

EXCLUSIVE PICTURES

Kerri-Anne renews her wedding vows

I will always love you



'I again choose you to be my husband, my best friend and my partner for the rest of our lives,' Kerri-Anne vows.

New Idea joins Australia's queen of TV as she walks down the aisle again

Twenty-five years ago, Kerri-Anne Kennerley married her dream man in the first ever wedding at the Sydney Opera House.

It was to be a love match that would endure the test of 'in sickness and in health', and come out stronger than the daytime TV darling could have ever imagined.

'John and I've had an incredible journey together and we are more in love now than we have ever been,' Kerri-Anne says.

'Each year we try to mark our anniversary with something special. For our first, I wrote a song, dressed up in my wedding dress and made a video that we showed on *Good Morning Australia*.

'For our second anniversary, since John is such a thoroughly English gentleman, I thought I should make him a special dinner to remind him of home – it was smoked trout and toad-in-the-hole. But just 20 minutes after eating it, John was throwing up – I had given him food poisoning!'

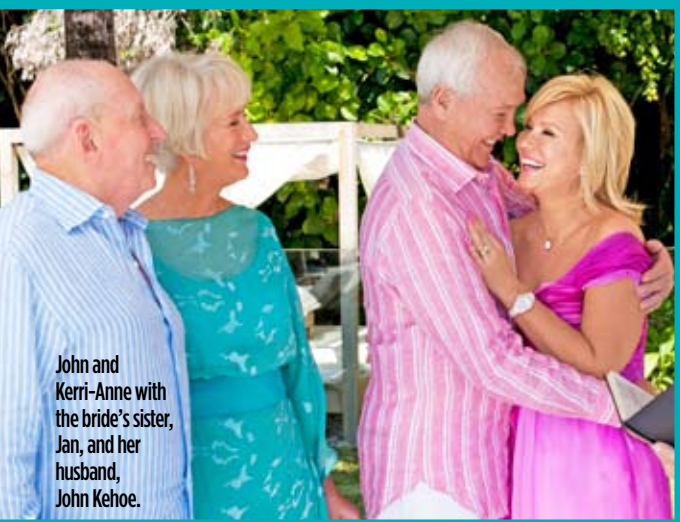
She adds: 'A couple of years ago, John gave me a

silver Swarovski heart necklace. Inside was a USB stick with all these wonderful photos of our time together. It's the very modern equivalent of a locket.'

HOPELESS ROMANTIC

So when 'hopelessly romantic' John suggested they celebrate their silver anniversary by reaffirming their wedding vows, it seemed like the perfect chance for them to reflect on a life together well spent – and to plan for the next quarter century improving their golf swings and, if Kerri-Anne gets her way, getting massages.

'John kept saying we had to do something important to mark the occasion,' says the *Mornings With Kerri-Anne* host. 'And he's right. It's nice to get to a milestone in your life and celebrate it. I remember going to my parents' 25th anniversary dinner at a seafood restaurant in Brisbane that had this big neon crab sign hanging above the entrance! ▶



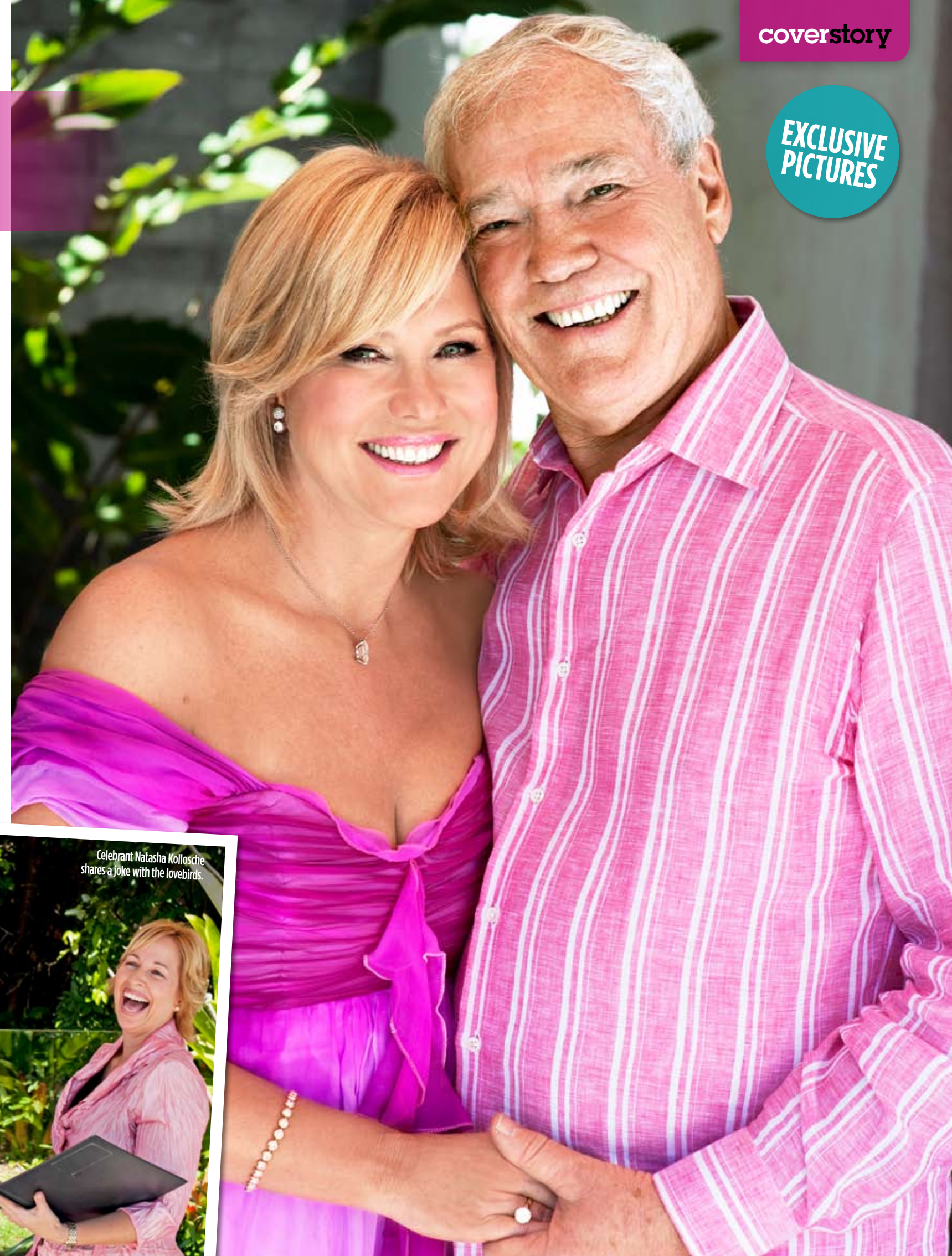
John and Kerri-Anne with the bride's sister, Jan, and her husband, John Kehoe.



You may now kiss the bride.



Celebrant Natasha Kollasche shares a joke with the lovebirds.





Here's cheers to a second honeymoon!



John and Kerri-Anne explore Port Douglas, Queensland, where they renewed their vows.



'And even when we got married, I was thinking it would be great to come back to the Opera House in 25 years with all our wonderful family and friends and relive it. But now that time has come the idea seemed a little naff – we needed something more intimate this time around.'

The couple settled on Peppers Bale Resort in Port Douglas,

love, blessed their union, then began the commitment renewal ceremony.

She told them: 'John and Kerri-Anne, may you always be grateful for the special gift of each other, and may the love, respect and appreciation you have for each other continue to grow deeper and stronger as the years go by.'

'I had loved her from the day I saw her. No other could come close'

Queensland, as the spot to re-tie the knot. Invited as witnesses were Kerri-Anne's sister, Jan, her hubby John Kehoe, and New Idea!

BEAUTIFUL BRIDE

Kerri-Anne took John's breath away when she appeared in a lilac silk dress made by couturier Melissa Kritsotakis. To the strains of their first wedding song, Anne Murray's *You Needed Me*, she walked down the aisle and joined John in front of marriage celebrant Natasha Kollosche for the moving ceremony, held beside their pavilion's private pool.

Natasha asked Kerri-Anne and John to hold hands to represent their never-ending

Jan shed a tear recalling the day she stood beside her sibling as a bridesmaid 25 years ago.

'Having been there the first time, it is incredibly lovely to be with Kerri-Anne and John this time too,' Jan says. 'It was a very warm and special ceremony and I think it's quite refreshing. In fact, I've put the pressure on my own husband for us to do the same thing for our 25th!'

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

Celebrating with bubbly over a long lunch, Kerri-Anne and John pondered their years together. John recalled how he met Kerri-Anne 30 years ago when she was working in New York as a singer.

'I knew Kerri-Anne was the girl for me from the moment I saw her,' John says. 'She was in a sound booth with headphones on and she hadn't seen me yet. I said to a friend: "There's my next wife!"'

It would take him five years to make that prediction come true since they were both married at the time, first becoming friends.

He eventually popped the question in February 1984 when ▶



John and Kerri-Anne on their first wedding day.



they were dining out in Sydney. A nervous John was fiddling with the ring box underneath the table when the unexpected happened – the box snapped shut! It was a sound Kerri-Anne recognised.

'It was that wonderful muffled velvet box sound,' she says with a laugh. 'I accepted straight away! There was no other man for me.'

They had hoped for a service at St Mark's church in Sydney's Darling Point, but it wasn't to be.

'The vicar refused to marry us as we had both been married before,' John says. 'So we asked our friend, the Reverend Ted Noffs, if he would officiate the ceremony at the Opera House.'

The couple married there on August 18, 1984, with former Prime Minister Sir William McMahon, TV star Michael Parkinson and Kerri-Anne's *GMA* co-host Gordon Elliot among the guests.

When Kerri-Anne appeared in a 'mountain of tulle', John says he couldn't stop smiling.

'I had loved her from the day I saw her. There was no other who could come close to her.'

MARRIAGE BLISS

Kerri-Anne and John believe it's their differences that have kept them together. They rarely fight and have been able to weather the tough times with a laugh and a cry, including when John was diagnosed with bowel cancer.

Such is their love that Kerri-Anne even lets John construct his model train tracks in their home in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs!

'You don't have to share all the same interests,' Kerri-Anne says. 'But I think our secret to happiness is in letting each other grow as individuals while still maintaining some of the same shared interests, such as our golf and skiing. And you also have to know how to laugh at life. Above all, a sense of humour is the main trick to happiness.' **NI**

By Leigh Reinhold

Main pictures: Ross Coffey

KERRI-ANNE'S VOWS

I, Kerri-Anne, again choose you, John, to be my husband, my best friend and my life-long partner for the rest of our lives together. I will keep loving you and comforting you, holding you and sharing all I have with you. I will listen when you are sad or angry, I will support you and continue to grow with you. I will never take you for granted, but always give thanks for your presence. I promise to love you as long as we both shall live.

Kerri-Anne's hair by Giuseppe