

Off Peak Weddings

- YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES -

Photo: Michael Briggs Photography



getting hitched your way

ISSUE 9

SUMMER

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Cover Image: Keirsten and James @Marybrooke Manor
Photo: A Touch of Flash Photography

FIND YOUR SELF | MELBOURNE'S YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES



Destination

Yarra Valley & Dandenong Ranges

Photo: at Potters Reception by Rick Liston Photography

Hello lovers. We've missed you. The summer has arrived at last and we're all just a little bit eager to get outdoors – to feel the wide open spaces and start to live again. It's reassuring to know, everything you've always loved about the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges is still here – ready, willing, and waiting to welcome you back with a socially distanced hug.

We are the backyard you've been yearning for – the open fields, the lush vineyards, the forest walks and the tumbling rivers – just a short drive away. We are all shapes and sizes, many colours and flavours, the tiny details and the grand designs. In summer our baskets are full of fruits and berries, and the cherries are within easy reach, bursting with sunshine and flavour. The rivers and trout farms hum with the promise of fresh caught fish for the BBQ. The picnic blankets spread on lawns and vineyards are like magic carpet rides to relaxed, flavour-filled experiences – the kind that you refer back to forever as 'remember that day when we...'

When the city sizzles in the midday sun, the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges sends a cool breeze down from the mountains, when the glare of sunshine becomes too much, the region embraces you with an 'always' green vista. The grapes are abundant on the vines, and the latest vintage always on tasting. There is an immediacy in the produce – a deeper knowing that what you are devouring is so good because it was picked fresh that morning, or handmade by an artisan or master chef.

Bring on the sunshine in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges. Let's do summer together.



Photo: Ilsa Wynne-Hoelscher Kidd

Bec & Lilly

Get Hitched

Meet the couple

Lilly is a full spectrum doula working with individuals and families in Melbourne's eastern suburbs, as well as offering distance support to those outside of the locality. For the last 10 years Bec has been working for a medical device company based in Melbourne and manages the Australian sales team.

They met in early spring of 2015 and have been together ever since.

Who proposed?

Bec!

How did you choose your ceremony and reception venue?

We got married on the family property in Lilydale where Bec grew up, and where her family has lived for more than 20 years. The surrounding garden is this beautiful overgrown space with Frances Hodgson Burnett 'Secret Garden' vibes, originally designed and created in the early 1920s by Edna Walling. Choosing to have our wedding ceremony and celebration outdoors wasn't a difficult decision. In fact, it was the very first thing we decided on!



Photo: Ilsa Wynne-Hoelscher Kidd

What was your wedding theme?

We wanted to have an intimate celebration in a space that felt like our home, and that brought all our friends and family together over delicious plant-based food, great wine and music. Rather than having a specific theme in mind, we focused more on creating a space that felt warm, relaxed, intimate and full of love. The colour palette was simple, with lots of earthy summer tones brought together with foraged local grasses, dried flowers, festoon lighting and big white paper lanterns.

What made your wedding unique?

I think all weddings are unique, but what made our wedding unique for us was that we stuck to what felt right for us. It's very easy to get caught up in other people's ideas and expectations of what a wedding should be like, but if you can quiet this noise – you can get creative with building new tradition, ceremonies and rituals that feel right for you.

Is there a story behind your dress?

Finding our outfits was relatively easy. Bec picked out a pair of stone-coloured linen trousers and then settled on an orange linen shirt from Country Road, which we then had tailored. She also found a lovely pair of olive green vegan sandals from Ahimsa, and her outfit was done! I also made her a little boutonniere from dried flowers, which she also wore on the day.

My mum and I collaborated on my wedding dress, which was made from a soft, sheer silk cotton. Dream! It was important to me to feel like myself on the day, and so I went with something classic and minimal. To share this creative process from start to finish with my mum – and for such a momentous occasion – was also something very special for us both.



Photo: Ilsa Wynne-Hoelscher Kidd

Tell us about your wedding bands/other special elements of your day.

Making our wedding bands together was also a particularly special moment. We worked on these with our friend Tess King at her home, and it was a beautiful process. We wanted something that we collaborated on together and that could become a family heirloom one day – an object that carried a story and significance for us both. Each of our bands were handcrafted in jewellers wax before being cast in 18k gold, organically shaped and left to show the patterns imprinted from both of our fingers.

What makes your marriage?

Marriage to both of us means a kaleidoscope of things. At the centre of it though, marriage to us means making a formal commitment – in front of each other and our community – to building a sacred, authentic, conscious relationship (to each other, and to ourselves). We hope that we can continue to pour our energy into this love and life that we are co-creating, a home that we can build and call our own, more hikes, more shared dinners, more laughter, more wrinkles, and continuous expansion for both of us as individuals and as a couple.



Photo: Ilsa Wynne-Hoelscher Kidd

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

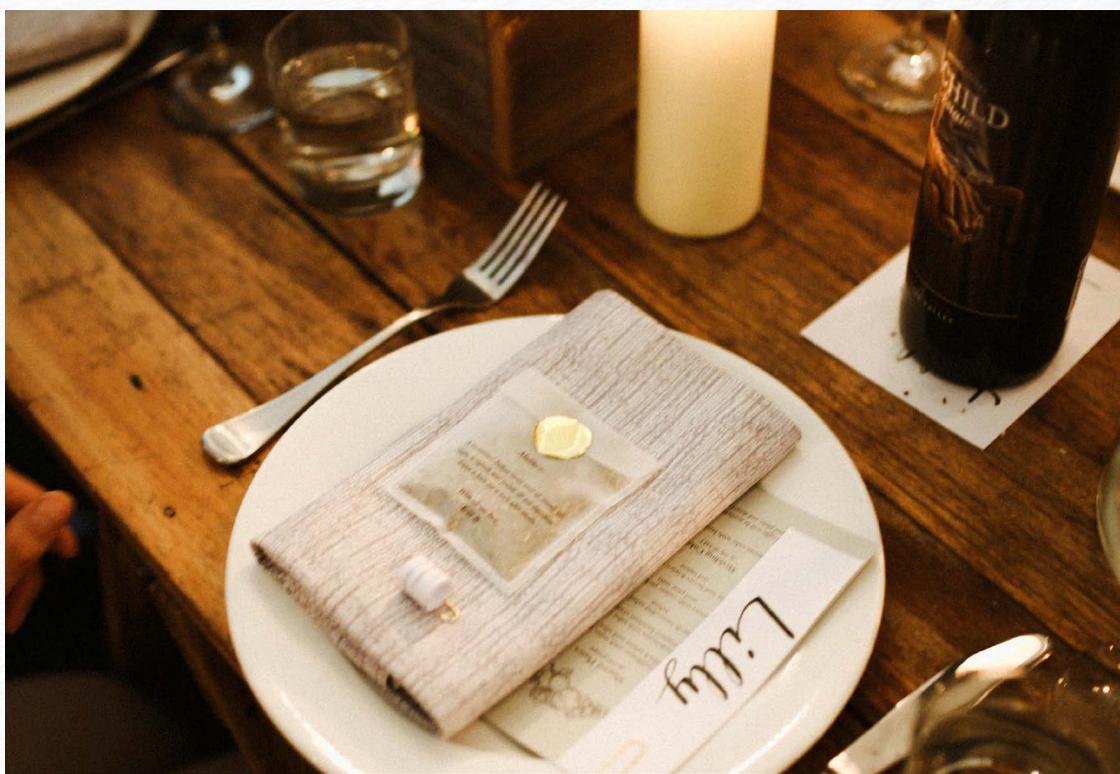
Firstly, let go of the idea of it being perfect and try to just enjoy the process! Take time out from the planning. If this means scheduling time where you ban all wedding talk, do it! Try not to get too caught up in other people's expectations of what you should or shouldn't do, if it's not important to you and your partner, then don't do it. If you want to have an intimate elopement and then celebrate later with family and friends, do that. Don't feel pressured to invite people (even family members) who you're not 100% sure will show up for you both with love and joy. You get to curate the energy surrounding your wedding day and the people attending are a huge part of that. Remember, you get to decide exactly what you want your wedding to be.

What were the highlights?

It sounds so cliché, but the whole day really was so incredible, and we were on such a wild love high the whole time. There were a million tender moments throughout the day, and the days following. The ceremony was beyond magic and the moment where we came up the steps together to see all our friends and family cheering and smiling was very emotional and stands out in my memory as a special moment. During the ceremony Bec's oldest friend Steph read the poem 'Habituation' by Margaret Atwood before we exchanged our vows, that we had written ourselves and had chosen to keep private until the ceremony. It took everything I had to hold it together and not cry during the ceremony, my heart was full to bursting!



Photo: Ilsa Wynne-Hoelscher Kidd



Anything else you'd love to share? Especially iso related?

We were very lucky to sneak our wedding in just before things started getting more intense with the pandemic in Australia. Although we only married in February, with two very long lockdowns and numerous restrictions in between it seems like a lifetime ago. I think if you're planning a wedding now, it would be a great time to support local and small businesses. It's so important now, more than ever, to connect with and support our communities across all aspects of our lives.

Vendor Credits

Ceremony and Reception Venue	Bec's family home (Lilydale)
Photographer	Ilsa Wynne-Hoelscher Kidd
Florist	Local foraged flowers & grasses, other flowers & bouquet: The Backyard Garden Enthusiast (Joanne Diver) & Red Earth Flowers
Celebrant	Precious Fawcett
Stationery	Invitations, RSVP, menu & seating plan designed by Lilly Lowrey, place settings & calligraphy by Alex Hamilton-Smith
Catering	Locavore Studio
Cake maker	Fig & Salt - Vegan Pear & Cardamom with Buttercream frosting
Wedding Favours	Handmade by Lilly Lowrey
Hire Items	Marquee Monkey's & Bespoke Event Hire - DJ Lighting / Sound Hire: Caravan Sounds
Signage	Handmade by Lilly Lowrey
Entertainment	Sarah from Caravan Sounds
Rings	Engagement rings handmade by Bec & Lilly with the help of friend Tessy King; Wedding rings made by Naasica

Vendor Credits - Lilly's Outfit

Bridal Gown Designer	Co-designed with mother, Christine Lowrey
Robes	Deiji Studios & WORN
Shoes	Siren
Accessories	Vermeer Studio
Hair	Coloured & styled by Sarah Verschuur
Make up	Lana Caitlin MUA

Vendor Credits - Bec's Outfit

Outfit	Shirt from Country Road, Pants from Seed Heritage
Shoes	Ahimsa sandals
Accessories	Vermeer Studio

Number of Guests: 60 / **Budget:** \$14,000 / **Wedding Date:** 1 February 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!

One Venue

Five Ways to Wed

Getting Hitched at Yarra Ranges Estate

Options, flexibility, choice. **Yarra Ranges Estate** has five different spaces for your ceremony – that's five dreamy ways to create your perfect day. A sense of place for your wedding is an important consideration and often sets the tone and style for the whole day.

1. Vineyards and archways

Perfect for couples who love the wide open spaces. The mountain ranges provide a perfect backdrop for the vineyard pathway. Fall head over heels with sweeping vineyard views and the gorgeous rose tinged aisle that melts into the landscape to arrive at a stunning timber rose covered archway (or decorate with your own theme).



All Photos: Courtesy of Yarra Ranges Estate



2. Under the Gazebo

An intimate setting that blooms with love. Stunning rose bushes surrounding a bespoke timber gazebo that is given a charming touch with wrought iron accents. Couples can move seamlessly from ceremony to signing table. Under this elegant gazebo you can steal a moment's kiss but still have your guests feel part of the proceedings.

3. Undercover on the terrace

This is the best of both worlds. Outside feels with all the comfort and security of an indoor space. The terrace features a beautifully paved area and is covered by a lush green leafy arbour. In summer you have cool spaces out of the sun, in winter somewhere dry and warm should your day be a rainy one – and it's Melbourne so 'all weather' destinations can be very useful!

4. Top of the lawn

Intimate weddings and elopements are well matched to the lawn setting. Perfect for ceremonies of 50 guests or less. Couples can enjoy everlasting vineyard views while being surrounded by rose bushes and gardens that provide incredible opportunities for photos.

5. The Bluestone Room

A beautiful intimate haven, the Bluestone room is a stunning indoor space for ceremonies, comfortably seating 50 chairs with room for standing. Cosy in winter, cool in summer, this space has its own unique vibe and is a space with a dramatic and worldly appeal. The Bluestone room is a flexible space that can also be used as a dance floor, photobooth area, kids area, lolly buffet space or whatever else your heart desires.

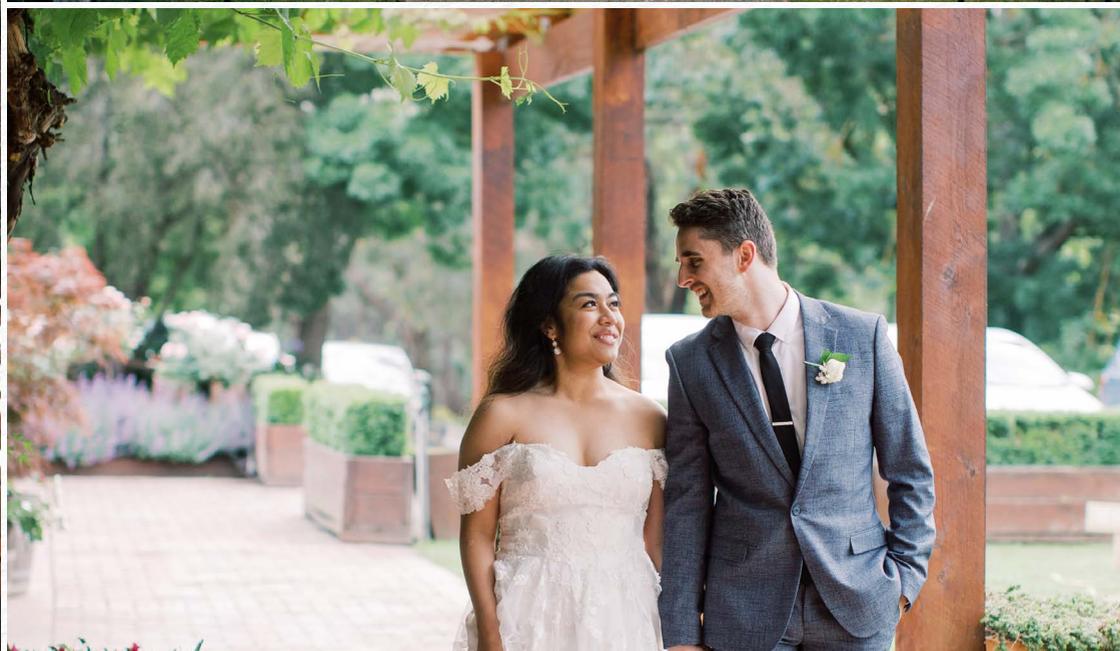
With 30 acres to explore, a private bridal suite and packages to suit all kinds of people planning all kinds of weddings, Yarra Ranges Estate offers a huge range of choices to customise a perfectly 'you' day. Plus they have a cellar door and a premium Yarra Ranges Estate collection of wines, award winning restaurant and flexible function rooms so you can 'do you' every step of the way.

Why choice matters:

- You don't know what you want but you do know you want a gorgeous setting!
- You want to be prepared for all weather options
- You just love variety and want it all!
- Your budget will stretch only so far
- You want to get married and celebrate without hassles, in one location, and want 7 day availability.

For more information
Yarra Ranges Estate





Stunning in *Summer*

From sunrise to sunset, a summer wedding has all the ingredients you need for an outdoor celebration that spreads the love (in a socially distanced kind of way). Summer opens up the heart, new ideas flourish, and we embrace the opportunity to move forward. Summer is full of creative solutions for your big day. Plans can – and do – change. We’ve pivoted and turned so many times now, we’ve mastered the dance!

Weddings are adaptable things – whether an intimate and magical spot for a ceremony at dawn, a small gathering of family and friends on a hilltop with exquisite views, a picnic in a stunning garden, or among the vines – all things are possible. And now, if all goes well, and larger gatherings are possible, big dreams can also be bought to life in a heartbeat. **Relax and go with the flow** is the best advice – just say ‘I do’ your own way.

If you’ve had to scale back the guest list, perhaps you can now think big and go to a new level of luxury, and equally, an easy, simple and small wedding today can be celebrated later (excellent reason to wear that gorgeous dress again too!)

The walk up the aisle can be done in so many ways in summer. Let your imagination take you there – a cherry orchard aisle, a forest walk aisle, through the vines, along the river or wandering a winding garden path. Outdoors under blue skies, with the scent of jasmine in the air, and a warm breeze on your skin – that’s the summer vibe that makes getting hitched at this time of the year the perfect choice.



Photo: at Riverstone Estate by Bryan Claresta

Picnic Weddings

—The Ultimate Pop-Up—

The best prediction for weddings this summer is for outdoor events that are as relaxed and laid back as you are. Elevate the humble picnic to a celebration of love, food and friendship and plan for an easy wedding (or reception, catch up, rehearsal dinner, bride tribe/bachie party) where the only rules are the ones you make. Possibly the ultimate DIY wedding, the picnic bursts with summer vibes and retro feels. Make the most of the sunshine, the open spaces and the 'social distancing' measures that have become part of life.

LOCATION

Choose an amazing location, set a theme and enjoy the planning as much as the day. A picnic can be held at any time of the day and creativity and a sense of adventure make all the difference. A spectacular garden, a stunning view, on the lawns of a grand estate, or surrounded by vineyards – from two to 150 people (and maybe more), a picnic wedding sets a tone that is love in a basket. From a simple and small affair to an indulgent all out feast, there are plenty of ways to set your space, and plenty of people to help you.

DECORATIONS

Decorations, festoon lights, garlands and bunting, table settings, blankets, cushions, back drops, floral arrangements, ice buckets, candles and ambient lighting. The boho theme works particularly well for picnic weddings and everything you need can be hired in (Tip: engage a wedding planner/prop hire specialist who can take care of all the details, including set up and pack down. Check out Wild Heart Events). Pods are quickly becoming this summer's must have for private and exclusive experiences no matter where you are. You can engage a team to cater everything or make it happen your own way.

SERVICE STYLE

Many couple are opting also for 'drive up services' – food trucks, mobile bars serving wine, craft beers and cocktails, icecream vans, vintage caravans and delivered High Tea experiences. You don't need to stress about seating plans – guests can pick a blanket when they arrive and move freely. Mingling and lounging is as simple as lots of cushions, bean bags and funky lounges, blankets and a few low tables. Set up a special space as your bridal table/ picnic blanket and hold space for your adoring guests!

FOOD LOVE

Picnic food is anything you want it to be – there truly are no rules – sexy sandwiches, individual grazing boxes, local cheese and wine with canapes, sweet, and savory nibbles or a gourmet BBQ – whatever says 'I do' to you is possible.



Photo: Courtesy of Marcel Van Der Horst

Yarra Valley Picnics creates unique, private picnics that are beautifully styled, comfortable and chic with decor and furnishings, food and wine and everything else taken care of. Choose your own romantic spot, or let them suggest a secret location. You can even picnic at home if you love your garden.



Photos: Courtesy of Yarra Valley Picnics

Meet The High Tea Mistress

The team at **The High Tea Mistress** love creating unique High Tea picnic experiences for special occasions such as weddings, bridal showers and birthday parties. With stunning picnic rugs, cushions and lounges, The High Tea Mistress can cater for up to 200 guests for their High Tea picnic experiences. To make your wedding picnic perfect, couples can create their own menu by choosing from the vast array of sweet and savoury menu selections available from The High Tea Mistress, or keep it simple by choosing from their curated picnic packages. The team can also assist with full on-the-day event management, styling, florals and drinks.

Want to make your wedding day even more unique? Organise to have your picnic after an early morning balloon ride or by candlelight in the evening. Find out more by visiting offpeakweddings.com.au/catering/high-tea-mistress



Photos: Courtesy of High Tea Mistress

Wedding Videography

—Moving Shareable Content—

With Lucy Spartalis and Alastair Innes
She Takes Pictures He Makes Films

Whilst photography is considered essential to any wedding day, videography has often been overlooked as an optional extra. The old fashioned type of wedding video – often lengthy, lacking in professional editing and creativity, and hard to watch more than once – has been pushed aside. Now we have professional videographers creating highly engaging, expertly edited vignettes set perfectly to musical soundtracks, making viewers want to re-watch again and again.

And during these times of limited guest lists, and the all-important presence of social media in our lives, having a gorgeous wedding vid to share is high up on the essential wedding to-do lists. Capturing your wedding day in a beautiful and emotive film is a great way to share your highlights with loved ones who may not be able to attend, and who will treasure the opportunity to experience the key moments through a professionally crafted film. And you get to share your precious day with the world exactly the way you want to.

Lucy and Alastair from '**She Takes Pictures He Makes Films**', bring together professional video and photography in one bespoke package and they know how to work together to ensure both elements are given the attention needed. "Our clients know that both photographs and films are essential for documenting all of the emotion, excitement, and beauty of their celebration. A photograph freezes one moment in time and elevates its magic; a film weaves many hundreds of moments together with the aid of a perfect musical soundtrack, creating the most wonderful and detailed keepsake from the day."



Photo: Courtesy of *She Takes Pictures He Makes Films*

It's one thing to have a gorgeous film post event but what about on the day? Lucy says, "In these unprecedented times, Livestreaming your ceremony via a platform like Zoom also allows those who couldn't attend to witness those wonderful moments live. Setting up a laptop or iPad in a corner of the space and having your loved ones tune in can make a somewhat empty room feel absolutely filled with love (and the guests can attend in any attire they like - either in their finest wedding threads, or most comfortable trackies - bonus!)"

Whilst Livestreaming will provide a real-time experience, it won't include the various creative elements that take a professional film to another level, so a combination of both is the perfect way to provide an in-the-moment live experience, and a more beautifully crafted keepsake to treasure for a lifetime.

Four tips for top results

1. Inhabit your natural beauty – it's the best day of your life – own it!
2. No need to pose or be self-conscious – ignore the cameras as best you can.
3. Work with the photographer/videographer – be brave and try their ideas – the results will be worth it and unique.
4. Encourage your guests to get involved – onsite or remotely.

About Chenoa + Jamie's Wedding video

"Alastair and I sat talking about it all on the eve of the big day. We knew we had to find a way to make their wedding film a truly special one; to somehow encapsulate the whole story of their day, for everyone involved, and to celebrate this incredible time we're living in when, despite an isolating global pandemic, love (and wonderful technology) keeps us all together. We got word out to the couple's family and friends, encouraging them to film their at-home experience of Chenoa + Jamie's joyous and moving ceremony, so that we could weave their perspectives into the couple's film," says Lucy.

Chenoa + Jamie's moving and memorable ceremony was held at Glasshaus Inside, during Melbourne's Stage 3 lockdown, which kicked in only 24 hours before their wedding day. What was already going to be a very intimate ceremony with only close family and friends present and a Zoom broadcast, suddenly became even smaller.



"Chenoa + Jamie were thrilled with the result, as are we! We hope anyone viewing the film can feel what we all felt on that incredible day... standing in an almost empty room that still felt full to the brim with love."



Photo: Courtesy of She Takes Pictures He Makes Films

Married During Iso

Virginia and Ivan get hitched

REAL WEDDING

Meet the couple

Virginia is an Australian born Singapore based Osteopath and Ivan is a Singaporean derivatives trader. Virginia has been living in Singapore for 20 years whereas Ivan was born and raised in Singapore. Up until recently, they have been based in Singapore but were back in Melbourne due to a family medical emergency.

Who proposed?

Ivan proposed early in 2019. It was very spur of the moment and unexpected.

How did you choose your ceremony and reception venue?

The original plans for the wedding began as a wedding and reception at The Farm at Yarra Valley in Warrandyte, however, as we were based in Singapore, it was difficult to plan things from over there. This was later changed to a simple ceremony at the Marriage Registry on 5 October 2020 and a reception on 15 October 2020 back in Singapore. COVID-19 times changed those plans and we had to cancel both bookings. So while being back in Melbourne, we decided to go ahead and get married the moment some restrictions were lifted rather than delay it any further for fear of any further lockdowns. It was a last minute decision by me to do something special considering COVID-19 had other plans for 2020. I wanted the micro wedding to be memorable and to also include our closest family and friends.

I suddenly thought, why not try a hot air balloon wedding! When I spoke to Kate from Global Ballooning she was a little surprised and mentioned people will do engagements however weddings weren't common due to the uncertainty of the weather conditions. Since we were planning to have a wedding breakfast at Balgownie Estate after the flight, we decided to just go with the flow and have a back-up plan of just doing the ceremony right before breakfast should the ballooning be cancelled.



Photo :Daniel Milligan Photography



Photo : Daniel Milligan Photography

What was your wedding theme?

It was such a last minute micro wedding that we didn't bother with a theme.

What made your wedding unique?

In Chinese culture, an auspicious date is usually chosen for the couple according to their date and time of birth. Coincidentally, the date we happened to choose out of necessity was actually the last auspicious date given to us for the year. Combining the auspicious date with the unusual decision to get married in a hot air balloon with only a few of our closest friends and family made it unique and special to us.

Is there a story behind your dress or veil?

The veil got lost in the mail and arrived on the day of the wedding after we were at the venue. I guess it was fated as friends mentioned the veil was so unnecessary as the dress was already beautiful and I must say, I have to agree.

Tell us about your wedding bands.

We had the initial intention to make bespoke wedding bands for each other at a Singapore silversmith studio. Unfortunately, Singapore went into a minor lockdown and we were not able to do this. We may still make rings for each other when we return to Singapore in the new year.

What makes your marriage?

Love, respect, communication and sometimes agreeing to disagree makes our marriage work. Although, we have only been married for only a few weeks, we have been in a relationship for six years where one of the most important parts of making this work is the ability to discuss matters with each other. We do not have secrets from each other and Ivan couldn't even if he tried - he's the worst liar ever! He's unable to keep anything from me, even one year when he tried to hide the fact that he was buying flowers for Valentine's Day, his behaviour just gave it away!

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

The planning for the initial wedding in Melbourne and reception in Singapore was just so stressful as due to the COVID-19 situation, we weren't even able to inform family and friends about the wedding until we could confirm that it could go ahead. This whole situation was a blessing in disguise as it led us to instead organise a micro wedding. My best advice is to have the wedding you want and having a micro wedding was the best thing we could have done. Someone asked me why I didn't wait another three more days when restrictions would be further lifted and we could have more people. Yes, we could have but that would have led to even more stress and as much as we would have loved to have more people at the wedding, it was perfect. The perfect wedding is the wedding where you go with the flow and just let the day take you where it needs to.

Anything else you'd like to share?

Everything was so last minute and we were lucky my aunty, who is a flower wholesale importer, agreed to help us with the flowers. In the madness of the rush that morning, we remembered everything except the bridal bouquet! We are so grateful to Monica of Mignone Cakes who agreed to do our wedding cake at such last minute notice. I have never had a more amazing cake! One tier was a Ferrero Rocher mud cake and the second tier was a white chocolate mud cake with berry coulis. We had so many compliments from our guests that I knew we had hit the jackpot by finding Monica by chance.

We were so lucky. The vendors and preparations for the wedding were all by chance and we came across the most incredible people who went above and beyond to help us out, from my aunty who arranged the flowers, to Monica's cake, to a lovely girl at Officeworks who printed last minute place cards, to finding wonderful people including our celebrant, hair and make up artist, photographer and the fabulous team at Global Ballooning Australia, especially Kate.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, many family and friends from all around the world were not able to celebrate with us. Thank goodness for technology and social media – we were able to livestream the ceremony so everyone could join in on our special day, including my father, who is in aged care.

Vendor Credits

Photographer	Daniel Milligan Photography
Florist	May Flower Importer
Ceremony	Global Ballooning Australia
Reception Venue	Balgownie Estate
Cake	Mignone Cakes
Stationery	kikki.K wedding guest book
Printer	Officeworks
Celebrant	Leah Brady
Transport	Phoenix Airport Transport
Bridal Gown Designer	Stella York
Hair and Make up	Leanza Tang



Photos :by Daniel Milligan Photography

Dried Flowers Bring *Summer Florals To Life*

By Louise Petrie - The Redwood Florist

What's made this trend so popular?

Dried florals tie in really well with the "boho look" which is so popular. The natural tones of dried flowers are on trend for their soft and natural colour palette. They also really help with big installations such as alter pieces and arches or overhead hanging installations, providing a sense of drama and texture. The most popular way is to have preserved and dyed blooms, mixed with dried and fresh flowers to create a look.

What are the secrets to getting them right?

Dried stems, blooms and leaves can be quite rigid so adding fresh flowers softens the look and gives the piece more movement, texture and interest. There aren't any set rules for these type of arrangements and the secret is often to create the piece as I go along. I work with what is available to create that balance between harmony and drama. Dried flowers are great options for summer weddings as they are super heat resilient.

What's the best colour palette?

Natural tones mixed with whites, soft pinks and coffee tones with pops of colour are very popular. Soft oranges and copper tones too. I've also started to see really bright dyed colours - like electric colours coming through. Super vibrant and real statement pieces.

What does 'reusable' bouquets mean - is that a thing?

When I work with brides I encourage them to think about how their bouquets can then be used as decorations at the reception. Using them as part of table settings, or on the cake table lets you carry a theme through really easily and makes sense financially.

Louise Petrie at **The Redwood Florist** creates gorgeous blooms for brides, accepting only one wedding per weekend so she can provide her bride with complete focus.

What are your tips for perfect arrangements with dried florals?

Preparation is very important. Lots of texture mixed with the softness of fresh seasonal flowers look awesome. My job is to make sure the mechanics are correct. What you don't see in behind the bouquet that gives it structure and resilience is where the real work is.

What methods are there to preserve bouquet these days?

Some brides do like to have their bouquet preserved as a keepsake and it's easy to keep any elements of your bouquet that are dried. Natives are also a great choice if you'd like to preserve your bouquet. The best tip is to keep your bouquet out of water to let it dry naturally.

"Dried flowers are great options for summer weddings as they are super heat resilient."



Photo: courtesy of Redwood Florist

Five different ways with dried florals



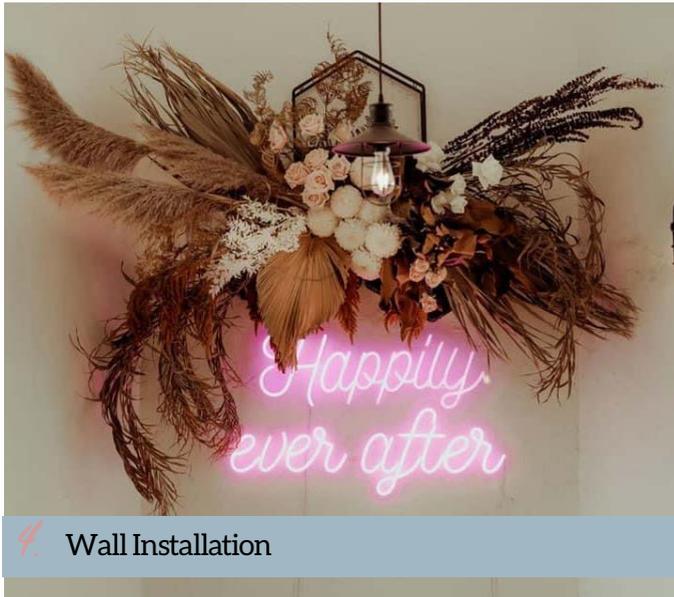
Arbour



Brides Bouquet



Table Piece



Wall Installation



Cake Topper

Photos: Courtesy of The Redwood Florist

In the moment

Stress less and savour the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges

Remove the distractions, clear your head and find spaces to relax and recharge – even if wedding prep feels like it is permanently on your radar, expressing a little love in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges is a perfect way to get real again. Precious products, pampering sessions, nature immersions and some tasty treats will restore your planning juices and remind you why this region is a second home. And if you can't get here, we'll come to you! But seriously why wouldn't you (and your closest peeps) make the time for a little 'in the moment' magic.

Day spa and a new outlook

For a complete reset, book in for a day of pampering and let the nature outside the window help restore you to Zen zone. What makes you exhale? Whether it's views of the bush or vineyards, find your bliss at **Nourish Day Spa** in Olinda or pop into the retro delight that is **Miss Josie's Beauty Parlour** in Healesville for a facial, or **Balgownie Estate Resort and Day Spa**. They know just how future brides like to be treated. Full immersion is also available at the **RACV Club Healesville** and **Piaf Day Spa**, which is set among giant tree ferns and rainforest.

Beauty and balance at home

If a waft of lavender immediately transports you somewhere calm, a little online shopping at **Warratina Lavender Farm** will have your beauty regime at home tuned in for relaxation. Gorgeous handmade bath and beauty products, lavender infused gourmet foods and aromatherapy products to create perfect purple haze. Snuggle up with something soft from the Homestyle collection from **Creswick Luxury fibres** – alpaca, merino and natural fibres feature in everything from blankets to apparel in all-season luxury.

Treat(s) yourself right – three great C's of the region

1. **Chocolate** – the great cure-all, chocolate is best consumed daily! **Yarra Valley Chocolaterie** is your go to for sweet treats. Give and receive with those you love.
2. **Cheese** – See those cows over there – they provide the milk for some of our region's best loved cheese and dairy products –and it's super delicious when it's this fresh and hyper local. (and it's a physical impossibility to eat cheese without drinking wine, just saying...). Indulge a little more of what you love most.
3. **Cocktails** – The Yarra Valley is home to the worlds best gin at **Four Pillars Distillery** and it would be a crime against humanity to visit the region without taking some home with you. So many gins, so many ways to create fabbo cocktails. Get that cocktail shaker shaking.



Photo: Courtesy of Balgownie Estate

Expand your green space

Nature nurtures and stressy times subside with a little walk and talk in green space. Bring a bestie and talk your way along one of the region's nature trails. (There are 200 or more to explore in our [Walks and Trails eGuide](#)). Or take a little bit of the region home with you from the Edible Forest YV, or visit one of our stunning ornamental gardens. [Alowyn Gardens](#), [Cloudehill Gardens](#) or [Dandenong Ranges Botanical Gardens](#) are all serious contenders for your wedding day photos so check them out without the pressure.



Photo: Courtesy of Quint Photography

Get some real fresh air

Start your day and rise up! Global Ballooning takes you on a memory making hot air balloon flight above the Yarra Valley (or Melbourne) that can't help but give you a fresh perspective. Nothing prepares you for the feeling of the gentle silence so far above the earth. Do it at least once in your lifetime – just like getting married!

Let yourself be taken away

Leave the car behind and let yourself be taken away! There's no need to drive when the [Tours and Transport](#) options in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges will have you arriving cool, calm and crazy for a new wine discovery, a magnificent lunch or a secret vista. Test drive the transport options you need for your wedding day and enjoy the ride like royalty.

*Visit the region, or bring the region
home with you —
life needs to be like this always.*

Stunning suggestions

for the elopement of your dreams

TRENDS

From the sublime to the unique – the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges are your go-to for amazing places and spaces to elope. Here are the inside tips from our celebrants Virginia Lawrence and Robynne Mauger.



Virginia Lawrence

"I've always wanted to do a ceremony in a cinema or in a creaky old bookshop. Everyone loves the Redwood Forest – and it's become super popular for weddings and photography. And I think the Blue Lotus Water Garden would be amazing – it feels like you're overseas! Anyway ... here are my suggestions:

RJ Hamer Arboretum

The lookout at the RJ Hamer Arboretum in Olinda has a view I never tire of. So full of possibility and the promise of adventure. But let's not stay there - grab your hiking boots and we'll head out away from the cars and the picnickers to find secret hidden-away spots just perfect for an intimate ceremony.

Cloudehill Gardens

There are so many beautiful gardens to choose from in the Dandenong Ranges. Grand old public gardens from eras gone by, small private gardens, and everything in between. If I had to name only one, it would be Cloudehill. This one has it all; a series of garden rooms with a different style and atmosphere around every corner, quaint structures to shelter you if it rains, a restaurant on site if you want to stay and eat, and it looks fabulous all year round.



Photo : Courtesy of Redwood Florist

Wombat Bend

If you fancy a relaxing, easy elopement by the banks of a life-giving billabong teeming with birdlife, surrounded by mother nature, you can't go past Wombat Bend, an incredible 5-acre property just outside Yarra Glen - you'll fall in love with its evergreen, long flowering, native gardens.

Book the property for the weekend, and make yourself at home in The Burrow, their amazing mudbrick B&B. I can pop over and marry you and then leave you to enjoy exploring your new surroundings - and as night falls, relax by the billabong, serenaded by the frog chorus, under the stars celebrating the start of your new life together.



Robynne Mauger

"I do many elopements in the Yarra Valley, and hideaway places like the Redwood Forest are often top of the list – so many of my couples just adore it. It's special being outdoors in nature's cathedral."

Yarra River

Anywhere along the Yarra River near Warburton is a great choice. There is a secret spot up along the river where the grass is always well kept by ducks and the rocks are easily accessible. Great for the daredevils who don't mind wet toes to get river photos – I stay on the grass lol!

La La Falls, Warburton

The top of La La Falls is also great, although these places are not so secret any more so you have to do battle with rubbernecks. People need to be fit to manage the walk, which is about 3.2 km return but its worth it.

Skyline Road in Yarra Glen

This secret site has sweeping views either side of the ridge that are just breath taking. Often an eagle is soaring close by when we are there. You feel like you can touch the sky and the air feels different.

Gin also offers weddings in her own garden at home offering a super intimate and private setting that makes eloping couples feel at home.

"Beautiful garden settings, sunset views and wandering pathways make for charming ceremony settings and fabulous photos!"



TRENDS

Photo : Couresu of Global Ballooning

Married

During Iso

Rochelle and Jake get hitched

Meet the couple

Jake is a Motorsport electrician, and does wiring for anything that you want to take off road. Rochelle is a mum and receptionist in the Dental industry (not as much of a conversation starter as Jake!)

The couple have been together for four and a half years, but first met in 2012 at a mutual friend's birthday celebration. They didn't hit it off straight away, but ended the night in conversation before Jake ghosted Rochelle for a solid four years before sliding back into the DM's.

They love adventures, camping and weekends away and love to keep busy. They have a perfect little boy, Sutton, who is 18 months old. He gets his adventurous and daredevil traits from Jake, and his stubbornness from them both.

Who proposed?

Jake! I was roughly halfway through our pregnancy with Sutton, it was a couple of days after Christmas and we were getting ready to go to my mum's for a barbecue. He was talking to my tummy and saying hello when he looked up and asked me to marry him. After five minutes of questions, I said yes!

REAL WEDDING



Photo : by Michael Briggs Photography



Photo : by Michael Briggs Photography

How did you choose your ceremony and reception venue?

We both wanted something that was a blank canvas. For us personally we didn't want a sit down dinner (I'm always the one swapping for a different meal). We loved the idea of food trucks and a big open area to mingle. We fell in love with our venue the moment we arrived - the views, atmosphere and potential were next to none.

What was your wedding theme?

Rustic and relaxed! Relaxing was hard considering COVID-19 changed our plans a handful of times. We wanted our family and friends to feel super chilled with the only formalities being our ceremony. Once we realised it would only be the two of us, we focused on the things we really wanted and what was most important to us.

What made your wedding unique?

COVID-19 ... and the fact that we could only have five people including us. Our ceremony was watched by our immediate family from the comfort of their homes via online streaming. The day wasn't how either of us imagined it, but it ended up being more than we could have ever dreamed of. We had our first look, and enjoyed being just the two of us. We even had a cheeky shot before heading out for the "I do's". The best part is, we get to do it all over again with our friends and family at our Wedding Part 2 (Reception) next year.

Is there a story behind your dress?

I had purchased two dresses before finding 'the one', which I purchased just 12 days before our wedding day and had it express posted in the middle of a global pandemic. There was a high chance it wasn't going to arrive, but it did!



Photo: by Michael Briggs Photography

Tell us about your wedding band and other special elements of your day.

Jakes wedding band is made from redwood. He wanted something different and we found a beautiful Tungsten/Redwood ring from a company based in Queensland. My 'something blue' was a pair of my nana's earrings that I wore on the ankle straps of my shoes and I had my great grandmother's pin on my bouquet.

Although we had no family or friends with us, we didn't want to miss out on our first dance, so we danced at dusk under a beautiful large tree on the property with festoon lights. It was super romantic and special.

What makes your marriage?

We are each other's best friend. Our relationship isn't a chore and we always make sure we are having FUN together. We are two big kids, taking care of one little kid, and doing adult things. We are patient with each other and always show support even if opinions differ. We always make the effort to talk about our day and don't end a day without saying 'I love you.' We think it's important to remember that although we are a team and a family, that we are also individuals navigating through life and it's okay to be a little different sometimes.

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

1. Go with the flow. There are some things that are out of your control and not worth any additional stress. It'll be one of the best days of your life because you get to marry your best friend.
2. Write down a list of the things you aren't willing to budge on, and set your priorities. The rest will sort itself out.
3. Enjoy the process - it'll be over before you know it.

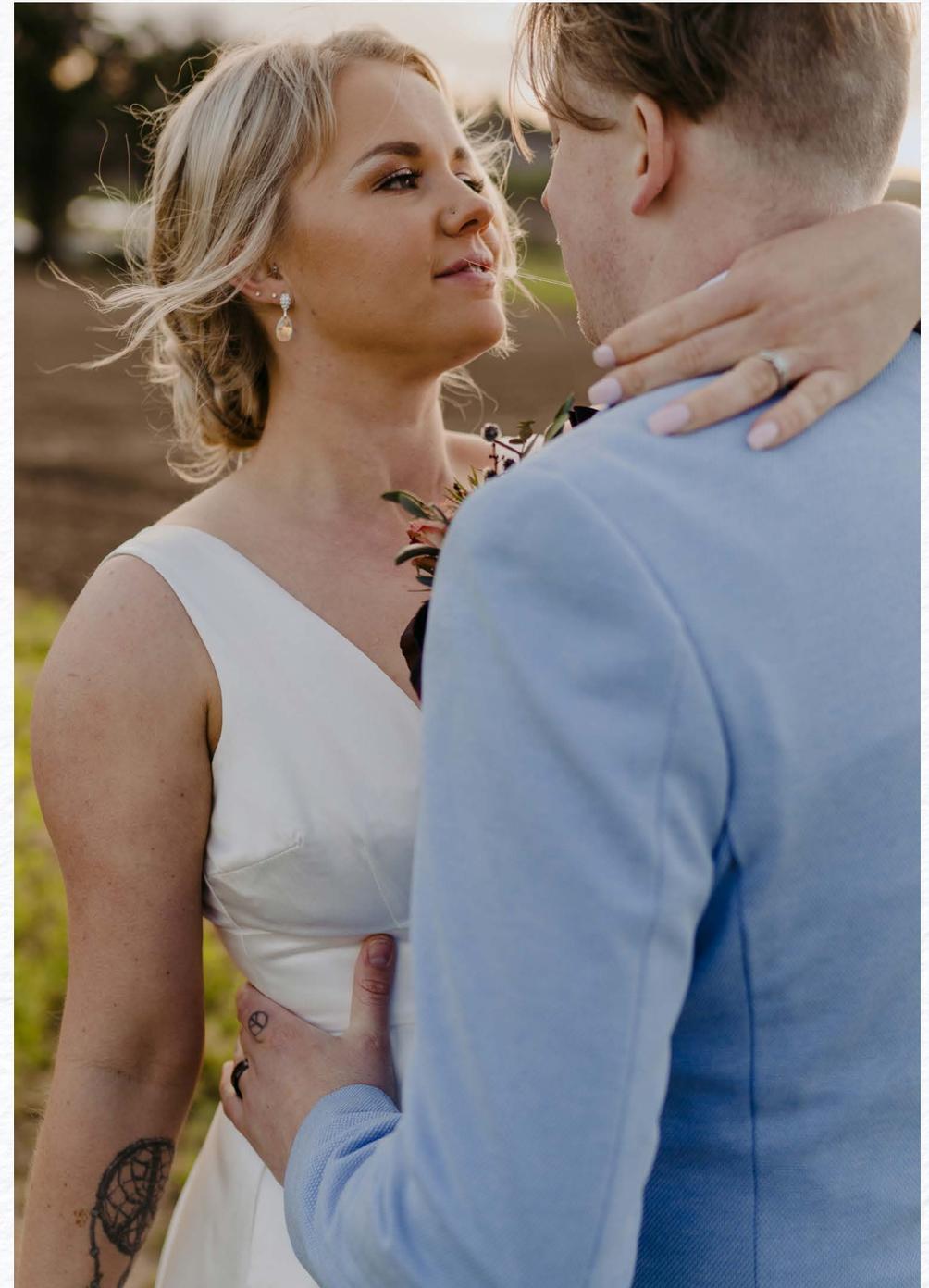


Photo : by Michael Briggs Photography



What were the highlights?

It's hard to name a few! Having a 'first look' was something we decided on when there was no longer a traditional aisle planned in our ceremony. Seeing each other for the first time took away our nerves and allowed us to simply get lost in the 'feels'.

We got to spend every minute with each other and truly be present in each moment from the get go. There was something really special and intimate about being able to soak up being newlyweds just the two of us.

Our first dance was absolutely magical and the perfect way to end our wedding.



Photo : by Michael Briggs Photography

Vendor Credits

Photographer Michael Briggs

Florist Posie Project

Ceremony and Reception Venue The Farmer's Daughter,
Adams Farm Coldstream

Cake Renate Elise Designer Cakes

Celebrant Samuel Miller - The Bearded Celebrant

Engagement Rings Prouds

Wedding Bands Proud/Tymbergear

BRIDE CREDITS

Bridal Gown Designer Showpo!

Veil Grace Loves Lace

Earrings Lovisa

GROOM CREDITS

Suit Politix

Shoes Wild Rhino

Watch Something borrowed from Jake's brother

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!

Autumn Weddings

Warm natural colours, softening light, golden vines and shorter days mark the passage of another season and inspire new delight in the beauty that is autumn. When the colours change, the leaves are transformed to confetti and the table is laden with the just picked abundance of the orchards and farms. We settle back and relax into cooler days and drinks at dusk that seem to last forever. Starlight and firelight mark the evening and our favourite jacket makes a comeback. Back in the rhythm of life, friends and family are available, the Easter period offers extended time together and we can wander the valleys and trails without the demands of daily life.

Even those who love all the seasons will have a soft spot for autumn, a time perfectly suited to weddings where texture and beauty form the backdrop of happy occasions and we gather around the abundance of the season. Feasts are prepared and toasts are made.

Wedding season is any time you want it to be. More and more our way of life seems to be less about weekdays and weekends – so any day of the week is a perfect day for a wedding. Feel the ease of planning an off peak wedding where every dream you have – venue, dress, celebrant, photographer – is available and ready to be part of your autumn day.

Photo : at Riverstone Estate by Perla Photography

LOOKING AHEAD



Photo Courtesy of Director's Edge

A bride and groom are walking through a field of tall, golden grass at sunset. The bride is on the left, wearing a white lace wedding dress, and the groom is on the right, wearing a light-colored suit jacket, a white shirt, and a colorful bow tie. They are holding hands and smiling. The background shows rolling hills under a warm, golden sky.

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

rainbowcelebrantynarravalley.com



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



Lisa Newman

Celebrant

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



Maureen Miles

Celebrant

Looking for the celebrant who will take good care of you, make it easy and stress free and create a simple, relaxed, fun yet sacred and beautiful wedding ceremony? Say hello to Maureen.

P: 0412 863 652

maureenmilescelebrant.com.au



Weddings by Jess

Celebrant

Weddings by Jess is Melbourne's favourite wedding celebrant. She has been performing weddings for over eight years, bringing her warmth, humour and experience to every one of her lucky couples.

P: 0410 808 443

weddingsbyjess.com.au

Event Planners



Socially Styled Events

Simply put Socially Styled Events celebrate stories and relationships! Partnering with you, they create events that amplify the story you're wanting to tell. They draw on the moments, the emotions and the connections and turn them into an event you will never forget!

P: 0411 149 040

sociallystyledevents.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

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.

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

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

A Bit of Jam and Pickle



Food by Caroline Gray. A Bit of Jam & Pickle combines the bits about Caroline's work she loves the most - teaching, creating products & cooking for appreciative folk.

P: 0402 270 792

jamandpickle.com.au

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

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

Directors Edge Videography



Your wedding film should be as dynamic as your life: filled with laughter, pride, hope, covert kisses and wild dance moves. Director's Edge Videography craft films that feel as magical, moving and relevant right now as well as into the future based on you and your narrative.

P: 0421 985 064

directorsedge.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



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



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



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



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



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

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, Kalorama

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



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



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



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



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



Fondata 1872, *Kangaroo Ground*

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. 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
fondata1872.com



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.

P: 03 9752 0638
yarrarangesestate.com.au



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 ambiance, 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



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



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

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!

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Off Peak Weddings

- YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES -

**For more
information:**

email: hitched@offpeakweddings.com.au

Visit: offpeakweddings.com.au

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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.