

New chapter for gay wedding planners

By Mary Ferguson

GAY wedding planners Gino and Mike Meriano have written a book on civil partnerships and are launching their wedding planning company in Arizona.

The Pink Weddings founders were approached by publishers New Holland Publishing, and the book will be published at the end of the year – to coincide with the third year anniversary of the legalisation of civil partnerships.

Gino told Wedding Professional: "We found there was nothing in the marketplace that provides factual information and ideas in an accessible way.

"We were approached by the publishers to do a project and after a meeting we came up with the book. I'm still writing it but we are aiming to get it published by the end of this year.

"It's a good time to write it because civil

partnerships have been legal for three years so we can see how the market has settled during that time. We estimate that there are 1,000 civil partnerships a month in the UK now."

The book talks about the pair's own experience of getting married and is aimed at both couples and the industry – so people know what to expect from civil partnerships.

Its publication will come at a busy time for the pair, who are launching Pink Weddings in Arizona next year.

Gino added: "We want to bring the concept of UK civil partnerships to the States and although we will be working throughout America, Arizona will be our base.

"Despite being in the south, people are very accepting of gay couples and we have been looking at the area for a while."



A UK couple have become the first to tie the knot on the summit of Sydney Harbour Bridge. Glasgow-based Stephen Tierney and Claire Tullan dressed in safety suits and used a secure ring device to marry 134 metres above Sydney's harbour. Claire said: "The views from the summit of the bridge were unforgettable. the bridge is the perfect location for a wedding and it's a day I will never forget." The groom's sister, her boyfriend, and the groom's cousin flew to Sydney to surprise the couple.

By Kate Pickles

A bride and groom were not telling porkies when they revealed their unconventional wedding cake – made entirely of pork pies. Daz and Lisa Humsley from Barnsley had not even told relatives they were serving the sausage snack at their wedding reception. The landlady of the pub that hosted the reception said: "Daz is pork pie barmy. He's obsessed with pork pies and Daddy's Sauce so that's what they had.

"I have never seen a cake like it, everybody was commenting on it. It felt funny handing out pork pie for wedding cake. The guests were all laughing when I gave it to them." The four-tier, 26lb cake took four staff members three hours to bake and cost just £65.



Gino (left) and Mike.

Picture: Alessandro Albert

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