

Vicky & Neil

*M*any people head abroad to get married, but Vicky Smith and Dougal Guppy did it the other way round.

The couple had moved to Australia in February, 2005 but they flew back to celebrate their big day with all their friends and family in England.

'We decided that although a beach wedding would be fab, we wanted to have as many friends and family there as we could so we decided it would be best to have our wedding back in the UK,' said Vicky.

'Having all our loved ones and friends in one room was great and to share our special day with many we hadn't seen for a long while was amazing.'

Vicky, who grew up in Fareham, and Dougal (who's real name is Neil but is known to family and friends by his nickname) were helped with the organisation of the wedding by their parents – Clive and Lynda Smith and Richard and Christine Guppy.

The couple, both aged 30, were married at St Peter and St Paul Church, Fareham and held their reception at the Royal Marines Museum in Southsea.

Vicky said: 'Our family, bridesmaids, best man and ushers gave us plenty of support to help steady our nerves and help the day run like clockwork. My dad being a Naval Commander even got me to the church three minutes early!'

The couple found the reception venue online. Vicky's mum and dad went to see the museum and it was decided that it was the perfect venue – particularly as Vicky's great grandfather had actually lived and served at the marine barracks in Eastney.

The couple also visited six months before the wedding to help finalise the plans.

Vicky said: 'Planning a wedding from overseas could have been difficult but thanks to our parents doing the majority of the wedding planning (they booked the venues, cars, caterers, photographers, hotel and went to numerous wedding fairs) and also Zeenat's (the RMM wedding coordinator) expertise in planning the reception, it was made a lot easier.'

After a great day Vicky, an intensive care nurse at Sydney Children's Hospital, and Dougal, an IT contractor, had a great honeymoon in Italy.

*Pictures: Roger Eldridge Photography
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Featured wedding

