

THANK YOU

VOLUNTEER NEWS & WELLNESS

EDITION 5, SEPTEMBER 2022



CAFÉ

TO REMAIN OPEN

Nurturing
connection
through care.

MODEL OF CARE

Our new website has launched, please check it out! www.bloomhill.com.au

BRAND ROLLOUT UPDATE

BY MARKETING LEAD GEORGIE BIRD

Since the end of February there have been changes across all of our sites as a result of the new branding rollout. You may have noticed new signage at our op shops for example.

We have had really great feedback on how fresh our stores look and how much more our signs stand out to visitors finding our Wellness Centre on Ballinger Rd for the first time. We will continue to transition the old branding out and should it still be visible anywhere, please let me know so we can make arrangements to update this.

One project that has been happening in the background and we are excited we can finally share with you, is our brand-new website, launched on Tuesday 26th July. It has the same URL: www.bloomhill.com.au. We invite you to take a look at the new Bloomhill website,

here for generations to come, and let us any feedback from your experience as a valued volunteer. We aim for it to make information more accessible to our clients, supporters and wider community.

The next step with our website is to launch our resource library, an online dedicated space where our clients can access information when they need it. This library will function as a search engine (similar to Google) displaying resources for living well with cancer from across our website and external sites that have been preapproved by our care team.

Should you have any queries about our branding, marketing or our new website, please do not hesitate to reach out. You can contact me here: georgie.bird@bloomhill.com.au.

The completion of these projects

have taken a team of people, who have been pivotal in the success of both the branding rollout and the website development. Our sincere thank you must go the following local businesses:

- Dawn Design Studio, partners in bringing our new branding concept to life.
- JPG Signs who rebranded our car fleet and gave them a fresh look. One of our trucks has recently been rebrand and you should see the fresh look traveling across the coast.
- North Coast Signs who looked after revamping all of our sites with new signage.
- J Demos Painting who gave some of our stores a fresh coat of paint.
- Thank you Express Print and Mail and Push Productions for all of new printing collateral.

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Cover Image: Cafe team overjoyed that it will remain open into the future. Photo by Nicky Moffat.

Contributors: Christopher John, Georgie Bird, Holly Bicknell, Tessa Biddles, Jan Richards and Nicky Moffat.

Letters welcome! Please email your feedback, news, recipe, photos or comments to Nicky or post to us.

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THANK YOU



CHRISTOPHER JOHN

Chief Executive Officer

Hello valued volunteers, Thank you so much for everything you do. I'm humbled and honoured to be part of this community Bloomhill has created around supporting those touched by cancer. I want to acknowledge the immensely important role each of you play in enabling our brilliant cancer care charity to help hundreds of people every month to live well with cancer. It is going from strength to strength, and it's much to your credit.

While each person is unique, I believe an ethic of giving, being part of a team, and getting the job done is shared by all Bloomhill volunteers. It's incredible how far above and beyond you have gone in very trying times brought on by the COVID-19 virus, for example.

I've never known volunteers who belong as strongly as those who choose to volunteer at Bloomhill. Whether you are in an op shop or Montville Marketplace, help at fundraising events, clean and maintain our centre or gardens, or work in our jewellery team or client transport service, thank you! From the bottom of my heart and on behalf of our entire care team, retail and support teams, you are our inspiration and your generosity and dedication are truly valued.

With respect and kindness,

Christopher

HELLO BEAUTIFUL VOLUNTEERS



NICKY MOFFAT

Editor

It's been a little longer between editions than anticipated –sorry! We had some health challenges in our editorial team, and comms support was needed in care services and fundraising for the last few months. I hope you agree once you have perused these pages that it's been worth the wait.

In this edition we celebrate with Gail, Pam, Val and others as they are recognised for their longterm volunteering contributions (see page 8). We learn the latest from the fundraising team (page 4) and plans for the wellness centre's renovation and café open days (page 5). We learn why driver Judith still loves her role, 15 years after first joining the transport team (page 6). And we enjoy the beautiful love story of Brock and Gabby, who met through working with Bloomhill and recently married (page 12).

I'd like to acknowledge the hard work of volunteer journalist Jan Richards, without whom this publication would not be possible. You are a treasure, Jan.

Please grab a cuppa and settle in for a good read. We hope you enjoy, and as always we love your story ideas and feedback, so please keep it coming!

Most of the stories in this magazine are also on our new look website www.bloomhill.com.au, so please jump on and share any you like on social media, if that's your style! It helps get the word out to people who may join us every time people post about Bloomhill.

Nicky

CONTENTS



5 | Café



6 | Transport



8 | Op Shops



12 | Brock & Gabrielle

FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS UPDATE

BY TESSA BIDDLES, DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING LEAD

The past few months have been very busy for Bloomhill's fundraising and events team, with the Patron's Gala held on July 8 and our major Be There for Bloomhill fundraising campaign in June.

We are so pleased to let volunteers know that the Be There For Bloomhill campaign in June raised just over \$17,000 in both online and offline donations, and that our Patron Gala Event celebrating Bloomhill's 25th Birthday, held on 8th July at Mercedes-Benz Sunshine Coast raised a further \$74,000 to support those touched by cancer.

This brings the total amount raised to \$91,000!

We are super grateful for everyone who sponsored, donated and contributed to our Be There appeal and our recent Gala Event. It's only through generous support of our local community that we can provide the care services we do. We are so grateful for your support. Thank you for all who helped promote fundraising campaigns and events, it's been a successful few months and your help is hugely appreciated.

We are now turning our attention to developing partnerships with businesses, as we look at supporting the wellness centre's expansion as well as the core services we provide those touched by cancer for the next 12 months.

We have a number of 'ask packages' which Donations and Fundraising Lead Tessa Biddles has developed, and is using to facilitate ongoing corporate donations and partnerships.

An example in this area of work is the recent decision by IGA Marketplace Wises Road to continue donating \$25,500 to Bloomhill annually to support young families and young people impacted by cancer. This is now planned to be an ongoing annual donation from IGA Marketplace Wises Road, which also supports Bloomhill by enabling volunteers to conduct regular sausage sizzle fundraisers out the front of its store.

Bloomhill Lived Experience Ambassador Shelly Rankin recently visited the IGA to say thanks on Bloomhill's behalf, and was featured in a TV news segment by 7 News Sunshine Coast and in



My Weekly Preview free weekly magazine.

If you know people who run businesses and might be interested in hearing more about Bloomhill, please put them in touch!

In these challenging times, we all need to support our local businesses. Feedback we've had from business supporters is that their connection with local charities gives them exposure and reminds customers they have a big heart. Plus it's really fun to work together!

If you would like to connect with our fundraising and events team please email Tessa.biddles@bloomhill.com.au.



BLOOMHILL RAFFLE STALL AT SUNSHINE PLAZA. COME JOIN US!

Hello beautiful volunteers!

Sunshine Plaza is offering Bloomhill FREE community space to sell tickets for our Mercedes-Benz car raffle fundraiser.

The number of shoppers we would reach with this project is potentially huge, so I'm excited to be putting a team of volunteers together for it!

We are looking at running a stall selling raffle tickets at the Plaza on dates yet to be confirmed from September to November.

If you can help out, please email

me on: Tessa.Biddles@bloomhill.com.au. Please let me know your availability, including which days of the week work best for you.

Proceeds from this appeal go towards supporting nurses and therapists in delivering the care services we provide clients, families and carers.

If you are interested in helping us let other locals know about the excellent work Bloomhill does to support those touched by cancer, please get in touch.

Thank you! Tessa



'PEOPLE PERSON' PAM JOINS THE BLOOMHILL CAFÉ TEAM

Breast cancer survivor Pam Campbell is loving her volunteer work at Bloomhill's café, which provides a welcoming spot for clients to connect with each other, with family or friends.

Her own experience with breast cancer highlighted the importance of connecting with loved ones and allowing them to support her during the challenging time.

"I had breast cancer six years ago," Pam said.

"I had a lumpectomy and lymph node removal and radiation. I did think, 'Why me? I didn't win lotto, why do I have to win this!' I didn't know about Bloomhill at the time, but I was lucky I had friends and family and a lot of support."

After treatment Pam started art classes and paddled dragon boats for a while but had trouble committing to these self-care activities due to her husband Neil's illness. Then she found her own happy place – in a kayak!

"I had my daughters' backup to start in the kayak," she said. "It is still my happy place – the rhythm, breathing, it's serene on the river. I'm so totally on my own with my own thoughts it's my meditation time. I found my own means of self-care."

She said Bloomhill provided important supports that help people prioritise self-care.

Like many cancer survivors Pam said it has changed the way she looks at life.

"I've only had one call-back which was a shock, I had biopsies. I was waiting for other boot to drop, but it hasn't. Every day is a bonus. It has given me a wakeup call, I've done more new things in last few years."

Before she joined the café, Bloomhill had been on Pam's mind.

Read the story in full at www.bloomhill.com.au/news.

CAFÉ TO REMAIN OPEN



Cafe team Pam, Michael and Libby celebrate.

BY CHRISTOPHER JOHN

As many readers would know, we had planned to close the café at the end of August to enable commencement of renovations in September-October.

The renovation is a crucial part of our strategy for meeting the growing demand for cancer support we are experiencing as diagnoses continue to rise in our region.

Expanding the number of therapy rooms at the wellness centre will have a direct and tangible benefit on our ability to meet these needs, and also for the longterm financial sustainability of the organisation.

Last month (August) we received tenders for the project build and can report none of the vendors appear to be able to meet the planned timelines and budgeted costs we have for the renovation.

We are now carefully reviewing the detailed tender documents and considering options to progress the expansion to meet our objectives. We expect to have further decisions in coming weeks and months.

As a result, we are pleased our wonderful volunteers are keen to continue the café for three days a week, Tuesday to Thursday. Whilst the café had to close on a number of occasions in July and August due to volunteer shortages, and many clients have commented that the centre didn't feel the same without it.

So it will certainly be wonderful to have the café remain open for the foreseeable future.

If you or anyone you know would like to join our café volunteer team please get in touch with Joe by email: Joe.Surace@bloomhill.com.au

We understand many volunteers, staff, and supporters in the community care deeply about what happens to the café, and to our wellness centre expansion plans. I thank you for your support and your patience, and will update you as soon as we have any developments.



VOLUNTEER DRIVER JUDITH HAS A LION'S HEART

BY JAN RICHARDS

There are many things volunteer driver Judith Bidstrup cares deeply about but only her love of the Brisbane Lions is on par with what she feels for Bloomhill. Passion was in her voice when she spoke of clients she chauffeured to appointments during 15 years as a volunteer in Bloomhill's transport service.

She began volunteering for Bloomhill with her late husband, Len.

"We retired here in 2005 then settled my mother here," Judith said. "We met friends who do volunteer work and saw an ad saying Bloomhill was looking for

volunteers. We spoke to [former People Lead] Alex and straight away she signed us up.

"Len and I always worked together as a team. We did a lot of driving to Brisbane taking people to appointments. When they were long appointments we would take food and go to a park. We'd get the client to ring us half an hour before they would be ready to go."

Judith said that she and Len, who passed away in 2015 from leukaemia, wanted to volunteer with a company involved with cancer.

"I've had breast cancer. We wanted to support cancer care that's why we chose Bloomhill," Judith said.

Since Len passed away Judith restricts her driving to appointments on the coast.

"I drive whenever they need me," she said.

Judith still enjoys her volunteering work.

"I never do a drive where I don't have a conversation with a client. I never pry into their personal life, I let them run the conversation. And I quite often get return clients."

But driving for Bloomhill does have to fit in with her hobbies - the AFL, her walking group; regular lunch dates... Judith is a busy woman.

Judith's own cancer journey began 25 years ago.

"I was lying in bed reading a book and all of a sudden I felt a lump," she said. "The next day I went to the doctor and he rang back that night to say there was a tumour in my breast.

"The next day the tumour was removed, but cells had pierced the outside and a week later they did a partial mastectomy and removed the lymph nodes.

"I only had three rounds of chemo and 30 rounds of radiation, in Melbourne at the Peter McCallum Hospital."

There has been no recurrence, she said. Cancer is in Judith's family with breast cancer affecting her eldest sister and her mother, who died from breast cancer at 100 years of age just six months ago, and a younger sister who died of bowel cancer.

As well as driving for Bloomhill in past years Judith has worked at the Bloomhill race day at Corbould Park selling raffle tickets and during the Christmas and Easter Fairs at the Buderim War Memorial Hall selling Faye's jams and cakes.

She also frequents the Bloomhill café with a group of friends who

meet for coffee and cake every few weeks and sit in their special table in the corner.

Judith's activities were drastically curtailed during May when she caught first COVID-19, then the flu, then COVID again. Judith was fully vaccinated and boosted yet WAS still unwell for several weeks.

"I was at the footy Saturday then on Sunday it hit me for six," she said. "I've never experienced flu like it – my eyes and my nose were running and there were gremlins in throat, I couldn't stop coughing."

When she's well, as well as her driving duties Judith can be found at the Cotton Tree Markets most Sundays volunteering as Bloomhill's COVID marshal.

"I like working at the markets. I always make an effort to wave to the stallholders and have a chat. One lady I mind her stall while she runs across to the loo!"

For Judith her volunteering at Bloomhill is all about the people.

"I enjoy working for them, I love it. I enjoy all the people I meet driving and the experiences I have with them."

Judith said when she was at Bloomhill, for a regular coffee chat or for work, she said hello to people.

"When I get back from a drive before 4pm I make an effort to go in and talk to ladies on front desk. I know a couple of the ladies who do treatments and if I see them I say hello."

Meantime, when Judith's not driving clients, catching up with friends, organising Heart Foundation walks, going to Pilates and Rotary meetings or any of her other activities, she's supporting the Brisbane Lions.

"They're doing fantastic this year; they're second on the ladder. I'm a Platinum member of Brisbane Lions, and I'm on the committee, I've been with them 15 years. I coordinate the bus for home games. We pick people up, take them to the game then bring them back. Sometimes we don't get home until a quarter to one!"

She is certainly someone Bloomhill can count on to fill a last-minute call to drive a client to an appointment, but don't ask her on game day!

B "Bloomhill has been my saviour, and is a sanctuary that I love coming to. I don't know how I would have gotten through the last few years without the support here. I love coming to the group exercise classes - and the 360 degree view of the gardens whilst I work out."

Marlene (Bloomhill client)

OP SHOPS

Discover new treasures or donate today.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



HONOUR ROLL

A huge welcome to some recent additions to our transport team!

Eric Baddeley

Irene Garner

Bill Pooley

Jacqueline Schooneveldt

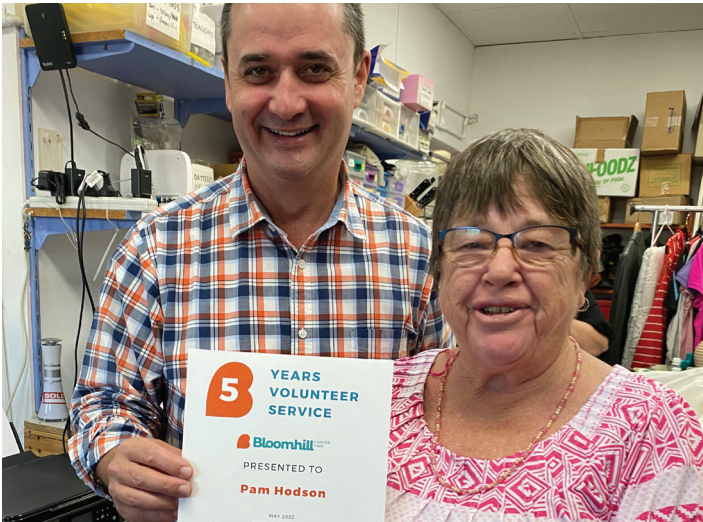
David Simmons

Michael Poole

Tim Salvestro

Your help transporting clients to and from appointments at Bloomhill and elsewhere is greatly appreciated. Thankyou!

CEO'S GRATITUDE FOR LONG SERVING VOLUNTEERS



Pam accepting her certificate of service for 5 years volunteering, from CEO Christopher John at Maroochydore Op Shop.



Volunteer recognition certificates were also presented at a volunteer breakfast at the wellness centre.



Val celebrates 20 years of service.



Gail with her 15 years certificate.

The commitment of Bloomhill's volunteers is equivalent to 43 full time employees - how amazing is that!

On May 16 during National Volunteer Week we celebrated and thanked our dedicated team of volunteers for the tireless work they provide to ensure we can continue our mission of providing support for those touched by cancer.

In May, our CEO, Christopher John, was also proud to sponsor Volunteering Sunshine Coast awards dinner as the Major Sponsor. Christopher was honoured to present, amongst many wonderful volunteers from across the Sunshine Coast, the overall winner of the 2022 Volunteer of the Year.

Congratulations to all volunteers across the Coast who make our region a safe and enriched community!



CEO Christopher John

SHOUT OUT

DISTRIBUTION CENTRE TEAM GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND

BY HOLLY BICKNELL, OPERATIONS LEAD

Our distribution centre (DC) team are the backbone of our retail operation. Team members work behind the scenes to collect, organise, store and distribute donations that come from our supporters across the Sunshine Coast.

In the recent months our DC team has been hugely affected by sickness and absence. Volunteer of 5 years, Michael Walker was quick to offer additional hours from two days to four days. We are so grateful for his generosity in supporting our retail operation continue.



Above: Bloomhill gardeners.



Left: Vanessa Harvey tryin out the 'angel wings'.

GARDEN MURAL COMPLETE

Talented artist Mark Barnas has completed the mural at the wellness centre gardens, and it looks great! The mural forms a backdrop for the gardens below the café deck and includes a seated 'angel wings'.

MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING

We're sure you've heard volunteering is good for your mental health, how does that work...

Many studies have shown that people who volunteer feel more socially connected, thus warding off loneliness and depression.

Research shows the interpersonal connections formed during volunteering are a big part of the strong positive relationship between volunteering and psychological wellbeing, life satisfaction and happiness. The strength of these connections comes from working towards a common goal.

There's also the benefit that volunteering creates a sense of purpose – humans are motivated to do something meaningful. This means volunteering is ripe with opportunities to find purpose and meaning. For retirees volunteering can fill the gap that opens up when paid employment ceases or following other life changing events like the loss of a partner.

It's not just good for your mental health as well as making you happier and more satisfied compared to people who don't volunteer, it has physical health benefits – especially for older adults.

One study found that people who helped others were 25 percent more likely to say they are in excellent physical health, perhaps because of the high correlation between mental and physical health.

OP SHOP VOLUNTEERING ROLES TO SUIT EVERYONE



BY JAN RICHARDS

If you've thought about volunteering in a Bloomhill op shop but you're not sure what you might be able to do to help, here are some ideas.

Volunteering in an op shop is not just about the customer service the shoppers see - the happy volunteer smiling at the till - a lot goes on behind the scenes to keep an op shop operating. In fact, no matter what your skills and interests, there's probably a job that you could make your own.

Maybe you're a Ms Fixit like Maree - sole coming off the shoes, "no problem", electrical needs checking, she's onto it.

Or you're the house-proud type

who likes cleaning and tidying.

Junnie has a real talent for making sure the front window display is going to bring customers in, and the inside displays are going to keep customers looking.

For book worms, music lovers and movie buffs there are boxes of novels, travel and cook books, manuals and occasional special finds needing to be cleaned, priced and packed onto the shelves. Among the stacks of CDs and DVDs will be classics, and not-so-classics waiting for a fan to search the titles.

Maybe manchester is your thing. At Maroochydore Op Shop Gail has been looking after the manchester for years: checking, sizing, sorting, pricing and filling the racks.

Then, there are those people persons who like to be out front. Welcome customers as they come in the door, chat, work the till and show jewellery. And if there's a quiet time there are always plenty of other jobs to do like general tidying, maintaining displays, and cleaning the glass-top jewellery counter so that the customers can see the gorgeous sparklers winking up at them.

Bloomhill's Op Shops are vibrant, colourful and fun, like the volunteers working in them, and they're full of all sorts of weird, wonderful and practical goods our customers are searching for. There's a place for everything and everyone.



WHY DO I ENJOY VOLUNTEERING?

JAN RICHARDS, VOLUNTEER MAROOCHYDORE OP SHOP

... well, there's the shopping.

Sure, I have fun with my new friends - hi Maree, Pam, Val, Gail, Judy, Cheryl, Tracey, Leanne - they're great to work with.

My shop manager Sue is on the ball, always there with support and encouragement.

The customers are friendly, mostly, and it's good to know the money we earn is going to Bloomhill to support local clients.

... and, there's the shopping...

Working in an op shop has brought out my inner shopper. There's the search, the thrill of discovery and the knowledge you've got a bargain!

I've stocked my wardrobe, built up my accessories. I've bought trinkets for gifts, crockery I really didn't need but had to have, manchester and toys, books and CDs, and loads of craft materials. I've done my hours with a smile and blown my budget.

Yes, it's good for my mental and physical health - you can get a lot of steps in walking around an op shop. And I know it's good for the environment, less landfill, and for Bloomhill and our clients.

... but also, it's great shopping.

FUN, FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORTING A GREAT CAUSE

LEANNE CELEBRATES 20 YEARS WITH BLOOMHILL



BY JAN RICHARDS

With more than 20 years' service in Bloomhill op shops under her belt Leanne Painter has seen many changes, but it's the cause and the friendships that keep her coming back.

"Every day I go to work I know I'm working for a good cause," Leanne said, "and I know the people I work with are all there for the same reason, and to have some fun. That's always very important, you can't just work, you've got to have fun as well."

Leanne has worked in Caloundra, Buderim, Mooloolaba and Maroochydore Op Shops and at the Distribution Centre. She is currently Retail Assistant at Caloundra and Maroochydore Op Shops. She has also volunteered countless hours along the way.

Like many Bloomhill employees and volunteers Leanne has a personal connection to cancer.

"In the beginning it was because my father had cancer," she said. "My sister had breast cancer and my husband had cancer as well. My father has passed away but the others are ok, they're still doing the journey."

Although her family members have not been in a position to access Bloomhill services Leanne said through the op shops she has had contact with many customers and volunteers who have.

"People who come into the shop often talk about their experience, they want to give back. They always

have high regard for Bloomhill," Leanne said.

Leanne said every day is different working in an Op Shop.

"You never know what's ahead, it's always exciting. We get donations through, which is great. Everyone says Bloomhill is a great organisation and that's why they like to give."

Aside from the cause the other positive in working for Bloomhill is the people Leanne has the pleasure of working with.

"Everyone loves to do well, we try hard to do well for the organisation."

"I have known a lot of volunteers, many have a connection with cancer or want to give back because of a family member who has been helped by Bloomhill."

She said many friendships develop between volunteers that extend outside their hours at the shops, and there is also the problem solving as they sort stock for the shelves or share a cup of tea.

"Everyone will help solve some problem, everyone has an opinion," she said.

Leanne said the volunteers who are there as part of their Centrelink requirements – people from 55 to retirement age not in the workforce – may not have volunteered before.

"Once they start they actually love it and it becomes an interest, they know it's for a good cause,"

she said. "They are usually really committed and treat it as more of a work situation, they know people are depending on them. A lot of people once they get past Centrelink still continue."

Leanne works in Maroochydore Op Shop every Thursday and in Caloundra on Friday and Saturday – and fills in when necessary.

"When I go to work I always want to know, 'What's news?'. We have a good catch-up time and enjoy the friendship."

There's also the desire to have a good day sales-wise among both staff and volunteers.

"Everyone loves to do well, we try hard to do well for the organisation."

Bloomhill is privileged to have had Leanne's efforts working for them and thank her for her years of service.

Maroochydore Op Shop also has volunteers of approximately 23, 18 and 16 years (Marie, Val and Gail) and Elaine (Beerwah volunteer) has also supported Bloomhill over a long period of time. Staff members including Sue Poultney and Nicole Croft are also approaching 20 years with the organisation. Thank each and every one of you for your contribution!

Photos by Nicky Moffat



SUN SHINES ON NEWLY MARRIED GABRIELLE AND BROCK



BY JAN RICHARDS

"He's such a wonderful guy," Gabrielle Wheaton says of her new husband Brock Ranger, "kind, caring, strong work ethic, polite, a bit old-fashioned in some respects."

They met through Bloomhill, Brock was the Return-it truck driver and visited the shop a couple of times a week. "My boss Stacey said, 'What about the bottle boy?' I said, 'He's really nice, but I think I'm too old for him'."

The age gap proved to be no barrier and the relationship blossomed. They began seeing each other the Christmas before Covid, "It all happened very quickly, we were obviously suited." Gabrielle fell pregnant in July. "I was told twenty years ago I wouldn't be able to have kids and I had told Brock. He said that was ok with him and if we decided to go that way we could adopt. We had done two home pregnancy tests and they were both negative. Brock came to the doctor with me, we thought it might be bad news, my mother had cervical cancer. He was there for emotional support."

The emotional support wasn't needed, as they both happily

accepted the news they were going to have a baby.

"Brock proposed in September and I had Lilly Rose in March. All the way through the pregnancy we thought we were having a boy. I made Brock wait to find out, he'll never forgive me, but I wanted it to be surprise. We had chosen a lot of boy's names but only one girl's name. A few weeks before the due date I said we should probably think of a few girls' names.

"When she was born she was so tiny the name didn't fit and we named her Lilly Rose – we often joke we are a real Bloomhill family."

The wedding was last May at Secrets on the Lake, Maleny. "It was very small because of Covid restrictions – only 30 guests, immediate family and Brock's friends he's known since high school. Nikki and Kelly were there from Bloomhill. We joked if we invited everyone we knew from Bloomhill they'd have to close down for the day."

Gabrielle's dress looked "like something out of Picnic from Hanging Rock". "It was vintage lace, with a big hoop and long sleeves. It was very frou frou which is out of character for me, I'm a bit

of a tomboy. I said to Brock you won't believe what I'm wearing."

The ceremony was relaxed, under the arbour near the lake. "We were so lucky with the weather, it rained all the way up to the day, was hot and sunny, then the next day it started to rain again, which was good. We stayed in a cabin at Secrets on the Lake, it had a fireplace and a hot tub. We wanted it to rain."

Lilly Rose is now 16 months old and Gabrielle is working four days a week at the Cooroy Op Shop while Brock drives the truck for Bloomhill. It's a busy life for both of them.

Gabrielle loves her Retail Assistant job at Cooroy Op Shop. "It's full-on at the moment, we're doing really well at Cooroy. I'm really impressed with all the work everyone is doing and how well the shop is doing considering that people are not spending as much and not going out as much. I'm proud of how everyone is pulling together."

As for their little family, Gabrielle, Brock and Lilly Rose, the future is as bright and sunny as their wedding day.