

The first HEAP Wedding



The wedding day was so exciting, getting all glammed up with hair and makeup done for us and Steve preparing a feast for lunch. The wedding was held at Villa Antonia, in the heart of the Texas hill country. Once an Italian inspired private home, now it's used exclusively for private events. The views, architecture and special spaces made it a favourite for photo ops. Isaac (Dylans brother) was the marriage celebrant and brought humour, kiwi culture, laughter, emotion and stage presence to the ceremony. He made it personal; he told a story of love and friendship and the importance of family.

Connor was a groomsman, along with Dylans best friend, Dusty, from school and US tennis friends.



Thought I'd write a different article this month. For most of May, Steve and I have been in Austin Texas, celebrating the wedding of our middle son Dylan to Alexandra. I have been so excited, obviously for our first family wedding, but also to have all my boys together for a week of festivities and for two families to come together (Alex's Mexican family and us Kiwis) to celebrate this fantastic couple's marriage.

We headed to Austin where we hired a huge house on a Texan ranch for 6 days, that could fit our whole family comfortably. It was remotely situated but had everything to keep us entertained and relaxed. This mansion was equipped with a huge pool and outdoor area with spa, BBQ and TV. We had a full-blown movie theatre, pool table, full gym set up and roof top balcony to watch the sunsets.

The NZL contingent consisted of both our sisters, Jo and Kate, and their husbands. My best friend travelled from Germany to celebrate with us all. Dylans-81-year old gran travelled 12, 238km to see her first grandchild marry

The wildlife was crazy different - tarantulas, raccoons, buzzards, bats and many more. Was hoping to see an armadillo but sadly didn't.

Got to feed a few Texan Longhorn cattle. Unbelievably we found oyster shells as this hilly ranch was once under the sea.

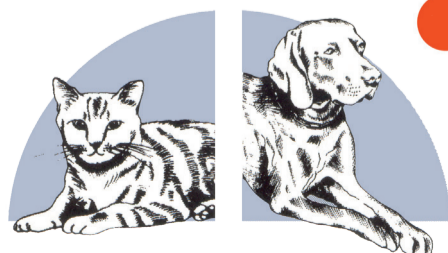
Our days were filled with trips to Austin shopping, supermarket runs, ranch walks, swims and reading relaxing around the pool. Steve and Kate were typically on cooking duties. Steve took all the groomsmen on a boat ride and we attended a rehearsal dinner where we got to know all the family and wedding party.

Steve hired a monster Chevrolet Suburban to ferry us all over Austin. Steve is a master at driving on the right-hand side of the road, and this vehicle was a beast. Had a near catastrophe on the Houston motorway, when Kate commented how loud it was sitting in the back, and then we all noticed the boot was up. Could have lost all our luggage early on in the trip. We luckily escaped disaster.

The week of wedding celebrations was fantastic from start to finish. The newlyweds honeymooned in Mexico and Steve, Isaac and I went on a cycling holiday. Connor had to return to vetting in Geelong and get stuck into study for his Australian Veterinary Membership exams (Surgery) early June. The only hiccup was the fact Isaac bought a Melbourne flu with him and systematically infected almost all of the kiwis in stages.

A huge shout out to the MMH team who held the fort and continued to look after patients in our absence. Thanks to Dr Jack especially, who offered his Ophthalmology services while Steve was away. Jack also looked after Macy. She was mighty pleased to see me on our return.

Dr Michele McMaster



BESTPRACTICE
New Zealand Veterinary Association
ACCREDITED CLINIC

McMASTER & HEAP
VETERINARY PRACTICE



OPEN 7 DAYS Cnr Hoon Hay & Coppell Place. Ph: 338 2534
E. reception@mcmasterandheap.co.nz www.mcmasterheap.co.nz