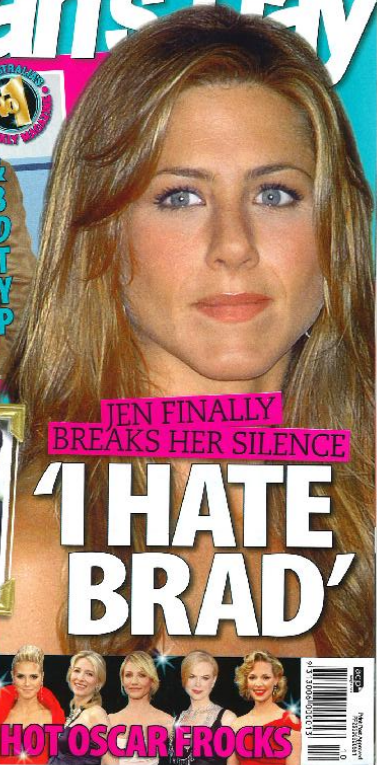


NICOLE RICCHIE 'MEET MY NEW BABY GIRL'

MARCH 19, 2008 \$4.99
Woman's Day



BRAD & ANGELINA SNUB JEN ... AND FLAUNT BABY BUMP



JEN FINALLY BREAKS HER SILENCE

'I HATE BRAD'



SEA PATROL STAR
'MY DREAM WEDDING'



PRAM TRAGEDY
MUM'S NEW BABY JOY
'THE LITTLE GIRL HEALING MY HEART'



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FROM A CHOCOLATE MILKSHAKE DATE TO A CHOCOLATE WEDDING AFTER-PARTY EIGHT YEARS ON, ACTORS SASKIA AND JAMIE HAVE HAD ONE SWEET ROMANCE

Saskia's BIG DAY



The first time *Sea Patrol* star Saskia Burmeister set eyes on actor Jamie Croft, she fell instantly in love. He was on screen in a darkened cinema. She was only 14, but somehow sensed he was destined to be someone special in her life.

The following year they met in person at a movie audition. Saskia didn't get the role of Jamie's sibling – perhaps because she "just smelled" in a rather unsisterly style when they hugged.

But fate soon came to the rescue. Playing girlfriend and boyfriend in another film, *The Pact*, real life imitated art



Saskia and Jamie started dating over chocolate milkshakes. "As soon as we set eyes on each other it happened; the stars aligned," smiles Saskia, who plays Lieutenant Nikki "Nav" Stanton in Nine's top-rating 7am drama series. "Jamie has always been the love of my life."

FEEL VERY LUCKY

Forward eight years from their introduction, and the happy couple have a last-hiccup moment and Jamie Croft — calling "lights, camera, action!" for a comedic, fun-filled, stylish wedding on May 17.

"I know we're young," the 25-year-old bride, just turned 25, says. "We're very sure that we are going to be known to each other for ever, not in a bad way! We never did of each other," she says. "We were local cockaburras and had joyfully when Saskia and Jamie tied the knot in front of their shipmates Lisa Anne, Ian Stenlake, John McEoy, Matt Holmes, David Lewis, Kristian Schmid, Jay Ryan,

Jeremy Lindsay Taylor and newcomer Kirsty Lee Allen.

Only three days after Valentine's Day — and five days after the bride's birthday — the intimate ceremony at Sydney's historic Archol Hall marked the grand finale of a week-long celebration for the beaming newlyweds.

AS SOON AS WE SET EYES ON EACH OTHER, THE STARS ALIGNED

"Hey, I've signed myself up for three presents in a week for the rest of our lives, which is good because I'll never forget our anniversary," jokes Jamie, 26, who virtually grew up on television in *A Country Practice* and later won an AFI Award for his work on film in *That Eye, The Sky*.

"From the moment I saw Saskia, I thought she was cute. There wasn't a lot of acting required to play boy and girlfriend, but we kept researching our roles! It's been eight years now and I feel very lucky."

He was even luckier when threatened rain held off, allowing the pair's outdoor wedding to go



▶▶ The happy couple (top), with groom in funky footwear; and with best man Josh (right), groomsman Adam and bridesmaids (from left) Sonia, Saskia's sister Martika, Athena, and Jamie's sister Rebecca.



►► Saskia with her Sea Patrol castmates. Left: Jamie with Josh and TV gardener Brendan Moor. Below left: The happy bride with Lisa McCune and Jeremy Lindsay Taylor.



ahead as planned, on a lush green lawn with panoramic views of Sydney Harbour and surrounding bushland. Watery sun even tried to shine as the beautiful bride stepped from a black Mercedes and followed her bridesmaids – Rebecca Carr, Mariika Sullivan, Athena Maroulis and Sonia Bennett – down a rose-petal path to her groom. Saskia looked stunning in a vintage 1950s cocktail gown with three-quarter lace sleeves and a bell skirt, accessorised with gold shoes, a veil and borrowed Bulgari earrings worth more than \$100,000, which came with their own security guard! "I found the dress in

Los Angeles and sort of looked at it and thought, 'Just try it on for fun'. I zipped it up and it fitted like a glove, so I grabbed it," she concluded. "I told myself, 'It can't be that easy. Not the first thing you tried on!'"

A PLACE TO GROW

"So I shipped it back to Australia and then tried on about a dozen different gowns, but I kept going back to this dress because it's unique and classy and young and fun – very Audrey Hepburn – which is what we wanted our wedding to be."

It was a far cry from Sea Patrol's drab grey overalls as Saskia waltzed across the grass with both her fathers, photographer Carsten Burmeister and stepfather Mark Sullivan, before being given away by her elegant mother Leesa Murray.

She was greeted with a giant hug from boyish Jamie, who had arrived in an open-topped 1965 red Mustang with groomsman Adam Cosh, and best man Josh

Quong Tart, of *All Saints* fame. And then it was time for the formalities, conducted by celebrant Susie Higgin, who told the happy couple, "Marriage is not expecting your husband to wear a hat, or your wife a pair of wings. It is giving each other a place to grow!"

Wild rabbits came out to play on the lawn, chased by a tiny wedding guest too excited to sit still. Jamie's parents, Tony and Helen, looked proud. A flock of cockatoos flew by, smirking.

I FOUND THE DRESS AND THOUGHT "JUST TRY IT ON FOR FUN"

Meanwhile the rings were passed around to be "energised" by family and friends – once the panic-stricken best man had fumbled to find them in his pocket!

There was a traditional Celtic hand-fast ceremony, binding the couple together with ribbons to symbolise hopes for their life together and "the union of two hearts, two lives and two souls".

There was loud laughter when Jamie fuffed his vows and quipped, "I said I would forget my lines." There were more chuckles as Saskia struggled to get the ring



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or her finger. There were a few tears from the emotional groom.

And then, after eight years, Jamie and Saskia finally became man and wife, accompanied by loud cheers, a piercing whistle from best man Josh, and the Bloodwood String Quartet.

Introduced to their guests for the first time as "Mr and Mrs Jamie and Saskia Croft", the newlyweds were showered with white rose petals, before dancing through and around the crowd in sheer delight.

Down on the darkening harbour, a passing pleasure boat blared music across the water – appropriately enough, the Ben F. King soul classic *Stand By Me*.

It was everything Jamie had dreamt of since staging his lavish proposal on Christmas Day 2006 over champagne and Saskia's favourite breakfast foods, strawberries, fresh dates, egg-white omelette and Lindt chocolates, in a beachside gazebo.

"It was unbelievable and beyond anything I ever expected," she softly recalled. "Jamie handed me a big Santa stocking full of presents, and the last one was a little black box beautifully wrapped by his mum."

"I lifted the lid and it was my engagement ring, I was speechless. Jamie got down on one knee and asked me to marry him and of course I said yes. We kissed and hugged and looked at the ring and the rest is a blur ..."

"But I remember we wrote in the sand, 'We are engaged', before going back to the beach house to tell my family, who were all in on the secret, of course."

Back at the wedding reception in Athol Hall, the menu included roast beef or blue-eye cod, along with wines selected by *Sea Patrol* producers Hal and Di McIlroy.

Following a welcome from onces Robert Carne, Saskia's mother drew tears with moving words in which she told how she dreamt of flying alongside a beautiful daughter "with eyes as

blue as the sky" before falling pregnant with Saskia.

And then it was a funny, heartfelt double act from the newlyweds, who took turns to speak as they cut their lavish strawberry and chocolate mousse wedding cakes from La Renaissance patisserie.

"Mum, I couldn't have done this without you," said Saskia. "Even up in two weeks ago I said to Jamie, 'Look honey, there's still time to elope!' but I'm so glad we didn't, because the memory of walking down the aisle with my parents holding my hand is something I will cherish for ever."

LOVE STORIES

"And I'd like to thank everyone from *Sea Patrol*, because you guys put up with the wedding planning process over the past six months, with bridal magazines spread out all over the boat and constant conversation – well, more of a monologue – about table



runners and flowers and food and wine. Thank you so much for being there for me."

With that, she kissed her husband again, tossed her bouquet into the air and disappeared out the door with Jamie, heading for a strawberries and chocolate after-party with guests.

"For the last eight years he has always been there, and always been the love of my life," Saskia smiled. "It's a sweet story that we will be able to tell our kids. But it's our goal, before we start a family, to produce our first feature film together."

BY JENNY BROWN

► *Sea Patrol II The Coup* returns in April on the Nine Network.