



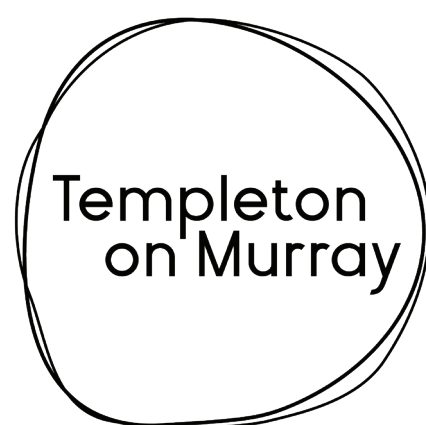
weddings

2021 | 22



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Cover: Brooke + Aden Shaw
Pure Mint Photography

Above: Sarah + Brodie Walding
Jacob Jennings Photography

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Produced by the Murray Pioneer.

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Murray Pioneer

What dreams are made of.

Welcome to the inaugural publication of our Riverland Style Weddings magazine.

After a call out from future brides about the lack of such a magazine, we decided it was time to showcase our beautiful region and what it has to offer for the local or destination bride.

Flick through and discover venues, businesses and services that make these special occasions possible.

Potential brides and grooms – either local or visitors planning a wedding in the Riverland, now have this 2021/22 guide at their fingertips.

Within these stunning 32 pages you will find information regarding the many spectacular outdoor and indoor venues where your dream wedding could be held, including Murtho's Templeton on Murray, Mallee Estate in Renmark, and the Waikerie Hotel.

That is just the beginning, however, as we know planning is the key to making your dream wedding a reality.

Whether it's the perfect dress, or suit, you are looking for, expert make-up and beauty services, or a renowned caterer, we've spared no detail in bringing you the comprehensive guide for all things Riverland weddings.

Inside you will also find profiles of four lovely couples who used the Riverland as the setting for their special day, highlighting what is possible for your big day.

We hope you enjoy Riverland Style Weddings as much as we enjoyed designing this guide. Whether you are thinking of tying the knot, recently engaged, or know of a special couple, this is the magazine for you.

The Riverland has everything you need to make your wedding truly unforgettable.

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High school sweethearts tie the knot

Two local high school sweethearts had the wedding of their dreams in an intimate ceremony on the banks of the Murray River in August.

- Bride**
Sarah Walding
(nee Harrington)
- Groom**
Brodie Walding
- Date**
August 2021
- Venue**
River Block
- Photography**
Jacob Jennings
Photography
- Food**
Fieldhouse
Catering
- Flowers**
The Gathered
Bunch
- Styling**
Barossa
Styling + Events

Sarah Walding (nee Harrington) and Brodie Walding began dating in year 11 at Loxton High School, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Sarah, a registered nurse/midwife and Brodie, an apprentice electrician, got engaged in Mildura in the middle of a mini golf game.

"I had just got the ball in – unfortunately, not a hole in one – and I turned around to celebrate and Brodie was down on one knee," Sarah said.

The wedding was planned for October 2020 at a residential property, but was postponed due to the 10-person Covid-19 limits.

"We made the decision to postpone and find a new venue for August 2021," Sarah said.

The couple chose the River Block, at Bookpurnong, for their location, but still faced restrictions.

"Our guest numbers were restricted to 50 people, however we were able to

stand up to drink and dance," Sarah said.

"We were determined to have our day and cut our numbers from 120 to 50.

"I can honestly say, that although we missed some loved ones on the day, it was still the most magical day of our lives."

The bridal party consisted of Brodie's brothers, Jaden and Colby Walding, Sarah's brother, Daniel Harrington, and Brodie's cousin, Jake Hutton, while bridesmaids were Nikki Harwood, Lilian To, Casey Webb and Georgia Knauer.

"Having family involved was really important to Brodie and a great memory for us all to have," Sarah said.

"I know a lot of people dread wedding speeches, but hearing stories, well wishes and kind words from our closest people was without a doubt one of our wedding highlights."

Sarah said the couple felt it was vital that their wedding day felt like a celebration for guests.

"It was important for everyone to feel comfortable and have the best day with us," she said.

"This is why we chose to have our non-formal reception set-up. Everyone chatted to one another, moved around and danced when they felt like it."

Sarah said thanks to their chosen vendors, the day was perfect.

"It was well and truly the most amazing, magical, full of love day of our entire lives," she added.

I had just got the ball in – unfortunately, not a hole in one – and I turned around to celebrate and Brodie was down on one knee.





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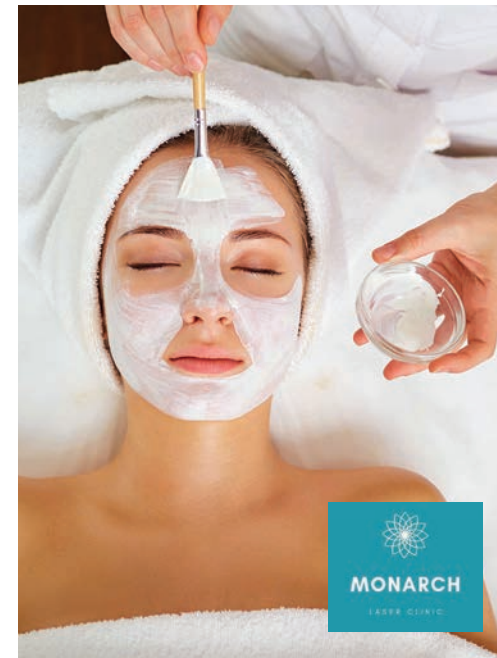
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COBDOGLA CLUB VENUE

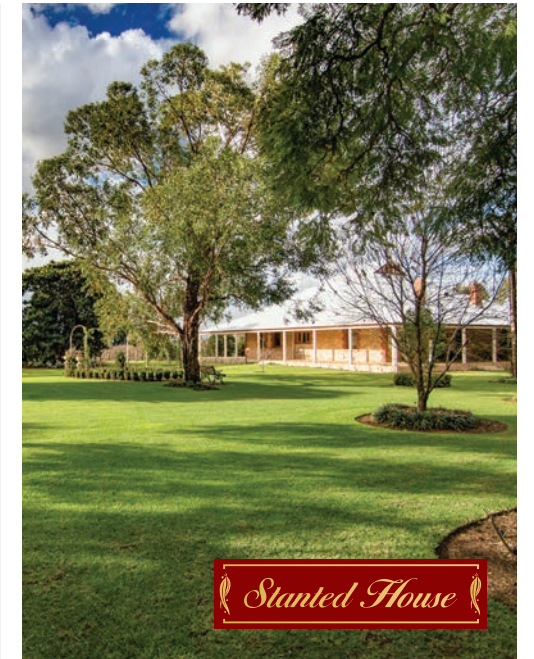
Pleasant surroundings and attractive facilities combine to make the Cobdogla and District Club one of the region's leading reception venues. The private function room opens into a cottage garden with shady trees, umbrellas and outdoor furniture. cobbclub@bigpond.com | 8588 7092



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Love of the Riverland on full display

The recent wedding of two locals saw “high school sweethearts” celebrate their love for each other – and the Riverland.

Bride

Brooke Shaw
(nee Skelton)

Groom

Aden Shaw

Date

February 2021

Ceremony

Stanted House

Reception

Renmark Club

Photography

Pure Mint
Photography

Flowers

Flowers by
Jodie Lee

Cake

Rose & Co
Bakery

Hair

Halmani Hair
Salon

Renmark couple Aden Shaw and Brooke Shaw (nee Skelton) were married in the region – with a ceremony held at Stanted House and reception at the Renmark Club – earlier this year.

Brooke said herself and Aden’s relationship began during their time as Renmark High School students.

“We met each other when I was in year 9 in high school and he was in year 10,” Brooke said.

“We started talking and connected early. We’re high school sweethearts.”

Brooke said the Riverland had always been a key aspect of their relationship, including Aden’s proposal.

“We were down river at the koala sanctuary and we took the dog for a walk...

“I turned around to look for the dog, turned back around and he was down on one knee,” she said.

Brooke said a decision to postpone the wedding allowed her mother – who had previously gone through cancer treatment – to fully participate in the event.

“The big hurdle we had was that we chose to postpone the wedding because my mum was diagnosed with breast cancer,” she said.

“We decided to postpone it until after her treatment so she would be feeling better...

“I have a strong bond with my mum and I wanted her to be a big part of the wedding.”

Brooke said the ceremony and reception locations allowed her and Aden’s connection to the river to be shared with friends and family.

“The ceremony was at Stanted House and the reception was at the Renmark Club,” she said.

“We both really love the river, so it was really nice to have it there and to be able to overlook it on the deck.

“We had a lot of local guests, and then about 10 or so that had travelled up from Adelaide.

“Leading up to the day was a little stressful trying to make sure I had everything covered, but at the end it turned out to be such a beautiful day and everything fell into place.”

Brooke said the range of local services available meant a wedding in the region was simple to organise.

“I would recommend a Riverland wedding,” she said.

“Everybody we worked with was really great.

“Make the most of the planning in the lead-up, and then enjoy the day as much as you can.”



I would recommend a Riverland wedding.



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JAMES FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY

Bride and groom wedding check list

The key to an unforgettable Riverland wedding day is to have everything in place ahead of time. From venue to attire and every tiny detail in between, planning how your perfect wedding should look at least 12 months in advance will mean a lot of stress is saved down the line. Here is our guide for how the bride – and groom – can make the planning process as smooth as possible, to ensure the big day is filled with nothing but happiness.

BRIDE

12 MONTHS OUT

No worries, you got this

- ☐ Choose the wedding party (maid of honour, bridesmaids, best man and groomsmen, flower girl and ring bearer)
- ☐ Decide formality and overall theme
- ☐ Determine your budget
- ☐ Make a guest list
- ☐ Select the venue
- ☐ Select the caterer
- ☐ Get engagement rings insured and consider wedding insurance

11 MONTHS OUT

You're on a roll

- ☐ Hire vendors that book up quickly, such as photographer, band/DJ, hairdresser and videographer
- ☐ Pick your MC, cake maker and florist
- ☐ Hire a celebrant and arrange marriage licence
- ☐ Choose a colour theme and start thinking of overall design

10 MONTHS OUT

Get your colours on!

- ☐ Start shopping for your wedding dress, veil, undergarments and shoes
- ☐ Book accommodation for family and guests, if needed
- ☐ Take engagement photos
- ☐ Start looking at invitations

9 MONTHS OUT

Good job, what's next?

- ☐ Buy your wedding dress (It's time to say yes to the dress if you want to avoid rush fees)
- ☐ Send save the dates

8 MONTHS OUT

Don't feel overwhelmed

- ☐ Select the bridesmaids' dresses and schedule fittings within the month (ask how they feel in the options you're considering – they do have to wear it in front of a crowd after all)

7 MONTHS OUT

Can you believe it?

- ☐ Hire the ceremony musician/band
- ☐ Order any rental items necessary (specialty chairs, linens etc.)

5-6 MONTHS OUT

Halfway there!

- ☐ Book transportation for guests, if necessary
- ☐ Book transportation for newlyweds/bridal party
- ☐ Book room for wedding night
- ☐ Book the honeymoon

4 MONTHS OUT

The finishing touches...

- ☐ Finalise floral arrangements and cake design
- ☐ Buy wedding bands
- ☐ Have your final tasting with the caterer
- ☐ Hair and makeup trial (bring photos and be as specific as possible about what)

3 MONTHS OUT

You're getting close

- ☐ Order the invitations
- ☐ Write vows, select readings if desired
- ☐ Meet with the celebrant
- ☐ Decide on wedding songs
- ☐ Decide on something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue

2 MONTHS OUT

Crunch time

- ☐ Create wedding day timeline - send to officiants/venue, MC, photographer and wedding party
- ☐ Send the wedding invitations
- ☐ First dress fitting
- ☐ Buy wedding party gifts
- ☐ Give song selections to band, DJ, and ceremony musicians
- ☐ Buy all the small items- guest book, card box, cake knife etc

1 MONTH OUT

Don't forget...

- ☐ Pay your vendors in full
- ☐ Follow up RSVP's
- ☐ Create a seating chart
- ☐ Have a final venue walk through
- ☐ Check bridal party fittings

FINAL WEEK

Deep breaths now, most of the hard work is over at this point

- ☐ Refresh your hair colour
- ☐ Get your eyebrows done
- ☐ Manicure/pedicure
- ☐ Arrange collection of flowers

THE NIGHT BEFORE

Down to the wire

- ☐ Eat a healthy meal
- ☐ Pack a small bag of personal items
- ☐ Drink water
- ☐ Rehearsal/s
- ☐ Get a good nights sleep

GROOM

12 MONTHS OUT

- ☐ Choose the wedding party

5-6 MONTHS OUT

- ☐ Start to think about what type of attire you'd like to wear on your special day

4 MONTHS OUT

- ☐ Select the groom and groomsmen's attire and schedule fittings within the month
- ☐ Buy wedding bands

3 MONTHS OUT

- ☐ Write vows, select readings if desired

1 MONTH OUT

- ☐ Buy your bride a wedding gift (make sure it's personal and memorable)
- ☐ Schedule final fittings for suits, and make sure all wedding attire has been ordered
- ☐ Purchase gifts for best man and groomsmen
- ☐ If you're having a buck's party, make sure it's not too close to the wedding. A month beforehand is about right

FINAL WEEK

- ☐ Make sure your groomsmen know their duties
- ☐ Final suit fittings
- ☐ Final check for rings, cufflinks, flasks, etc.

THE NIGHT BEFORE

- ☐ Make sure best man and groomsmen get their wedding attire
- ☐ Give the best man the wedding rings
- ☐ Don't start drinking too early

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OF ALL
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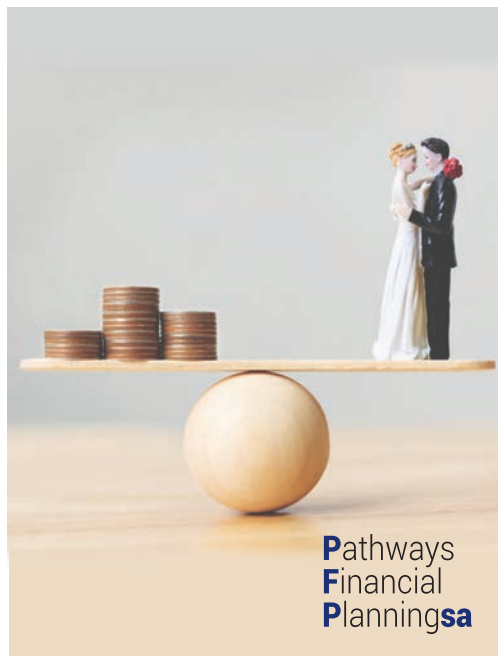
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Your guests will have an experience they will remember forever!



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Riverland the perfect wedding setting for Kiara + Jamie

A lifelong connection to the Riverland made it easy for a local couple to plan their perfect wedding day.

Bride

Kiara Fisher
(nee Stephenson)

Groom

Jamie Fisher

Date

September 2021

Photography

Oh Wild

Cake

Zynski Bakes

Hair

Jarahs Hair

Flowers

Rachel's Flower
Collective

Co-ordinator

The Bridesbabe

DJ

Caleb Nagy

Signage

My Little
Blossom Co

Riverland high school sweethearts Jamie and Kiara Fisher (nee Stephenson) were married earlier this month after 14 year together.

Kiara said the region's settings played a key role in both Jamie's proposal, and the couple's wedding day.

"Jamie proposed to me at The River Block after a kayak through the creeks," she said.

"We returned to a platter, champagne and flowers organised by my best friend all the way from Canada.

"He proposed with my dream ring.

"We were married at Jamie's family farm, which was important to him.

"While it was difficult some of our guests couldn't come due to interstate borders, we know they were there is spirit.

Kiara said her own profession in the wedding industry allowed her to source locally operated services.

"I'm a marriage celebrant as well, and seeing as I've done over 50 weddings in the Riverland, I know most of the service providers," she said.

"We worked with as many local suppliers as we could, then outsourced the rest to small, family-owned businesses in the Adelaide Hills.

"It was very stress-free because we were surrounded by professional suppliers who all knew what they were doing."

Kiara said changing weather conditions posed a challenge during her wedding day.

"We got 45km/h winds, hail and rain, and then absolute perfection thereafter," she said.

"Weather is the one thing you cannot control... (but) if you surround yourself with the right guests they won't care what the weather is."

Kiara said while Covid-19 restrictions affected the number of guests they were allowed, the couple never considered postponing their wedding.

"After such a long break between things to celebrate, it was amazing for people to have something to come together around," she said.

"Covid has taught me many things, (and) one has been choosing between a marriage and a wedding.

"While many people postponed, we decided from day one we were getting married on September 4, whether there was 50 people or five."

Kiara advised planning and a willingness to find compromises were vital to a successful wedding day.

"Be organised, but be willing to compromise," she said.

"No wedding day is going to go to plan exactly, but you have to be willing to work with people.

"Every wedding is truly beautiful in their own way and will be the best day of your life."



Riverland wedding an easy decision

Picturesque settings along the River Murray continue to draw former locals, and visitors, to the region for their big day.

Bride
Katelyn Baker
(nee Schultz)

Groom
Sam Baker

Date
April 2020

Ceremony
Riverland Wine
Centre

Reception
Renmark Club

Photography
DreamPIC
Photography

Videographer
Picket Fence
Films

Make-up
Blush Barre

Flowers
Renmark Flower
House

Former locals Sam Baker and Katelyn Baker (nee Schultz) – now Naracoorte-based teachers – were married in the Riverland in April this year.

Katelyn said the couple's family connections to the area made it an easy decision to hold their wedding in the region.

"The Riverland was always top of the list, and we were able to get the date we wanted at the Renmark Club," Katelyn said.

"We chose to leave the windows uncovered so people could see the river for our reception.

"It was always going to be in the Riverland."

Katelyn said an overseas holiday together after finishing university had provided Sam an opportunity to propose.

"We were in Fiji on a holiday... we had a couple of his mates with us and we were going to an island for a day.

"He was going to do it there, but he said the island was really small and he couldn't find a nice spot where everyone couldn't see him.

"So that night we went to the beach and he proposed there."

Katelyn said the ceremony location and time of year resulted in ideal conditions for their wedding day.

"We were married at the Riverland Wine Centre," she said.

"Everything ran to plan...it was a sunny day and we got married on the lawn, which was beautiful.

"We were so lucky with the weather, which is part of the drawcard of April in the Riverland, and the outdoor ceremony was amazing."

Katelyn said family and friends were all impressed by the Riverland's atmosphere.

"Quite a lot of my husband's family are from outside the Riverland, and his relatives wrote lovely 'thank you' letters saying it was absolutely stunning looking over the river," she said.

"Everybody said it was fantastic." Katelyn said having their wedding in the Riverland created numerous lasting memories.

"It was pretty much perfect," she said.

"I don't think there was much I would change at all."

It was always going to be in the Riverland.





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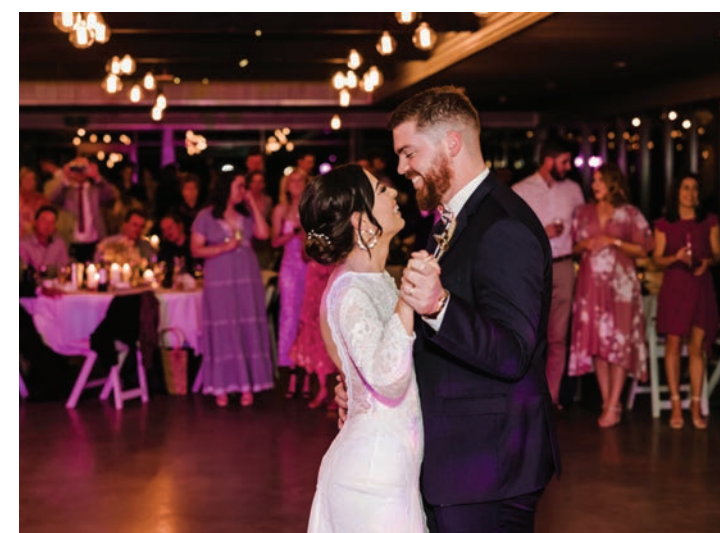
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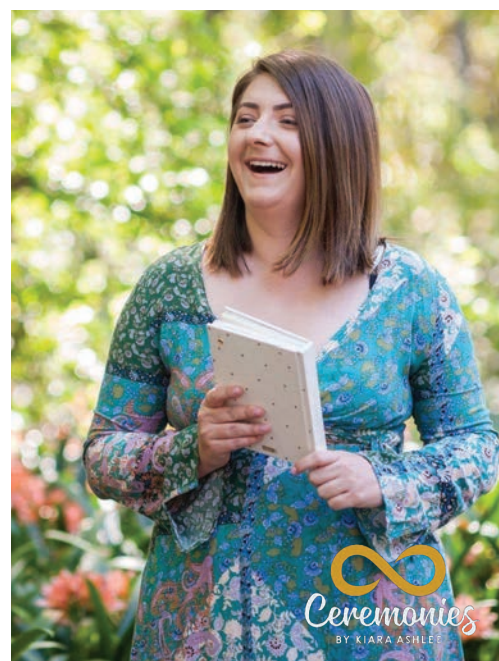
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