddings can invite a casual approach – soft linens, broad brimmed sun hats, bare arms and floating fabrics that catch the breeze. The new florals bring stunning dried flowers and fronds to bouquets and table arrangements – softly pastel in colour, resilient and everlasting. The wedding of summer may be a smaller style of gathering than we are used to, but the love is still all embracing.

Summer and 'I do' just go together.



Photo : at Riverstone Estate by Rick Liston



Off Peak Weddings

- YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES -

DIRECTORY

Celebrants



Robynne Mauger

Rainbow Authorised Civil Marriage Celebrant

A relaxed, creative, alternative celebrant who meets your values with heart and soul and who will work with you to bring just the right amount of colour and sentiment to your special day.

P: 0417 124 814

rainbowcelebrantyarravalley.com



Lisa Newman, Celebrant, Dandenong Ranges

Lisa is a popular Belgrave based celebrant with a zest for writing creative ceremonies that are NEVER boring! No matter how big or small your wedding celebration is, Lisa's genuine enthusiasm is consistent from start to finish. She relates well with people of all ages and you will feel at ease from your first meeting – which usually ends with a hug!

P: 0421 776 531

lisanewman.com.au



Virginia Lawrence

Marriage, Family and Funeral Celebrant

Weddings are my specialty. Based in Kallista, I know this area really well. I'm super-organised, keep calm under pressure, and will give you a lovely, heartfelt ceremony full of fun, happiness, joy, and love. Contact me for a coffee and a chat – obligation free - and let's see if I'm the one for you!

P: 0438 111 025

celebrantgin.com



Soulful Ceremonies

Marriage Celebrant

Christine Pedley of Soulful Ceremonies knows what an amazing wedding in the Hills feels like. She understands your wedding day is the most important day for you. A celebrant since 2010 (and resident of the Dandenong Ranges), Christine wants "Your Day" to be exactly "Your Way". With creativity and humour, she crafts a couples' love story into a soulful ceremony.

P: 0474 128 869

soulfulceremonies.com.au



Spa & Wellbeing

Miss Josie's Beauty Parlour, Healesville

Miss Josie's are skin treatment specialists. They've taken everything you love about the 1950s and given it a little twist. It is the perfect salon for the modern woman to enjoy a wide selection of treatments and specialised therapies with a focus on providing the right solution for every skin type.

P: 0428 298 098

missjosies.com.au



Nourish Day Spa, Olinda

Nourish Day Spa specialise in massage, facials, hand and foot treatments, pamper parties, couples packages – all with a holistic approach. Take time out of your day for a morning or afternoon of pure relaxation, the perfect distraction to take your mind off of any wedding stress you or the hens may have. Have an afternoon full of laughs and chats and create some new memories with your nearest and dearest. A Couples Package is the perfect way to restore post-wedding after a big day.

P: 03 9751 1029

nourishdayspa.com.au

Transport



Yarra Valley A2B

Private, Professional and Efficient return transport for wedding guests. Let YVA2B be your complete transport service for your wedding day/evening. Our Wedding A2B service will safely transport your wedding guests to & from your Yarra Valley wedding. Includes pickup and drop off after the reception. Enquiries are serviced by one of our wedding coordinators who will design a package to suit your size and budget.

P: 0455 041 051

yarravalleya2b.com.au

Transport



Vintage Collection

Vintage Fun have been providing chauffeur driven vintage and classic vehicles since 1983. They offer single vehicle hire for 2-12 passengers at a competitive price.

P: 0411 465 098

vintagefun.com.au

Caterers



Babaji's Kitchen

Unique. Delicious. Charming. Perfect for a relaxed festival-themed wedding with street food theatre from the land of coconut palms and spice, tropical 'Kerala' in South India. Specialising in authentic village style banquets, 'live' dosa & chaat/pani puri (street snacks), chai and Indian desserts, served from a colourful 'gypsy mobile kitchen' or vintage Indian street cart.

P: 0405 765 388

babajiskitchen.com.au



The High Tea Mistress

The High Tea Mistress is the creator of unique, mobile high tea experiences. They also create boutique Yarra Valley tours with our touring partners (some of which are exclusive). They have a team of professionals that offer workshops such as flower crown workshops, champagne, gin and whiskey masterclasses, tea blending workshops and high tea etiquette classes in conjunction with their signature High Teas.

P: 0491 721 208

thehighteamistress.com.au



Stella Tours - Wedding Cars

A small boutique business offering a personalised wedding car service within the Dandenong Ranges & Yarra Valley regions. Imagine cruising with the top down in "Stella", a classic 1964 Chevy convertible – famed for her timeless lines and effortless class. Arrive in true 'Stella style' at your wedding in this iconic ride, and when it's time for the photos, Stella's there by your side. Drive off into the sunset together in true 'Stella style'.

P: 0476 785 356

stellatours.com.au



Yarra Valley Wedding Transfers

Yarra Valley Wedding Transfers is a family owned and operated transfer business based in the Yarra Valley. They offer a wide range of transfers from weddings to general transfers to and from the Yarra Valley as well as the airport and CBD. Begin your new chapter with them. Yarra Valley Wedding Transfers strive for a high level of professionalism and offer personalised services to ensure that you and your guests arrive in comfort and style. From 2 seater sports to sedans to SUVs to mini buses, they can offer a package deal.

Caterers



Essential Caterer

Catering that's fresh, healthy and delicious, with flexible menu options that move from formal to fun - designed to suit your unique tastes. From a conference, to a wedding, to a casual meeting - we help you find the venue you've been longing for, and end-to-end management for stress-free event enjoyment.

P: 0417 527 037

essentialcaterer.com.au

Photographers



Rick Liston

Rick Liston is a Yarra Valley wedding photographer who loves joining adventurous wild hearts on their crazy journey from lovers to lifers. Rick doesn't just take photos, he's here to help you navigate the daunting task of planning your wedding with invaluable local advice. Rick is relaxed and grounded. You'll get comfortable with him as a friend and be totally at ease on your wedding day to naturally reveal your own true, beautiful selves. Nothing awkward, he promises!

P: 0475 604 713

rickliston.com



Lei Lei Clavey Photography

Lei Lei Clavey is a Melbourne photographer. She loves capturing stories through her photography. Lei Lei's calm and relaxed presence will put you at ease on your special day..

P: 0404 836 773

leileiclavey.com

Florists



The Redwood Florist

The Redwood Florist creates gorgeous blooms for brides. Louise has extensive experience in the industry and views each wedding as a privilege, accepting only one wedding per weekend to give each bride complete focus.

P: 0438 324 463

theredwoodflorist.com.au

Accommodation / Venues



Healesville Sanctuary, Healesville

Nestled in the natural bushland setting of this iconic Australian sanctuary, the Brolga room is the perfect backdrop for your special day. Newly renovated with classic stonewalls and expansive lush lawns, the Brolga Room can host wedding parties of up to 200 guests. Part of the Healesville Hotel Group, Healesville Sanctuary is proud to consistently offer the finest service, and a dedicated, professional team committed to giving you a day to remember.

P: 03 5957 2813
yarravalleyharvest.com.au



Vue on Halcyon, Chirnside Park

Sitting at the gateway to the stunning Yarra Valley, Vue on Halcyon offers a lovely backdrop for your wedding celebration. With uninterrupted views of rolling hills and rows of historic vines, this contemporary-style venue offers it all.

P: 03 9726 7111
vueonhalcyon.com.au



Cloudehill Gardens, Olinda

Cloudehill's display garden includes an outdoor theatre, very appropriate for wedding ceremonies. The gardens are also perfect for wedding party photo shoots. The theatre includes a small pavilion that can either act as a soundshell for theatrical events, or as a very handsome 'arbour' for wedding ceremonies. The gardens are normally open from 9am to 5pm, however for wedding ceremonies and photo shoots, we are able to open (in summer) through to 8pm.

P: 03 9751 1009
cloudehill.com.au



Puffing Billy Railway, Belgrave

Situated in the picturesque and verdant Dandenong Ranges, you will find one of Victoria's most historic and much-loved icons – Puffing Billy Railway. From the newly opened historical Menzies Creek Museum to the beautiful rustic and intimate setting of the Nobelius Heritage Packing Shed, create the wedding celebration of your dreams in a truly authentic and unique wedding setting.

P: 03 9757 0700
puffingbilly.com.au



Massaros, Kangaroo Ground

When you picture a Yarra Valley wedding, you wouldn't be wrong to envision a vineyard backdrop. There are vines aplenty at the gorgeous Massaro's Winery, plus olive groves and gardens set in a gorgeous Tuscan-inspired setting with views towards Melbourne.

P: 03 9712 0548
massaros.com.au



Seville Estate, Seville

Enjoy private dining for your wedding celebration in a special and safe dining experience at the original family homestead at Seville Estate. Nestled into the landscape, within the surrounds of the newly established gardens and with stunning views of the valley, sits the Homestead, a stunning wedding destination, with private facilities and award-winning estate wines.

P: 03 5964 2622
sevilleestate.com.au

Accommodation / Venues



Wiggleby Bottom Farm, Badger Creek

A small boutique pet friendly farm stay who can host small weddings in a very attractive unique venue.
Pets are welcome.

P: 0411 608 400

wigglebottomfarm.com.au

littleweddingsyarravalley.com.au



Ezard at Levantine Hill, Coldstream

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. Meticulously crafted menus that balance sumptuous flavours to complement our Levantine Hill wines, ensure you and your guests are guaranteed an unforgettable experience you will never forget.

P: 03 5962 1333

levantinehill.com.au



Projekt 3488, Warburton

Boutique & owner operated, we are all about the details. We create an intimate, warm & inviting atmosphere - the perfect country getaway with a twist. We offer exclusive access to the entire venue & gardens for each event plus dedicated event planning & styling.

P: 0400 215 785

projekt3488.com.au



Herd Bar, Healesville

Boasting a late licence, Herd Bar caters and is welcoming to all, offering sensational service, ambience in an unpretentious relaxed space, a must-see destination whilst meandering the glorious Yarra Valley. A perfect location for a special event, right in the heart of Healesville.

P: 03 5962 7677

herdbar.com.au



Immerse Winery, Dixons Creek

Nestled in the scenic Yarra Valley, Immerse is a breathtaking wedding venue, acclaimed restaurant, boutique winery and accommodation venue all rolled into one. Rolling hills of vines, picture perfect gardens, boutique accommodation, succulent food and two beautiful chapels plus spectacular outdoor ceremony locations.

P: 03 5965 2444

immerse.com.au



Araluen Boutique Accommodation, Yarra Glen

Award winning boutique accommodation, offering three luxury self-contained spa villas and a Lodge with four stylish accommodation rooms, each with private ensuite. Wedding groups have access to a bridal suite for wedding preparations, outdoor entertaining area for pre or post wedding gatherings and landscaped gardens for pre-wedding photography. The property can accommodate up to 20 people.

P: 0411 242 212

araluenlodge.com.au

Accommodation / Venues



Forest Weddings, Kinglake

Dreaming of a forest wedding? Let your wedding aisle be the magical forest floor. Simply hire the venue and create your own magic or let Kinglake Forest Adventures take some of the details off your hands. You can bring your own food van or they can cater a wedding feast for you. Their beautiful camp can host up to 120 guests for a sleepover. Let them cook up a morning after breakfast. Make it a wedding weekend, not just a day. And make it the most wonderful day of your life.

P: 03 5786 5230
forestweddings.com.au



Bulong Estate, Yarra Junction

Bulong Estate Winery is a special place, perfect for celebrations – with a beautiful garden, venue and deck nestled in the middle of a huge landscape of vineyard and spectacular mountain views. Your guests will immediately relax with all the greenery around them.

P: 03 5967 1358
bulongestate.com.au



CountryPlace, Kolorama

CountryPlace is a fabulous accommodation venue for family and friends attending a wedding in the Dandenong Ranges. Their award-winning property offers 60 ensuite bedrooms inclusive of a two bedroom cottage set in impressive gardens and lawns providing the ideal backdrop for group photographs.

P: 03 9728 7000
countryplace.com.au/wedding-accommodation-dandenong-ranges



Arcadia Cottages, Olinda

Arcadia Cottages offers accommodation for couples and singles in 4 separate cottages, all hidden away in 3 acres of forested garden. Private Cottages. Log fires & Spas.

P: 0397511017
arcadiacottages.com.au



In the Valley, Yarra Glen

Ideally appointed and perfectly located, this boutique Yarra Valley bed and breakfast is ideal for wedding guest accommodation.

P: 0397302818
inthevalley.com.au



Elmswood Estate, Wandin East

Deriving their name from the mature Elms that line the private driveway, Elmswood Estate is situated in the renowned Yarra Valley wine country. The stunning all-glass Pavilion, complete with floor to ceiling windows, and extensive viewing deck allows you to take in the breathtaking 180 degree panoramic views overlooking 25 acres of vineyard - the perfect backdrop for your most memorable of days to say "I do".

P: 03 5964 3015
elmswoodestate.com.au



Zonzo Estate, Yarra Glen

Zonzo Estate is an award-winning wedding venue located in the heart of the Yarra Valley. Zonzo prides themselves on offering wedding couples a memorable and stress-free day. From the moment you arrive, through to the ceremony and on to an unforgettable celebration. Create memories to last a lifetime over shared tables, abundant with food and paired with the perfect drop.

P: 03 9730 2500
zonzo.com.au

Accommodation / Venues



Valley Ranges Getaways, Dandenong Ranges

Stay the night before your wedding at one of Valley Ranges Getaway's beautiful properties. Your maids-of-honour might stay, or your mum and sisters? You can dress for your wedding at the property with room for photographers, hair and makeup attendants and the gardens are beautiful spaces for your photographs. Following your wedding, return for your wedding night as bride and groom or your family or bridesmaids may stay with their partners, while you sneak away to another of their gorgeous properties to be alone.

P: 1300 488 448

vrgetaways.com.au/bridgetobe



Tramonto Kitchen and Bar, Coldstream

Tramonto Kitchen and Bar is a picturesque venue located on the top of a hill at a working vineyard in the stunning Yarra Valley. The award-winning restaurant and 'marquee in the vines' overlooks acres of vineyards giving it 'a taste of Provence feel' with its sun-filled, north-west views over rolling hills. The lawn, backdropped with vines, is the perfect location for an intimate wedding ceremony that can be enhanced with strolls and photos in the vineyard.

P: 0413 565 781

tramontokitchenandbar.com.au



Marybrooke Manor, Sherbrooke

Marybrooke Manor is nestled on the edge of the majestic Sherbrooke Forest in the Dandenong Ranges. Built in 1940 and recently renovated, it offers a picturesque outdoor garden lawn area and chapel for ceremonies, as well as an elegant reception room and cosy bar. With 8 acres of manicured gardens for photos, a flexible range of all-inclusive packages tailored to your needs and 20 four-star accommodation suites, Marybrooke can be the perfect one-stop destination for your ceremony and reception.

P: 03 9755 2755

marybrooke.com.au



Oakridge Wines, Coldstream

Oakridge is a family-owned, Yarra Valley winery, restaurant and cellar door, originally established in 1978 alongside a ridge of oak trees. Located in the stunning Yarra Valley, and set among 10 hectares of vines and manicured lawns, Oakridge boasts sweeping views and one of Australia's finest food and wine offerings.

P: 03 9738 9900

oakridgewines.com.au

Chateau Wyuna, Montrose

Chateau Wyuna is a rustic, award winning wedding venue built around a 1920s log cabin and featuring a 1909 heritage listed country Chapel set in over 6 acres of natural Australiana-style gardens. With several outdoor ceremony areas and reception rooms to choose from, all-inclusive packages, delicious comfort-style food, space for up to 150 guests and guest accommodation immediately next door, Chateau Wyuna can be exclusively yours for your wedding celebration.

P: 03 9736 2555

chateauwyuna.com.au



Cuckoo Restaurant, Olinda

Australia's first ever Smorgasbord restaurant set in a Bavarian-style Chalet. The Vienna dining room is ideal for receptions with views of the gardens – great for drinks, appetisers and perfect for a garden wedding in the hills. The Cuckoo Restaurant caters to your guests with an extensive buffet, or two choices or alternate drops. Buffet guests get it all, from fresh daily made soup, seafood entrees, hot roast meats, speciality dishes, salad bar and fresh in-house baked cakes, Desserts, pancakes and ice cream. Weddings from 15 to 300 guests.

P: 03 9751 1003

cuckoorestaurant.com.au

Accommodation / Venues



Riverstone Estate, Coldstream

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. Riverstone offers breathtaking sunsets in a relaxed setting; with stunning locally sourced menus creating the perfect Yarra Valley Wedding. Combine the opportunity to dance the night away under a starry sky with any of their wedding packages and let their dedicated staff create memories that will last a lifetime.

P: 03 5962 3947

therivertoneestate.com.au



Yarra Ranges Estate, Monbulk

Offering five ceremony locations and stunning fairy lit reception centre with breathtaking views, Yarra Ranges Estate is the perfect canvas to bring your Pinterest dreams to life.

PHOTO BY: JESSICA MURRAY

P: 03 9752 0638

yarrarangesestate.com.au



Fergusson Winery, Dixons Creek

Entering the grounds at Fergusson is intoxicating. Proud, rustic and romantic and set in among the soft curls of precious vines, stands the award-winning Fergusson Winery and Restaurant. This is a space for all kinds of weddings, from the classically beautiful, to the whimsical and creative, the rustic, vintage or farm style bash. The setting is lyrical, the food is sophisticated yet wholesome, and always made with love ... specially created to match a stunning wine list.

P: 03 5965 2237

fergussonwinery.com.au



Fondita 1872, Kangaroo Ground

Fondita 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. It is situated at the gateway to the beautiful Yarra Valley, approximately 45 minutes from Melbourne. The lovingly restored dining room comfortably seats 100 guests for any celebration.

P: 03 9712 0742

fondita1872.com

Potters Receptions, Warrandyte

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. Property exclusivity, accommodation, experienced co-ordinators, local produce menu or option of external catering. Potters is the ultimate venue, just 20 minutes from the city and a gateway to Yarra Valley.

P: 03 9844 1222

potters.com.au



Marysville Holiday and Caravan Park, Marysville

Small Holiday and Caravan Park set on the banks of the Steavenson River in Marysville. Offering small weddings up to 50 people to ensure a quiet secluded event. Sunday to Thursday events preferred. Look out over the small rambling river in a quiet spot of the Park. An ideal spot for that intimate romantic event.

P: 03 5963 3247

marysvillecaravanpark.com.au

Accommodation / Venues



Olinda Tea House, Olinda

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. With unrivalled ambience, it is the perfect location to host your next special event. Whether it is your wedding, engagement, anniversary or birthday, this stunning secret in the mountain will leave your event much talked about. Relax in our modern environmentally sustainable building and enjoy the peace and tranquillity nature has to offer.

P: 03 9751 0556

olindateahouse.com.au



Sutherland Estate, Dixons Creek

Sutherland Estate has one of the most spectacular vineyard sites in Australia. 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



Woods Sherbrooke Receptions, Sherbrooke

Woods Sherbrooke is the dream venue for your small, intimate wedding. Accommodating 30 plus guests with standard and premium all-inclusive packages.

Art Deco building in a beautiful garden setting.

P: 03 9755 2131

woodssherbrooke.com.au



Balgownie Estate, Yarra Glen

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: 03 9730 0787

balgownieestate.com.au



De Bortoli Wines Yarra Valley Estate, Dixons Creek

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. Beautifully landscaped gardens set against a backdrop of vineyards and distant mountains, create the perfect setting for your ceremony. Their experienced, helpful wedding team can tailor a wine and food package to suit your needs.

P: 03 5965 2271

debortoli.com.au

Foothills Conference Centre, Mooroolbark

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

Accommodation / Venues



Yering Meadows Golf Club, Yering

In the heart of the Yarra Valley, the club's spectacular views of the Yarra Valley, spacious function room catering to all group sizes.

P: 03 9738 000

yeringmeadows.com.au



SkyHigh Mt Dandenong, 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.

P: 03 9751 0450

skyhighmtdandenong.com.au/weddings-functions



TarraWarra Estate, Yarra Glen

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: 03 5957 3510

tarrawarra.com.au

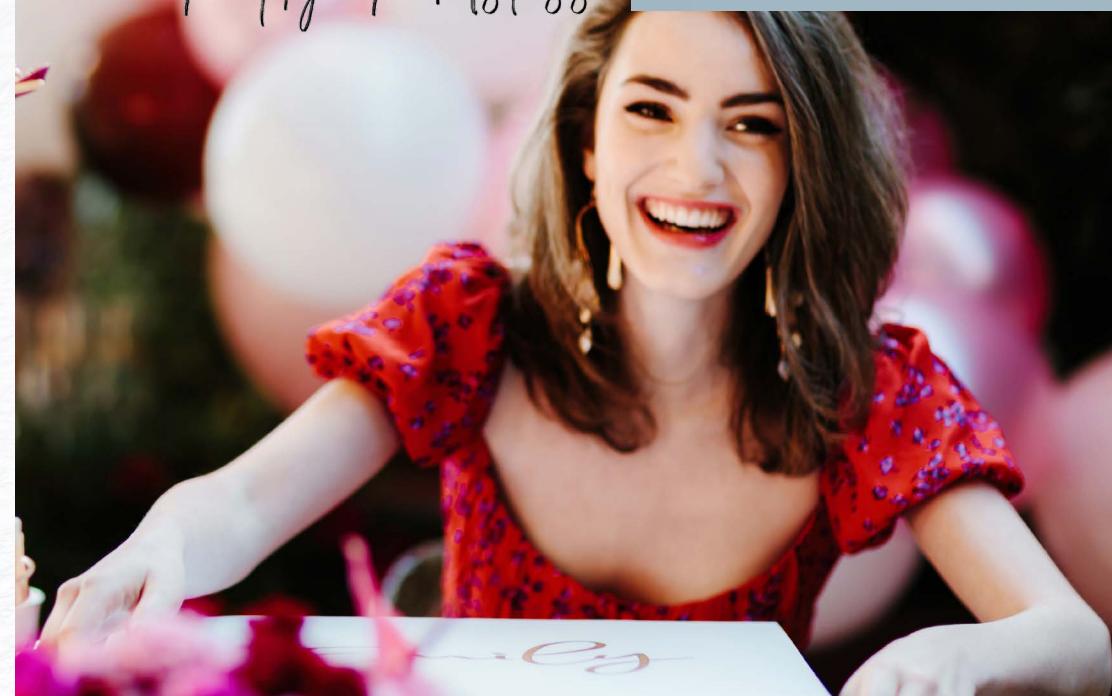
Read more stories and find out more about our
Off Peak Weddings partners on our website

offpeakweddings.com.au

where you can make direct enquiries,
create 'favourite' lists and plan your day, your way!

The High Tea Mistress

COMPETITION



WIN A VIRTUAL BRIDAL SHOWER

WIN the ultimate virtual bridal shower experience thanks to Off Peak Weddings and The High Tea Mistress this spring. Get on Zoom and indulge in the 'Spring Has Sprung' High Tea pack with your favourite aromatic wine from the 'Yarra Valley Spring Garden Party' pack.

To enter the competition to win this virtual bridal party experience, head to Instagram or Facebook (@offpeakweddings and @highteamistress) and like the post, follow and tag your bridal party.

Terms and conditions apply, please see offpeakweddings.com.au. Competition will end 30 November 2020. Winner will be announced 7 December 2020 via socials and Direct Message.

*Contents of pack may vary due to seasonal availability.

Terms and Conditions apply

Coming up in the summer issue:

1. Food Miles Made Easy
2. Bespoke and Beautiful
3. Native Florals

Off Peak Weddings

- YARRA VALLEY & DANDELONG RANGES -



**For more
information:**

email: hitched@offpeakweddings.com.au

Visit: offpeakweddings.com.au

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[i offpeakweddings](#)

Yarra Ranges Tourism respectfully acknowledges the traditional owners, the Wurundjeri people as the custodians of this land. We pay respect to all Aboriginal community Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the history of the region.