

Jacqui, who obviously loves her work very much, is thrilled when it all works out. "I love hearing that the efforts I put into making each wedding unique and personal to the couple actually pay off. There is no point in pushing a venue that you know would not work within their idea of a magical wedding - just because I like it. Every wedding I have had the pleasure of working on has been different and although I make suggestions and will guide the couple, the ultimate decision is theirs - after all it is their wedding! All I do is take their ideas and make them happen. I have a good network of wedding suppliers and create a team specific to the needs of the couple - that's the role I play as a wedding planner."

Kirsten and Steve's Malta wedding was not the end of their celebrations. They had a big 'Newlywed Party' on 1 September on the 9 acres of property they recently purchased.

"It was so much fun; an outdoor shindig with music, food, beer, wine, dancing and a lot of great conversation. We had about 70 family and friends join us - people attended from the local area, as well as from southern California and out of state (Tennessee, Colorado, Washington, Utah, and Illinois)!"

We will be building a house on the land next year, so there is no plumbing or electricity on the site yet. We had to rent portable toilets and set up a generator for the stereo and other electrical appliances. We also got a good deal on purchasing a dance floor a few months ago, so we had an 18 foot by 18 foot dance floor set up under the oak trees. In the middle of the dance floor, there was an opening in the tree canopy, where we could watch the stars. It was a lot of work setting it up, but it was totally worth it! About 20-30 guests camped out on our land that night."

For a couple that loves the great outdoors, they could not have chosen a more appropriate way to celebrate with family and friends.



(from left to right) – Brian, Elizabeth Correia (*Kirsten's aunt*), Steve, me, Mom, and Cheryl Benson (*Kirsten's cousin*)



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK CASSAR