

WA WEDDING

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venues & services



WA's Ultimate Guide To Wedding Venues & Services



Destination Weddings

Further Afield

Let the romance sweep you away...

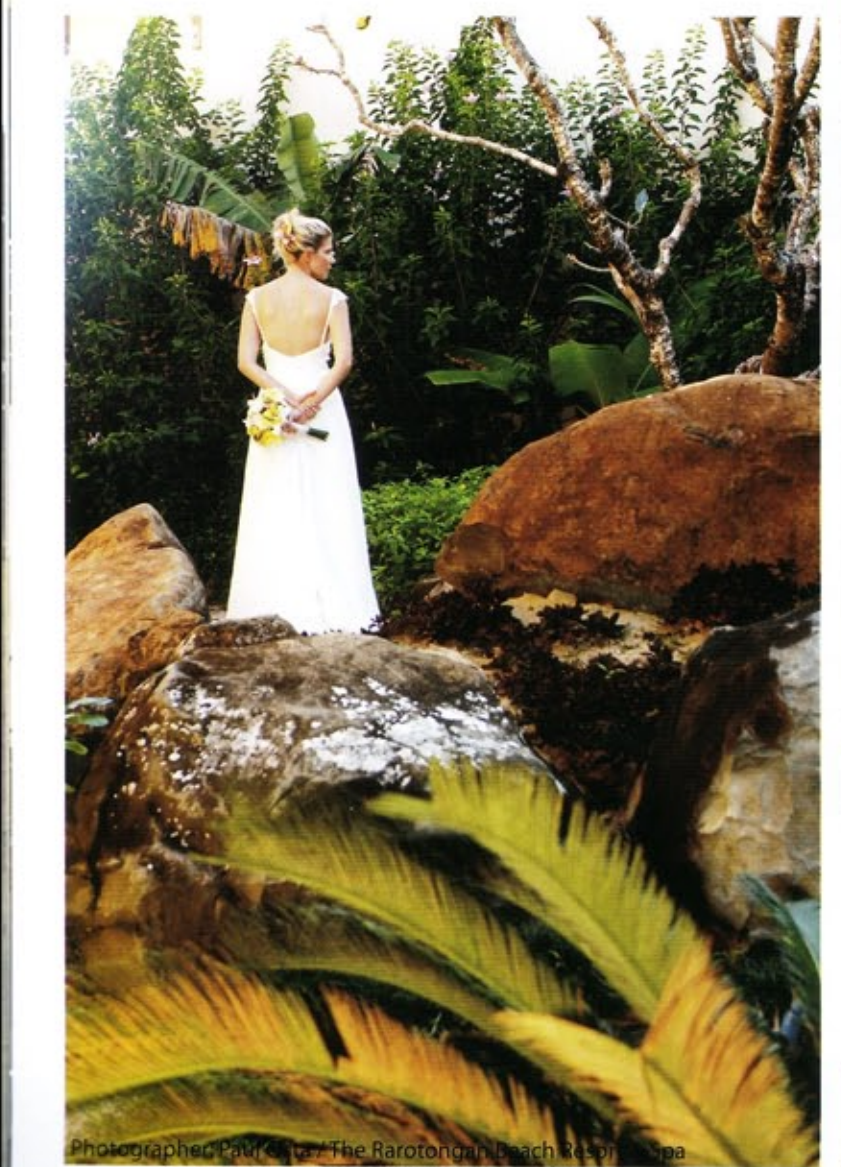
Why not get caught up in the romance of your wedding and choose a location that takes you a little further afield?

Sometimes leaving the familiar behind and "getting away from it all" is what it takes to achieve the relaxed, romantic, carefree event that you may want for your wedding, and perhaps your guests would appreciate not only sharing in your special day, but also a good excuse for a holiday and some relaxing time off from their everyday routine!

Deciding on a wedding venue that involves this much travel is not a light decision and will need a great deal of thought and preparation, although if this is what you want, it will certainly be worth your while. You can also make your planning a lot easier by contacting the wedding co-ordinator at your destination wedding venue and working together to plan the perfect event.

Things to consider when choosing a destination wedding:

- 1) How will you and your guests get to the location?
- 2) Is it worth booking pre-wedding accommodation to allow time for yourself and your guests to settle in?
- 3) Can guests travel together to save on costs?
- 4) Will you travel to another destination for your honeymoon or perhaps enjoy your guests company over a longer period of "celebrations"?

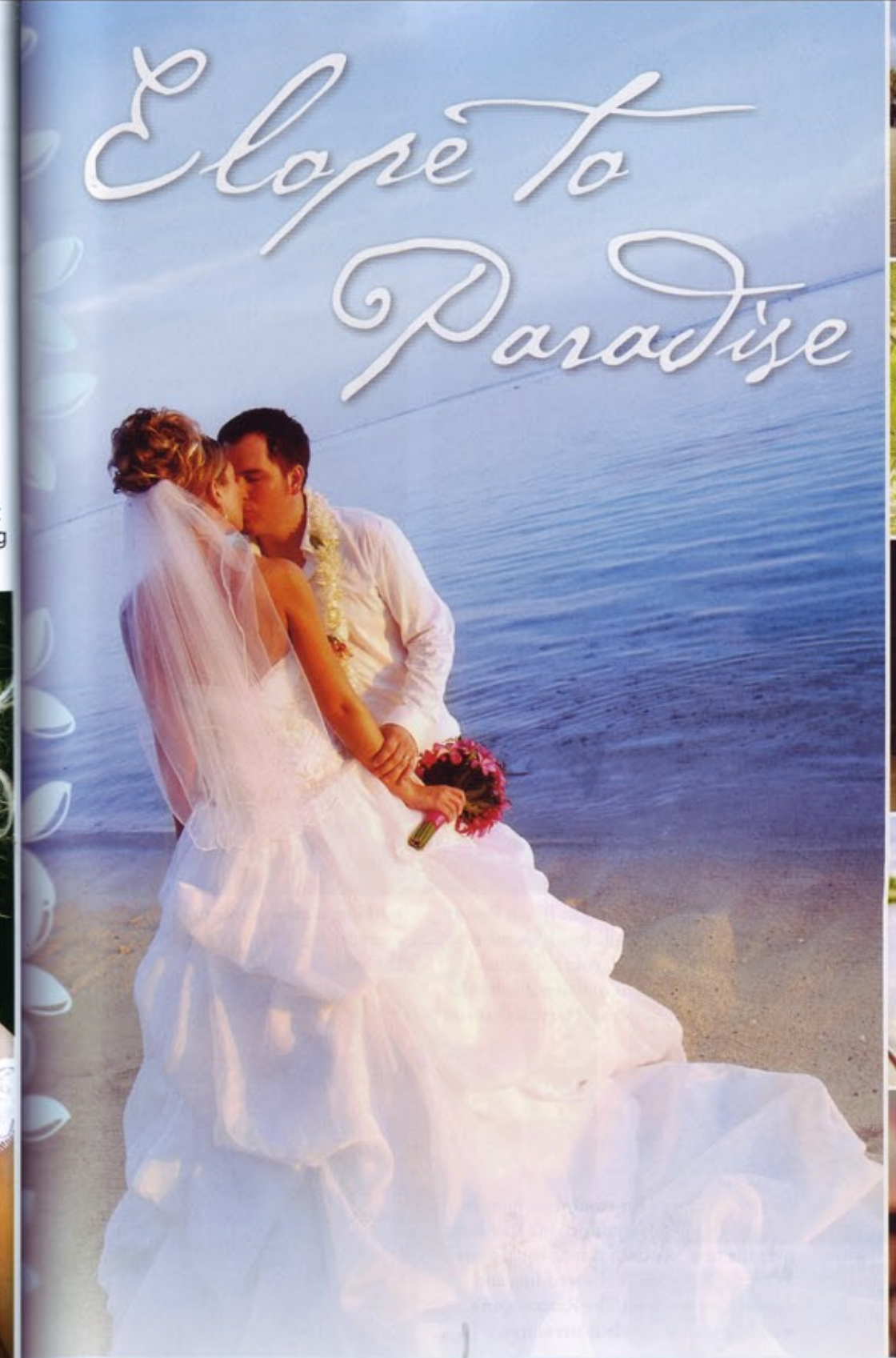


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Real Life Destination Wedding

TIM WALKER + SONJA MCGRATH

1. How did you first meet? Describe the proposal.
We first met at a friend's birthday party. When he proposed it was on the beach at the end of our street on Christmas Day!
2. Why the Cook Islands for your destination wedding?
We both have a love of travel and wanted to do something different. After seeing the Cook Islands on television this got us thinking, and it was also recommended to us by friends.
3. What was the reaction like from your family and friends?
Our family were extremely happy. Many members of our family had never travelled overseas, but even those who had were going on a holiday they would probably not have taken otherwise.
4. What style of wedding did you decide on, and why?
The name of our wedding was 'Taputou', which means 'The Promise'. This style of wedding at The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa suited the simple beach theme that we had always wanted. And the actual cost of the wedding is unbelievable for the quality of preparation and service that you receive.
5. How long did it take to plan? Who organized the bulk of the wedding details and was it stressful?
We were engaged for around six months but the wedding planning didn't take long over the net. We both played equal parts in the organisation of the wedding and the help we got from The Rarotongan's wedding planner made it stress free.
6. Describe any special, personal touches/details you chose to include.
We both wanted an island string band to play at the wedding, and we also wanted to have it at sunset. The tropical sunset was amazing, and the relaxed attire made it comfortable for our 15 guests. A special mention should go to Marian Gosselin, our Personal Wedding Planner at The Rarotongan, who organized things perfectly.
7. Anything you would have done differently?
No way. It could not have been more perfect.
8. The best part of a destination wedding?
Although we both love home, Rarotonga is simply stunning. Everyone we shared our wedding with was able to forget about their everyday life and just relax on an island in the sun.
9. Any advice for couples planning a similar wedding?
Just do it. You will not regret it.
10. What is your most special/memorable moment of the day?
Sitting together on the beach as a married couple watching the sunset. Perfect.



Fact File:
The Couple: Sonja (nee McGrath) & Timothy Walker
Wedding Day: 6 July 2007
Wedding Ceremony Location: Aroa Beach at The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa, where we also stayed
Wedding Reception Venue: Blue Lagoon Marquee overlooking Aro'a Lagoon, the Lagoon of Love, at The Rarotongan
Photographer: Paul Osta



Villa for a King & his Queen

A jewel in the crown of the superb new private pool villa collection, Villas of the South Seas, is the exclusive Villa Te Arau ~ Royal Honeymoon Pool Villa, a secluded retreat fit for a king and his queen, right in the heart of the South Pacific.

A delightful journey of just two minutes by small private ferry from the main island of Aitutaki, Cook Islands, takes you to Aitutaki's only private pool villa, set on the magical private island of Motu Akitua. Here, directly on the world's most beautiful lagoon, Aitutaki Lagoon, you can gasp at breathtaking views as your toes dig into the warm champagne sands, the balmy air perfumed with frangipani.

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Named in honour of the favourite wife of legendary Polynesian navigator Ru, Villa Te Arau is designed for luxurious tropical living and features a draped 4-poster super-king bed, iPod + Bose sound dock, flat-screen TV + movies, DVD/CD player, air-conditioning and ensuite with glorious open-air rainshower lined with white coral. The private pool is flanked by a hydrotherapy spa and daybed pavilion, and a separate third pavilion houses the designer kitchen with indoor / outdoor dining.

Guests of Villa Te Arau can also access the services of SpaPolynesia Aitutaki, Flying Boat Beach Bar & Grill, tour desk, gift shop and complimentary snorkelling, fish feeding, outrigger canoeing, windsurfing, bicycles and hura (hula) lessons at The Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa.

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