

Time Out

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Gate is a site of love

RHYS DICKINSON

FOR those unlucky in love marriage can sometimes be described as a prison sentence.

But Cowaramup-based marriage celebrant Anita Revel is embracing the idea of locking down your loved one, in a new venture on her Miamup Road property.

Following a growing trend of European and American couples engraving their names and wedding date on padlocks, attaching them to iconic structures and tossing away the key, Ms Revel has called on newlyweds to secure their symbol of love to

her farm gate. "We get a lot of generation Y couples who want something different and unique - something symbolic to mark their special day," Ms Revel told the *Times*.

"A lot of people do it on bridges and throw the key into the river as a symbol of solidarity and not breaking their bond.

"The Brooklyn Bridge has been a popular site, but the authorities came and cut off the locks with bolt cutters because it's public property."

The gate, however, would be a bolt-cutter-free site of love, Ms Revel said.

"People often want to put these

locks at the place they get married, but there's no guarantee they won't get taken down," she said.

"So I wanted to offer up a place where the locks can stay.

"I haven't heard of any other places like this in WA - so it's the only one in the State."

The fence fronts Ms Revel's evolving ground of love, which she has dubbed Margaret River Heartland, and features a grove of Tahitian lime trees in the shape of a heart and an aisle of jacaranda trees.

It is intended for a chapel to be built at the centre of the grounds.

"In the future the bride will walk down the aisle on a bed of purple flowers surrounded by the jacaranda trees," she said.

"It'll be for dedicated lovebirds who are quite committed to each other."

She likened the gate to a famous tree on the Loneliest Highway in Utah which married couples threw their shoes over to showcase their love.

"It's just some fun and you take some photos," she said.

"We would like to see couples just stop by and put a padlock on the fence."

She also said newlyweds who married at wineries were taking on a new trend with their vows.

"I give couples a bottle of wine from the estate (they get married at) and put it in a box and seal it with love letters that they write to each other the night before their wedding," she said.

"I tell them to open the box in five years and enjoy it together."

The gate is located at 356 Miamup Road, Cowaramup.



Gavin Leiper and Anita Revel have had a love lock since they were first married and are encouraging newlyweds to do the same.

PICTURE: BECKY FELSTEAD