

the ultimate test

to be by her side during her treatment.

Ms Graham said she is now in remission and will remain positive. But it was hard to remain positive after the shock of her diagnosis.

"When I found out, I was in shock. I hadn't been feeling well and was very tired. I went to the doctors and was tested for glandular fever and diabetes," she said.

Ms Graham said she knew the news wasn't good when her doctor visited her at home.

Mr Hern said when the doctor told them it was a massive shock.

"There was no option, so we went down there. I had heard of leukaemia but didn't really know what it was," Ms Graham said.

Sadly more people die from leukaemia than survive it and hearing that cold statistic was frightening.

"I was trying to be positive which is hard on chemotherapy.

"Simon was there every day from 7am, with a portable DVD player and movies.

"He would cook me different meals, because after five months hospital food can get boring.

"His toasted sandwiches were a special treat.

"I thought that I would crumble but you have no choice but to get on with it - I surprised myself," she said.

Ms Graham said the ceremony will take place on the Gold Coast at a



LOVE IS IN THE AIR: Many couples show just how much they care with drawing hearts in the Parisian sky with the help of romance specialist Nicolas Garreau.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



Natasha Graham
"We were travelling to Bora Bora, so we thought why not get married before that."

relative's home near the water.

"There will be only 16 people attending," she said.

"It has all come together. I found my dress on the internet and that day I walked into Jill Burston's For Brides and it had just arrived."

She said both her and Mr Hern will read their own vows they had chosen and each will present a special speech at the reception.

Making an offer too good to refuse

NICOLAS Garreau has one goal - to make women cry.

He said he believed every love story is unique.

He said many of his romantic packages have been labelled unconventional, even quirky.

"Some of the romantic packages I provide can be considered un-conventional," Mr Garreau said.

"I had a proposal with an aeroplane displaying the marriage proposal on its wings while flying over the Chateau de Versailles.

"Others were a limousine tour with a personalised message appearing on a giant LED screen; a shower of 100 roses fully covering a yacht during a VIP dinner cruise and



a private aerial patrol drawing a white smoke heart in the Parisian sky."

Mr Garreau said the reason for creating a company specialising in extravagant marriage proposals was because he wanted to make couples happy.

"I really wanted to help men to live the kind of amazing experience we only see in films," he explained.

"The idea, initially, seemed to be crazy, because nobody else had done it.

"But finally, it is a success.

"With hundreds of romantic surprises and marriage proposals I've planned since 2006 and with all the people in love that I have made happy - I can say I have the most beautiful job on Earth."

For inspiration visit proposeinparis.com



VALENTINE'S DAY NUPTIALS: Simon Hern and Natasha Graham will celebrate their love on Valentine's Day. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

GIFT OF LOVE COULD BE GIFT OF LIFE

Consider donating blood this Valentine's Day

SINCE his bride-to-be fell ill with leukaemia Simon Hern has been donating blood to Australian Red Cross.

One in three people will need blood in their lifetime, meaning there's a strong chance it could be your husband, wife, boyfriend or girlfriend.

But only one in 30 people donate, which means Australians rely on just 3% of the nation to supply blood for more than 22 million people.

Mackay residents are being urged to roll up their sleeves and give blood this Valentine's Day to help save the lives of loved ones across Australia.

Mr Hern knows all about the importance of donating blood.

When fiancée Natasha Graham was diagnosed with leukaemia the pair put their lives on hold and moved to Brisbane for Ms Graham to receive treatment.

"After seeing someone you love fight for their life, and seeing how blood products can help them get better, it shows you how important donating blood is to saving lives," Mr Hern said.

Ms Graham said 34% of all blood donations went towards helping cancer patients and people with blood disorders.

"Just one donation can help save three lives," she said.

"You can save someone's loved one."

She said even though she could not give blood she appreciated those who gave the gift of life to others.

"When I was in hospital last year, I had about 50 transfusions," she said.

Australia Red Cross blood service community relations officer Pippa Peach said most people would give anything to save the life of their loved one.

"This Valentines Day there's no better gift to give than blood because one day it might be donated blood that helps save the life of your loved one," she said.

"The blood you give will potentially help someone's husband or wife, girlfriend or boyfriend.

"Giving blood only takes an hour of your time and every donation helps save three lives," she said.

Apply now for seven \$4000 scholarships with CQUniversity and Hail Creek Mine

CQUniversity and Hail Creek Mine are continuing their support of local students by offering seven scholarships worth a combined \$28,000 in 2012.

Since 2009, the Hail Creek Mine CQUniversity Partnership Programme has been offering scholarships worth \$4,000 each over two years to first-year nursing, health, business, science, IT, and engineering students studying at CQUniversity.

To apply for one of the scholarships, please contact Hail Creek Mine's Marie Cameron on 07 4951 6437 or email marie.cameron@riotinto.com. Scholarship applications close 24 February 2012.



Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto Coal Australia is proud to be part of the central Queensland community and committed to the future.

The Hail Creek Mine CQUniversity Partnership Programme is proudly supported by the Hail Creek Mine Community Development Fund.

To find out more about the fund, please contact Marie Cameron.

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