

# Off Peak Weddings

- YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES -

getting hitched your way

Photo by: Neïyo at CherryHill Orchards

ISSUE 4

SPRING

LATER IN LIFE WEDDINGS

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Photo: Bulong Estate

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# Destination

## The Yarra Valley & Dandenong Ranges

**Spring comes to the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges as the bulbs unfold their brightly coloured petals and the vineyards bud in soft greens as the next vintage bursts into life. It's truly a time where nature shows off for all to see. The mountains shed their mists, and snow melts into flowing rivers and streams.**

There is an emergence - the beauty of nature draws people away from the fireside to wander the villages and forest tracks. Picnic baskets are dusted off for cheese and wine lunches, and the farm gates open their shutters and start to share the spring veggies and seasonal produce that the region does so well. Arts and cultural activities feature prominently on the programs of the region's world-class galleries offering inspiration and experiences that can only be found here.

The open road beckons where driving for the simple pleasure of driving is only enhanced by the stunning sights and destinations that can be found just an hour away. Seek out panoramic views towards the city, winding roads that go forever, and wayside stops that speak to the history of the region and the Indigenous heritage that lives within the hills and valleys.

Spring is often referred to as the season of love, and in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges it's obvious why! Beauty is all around, and a sprinkle of love makes the season the perfect time for a wedding, a getaway or a day to explore, enjoy and embrace.



# Mobile High Teas for Celebrations anywhere

By Emma Beilharz

When you think high teas, you may think it's an activity that your great-aunt and her cronies partake in with their vintage china sets, in between bingo and CWA meetings.

Well, think again. There's a modern take on high teas that is here to stay (if we say so!). You can take high tea in a fancy hotel, but a celebration mobile high tea is a great choice any time of the day or week - a perfect option for an at-home wedding, or to bring the bride tribe together for a pre-wedding catch up. High-teaing with The High Tea Mistress is a unique, personalised experience that is all about you.

A mobile High Tea Mistress event gives you all the choice you need! Get creative with venues - your home, or chosen venue, a gorgeous park or scenic location. Emma can even recommend great partner venues with perfect settings for your special day.

And the venue is just one of the decisions you get to make! You can also choose the day, the duration of your event, menu selections and crockery to theme with your occasion. If you want an **ALL** chocolate High Tea, you can!



Personalise your wedding or event even further with styled furniture and accessories to create an overall experience – the atmosphere is just as important as the food, tea and crockery. Who doesn't want to watch a sunset atop a ridge sipping tea on an ultra-comfy vintage lounge?

*Here are some tips on how to host the ultimate Wedding High Tea.*

### **Food Favourites**

A selection of savoury and sweet menu options is recommended but you need to know your guests. A lot of elderly guests prefer savoury flavours, as do some cultures. Pieces should only be the size of one or two bites and be easy to cut (if necessary) and eat with a spoon or dessert fork. People eat with their eyes, so an array of beautifully decorated pieces in a variety of colours works well.

### **Perfect Pots of Tea**

A great balance of black and herbal teas to complement the food menu is best. Teas can be served hot or iced – a great option in summer. High Tea Mistresses have completed Tea Training and are qualified to assist in pairing tea selections with your menu.

### **Creative and Professional Styling**

Create spaces for that overall experience - from a high-end picnic, to a romantic candlelit dinner for two and any gathering in between. The surroundings create the mood for your event and High Tea Mistress stylists can make possible any theme or mood you want for your wedding.

### **Activities**

High Teas are great events for helping guests get to know one another. Be it a bridal shower, rehearsal or catch-up dinner or wedding reception, a High Tea is a great way to connect people. Add a Flower Crown workshop – a popular choice for weddings and a great way to bring guests in on your theme. Tea Blending workshops, interactive High Tea Etiquette & History classes and Gin, Champagne and Whiskey masterclasses can also be included in your day.



## And lastly,

### DO

RSVP, and be on time. It makes the host's job so much easier and means you'll have the best possible experience.

Dress up. It is the perfect time to put on a fab outfit for the day (especially if it's a wedding).

Have fun! Of course!

### DONT

Over-indulge in alcohol. Think dress, heels, lots of glassware and delicate crockery.

Cross-contaminate serving utensils, and no dunking. No cream spoons in jam bowls!

Use a knife. Scones should be broken in half with your fingers.

Contrary to popular belief, it's not proper etiquette to extend your pinkie finger when drinking tea!

*A High Tea can be as chilled or as fancy as you like and might just be the perfect way to celebrate your big day!*

### The High Tea Mistress

Unique mobile, high teas and events

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

# In the flow of a *Spring Wedding*

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Spring makes her presence felt in the soft folds of cherry blossom, in kisses of warming breezes and the turning of winter scenes to green vistas. The vines burst into life with tiny tendrils reaching for the sun, and the fruit trees follow suit, exploding bud and blossom in impossible displays of beauty. If ever there was a time to get married, spring is the perfect season for floral splendour, lengthening days and clear skies. Spring is love, and love is spring.

While the spring is considered the official start of the traditional wedding season, making vows of forever love can happen any time of the day, any time of the year. If a Saturday wedding in spring means booking a year or two in advance (and who can wait that long?), then spring brings the ease of a twilight wedding, a midweek wedding, an any-day-of-the-week wedding because there is no rush when you have open hearts and an open agenda. From a small intimate wedding to a luxe grand affair, the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges has the perfect springtime setting to make your day.

In spring the doors burst open and the outdoors beckons us with secret gardens, forest aisles and hill top odes to the love you share. Think beyond the 'norm' and find ways to express your love in a ceremony that says 'us'. There are wild places to get married where nature is your chaperone (try the Redwood Forest), and there are carefully curated settings that ooze love (see Cloudehill Gardens for inspiration).



Photo by: Neiyu at CherryHill Orchards

And there is the unusual and the delightful. An orchard of cherry blossom makes for a sweet walk down the aisle (and the perfect background for an on-trend rosey pink-gold wedding theme), but you may find the million bright blooms of a tulip farm equally as attractive and Tesselaars may just be a perfect love bubble for you both. Colour co-ordinate with fields of lavender or a stunning wisteria arbour to bring a subtle purple haze to your day.

There are so many ways love blooms in a spring wedding. Let's embrace them all.

# Flower & James

## *get hitched*

### Jogiya Falguni (Flower) and James Mitchell

*A colourful three day wedding in Warburton celebrates multi-cultural love and the bringing together of what really matters.*

#### Meet the couple

James and Flower both work in the sales industry, James as a cybersecurity expert and Flower as a dental supplies specialist. The couple met via a dating app while both were living in London and were immediately drawn to each other. Flower says, "I liked his easy going chats - he was unique and oddly attractive! And an all-round, well balanced guy - that was refreshing."

Flower says James told her she was real and authentic - a breath of fresh air! "There was a real curiosity between us given our different cultural backgrounds and an appreciation of the uniqueness that brought to the relationship."

#### Who proposed?

James proposed to Flower at sunset on Brighton Beach in the UK. The destination of their first holiday, the proposal was beautifully timed with their third anniversary. The couple had 'like grownups' decided to get married, especially as James was relocating to Australia to be with Flower, so they had designed the ring together. The proposal was the first time Flower actually saw her dream ring in reality.



Photos: Shannon Higgins Weddings @shannynhiggins\_weddings





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

“Indian weddings typically go for five days but we were a little more restrained and held our wedding over three days! We wanted to bring together both cultures and traditions, but the colour and the theme of all three days was definitely Indian/Gujarati.”

“Day one is called Sangeet. Dance is at the heart of a traditional pre-wedding celebration. We brought in a Bollywood dance teacher to our party in Christmas Hills, who taught our guests a cheesy Bollywood dance routine. It was a real highlight and brought everyone together regardless of cultural background or whether they'd met before. We had a bindi station and bangles for guests to wear because it's all about colour and noise! On day two, the men and the women separate and the bride gets her mehndi, then on day three the wedding ceremony, rituals and dinner is celebrated.”

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

“Our engagement party was inspired by an Alice In Wonderland production we had enjoyed, and we really went over the top to create an Alice theme at a bar called ‘Through the Looking Glass’ in London. We had a bit of a reputation for going ‘all out’ so when it came to our wedding in Australia, we wanted to do everything to make it memorable and special. We'd looked at a few wedding venues and we just couldn't warm to the cookie cutter approach of many of them. Then we discovered Projekt 3488 on the internet. We loved everything about it and just chatting to Mark on the phone we felt so good. When we walked in the door it was more than we ever imagined. It was off the charts unusual.”







### ***Is there a story behind your dress and veil?***

“The dress code for all three days was colourful – in fact it’s not appropriate to wear black to an Indian wedding. Many of our guests went all out and wore saris or lengha, including our Australian friends. My dress was a traditional Indian sari dress and embroidered veil; however, I chose to wear vibrant blues, rather than the traditional bridal red. James got in the spirit of things and had an Indian outfit (dhoti) made but when he tried it on it just didn’t feel right. He ended up making a trip to Dandenong where he found a wonderful Indian long jacket with stunning gold embroidered sleeves and pants for the day. He did it his way.”

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

“We had food trucks at our dance party and then the remaining days were catered by Jesse from Locavore. All of our food was vegetarian (people said they didn’t even realise because it was so delicious) and the meals on the day three soiree were vegetarian Indian Banquets. The ceremony alone goes for about three hours with guests arriving at 10am and leaving about 7pm. Projekt 3488 was amazing as we were able to move among different areas of the building and gardens, and it provided such a dramatic setting for our many ceremonial aspects.”







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

“When you want to be with someone you embrace all that they are. Bringing together two cultures is somewhat of a roller coaster, but it brings meaning and uniqueness to your life. Since the wedding I’ve found myself reflecting a lot on my culture, and how I preserve my cultural self for me, and my future children. There’s an urge to revisit my roots, and James is with me every step of the way.”

### ***Tell us about any other special elements of your day.***

“My mum handmade about 250 colourful tassels that we used to decorate the dance hall and then Projekt 3488. They took her a whole year to make and were so bright and festive.

We gifted all our guests with a custom made tiffin tins engraved with the message ‘Eat, Sleep, Love, Repeat’. They were used for dinner and were then a wedding favour.”



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

"Don't forget your honeymoon! We still haven't been on ours. I think all our focus was on the wedding. And most of all, enjoy it. All of it. Our day was like a brilliant diamond."

**What were the highlights?**

"My mehndi day on day two was beautiful. It's one day in your life that Indian girls look forward to. You are pampered for hours on end by the women in the family and mehndi (or henna) is done on the hands and feet in preparation for the wedding day. It's a day of fun and laughter. The guys had a more traditional Aussie BBQ catch-up together at their accommodation."

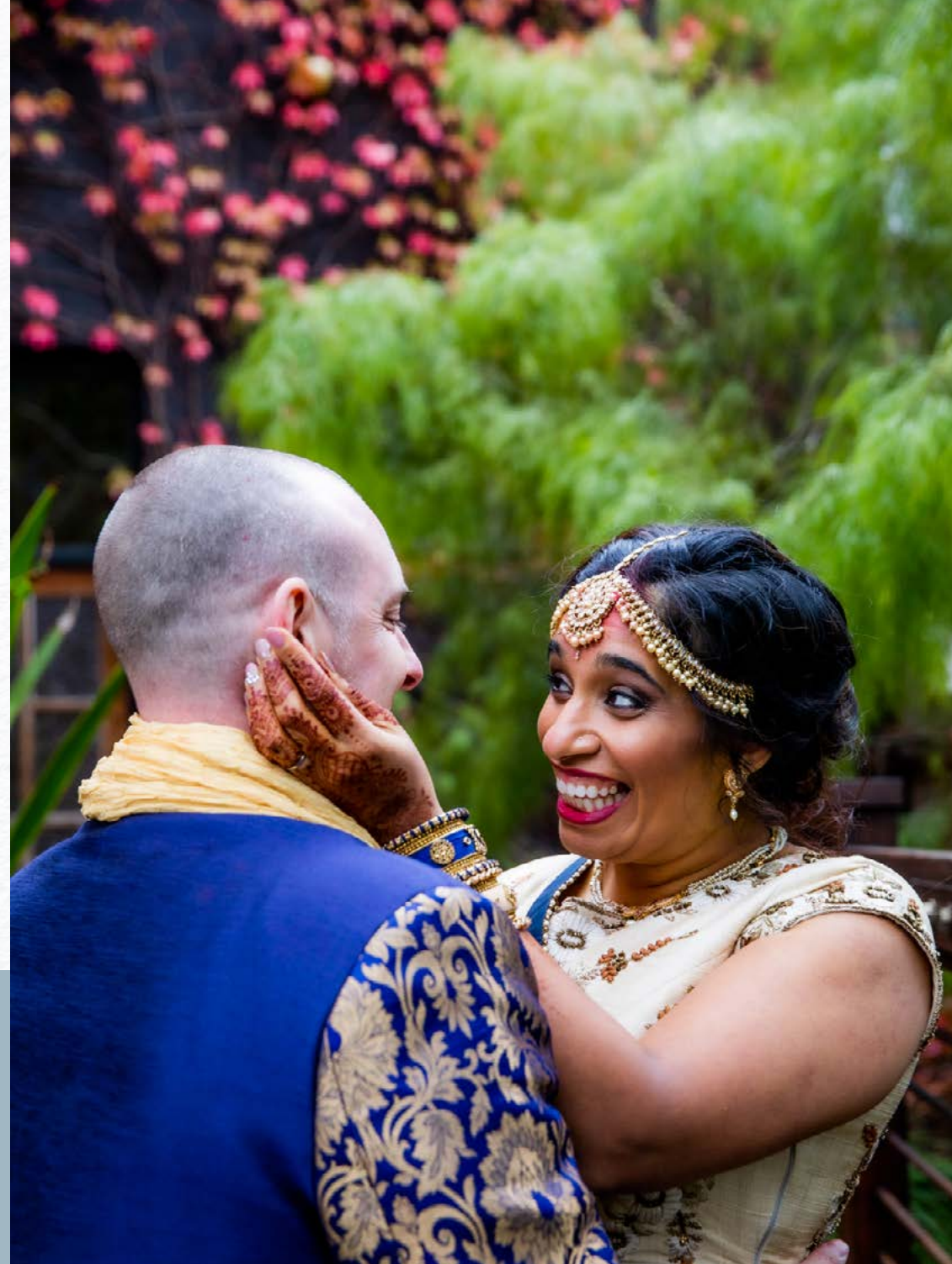
**Anything else you'd love to share?**

"Indian couples should really consider Australia for their wedding. You can have everything here to make your dream a reality. And have a laugh. We're best mates and our wedding was a true expression of who we are and the enjoyment we share in being together. That is universal."

**Number of Guests:** 100 / **Date:** 24/25/26 April 2019  
/ **Location:** Projekt 3488

**Vendor Credits**

**Venue & Styling** Projekt 3488  
**Photographer** Shannyn Higgins Weddings  
**Florist** The Redwood Florist  
**Catering/Cake** Locavore  
**Transport** Yarra Valley A2B



# Springtime drinks to celebrate *Your Day*

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The Yarra Valley is one of Australia's premier wine regions with a reputation for some of the finest Chardonnay and Pinot Noir in the country, but the talents of the region don't end there!

Winemakers and orchardists of the region are bringing the innovation that makes Yarra Valley wines so special to a range of beverages that will delight your tastebuds, satisfy your desire for something new, and may even promote better health! Perfect for celebrating on your 'big day'.

Today, wine doesn't only have to be made from grapes and these new 'alternative' taste sensations will make unforgettable additions to your wedding cheers.

## **Cherry delights at CherryHill Orchards, Wandin East**

With more than 75 years and three generations of cherry-loving experience, the family at CherryHill Orchards, one of Australia's leading cherry orchardists, have taken their passion for all things cherry and extended it into a range of cheeky cherry drinks! Try toasting with:

- Cherish - A sparkling burst of cherries! A truly unique sparkling cherry juice spritzer with 30 cherries in every bottle. Cocktail time!
- High Branch - Get the party started! A whole cherry cider, refreshing, invigorating and all natural. Great base for a spring sangria.
- Cherry Shiraz - A fruitilicious blend of Australian cherries and Shiraz grapes crafted into a medium bodied red, with a distinctive cherry aroma.





### **Ciders of distinction at St Ronan's Cider, Badger Creek**

Aged apple cider, pear cider, and even Methode Traditionelle cider (yes, it's made using the same process used for Champagne production) that is award winning and OMG yum! This is real, handcrafted Australian cider with no added anything but fruit. No ordinary cider for no ordinary couple!

### **Discover the Brilliant Bayberry Drink - Jay Berries, Wandin East**

Jay Berries is one of the only places in Australia that produces the unique and exclusive Chinese bayberry (also known as Yang Mei). This super fruit is high in antioxidants, vitamins and minerals (especially vitamin C) and has plenty of health benefits. With a taste between pomegranate and cranberry, it can be served straight or with soda and a sprig of mint. Mocktails just got interesting.

### **Marvellous Blueberry Wine, Badger Creek**

Blueberry Wine, Aged and Fortified Blueberry Wines, Blueberry Moscato and Blueberry Sparkling Wine are full of fruity goodness. With more than one kilogram of fruit in every bottle, these drinks are full bodied yet subtle, sweet and rich. Like your love. Raise your glasses!

### **Feeling adventurous for a Craft Beer? Healesville and beyond**

Watts River Brewing are a family owned bespoke brewery with perfectly crafted beers to suit everyone. Their home styled brews include Stout, Blonde and IPA are rated by personality - stable, neurotic, introverted and extroverted. Cherry Hill Orchards also has a Cherry Whit Beer and a Cherry Vanilla Porter. Love in a glass that fits into any social setting.







# Timed to perfection

## The later in life marriage

By Michael Veitch

### *Caroline and Stuart*

Caroline simply had no choice but to say 'yes' to Stewart. How else, after all, was he supposed to stay in the country? But this is more than just the story of a fella in need of a visa. When the big day came, standing in his fineries on the elegant steps of the Victorian Treasury Building, Stewart caught sight of the woman who was soon be his beautiful bride. Turning to his mum - who'd come all the way from England for the big event - all he could manage was, "Look at her, Mum, just...look at her," before bursting into tears.

Stewart and Caroline's story ranges over several decades, from when they first got together when Stewart came to these shores in his twenties, to the relationship winding up upon his return to London. Caroline's first marriage, a son, and then a divorce intervened, until a Facebook reconnection with long-lost Stewart led to a holiday with friends past and present at a cottage in Burgundy, and the rekindling of a fire that one suspects had never quite gone out in the first place. "Things went well," is all Caroline says.

All the ingredients of a Rom Com right there, you might say, minus perhaps the proposal, delivered by Stewart down the phone from London a few weeks later. "So, Caroline, I really want to be with you," he popped, "but my Australian residency has expired - so we'll have to get married. How about it?"

How was the girl to resist? Luckily for him he still had his East London accent.

"We had to get married," says Stewart, "but luckily we wanted to anyway." Stewart freely confesses his surprise at the depth of emotion that overwhelmed him on the day. Later this year, he'll take part in another ceremony, that of his Australian citizenship. He might find himself surprised by that one, too.



### ***Pete and Nate***

Pete and Nate's big day was picture perfect: surrounded by a hundred or more family and friends at the Western Oval – home to their beloved Bulldogs – a beautiful, sunshine-bathed ceremony morphed into a party where kids both young and old celebrated, and kicked the footy around the hallowed turf. In the evening the big lights were turned on, allowing the fun to continue well into the night.

As joyous an event as it was however, at the end of the day Pete and Nate were not a single step closer to actually being married. This was simply their 'affirmation ceremony' – a purely civil affair or, as Pete puts it, "our very expensive engagement party". For it to be legal, they would have to wait another two years for the law to change when Australia finally staggered – exhausted and punch-drunk – over the threshold of marriage equality to bring it into line with most comparable western

Like many people lucky enough to grow up in a large and loving family, Pete's view of marriage was a happy one. For forty years until his father died, his parents were devoted to one another, and he can barely remember a harsh word passing between them. As positive as his view of marriage was, however, it was an institution from which he was, for decades, barred.

When Pete and Nate were finally able to officially marry, there was no question they wouldn't do it all again. "I'd spent so long fighting and being angry about not being able to be married," says Pete. "Now that we could, we simply had to. All I ever wanted was to walk in the street holding my partner's hand, and for us to be able to legally refer to one another as 'my husband'."

Second time around, the setting had moved to a beach in Noosa and the weather was not quite so kind. It was, however, on the very day of Pete's fiftieth birthday, and the party was just as good, marking both an end, and a beginning of a journey for them both.



## *Le and Michael*

Having survived well into his forties without ever managing to tie the knot, Michael wanted to arrive at his own wedding in style. In a flash of retro-styled inspiration, he hit upon emerging – a la James Bond in Thunderball – from the deep, replete with scuba gear, before making his way up the riverbank through his astonished guests to stand beside Le, his partner of ten years and now bride.

Practicalities, however, have a habit of intervening, and although his beloved would have undoubtedly swooned at the sight of her dripping aquanaut groom, it probably wouldn't be for the right reasons. The upper Yarra River at Warburton isn't, after all, the Caribbean, and in summer it's not even all that deep. So, keeping to the theme, a down river arrival by canoe was decided upon, and it all went, well, swimmingly. Michael's feet even remained dry for his and Le's beautiful afternoon in the mountains.





Unlike Michael, Le had been through it all before, when she was in her twenties. Back then though, it was as much, as she puts it, 'an identity thing' after a challenging time with her own parents' separation. There was no proposal, no surprise and it was all pretty matter-of-fact. "I was also probably pretty insecure," she says. "Getting married was a way of doing my own thing."

Twenty or so years later however, it was all about her two children, and a celebration of life in general. "Being older," says Le, "we were much more relaxed about it. I feel I got it right - the second time." And cheaper too. Being a chef herself, Le did much of the food, and relied on friends and family for help and favours. "We had about 120 happy and well fed and watered guests for around five thousand dollars," she says. "It was a genuine handmade fiesta!" Who says a good time has to be expensive?

Three weddings of three couples who all, for differing reasons decided to marry after forty. And by the stories they tell, and the memories they now cherish, it seems to have been the perfect time to do so.



# Engagement Story

## Will you be my one?

at Zonzo Estate

.....

### Jess and Carly Wilde's double proposal

A romantic candlelit dinner in a Balinese resort was an epic location for a proposal and when Carly asked Jess to be her wife in November 2016 the couple, who were both vets when they met, easily embraced the life of an engaged couple and started planning their big day.

But six months later, Jess decided that the love of her life, Carly, also deserved the experience of being proposed to and receiving a ring, so she put a plan in action to create a surprise proposal that was full of personal symbolism and love.

From the first time the couple saw the elegant Cappella at Zonzo Estate they knew they had found the perfect location for their wedding ceremony. Many of their first dates had revolved around wine with Carly sharing her passion for wine appreciation with Jess, and Zonzo, with its amazing food, beautiful design principles and lush surrounds was the 'everything' they imagined.

Jess put in motion a plan to get the unsuspecting Carly to Zonzo on the pretext of attending a Bridal Expo one Sunday, and with the help of the Zonzo team, which even included sending a fake email invite to Carly, the plan was put in motion.



“I proposed to her in front of the Cappella and she was still trying to figure out what was going on. Everyone was crying (including the Zonzo team). I had to keep telling her I’ve done this for you!”

“I guess I knew what the answer would be – we were already engaged but it was wonderful to see the love of my life able to experience all the joy of a proposal that she had given me. Carly was blown away,” says Jess.

In November 2018, the couple married at Zonzo Estate in the same Cappella with a reception to follow. Carly says, “Married life is just as good as pre-married life! We always think along the same lines and make the same decisions. Being together is everything.”

“And I’d choose you;  
In a hundred lifetimes,  
In a hundred worlds,  
In any version of reality,  
I’d find you and  
I’d choose you.”

Jess had the Cappella set up with Carly’s favourite flowers – muted pastels, roses in pinks, creams and apricots, a poster with all their favourite quotes – and had secreted an iPod into the chapel ready to play their favourite heart song ‘Say you won’t let go’.

“Just as we were about to walk up to the Cappella, Carly veered off saying she needed to use the bathroom. Then she started looking around for the ‘fake’ expo,” says Jess. “Thankfully I was able to distract her, and get her to follow me once again to the Cappella.”

By then, Jess couldn’t wait another second to pop the one big question,

“Will you be my one?”



# Luxe ways to make your day

An itinerary of indulgent delight!

Take a break from wedding planning with a sneaky midweek break or weekend away in the Yarra Valley or Dandenong Ranges. Take your commitment to a whole new level and dedicate real time to enjoying the best the region has to offer – a perfect way to build the anticipation for your perfect day, and a great opportunity to trial the venues or ideas you're so busy dreaming about.



Levantine Hill

LINGER LONGER



Global Ballooning

## Day 1

### Play up high!

Mornings are made for this – and it's so worth the early start. A hot air balloon ride taking in the glorious vista of the Yarra Valley, a glass of sparkling in hand, and hand-in-hand with your one true love. What a way to make a 'forever' memory. When your feet are back on earth, take a drive and explore the stunning scenery – keep an eye out for those special places that promise to be perfect backdrops for your photos, or just special places to pause and remember all the reasons why you fell in love.

### Eat to your heart's content

Hatted. Feast. When luxury matters, Levantine Hill will steal your heart at hello! For an indulgent 'We're so worth it' dining experience this award-winning destination is the ultimate reward for star crossed lovers.

### Embrace a Spa

Escape the world for a couple's massage at Nourish Day Spa, where balance and rejuvenation are the only KPIs you need to worry about. Packages can be custom made just for two.

### Good night stays

You know that feeling when you arrive somewhere and it's so beautiful it takes your breath away? That place is Araluen Boutique Accommodation - it's like cupid took a course in interior design. And you can get married at Araluen, right there by the pool...the pond...the garden...in the sunlit arbour. It's all there for you!

### Nightcaps for night owls

Find a secluded corner for a snuggle and a night cap at Herd Bar or Graceburn Wine Bar in Healesville. When you don't want a perfect day to end, a late-night drink (and a midnight tapas snack!) in a tucked away bar is the only way to make the moment last.

## Day 2

### Look at me

Refreshed and enlivened, it's time for your photo shoot! Booking an Engagement photo shoot is a great way to banish any camera nerves you might have before your wedding day and the delightful Rick Liston is a Yarra Valley Photographer that can truly capture your look of love. (And radiance is just a step away at Miss Josie's Beauty Parlour for a beauty treatment or makeup do over.)



Photo: Rick Liston



Cloudehill Gardens

### Sweet bites at High Tea

Life is a special occasion and the Olinda Tea House is a stunning destination for a lunch or High Tea set among tranquil gardens, a hen's celebration or a pre-wedding dinner. Love is always on the menu. A High Tea of sweet delicacies, an authentic Chinese banquet, or an impressive a la carte dinner - this is food for lovers...of food.

### Marry into the 'wine' family

It's impossible to visit the Yarra Valley without taking the time to enjoy a little wine tasting, so imagine taking a little time to get married too! A perfect trilogy of fine wine, fab food, and a stunning setting - start married life as you mean to go on!

De Bortoli Yarra Valley Estate is a family owned estate that boasts several generations of winemakers and an impressive cellar door experience. Oakridge Wines is a perfect match for discerning couples in a totally picturesque setting. The award-winning boutique winery Boat O'Craigo has an intimate setting that feels like the stars just aligned for you. Don't take our word for it - go and explore! A wine tasting and lunch is a great way to rehearse a wedding reception.

### Feel your florals

Floral inspiration abounds at Cloudehill Gardens - a magical setting for photos, or a ceremony, and an endless source of ideas for bountiful bouquets and seasonal style. Locals know and if attention to detail is high on your 'to do list', The Redwood Florist is with you every step of the way to bring your floral vision to life.



# Photography

## around the gardens



Dreamy, soft springtime hues. Flattering light, filtered through leafy canopies, nature's own diffuser. In spring, gardens come alive. Colour palettes range from bold brights to the soft whispers of blossom and all the tones in between. Brilliant blue skies complement vivid greens and the rustic tones of bush and field. Get married in your favourite colour - there's a garden to highlight your innate beauty.

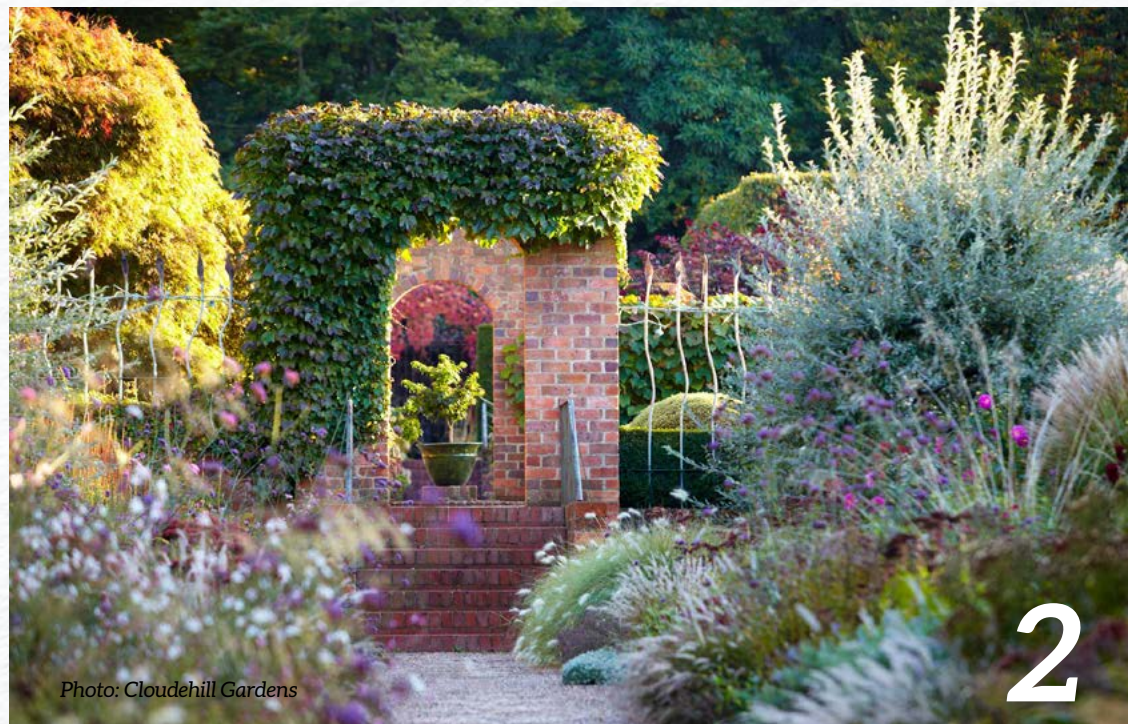
### Try these top 7 spring gardens for glorious blooms

1. Whimsical Wisteria, *Potters Receptions*
2. Forever Floral, *Cloudehill Gardens, Alowyn Gardens*
3. Brilliant Bulbs, *Tesselaar Tulip Farm*
4. Orchards and blossoms, *CherryHill, Dandenong Ranges Botanic Gardens, Rayner's Orchards*
5. Sculptural and stylish, *Lubra Bend, Levantine Hill, Olinda Tea House, Projekt 3488*
6. Sunset Fields, *Zonzo Estate, Fondata 1872, Tramonto*
7. Forest Frolics, *Redwood Forest, Kinglake Forest Adventures*



1

Photo: Potters Receptions



2

Photo: Cloudehill Gardens



3



6

Photo: Rick Liston



4

Photo by: Neiyu at Cherry Hill Orchards



5

Photo: Olinda Tea House



7

Photo: Rick Liston

# Unusual ceremony locations

## Unique places to declare your own kinda love

By Robynne Mauger, Rainbow Celebrant Yarra Valley



All photos supplied by Robynne Mauger

“So, tell me your story”, I ask every one of my loved-up couples when we meet. Every couple has their own unique story to tell. And I love that feeling when you are drawn into their private places where they share the journey that got them wanting to be married. Romantic conversations flow, love stories are told, and happy tears are wept; so much so that the emotion takes over and grabs hold of your heart. Such is the power of love when eyes are locked, and hearts are open.

How do people choose their own place to be married? Sometimes a couple will have it all teased out, but mostly they will just know once they start the love story of how they met and why, a certain place takes hold of their emotions. A first meeting, a first kiss, a proposal. A celebration that captures their connection with each other and provides an insight for their guests into that place that ensures they have experienced the ultimate moment in time.

### “We fell in love on a mountain top.”

So I suggested the couple seals their marriage on that mountain top where all their memories will come flooding back. And we did. On Skyline Road, Yarra Glen where the vistas were boundless and Bunjil visited. A private moment of peace and tranquillity, where time stood still and travelled a million miles at the same time. Bunjil’s visit was very important and added depth to the ceremony. A true union in privacy and tranquillity.



### **“We met in Thailand.”**

We met in Thailand where we talked the night away about all things relating to Thai martial arts; so let's come out of your corner, not fighting, ready to declare a victory for love. A love of all things Thai related and martial arts was the link. The ceremony was conducted in the boxing ring that was the central focus of the martial arts studio. Gloves were on and off, promises were made, passion and places. The colour scheme was matched to the studio colours and food was a fusion of Thai meets Australia.

### **“Our eyes locked over a vintage guitar.”**

“We met at a jam session; and music continued to remain a focus in our relationship. Our eyes locked over a vintage guitar.” Our music is very retro and our lives match the beat. Warburton Motel captured the atmosphere with all things 70s. Authenticity and originality was paramount, and it set the perfect scene. The glitz and glamour shined in the shade of the old spruce tree as vows were said and drinks flowed from the back of a Kombi.

### **“In the heart of the forest.”**

Deep in the heart of Redwood Forest, so quiet you could hear another's heartbeat. The stormy clouds parted, the rain held off and the sun shone deep down as two special people committed their lives in marriage with only their family as witnesses. Private, passionate and poignant. Hearts beating loudly. Commitment cemented and a rainbow hung over us all. The coloured sands were symbolic of the enmeshment of two families, with each member adding their own colour to the vase.

### **“For the love of cowboy boots.”**

Cowboy boots and tattoos. That is what we had in common. Animals, tattoos and the raw outdoors. The horse ménage was decked out with row seating, a flower arbour the focal point, and hay strewn down the long aisle. Those boots sashayed down the aisle to the sound of goats bleating and horses neighing. Nothing was going to interrupt those vows.



### **About Rainbow Celebrant Yarra Valley**

Robynne brings out the authenticity of every couple's story. Raw and powerful emotion that brings people together to cement their relationship. Enough romance and scripting to bring about the love shared between two people without making it mushy. Open to all relationships and creative ceremonies at any venue.

[rainbowcelebrantyarravalley.com](http://rainbowcelebrantyarravalley.com)



# Wedding day etiquette

## Tradition is optional...

By Lisa Newman – Civil Marriage Celebrant



It's a whole new world for weddings these days with many people choosing non-traditional ceremonies – from bridesmen and best girls to having wedding arches made from sticks!

As a Marriage Celebrant here in the ever-changing, picturesque Dandenong Ranges, I'm surrounded by traditional venues with a glorious array of gardens, gazebos and chapels. They cater to sit-down receptions with delightful table set-ups and stunning centre pieces. They are, simply put, charming and oozing tradition. However, many Yarra Valley venues are opting for industrial wedding spaces – a cocktail reception held in a winery shed, a grazing table and minimalist set-up. They scream 'fun and funky' and attract couples often catering to smaller guest numbers. This works especially well during off peak season and alternative weddings.

Photo: Alan Rogers Photography

But let's start at the beginning with the white wedding dress! Queen Victoria wore white to marry Prince Albert in 1840. Despite the white dress being favoured for some 180 years, coloured dresses are making a come-back. Over the last decade, brides have been wearing ivory, champagne, white with black trim and now, we're seeing subtle colours of mocha, pink and florals.

I love how diverse weddings have become now with uneven numbers in the bridal party (oh yes you can!), and how's this for fun? – boys attending on the girl's side and vice versa. Fabulous names have popped up – gal pals, man of honour, best girl and bridesman... the list goes on and is very on-trend.

Speaking of keeping up to date – same-sex marriage. Nope, it's just marriage, just like everyone else's. So take note and remember that we don't need to distinguish anymore.

And lastly, who pays for what? Thankfully, those days are gone where the bride's family pays for everything. It's been standard for a long time now that either the couple foot the bill or it's split three ways between the couple and both sets of parents. But if parents are contributing, they usually want a say in who is being invited so this may mean you'll have cousins coming that you haven't seen since you were 11!

However you choose to get married, enjoy the freedom of choice available to you now that tradition is optional.

## *Did you know?*

**In 2017, 78% of marriages in Australia were performed by civil celebrants.**



Photo: Chris Newman – Final Concept Productions

Lisa Newman is a popular Belgrave-based Marriage Celebrant who loves going to work! It doesn't matter how large or small your wedding is, Lisa's energy and genuine enthusiasm is consistent from start to finish. She relates well with people of all ages and you will feel comfortable with her from your first point of contact.

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

# Summertime Love

Any day of the week, any time of the day – summer has so much charm for a wedding celebration. Hold your ceremony with the rising dawn, or in the cool of evening – it's your choice! How about a pool party? There are plenty of waterside locations that make for perfect ceremony spots that will beat the heat of the day. Get hitched by a waterfall (there are seven fabulous waterfalls to choose from in the region), lakeside, or against the soaring presence of Maroondah Dam (super shady!).

Toast your new life together with a sparkling wine that is the toast of the region (how well does the Yarra Valley do Prosecco! – just sayin') and enjoy the succulence of the region's fresh picked produce – berries, cherries, fruits, and everything you love that says 'summer love'.

Plan an Off Peak summer wedding – move beyond the Saturday wedding and discover how much flexibility and lush loving is available every other day of the week. It's your day, your way.



What makes summertime in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges such a perfect time to get hitched?

Getting out of the city in summer holds enormous appeal for couples and their guests. Out into the cool green landscapes of mountains and forests, vineyards and fields. Places where there are shady glades that provide a cool oasis even when the temperature is rising. Where the vista is always green as far as the eye can see, and there is space for the natural fanning of gentle breezes and soft summer nights.



## 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)



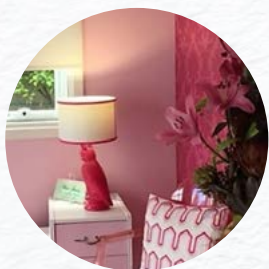
**Lisa Newman, Celebrant, Dandenong Ranges**

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**

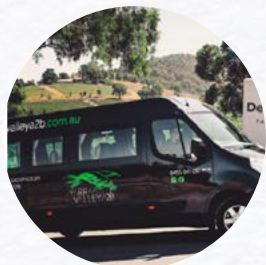
Nourish Day Spa specialise in massage, facials, hand and foot treatments, pamper parties, couples packages – all with a holistic approach. Take time out of your day for a morning or afternoon of pure relaxation, the perfect distraction to take your mind off of any wedding stress you or the hens may have. 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)

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### 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)

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### Yarra Valley Wedding Transfers, *Yarra Valley*



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)

## 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)

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### 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)

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### The High Tea Mistress, *Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges*



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)

## Photographers



**Rick Liston**, *Yarra Valley*

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)

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## Florists



**The Redwood Florist**, *Yarra Valley*

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)

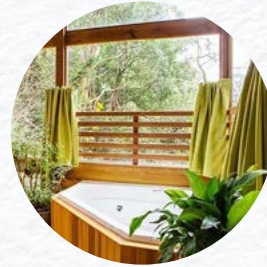


### **CountryPlace**, *Kalorama*

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 Australian-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 Reception**, *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)

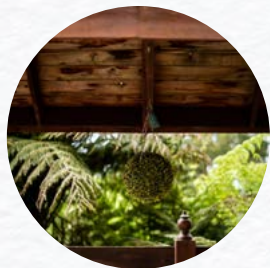
## Accommodation / Venues



### **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)



### **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 40 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)



### **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  
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*Coming up in the summer issue:*

1. Summer Succulence
2. Beyond the Big Day
3. Fur Kids at your Wedding

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