

# Off Peak Weddings

- YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES -



getting  
hitched  
your way

ISSUE 11

Photo Courtesy Of My Scandi Style

WINTER

Winter Feasts  
Page 7

Pet Friendly Weddings to  
Remember Fur-ever  
Page 53

Groom Crew  
Page 55



# Contents

Welcome to Winter _____	01
My Scandi Style _____	03
Winter Feasts _____	07
Good Bones _____	13
Hot Trends Coming Down the Isle _____	19
Krystal & Glen at Riverstone _____	27
Six Key Questions to Ask Your Celebrant _____	33
Grand Staircases _____	39
Megan & Rashid at Bulong Estate _____	45
Pet Friendly Weddings _____	53
Groom Crew _____	55
Fresh Itineraries For Bucks Parties _____	59
Directory _____	64


 A photograph of a wedding couple standing in the rain. The groom is on the left, wearing a dark blue suit, a white shirt, and a patterned bow tie, holding a white umbrella. The bride is on the right, wearing a white lace wedding dress, holding a large white umbrella. They are standing next to a red classic car. The background shows a misty, rainy landscape with trees and hills.
 

# Welcome to Winter

**Winter weddings, especially in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges have so much to offer. Sure, summer weddings are stunning too, but winter offers extra benefits such as cooler weather (no 40-degree swelters), better venue availability and to-die-for lighting for amazing photos. We know it's important to look amazing for your wedding day and winter sunlight is the most flattering. No squinting, no shadows, just treasured photos.**

In this issue, warm up to ideas on planning a winter wedding menu, planning a buck's weekend the guys will love, how to easily include your favourite four-legged friend into your ceremony (or borrowing one for a quirky photo) as well as plenty of inspiration on gorgeous venue spaces and professional suppliers.

This season we swooned over the incredible transformation of the historic Nobilus shed for this

edition and we know you will too. The collaboration between the featured suppliers and the pride in the region was incredibly heartening to witness. It's a testament to how dedicated these professionals are to making your wedding day dreams come true.

OPW adores a resilient couple and in this issue's Real Weddings you'll discover a love story the rainy weather couldn't dampen. The photos, taken at Riverstone Estate, remind us that the perfect day comes in so many forms.

Lastly, we know that men are an equal part of the wedding too. That's why we're made the editorial decision to include stories written by men, for men in each issue moving forward. It's a big day for them too.

Undoubtedly, there's something magical about a winter wedding. Whether it's the romantic candlelit venues, crackling fireplaces, celebrating love by toasting a warming red wine or a wintry meal with friends and family, you'll get all the cosy feels.

# My Scandi Style

**Wedding shoots are candid and fun for photographer Kelly Williams, and 'unconventional' is her middle name.**

I love finding connections. We're talking those moments where you thought no one was looking. That smile you share with your new husband or wife as you catch the eye of each other from across the room. That song where your grandmother and grandfather get up to dance. The uncontrollable laughter of your guests as the best man rips into your new partner.

Candid photography allows you to sit back in years to come and realise those special moments you thought were private were, in fact, caught on camera...



## HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU NEED FOR PHOTOGRAPHY?

The eternal question. Put simply, two hours is enough for a civil ceremony or elopement, whereas six hours of coverage allows time to photograph the ceremony, photos afterwards and one to two hours of the reception. Book 10 hours and you've got the whole shebang, from bride and groom prep, the ceremony, photos afterwards and the reception.

## PULLING THE PLUG

I'm noticing a lot of couples choosing to have an unplugged wedding, where guests are asked not to take pictures or video during the ceremony. Guests love to get those first photographs, but they can get in the way of the paid professionals you've enlisted to capture those special moments! If everyone remains seated, your ceremony photos won't be filled with arms and hands and phones in the air; it makes for much nicer photos and lets your guests really enjoy the moment, instead of watching it unfold through their screens.



## SECOND SHOOTER

Making a list of who you want photographed and in what combinations – all the first cousins, a work group of friends – is great. But if you're planning a big wedding and want a photo of every single guest, let me know. Often I'll organise a second shooter, so I can focus on you and your bridal party while the other photographer does the society photos. A second photographer is also handy if the two of you are getting ready at the same time in locations that are far apart, and if you want photos of the ceremony and reception styling before the guests arrive.



## WHAT'S THE 'FIRST LOOK'?

Traditionally, you and your partner would see each other for the first time at the ceremony, but many couples are now opting to have a pre-ceremony first look. It means not having to leave your guests so long at the reception for photos, and it also lets me use the all daylight, which is so important if you have a late afternoon or a winter wedding, when the sun sets earlier. I strongly recommend it, as it frees up that time after the ceremony.

## HOW ABOUT THE GOLDEN HOUR?

Aah, the perfect time of night before the sun sets! When creating your wedding day timeline, remember to include 20-30 minutes during your reception for a little "sneak-away" mini-session. This is the time we go outside to capture some of those beautiful golden light or night-time images!



# Winter Feasts

WORDS BY GWEN LUSCOMBE

Winter weddings call for crowd-pleasing comfort foods and decadent sweets. Think venues with fireplaces, mulled wines, warm and gooey cheese entrees or grazing boards, a hot chocolate dessert bar and a hearty, heartwarming menu.

Whether your wedding catering is a seated meal or cocktail style, warm it up with some of these mouthwatering options.



# BIANCHET WINERY

At Bianchet, you can start your day waking up in luxury accommodation, get ready for the day ahead with a glass of champagne. As the day unfolds and the sun sets over the hills and vineyards, guests will enjoy dinner, drinks and dancing in the dining room throughout the evening. With everything in one place, it's a wonderful solution for keeping guests cosy and comfy all day.

As one of the Yarra Valley's oldest vineyards, Bianchet is a family-owned winery and restaurant located in Lilydale. Wines are produced on-site and are finely curated to complement their French-inspired menu.



Pan fried gnocchi, silverbeet, roasted cherry tomatoes and shaved Reggiano



Grilled porterhouse, confit shallots, potato gratin, YV shiraz jus & traditional French onion soup with blue cheese crouton



Confit duck, orange caramel and Yarra Valley truffle



Weddings here can be held in the outdoor gardens, wine barrel room or in the light-filled dining space.

The Seville Estate kitchen and its produce-driven approach mean your guests will always have a menu that's fresh and locally sourced.

James Halliday's 2019's Winery of the Year, Seville Estate offers a restaurant venue that's bright, full of natural light and lush surrounds.

Here, the menu takes inspiration from nature and relies on locally sourced produce to ensure it's always fresh and in-season. It also allows you to work with the team to create a seasonally crafted menu, paired with Seville Estate wines your guests will love.

# SEVILLE ESTATE



Essential Caterer serving up wintery eats like slow-braised beef short rib with chimichurri sauce (gf) and Moroccan spiced chicken tagine, couscous and mint yoghurt.



Guests (and bridal couples alike) enjoy entrées such as the ricotta and sundried tomato tortellini, Swiss mushrooms and saffron cream.



Need a flexible catering option for your preferred venue? Essential Catering & Events offer solutions for either cocktail, seated or buffet-style catering in your preferred venue and winter menus get them particularly excited.

Think tagines, curries and braises that are perfect for winter. Rich, hearty and bold flavours that are ideal for shared platter menus, which are really popular at the moment, to break the ice and encourage guest interaction.

## ESSENTIAL CATERING & EVENTS

## BABAJI'S KITCHEN

Want to do something deliciously unforgettable? Warm up your wedding with a winter curry banquet feast from Babaji's Kitchen. Choose from a mixture of well-known crowd favourites (that's a nod to you, butter chicken!) to regional South Indian specialities, including slow-cooked beef ularthiyathu (a slow-roasted beef in aromatic spices), or avial, a delicious vegetable curry made using plantain, taro, wintermelon and beetroot coconut thoran.

It's hearty, incredibly tasty and there's something everyone will love. It's also ideal for wedding seeking vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options where guests won't feel like they're missing out on the main meal. Low spice diets are easily catered to as well.

Winter weddings here are a tasty affair no matter what style they're served.





## VENUE SPEAK

# Good Bones

There's truly something magical about transforming a space into your perfect wedding venue. Recently, the Off-Peak Wedding team stepped into the historic Nobelius Packing Shed, nestled along the Puffing Billy Railway corridor.

Back in 1904, Victorian Railways gave permission for the packing shed to be built for storage along the railway line and with a makeover and imagination, it transforms into one of the most unique wedding venues in the Dandenongs.



The heritage-listed gem is surrounded by four-and-a-half hectares of beautiful forests and gardens and is perfect for celebrations any time of year. Gather around the cosy fireplace and enjoy a seasonal menu crafted with superb food and wine from the region.



The bridal party can even arrive in style aboard an enclosed First Class dining carriages, with options to charter a steam train for your closest family and friends or the entire wedding party. Add a stylish twist of steam for a unique start to your special day!





## CREDITS

**Venue** Nobelius Packing Shed

**Photography** My Scandi Style

**Shoot Concept, Styling, Flowers & Props**  
Wild Heart Events

**Makeup Artist** Jaynelle Lording

**Hair Stylist** Corinne Jones Hair  
and Makeup

**Bridal Couture** Raffaele Ciuca Bridal

**Groom dressed by** YSG Tailors

**Models** Indi Davison and Dayne Barkley

**Custom Signage & Stationery** Creative  
Distinction

**Table Cloths & Napkins** Table Art

**Copper Chairs, Glassware, Plates** Place  
Settings

**Cutlery, Table Runners** Cloth & Confetti  
Events

**Candles** Southern Lights Candle Co

**Festoon Lights** Feel Good Events

**Neon** Just4Fun Party Hire

**Gumboots** Merry People



# Hot Trends

coming down the aisle

## Neon signs, a bride in hot pink and emerald velvet grooms' attire?

Tradition might underpin the very concept of a wedding, but stylists and event managers are now seeing ceremonies shot through with personal touches that range from glowing purple neon signs to rich burgundy velvet grooms'

attire and winter weddings with all the toasty trimmings.

We've asked three wedding planners and event hire groups for their take on fashions in getting hitched, but all agree on one key trend: outdoor weddings – even in the colder months – as COVID lurks as an ever-present threat to postponing weddings.

“Lots of couples who still really want to have large guest lists are opting for outdoor venues and marquee weddings, even in Winter, so their guests are not in such confined spaces” says Danielle Steele of Wild Heart Events.

Melanie Grant of Socially Styled Events agrees. “We’ve had

weddings that have been postponed four and even five times,” says Melanie, “so we have brides that insist on getting married outdoors, even in the colder, rainy months.”

Here are three emerging trends walking up the aisle.

# PRECIOUS COLOURS

**Whether it's rich jewel tones or a vivid combination of red and pink, vibrantly coloured weddings are a key trend spotted by Wedding Planner & Stylist Danielle Steele.**

The owner of Wedding & Events business Wild Heart Events is seeing lots of couples moving away from the more traditional colour palettes of predominantly White, Cream or Ivory and soft pastels to more adventurous and brighter colour palettes. "Maybe it's people coming out of Lockdown and wanting to really celebrate and splash out, but safe pastels seem to be making way for braver and more fun colour choices" she says. More colour is being used throughout the styling for events, even with bridal gowns.

"There are brides in hot pink and floral patterned dresses, and while the groom's suit is traditionally black or navy, I'm seeing candy pink jackets, rich burgundy or bottle-green velvet," adds Danielle, who works from her studio in the Dandenong Ranges.

At a recent Winter Wedding shoot we designed, the Groom wore a stunning emerald green suit and the venue was styled with hanging installations of greenery and russet toned foliage with a crackling open fire. The tables were styled with matte

black plates, copper cutlery, elegant smoked glassware and rich green table linens, surrounded by copper chairs. Candles in warm shades of latte and baked clay with dramatic black were interspersed down each table with floral centrepieces in rich tones of deep burgundy, toffee, latte, russet and peach.

These deep, rich colours work so beautifully for Autumn and Winter weddings, says Danielle, with Summer colour palettes often featuring more tropical splashes of coral, orange and pink, almost like a tutti frutti colour scheme that works so well in Summer. Spring seems to be seeing more pastels, but brightening things up with splashes of yellow, blue and brighter pinks.

She advises bringing colour in via the floral arrangements right through to the table linen – think richly coloured napkins with lots of texture, and and pops of colour or metallics in the table menus, place-cards and signage.

"You can take the theme right from the very first contact with guests via the 'Save the Date' card and use that beautiful splash of colour to give people a taste of things to come," she advises.

## CONTACT

**Danielle Steele**  
Wild Heart Events  
0407 608 718

[wildheartevents.com.au](http://wildheartevents.com.au)





## HOT PINK NEON LOVE

**“We’re all about prop hire, and we’re seeing neon signs as a major trend,” says Sarah Viliamu of Bold Statement Events. “People are wanting to get things that are different, to stand out with props that others don’t have.”**

“We’ve got the traditional words like ‘love’ in neon, but now ‘Til Death’ is massive! It’s been booked out, and at 1.4m in size, it takes up a whole backdrop. Instead of a traditional photo booth, wedding parties are matching the neon sign up with a balloon garland and that’s their photo area.”

There are also fun ones such as ‘Drunk In Love,’ which is also really popular, and they come in bright colours such as white, purple and pink. “The purple ‘Engaged’ is the most popular, and it’s booked out every weekend,” says Sarah. “It throws a massive amount of purple light over the scene, though some signs can be customised to the brightness you want.”

“They’re really easy to set up, just tie them to a backdrop and plug them in,” she advises. Most are very lightweight, although some need two people to put the sign into place. “A lot of people like going DIY with their weddings – we do some set-ups, and being based in Montrose, we deliver to the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges, but mostly, clients come pick them up themselves, which is more cost effective.”

The other big trend is having giant letters spelling out words such as LOVE, or the initials of the bride and groom. Rustic styled weddings are still quite popular, and the barn look is very in, so the giant timber LOVE letters are really popular, as is the green wall, a backdrop of faux fernery.

### CONTACT

**Sarah Viliamu**  
Bold Statement Events  
0431 136 612

# TAKING IT PERSONALLY

**With destination weddings and international honeymoons off the cards in the foreseeable future, hyper-personalisation is trending amongst weddings, says Melanie Grant, owner and event manager of Socially Styled Events.**

“People are wanting to properly personalise their weddings,” she says, “and without these added expenses, they’ve got the money to do it. They’re thinking; “Well, I can’t have an extravagant honeymoon, so I may as well have a more extravagant wedding instead.”

“It’s like brides are bucking trends, instead going for hyper-personalisation. You could call it a non-trend trend.”

Melanie says couples are telling their stories of how they met and what they love doing together through their centrepieces, their guestbooks, the music used and their cakes.

For example, one couple has used the books they love as their centrepieces, while others tapped into the music festival Coachella, where the groom proposed, to theme all their music. Another ski-mad couple have spent their lives together skiing mountains across

the world, so each centrepiece is of a beloved mountain, with an explanation of what it means to them. Fitting into the winter-warming theme, they’ve added a s’mores board, mulled wine and the display cake, for cutting, is trimmed with gingerbread to complete the look. They’ve even taken the inspiration to the venue.

“The venue is Chateau Wyuna in Mt Evelyn, whose woodsy, American feel fits perfectly into their theme,” she says.

Without international guests and interstate weddings dropping off the trends gauge, there’s a lot more happening locally, with really personalised touches, because couples can’t do the destination they dreamed of, she adds.

“These weddings share who the couple really are, and aren’t necessarily following the traditions of weddings,” she says.

## CONTACT

**Melanie Grant**  
Socially Styled Events  
0411 149 040

[sociallystyledevents.com.au](http://sociallystyledevents.com.au)



# Krystal & Glen

## GET HITCHED AT RIVERSTONE ESTATE

### MEET THE COUPLE

A busy hospital was the setting for Krystal and Glen's first meeting, back in 2013. Krystal was in her first year of nursing and Glen was working in patient transport while studying business management.

"Glen's not very forward," says Krystal, laughing. After months of waiting for her to finish her shift so they could walk out to their cars together, Krystal had to eventually ask him whether he'd ask her for her phone number. That night, he called and they chatted until midnight. Now a theatre nurse and a health business banker, they were together for seven years until they decided to get married.

## WHO PROPOSED?

Glen and Krystal have been going up to Bright every year for their anniversary every year. We were at a winery in 2019 for our seven-year anniversary, and Glen arranged with their wedding coordinator beforehand to get a photo as he was proposing. "I showed her how to use my camera when Krystal was in the bathroom, and she got a spectacular shot! It became our theme and we used it on the invitations and as a backdrop at our engagement party."

## HOW DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR CEREMONY AND RECEPTION VENUE?

**Krystal:** We wanted a winery wedding where we'd have both the ceremony and reception, for a modern rustic look. We absolutely love the Yarra Valley and all its wineries, and being close to home made it a more affordable option for us. We'd been involved in a few weddings that were quite formal, so we knew we wanted a more relaxed day with good food as well. There's nothing worse than having

to stop off on your way home from a wedding to get something to eat!

We chose Riverstone Estate, with the beautiful backdrop of the Yarra Valley behind us. The food was fantastic and we had constant compliments from our guests. In fact, we keep going back! We just go there for lunch or to visit their cellar door on the weekends.





## ANY TIPS FOR ORGANISING A WEDDING AROUND COVID19 RESTRICTIONS?

We originally booked our wedding in May 2019 for May 2020. However, we had to postpone due to COVID, so we chose 15 January 2021. We had 40 guests at our wedding - it was supposed to be bigger, but after an outbreak in Sydney, Victoria shut the border to NSW, so while Glen's parents were here, the rest of his family in NSW couldn't come. His brother and his wife had come to Melbourne for Christmas, and delayed their return flights until after the wedding in case the borders closed again.

We discussed postponing the wedding again, but both sets of parents told us, "You can't keep putting your lives on hold. Just get married and start your lives together."

There's no guarantee whether your day will happen the way you want it.



## WHAT MADE YOUR WEDDING UNIQUE?

We had a real Melbourne experience with four seasons in one day, including hail! We couldn't believe it. After a week of beautiful weather, we woke up to rain, and it didn't stop. The organisers at Riverstone had been watching the Bureau of Meteorology radar and made the call early in the day to move our outdoor wedding inside, and I'm so thankful they did.

During the ceremony, just as Glen was trying to read the vows he'd written, there was a really loud clap of thunder and most people couldn't hear what he'd said. Afterwards, when we went into a nearby paddock to get some photos, it started hailing! I wasn't cold - with all the adrenaline, I didn't feel it at all - I just couldn't believe it was hailing during our photos!

## TELL US ABOUT SOME OF THE SPECIAL ELEMENTS OF YOUR DAY.

**Krystal:** I arrived at Riverstone Estate in an orange Ford 1967 Mustang fastback that belongs to a friend of my dad's, and Glen arrived in a red Mustang around the same vintage. Both our dads drove us to our wedding.

My dad is also a signwriter, and he designed all the menus and signs, including the one announcing it was an unplugged ceremony.

We asked our guests to turn off their phones and cameras and enjoy the moment with us. We also displayed photos of my grandfather and my cousin, who had passed away, on the mantelpiece above the fireplace. They are forever in our hearts.



# IS THERE A STORY BEHIND YOUR DRESS?

**Krystal:** My Martina Liana dress was a backless, A-line dress of ivory lace with a semi-circular chapel train, which I had spread out for the ceremony, then later clipped to a chain. The dress needed no alterations, even though I'm not a standard size, and I was so comfortable in it, I wasn't constantly adjusting myself. I added a necklace that dropped down my spine - I'd found the design online and had it custom made.

**Glen:** I chose a navy blue suit from Oxford and a floral bow tie and pocket square. I wear a normal tie for work, but I have a bit of a collection of bow ties that I wear when I go out. And when we were trying to get ideas, I'd see guys with braces, and every time, I'd say, "I want to look like that!" So we had caramel braces finished with brass buckles, including a set for our pageboy Luciano, who's nearly three, but he was very uninterested in wearing them! He did wear his bow tie, though. My best man Tom's bow tie was the same maroon as our maid-of-honour's dress.



# WHAT'S YOUR BEST ADVICE FOR PLANNING THE PERFECT WEDDING?

1. Communicate with each other about what you want at the wedding, and trying to make sure you're both were on the same page. It was a lot of stress having to postpone the wedding, it's easy for your budget to blow out, but we talked as much as possible.
2. Don't get hung upon the weather. As much as it was disappointing to move indoors at the last minute, we were adamant we weren't going to let anything impact on our day.
3. Take a moment to take it all in. Riverstone Estate set up a bridal room behind the function area where we could leave such things as spare shoes, and it was a space where we could go to and be alone, peaceful and quiet for a moment before getting back into the event.



## VENDOR CREDITS

**Photographer** Rick Liston  
rickliston.com

**Florist** Forget Me Not Floret  
forgetmenotfloret.com

## CEREMONY & RECEPTION

**Venue** Riverstone Estate  
theriverstoneestate.com.au

**Celebrant** Pete Horden,  
petethecelebrant.com.au

**Cake** Tilly's Café, Berwick  
instagram.com/tillys\_cafe/

## Wedding Bands

Steve Richards  
jeweller, Australian  
Diamond Wholesale  
diamondbrokers.net.au

## BRIDE CREDITS

**Bridal Gown**  
fairytalebridal.com.au

**Necklace** Custom made  
by Poetry Designs  
poetrydesigns.com.au

**Hair** Pearly the Hairstylist  
pearlyhairstylist.com

## GROOM CREDITS

**Suit** Oxford  
oxfordshop.com.au

**Shoes** Julius Marlow  
juliusmarlow.com.au

**Watch** Fossil fossil.com

## WEDDING NIGHT

**Kangaroo Ridge Retreat**  
kangaroo ridge.com.au

# Six Key Questions

## TO ASK YOUR CELEBRANT

WORDS BY GWEN LUSCOMBE

**In the same way that every couple's wedding is different, so too are celebrants and finding one that best reflects your style and personality as a couple is key to ensuring your ceremony is meaningful and memorable for all the right reasons.**

While you're narrowing down your choices, keep these key questions in mind to help with your decision and planning. Finding the right celebrant who instils confidence in you will be an enormous help on your big day.

### 1. How much does it cost, what's included in the fee and what is the cancellation/postponement process?

These are the big ones to tick off your list, but by all means not the only important things to consider. Choosing a celebrant is so much more than choosing one with a low price. Many celebrants will bring their own audio equipment, some might choose to work with the venue's provided microphone and audio system. Asking these questions upfront will assist in planning your budget and are important pieces of information you need to plan your wedding budget. With the unpredictability of 2020, it also helps to know their policies on cancellations or postponements in terms of what happens to your deposit and what happens should they need to cancel?

### 2. What's their style as a celebrant?

You'll want your ceremony to reflect you as a couple so be clear with the type of ceremony you want from romantic to quirky, to traditional and make sure your celebrant's personality matches that. This can also apply to what you'd like them to wear at your wedding too (they'll be in the photos after all.)

### 3. How do they work with you to personalise your ceremony? Can your celebrant help you write your vows?

Will they work with you to offer samples of different ceremony rituals? Consider how you can work together to create the ceremony that feels right for you.

### 4. What happens during a rehearsal, how often will they want to meet prior to your day?

Some celebrants prefer to walk through all the details in the lead up to the day, showing your wedding party where to stand, running you through the process. Find a celebrant you feel comfortable and confident with so on the big day you won't need to worry.

### 5. How will they manage surprises?

This might sound odd, but talking to your celebrant about how they'll manage situations like

what happens if the skies open up and rain pelts down on your ceremony or you have excitable flower girls and ring bearers, crying babies or a crying bride/groom who's overcome with emotions and can't speak their vows will take the stress out of it on the day. Asking your celebrant what the worst scenario was they've dealt with and how they managed might help ease your anxiety on the day.

### 6. What paperwork is required?

Once you've chosen your preferred celebrant, discuss with them what paperwork they'll need to receive from you before the wedding date and how far in advance it's needed. This could be anything from a signed contract for them to birth certificates and personal documentation so they can properly prepare your paperwork.





## MEGAN JORDAN

1. We're all made a little differently, and a wedding ceremony should reflect and celebrate those differences. The most memorable wedding ceremonies feel just like the couple. They should be authentic, heartfelt and really embody the love and the values of the people getting married.
2. I'm a story teller and a word weaver. An imagination station. An organiser. A hand holder. A purveyor of tissues. A giver of warm hugs and reassuring smiles. Lastly I'm legally the only person there on the day who can get you married. A great celebrant will help you create a ceremony vibe that is authentic, warm and engaging, making sure that your ceremony is the highlight of your wedding day.
3. Consider your celebrant to be the most important choice you make in your wedding planning. They will be standing alongside you as you make a vow to the most important person in your world. They are representing you and supporting you, holding space and telling your story. Choosing an awesome celebrant is the very best investment you can make in your wedding day.

## Q&A

### We invited four local wedding celebrants for a quick chat about:

1. What (in your opinion) makes a memorable wedding celebration?
2. What do you add to the overall ceremony experience?
3. Is there one bit of advice you wish you could tell all couples who are seeking their celebrant?



## MAUREEN MILES

1. A memorable wedding celebration has the couple at the heart of the ceremony and it has all that is important to them.
2. I am a story teller. A marriage maker. And passionate about weddings. I take the time to get to know you, what makes you, you, and what your dreams are for your celebration. I love nothing more than crafting a warm and light hearted ceremony that reflects you as a couple and your journey so far.
3. Check out the celebrants style, personality, connection and organisation. Importantly trust you instinct.



## SOULFUL CEREMONIES

1. A memorable wedding celebration begins with a ceremony that is truly reflective of your love story. It must capture the language that guests will recognise as belonging to you both.
2. As a Celebrant, I bring my authentic self to each ceremony. I am genuinely so privileged to share your day, and the way I create your true love story is something that every couple – and usually the guests too – will remember forever.
3. The most important factor in selecting your celebrant is all about the way you connect with each other. Do they make you feel comfortable and whilst they might provide you with ideas, do they really understand your specific approach and expectation of your ceremony?



## VIRGINIA LAWRENCE

1. For me it's those unscripted moments of poignancy where everyone feels it and it's as though time is suddenly suspended and everyone present gets goosebumps. And that's my celebrant super-power - being able to create those goosebump moments for each couple and their guests which they'll remember for the rest of time. What more could you want at your wedding? Heart, authenticity, love and laughter. And goosebumps.
2. I think it's all the invisible work I put in behind the scenes before the day itself! So that everything just happens on cue in a relaxed and seemingly effortless way for my couple. That and the fact that I don't do cookie cutter ceremonies, I craft each one for my couple so that on the day, it's utterly personal to them. I love that the couple don't know the half of what has gone into making their day so special, because that IS my role - to make it all feel easy for my couple and take away any stress from them. For me the key is to listen, really listen, and get to know my clients, so that I can tailor a celebration that perfectly encapsulates all that's important and unique to them both.

3. Please don't get your mate to do it, thinking you're saving money. Honestly, I've been called in to assist a number of times where nearing the date the couple have realised that maybe their friend isn't going to give them the ceremony they hoped for. Imagine how Mona Lisa might have looked if she'd just asked a mate to paint

her, instead of Leonardo? So please, don't automatically go for the cheapest option - your celebrant is a crucial component in your wedding day that's worth paying that bit extra for, to have a truly great celebrant who'll literally make the day, bringing value, quality and experience to your once-in-a-lifetime occasion.



# Grand Staircases

With the right light and the right height, staircases can be the perfect place to capture a newlywed kiss or solo shots of a cascading bridal dress train. From large, grand entryway staircases to winding ones photographed from the top-down, staircases offer a means to capture a gorgeous photo that's next level loveliness.

From solo shots to capturing your entire bridal party, if you're looking for inspiration, these venues have photo-worthy staircases begging to be photographed.

Classic and timeless, Marybrooke Manor's stone staircase is a classical favourite.





The grand architecture at Monstsalvat brings a fairytale charm to your photos.



Who says a staircase needs to be indoors? Coombe's winding staircase with its lush greenery will take your photo game to new heights.



Set amid lush surrounds, Projekt 3488 has both an indoor and outdoor staircase, giving you gorgeous options year-round.



Don't forget solo groom shots too. Stones of the Yarra's staircase creates a modern twist on a timeless classic.







# Meagan & Rashid

AT BULONG ESTATE

## MEET THE COUPLE

Rashid owns his own coffee pod business called Pod Co. Coffee and works full time managing the business. Meagan is a paediatric nurse currently working full time as a nurse educator supporting new nurses to the profession. When not working they love a good adventure and will take any opportunity to get away and experience something new.

Meagan and Rashid met 7 years ago the old fashioned way - online on Tinder. They hit it off straight away and met in person for their first date at Black Pearl bar in Fitzroy in September 2013. They started dating shortly after that and the rest is history.

## WHO PROPOSED?

Rashid proposed on the 29th of February, 2020. Meagan had joked that old folklore had this as the day a woman can propose so Rashid got in just in the nick of time!

Rashid surprised Meagan with a weekend getaway in Port Fairy, a place special to her as a family holiday destination. While sitting on a quiet beach in the afternoon sun Rashid pulled out his phone and played a beautiful video he had compiled full of photos and videos from their time together. At the end of the video a very teary Rashid got down on one knee and proposed.

## HOW DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR CEREMONY AND RECEPTION VENUE?

We had originally booked a venue in metro Melbourne shortly after getting engaged pre- COVID times. Not long after this Melbourne went into a prolonged period of lockdown which made us start to question our wedding priorities. We quickly decided that we wanted to get married on our date no matter what, whether it was with all of our family and friends or just the two of us. We begun looking for a venue that had the flexibility to host our wedding no matter the size without hefty minimum spends. Our search led us to Bulong Estate which had everything we were looking for in a venue. We loved the exclusivity of the venue tucked away in Yarra Junction. We also loved the ceremony space with the views of the vineyards in one direction and the beautiful mountain landscape in the other. The other draw card for us was the flexibility to hold the reception indoors or outside under the stars. It instantly felt more like 'us' than our original venue.

Monica the venue manager was so flexible and understanding of the stress involved with planning



a wedding during a pandemic and instantly made us feel at ease (little did we know at the time that without Monica's flexibility, kindness and adaptability we wouldn't have gotten married at all!). At the time we found Bulong Estate, Melbourne was still in lockdown. We couldn't wait to see the venue in person so actually booked it in after doing a virtual tour on Zoom. Once we were out of lockdown in November we went to the venue for a visit and loved it even more in person. On the day it honestly blew us away, it was everything we had imagined.

## WHAT MADE YOUR WEDDING UNIQUE?

Our wedding was definitely made unique due to the fact Melbourne went into a snap lockdown the afternoon prior to our wedding day. We made the quick call shortly after the announcement to reschedule our wedding to that night. Incredibly the venue was available and most of our suppliers and guests were able to make it! There was an overwhelmingly special feeling and nothing but love in the air the night of our wedding knowing that everyone had dropped everything to be there for us.



## IS THERE A STORY BEHIND YOUR DRESS AND VEIL ETC?

I managed to get into one store inbetween the two Melbourne lockdowns in 2020 and luckily found 'the one' on that day. My dress and veil are both from the Australian designer 'Grace Loves Lace'. Due to the second Melbourne lockdown I was never able to make into a store again for measurements so tasked my trustee fiancée with taking my measurements. He took the job very seriously and did pretty well considering I only required minor alterations!

There is a story with my earrings. I had spent a long time selecting the perfect earrings and had bought multiple pairs. On the day of the wedding in the rush of it all I actually forgot to bring them! My bridesmaid came to the rescue and straight away gave me the earrings I had gifted her for the day to wear- bless her!

## TELL US ABOUT YOUR WEDDING BANDS AND OTHER SPECIAL ELEMENTS OF YOUR DAY

Rashid is very proud of his Syrian heritage and wanted to be able to say a few words in Arabic to his father in his wedding speech however not being fluent in Arabic, Rashid asked his cousin who lives in London to help him translate what he wanted to say into Arabic. After quite a few hours practicing, Rashid delivered his entire thank you speech in Arabic to his extremely surprised father which was a very special moment for both Rashid and his dad.

## WHAT MAKES YOUR MARRIAGE?

We are best friends and just really enjoy doing life together. We bring out the best in one another and also encourage and support each other to chase our dreams. We also share a very silly and sarcastic sense of humour and I don't think we could be with anyone else now!

## WHAT'S YOUR BEST ADVICE FOR PLANNING THE PERFECT WEDDING?

Go with the flow and try to stress less about the things that are beyond your control. The little things we stressed about in the lead up, were not even remotely on our mind on the day.

We also recommend establishing your priorities in your budget and spending time researching and booking quality vendors that you connect with. Our vendors went above and beyond to make the wedding of our dreams happen in a ridiculously short time frame. As soon as they got the call it was going ahead that night they dropped everything to be there for us. Some of them even drove from as far as Geelong and Ballarat all with a smile on their face and absolute professionalism- we couldn't have done it without them and highly recommend investing in quality and kind vendors.





## WHAT WERE THE HIGHLIGHTS?

We both agree that seeing each other for the first time down the aisle was the most emotional and special moment of our lives. The range of emotions we experienced on our wedding day is truly hard to put into words. We went from feeling anxious and uncertain in the morning, to absolutely devastated and broken when we heard the announcement that Melbourne would enter stage 4 lockdown from midnight that night. Officially our chosen wedding day was not possible. We quickly went from devastation to a chaotic state of organization when we made the call at 2pm that we would be getting married that night. To walk into

the ceremony space and see that somehow magically everything we had planned had come together and that the majority of our loved ones had made it is something we will never forget.

The other key highlight really has to be the way our friends and families came together to make the day happen- it certainly wasn't magic. Our bridal parties went truly beyond. Ammar the best man drove in peak hour traffic to pick up our cake and Tuka and Vash the groomsmen drove straight to the venue to assist with setting up and doing the table settings- all in their shorts and t-shirts!

The bridesmaids also doubled as hair and makeup artists as we had no time to get it done professionally and did the most beautiful job at doing Meagan's hair and makeup, all in a very limited amount of time!

And finally all of our guests that quite literally dropped everything they were doing to jump in a car to be by our side on our special day, all without a single complaint. For all of the things we 'missed' out on, the love and support we felt from our family and friends outweighs tenfold.

### VENDOR CREDITS

**Photographer** It's Beautiful Here

**Videographer** One Heart

**Florist** Emma Lane Flowers

**Ceremony and Reception Venue** Bulong Estate Winery

**Catering/ Cake & kind** Catering- Essential catering & Cake- Zephyr and bloom

**Stationery** Paperless Post/ Etsy

**Printer** Speedy Press

**Celebrant** Ceremony prepared by Damon Hughes Celebrant and Karen Cramer celebrant kindly stepped in on the day for us when Damon wasn't available

**Entertainment** Paper Hearts featuring Emma and Simon music duo and DJ McApples

**Engagement ring** McAlister Jewellers

**Wedding bands**

Hers- McAlister Jewellers.

His- Uniform Black

**Transport** Originally we had booked Samba Kombi Hire for the bridal party and Yarra Valley A2B for the guests. We were unable to utilize these transport services due to the lockdown but they were both incredible in the lead up to the wedding and immediately offered refunds when we were unable to proceed with no questions asked, we can't recommend them enough.

### BRIDE CREDITS

**Bridal gown designer** Grace Loves Lace

**Veil** Grace Loves Lace

**Earrings** Aaliya and Oak

**Bridesmaid dresses** Shona Joy

### GROOM CREDITS

**Groom team** Jack London

# Pet-Friendly Weddings to Remember Fur-ever

WORDS BY  
GWEN LUSCOMBE



Sometimes wedding invites can be political. You might feel obligated to invite that uncle you haven't seen in a decade when a family member you really want there, your beloved fur-baby, create a logistical hiccup.

If it's important to you to have your favourite pet attend your special day or even be part of the ceremony, it's not out of the question.

Pets are increasingly being involved in wedding celebrations, from serving as ring or flower bearers to making a cameo appearance in the wedding photoshoot.

**Yarra Valley Pet Resort** has been working with couples to allow them to include their furriest family members with ease. Located within close proximity to many wineries and popular wedding venues, they regularly work with couples to ensure having their beloved pet in attendance isn't overwhelming.

"Pets are family and having your best friend at your wedding can be a wonderful experience, but the thought of planning it may seem a little overwhelming," says Kiera Heatherich, pets at weddings coordinator at Yarra Valley Pet Resort.

"We offer several different wedding packages to suit both you and your pets needs for an incredibly special day. Packages include pet transport to and from the venue in our professionally equipped van for safety and comfort, experienced pet handlers to assist on the day and much more. All of this is to make sure your pets wedding day experience is stress-free, enjoyable and to make sure you all have the most pawfect day."

For something a little extra special, they'll even organise a grooming session for your pet complete with a wash, blow-dry and even a bow tie, flower necklace or outfit if required.

"We, like most venues, allow pets onsite for some family photos, we have a great supplier on our list who is a dog sitter and will pick up your dog, bring them to the venue for some pictures and take them home for dinner," says Georgia Konig Lazzarotto of **Vue on Halcyon**.

And if you've no pet of your own, but love the idea, they have a solution for that too.

"We do also have two alpacas which are a part of the Vue family," she adds. "They are very friendly and love when our couples pop over to see them, always very curious as to what is going on."

"We find most photographers love to capture them in couples' photos as you just never know what kinds of photos you will get or how they will react," she adds.



# Groom Crew

WORDS BY PETE DILLON  
IMAGES BY RICK LISTON

**Aside from trying to embarrass a Groom on his big day with a bawdy speech of his past single man exploits, the role of the Groom Crew and Best Man at a wedding has, throughout modern history at least, largely been misunderstood. Hollywood will have you believe it's all bingeing, booze and bad manners however, the modern groom is a far more discerning chap.**

Let's start with the fact we are getting married later. The sowing of oats of the wild kind is no longer a prerequisite in the lead up to a chap's nuptials. A modern groom is far more involved in the planning and execution of the matrimonial melding than turning up on slightly dusty on the big day, trying to avoid making a right boob of himself.



**The Groom Crew** are also more inclined to take care of the groom in the lead up to the day. We know brides and their attendants can be found pampering and preparing – so what should the crew be doing to look after his nibs prior to the tying of the knot.

**Start a few weeks out** – the very first very first thing a newly minted main attendant (and let us not assume these will all be men!), needs to do is make sure everyone in the crew is well dressed, well-groomed and well behaved. Grooms need to be prepared to shell out a few shekels on themselves and to reward the team who will ensure he makes it to the big day fresh and fabulous.

Plan activities like a manicure and pedicure a few days out. **Nobody wants to marry a fella with dirty fingernails or toes like a hawk.** Book in a cutthroat razor shave on the day at the local barber. Any groom, no matter how calm he is, will have some pre wedding jitters so making sure someone with a steady hand is taking care of the bristles is fundamental. And while we are talking manscaping, the entire man garden should be tended to, if you know what we mean!

**Then there is the bonce.** The haircut should be at least three, possibly five days out. The old line about a week being the difference

between a good haircut and a bad one rings true. Make sure a visit to the hairdresser a week before is booked in as part of the groom crew day out. It will give it time to settle and grow in, and he won't look all freshly mown on the day.

**A well fitted suit should also be on the agenda.** If he can't afford it but you can, make it the Groom Crew treat to buy a new suit and have it tailored. If he has decided on something less formal than a suit, make sure its new and well pressed. If you aren't so handy with an iron, arrange to have it pressed at the dry cleaners, picked up at least the day before, and ready to go. If he is in a suit, having it fitted properly is important. No groom or spouse wants to look on fond memories of their special day, only to realise they looked awfully dishevelled or at least, like a bag of spuds tied up funny, as one's granny used to say. The wedding is all about looking and being your best.



**Novelty anything, no matter how much fun the groom is, are a no-no.** The crew's job is to talk him out of funny socks, ties, waistcoats and other wacky accoutrements unless it has been expressly planned between the couple.

**A gift for the other half, apart from arriving on the day to plight his troth, is another area where the Groom Crew should step in.** It doesn't have to be expensive... but it has to be very personal. Whether a comic book or a candelabra, it needs to be something other than the wedding ring, which they have already no doubt chosen together. Personal little gifts are an important way of saying you've thought about your spouse. A vacuum cleaner would not be a good choice.

**Speaking of wedding rings, ensure the last fitting is two weeks out** – in case one or both have lost or gained a pound or two. Nobody wants to see a spouse trying to jam an ill-fitting ring on the other's finger, or a band of gold flinging across the venue as the wedding party break into a spirited version of the Nutbush.

If there is to be dancing, or not, **the crew need to make sure the groom has not only tried on his shoes, but worn them in.** Given how long the day is and how much time is spent on the hooves, the last thing anyone needs is blisters or sore feet from too new shoes. If they do get a good run, have them polished and shiny none the less.



Tears happen, or occasionally a sneeze. **Tissues inside the breast pocket of an attendant- or at least a handkerchief, can ensure there is a remedy on hand for any leakage from the eyes.** It's not just the mother of the bride who tends to lead the crying. Nor does anyone want to see a sleeve being used for such a purpose.

**Now to the ever-important speeches** – they must be written, printed in a big font (no less than 16pt) and finalised at least 3-4 days prior. Get them to the venue on the morning of the wedding or have a friend, relative, or the MC have a spare copy with them. Don't wing it... ad lib speeches frequently leave out great aunt Marge or somebody of importance. Make sure they are practiced once or twice and phonetically spell any hard to pronounce names or words.

**The best man or primary attendant should never be talking of previous exploits or bad behaviour.** It is considered tasteful to thank parents and partners on both sides where appropriate. Take a moment as the groom crew or the best man to acknowledge those absent – especially those who may have passed away who are close to either groom or bride. In jokes are not funny unless everyone is in on them.

**Singing should only be allowed only if you can sing.** If a groomsman can manage a reasonable tune, don't be scared to invite them to sing something meaningful - a special song never goes astray.

Guess what - being part of Grooms Crew is a big act of love and friendship. It's ultimately a wonderfully rewarding task and it's no surprise we have even more to say on the topic ...next edition of OPW.

**We'll see you and your crew in Spring but for now feel free to download our Groom's Crew Checklist [HERE](#) and always drop us a line if you have any questions [hitched@offpeakweddings.com.au](mailto:hitched@offpeakweddings.com.au)**





# Fresh Itineraries

FOR BUCK'S PARTIES

WORDS BY BELINDA JACKSON

**A last blast with the gang can be as dynamic or laid-back as you please – take your time, you've got all weekend.**

## GIN KICK-OFF

The hottest place in Healesville on a weekend morning is **Four Pillars Gin**. Kick off the weekend and book your crew in for a tasting of their five signature gins, for 45 minutes of top-shelf juniper action, after hitting the cracker food trucks that visit on weekends. If you're gathering midweek, you can book your group of up to 25 on Four Pillars' distillation or cocktail-making masterclasses with their gun gin team.

## POP THE PIGEON

Next stop is **Balgownie Estate**, for a spot of clay pigeon shooting. Unlike traditional shooting, bullets are replaced with a harmless infra-red signal that ricochets off the mark, recording which gun it was shot from. Shooting coordinator **Time Out Adventures** will get the comp cracking with teams of up to five guns at a time pitted against each other at rapid fire or speed shooting, ideal for groups of up to 30.



## FANCY REFUELLING

Finish up with an on-site barbie and beers, or head back to the heart of Healesville to Australia's original craft brewery, **Matilda Bay**, for a porterhouse or burger with a pint of fresh Original Ale. Otherwise, drop into **Innocent Bystander's** sunny cellar door next door and fill the trestle tables with pizza and paella to share, and order a glass of their Nero d'Avola, which they describe as adventurous and mysterious, "the James Bond of grapes".

## WINE DOWN (OR UP)

If the world of wine remains a mystery, give new Yarra Valley business **Vinspiration** a call. Local winemaker (and former chemistry teacher!) Andi Davidson runs wine tastings, blind tastings and trivia quizzes that will lead you through the Valley and, if you're willing to follow her, into the world of New and Old World wines. Fully mobile, she can visit your accommodation or join her at Greenstone Vineyards in Yarra Glen for a warm-up to a wine tour, or as a lead-in to a great bucks' weekend.

## ACTION STATIONS

Bonding through sweat and tears (no blood, thanks!) is the heart of a good bachelor party. Underground or overground, spend a morning exploring with the gang; mountain-biking along the O'Shannassy Aqueduct Trail to see spectacular redwood forests, abseiling from the Yarra Ranges' Ben Cairn or through the Britannia Creek Cave, a subterranean river system with the qualified wilderness guides of **Warburton Adventure**. Is that a beer-tasting station you spy in the woods ahead? Reward yourself with a refresher – a bespoke catering package organised by the adventure company, which partners up with local beer, food and wine producers such as Four Pillars Gin or local winemaker **Wild Fire Wines**, which runs Taste Yarra Valley, a wine and cheese tasting bar in Warby. They'll even sort out showers and transport, so you're ready to hit the town – looking good and smelling pretty – after a morning well spent.



## ESCAPE TO THE COUNTRY

For a weekend away, the 8-bedroom homestead at **Holmesglen in Eildon** sleeps 16 amongst green rolling hills. With tennis and basketball courts, a swimming pool in summer and Lake Eildon nearby, there's plenty of activities, and staff can also arrange horse riding, archery, laser clay target shooting and canoeing. Wind down around the open fireplace inside or the fire pit outside with a few choice cool-climate pinot noirs, shiraz and cabernet sauvignons that the Yarra Valley is famous for. Don't forget the cigars and cards for poker night.

## HANG TEN

Closer to home, hang out with the guys in the treetops on flying foxes, ropes and tunnels in the Dandenongs with **Tall Trees Adventures**. The forest runs along the side of the Puffing Billy station in Belgrave, and centres around a 150-year-old Algerian Oak, with 2.5-hour sessions that include challenges ranging from two metres up to 15 metres off the ground. There are 23 flying foxes on the site, the longest stretching 120 metres.

## RUM, BABA

While you're in Belgrave's neighbourhood, the perfect recovery spot is **Killik's Rum Distillery**, which serves tasting paddles of its locally handcrafted Killik rum and Ginfinity gin. Otherwise, go off-piste and discover your perfect gin or whiskey amongst the 120-plus varieties from around the world, and refuel with its mighty Killik Burger, laden with beef, mac'n'cheese and bacon. They stock canned cocktails and their aged rum is available for takeaway.





COMING SOON...

# The Wandering Wedding Expo

THURSDAY 29TH JULY

Wedding Expos are overwhelming, so we are making it easy for you to find what you need for your wedding, big or small.

Our Wandering Wedding Expo provides an opportunity to tour a series of Yarra Valley venues and meet some of our favourite wedding suppliers, all at the same time.

Choose your own self-drive adventure and pick which venues you'd like to visit, or jump onboard the Off Peak Weddings coach for an fun-filled guided tour of the Yarra Valley.

Tickets and further information about this event will be shared through our social media accounts and website very soon. Stay tuned for more details...

# Directory

## CATERING

### A BIT OF JAM AND PICKLE



A Bit of Jam & Pickle are a team of local Yarra Valley cooks, who specialise in curating intimate dinner parties for your special occasion.

P. 0402 270 792  
[jamandpickle.com.au](http://jamandpickle.com.au)

### BABAJI'S KITCHENS



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.

P. 0405 765 388  
[babajiskitchen.com.au](http://babajiskitchen.com.au)

# CATERING

## 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.

P. 03 9761 4188  
[essentialcaterer.com.au](http://essentialcaterer.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).

P. 03 8727 2557  
[thehighteamistress.com.au](http://thehighteamistress.com.au)

# EVENT PLANNERS

## SOCIALLY STYLED EVENTS



We are committed to providing event management, styling and hire services that will suit all budgets and celebrations. Celebrations where only memories are taken and tiny footprints left.

P. 0411 149 040  
[sociallystyledevents.com.au](http://sociallystyledevents.com.au)

## WILD HEART EVENTS



Wild Heart Events are a full service studio providing wedding and event planning, styling and on-day set-up, flowers and prop hire. They create events that are unique, beautiful and truly memorable.

P. 0407 608 718  
[wildheartevents.com.au](http://wildheartevents.com.au)

## LISA NEWMAN



Lisa is a popular Belgrave based celebrant with a zest for writing creative ceremonies that are NEVER boring!

P. 0421 776 531  
[lisanewman.com.au](http://lisanewman.com.au)

## MAUREEN MILES



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? Hello I'm Maureen.

P. 0412 863 652  
[maureenmilescelebrant.com.au](http://maureenmilescelebrant.com.au)

## MEGAN JORDAN



Warm, joyful and inclusive ceremonies for ALL the lovers.

P. 0403 422 322  
[meganjordan.com.au](http://meganjordan.com.au)

## SOULFUL CEREMONIES



Christine Pedley of Soulful Ceremonies knows what an amazing wedding in the Hills looks like and feels like. She understands your wedding day is the most important day for you. Looking for a Celebrant that knows the Hills? - you have found her here.

P. 0474 128 869  
[soulfulceremonies.com.au](http://soulfulceremonies.com.au)

## VIRGINIA LAWRENCE



Weddings are my specialty. I'll give you a lovely, heartfelt ceremony full of fun, happiness, joy, and love. I'll make sure everything flows seamlessly, your friends and family love it, and everyone goes home with wonderful memories.

P. 0438 111 025  
[virginialawrence.com.au](http://virginialawrence.com.au)

## WEDDINGS BY JESS



After we announced our engagement, the next thing I immediately did was ask Jess to be our celebrant. I could not think of anyone better to marry us.  
-Sara, married by Jess

P. 0410 808 443  
[weddingsbyjess.com.au](http://weddingsbyjess.com.au)

## DIRECTORS EDGE



Based in the Yarra Valley but servicing anywhere you can get to by car or plane, Directors Edge create Wedding Films that keep love living on, long after your wedding day is over.

P. 0421 985 064  
directorsedge.com.au

## LEI LEI CLAVEY



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

P. 0404 836 773  
leileiclavey.com

## MY SCANDI STYLE



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

P. 0433 122 992  
myscandistyle.com

## RICK LISTON



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

P. 0475 604 713  
rickliston.com

## THE REDWOOD FLORIST



The Redwood Florist specialises in full, gorgeous florals for your wedding. Sourcing high quality and locally grown where possible. Made with love and committed to take you every step of the way.

P. 0438 324 463  
theredwoodflorist.com.au

## MISS JOSIE'S BEAUTY PARLOUR



Set in the style of a 1950s beauty parlour – Miss Josie's evokes an age when ladies took their beauty regimes seriously.

P. 0428 298 098  
missjosies.com.au

## NOURISH DAY SPA



Nourish Day Spa specialise in massage and couples packages, facials, foot treatments, magnesium packages, earthing healing, tarot, reiki and more.

P. 9751 1029  
nourishdayspa.com.au

## YARRA VALLEY PET RESORT



Love to have your pet part of your Wedding Day? Located in the heart of the Yarra Valley, the Pet Resort is close to an array of wineries and wedding venues, allowing us to assist you on your Special Day.

P. 5962 5253  
yarravalleypetresort.com.au

## VINTAGE FUN CAR HIRE



Vintage Fun have been providing chauffeur driven vintage and classic vehicles since establishment in 1983. We are the longest provider of such a service in Victoria still under the same ownership.

P. 0411 465 098  
vintagefun.com.au

## 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

## YARRA VALLEY RIDES



Yarra Valley Rides is a family owned and operated transfer business based in the Yarra Valley. We offer a wide range of transfers from weddings to general transfers to and from The Yarra Valley as well as airport and CBD.

P. 0418 339 460  
yarravalleyrides.com.au

## ARALUEN BOUTIQUE



A boutique property offering stylish and luxury accommodation for up to twenty people. Make your wedding night special at Araluen or book the property for you and your bridal party. Alternatively book Araluen exclusively to host a DIY micro ceremony, reception and accommodation all at the one venue

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

## ARCADIA COTTAGES



Private cottages just for couples. Forested gardens. Log fires & Spas. At Olinda, just east of Melbourne

P. 9751 1017  
[arcadiacottages.com.au](http://arcadiacottages.com.au)

## BALGOWNIE ESTATE



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

P. 9730 0787  
[balgownieestate.com.au](http://balgownieestate.com.au)

## BIANCHET WINERY



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

P. 8288 1844  
[bianchetwinery.com.au](http://bianchetwinery.com.au)

## BULONG ESTATE



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

P. 5967 1358  
[bulongestate.com.au](http://bulongestate.com.au)

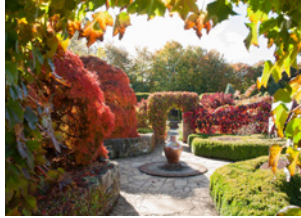
## CHATEAU WYUNA



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

P. 9736 2555  
[chateauwyuna.com.au](http://chateauwyuna.com.au)

## CLOUDEHILL



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

P. 9751 1009  
cloudehill.com.au

## COUNTRY PLACE



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

P. 9728 7000  
countryplace.com.au

## DE BORTOLI



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

P. 5965 2271  
debortoli.com.au

## FONDATA 1872



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

P. 9712 0742  
foudata1872.com

## FOOTHILLS CONFERENCE CENTRE



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

P. 1300 341 630  
foothillsconferencecentre.com.au

## FOREST WEDDINGS



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

P. 5786 5230  
forestweddings.com.au



## HEALESVILLE SANCTUARY



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

P. 5957 2837  
yarravalleyharvest.com.au

## HERD BAR AND GRILL



Boasting a late licence, Herd Bar caters and is welcoming to all, offering sensational service, ambience in an unpretentious relaxed space, a must destination whilst meandering the glorious Yarra Valley.

P. 5962 7677  
herdbar.com.au

## IMMERSE WINERY



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

P. 5965 2444  
immerse.com.au

## IN THE VALLEY



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

P. 0419 368 031  
inthevalley.com.au

## MARYBROOKE MANOR



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

P. 9755 2755  
marybrooke.com.au

## MASSAROS



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 in a gorgeous Tuscan inspired setting with views towards Melbourne.

P. 9712 0548  
massaros.com.au

## OAKRIDGE WINES



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

P. 9738 9900  
oakridgewines.com.au

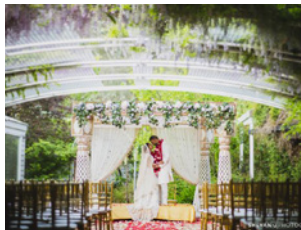
## OLINDA TEA HOUSE



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

P. 9751 0556  
olindateahouse.com.au

## POTTERS RECEPTIONS



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

P. 9844 1222  
potters.com.au

## PROJEKT 3488



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

P. 0400 215 785  
projekt3488.com.au

## PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY



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

P. 9757 0700  
puffingbilly.com.au

## RIVERSTONE ESTATE



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

P. 5962 3947  
theriverstoneestate.com.au

## SKYHIGH MT DANDENONG



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

P. 9751 0450  
[skyhighmtdandenong.com.au](http://skyhighmtdandenong.com.au)

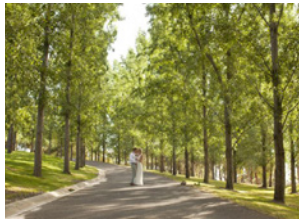
## SUTHERLAND ESTATE



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

P. 0402 052 287  
[sutherlandestate.com.au](http://sutherlandestate.com.au)

## TARRAWARRA ESTATE



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

P. 5957 3510  
[tarrawarra.com.au](http://tarrawarra.com.au)

## VALLEY RANGES GETAWAYS



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

P. 1300 488 448  
[valleyrangesgetaways.com.au](http://valleyrangesgetaways.com.au)

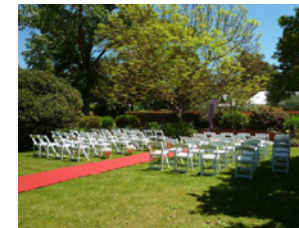
## VUE ON HALCYON



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

P. 8726 7111  
[vueonhalcyon.com.au](http://vueonhalcyon.com.au)

## WARRATINA LAVENDER FARM



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

P. 5964 4650  
[warratinalavender.com.au](http://warratinalavender.com.au)

## YARRA RANGES ESTATE



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

P. 0408 260 357  
[yarrarangesestate.com.au](http://yarrarangesestate.com.au)

## YERING MEADOWS GOLF CLUB



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

P. 9738 9000  
[yeringmeadows.com.au](http://yeringmeadows.com.au)

## ZONZO ESTATE



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.

P. 9730 2500  
[zonzo.com.au](http://zonzo.com.au)

