



## BIG, bold and bizarre

**Bold and daring public declarations of love can be extremely romantic for some or just plain embarrassing for others. MARY VERNON looks at some of the more over-the-top options on offer**

**T**HE blaring declaration of love on page 9 of last Thursday's *Bully* in which Dr Mark Vucak saluted his wife of 20 years with the words "Elaine Vucak I love you" has prompted endless discussions across the twin cities.

Would you like your partner to do the same? Would you be embarrassed? Would you prefer a different way of expressing the same idea? There are as many answers to these questions as there are people in the twin cities.

What is surprising, however, is that

there is a whole industry providing 'themed experiences' for people who want to either declare their love or ask their loved one to marry them . . . and some of them are truly bizarre.

The simplest is the "Message in a Bottle" in which your declaration of love or proposal of marriage is sealed in a wine bottle for anywhere between \$US32.95 (\$44.25) to \$US64.95 (\$64.95) plus shipping.

With the message, composed by yourself, come myriad suggestions of how to present it: hide it in the sand by the water's edge and pretend to dis-

cover it on a romantic evening beach walk; have it delivered in an ice bucket at a romantic meal in a restaurant; pretend to discover it in all sorts of romantic situations.

One company, ApoteoSurprise, is based in Paris and their ideas are much more confronting than a simple newspaper advertisement and, certainly, a lot more expensive.

They offer 40 "themed experiences for couples" and the range is huge. If you're into that kind of thing and you can't find something that suits in this menu, then you're just far too picky.

Take your beloved to the City of Light, the city of lovers and choose from this gigantic list of declarations . . . they're all over the top and some of them are extremely bizarre.

Try, if you will, the prospect of the projection of the declaration of love on the walls of Notre-Dame de Paris as you idle past on a dinner cruise on the Seine. Or how about taking a pleasure flight over Paris and another small plane flies beside you with your declaration painted on the underside of the wings; or a tour of the Stade de France, main sports stadium and as you step onto the turf in the centre the gigantic screens at each end light up with your proposal of marriage? Take your beloved to the Musée Grévin waxworks museum and watch her surprise when one of the waxworks comes to life and hands her a parchment with a proposal of marriage on it.

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