

Media Release - 4th May, 2023

SAY 'I DO' AT THE BALLARAT MARRIAGE REGISTRY

Ballarat Marriage Registry is now offering an affordable elopement marriage service to Ballarat Locals & Regional Victorians.

The Ballarat Marriage Registry initially launched in March 2020 as many couples were being forced to downsize their marriage celebrations due to the onset of COVID19. This made the Ballarat Marriage Registry Micro Wedding package options an extremely popular alternative for couples, and they continue to be very popular even now. As the economic landscape proves challenging for many, it is apparent that many couples are searching for a more budget friendly intimate marriage experience.

In response, Founder of the Ballarat Wedding Collective online wedding directory and long-time experienced Marriage Celebrant Kate Ritchie-Sexton took up the opportunity to collaborate with her sister Jo Powell, Director of 3 Pea's Property Styling, the stylist behind Golden Point's beautiful, historic short-term accommodation, Llanfyllin House. Together they have created a new home for the Ballarat Marriage Registry's Elopement services to cater for Ballarat locals and regional Victorian couples wanting an intimate Elopement style marriage ceremony.

"Instead of travelling to Melbourne which has been the case for decades, our local and regional couples now have this opportunity available to them in beautiful Ballarat, providing them a romantic meaningful marriage ceremony, without sacrificing on the ambience of the location," she said.

"Couples also have the option to choose to spend their Wedding night at the romantic Llanfyllin House, perhaps enjoy a celebratory dinner at one of Ballarat's first-class restaurants, or they might choose to travel home to celebrate with family and friends. A very popular option with several of our Couples is heading straight to the airport for their honeymoon!"

Kate said that since opening for Elopement bookings in early March 2023, she had been overwhelmed by the response.

"Couples of all ages are really embracing the concept of affordable intimate elopement marriages, we have couples with young families right through to more senior couples who have been together for decades."

Initially the registry marriage service will be offered one Wednesday per month, the first marriages were held on April 26, which was a huge success.

"Bookings have been steady and consistent – with an encouraging initial uptake for April and now May having booked out – Jo and I will look to open more dates as demand increases. It's an exciting time, it is always an honour to assist with marriage ceremonies and it is wonderful to extend our service to Couples who choose to share a meaningful intimate registry styled marriage in the company of up to 8 guests, in a setting steeped in history and romance."

Appointments for weddings are still available on June 14, July 19, August 16, September 13, October 18, November 15, and December 20, however there is some flexibility to accommodate other weekdays if needed.



Sisters: Marriage Celebrant Kate Ritchie-Sexton & Jo Powell of 3 Pea's Property Styling 'Llanfyllin House' have joined forces to establish the Ballarat Marriage Registry – Regional Elopement Marriage services. Photo: Jett Leduc.