



No stopping now: Rosie Gordon-Bird, 21, and Mike Bird, 24, went ahead with their wedding yesterday despite doubts raised by the earthquake. Photo: KIRK HARGREAVES

A little tremor no barrier to nuptials

Jo Gilbert

The die was cast for two Christchurch newlyweds – and they were not going to let an earthquake get in the way.

Mike Bird, 24, and Rosie Gordon-Bird, 21, married at Swan Lake at Cashmere yesterday afternoon.

A wedding tattoo etched on Bird's arm a couple of weeks ago – complete with yesterday's date – meant the ceremony had to go ahead, Gordon-Bird said.

They held a rehearsal ceremony on Saturday morning, about four hours after the quake.

"We had to get married somewhere – anywhere – today. It was just as long as it was today," she said before the nuptials.

The venue escaped Saturday's quake without damage, so the wedding, which had been in the planning for about a year, could proceed.

The Addington couple said the ceremony, which coincided with

their fifth anniversary as a couple, was one of their first thoughts when the quake hit.

"We didn't have a backup plan and I didn't even know if the place [Swan Lake] was still standing," Gordon-Bird said.

"The celebrant was petrified and we really needed her, but she's OK now."

When The Press spoke to the pair before the wedding, they were happy and philosophical.

"Whatever's going to happen is going to happen; there's not a lot we can do about it," Gordon-Bird said. "We're just going with the flow and seeing how it goes."

Bird said he was "feeling good and relaxed".

"We're not worried about aftershocks. Actually, we've been getting a little bored without them."

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