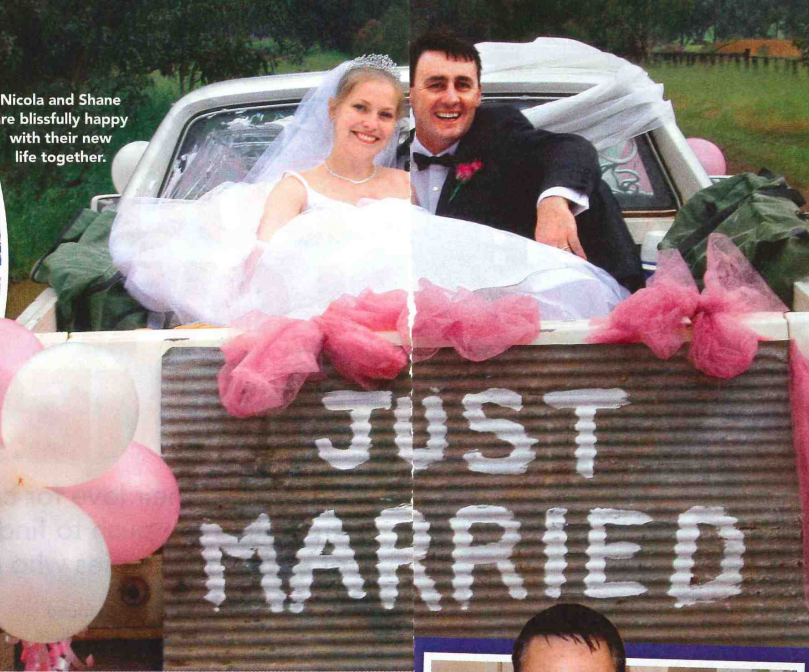




Nicola and Shane are blissfully happy with their new life together.



REALITY LOVE-LIFE

In a fortunate twist of fate, Aussie farmer Shane Kelliher met Nicola – the love of his life – on a reality TV show

When lonely farmer Shane Kelliher applied for SBS reality show *Desperately Seeking Sheila* as a laugh, he never imagined he'd actually meet the love of his life in Nicola – a fast talking insurance broker from London.

With so many tales of hardship coming out of the bush, Shane and Nicola's story is truly inspiring and proves love often finds a way, even in the strangest circumstances.

The happy couple are now married and proud parents of 10-month-old David Elvis.

'It's better than I ever imagined,' Shane says. 'Everything's turned out. I've got the life of my dreams. There's nowhere else I'd rather be and no-one else I'd rather be with.'

Now aged 42, Shane had all but given up on love when he applied for the show on a whim in 2004. Having lived all his life on his family's massive 1600ha cattle

property in Wandering, two hours from Perth, his options were bleak.

'Wandering has a population of 80 and the entire shire only has 380 people spread over two million hectares,' Shane explains. 'It's so difficult to find girls in the country. They tend to go to uni and never return. And most girls I'd met in Perth didn't want this lifestyle. That's the toughest thing.'

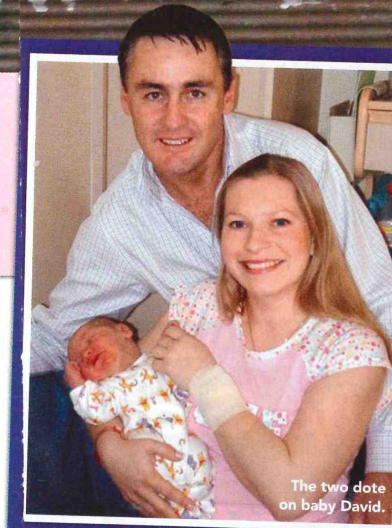
Brought in at the end of the dating show as a last minute addition, Shane almost missed meeting Nicola altogether when the two were paired off with other people in the reality series.

Thankfully, Nicola and the other 'English roses' returned for the show's Perth wrap party in October 2004. It was there the two locked eyes for the first time, a moment that changed their lives.

'It was a violin-playing moment for sure,' Nicola laughs. 'Everything blurred around him. I thought Shane was gorgeous.'

The pair hit it off immediately, talking until 1am and sharing their first kiss.

Now the couple share their follow-up story in the SBS special *Desperately Keeping Sheila*. Following a mainly long-distance relationship, they wed. Nicola's never looked back and adores Australian country life on



The two dote on baby David.

BY FLEUR MITCHELL. MAIN PICTURES: ADRIANNE ZEREMAN

Shane's farm, tending to cattle and running the local mothers' group.

'I don't miss London. Everyone there seems so much older because they've been worn down by life,' Nicola explains.

The 28-year-old says more women should consider country living and adds there are plenty of bachelors to go round.

Meanwhile Shane urges other lonely hearts to try new things to find love.

'If someone had told me I'd meet the woman of my dreams on a reality show, I'd have said: "You've got rocks in your head,"' he smiles. 'But it happened, and it's worked out brilliantly.'

● *Desperately Keeping Sheila* screens Tuesday, July 3, 7.30pm on SBS.



The *Desperately Seeking Sheila* couples at the start of the series.