

## THE WEDDING DAY

Leah Wark and Michael Penny  
Married at Kewarra Beach Resort

**THE DRESS:** White sleeveless gown with feather fascinator

**THE FLOWERS:** Golden yellow orchids from Singapore

**THE HONEYMOON:** Sydney, Cairns, Port Douglas

**A sandy beach surrounded by tropical palms was the perfect setting for the reaffirmation of wedding vows between Leah and Michael. The couple married in Houston, Texas a week before flying to Cairns, Northern Queensland to reaffirm their vows in front of family and friends.**

"Michael's parents and family all live in Australia so we wanted to make sure both sets of parents were able to be part of our wedding day that is why we decided to have a wedding in both America and Australia", said Leah.

Leah, 28, and Michael, 35, had been together for 2½ years before their marriage. They met in school where Leah was studying English Literature and Michael Creative Writing and Media Studies. "It only took a couple of months for us to fall madly in love", said Leah.

The romantic proposal happened on an Alaskan Cruise. "Michael proposed on bended knee", Leah said. "I had it all planned", said Michael. "I invited my parents to fly from Australia to join us on the cruise as Leah's parents had already agreed to come with us. After the proposal, we celebrated our engagement on the cruise ship with our parents".

Leah was escorted to the beach ceremony by her uncle, Quentin Ballard as The Proclaimers song I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles) played in the background. Her cousin Hannah Ballard was bridesmaid and wore a golden yellow dress. Geoff Pinnock was Michael's best man. Michael's niece, Mylana Penny was flower girl and scattered rose petals along the sandy path.

The couple danced to Eternal Flame by the Bangles at an intimate reception for 19 guests on the lawns of the resort under a starry sky.

The menu included an entree of crab stacks or gourmet pizza and mains of either dukkah crusted barramundi or char grilled eye fillet with green onion mash. Dessert was the couple's two tiered wedding mud cake in a choice of white or dark chocolate.

Leah is the daughter of Steve and Lollie Wark of Houston, Texas and Michael's parents are Ray and Helena Penny of Salisbury Heights, South Australia.



## BROTHERS IN ARMS...



No, they're not the 3 Tenors or the 3 Musketeers – they are the 3 PENNY brothers! Andrew 31 (left), Michael 35 and Shane 37 haven't been together for at

least 4 years and the wedding was a great occasion to get the whole Penny clan together again. "Not only was it a great time to catch up with my brothers, I also saw Shane and Samantha's 6 month old son Jonah for the first time and couldn't believe that Andrew and Iryna's daughter Mylana, who was a baby when I first saw her, is now 5 years old!" Michael said.

## THE WEDDING GUESTS



Michael and Leah's wedding guests arrived from interstate and overseas. Leah's uncle and auntie, Quentin and Ellen Ballard, cousins Hannah and Sam Ballard arrived from Houston, Texas. Michael's university friend and best man, Geoff Pinnock flew from Rome, Italy to be best man at the couple's wedding in Houston, then travelled to Cairns to do his duty as best man again at the reaffirmation ceremony. Now that's true friendship, Geoff! Michael's Mum and Dad, brother Andrew, Ira and Mylana arrived from Adelaide, South Australia. Shane and Samantha with baby Jonah flew in from Darwin, Northern Territory.

Also attending was Michael's uncle and cousin, Meron and Melissa Hafyn, and family friends Bryan and Marie Kowalchuk, all from Adelaide, South Australia.

The guests agreed it was a great idea to have the wedding in Cairns as that gave them an opportunity of being tourists and taking in all the attractions on offer such as scuba diving and snorkelling on Green Island and the Great Barrier Reef.

**THE LAST WORD: Our wedding gift to you. Hope you enjoy it!  
Best wishes from Bryan and Marie.**