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## COOK ISLANDS Sonia & Tim



## Real life Weddings



**The Couple**  
Sonia McGrath & Timothy Walker

**The Date**  
6 July 2007

**The Destination**  
Rarotonga, Cook Islands

**The Accommodation**  
The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa

**The Wedding Location**  
Aroa Beach at The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa

**Wedding Reception Venue**  
The resort's private Blue Lagoon Marquee overlooking Aro'a Lagoon, the Lagoon of Love

**Length of Stay**  
7 nights

**Photography**  
Paul Osta

**Dress Designer**  
La Bella Moda, Queensland

**Celebrant**  
John Kenning, a Rarotongan local

**Contact**  
Liz Raizis  
The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa  
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**Why did you opt for a destination wedding?** We both have a love of travel and wanted to do something different.

**Why the Cook Islands?** Our initial exposure to the Cook Islands was on television and this got us thinking. It was also recommended to us by friends.

**How long did it take to plan?** We were engaged for around six months but the wedding planning didn't take long over the net. We both played equal parts in the organisation of the wedding and the help we got from the resort made it stress free.

**How many guests attended?** There were 15 guests at the wedding, all of whom were immediate family.

**Describe any special, personal touches or details you chose to include.** We both wanted an island string band to play at the wedding and we also wanted to have it at sunset.

**Was there anything that you felt worked especially well to create an extra special**

**occasion, relax guests, create a romantic atmosphere etc?**

The tropical sunset was amazing, and the relaxed attire of our guests made it comfortable for everyone. A special mention should go to Marian Gosselin, our personal Wedding Planner who organised things perfectly.

**Anything you would have done differently?** No way. It could not have been more perfect.

**The best part of a destination wedding?** Although we both love Australia, Rarotonga is simply stunning. Everyone we shared our wedding with was able to forget about their everyday lives and just relax 'on an island in the sun'.

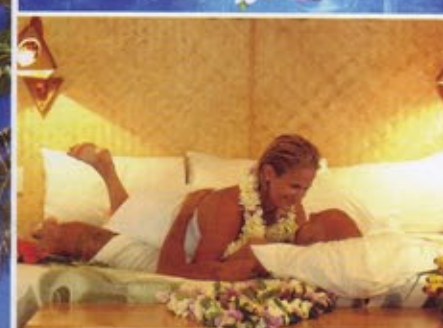
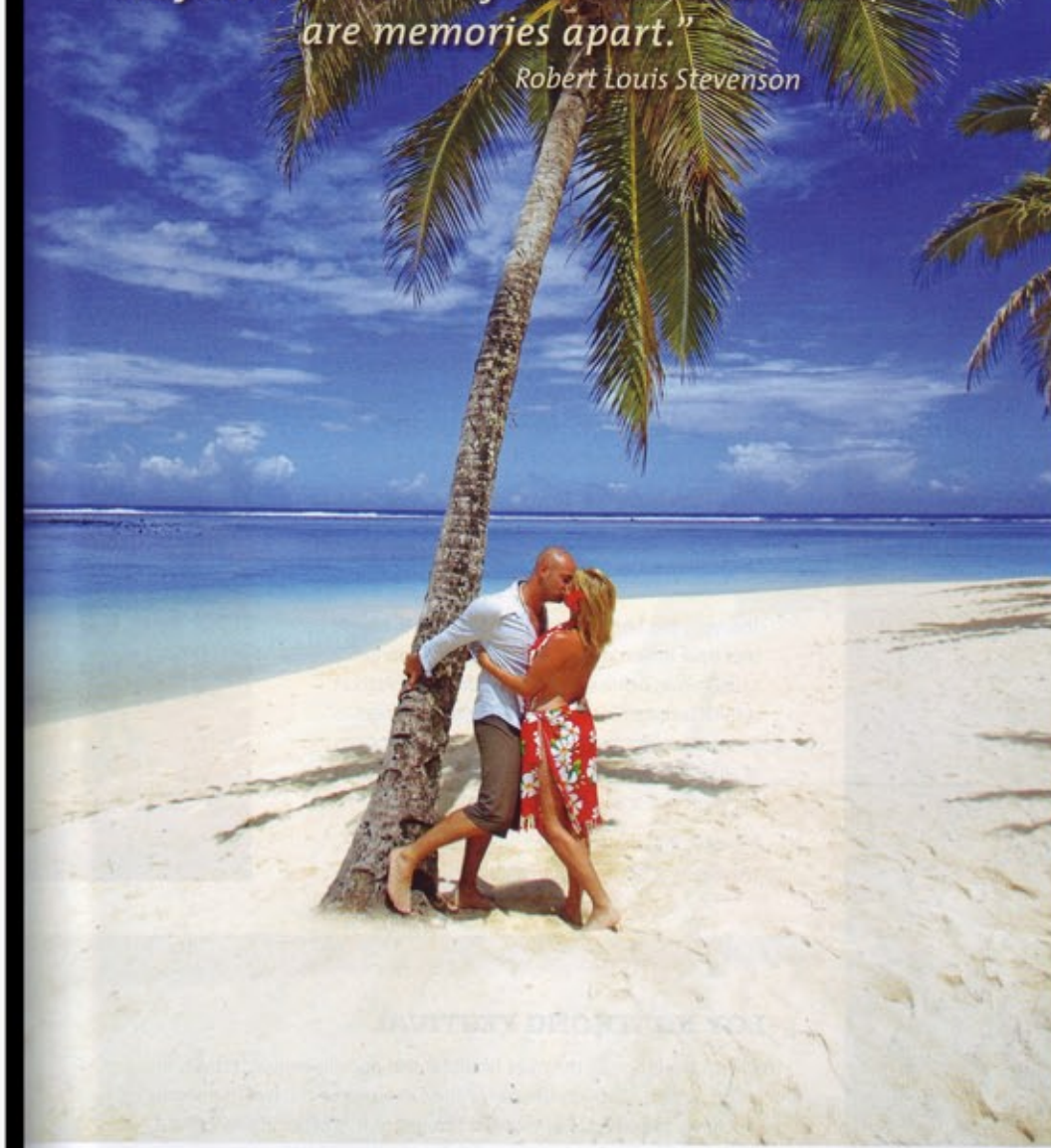
**Any advice for couples planning a similar wedding?** Just do it. You will not regret it.

**What is your most special/memorable moment of the day?** Sitting together on the beach as a married couple watching the sunset. Perfect.

# "The First Love."

the first sunrise, the first South Sea island, are memories apart."

Robert Louis Stevenson



This year, promise to take time to smell the frangipani. Promise to take yourself and the one you love off to the heart of the South Pacific where you can melt into island time, mellow out on the champagne sands, be spellbound by stunning lagoon views, savour mouthwatering cocktails and take time to smell the frangipani. Stay at the Cook Islands' signature resort, The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa, overlooking the crystal clear blue waters of Aro'a Lagoon Marine Reserve (the Lagoon of Love), an underwater wonderland to explore together. Or take advantage of superb special offers for combined stays with her sublime sister resort, The Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa, where you can be tucked up in your own private bungalow right on the world's most beautiful lagoon. Bliss.

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Melt into island time at the Cook Islands' only private island resort and the only resort that is located directly at the edge of the world's most beautiful lagoon, the fabled Aitutaki Lagoon (one of the *Unforgettable Places to See Before You Die* by author Steve Davey, BBC books). > **HONEYMOON PACKAGE INCLUSIONS:** Book three days at The Aitutaki Lagoon Resort and Spa and four days at her sister resort, The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa, and receive a free room/bungalow upgrade at both resorts and ask for their hot combo offer! > **CONTACT:** E: info@aitutakilagoonresort.co.ck, or info@therarotongan.com, W: www.aitutakilagoonresort.com or www.therarotongan.com

