

# Off Peak Weddings

- YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES -

ISSUE 6

AUTUMN



Photo Credit: Rick Liston

getting  
hitched  
your way

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ELOPE

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Photo Credit: Bulong Estate

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Editor:  
Lindy Schneider

Production:  
Giovanna Ostacchini

Original Concept:  
Sonsie Studios

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# Destination

## Yarra Valley, Dandenong Ranges & Nillumbik

Photo Credit: Rick Liston

**The arrival of autumn brings many reasons to visit the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges. There is something assuring in the turn of the season – the fruit ripens and the orchards beckon us down perfectly symmetrical rows to taste produce handpicked from the tree. Apples, pears, stone fruit and figs – eaten fresh, or turned into mouthwatering ciders, succulent desserts and jams and preserves that say ‘Yarra Valley’ in every bite. Harvest is a reason to celebrate.**

In the vineyards, the excitement of vintage builds each day, as ripened grapes are carefully snipped from their tethers and sent on a delicious journey of pressing and fermentation to become bottles of wine for us to enjoy. Later, the lunch table will be laden with local produce and the end of harvest will be celebrated with long table lunches for people who have contributed to the triumph of vintage 2020. And a whole new cycle begins as the green hues of the vines turn golden with the arrival of crisp autumn mornings.

This time of year draws us outdoors – to walk among the trees of ancient forests, to ready our bikes for ambling along rail trails, or to seek the challenge of a new mountain to climb. Days can be spent exploring the region by car, stopping to buy direct from the farmgate, with wine tastings and views from mountaintops before a succulent dinner.

Autumn is a time of softening, of finding places in life to create spaciousness; time with family, time with friends, time to love.



SUPPLIER SPEAK

# Duke Elopements

choosing simplicity over stress

by Lisa Newman, Civil Marriage Celebrant

It's 2020 and something is shaking up the wedding industry—elopements! The popularity of having an elopement compared to larger, traditional weddings has soared in the past 12 months, with many couples choosing simplicity over stress, and affordability over size. There are so many decisions to make when it comes to getting married, but the biggest issue seems to be the expensive price tag. With the average wedding venue in Australia costing approximately \$15,000, that's a lot of money to feed your guests!

Eloping used to mean running away to get married without telling anyone—especially parents. Now, it's a fabulous way to focus on what's important to you—the ceremony, the location and maybe a few guests. What could be easier? And in the Dandenong Ranges and Yarra Valley, you are absolutely spoiled for choice.

## **BENEFITS TO ELOPING**

Forgoing a traditional, larger wedding to elope doesn't mean you need to miss out on celebrating and it can have so many benefits. You can choose to have a more intimate and quiet ceremony location—perhaps a place that's special to the two of you e.g. a park, at home, or an Airbnb. Some celebrants offer their home to accommodate elopements, which makes it a simple, affordable and streamlined process. You can then go out to lunch or dinner and celebrate with your chosen few.

## PERSONAL DECISION

Every couple has their personal reason for choosing to elope. Sometimes the guest list itself can be way too difficult to navigate, there could be dissention within the family, lack of funds or a preference to allocate those funds elsewhere. For many, the idea of a traditional wedding is overwhelming.

## THE CEREMONY

When you elope, the amount of decisions you make is entirely up to you. You can still write your own vows, exchange rings and have a professional photographer there to capture your ceremony! In fact, aside from finding your ideal celebrant and who your two witnesses will be, the decision making can stop right there.

## BE MINDFUL

There may be some people whose feelings could be hurt should you choose to elope—especially parents. Consider carefully and include the people closest to you if you can. You don't want to mar your post-ceremony happiness by disappointing the people you love the most.

## TIPS & IDEAS FOR A SUCCESSFUL ELOPEMENT

- Find an awesome celebrant, complete the first legal document and ensure you have one calendar months' notice before the date you wish to marry.
- Choose a weekday ceremony for the ultimate, affordable ceremony.
- Invite your parents and best friends to come with you—the small group can go out for a celebratory lunch or dinner afterwards.
- Hire an affordable wedding or event photographer—then send out some great pictures of the event with your marriage announcement.
- Or have an elopement with just the two of you, your witnesses and celebrant, then throw a gathering at a later date to announce your wonderful news.



Website: [lisanewman.com.au](https://lisanewman.com.au)

Instagram: Lisa Newman Celebrant

Facebook: Lisa Newman Marriage Celebrant



Lisa offers Elopement Avenue from her home in Tecoma. Contact her on any of the above social media forums for information & pricing.

# Autumn

## An abundance of Love

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Celebrate your love with an autumn wedding. Autumn is an abundant season that brings a unique tone to a wedding with the turning of the leaves and the softening of the light coming together to create perfect backdrops for ceremonies, and endless days of 'just right' weather for all the right feels. In the parks and gardens, deciduous trees drop red and golden leaves creating lush natural carpets and magical settings for photos. The Dandenong Ranges is famous for autumn displays of colour that cannot be found anywhere else, and beautifully kept gardens with majestic trees, pretty lakes, and meandering pathways can serve as ideal destinations for ceremonies, receptions, photos and all of the above.

For a destination that is less than an hour from Melbourne, the Yarra Valley offers so much diversity for an autumn wedding. Just arriving makes you feel good. Deep green forests, endless verdant pastures, farm animals grazing and ripening orchards trim the roads. Vineyards stretch out on either side offering perfect destinations for weddings among the turning of the vines.

This time of the year is about options. Want to get married outdoors? Autumn's mild nature lets you choose your day, your way. Want to get married in a chapel, or a barrel room, or with stunning views surrounded by the buzz of vintage? Autumn's abundance gives you all the choices you deserve.

SEASON SNAPSHOT



*Photo: Potters Receptions*

The autumn palette of colours is naturally on trend—the florals that make your heart sing are right at home in an autumn setting. And autumn says “yes, I do” when it comes to eating well and abundantly. Bring the harvest to the table and enjoy a feast fit for a couple—it’s your day to be at the head of the table.

Find Your Self at an autumn wedding in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges and start life in the season of wedded bliss.



# Jess & Clio

# *get hitched*

Equality Projekt Winner

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### **Meet the couple**

We first met on Black Friday 13 June 2008. We were both performing as Drag Kings at the Glasshouse, for "King Victoria"... at least that's how Jess remembers it, as there may have been a meeting before then, but Clio kept tight lipped until after the "I love yous" months later. Turns out Jess had flown to Melbourne a few months earlier and had gone to the Star Bar on Hoddle St after performing. Clio first met Jess that night, and months later, she was excited to see both their names on a poster promoting the 13 June performance.

### **Who proposed?**

Clio proposed on the couple's 5th anniversary. It was very romantic in hindsight... at the time however it didn't go to plan and is quite the story of flops. Needless to say, Clio said Jess would have to ask her if there was ever to be an engagement. One week before their bub was due, Jess wrote with white tape on her back window of her car "MARRY ME CLIO?" - knowing they'd be driving back together from a friend's house. Clio almost blew the plan when she left her purse in McDonalds, but luckily the purse was found, and Jess could speed in front of Clio just before the last few sets of lights home. The honking and light flashes answered "YES!"



### **How did you choose your ceremony and reception venue?**

Our original plan was to have a backyard wedding and have everyone we love share in one big party. And then we heard about a competition run by Projekt 3488 to win the wedding of your dreams by answering “What does inclusion mean to you?” We created a short animation, voiced by our 5-year-old daughter and amazingly we won! [Watch here](#)

### **What was your wedding theme?**

We chose to have a cocktail-style reception where everyone could mingle. Projekt 3488 is such a phenomenal location we wanted people to move about and enjoy it all. As Clio has Coeliac disease, we were so relieved when Pedros from Ethos Catering and Stephanie from Lazy Sundays could make all our food gluten free.

The food was delectable!

### **What made your wedding unique?**

I don't think you can get past the fact that we won it.  
How often does that happen?!

And our wedding was unique in many wonderful ways. We had the cream of the crop for suppliers and let them 'do their thang'. We had two incredible celebrants who joined to give us the most special service anyone could imagine.

We were nervous our wedding ceremony would be the slow part of the day, but it was perfect, and we highly recommend BOTH Bianca and Danielle. Then we had the best Greek food served all evening fresh straight from the eco coals, and the yummiest drinks from around the Yarra Valley. Our guests were gobsmacked by the venue, which was unique because we never left the space for the whole duration of the celebration. The ceremony was in the main hall, where we got smothered in flowers dropped from the floor above on 'the Kiss' and where food and drinks awaited, and the first part of the afternoon kicked off on the huge deck overlooking the valley.

Our photographer and videographer whisked us around the grounds for stunning photos all within Projekt 3488. Once the sun set, we moved to the relaxed couches for speeches while the hall was transformed into the most unbelievable dance party. After our rehearsed first dance under the epic chandelier, the dance space was lit up and we danced all night. The firepit and gardens outside at night are something our friends still talk about.

Our spectacular wedding was made even more unique with entertainment by Agent Cleave, or as many of our guests referred to him 'the gorgeous bearded lady', and his wonderful troupe of performers who sang and seduced the guests. We even had a cute little burlesque number, and Agent Cleave got Jess up to sing one of the final songs of the night; Adele's version of *Love Song* by The Cure.







And at the end of the night, the best part for many of our guests was being dropped safely back at their Warburton accommodation by the wonderful Yarra Valley A2B. We have lost count of how many people tell us it was not only the best wedding they'd ever been to, but one of the best weekends of their lives. Needless to say, it was the best weekend of ours too!

### ***Is there a story behind your dress(es) and veil/headpiece?***

**Jess:** When Clio revealed that she wanted to wear a wedding dress, I was shocked, and then a little upset that suddenly I felt like I didn't know Clio. She'd not worn a dress EVER in our 11 plus years, and now she wanted to ruin the vision I had of a cute fancy 3-piece suit. Then I was worried about what often happens with two brides... when the two dresses don't work together. It was made even more worrisome when Clio thought she would buy online. An agreement had to be made that we'd go shopping together for Clio's dress. I think the real reason I was so worried is because I'm not attracted to girls in dresses. Long story short, the second dress she tried on was a champagne coloured, pearl encrusted vintage, fitted, floor length gown, and it looked amazing.



From that moment I knew what I was working with and I kept my dress a secret from Clio. My dress was hideous on the hanger! It was blush pink, with gold in the lace, and a peach undertone. It was very girly, yet when I put it on it came alive. I knew right away, especially looking at my mum's face, that I'd found my dress.

We did manage my dream of cute fancy 3-piece antique gold suits for our bridal party—our daughter Adia-Tuesday, plus Anya and Kai (both 10 years old)—paired with sparkly gold Converse sneakers.

We did the borrowed/blue/old/new tradition. The something blue was a strip of blue sequined fabric sewn inside our dresses from the stage performance of Strictly Ballroom—so we had material in our dresses that Baz Luhrmann and Catherine Martin had handpicked!

Clio wore her mum Christine's antique necklace as her headpiece and her 'something old', and Jess wore a traditional veil, a last minute gift from her mum Tina at the bridal boutique.







### **What were the highlights?**

Projekt 3488 is the dreamiest location, dream wedding planners, dream venue, dream everything. Mark and Sandi are the dreammakers. Ethos Catering made incredible food we're so happy we can call them friends. The photos by Rick Liston are exquisite. We were lucky to be gifted Oscar's on the Yarra as our wedding weekend venue. We were so comfortable preparing for our big day with Christine and her family behind the scenes. Our flower arrangements by Holly were amazing. Bianca and Danielle, our celebrants, were hilarious, beautiful and patient, and our MC Agent Cleave and his performance troupe were phenomenal.

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

Adah from Shop Fear designed our incredible and unique wedding bands. We went into her studio for the casting of our rings so we could press our fingerprints into each other's bands! We both have two stacking rings; one silver and one gold, as it's good luck to always have a little gold on you.

### **What makes your marriage?**

Our marriage is a joining of our 11 plus years together, our friendship and the love we share for each other and Adia-Tuesday. We are a very tight trio-like an odd family egg. Adia-Tuesday is the yolk, she's the heart of everything we do, Jess is the egg-white, she keeps everything flowing and smothers the yolk, and Clio is the shell, she's strong and keeps us together. She's also rolling her eyes right now at the analogy! We are a house full of love and laughter, and we respect and support each other's dreams and wishes. We sing a song every night to Adia-Tuesday, it's called *The Five Pennies*. It says we need five pennies to be wealthy beyond measure; one for wishing on, one for dreaming on, another for dancing, then to laugh on, but the most important penny is to love on, so with these five pennies you'll be a millionaire. This song was sung to Jess when she was little, and it highlights how fortunate we are. Counting our blessings has always been crucial in keeping us together and happy that we have each other.





*"It was a truly unique wedding, from Mark Fenech from Projekt 3488 dreaming up such an awesome and generous prize, to the heart of every amazing and beautiful soul that donated and made it so unforgettable."*

### ***Anything else you'd love to share?***

Since getting married we've been through a lot. We had so much on our plates... from starting a new job two days after the wedding, to having to deal with a heart-breaking family conflict, then making front page of *The Age* newspaper because we suffered the worst 48 hours of our lives; stuck in the Corryong bushfires and escaping via the convoy in catastrophic conditions. Needless to say, our vows could have been seriously tested already. But instead, what we originally believed was going to be a great party and a nice piece of paper to protect our rights has been an incredible glue, bonding us even more than our years of relationship.

Getting married has sealed our union. We are more united than ever! Whether it is just a reminder of why we love our chosen partners, or whether there is such a thing as 'wedded bliss', something magical happens when you make promises so openly to the one you love. We recommend 'The Big Day' to any secure and loving relationship out there!

**Number of Guests:** 120 / **Budget:** won a wedding competition!  
**Date:** 7 December 2019 / **Location:** Projekt 3488, Warburton

### **Vendor Credits**

Ceremony & Reception Venue: [Projekt 3488](#)  
Photographer: [Rick Liston Photography](#)  
Celebrant: Bianca Paliaga & Danielle Binaisse  
Rings: Adah Kelleher-Roulston  
Accommodation: [Oscar's on the Yarra, Warburton Motel](#)  
Transport: [Yarra Valley A2B](#)  
Make-up: Krystal: Makeup  
Catering: [Ethos Catering](#)  
Napkins & Tablecloths: Yarra Linen  
Invitations: Sonsie Studios  
Entertainment: Agent Cleave & Co





# Brunch weddings for a *beautiful*

## start to your day, and life

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Love the idea of a relaxed wedding that doesn't need to tick the tradition box? The Brunch Wedding is a perfect match. Choosing an early morning ceremony might have you up early – but who can sleep in on the big day anyway? There's still plenty of hours for getting ready if you plan it well. And by late morning you're feasting as newlyweds with your special guests.

The Brunch Wedding can be indoors or outdoors and themed to your heart's desire. Simplicity and freedom are key. You may choose to relax the dress code (for guests and yourself!) and find super-affordable ways to have an elegant and totally gorgeous day, your way.

The time you might lose in the morning can be gained in the afternoon (although it is perfectly fine to leave your brunch and head off 'just married' as early as you please), and it's perfectly acceptable to have an after-party destination in mind for your inner circle to keep the celebrations going a little longer.







If you can't leave without cutting the cake, you can go traditional or choose something light and gorgeous such as a crepe stack, a simple single tier or something light and dreamy that guests can enjoy for dessert. But seriously does a *croque en bouche* ever go out of style?

## Ways to Brunch your Wedding

### Food

Brunch food is serious business and a great way to showcase local Yarra Valley produce at its peak – just picked, fresh and vibrant. Choose to offer buffet or sit down with some caterers offering chef attended and full breakfast options also. A great brunch will have a selection of sweet and savoury offers but beyond that there aren't many rules.

Delicious brunch fare can include:

Finger foods, mini quiches, blinis, waffles, bite sized fritters, crepes, mini sliders, decadent muffins, DIY poke bowls, gorgeous Portuguese sardines on crostini, tarts, croissants, labne and cheese boards, charcuterie with farmhouse smoked hams and salumeria, scones, pastries (of all persuasions), parfaits (with fresh fruit) and something special such as beetroot cured Salmon, fresh prawns or oysters in shot glasses.

And if you're thinking a High Tea might fit the brunch theme you're totally on trend.



## **Beverages**

The first necessity is awesome coffee (maybe a coffee-based cocktail wouldn't go astray - hello Espresso Martini) and beyond that some special Brunch Cocktails such as Bloody Marys, spritzers, mimosas (OJ plus sparkling) and anything Four Pillars Gin based will be appreciated. Fill your guest's glasses with local Rosé or sparkling, and dive in with classic chardonnays, robust reds and craft beers.

Ensure there are plenty of fresh juices, sparkling water, non-alcoholic beverages and teas. A tea station is a great idea stocked with plenty of varieties to choose from and delicious condiments to take them to the next level.

Need a great idea for a wedding favour for your Brunch Wedding? Think reusable coffee cup printed with the couple's name and you've got a memorable, completely fitting keepsake.



### **Sean from Essential Caterer has some favourite brunch dishes to try:**



- Crepes with choc hazelnut ganache or lemon syrup
- French toast with rhubarb compote and vanilla mascarpone
- Open tartlets-smoked salmon, goat cheese and capers, or mushroom with thyme and brie
- Corn cakes with baked ham, French mustard and shallots with crème sauce
- Oven roasted chorizo, capsicum and tomatoes with Spanish paprika and sherry vinegar deglaze on rosemary focaccia
- Vegetable ratatouille with crispy fried egg and organic sourdough



# Brides, Besties & Brussel Sprouts

## *Married by your mate*

By Virginia Lawrence

Getting married is one of the most intimate and important days of your life and you need someone really special to take care of you on the day. Usually this is an experienced celebrant who really gets you, but did you know it can also be a family member or a friend who you can completely trust to nail it?

When you think about it, what could be better than getting married by your mate? Your best friend has known you for ever. They've always had your back. They've been with you through all the good times and the bad times. You might have been with them when you first met your partner. You probably told them you were falling in love. You definitely told them that you'd found 'The One'.

But, it's harder than it looks. The reality is that it takes training and experience to be able to present a beautiful ceremony that runs smoothly, looks picture-perfect, and leaves your guests wanting more.

You need to think carefully about this option. And you can't do it without an authorised celebrant. The celebrant takes care of the official paperwork and makes sure all the requirements are met to make it a legally recognised marriage. A good celebrant will also offer to advise on the script, come to a rehearsal, and point out all the little things that make a huge difference on the day.

Photo credits: Fotogenica Wedding Photography



I recently helped Erin marry her friends at a sweet and lovely ceremony at Country Heart Farm - the Brussel Sprout Farm as we locals know it. Erin got the job even before Bec and Dave got engaged. She promised that if they ever popped the question then she would marry them. It wasn't possible for her to train and get authorised in time for the wedding and she thought she was off the hook. But then I got to hear about it.

We decided to do a double act. She took care of all the feels, and I looked after the legals. On the day, that meant I stood up for two minutes to introduce myself. I read the legally required words and signed certificates along with the couple and their witnesses. The rest of the ceremony was written and presented by Erin. Being an experienced public speaker and writer, and all-round gorgeous person, she totally pulled it off.



If you want to get married by a close friend who isn't an authorised celebrant, the good news is that it is absolutely possible. Just give me a call. I can talk you through the whole process. Find me at [celebrantgin.com](http://celebrantgin.com).



Photo credits: Fotogenica Wedding Photography

# Respoke Beauty

Aaron Wilson managing director at  
Michael Wilson Diamond Jewellers

“In the past ten years, there has only been one occasion where a couple has chosen a custom-made wedding pendant instead of wedding rings,” says Aaron Wilson, managing director at Michael Wilson Diamond Jewellers. “No matter what fashions come and go, and what customs change over time, the tradition of wedding and engagement rings is steadfast.”

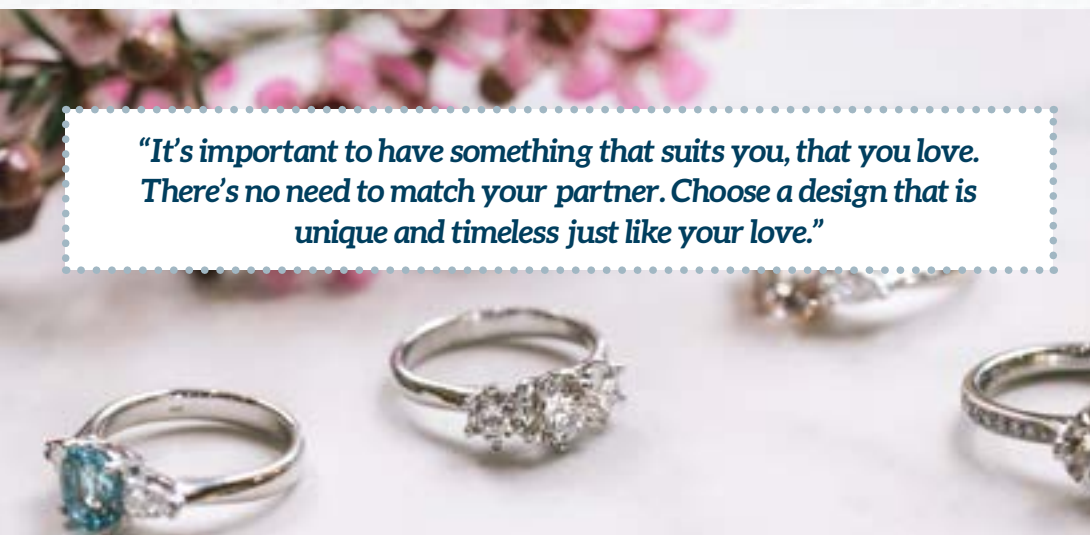
And while tradition still plays a definite role, couples have changed over the years, with same-sex marriages bringing freshness to ring utility and design. “People are often choosing to have one fabulous ring designed that serves as both an engagement and a wedding ring. We help many male couples create exquisite wedding bands with inset diamonds and other stones – they don’t always match one another, but they do say special! Likewise, when we see female couples we often create a design for the proposal and then make a second ring so both women have something personal to wear. These days we are less likely to create ‘surprise rings’ and it’s much more typical to design the ring directly with the person who will be wearing it.”



Aaron often meets with couples or individuals with older style rings that they’d like to transform into something more contemporary. “Resetting inherited stones into modern designs makes so much sense if it means you will enjoy the piece more, and we see a lot of couples renewing their vows later in life taking the opportunity to redesign their original rings. There’s a sense of ‘upcycling’ that makes them happy too.”

Aaron loves finding rare and unusual stones for clients. Coloured stones are well regarded with earthy natural tones of cognac, brown and champagne pulling many heartstrings. “And sapphires are popular at the moment, and exquisite rare colours like green diamonds,” says Aaron. “I have sourced only two or three of these in 20 years!”

***“It’s important to have something that suits you, that you love. There’s no need to match your partner. Choose a design that is unique and timeless just like your love.”***



“Argyle Pink Diamonds are sought after and are excellent investment pieces. Some of our clients have found their Argyle diamond has tripled in value since they bought it, and they are becoming increasingly rarer with the mine expected to close forever at the end of 2020.”

Aaron’s advice to nuptials is simple. He says, “Enjoy your ring. When you look down you should only think of pure joy and love. Remember what your ring represents and the romance behind it.”

#### Choosing a ring—Aaron’s tips

1. Always consider your wedding band when choosing your engagement ring—the two pieces need to work together.
2. Go to the jeweller with an open mind. Do your research but expect rings to look different on the hand. Try on as many as you can to find your style.
3. Looks are important but so is practicality. Consider your lifestyle and ensure your ring choice fits your day-to-day activities.

#### Expect to invest:

Engagement rings from \$2500

Wedding bands from \$450, or diamond inset from \$890



# Make your own wedding ring classes at Montsalvat

Jeanette Dyke is a jewellery designer working from her studio at Montsalvat. She offers jewellery making classes and the opportunity for couples to 'make their own rings' and she is also passionate about designing and creating unique wedding and engagement rings for women and men.

*"Having a handmade ring designed and made that is both personal and deeply connected to the wearer is an emotional experience. I take my clients on a journey during the making process, from beginning concept to end creation, working closely with them so that I can capture the essence of what they really want. This is something they will be wearing for the rest of their lives and for me the creative value put into every piece I make is just as valuable as the jewels themselves."*

Here are some pieces Jeanette has designed and made for clients:

I had a lovely local couple due to get married. They loved nature and came to my studio for a consultation armed with branches of eucalyptus leaves and flowers. They spread them over the table asking me to design and make their wedding rings around the leaves and flowers.



Another client wanted to reuse their heirloom jewellery and have it remade into a new ring of their own design so as to retain the inherited value of their ancestor's jewellery. They are proud to wear a piece that is both current and relevant to their own taste.



This lovely lady had a strong interest in nature conservation in the Yarra Valley and wanted to have her original engagement ring remodelled to reflect her current love of nature incorporating Kangaroo Grasses and Flax Lilies into her ring design and using diamonds from her original engagement ring.

Our jewellery making journey began by me visiting her property in Cottles Bridge, where she showed me around her and introduced me to the delicate and fragile beauty of the local plants found there that were incorporated into her beautiful ring.

Some couples leave the design entirely up to me and choose from my finished rings available through galleries.



Men are becoming more discerning in their taste for a unique wedding ring. I create very unique pieces for men and am loving how much thought they put into their special piece. Recently I designed a wedding set incorporating a matching stud earring and wedding ring for a client.

With Jeanette Dyke—Unique Handmade Jewellery, Montsalvat  
[www.jeanettedyke.com](http://www.jeanettedyke.com)

# FIRST NIGHT IS FOREVER

*Intimate places to stay on your wedding night*

.....

It's the first night of the rest of your life and when the celebrations have given way to some serious alone time for the newlyweds, the choice of accommodation should be the perfect finish to the best day ever. Getting married in the Yarra Valley is just the beginning. Stay on and take a few days together—the world will wait. Honeymoons and the Yarra Valley go hand in hand—or take a breath and relax a few more days in the Dandenong Ranges as a pre-honeymoon honeymoon!

## **Secluded and private**

Set on three acres of gardens with self-contained villas and lodges, you will want for nothing at [Araluen Boutique Accommodation](#). An exquisite location for DIY weddings with small intimate gatherings a dream. Includes a bridal suite where the wedding party can get ready pre-ceremony, and intimate retreat at the end of the day.

## **Vineyard views**

Stay in one of two unique towers that frame the cellar door at [Sutherland Estate](#). These two storey private apartments offer stunning vineyard views and feature elegant spiral staircases and stargazing from your bed. Have your dream wedding in the chapel, photos in the garden and reception with views of rolling vineyards. [Immerse Winery](#) is a breathtaking destination offering exclusive bridal suite accommodation for couples and their guests.

Photo Credit: Sutherland Estate





Photo Credit: Potters Receptions

### All in one place

If you'd like your ceremony, reception and accommodation all in one location, [Potters Receptions](#) is a luxurious destination that caters for every whim. Fairytale begin here.

### Resort style

An ultimate wedding experience offering accommodation for you and your guests (up to 70 people), onsite day spa and an idyllic vineyard location. [Balgownie Estate](#) is a premier destination to create your perfect day from the first love-soaked moment to the last.

### Country Sophisticate

Gorgeous bed and breakfast style accommodation where privacy is assured. [In the Valley](#) has king size studio suites with private balconies and hillside views to wake up to the morning after. [Wiggley Bottom](#) is a sophisticated farm style property with plenty of modern amenity. [Arcadia Cottages](#) specialises in couple's accommodation with spa suites and absolute seclusion among forested gardens in the Dandenong Ranges.

### And just in case you're after something different

If a magical outdoors wedding is your thing, and you want to keep ALL your loved ones close by, [Kingleke Forest Adventures](#) is a fabulous alternative venue where you can create your own forest wedding and cater for up to 120 guests in camping, glamping-style accommodation. Your wedding day may just become a weekend.

When booking accommodation, some venues may offer the option of holding your ceremony on site as well. Some destinations provide exclusive accommodation only for wedding party and guests. See [our website](#) for more info.



Photo Credit: Kingleke Forest Adventures

# Photography

## Pets at Weddings

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If leaving your precious pooch at home on the most special day of your life is not an option, inclusive weddings take on a whole new vibe when you give your beloved four legged a real role to play.

Involving the fur kids in wedding celebrations is more than a trend, it's as real as it gets. Family is family after all!

From showing off their best smiles in the official photos, to walking the bride (or groom) down the aisle or being ring bearer, your doggo will delight in being part of the proceedings. A special honour that brings the joy and uniqueness of your day alive.

And why stop at one dog? Bring the whole gang just like Penny and Neil, and think big. Bow ties and cummerbunds-no problem. Matching collars to your dress-yes! you can do that.

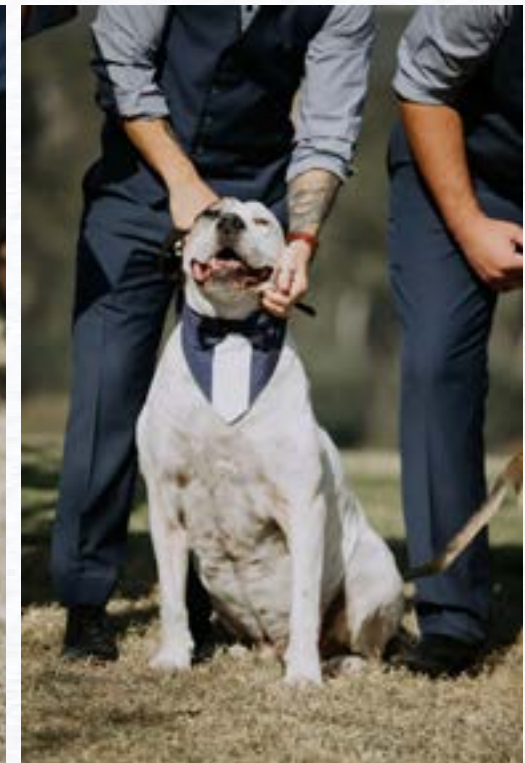
And pets at weddings are not limited to the woofers. Cats, pigs, parrots and even ponies have been making days special.

No pets but adore animals? The Yarra Valley is a wonderful place to get married if you're an animal lover because you only need ask and an alpaca can wander into shot, or a horse can graze nearby.

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*Tip: Appoint a dog wrangler for the day! Someone who knows you and who your doggos know super well. A pocket of treats is helpful too!*

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Photos: Rick Liston Photography



Photos: Rick Liston Photography

# Days out with a *difference*

The tradition of a Hen's Day or a Buck's Night is well established as rite of passage in the lead up to the wedding day. In the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges there are many ways to celebrate your 'soon to be wedded' status that are fun, meaningful and memory making.

## The Yarra Valley Gin tour

Where there is wine, there is [gin in the Yarra Valley](#) and from award-winning, world famous distilleries to the bespoke and the boutique, there's a whole new world of tastes to discover. [Four Pillars Gin](#), [Rochford Wines](#) and [Coombe Estate](#) (hello Dame Nellie) all offer gin tasting for your flight of fancy and are gorgeous destinations for the discerning. Prefer not to drive? [Yarra Valley A2B](#) will take care of you.

## Mountain bike downhill adventure

Activate the good day out vibes with a forest mountain bike adventure. Gather the crew and test your mettle with an organised tour ([Yarra Valley Cycles](#)) or bring your own/hire bikes and get out in nature. The new downhill trail from [Lake Mountain into Marysville](#) will deliver you right to the door of some fine refreshments.



## Go off-ground

Survey the world from above. Charter a flight from [Yarra Valley Airport](#) offering joy flights and destination flights of your choosing. Fancy a quick trip across to King Island or Flinders Island? You can catch your own crayfish for lunch. Charter a flight and discover some place new, or choose one of their art and photography flight adventures, or Outback Pub Safaris. [Global Ballooning](#) also offer gorgeous hot air balloon flights over the Yarra Valley that really are a once-in-a-lifetime experience.





Photo credit: Kinglake Forest Adventures

### Paint and Sip

Get creative at [Elmswood Estate](#) with their 'Paint and Sip' program pairing gorgeous wines with a blank canvas and a guided class to get you making your mark. Wine, cheese and art—what could be better than that? Maybe a Flower Crown Workshops and High Tea event, also on offer for group bookings.

Share a special day with your besties and explore these 'days' out with a difference.

### Masterclass for makers

Get behind the wine scene and learn from the masters about all things wine. Season dependant, [Rochford Wines](#) offers unique opportunities to learn about blending or try your hand at crafting your own craft beer at [The Public Brewery, Croydon](#). Take home your brew or make your own 'wedding day' beer to serve your guests.

### High ropes, high hopes

Give your inner circle the time of their life at [Kinglake Forest Adventure](#) on the high ropes adventure course. Feel like an adventure packed weekend away together? There's onsite accommodation (glamping anyone?) and you can tackle the mountain bike tracks the next day!



## Wedding shoes just the way

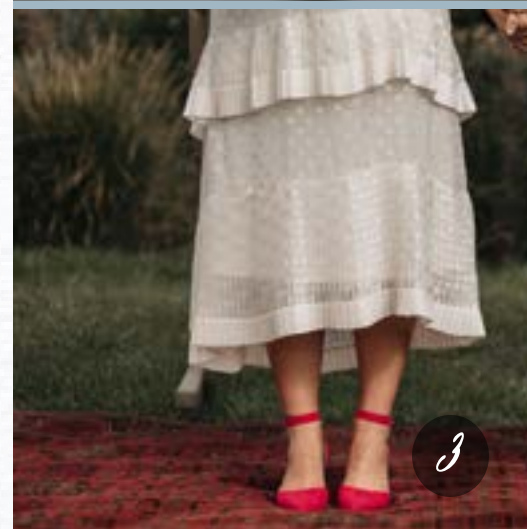
# *you like it*

No one wants to be uncomfortable on their wedding day and while a new pair of shoes to match your gorgeous outfit is all part of the fun of shopping for your big day, fashion can be freedom to choose the crazy, the cool, the comfortable and the 'just you all-over'.

Ditch the heels if you want (who can dance in them anyway!) or put those shiny lace-ups back in the box. Trainers and gym boots are in, gorgeous big colour is in and barefoot is back.

- 1** Jess and Clio wore glittering gold gymboots – same but different
- 2** A pair of cowboy boots are perfect for outdoor wedding adventures
- 3** There's no place like home and the magic of red shoes made a statement on Cass' big day
- 4** Pared back and pedicured–barefoot is for everyone. Feel the earth– and explore some interesting foot jewellery if you dare
- 5** Trainers and sneakers are on trend in everyday life for super practical comfort and style you can't go past. Yep, wedding sneakers are a thing!

And if designer heels, strappy sandals, metallic pinks and golds, ballet flats or funky ankle boots are your thing, go for it and do it your way. A cute pair of flats for later will ensure you're at your best on the dance floor and beyond.



# Looking ahead

## Winter Weddings

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Love is love in all the seasons. If you're a winter person, a winter wedding will feel like home. And while wedding season sees venues and services such as photographers and transport booked well in advance for the warmer months, the off-season (May to September) is often an open diary where you can have what you want exactly when you want it.

The charms of winter wrap around your day, your way, like a warm embrace. Winter food is a celebration of slow cooks and long evenings of local red wine and whiskys. Lighting is subtle with early nightfall providing more opportunities for moonlight dances, and candlelit rooms festooned with wintry blooms such as tulips, hyacinths, and sweet peas or bold native choices that include waratahs and proteas. The heady scent of daphne, the blooms of magnolia, lily of the valley and winter roses are an 'aromascape' of perfumes that add to the feel of your day.

There is no more perfect way to bust your loved ones out of any winter blues than with a winter wedding—a perfect celebration of big love and a new beginning in life. Winter creates so many opportunities for you to show your uniqueness and togetherness. Get creative with the layering of wedding outfits so you can be warm when you need to, yet shed a few layers when its heating up on the dance floor. Imagine the rainbow that's going to appear right when you're having photos done, and feel how easy it is to be surrounded by the warmth of people who are sharing your day.

Winter weddings have their own vibe, and so will your day.



Photo supplied Bulong Estate

# 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](http://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](http://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](http://soulfulceremonies.com.au)



**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](http://lisanewman.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 to create the perfect salon for the modern woman to showcase a wide selection of treatments and specialised therapies with a focus on providing the right solution for every skin type and beauty requirements to make you feel like the best version of yourself.

P: 0428 298 098

[missjosies.com.au](http://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](http://nourishdayspa.com.au)

## Transport



### Yarra Valley A2B

Locally owned and operated Private Small Group Luxury Tours and Transfer company in the beautiful Yarra Valley. Let Yarra Valley A2B drive you in style A2B and back again.

P: 0455 041 051  
[yarravalleya2b.com.au](http://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'.

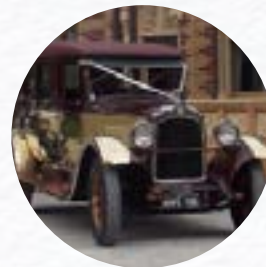
P: 0476 785 356  
[stellatours.com.au](http://stellatours.com.au)

### 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.

P: 0418 339 460  
[yarravalleyweddingcars.com.au](http://yarravalleyweddingcars.com.au)

## Transport



### Vintage Collection

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

P: 0411 465 098  
[vintagefun.com.au](http://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](http://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: 0422 131 731  
[thehighteamistress.com.au](http://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](http://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](http://rickliston.com)

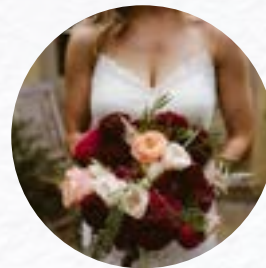


### Lei Lei Clavey Photography

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](http://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](http://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](http://yarravalleyharvest.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](http://cloudehill.com.au)

## Accommodation / Venues



### **Wiggley 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  
[wiggleybottomfarm.com.au](http://wiggleybottomfarm.com.au)  
[littleweddingsyarravalley.com.au](http://littleweddingsyarravalley.com.au)

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### **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](http://immerse.com.au)

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### **Araluen Boutique Accommodation**, *Yarra Glen*

The Yarra Valley's Premier Boutique Accommodation is located in the picturesque Steels Creek Valley, near Yarra Glen. The property is set among three acres of landscaped gardens and bushland and is the perfect place to relax or explore the Yarra Valley region.

P: 0411 242 212  
[araluenlodge.com.au](http://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](http://levantinehill.com.au)

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### **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.

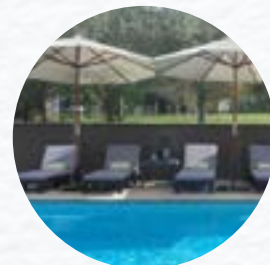
P: 0400 215 785  
[projekt3488.com.au](http://projekt3488.com.au)

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### **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](http://herdbar.com.au)



## Accommodation / Venues

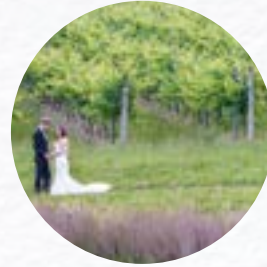


### **Kinglake Forest Adventures, Kinglake**

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 5771 1287

[kinglakeforestadventures.com.au/weddings](http://kinglakeforestadventures.com.au/weddings)



### **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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 vine trees, 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](http://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](http://fondata1872.com)



### **Boat O'Craigo**, *Healesville*

Boat O'Craigo are a family owned, boutique wine producer in the Yarra Valley. The beautiful property in Healesville provides a stunning location for your special day. They offer a relaxed event created by you. Call the events co-ordinator to discuss your event ideas.

P: 03 5962 6899  
[boatocraigo.com.au](http://boatocraigo.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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://balgownieestate.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](http://foothillsconferencecentre.com.au)



### **Eagles Nest Luxury Mountain Retreat**, *Narbethong*

If you are after a unique intimate wedding venue with rustic charm, then Eagles Nest is for you. With a picturesque background for photos and the tranquillity of a temperate rainforest, you will truly not find anything more magical. The 10 acre private estate is suitable for weddings of up to 80 guests and can marquee several areas. Every wedding couple will have their own personal planner and your wedding will be tailored to your own needs and requirements. A true rustic experience.

P: 0418 694 332  
[loghomeholidays.com.au](http://loghomeholidays.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](http://debortoli.com.au)



## Accommodation / Venues



### **Yering Meadows Golf Club**, *Yering*

Home to the Yarra Valley, embodied by transcendent vistas of the Yarra Ranges & Walnut Grove, the club's panoramic scenery of 330 acres is a heart-stopping backdrop best shared.

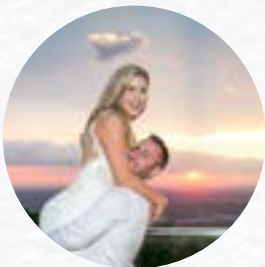
P: 03 9738 000  
[yeringmeadows.com.au](http://yeringmeadows.com.au)



### **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](http://vueonhalcyon.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.

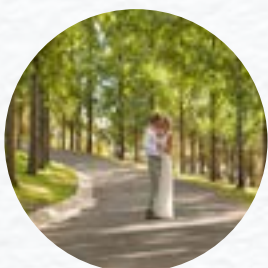
P: 03 9751 0450  
[skyhighmtdandenong.com.au/weddings-functions](http://skyhighmtdandenong.com.au/weddings-functions)



### **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](http://massaros.com.au)



### **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](http://tarrawarra.com.au)

Find out more about our  
**Off Peak Weddings** partners on our website

**[offpeakweddings.com.au](http://offpeakweddings.com.au)**

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

Photo courtesy of TarraWarra Estate

**Coming up in the winter issue:**

1. Wedding planners
2. The bride wore ...
3. Fabulous places to get ready

# Off Peak Weddings

**For more information:** email: [hitched@offpeakweddings.com.au](mailto:hitched@offpeakweddings.com.au)  
Visit: [offpeakweddings.com.au](http://offpeakweddings.com.au)

- YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES -