

# Today I marry my best friend



SIMONE KELLY AND RHYS HAAG  
SUNSET HILL, PHILLIP ISLAND, VICTORIA  
11TH OF FEBRUARY, 2012  
STORY by Gretel Sneath PHOTOGRAPHY by Goldsmith & Co.



RHYS HAAG AND SIMONE KELLY MET AT UNIVERSITY, AND SEVERAL YEARS LATER, THEIR FRIENDSHIP WAS SEALED WITH A KISS AT MOUNT BULLER. ANY OPPORTUNITY FOR ROMANCE WAS SHORT-LIVED HOWEVER, WHEN THE PAIR HEADED OFF ON SEPARATE OVERSEAS ADVENTURES; RHYS' PROFESSIONAL SNOWBOARDING CAREER SAW HIM FOLLOW THE WINTERS, WHILE SIMONE TRAVELLED THE WORLD IN PURSUIT OF SURF AND SNOW DURING A SERIES OF AMAZING WORK ASSIGNMENTS.



In a modern love story, their paths crossed five years later with help from the internet, and Rhys presented Simone with an antique engagement ring during a holiday in Utah. The couple married on Phillip Island in a gorgeous cliff top chapel overlooking the ocean. Simone wore a Paris-designed gown made from a delicate French lace with vintage trim detailing and a pleated silk chiffon train. "It encapsulated everything I wanted –beautifully crafted yet simple, a bit sexy, and also relevant to the beach location and vintage theme," she said.

Carrying a simple yet elegant bouquet arranged by Melbourne florist Fleur McHarg, a rose gold cuff and oversized hoop earrings specifically requested by Rhys completed Simone's exquisite look. "Fleur went above and beyond; she jumped in the car and hand-delivered the bouquets to Phillip Island to make sure they looked beautiful – and they did," Simone said.

An interior stylist, Simone sourced everything from hay bales to bunting, ceramics, a hammock and heart-shaped blackboards for the reception at Sunset Hill. Her dad helped to set up a gallery wall of photographs, while Rhys' mother and a florist friend arranged flowers fresh from the markets.

Award-winning boutique caterer Ed Dixon Food Design supplied the delicious food for both the celebratory dinner and a recovery breakfast the following day. "Dinner was a 'gourmet posh BBQ', said Simone. "All our guests just raved about it!"

The Beatles' classic 'All You Need Is Love' filled the air as the newlyweds said their goodbyes beneath the light of a full moon. Earlier in the night, during his speech, Rhys said: "a wise person once said that if you have to invite your best friend to your wedding, you are marrying the wrong girl". The guests were happy to play second best on this occasion, each receiving a painted tin potted with herbs as a keepsake, with a swing tag that read: "Thanks for making our wedding such a great thyme".

THESE PAGES Simone and Rhys' first dance was to an acoustic version of 'Miles Away' by Years Around the Sun. "I had been asking Rhys for a while if there was a special song he wanted to dance to and nothing seemed to come to mind," said Simone. "One night he was browsing one of his favourite blogs and this song was the soundtrack. We both knew that with lyrics "there's no place on earth I'd rather be", it was perfect." "When we danced, the festoon lights above the dance floor were swaying in the breeze and it was such a special moment that it makes my heart hurt when I hear the song."



*Menu*  
Ed Dixon Food Design  
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**CANAPÉS**  
Crisp parmesan wafer with green apple, endive and walnut salad  
Star pea-leaf and prawn dumpling, star anise and shoyu dressing  
Foie gras and black pepper macaron with black volcanic sea salt  
**BARBECUE PLATTERS**  
Cracked Pepper porterhouse steaks, house tomato relish  
Baby fennel, pecorino, parsley pangrattato  
Mexican Portobello mushrooms with chilli butter, parmesan  
Mt Leura lamb cutlet, mint and garlic labne  
Skewered Australian king prawn cutlets and salsa fresco  
**DESSERT**  
Wedding cake served with double cream and summer berries  
**SUPPER**  
Silver dollar cheese burgers with tomato relish, pickle and aioli



THESE PAGES Ed Dixon Food Design encourages couples to create a menu based on what they like to eat. "Our brief from Simone and Rhys was to bring the informality and style of Sunset Hill to the menu," said Ed Thompson. "We ensured the offering was reminiscent of a large shared family feast, whilst still being beautifully styled and served. Our barbeque menu works especially well and is fun and informal."



*simone's little bride's book*

GOWN: Caroline Seikaly, [carolineseikaly.com](http://carolineseikaly.com)  
 PHOTOGRAPHER: Goldsmith & Co., [goldsmithandco.com.au](http://goldsmithandco.com.au)  
 RECEPTION VENUE: Sunset Hill, Phillip Island. Available through Ed Dixon Food Design, [eddixonfooddesign.com](http://eddixonfooddesign.com)  
 RECEPTION CATERER: Ed Dixon Food Design, [eddixonfooddesign.com](http://eddixonfooddesign.com)  
 SHOES: Versace from [net-a-porter.com](http://net-a-porter.com)  
 GROOM'S ATTIRE: Ralph Lauren, Zegna  
 BRIDAL ACCESSORIES: Lara Bohinc Rose gold cuff from Grace, [gracemelbourne.com](http://gracemelbourne.com)  
 CEREMONY FLOWERS, BOUQUETS, WREATHS: Fleur, [fleurs.com.au](http://fleurs.com.au)  
 STATIONERY: Blackbird Letterpress  
 CAKE: Addicted to Cake  
 GIFT REGISTRY: My Wedding Registry, [myweddingregistry.com](http://myweddingregistry.com)  
 HONEYMOON: Nihiwatu Resort, Sumba, Indonesia  
 ADDITIONAL SUPPLIERS: Kristen Hyder – stylist. Scott Round – signage. Event Company – The Greatest Show On Earth