

ESTD



2021

# JUST AS PLANNED WEDDINGS

CLASSIC WEDDING DRESS STYLES THAT  
NEVER GO OUT OF FASHION

STRESS-FREE WEDDING PLANNING IN  
JUST 6 STEPS

HONEYMOON ALTERNATIVES  
TO AWAKEN THE SPIRIT

*You're  
Engaged!*

WE HELP YOU  
PLAN THE  
BEST DAY EVER

ISSUE 004  
SEPTEMBER 2023



# JUST AS PLANNED

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Unity Entertainment

Hire A Bridesmaid

The Love Page

The Crooked Compass

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Amanda Kelly Photography

NAS Cosmetics

Lilith & Co.

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[www.justasplanned.com.au](http://www.justasplanned.com.au)

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Growing up, I had an obsession with weddings. I loved seeing the fashion, the decorations, and watching their love story unfold.

I have also witnessed how weddings can bring out the best and the inner crazy in us all. It is a day we want to showcase our love and our journey to the world.

The biggest part of having Just as Planned is to bring you the wedding professionals who are so passionate about their craft and the services they provide.

I love hearing about the vendors' stories of why they love weddings and choose this pathway.

Finding these amazing vendors allows you to select who is right for you to bring your vision of your special day to life.

I know that in this issue we have some incredible vendors to showcase to help inspire you.

Remember when planning your special day to be you. To allow your dreams to come true and showcase your love story to the world in your own words and style.

Until next time,

Happy planning everyone,



**Christine Innes**  
**Editor in Chief**

ESTD



2021

# JUST AS PLANNED

WEDDINGS

## Podcast is now live

Join us every week for a new episode as get all the tips and inside knowledge from the industry experts in weddings.

Season 2 is now live on Spotify and Youtube.

Season 3 kicking off in 2024 returning with our host Nathan Cassar



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# The Bridal Retreat Wedding Wellness Box

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## *The Ultimate Gift Set for a Bride to Be*

Imagine gifting a stress-free wedding planning experience to your best friend, sister, daughter or daughter in law to be.

This gift set was created by Master Wedding Planner Kristin Sullivan after 25 years in the industry. She curated these products intentionally for Brides to Be to actually enjoy the journey of their entire wedding planning process.

Included in the beautifully boxed set:

\*A wedding journal & planning guide; a place to document the love story & planning details while guiding through the planning process.

\*A luxurious candle to burn while writing in the journal.

\*A meditation set to use during zen-yoga sessions.

\*A box of adaptogen elixir to clear brain fog.

\*A set of IDOIN30, a wedding planning card deck guiding brides to be step by step over the final 30-day countdown to wedding day.

\*A HipBetty emergency bag to store all of the wedding day of items needed, includes a list of what Kristin has in her own bag.

\*30-minute wedding consultation with  
Kristin Sullivan

\$555 USD



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[www.thebridalretreat.com](http://www.thebridalretreat.com)

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G R A C E L O V E L A C E


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Grace Loves Lace is designed for the modern woman of style, substance, and passion.

Megan Ziems, Creative Director and Founder of Grace Loves Lace, created the brand to offer each bride-to-be unique and unmatched designs. Fuelled by her passion for exquisite craftsmanship and luxurious lace, Megan revolutionised the industry and is pioneering sustainability and ethical production in bridal.

Today, we are so proud to have 26 global showrooms that offer exceptional service and a bespoke experience to brides searching for their dream gown.

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 | [grace\\_loves\\_lace](#)

 | [grace\\_loves\\_lace](#)

 | [graceloveslace.com.au](#)

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5 CLASSIC WEDDING DRESS  
STYLES THAT NEVER GO  
OUT OF FASHION BY GRACE  
LOVES LACE

5 CLASSIC WEDDING DRESS  
STYLES THAT NEVER GO OUT  
OF FASHION BY GRACE LOVES  
LACE

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Your wedding day is one of the most special and memorable occasions in your life. Choosing the perfect wedding dress is one of the most defining aspects of the planning process. While wedding dress trends come and go, there are some classics that never go out of fashion. These timeless styles have stood the test of time and continue to be popular choices for brides year after year.

In this article, we will explore 5 classic wedding dress styles inspired by [Grace Loves Lace](#), known for their bohemian and romantic designs. From flowy boho gowns to delicate lace dresses, these timeless styles are sure to make you look stunning on your big day. Whether you're a bride who loves a boho chic style or you prefer a more vintage-inspired look, these wedding dress styles are sure to inspire you and help you find the perfect gown that will never go out of fashion.

### 01 Boho Chic: Capture Your Free-Spirited Vibe

The boho chic style is all about free-spirited and carefree vibes, perfect for brides who want a relaxed yet stylish look on their wedding day. Grace Loves Lace is known for their boho chic wedding dresses that feature flowing silhouettes, and soft lace. These dresses often come with floral embroidery that adds a touch of bohemian charm.

One of the reasons why the boho chic style never goes out of fashion is its versatility. You can opt for a boho lace gown with a deep V-neckline for a beach wedding or choose a boho-inspired gown with a delicate crochet overlay for a rustic outdoor ceremony. Complete the look with a flower crown or a whimsical headpiece for a boho bridal ensemble that is both timeless and trendy.

5 CLASSIC WEDDING DRESS  
STYLES THAT NEVER GO OUT  
OF FASHION BY GRACE LOVES  
LACE

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## 02 Vintage-Inspired: Timeless Charm

Vintage-inspired wedding dresses are a classic choice for brides who want a touch of old-world charm and nostalgia on their special day. These dresses often feature delicate lace, intricate beading, and vintage-inspired silhouettes such as tea-length or mermaid dresses.

Vintage-inspired wedding dresses have an enduring appeal that never goes out of fashion, and there is no wonder why. Whether you choose a gown with a high neckline and long sleeves for a classic look, or a flapper-inspired silhouette with art deco details for a Great Gatsby-inspired wedding, the timeless charm of a vintage style is undeniable. To complete your vintage bridal ensemble, consider adding accessories like a birdcage veil or a statement brooch for an elegant and sophisticated touch. With these timeless elements, you'll create a wedding day look that exudes vintage-inspired beauty and style.

## 03 Romantic Lace: Capture your Elegance

Lace is a timeless fabric that has been used in wedding dresses for centuries, and it continues to be a popular choice for brides who want a romantic and feminine look. From delicate floral lace to intricate patterns and bohemian-inspired silhouettes, there are endless possibilities to choose from when it comes to romantic lace. These gowns often come with illusion necklines, sheer backs, and delicate sleeves that add a touch of romance to your bridal look.

Lace wedding dresses are a perennial favourite. Their versatility makes them a perfect fit for a wide range of wedding styles. For a classic and traditional look, consider a lace A-line gown, while a boho-inspired outdoor wedding might call for a relaxed-fit lace gown. Lace can be incorporated in countless ways, from head-to-toe lace for a vintage feel to subtle lace accents for a modern twist.

Complete the look with a delicate lace veil or a pair of lace booties for a romantic bridal ensemble that is both timeless and enchanting.

## 04 The flowing and carefree look

A flowing style is perfect for brides who want a relaxed and carefree look on their wedding day. These dresses often feature soft and flowy fabrics such as chiffon or silk, with loose and airy silhouettes that create a sense of bohemian elegance.

Flowy wedding dresses have continued to be a popular choice among brides due to their comfort. With an elegant gown, you have the option to choose a dress with a halter neckline and a flowing skirt for a beach or destination wedding, or perhaps a dress with off-the-shoulder sleeves and a tiered skirt for a romantic garden ceremony. To complete the look, consider pairing the dress with a floral crown or a braided hairstyle. The effortlessly elegant bridal look is perfect for brides who want to be comfortable yet stunning on their special day.

## 05 Embody the Beauty of Minimalism

Minimalism is a design trend that has transcended various industries, including wedding fashion. These dresses typically have uncomplicated silhouettes, with minimal adornments and details that are free of any distractions or clutter.

The enduring popularity of minimalist wedding dresses can be attributed to their timeless and modern appeal. Whether you prefer a sleek sheath gown with a high neckline, or a daring slit for a contemporary look, minimalist dresses are always in style. Their clean lines and understated elegance make them a perfect choice for brides who appreciate simplicity and modernity in their wedding day attire.

Grace Loves Lace recently introduced Jones, their newest bridal dress. Grace Loves Lace believes that Jones is positioned to become an iconic choice. She exudes modernity and authenticity, and offers a flattering silhouette without limitations. Accompanied by the Bo Shawl, Jones is sure to leave guests in awe.

These 5 classic wedding dress styles are timeless choices that never go out of fashion. Whether you're a boho bride, a vintage lover, a romantic at heart, a free-spirited soul, or a minimalist chic bride, there are wedding dress styles for every bride to be. So, embrace your unique style and choose a wedding dress that reflects your personality, because classic never goes out of fashion.











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## SPRING WEDDING INSPIRATION

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### *WHY TO CONSIDER A SPRING WEDDING*

- You might be thinking you have to stick to colour, yet black and white can add a moody vibe to a spring affair.
- Outdoor dance floor. With the night air beautiful get your guest dancing under the stars.
- Add flowers to your cake. Add in the pop of colour with flowers to the cake.
- Make it playful. Consider a pop up picnic for your wedding venue to add in a surprise for your guests.



WEDDING VENDOR SPOTLIGHT




MC ALEX GLUMAC

based in

NSW, Australia

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 | [mc\\_alex\\_glumac](https://www.instagram.com/mc_alex_glumac)

ALEX GLUMAC IS AN AWARD-WINNING WEDDING EMCEE FROM WESTERN SYDNEY, WHO SHUNS THE LIMELIGHT AND ALLOWS HIS MIC TO DO THE TALKING.

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## HOW IT STARTED.

“So, Alex, tell me, when did you arrive in Australia?”

It’s a commonly asked question in the old language that Alex Glumac gets at Serbian weddings. Donning a smile, he would reply with the unexpected, “I was born and bred here. My parents on the other hand, came to Australia more than 50 years ago.”

The guest would be in awe at Glumac’s revelation.

“To be honest, I assumed it was a joke when I was first asked this years ago, as Serbs have a penchant to be smart-alecs”, says Glumac, who holds a Master’s Degree in Communication Management (Public Relations major [UTS]) and an Honours Degree in Communication (Journalism major and History, Politics and Philosophy sub-major [WSU]).

It’s one of the many accolades attributed to Glumac, a fluent Serbian speaker, who unlike most Australian-born Serbs, never attended Serbian school.

“The Serbian language is difficult, considering it has seven grammatical cases and it’s easy to make a mistake. You have to be on top of your game at all times!”

This is why Glumac is in high demand as a wedding emcee in the Serbian community. As a bilingual wedding emcee, he engages all guests, so they don’t feel neglected.

“There are older members of the Serbian community who are not well-versed in English, especially when it comes to the entertainment lingo.

“By providing on-the-spot translations, I am ensuring they are a part of the celebration and that they feel welcomed. You can see the happiness and sincerity on their faces.”

ALEX GLUMAC IS AN AWARD-WINNING WEDDING EMCEE FROM WESTERN SYDNEY, WHO SHUNS THE LIMELIGHT AND ALLOWS HIS MIC TO DO THE TALKING.

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A veteran of the emceeing scene, Glumac hosted his first wedding in 2014. He admits it was a slow start to this journey, as he declined requests at the beginning. Glumac credits his mother, Vicky (Zikica), who encouraged him to further pursue emceeing gigs due to his exceptional writing ability, particularly when it comes to drafting speeches.

“Mum is the reason why I am a wedding emcee in the first place. I recall her once saying to me, ‘imagine how far you can go if you applied those skills to yourself?’

“I doubted myself and constantly thought of couples’ and guests’ impression of me, if I were to make noticeable mistakes, which would ruin the night.”

Glumac’s self-deprecation began to erode as he focused on nurturing his writing and speaking skills in Serbian, with the help of his parents, Vicky and Fred (Zikica and Radovan). This was further complemented by his then employment as a journalist, speechwriter, and adviser to a member of parliament, whom he would often represent at events as a guest speaker.

Emcees at Serbian weddings are rare. Traditionally, it would be the lead singer of the band, who would assume the quasi-emcee role, by only making announcements with little regard to the flow of the program, which usually results in delays.

Nowadays, venues have strict rules and formalities, which must be adhered to by all vendors. The wedding emcee is integral to the success of the night, by constantly liaising with musicians, photographers, videographers and importantly, the venue manager, to ensure the program is running smoothly, without any hiccups.

As Glumac started developing his emceeing skills, recommendations ensued. He would often be recommended by guests and entertainers, with whom he has collaborated, such as DJ Charger, DJ Drakez, DJ Great Dane, Aleks Koneski, Orkestar Todorovici, and Orkestar Sampioni.

ALEX GLUMAC IS AN AWARD-WINNING WEDDING EMCEE FROM WESTERN SYDNEY, WHO SHUNS THE LIMELIGHT AND ALLOWS HIS MIC TO DO THE TALKING.

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He also assumed the “twofold role” of guest and emcee, having hosted several of his friends’ weddings in recent years (a special shout-out to “Brother Nesh” and Suzana Radosevic, Bojana and Toby Salvanos, Chloe and Bojan Karan, along with Tom Gajic, who referred Glumac on to his friends).

Devoid of ego and being down-to-Earth, Glumac was reluctant to create his own Instagram business page, nor to promote himself on social media. “It’s quite the paradox when I thought about it. On one hand, you need to promote yourself to get noticed. Yet, on the other hand, it can be seen as an ego-builder, which can be a real turn-off and dissuade others from booking you in.”

Glumac credits long-time good friend, Dejan Marinkovic, an accordion player and founder of one of the premier music bands in the Serbian community, Orkestar Sampioni [pronounced Shampioni, meaning Champions in Serbian], for boosting his presence on both Facebook and Instagram.

“Dejan would recommend me to other couples and constantly nag me and say ‘dude, you need to have your own MC page.’

“Without fail, he always acknowledges his collaborators in Sampioni’s posts. He’d tag my private account, which obviously is not accessible and I have nothing to showcase.

“This went on for several years and I finally decided to open up a separate and public account in March 2020.”

Glumac’s plan started off well, as requests began to mount. Unfortunately, with the advent of the COVID lockdown introduced by the NSW Government, the wedding industry was decimated overnight. Messages of postponements and cancellations followed. Amid the blatant negativity at first, Glumac soon got into action by fine tuning his Instagram page.

ALEX GLUMAC IS AN AWARD-WINNING WEDDING EMCEE FROM WESTERN SYDNEY, WHO SHUNS THE LIMELIGHT AND ALLOWS HIS MIC TO DO THE TALKING.

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“Photos were not enough, as prospective newlyweds wanted to know what I can bring to the table. I asked previous couples if I could obtain video copies of their reception, so I could only use scenes of myself speaking.

“Thankfully, they were understanding and encouraging, as I respect the privacy of every video. The videos proved to be the ultimate learning tool. I would critique my speaking and emceeing style. I would note my mistakes and work to correct them by constantly practising, especially with more emphasis on ad-libbing.”

The hard work has paid off. Glumac is now adept at wedding planning and can tailor a run sheet to a couple’s wishes. His emceeing repertoire now sees him hosting weddings from various multicultural backgrounds. He’s well-versed in many cultures and it’s second nature for him to learn greetings and phrases in other languages, which is a sure way to keep guests entertained.

Boasting a deep, baritone voice, Glumac can easily command the attention of his audience and is a natural when it comes to providing laughter, complimenting speakers during speeches, announcing key formalities and co-ordinating exciting games during the reception.

Glumac finally started gaining recognition in the industry by winning back-to-back Wedding Industry Awards in 2022 and 2023. His endless testimonials have cemented him as one of the most popular wedding emcees in Sydney.

“I am indebted to every couple who has asked me to host their wedding. Each wedding has taught me something new. I’ve developed new skills and am able to avert problems and handle difficult situations, all while keeping the couple relaxed without any stress.”

“To me, the couple are the most important people of the night. I’ll do whatever I can to ensure their night runs seamlessly and that they have the best night of their lives!”

ALEX GLUMAC IS AN AWARD-WINNING WEDDING EMCEE FROM WESTERN SYDNEY, WHO SHUNS THE LIMELIGHT AND ALLOWS HIS MIC TO DO THE TALKING.

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#### MC ALEX GLUMAC'S WEDDING CAREER AT A GLANCE

- 2023 Highly Commended Award Winner - 2nd Best Wedding MC (Wedding Industry Awards - Western Sydney & Blue Mountains).
- 2022 Highly Commended Award Winner - 2nd Best Wedding MC (Wedding Industry Awards - Greater Sydney).
- Hosted weddings between 60 to 500-plus guests.
- Hosts Award Nights, Charity and Corporate Events.
- Hosted weddings from the following multicultural backgrounds: Bosnian, Chinese, Croatian, Egyptian, French, Greek, Lebanese, Indian, Italian, Macedonian, Mauritian, Spanish and Vietnamese.
- Can greet guests in Arabic, Greek, Italian, Macedonian, Russian, Spanish and Turkish.

Photo credit: Nikki Harris and T-One Image

ALEX GLUMAC IS AN AWARD-WINNING WEDDING EMCEE FROM WESTERN SYDNEY, WHO SHUNS THE LIMELIGHT AND ALLOWS HIS MIC TO DO THE TALKING.

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## HANDY TIPS

Glumac is prone to saying, “there’s more to emceeing than just talking on the mic”. From the get-go, Glumac requests to meet up with couples ASAP to start the planning process. It’s important for Glumac to get to know the couple, by gathering as much information as possible, so he can start preparing their run sheet.

Here are some useful tips for couples to take on board:

### **Prepare a To-Do List.**

This is an absolute MUST for all couples! Ideas will start flowing and it will aid you in your planning along the way. Mental notes just won’t cut it, as it’s easy to forget the basics!

### **Songs’ Selection.**

This aspect of wedding planning can be frustrating and is often left till late in the process. Glumac encourages all up-and-coming newlyweds to immediately start brainstorming a list of potential songs for their entrance, first dance, and the cutting of the cake. It’s also recommended that couples speak to their bridal party about their walk-in song choices. The playlist should be sent to the DJ at least two weeks before the wedding date, so the tracks can be prepared.

### **Music Choice.**

Just like the abovementioned point, this is another area of wedding planning which tends to be overlooked. Understandably, the bride and groom want to dance to songs they love (after all, it’s their day). It can make the experience all more enjoyable for guests when the DJ cranks up classic hits from the bygone eras of the ’80s and ’90s (a guaranteed way to ensure the dance floor is always full!). Glumac recommends couples speak to the DJ regarding the songs they would like on the night. This is more so important for multicultural weddings, as the DJ may not have those songs. Preparing a Spotify playlist for the DJ can be a lifesaver.





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## SUMMER WEDDING INSPIRATION

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### *WHY TO CONSIDER A SUMMER WEDDING*

- Seaside wedding, wind in your veil, barefoot on the sand.
- The warmer weather to dance under the stars and also allows for clear skies at night for more photo opportunities.
- Add in seashells or baby breath to add in some white or neutral colours to add to the theme.
- Consider the time of day for your ceremony with the heat, you could have an evening wedding or early morning brunch.



WEDDING VENDOR SPOTLIGHT



Black Avenue Production

based in

Vic, Australia

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BLACK AVENUE PRODUCTION

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## BLACK AVENUE PRODUCTION

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Black Avenue Productions is a boutique wedding photography and videography business with a reputation for exquisite, timeless work. Black Avenue Productions truly care about crafting stunning wedding albums for their couples, focusing on capturing artistic yet modern images that tell a story.

*Thank you for joining us here at Just as Planned. Please introduce yourself to our readers. They love to know about you, and how you came to find and follow your passion for weddings.*

I'm Lowina Blackman, a fervent romantic with a penchant for creativity. My journey into the world of weddings was ignited in 2010 when I tied the knot myself. A tinge of dissatisfaction with my own wedding photographer and the missed opportunity of not having a videographer due to budget constraints left me with a lingering regret. Discovering an unexpected stash of 10k cash in my wishing well post-celebration filled my heart with emotions and I burst into tears. It was this poignant realization that eventually led to the inception of Black Avenue Productions in 2016. My mission: to ensure that no other bride would have to endure the same regrets I did.

*As the expert, what is your number 1 tip you can share with our audience about wedding planning?*

My top tip for seamless wedding planning is to prioritize open communication with your partner. By discussing your dreams, desires, and details early on, you'll create a day that's an authentic reflection of your unique love story.

*What you the best piece of advice you can give on how couples can make sure their wedding feels true to who they are?*

To ensure your wedding truly mirrors your love story, infuse personal touches throughout, like incorporating cherished photos or heartfelt vows. Capturing these moments through photography and videography allows your genuine emotions to shine.

*Share one of your secret tips with our readers on how they can ensure their wedding goes... Just as Planned.*

A secret to a perfectly executed wedding is hiring professionals who understand your vision. Trust your photographers and videographers to capture every genuine emotion and candid moment. Their lens will document your day's authentic love, ensuring it unfolds just as you've dreamed.

### **Capturing Eternal Love: The Heartbeat of Wedding Photography & Videography**

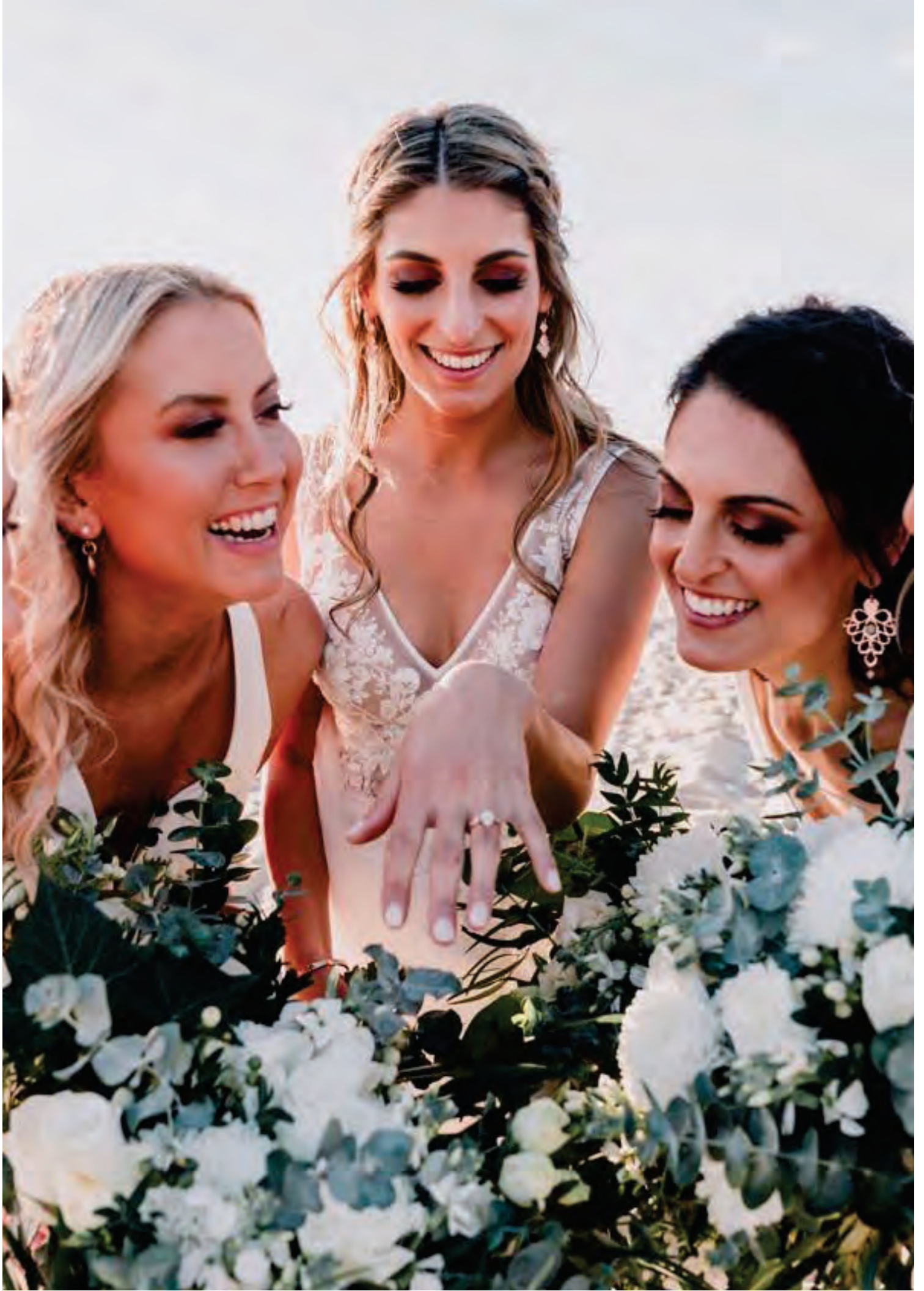
In a world that's constantly evolving, love remains timeless. It's the kind of magic that deserves to be captured, cherished, and retold for generations to come. At Black Avenue Productions, we understand the profound significance of this sentiment, and it's our privilege to weave your love story into a visual masterpiece.

Our journey as wedding photographers and videographers began with a deep passion for authentic storytelling. Love stories are not just moments frozen in time; they are living, breathing narratives that deserve to be etched into eternity. Our lens becomes a portal to those cherished memories, allowing you to relive every smile, touch, and tear with the same intensity years later.

From Melbourne's charming lanes to the farthest corners of the world, our focus remains on encapsulating your unique bond. It's not about capturing picture-perfect poses; it's about documenting the real, unscripted moments. We believe in a fusion of candid shots and artistically composed frames that showcase the essence of your love, beautifully unfiltered.

Our top advice for couples planning their dream day: Embrace your journey and let your personalities shine. Don't just plan a wedding; curate an experience that mirrors your journey together. Whether it's sharing heartfelt vows under a golden sunset or stealing a quiet moment amidst the bustling festivities, these are the snapshots of pure emotion that we, as photographers and videographers, thrive on capturing.

Remember, your wedding day is not just an event—it's a symphony of emotions that will resonate in your hearts forever. As you embark on this beautiful adventure, trust Black Avenue Productions to craft a visual saga that encapsulates your love story in all its grandeur. Let love be your guide, and let us be the storytellers of your ever-after.







**COMING  
SOON**

# **hugs + kisses**

**INVITATIONS BY  
JUST AS PLANNED**



# **James & Katie**

Invite you to their wedding.

Save the Date

12th March 202



WEDDING VENDOR SPOTLIGHT



Manage My Wedding

based in

Qld, Australia

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MANAGE MY WEDDING

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 | [managemywedding](https://www.instagram.com/managemywedding)

Yvette Sitters, a visionary in the wedding industry for over 22 years, is the driving force behind Manage My Wedding. Founded in 2017, Manage My Wedding has grown from a Wedding App to encompass The Manage My Wedding Podcast, Digital Planning Tools, and The Calm Bride Planner Course. Yvette's mission is to ensure every couple enjoys a stress-free planning experience, culminating in a perfectly organised wedding day. As the developer of Australia's #1 Wedding Planning App, and with over 500 combined 5-star reviews for the app and podcast, Yvette's expertise promises a joyous journey to "I do."

*Thank you for joining us here at Just as Planned. Please introduce yourself to our readers. They love to know about you, and how you came to find and follow your passion for weddings.*

My love affair with weddings sparked as a 20-year-old Functions Coordinator over 23 years ago. From intimate affairs for six to grand galas for 1,500 guests, I've journeyed worldwide, crafting unique celebrations. This diverse range enriched my understanding of weddings and fuelled my passion. In 2017, I founded Manage My Wedding, merging my experience and devotion. My mission is to infuse joy into every couple's wedding journey. From that early spark to global adventures, I'm dedicated to making dreams come true, one unforgettable wedding at a time.

*As the expert, what is your number 1 tip you can share with our audience about wedding planning?*

My #1 wedding tip? Embrace the fleeting nature of this time and the wedding day itself. Amidst the planning whirlwind and on the big day, pause frequently with your partner. Never forget why you're on this journey, and let your bond remain unshakable. During the wedding, step aside now and then to observe your guests through your own eyes together. Just 5 minutes here and there will let you truly take it all in. These precious pauses, will be the ones that make time slow down and memories last forever.

What you the best piece of advice you can give on how couples can make sure their wedding feels true to who they are?

Resist the allure of conformity and societal expectations. Instead, co-create a bespoke wedding vision with your partner and adhere to it throughout your journey. While it may be challenging to navigate external pressures and say 'no' to certain suggestions, this commitment ensures that your celebration remains an authentic reflection of your love story. As the big day passes and the memories form, you will be so glad you stuck to your vision and no-one else's.

*Share one of your secret tips with our readers how they can ensure their wedding goes... Just as Planned.*

To ensure your wedding goes Just as Planned, a few key elements are essential. Rely on experienced vendors, delegate tasks to loved ones, and enlist an expert for seamless planning and support. Yet, remember, hiccups are part of the journey. Some moments might not seem 'to plan,' but embracing them and moving forward is the magic ingredient. By shrugging off the little glitches, you'll wake up the next day and say it was perfect – because, in the end, everything did go to Plan.

### **Navigating Wedding Day Timings for a Seamless Day**

When envisioning your dream wedding day, it's easy to get swept up in the romantic details: the gown, the decor, the music, and those heartwarming moments that'll become cherished memories. Yet, nestled behind the scenes is a less glamorous, yet equally vital, element that can make or break the magic: the schedule of timings.

Picture this: you're nearing the final stages of your wedding planning journey, everything seems in place, and you can almost feel the excitement in the air. But wait, have you nailed down the timings? It's a task often left to the last minute, and here's why giving it due diligence earlier on can elevate your wedding planning.

Crafting the perfect timing schedule isn't just about ensuring events run like clockwork; it's about creating a seamless flow so the day doesn't fly past or feel too rushed. And that's where involving your vendors comes into play. Your photographer, venue manager, caterers, hair and makeup artists – they all play essential roles and need to be in sync.

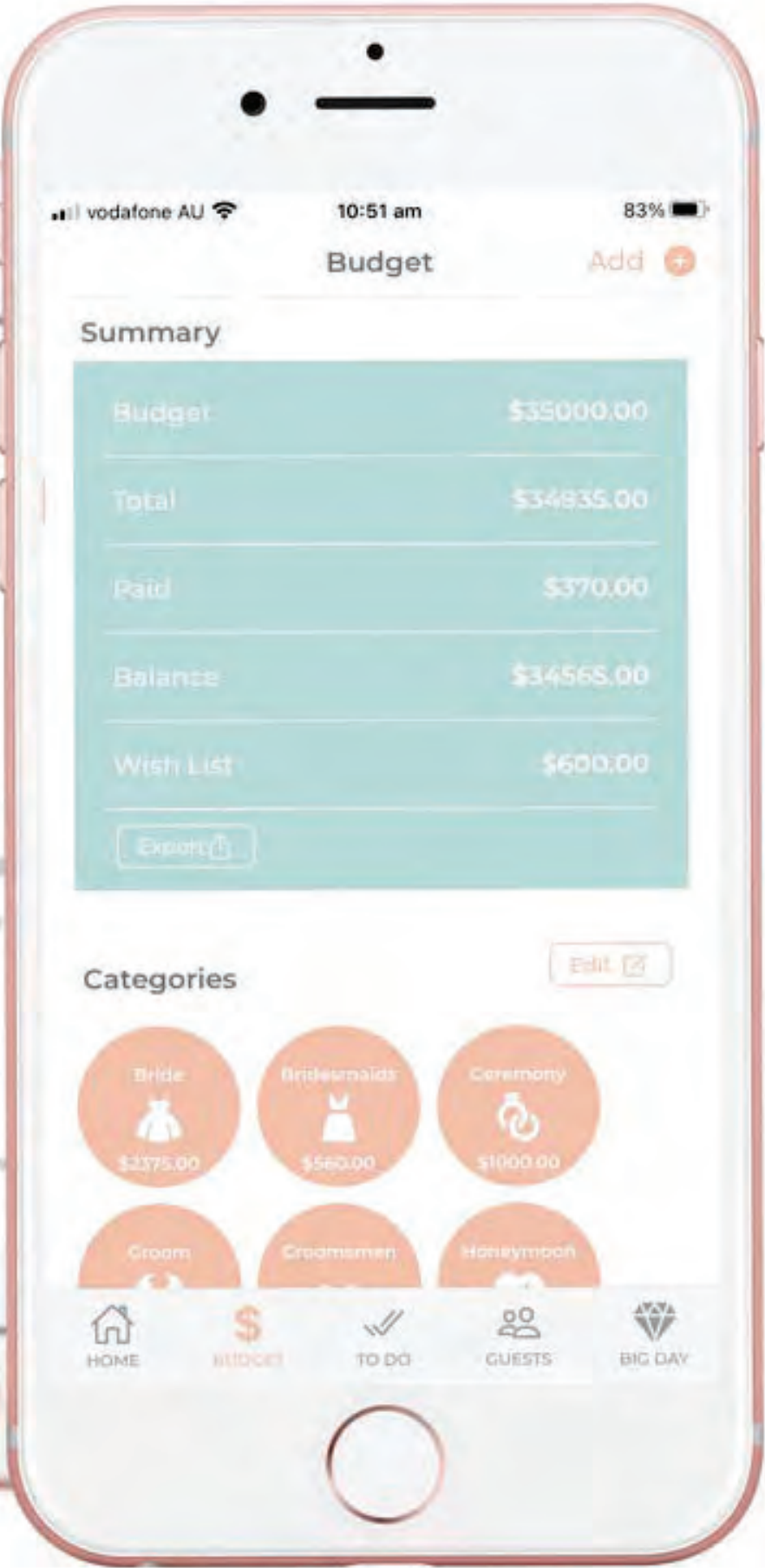
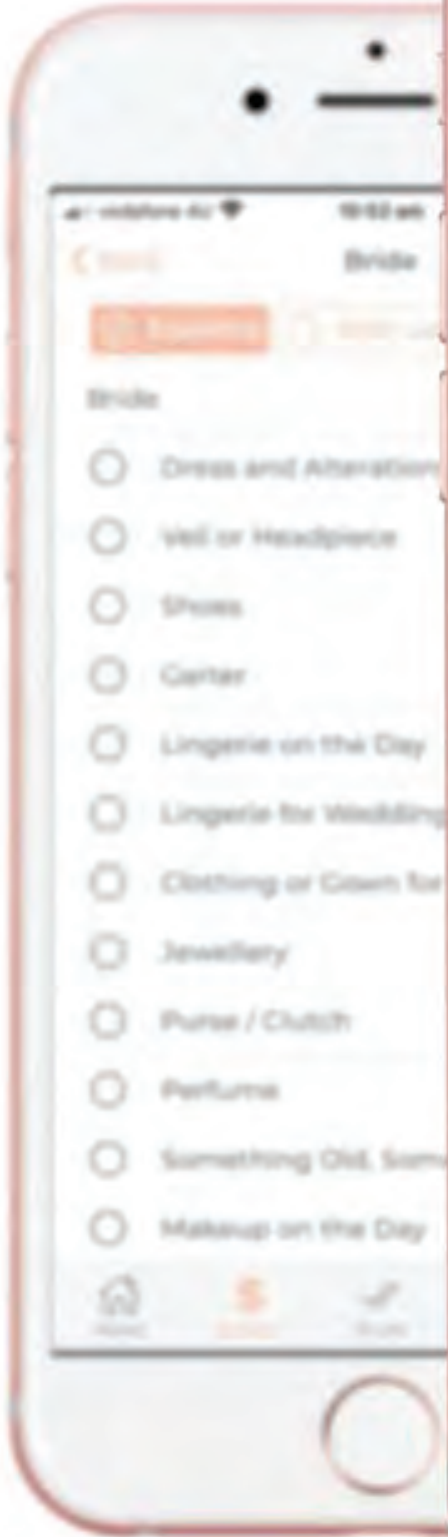
By diving into the timing puzzle early, you create a space to communicate with your vendors and get everyone on the same page. It's an opportunity to iron out potential clashes and ensure a harmonious collaboration.

Moreover, the schedule serves as a revealing mirror. As you slot pieces into the timeline puzzle, it can highlight any missing components you might have overlooked. From flowers arriving to toasts, from cake cutting to dancing, a well-structured schedule captures every essence of your day, making sure no precious moment goes unnoticed.

So, as you embark on your wedding planning journey, remember that crafting the perfect timing schedule is more than just a logistical task; it's the secret ingredient to a flawless day. It's about orchestrating not only events but emotions. Embrace it early, and let the magic of coordination and collaboration unfold. After all, on your wedding day, time is your ally, and a well-timed celebration is the hallmark of unforgettable memories.

For more wedding tips and advice please head to <https://managemywedding.com/>





A collection of light pink and orange roses and greenery arranged around a central white card with a handwritten quote. The roses are in various stages of bloom, some fully open and some as buds. The greenery consists of eucalyptus-like leaves. The central card has a deckled edge and features the text "do small things with great love" in a cursive script.

do small  
things with  
great  
love

WEDDING VENDOR SPOTLIGHT



Marry Me Amanda

based in

Qld, Australia

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MARRY ME AMANDA

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 | [marrymeamanda](https://www.instagram.com/marrymeamanda)

Amanda Lutvey is an Authorised Marriage Celebrant & experienced MC based in the beautiful Scenic Rim in Qld. Amanda marries couples anywhere in the Scenic Rim, on the Gold Coast and even further with a little planning.

*Thank you for joining us here at Just as Planned. Please introduce yourself to our readers. They love to know about you, and how you came to find and follow your passion for weddings.*

Hi, my name is Amanda, and I would love to marry you! I am one of those super positive people who bring an energy and passion for what I do to every interaction. As your Wedding Celebrant, I will get to know you and bring your unique story to life, making sure your ceremony is as unique as you are. My style is relaxed and professional, fun and focused. I believe the best ceremonies are a balance of the serious stuff with a sprinkling of laughter, fun and a whole lot of heartfelt love. Let's get you married!

*As the expert, what is your number 1 tip you can share with our audience about wedding planning?*

Engage vendors who fit the vibe you are looking to create on your big day, then trust them to support you through the planning process. As an experienced Wedding Celebrant and MC I love to share my tips and tricks to make sure your day is as unique as you are. Don't be afraid to ask for advice and recommendations.

*What you the best piece of advice you can give on how couples can make sure their wedding feels true to who they are?*

Your day, your way... your big day truly is all about you and the beautiful thing about getting married in 2023/24 is that there is very little you actually 'have to do' to be legally married. Yes there is paperwork to complete and timelines to adhere to, but the legal wording you must say really is quite small (and your Celebrant will be all over this!). This means you can truly tailor your ceremony to suit you as a couple.



*Share one of your secret tips with our readers on how they can ensure their wedding goes... Just as Planned.*

Your day really will go so quickly, so either hire or assign someone as your on-the-day Coordinator to keep their eye on the time, the run sheet and to be there to juggle all the vendor questions. Then surround yourself with your closest mates - the ones who you feel relaxed around and who make you laugh. Your day will go so quickly so try to have fun and be in the moment as much as possible.

### **The run down on vows... what you need and where to start!**

One of the 'must have' (as in legal bits) that must be included in your ceremony is the exchange of the minimum legal wedding vows. Your Celebrant will write these into your ceremony script and you will repeat after them...super easy.

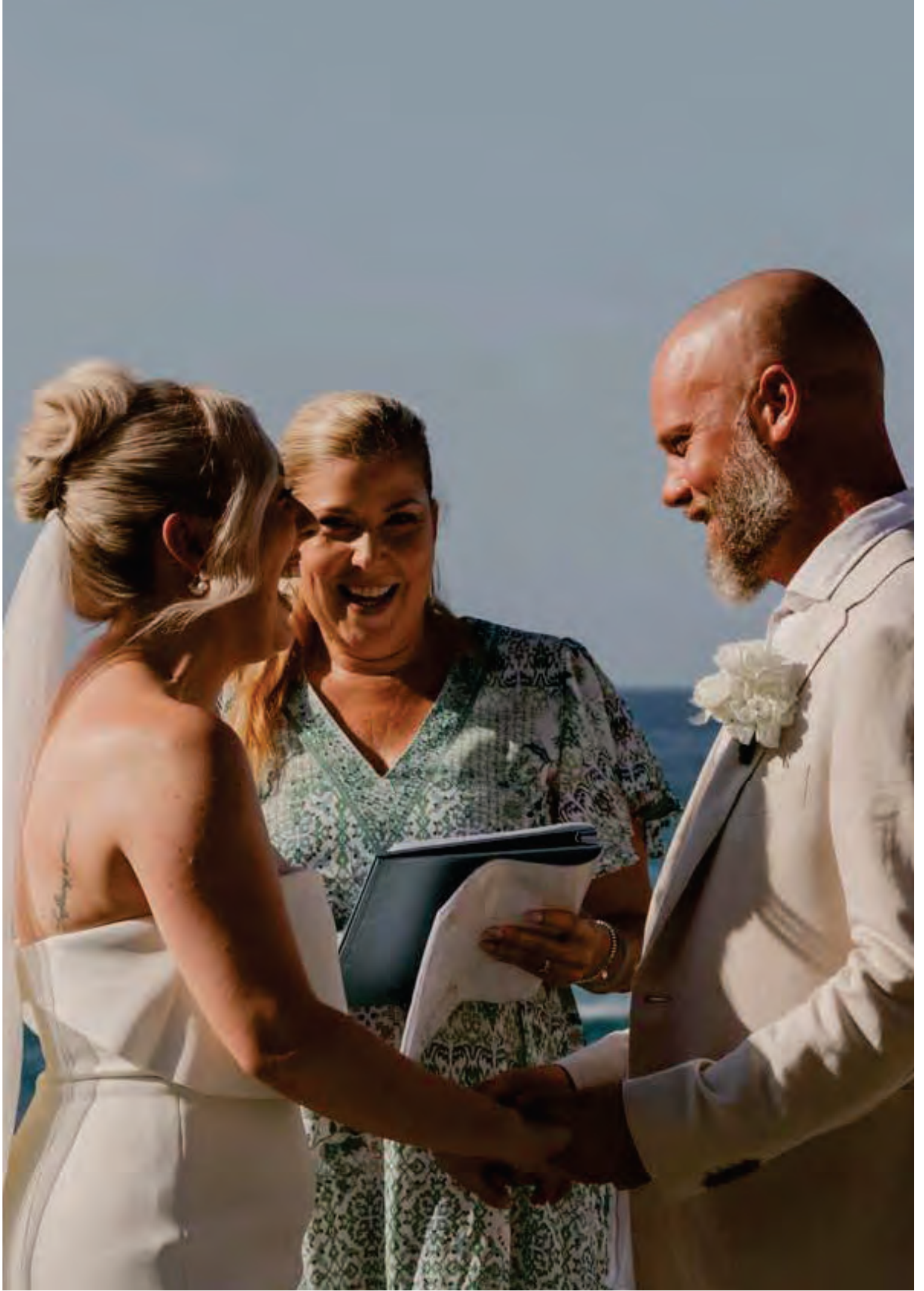
Many couples also choose to share personal vows. While is completely optional, I must say that personal vows are a super special ceremony moment that you and your partner will not regret including – even if the thought of speaking in front of your guests makes you nervous. Read on for some tips on where to start and other ideas for making your vows memorable.

Where do you start:

Your personal vows are your chance to share your love with each other. Sure, you are getting married and your partner knows you love them, but this is your chance to tell them why. Here are my tips for writing memorable vows your partner will love.

Before you start

Think about your audience (tip - it's your partner, not your guests). While you want to add in personality, and even a bit of humour, you should hold on stories or comments that might embarrass your partner (totally not the time to mention ex's or that time they broke your heart!)



Get out your pen/paper/the back of a napkin/your laptop/tablet or even start in the notes section on your phone... whatever works!! Just start!

Don't over think it – write whatever comes into your head. Aim for 200 words or 3 – 4 paragraphs is fine

What to include and questions to assist

Opening – let them know you are speaking directly to them

- o Write like you are writing a letter to this person you are about to marry.
- o What do you call your partner? It may just be their name, or you might want to call them by the pet name you call them privately. It's completely appropriate to start with 'Babe' or 'My love'.

Set the scene

- o Remind them of the journey you have been on to get here today.
- o How did you meet?
- o How did you know they were the one?

You are

- o What do you love about them?
- o Think about the little things that mean the most to you – what do they do to show you their love?

We are

- o Who are you together?
- o How do you feel when you are together?

Your promises

- o What do you promise? Add in 3-5 promises for your life together.
- o These can be a combination of serious and fun.

Sum it up

- o What are you looking forward to in the future?
- o You may like to sum up with a quote or short poem that sums up your relationship and your hopes for the future.

Next steps:

I recommend my couples send their vows through to me separately so I can check them and make sure they are aligned (ie: around the same length). I also print them out and bring them along to the ceremony.

I am also here to support my couples if they need someone to read them and assist with wordsmithing to make them express exactly what they have in mind.

I also recommend doing a practice run a few days out. Reading them out loud – either to yourself or to a close friend or family member really does assist to calm your nerves.

On the day remember to look at your partner when you deliver your personal vows. You can absolutely read them but take a deep breath and go slower than you think you need to.

As your Celebrant I will be there to support you every step of the way. It's totally fine to get emotional, simply stop for a moment and then continue when you can. If for some reason you can't read on, I can even step in and assist.

Alternatives to personal vows:

If the thought of sharing your vows in front of a crowd makes you break out in a cold sweat, know this is completely normal. Most people rank fear of public speaking as their number one fear, in fact the National Institute of Mental Health reports that 75% of adults say they fear public speaking over death. So ah, just know you are not alone. If reading my tips above has done nothing to alleviate your fears, know there are alternatives including things like: Share your personal vows/promises with your partner privately – either pre or post ceremony

You can choose to whisper your vows as part of your ceremony – this makes for a cute moment and the smile on your partners face while you are whispering in their ear makes for great photos. Hold your personal vows until your private photo time together and take a moment to say how you really feel out of the eyes of your guests. Whatever you decide to do, I will be there to support you. I will probably be looking on with a proud mama kinda smile on my face!





**LIFE** is like  
*photography*



.....  
**Always look**  
*on the bright side of*

**THINGS**

WEDDING VENDOR SPOTLIGHT



Deltora Diamonds

based in

Australia

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DELTORA DIAMONDS

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 | [deltoradiamonds](#)



Always a jewellery and fashion lover, Melissa made her foray into the industry after 15+ years in marketing and media. In an industry that is generally male dominated, Melissa has carved out a name for herself. "My mission is to make luxury diamond jewellery accessible to everyone. That is why we use lab grown diamonds and gems across our whole range." Trafford-Jones proclaims. Known as the "Queen of Lab Diamonds", Melissa trained at the prestigious De Beers Academy and at the Gem Academy in London - she really knows her stuff!! "I want to change the way the world looks at DIAMONDS." Melissa has boldly created a new category with her lab diamonds that are sustainable, ethical and affordable – and through trust, connection and loyalty, she has shown people that there is in fact another way to buy diamonds.

*Thank you for joining us here at Just as Planned. Please introduce yourself to our readers. They love to know about you, and how you came to find and follow your passion for weddings.*

My name is Melissa Trafford-Jones and I am the CEO & Founder of Deltora Diamonds. I've always loved diamonds—as a kid I dressed up in mum's pieces and pretended I had a glamorous job and even better tennis serve. Then I grew up and realised diamonds are hideously expensive and I needed a house more.

But decades into working in media and marketing, I had unfinished business with jewellery. After studying at the De Beers Institute and London's Gem Academy, I founded Deltora Diamonds with the mission of making diamond jewellery accessible to all women regardless of bank balance.

Ask me at a party what I do, and I'll say I'm an internationally qualified expert who personally sources the world's best diamonds on demand. As a mother of four, I love that they happen to be lab created, sustainable and ethical.

In terms of weddings well I am pretty well versed as I have been married twice. One a big fabulous affair with 250 of my nearest and dearest, the other a fabulous close intimate at home wedding which was the best night of my life. Basically I love LOVE and my job lets me experience that on the daily.

*As the expert, what is your number 1 tip you can share with our audience about wedding planning?*

Don't forget the RINGS!!!

Start early, this is one of the most important considerations of the day apart from the dress! The rings will be with you for a lifetime so you need to make sure you set aside the appropriate budget.

The good news is that you don't have to spend a fortune to get the bling you've always wanted. Lab diamonds are on every one's lips and fingers right now because they are a really affordable choice. Plus they sit in that sweet spot of being a great value, ethical, and a sustainable feel-good choice.

*What you the best piece of advice you can give on how couples can make sure their wedding feels true to who they are?*

In terms of rings, my number 1 tip would be to don't go with just what's on trend. Consider, am i going to love wearing this when in another 30 years?

Some people reinvent the look of their engagement ring over time but the wedding ring is always the symbol of the day you officially became husband and wife so its sentimental.

*Share one of your secret tips with our readers how they can ensure their wedding goes... Just as Planned.*

Don't forget the rings..... for starters give them to someone you trust for the day. Perhaps your mother if your groomsmen are a little bit on the irresponsible side, Believe me i have heard so many stories.

## **Jewellery to wear on your wedding day, borrowed, blue, and unique to you**

So you've found the dress of your dreams! Now, it's time to own the look with the perfect accessories to complete your bridal look.

From earrings to necklaces, something borrowed to something blue. To help you make the right choices and sparkle like a glamour we've gathered expert advice from The Queen of Diamonds Melissa Trafford-Jones of Deltora Diamonds.

Get ready to sparkle and dazzle, because your wedding jewellery is about to steal the show!

### **\* Reflect Your Style:**

Start by channeling your inner fashionista. Consider the jewellery pieces you already adore and feel confident in. Your wedding day is not the time to experiment with an entirely new look.

Amplify your style by choosing accessories that resonate with your personal taste. "If you never wear earrings, let's not use your wedding day as the first time you bring out a statement earring." Stick to what you love, just with a touch more glamour.

Popular options are - diamond studs, bezel set drop earrings, pear drop earrings.

**Harmonize with Your Dress:** Your wedding gown's silhouette will guide your accessory choices. A high-neck dress might call for elegant earrings and a bracelet, while a strapless beauty could be complemented by a necklace or drop earrings. Find pieces that enhance your dress's features rather than overpowering them. Your jewelry should dance harmoniously with your dress, creating a symphony of beauty.

Your engagement and wedding rings are the star of the show today. Make sure they are clean and polished. Ask your jeweller to give your engagement ring a polish and clean before the big day too as these will be photographed. **Necklace Magic:** If a necklace is on your radar, choose one that follows your dress neckline. V-necks pair perfectly with pendants, while chokers and statement necklaces complement strapless and sweetheart necklines. Remember, your necklace should caress your skin, not your dress, when skin is exposed. A graduated diamond tennis necklace or solitaire pendant is our favourite choice

Embrace change: Feel free to switch up your jewelry between ceremony and reception for added allure.

\* Personal style trumps trends: Your wedding photos are forever, so choose pieces that truly reflect your essence.

\* Trust your instincts: Don't succumb to external pressure; your jewelry should embody your unique taste.

\* Cherish sentimental pieces: Incorporate family heirlooms into your look with pride and thoughtfulness.

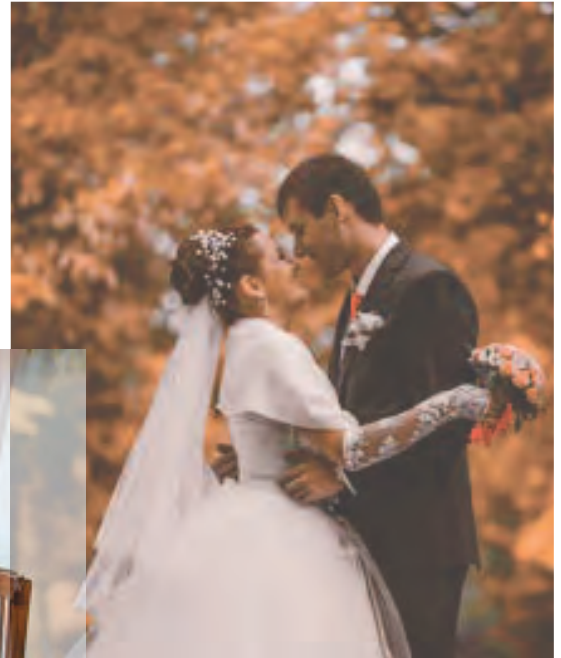




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## AUTUMN WEDDING INSPIRATION

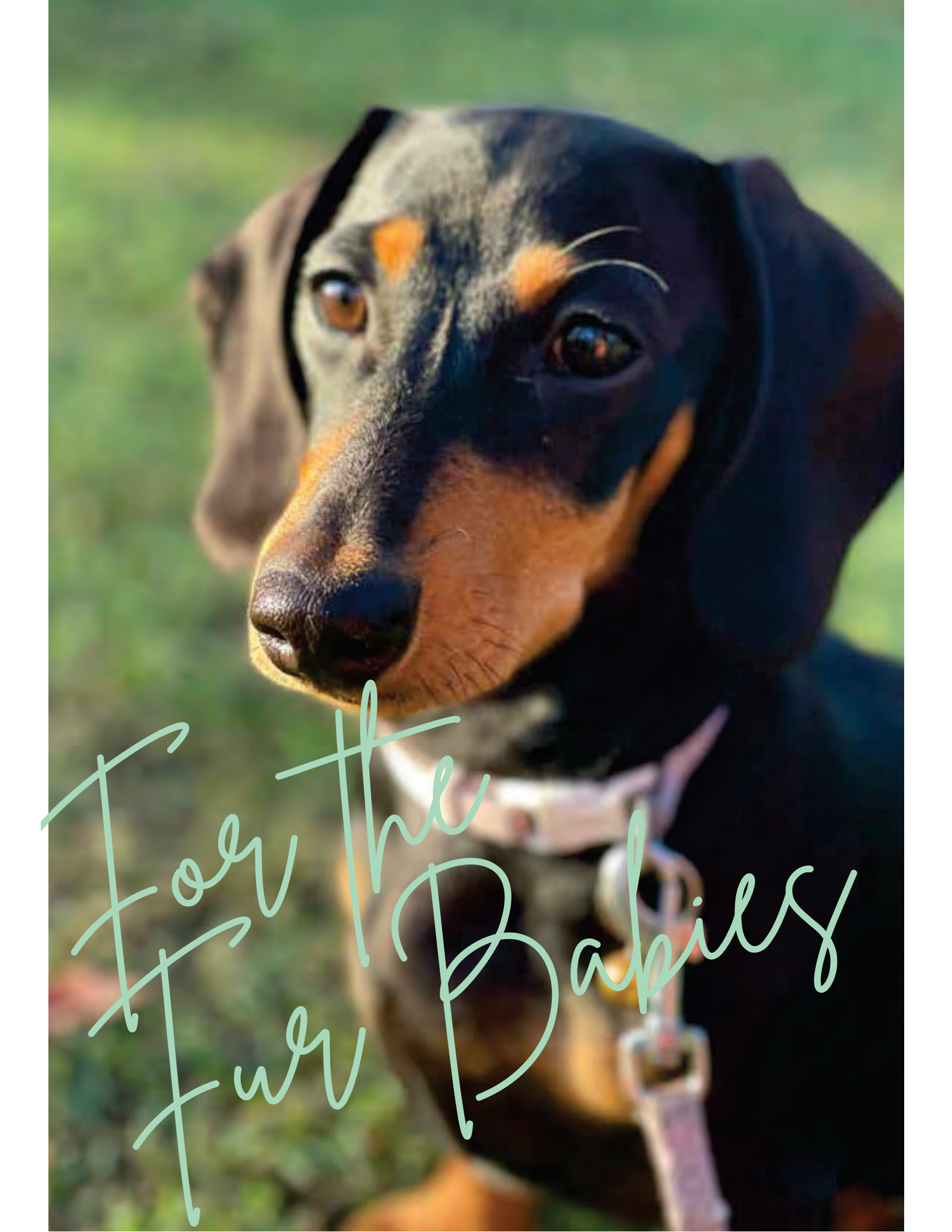
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### *WHY CONSIDER AN AUTUMN WEDDING*

- Use nature such as the falling leaves as a backdrop and colour pop for your wedding day.
- The cooler air to dance the night away and add in some blankets for your guests to cosy up at night.
- The rustic charm such as timber and branches you can add to spice up your decor.
- The natural and dried flower arrangements to enhance the theme.
- Rugs as part of your decor to add a splash of colour





For the  
Fur Babies

WEDDING VENDOR SPOTLIGHT



Pawfect Love

based in

SA, Australia

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PAWFECT LOVE

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Pawfect Love was born from a love for creating with clay and an affinity with pets. Dani sculpts with heart to achieve an incredibly lifelike outcome, which aims to surprise and delight couples and guests with wedding accessories that are as unique as the pets they represent. The business has carved out its own micro-niche within the wedding industry, catering to couples worldwide seeking a stress-free way to honour their pets on the big day with custom pet cufflinks, cake toppers, and bouquet charms.

Outside of sculpting miniature pets, Dani is also a mum of 3 young children.

*Thank you for joining us here at Just as Planned. Please introduce yourself to our readers. They love to know about you, and how you came to find and follow your passion for weddings.*

Based in Adelaide, Australia and owner of Pawfect Love, I'm also a mum to three young children, including twins.

I founded the business now known as Pawfect Love back in 2015 when I was still working as an occupational therapist. It started more as everyday accessories, but following a trend in customer requests and the fulfillment I felt helping pets be honoured in weddings, the direction and purpose became clear. I now couldn't imagine doing anything else and feel so blessed to create such meaningful details and accessories for weddings across the world.

*As the expert, what is your number 1 tip you can share with our audience about wedding planning?*

If event planning is something you have no experience with or passion for, enlist either a friend or family member who has the skills and time or hire a professional. It's not a skill we are all born with and that's okay!!

*What you the best piece of advice you can give on how couples can make sure their wedding feels true to who they are?*

Utilize the small but meaningful details to ensure the wedding is a reflection of important things to you as a couple, that way it won't end up as a cookie cutter wedding. This might be something like arranging to have a specific cocktail available that reminds you of when you first started dating, wearing the same perfume you were wearing when you got engaged or swapping out generic groom cufflinks for ones with your pet's face on.

*Share one of your secret tips with our readers how they can ensure their wedding goes... Just as Planned.*

Share the load- you can't and don't have to do it all yourself!!

### **Including pets in weddings (when they can't actually attend)**

It's difficult to pinpoint exactly when the shift happened, but it's safe to say pets have firmly moved from being lesser family members to right up there with the humans of most households now. So it's no wonder there has been an explosion in pets being included in major celebrations and events, especially dogs in weddings.

Compared with previous generations, it's now most common for couples to move in together and have started a fur-family and sometimes also their human-family well before marrying.

Pets become an extension of our family - loved just as much (maybe sometimes more) as the rest of the relatives. For any couple, their wedding is one of the most important days of their lives. It is a day to celebrate their love, surrounded by those they love most. Family, friends, children and yes, even their pets!"

Pet chaperone services (most commonly used to help dogs attend or even be part of the wedding) are perfect when the main hurdle is transport and the logistics of who will tend to the pet's needs on the day.

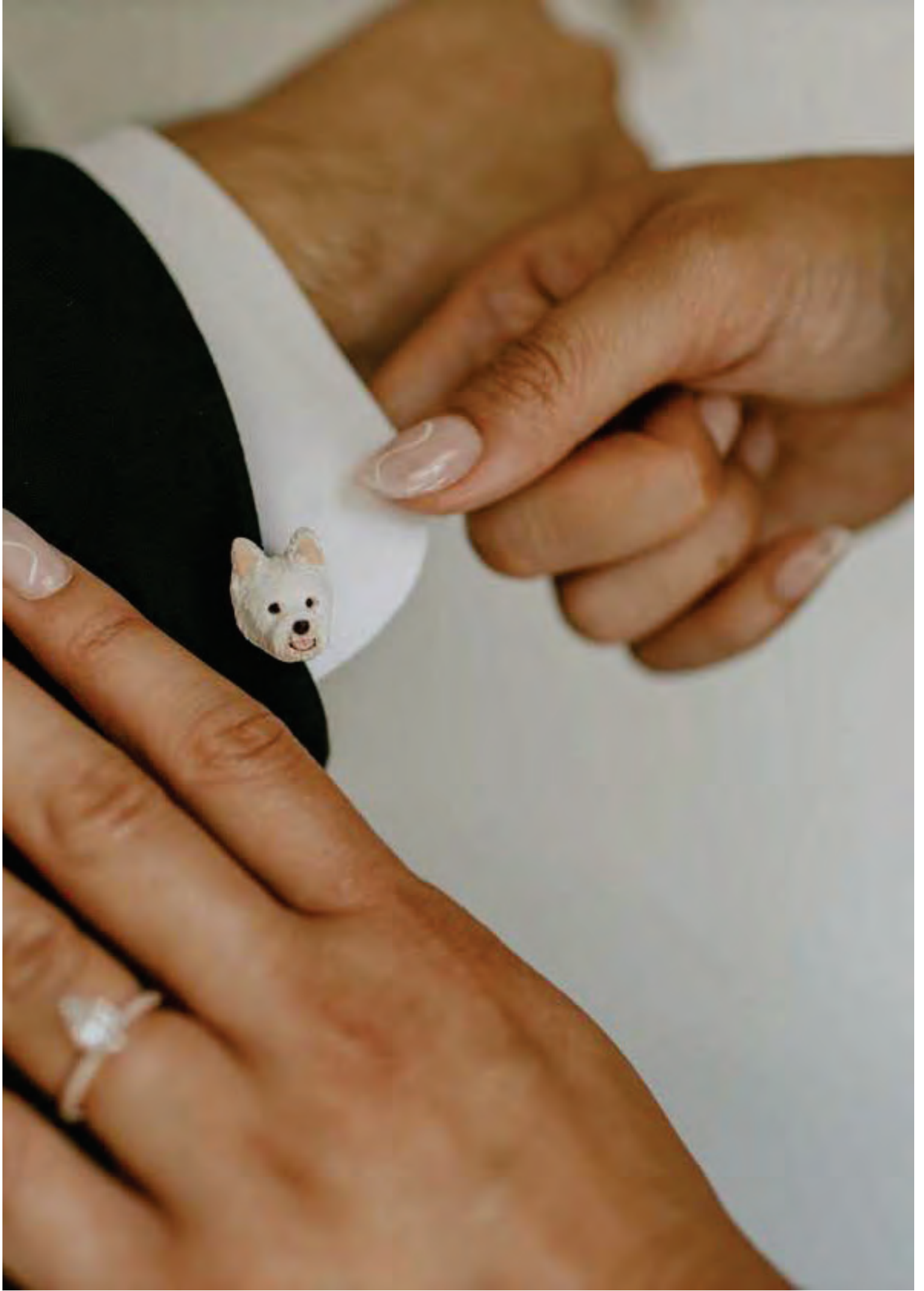
But there are also a number of reasons you may look for an alternative way to honour a pet on the day.

- The big one (they are no longer alive)
- Your pet isn't into crowds or strangers (even with the support of a chaperone)
- Your venue isn't pet-friendly
- You can't decide which members of your large furfamily can attend and which you'll need to leave out
- You have animals that aren't catered to by pet chaperone services (you kept being ghosted when enquiring about your pet python attending)
- Your cat won't possibly be seen dead on a lead or in a cage
- You are eloping in an exotic country
- The list goes on....

However, if this isn't an option, here are some other ideas for including your pet without them physically being there-

- Cufflinks for the groom with the face of your pet, or mismatched if you have a couple of fur children.
- Have a fun pet portrait created that can sit on the gift table.
- Attach a custom pendant to the bouquet that looks just like your pet.
- Have a mini pet statue as a cake topper, or sitting patiently beside the cake would have to be my personal favourite.
- Incorporate a photo of them into table numbers or place settings.
- Include your pet in the wedding stationary, like custom designed invitations.
- Ask attendees to donate to an animal shelter or rescue organisation in lieu of a gift.
- Mention your pet in the speeches.

I hope that gives you plenty of ideas for how to include your furfamily into a wedding. If you aren't planning a wedding yourself, but know someone who is, be sure to send them this way for ideas too.







I do too  
18-03-23

MR & MRS

RY  
EMPTOS  
SOLWMS



Vendor  
Spotlights

WEDDING VENDOR SPOTLIGHT



Holly Faye Counselling

based in

VIC, Australia

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HOLLY FAYE COUNSELLING

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I'm Holly, a compassionate and dedicated wedding counsellor, committed to transforming wedding planning journeys into joyful and stress-free experiences. With almost 15 years at the helm of Must Have Mustangs, a thriving wedding car hire company, I've orchestrated every aspect of the business – from personally chauffeuring clients to managing administration, bookkeeping, marketing, and overseeing car maintenance.

In parallel, my counselling journey has seen me emerge as a fervent advocate for women, offering unwavering support to individuals of all generations navigating mental health challenges, domestic violence, homelessness, and social isolation. Throughout my endeavours, I've observed the profound effects of pivotal life transitions like marriage, relationship shifts, parenthood, and career changes on women's well-being.

I'm married to Adam, and together we cherish our roles as parents to five adult children and one grandchild. Outside of my professional passions, Adam and I share a love for travel, both within Australia and overseas, exploring the wonders that the world has to offer.

It was my involvement in the wedding industry that led to the realisation of the unique hurdles that brides face in orchestrating their special day. This realisation drove me to establish Holly Faye Counselling, my private practice that specialises in guiding brides-to-be through the intricate emotional landscape of wedding planning. With a holistic approach and a wealth of experience, I'm here to ensure that your journey to the altar is filled with positivity and serenity.

*Thank you for joining us here at Just as Planned. Please introduce yourself to our readers. They love to know about you, and how you came to find and follow your passion for weddings.*

I'm Holly, your dedicated wedding counsellor, here to make wedding planning a stress-free journey.

For the last 15 years i have also been leading Must Have Mustangs, a thriving wedding car hire business, I've managed it all – driving clients, admin, bookeeping, marketing, car detailing – and arranged regular mechanical maintenance of the classic cars.

This business led me to the discovery of brides' unique challenges over the stage from fiancée to bride and led me to establish Holly Faye Counselling. With expertise, I guide brides-to-be through the emotional landscape of wedding planning, ensuring a positive journey.

A fervent advocate for women, I've supported those facing mental health challenges, domestic violence, and more. My personal journey, including marriage, parenting, and career changes, informs my approach.

Married to Adam, we're proud parents of five and grandparents to one. Travel enthusiasts, we explore Australia and beyond.

*As the expert, what is your number 1 tip you can share with our audience about wedding planning?*

My number one tip for wedding planning is to prioritise open and honest communication with your partner - and other stakeholders - from the very beginning. Planning a wedding involves merging two lives, families, and visions, and clear communication is key to avoiding misunderstandings and unnecessary stress. Sit down together and have a candid conversation about your expectations, preferences, and priorities for the wedding. Discuss your budget openly and allocate funds to the aspects that matter most to both of you. Regular check-ins throughout the planning process can help ensure you're on the same page and make any necessary adjustments as you go along. Remember, your wedding day is a celebration of your love and commitment. By maintaining open lines of communication, you'll not only create a memorable event that truly reflects both of your personalities but also strengthen your partnership as you navigate through the exciting journey of wedding planning together.

*What you the best piece of advice you can give on how couples can make sure their wedding feels true to who they are?*

My top piece of advice to ensure your wedding truly embodies your identity as a couple is to embark on the planning journey with open and honest conversations. Communicate openly about your individual preferences, dreams, and expectations for the big day. Reflect on the moments and elements that define your relationship – the ones that make you both unique. Use these insights as a foundation to weave your story into every aspect of the wedding – from the venue and decorations to the ceremony and reception.

Consider seeking guidance in creating personalised rituals that resonate with your journey. Collaborate on writing vows that encapsulate your feelings and commitment. Choose a setting that reflects your shared interests or holds special memories. Focus on a guest experience that mirrors your warmth and hospitality.

Remember, the key is alignment between your choices and your shared values. This process of mindful planning will not only ensure your wedding feels genuine but also strengthen your bond as you embark on this exciting new chapter together.

*Share one of your secret tips with our readers how they can ensure their wedding goes... Just as Planned.*

**Craft a Comprehensive Wedding Timeline:** Develop a meticulous timeline that doesn't just account for the logistical details, but also weaves in moments of mindfulness and connection. Create pockets of calm for you and your partner to find grounding, contemplate, and share your intentions for the day ahead. Commence the day with a brief meditation or heartfelt conversation to align your energies.

Share this timeline with your vendors, wedding party, and coordinator, underscoring the importance of maintaining serenity and presence throughout the day. By blending these mindful moments, you'll not only stay organised but also cultivate an ambiance of tranquillity and purpose.

Remember, some aspects might not go precisely as planned – weather, for instance. However, planning to cultivate the right mindset and attitude to embrace unforeseen issues is an essential part of preparation. Incorporating this counselling and spiritual element ensures that both you and your partner approach each phase of the day with a centered and joyful spirit. This approach will also aid you in gracefully navigating any unexpected challenges that arise, guaranteeing that your wedding day unfolds as a harmonious and profoundly meaningful celebration.

# Serenity in Every Detail: A Guide to Mindful Wedding Planning

By Holly Hudson, Bridal Therapist, Holly Faye Counselling

Planning a wedding is a journey that should be filled with joy, excitement, and a sense of authenticity. As a bridal therapist with a deep commitment to supporting couples through this transformative experience, I'm here to share insights on how you can infuse serenity into every aspect of your wedding planning process.

## Embracing the Power of Mindfulness

Wedding planning often comes with a whirlwind of decisions, expectations, and emotions. Amidst the chaos, it's essential to find moments of stillness. Mindfulness is the practice of being present in each moment, fully experiencing it without judgment. Infusing mindfulness into your planning journey can create a harmonious and tranquil atmosphere.

## Start Your Day with Intention

Begin your wedding planning days with a moment of intention. Set aside time to sit quietly, perhaps with your partner, and reflect on your shared goals for the wedding. Take a few deep breaths, letting go of any stress or distractions. This simple practice can help you start the day with a centered and focused mindset.

## Incorporate Meaningful Rituals

Rituals have the power to ground us and connect us to deeper meanings. Consider incorporating rituals that hold significance for you as a couple. It could be as simple as lighting a candle together, writing love notes to each other, or participating in a traditional ceremony that reflects your cultural heritage.

## Craft a Mindful Timeline

When creating your wedding timeline, think beyond logistics. Allocate moments throughout the day for mindfulness. Consider a short meditation session, a walk in nature, or even a few minutes of deep breathing before the ceremony. These intentional breaks will allow you to fully experience the day and create lasting memories.

## Communication as a Mindful Practice

Open and honest communication is the cornerstone of mindful wedding planning. Take time to connect with your partner and share your thoughts, fears, and hopes for the big day. Regular check-ins will not only keep you on the same page but also deepen your connection during this exciting time.

## Prioritize What Truly Matters

Amidst the myriad of decisions, it's easy to get lost in the details that might not ultimately matter. Mindful wedding planning encourages you to focus on what resonates with your values and aspirations as a couple. Allocate time and resources to the elements that truly reflect your identity and journey.

## Preparing for the Unexpected

Mindful planning doesn't mean ignoring the potential for unexpected challenges. Instead, it means cultivating the right mindset to handle these challenges with grace. Embrace flexibility and acceptance, knowing that some things might not go exactly as planned. Trust in your ability to adapt and find solutions.

## Serenity in Your Wedding Day

When the big day arrives, carry the spirit of mindfulness with you. Take moments to pause, breathe, and fully experience each part of the day. Whether it's the exchange of vows, the taste of the food, or the laughter of your loved ones, these mindful pauses will help you create lasting memories.

As a bridal therapist, my passion lies in guiding couples towards a wedding experience that is not only beautiful but also deeply meaningful. By infusing mindfulness into your planning journey, you can navigate this transformative time with serenity, authenticity, and a sense of connection. Remember, your wedding day is a celebration of your love story – every detail should resonate with your journey together.





Real  
Wedding  
Advice



Unity Entertainment is all about crafting a unique experience for a couple, right from the first contact all the way to the farewell at the end of the reception.

The wedding reception is all about the party! People might not remember what was said, or what they ate, but they will always remember how much fun they had. It's my job to maximise the fun for you and your guests with my expertise.

I intentionally limit my number of bookings per year so that I can continue to provide the same level of care and attention to each couple, ensuring that I'm bringing my A-game every time.

I like to gain as much info from a couple as possible to tailor the experience, but I also love to instill confidence in people that I know what I am doing. I help out with some decision-making so there's less work for a bride and groom in preparation and less stress on the wedding day.

I'm a wedding-focused DJ & MC, so I use all the carefully selected setup that is most suited to weddings. All my equipment and facade appear elegant and unobtrusive, and I aim to match it to your theme and colours to not stand out amongst your carefully planned flowers and decorations.



Unity Entertainment is a wedding DJ and MC business, delivering a bespoke service, from the initial planning phase, right up to the bride and groom farewell at the end of a wedding reception.

Just as Planned sat down with Alex and chatted all things weddings.

**We love hearing from incredible and passionate wedding vendors, can you share how you got started in the industry?**

Sure! I was initially a nightclub DJ, and got asked to do a friend's wedding. In hindsight I had no idea what I was doing at the time, but I made it work, and I loved every minute of it and haven't looked back since.

**Tell us a little more about your business.**

Unity Entertainment is a wedding DJ and MC business, delivering a bespoke service, from the initial planning phase, right up to the bride and groom farewell at the end of a wedding reception.

I'm a one man operation - doing all events myself, to ensure it is always a personal experience with quality and consistency. If you book with Unity Entertainment, you will be speaking with me the entire time for the planning and prep work, and I'm the one who will be there on your wedding day.



### **Can you describe your style and how that can enhance a wedding celebration?**

My philosophy is to bring the energy with the music rather than my words. There are some MCs that have a big commanding presence, which is fine, and works well for them. I'm more about ensuring the couple are always the central focus of the day, so I only bring the big voice and energy where necessary and not blather on.

This ethos carries through to my equipment as well. Some wedding DJs like to use big setups with big speaker arrays and festival lighting trusses. My setup is much more minimal - taking up less room and drawing less attention, but still packing the same punch!

On the music side of things, I love to play tracks that span across generations, as you need to in the wedding business. I try to insert my own flavour as much as possible, and avoid the usual 'cliche' wedding songs while still keeping the music familiar and accessible.

### **What is your favourite wedding trend making its way into 2024?**

Abandoning the 'last supper' style bridal table up on an elevated stage. This style seems to be the default for a lot of old school wedding venues, the reason being to make it easier to photograph the couple. It also makes a bit of a divide between yourselves and your guests, and creates the feeling of the bride and groom being unapproachable royalty.

The bride and groom sitting among their guests, rather than overlooking them, is a great way to create a relaxed, welcoming vibe and I'm here for it.

### **How can couples add more of their own personality to their wedding day?**

Reconsider every tradition! You don't need to do a bouquet toss, or even a first dance if you don't want to. Change up the order and format to suit your needs.

### **Share how your passion for weddings shines through.**

I prefer to liken myself to more than just a wedding DJ. Without having the official title of wedding planner or day coordinator, I try to involve myself as much as possible in the planning process.

On the wedding day itself, I enjoy taking the reins of the proceedings to get the best outcome for couples. After doing hundreds of weddings, I have so much knowledge and advice to share, and love to help out where I can!

### **What would be one tip you could give to all couples when planning their wedding day?**

Find vendors that suit you, and understand you from the beginning, and you won't have to micromanage them. Go with someone that you trust to do the job.

### **Share your best tip on either wedding planning, the wedding day or after the wedding which is like your own signature.**

Keep more of the formalities before the dancing starts - best to not stop the music once it gets going, it's just interrupting a party!

### **Where are you based?**

I operate out of Sydney, NSW and service all of greater Sydney and regional NSW.

### **What is your price guide?**

My prices are typically between 1400-1900 AUD depending on time, services needed, and travel.

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**I WANT YOU  
TODAY, TOMORROW,  
AND FOREVER**

WEDDING VENDOR SPOTLIGHT



HIRE A BRIDESMAID

based in

NSW, Australia

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HIRE A BRIDESMAID

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## HIRE A BRIDESMAID

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Hire a Bridesmaid came about after I saw some dear friends stressed, taking calls and adjusting plans on their wedding day. I was quietly outraged, so I decided that no couple would ever feel that way again- not on my watch! A big task I know, but as a team, we have been planning, running and creating stress-free weddings since 2015! In my time as a wedding magic-maker, I've planned and coordinated, MC-d and married couples at over 500 weddings. Nowadays, I work with a phenomenal team and we pride ourselves on providing such great service that our clients stop calling us "planners" and start calling us "their wedding bestie".

*Thank you for joining us here at Just as Planned. Please introduce yourself to our readers. They love to know about you, and how you came to find and follow your passion for weddings.*

Hello! My name is Kerstyn, I'm a wedding planner, marriage celebrant and professional master of ceremonies who is absolutely obsessed with producing fun and stress-free weddings. Personally, I love long walks on the beach, coffee and margaritas (not necessarily at the same time), and I pinch myself at least once a day to confirm that yes, this is my real job!

*As the expert, what is your number 1 tip you can share with our audience about wedding planning?*

My number one tip to EVERYBODY, no matter what stage of wedding planning you're at, is to know your top 3 wedding priorities and make every decision about the event around those things.

I created a free "wedding priorities quiz" on our website because I firmly believe this is the only way to save precious time, effort and money while planning your wedding

*What you the best piece of advice you can give on how couples can make sure their wedding feels true to who they are?*

Aside from understanding both parties' top wedding priorities, I think it's important to consider what you're including in the event because it's what you really want versus what you think you should. Too many times we hear that a couple feels like they "have to" do something because it's tradition or an outside party is telling them they "should". But I'd argue that if the word "should" slips into your vocabulary, it's probably not what you really want.

*Share one of your secret tips with our readers how they can ensure their wedding goes... Just as Planned.*

Have a detailed run sheet or timeline for your day, and start it from the moment you wake up to the moment you go to bed. This can then be shared with your family, wedding party and suppliers so everyone is quite literally on the same page.

No fancy spread sheet required - just pop it onto a document and don't forget to allow buffer time (secret time you keep up your sleeve in case things are running behind schedule).

### **Stress-Free Wedding Planning in Just 6 Steps**

Planning a wedding while juggling a busy schedule can feel like a daunting task. However, with the right strategies, you can navigate the process with ease and focus on what truly matters: creating beautiful memories. Here are our top tips for stress-free wedding planning:

#### **Tip 1: Set Clear Priorities**

Before diving into the wedding planning process, take the time to identify your priorities. What aspects of the wedding are most important to you? Is it the venue, the food, or the entertainment? By clarifying your priorities, you can allocate your time and resources accordingly, ensuring that the most important elements receive the attention they deserve.

### Tip 2: Delegate and Get Support

Don't be afraid to ask for help and delegate tasks to trusted friends and family members. Consider assigning specific responsibilities to loved ones who are eager to assist. Whether it's researching vendors, addressing invitations, or managing RSVPs, sharing the workload can alleviate stress and allow you to focus on the big picture.

### Tip 3: Utilise Wedding Planning Tools and Apps

Take advantage of the abundance of wedding planning tools and apps available. From budget trackers to seating arrangement organisers, these digital resources can streamline the planning process and keep you organised. Explore popular options such as wedding planning websites, mobile apps, and online checklists to find the tools that work best for you. Bonus tip: we have our very own "organised wedding planning sheets" that you can access via our TikTok!

### Tip 4: Take Breaks and Practice Self-Care

Amidst the planning hustle, it's crucial to take breaks and prioritise self-care. Set aside dedicated time each week to unwind and engage in activities that help you relax. Whether it's going for a walk, practising yoga, or enjoying a spa day, self-care will rejuvenate your mind and body, ensuring you approach wedding planning with a refreshed perspective.

### Tip 5: Hire a Professional Wedding Planner

Consider enlisting the expertise of a professional wedding planner or on-the-day coordinator to alleviate the stress of planning. A wedding planner can assist with vendor selection, contract negotiation, and overall coordination, allowing you to focus on enjoying the process rather than getting lost in the details. Their experience and industry connections can help ensure a seamless and stress-free wedding day. An on-the-day coordinator can take all your carefully laid plans and bring them to life on the day, saving you the typical busy wedding morning set-up.

### Tip 6: Embrace the Imperfections

Remember that no wedding is perfect, and that's part of its charm. Embrace imperfections and unexpected surprises along the way. View them as opportunities to create unique and memorable experiences. It's the love and joy shared on your special day that truly matters, not flawless execution.

### Tip 7: Communicate and Collaborate with Your Partner

Open and effective communication with your partner is key. Regularly discuss your visions, expectations, and concerns, ensuring you're on the same page. Collaborate as a team and support each other through the highs and lows of wedding planning, ultimately strengthening your bond as you embark on this exciting journey together.

By implementing these stress-busting strategies, you'll be able to navigate the wedding planning process with ease and focus on what truly matters: you and your love. With these tips in your back pocket, you'll enjoy a stress-free wedding planning experience and savour every moment leading up to your special day.





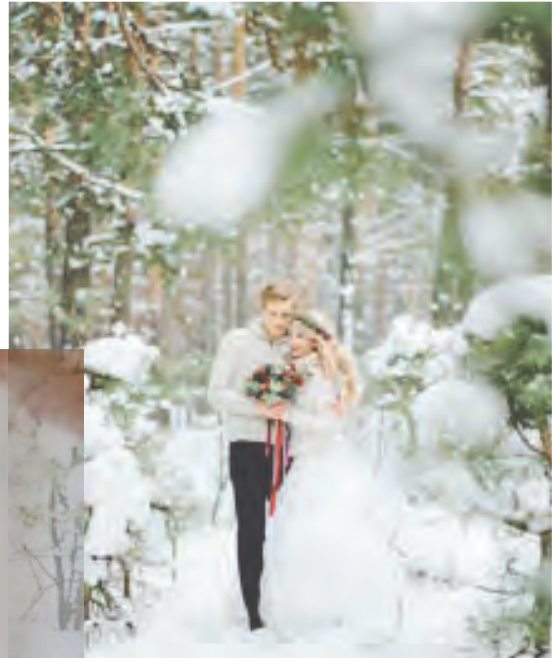




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## WINTER WEDDING INSPIRATION

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### *WHY CONSIDER A WINTER WEDDING*

- The falling snow and and carriage ride to add in more moments to your special day.
- The clean crisp colours of white to enhance the season.
- Sparkles galore under the winter sky.
- The cooler air to add layers to your dress.
- Dancing by a log fire for an added atmosphere.



WEDDING VENDOR SPOTLIGHT



The Love Page

based in

NSW, Australia

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THE LOVE PAGE

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Bec is a professional but laid-back celebrant on a mission to ensure every couple gets the wedding ceremony they deserve, no matter what that is!

*Thank you for joining us here at Just as Planned. Please introduce yourself to our readers. They love to know about you, and how you came to find and follow your passion for weddings.*

I'm Bec and I'm a marriage celebrant who is passionate about helping couples have the wedding ceremonies they deserve. It's such an amazing honour to help them navigate the options they didn't know they had, so they can have the perfect day for them, which looks different for everyone.

I became a celebrant when I realised my professional experience as an ex-journalist and corporate girl gave me the perfect skillset to help create and deliver meaningful, fun and personalised ceremonies. Helping people have fun is my jam, and the honour of being able to legally guide couples through the commitment of marriage is an incredible feeling!

*As the expert, what is your number 1 tip you can share with our audience about wedding planning?*

When it gets overwhelming, stop. Take a moment, chat it out with a friend, and remember this is about celebrating your commitment, not about anyone's expectations of traditions, or an insta-worthy party. And ask your vendors for advice!

*What you the best piece of advice you can give on how couples can make sure their wedding feels true to who they are?*

I like to tell couple to think of the 'barbecue barometer' when writing their guest list. If you wouldn't have the person over to your house for a barbecue, then you might want to think twice about having them witness your wedding.

*Share one of your secret tips with our readers how they can ensure their wedding goes... Just as Planned.*

Book your vendors early! There is nothing worse than having shattered dreams when you find out the vendors you had your heart set on are booked out.

**I'm a celebrant - here's why I tell all my couples to write vows, even if they don't want to say them**

Picture this. It's your wedding day, and it's exactly what you dreamed of. Actually no, it's been even more magical than expected. Except for one thing. You and your partner are a little shy, so you decided not to have personalised vows read aloud in your ceremony, which is totally fine because it's just not your style. But now you feel a bit like the day has been about the fun, the magic and the party, with a little bit of something missing.

As a marriage celebrant, I'm on a mission to make sure none of the couples I marry have any regrets about their ceremonies. If they don't want to do a ring exchange? No worries! They don't want to walk down the aisle with anyone? Fine by me! They don't want to read personalised vows? Also totally cool! But I WILL encourage couples to write their own vows, and here's why:

Your wedding day is the one day of your lives when, even if you're shy, not sappy, not one to wear your heart on your sleeve, or not one for words, you should be letting your partner know how much you love them, even if they're the only one who hears those words.

And here's the good bit: you certainly do not have to read personal vows out aloud in your ceremony (just the legal vows, which your celebrant will help you with). I encourage couples to think outside the box so that their vows can be shared in whichever way suits them best. This might mean they write them in a card that is delivered to their partner the morning of the wedding as they're getting ready. Maybe they share them together over a drink at some point between the ceremony and reception with no one else around. Or maybe they're texted the next day, sent at the same time and read over a coffee.

One of the most romantic ways to keep vows intimate is to do ‘whisper vows’ - where you whisper them into each other’s ears during the ceremony while the celebrant moves the microphones away so not another soul can hear, but guests can feel the electricity of your love as they watch you. Trust me, this is a guaranteed goosebump starter!

Before my couples say “but Bec, I can’t write!” I make sure they’ve got my nifty Vow Writing Guide in their hands. I always say, your love is there in your heart, that’s why you’re getting married, some of us just need a little coaxing.

There is a simple formula to nailing your vows, and with a little help and a little love, you’ll make sure you have no regrets on your wedding day too.

So ask your celebrant for some help, and know that you can slay your day your way!





DO  
ALL  
THINGS  
WITH  
LOVE



**A GIFT**

*from us to you*

**YOUR FREE  
WEDDING DAY  
CHECKLIST FROM  
JUST AS PLANNED**

*Click here to claim*





Vendor  
Spotlights

WEDDING VENDOR SPOTLIGHT



The Crooked Compass

Alternative Honeymoon

Destinations

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THE CROOKED COMPASS

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## THE CROOKED COMPASS

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Crooked Compass is a boutique travel company that specialises in immersive, perspective-shifting journeys for travellers seeking a more meaningful experience. We focus on exploring off-beat destinations and sharing experiences to inspire and challenge sophisticated and curious travellers.

I founded Crooked Compass nine years ago to provide people with the opportunity to travel deeper. To connect with remote communities, diminishing tribes and misunderstood nations. We want our travellers to get under the skin and into the soul of a destination and culture.

We aren't like other travel companies. From the far reaches of nomadic Mongolia, to the tribal soul of West Africa. From the primitive Guyana's in South America to remote micronations like Nauru. You won't find us on the well-trodden tourist path. We curate an exclusive range of thoughtfully crafted journeys unlike anything else on the planet.

We live and breathe our motto "travel deeper". Our travellers are provided with opportunities to collaborate in authentic cultural exchanges, to visit remote communities and connect, understand and embrace traditional lifestyles and diminishing tribes. So much of a powerful travel experience is about connecting people to a story.

We draw on exquisite aesthetics to showcase the richness of the locality we are exploring.

The way Crooked Compass experiences travel is not just a "style", it is a feeling.

I see it as my responsibility as a tour operator to help shift cultural perceptions and break down barriers. To showcase and encourage progression, no matter how small or slow that progression may be. I believe that travelling to emerging destinations plays an important role in shining a light on all sorts of cultural sensitivities, thereby helping to initiate change.

I recently travelled on one of our new tours to Saudi Arabia, a destination steeped in controversy, particularly in relation to women's rights. Or North Korea. I can tell you first-hand that what we see in our media is not always the true side of a destination.

Crooked Compass provides the opportunity for people to challenge the status quo and seek out their own answers. Destinations that encourage curiosity and further self-education are where we are strongest.

Our touring style range from active adventures, to conservation expeditions and unique festivals. With a maximum group size of twelve travellers, our tours are intimate. Or we offer “Tours By Design” to allow people to create their own bespoke journey.

At Crooked Compass, we believe that culturally immersive experiences have the power to inspire and educate on a deeply personal level.

Calling all adventurers and those who want to steer clear of the cliched overwater bungalows honeymoon. It is time to embark on a honeymoon like no other. Leave behind the cluttered beach resorts and opt for an exhilarating adventure bound with stories of unexpected encounters and unplanned rendezvous. Can you picture yourself exploring ancient ruins in the heart of a rainforest to see the endangered mountain gorillas, snorkeling alongside vibrant marine life and lazy dugongs in crystal-clear waters, or hiking through breathtaking mountain ranges to remote hamlets and time-frozen villages... An adventurous honeymoon offers is not about relaxation, but the thrill of discovering new cultures, conquering challenges together, and strengthening the bond between you and your partner. It's an opportunity to step outside your comfort zone, push boundaries, and create an extraordinary beginning to your life's journey together. So why settle for a flop and drop when you can have an adventure of a lifetime with your new love?

### **The Cultural Honeymoon - Ethiopia**

Immerse yourselves in the vibrant tapestry of Ethiopia. This enchanting country offers a plethora of captivating experiences that will ignite your senses and deepen your appreciation for diverse cultures. From the ancient rock-hewn churches of Lalibela to the exotic tribes of the Omo Valley, every step unveils a rich heritage and unique traditions and cultural practices. Explore the bustling markets of Addis Ababa, savour the flavours of authentic Ethiopian cuisine, stay in village huts, and witness traditional music and dance performances that will leave you spellbound. Engage with locals, learn their customs, and be awe-inspired by the breathtaking landscapes that Ethiopia has to offer. A cultural honeymoon in Ethiopia promises an extraordinary adventure filled with history, art, and the warmth of its people – lip plates and all!



## **The Conservation Focussed Honeymoon - Rwanda**

Are you ignited and fuelled by making a difference? If your passion is for conservation, look no further than Rwanda, the Switzerland of Africa. This extraordinary destination is renowned for its commitment to protecting wildlife and preserving natural habitats. Experience the awe-inspiring beauty of Volcanoes National Park as you trek through lush rainforests to witness endangered mountain gorillas in their natural habitat. Engage in community-led conservation projects, where you can contribute to sustainable practices and support local initiatives including anti poaching. Immerse yourself in the captivating landscapes, from the serene shores of Lake Kivu to the breathtaking volcanoes that dot the horizon. A conservation-focused honeymoon in Rwanda promises an unforgettable experience where love and environmental stewardship intertwine.

## **The Spiritual Honeymoon - Bhutan**

Looking to reconnect with yourself, your partner and nature? A transformative honeymoon journey to the mystical land of Bhutan is where mindfulness and spirituality permeate every aspect of life. This enchanting kingdom offers an immersive experience that will nourish your souls and deepen your connection. Explore sacred monasteries and temples nestled in the breathtaking Himalayan landscapes, where ancient traditions come alive. Engage in meditation and yoga practices amidst serene surroundings, finding inner peace and rejuvenation. Immerse yourselves in the philosophy of Gross National Happiness, as you interact with friendly locals and learn about their way of life. Discover the timeless wisdom of Bhutanese culture, embrace the tranquillity of nature, and create a meaningful and spiritual beginning to your journey as a married couple. A mindful and spiritual-focused honeymoon in Bhutan promises to be a transformative experience, resonating with your hearts and spirits for years to come.





### **The Wildlife Lovers Honeymoon - Guyana**

Throw yourself into the untamed beauty of Guyana. Prepare to be enchanted by pristine rainforests, sprawling savannahs, and breathtaking waterfalls. Immerse yourselves in the rich biodiversity of Kaieteur National Park, home to the mesmerizing Kaieteur Falls, or venture deep into the dense jungles of Iwokrama, where elusive jaguars roam. Explore the Rupununi Savannahs, where vast grasslands stretch as far as the eye can see, teeming with wildlife. Engage in thrilling activities like river expeditions, birdwatching, and jungle hikes, forging unforgettable memories together. A wilderness-focused honeymoon in Guyana promises an immersive adventure into uncharted territory, where nature reigns supreme and the untamed spirit of the wild captivates your hearts.

### **The History Buff and Luxury Lovers Honeymoon – Saudi Arabia**

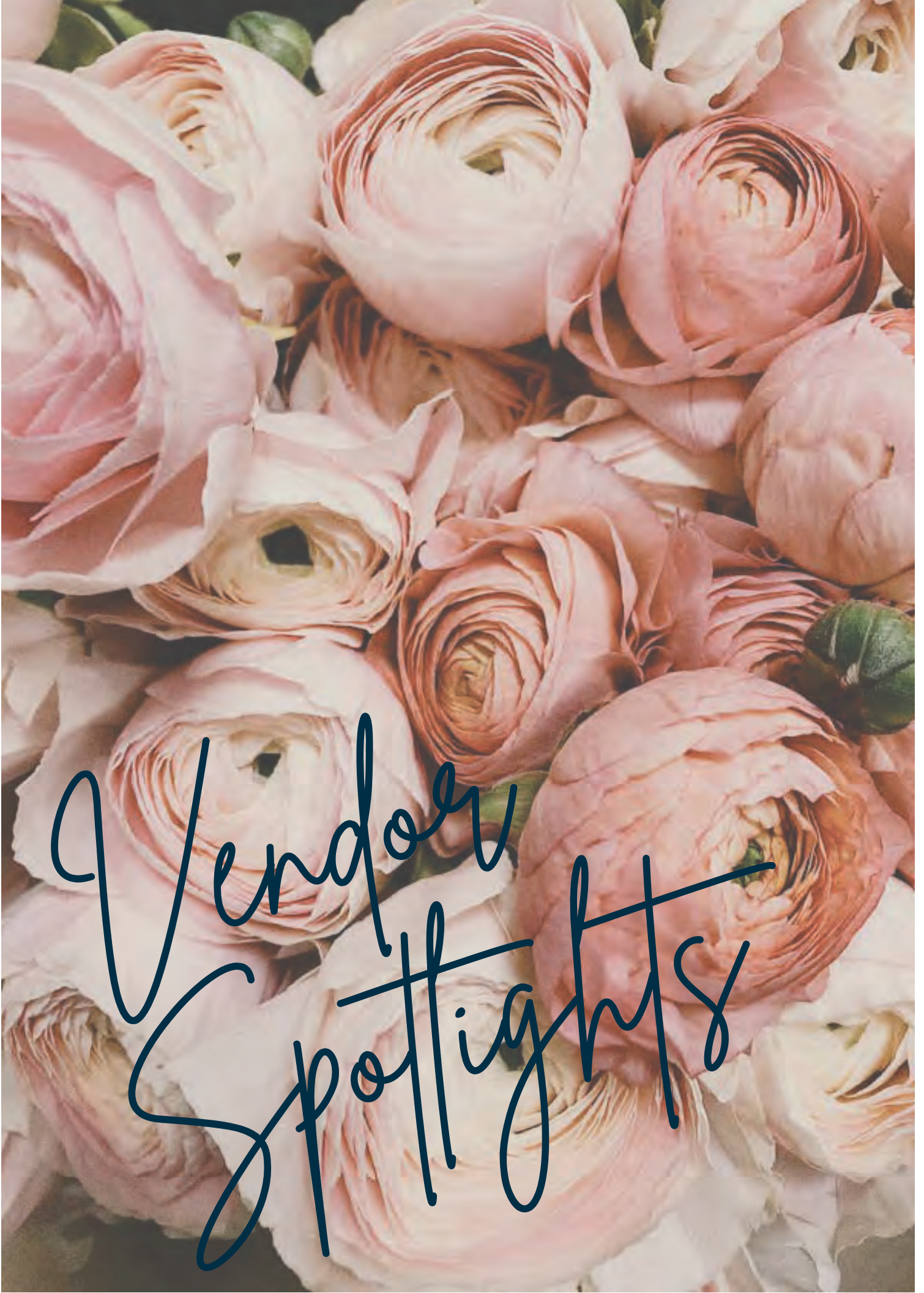
Indulge in a captivating blend of history and luxury for your honeymoon in Saudi Arabia. Discover the ancient Arabian Peninsula as you explore the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Diriyah, Al-Ula, and Hegra. Immerse yourselves in the fascinating tales of the Nabatean civilization and marvel at intricate rock-cut tombs and ancient ruins. Experience unparalleled luxury at opulent resorts and lavish spas, where you can unwind and pamper yourselves amidst breathtaking landscapes. Delight in Arabian cuisine, from sumptuous feasts to romantic private desert dinners under starlit skies. A history and luxury-focused honeymoon in Saudi Arabia promises a regal experience where ancient traditions meet modern indulgence, creating unforgettable moments fit for royalty.

## **The Escapism Honeymoon - Nauru**

For a truly secluded and remote honeymoon, look no further than the hidden gem of Nauru. This tiny Pacific island offers an exclusive escape from the bustling world, where you and your partner can unwind in blissful isolation. With no more than 10 tourists a week, discover pristine beaches untouched by crowds, where turquoise waters meet white sands in perfect harmony. Explore the rugged coastline, hidden caves, and limestone cliffs that adorn the island's edges. Immerse yourselves in the rich marine life while snorkelling in the crystal-clear waters. Experience the warmth and hospitality of the local Nauruan people, and savour authentic cuisine infused with Pacific flavours. A honeymoon in Nauru whilst basic, promises an intimate and tranquil getaway, allowing you to connect with each other and nature in an untouched paradise and experience a world where you are unlikely to see another traveller!

In choosing an adventurous honeymoon, you open the door to a world of extraordinary experiences. While a beach getaway can be relaxing, an adventurous honeymoon offers so much more. It allows you and your partner to explore new destinations, cultures, and landscapes, pushing the boundaries of your comfort zone and creating a deeper bond. It's an opportunity to embark on thrilling activities, conquer challenges together, and ignite the spark of adventure that will fuel your relationship for years to come. So, don't settle for the ordinary when you can embark on an extraordinary.





Vendor  
Spotlights

WEDDING VENDOR SPOTLIGHT



Nathan Cassar MC

Helping you bring your

wedding day to life.

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NATHAN CASSAR MC

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Meet Nathan Cassar: Master of Ceremonies – your partner in creating unforgettable moments and taking your wedding day to the next level. With over 10 years in entertainment, I specialise in infusing life and energy into your special day.

My journey began with a cruise at 14, where I met a captivating Cruise Director who sparked my love for entertainment. Evolving from cruise performer to award-winning wedding MC in 2021, I blend the perfect balance of charisma and authenticity to deliver weddings that surpass all expectations.

Why weddings? The joy of uniting couples and their guests through captivating moments is a privilege like no other. From inception to the final note, I orchestrate seamless experiences, overcoming challenges, and craft memories that endure.

Unlike traditional MCs, I'm a storyteller, not just an announcer. My dynamic style, influenced by my cruise days, adds excitement and humour to every wedding. I'm not here to follow trends; I'm here to craft them. From creative games to personalised touches, it's all about YOU. I'm here to make your wildest wedding dreams come true!

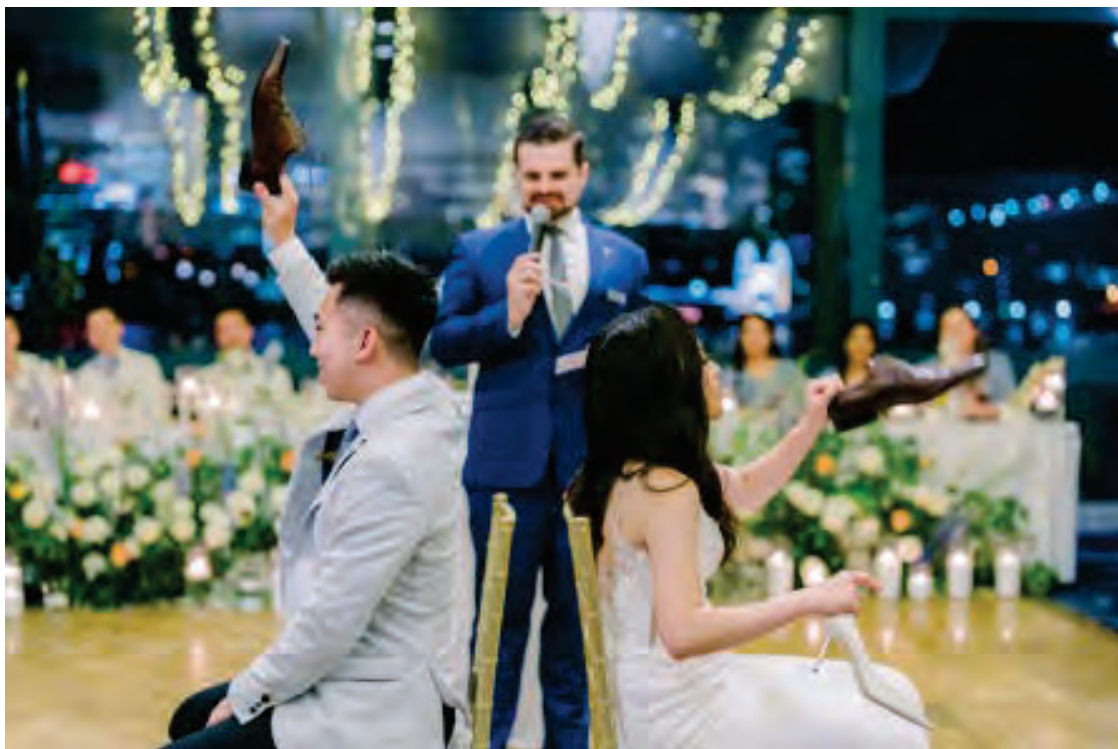


Photo Credit: Two Peaches Photography

We sat down with Nathan to ask him all about the wedding and the best wedding advice.

*We love hearing from incredible and passionate wedding vendors, can you share how you got started in the industry?*

Let's take a trip back to 2007, a pivotal year for me, when I was just a 14-year-old on a life-changing cruise. Little did I know that cruise would introduce me to an extraordinary Cruise Director who would ignite my passion for live entertainment and public speaking. This encounter became the spark that ignited my journey to becoming a captivating entertainer.

My path led me to a flourishing career in cruise entertainment, working my way up from Junior Assistant Cruise Director to Corporate Fleet Supervisor of Entertainment Experience at Princess Cruises. However, the unforeseen challenges brought on by the pandemic made me pause and reflect on my future.

The turning point arrived when I had the privilege of being the MC at my brother's wedding in April 2021. This experience illuminated my ability to create unforgettable moments and spread joy through my presence. Driven by this newfound sense of purpose, I embarked on a new chapter by establishing this business after just two weeks following my brother's wedding. From that moment on I was determined to make a meaningful impact on the landscape of live events, weddings, and entertainment in Australia.

*Tell us a little more about your business.*

If you're in search of a wedding reception that will be etched in the memories of your guests forever, read on!

Bringing a dynamic personality and over a decade of on-stage entertainment experience, my business specialises in offering tailor-made professional MC services for modern couples. Whether your celebration is intimate or grand, and regardless of your cultural background, I'm here to ensure your wedding reception is smooth, exceptional, and unforgettable.



Since stepping into the industry in 2021, I've created countless cherished memories for nearly 100 couples so far, becoming the preferred MC of choice in Sydney and beyond. My dedication has been recognized with several prestigious industry awards, including:

- Two-Time Winner - Best Wedding MC - Wedding Industry Awards (Western Sydney & Blue Mountains) 2023 & 2022
- 2nd Overall Best Wedding MC - Australian Wedding Awards (National) 2022
- Winner - Best Wedding MC (NSW) - Lux-Life Global Wedding Awards 2023
- Winner - International Wedding Awards Best Wedding MC 2023 - Local & Country Rounds 2023
- Winner - Most Entertaining MC (NSW) - Lux-Life Global Excellence Awards 2022
- 3rd Place - ABIA Wedding Awards - Master of Ceremonies (NSW) 2022



Credit to: Photographer Shaadi Capture



*Can you describe your style and how that can enhance a wedding celebration?*

At the heart of my approach as a professional wedding MC lies a commitment to genuine personal connections with you and your guests. Recognizing the uniqueness of each couple and audience, I go the extra mile to foster authentic relationships with your guests, starting from their very arrival, including pre-reception canape sessions.

Both on and offstage, my cruise ship experiences have significantly influenced my dynamic, larger-than-life approach to entertainment. I'd describe my style as high-energy, approachable, authentic, and always ready for fun, with a healthy dose of improv comedy that will keep everyone from all age groups laughing.

One of the distinct ways I elevate a wedding celebration is with my diverse array of engaging wedding games. Handpicked to infuse personality and playfulness into your special day, my selection of games is the most comprehensive in Australia – 10 games and counting! From classics like The Shoe Game and Wedding Couple Trivia to unique experiences like Line Dancing, Marriage Match, and the Ultimate Scavenger Showdown, I've got it all covered.

*What is your favourite wedding trend making its way into 2024?*

I'm thrilled to see tradition taking a backseat to couples embracing the philosophy of "it's our day, let's do it our way!" Think non-traditional wedding dresses, skipping the garter or bouquet toss, and incorporating games and activities into the formalities. And let's not forget about COLOUR!

Don't get me wrong – there's a time and place for tradition. But what I adore is when couples toss out the “rulebook” on wedding planning and choose to authentically reflect their personalities. These weddings are on the rise, often driven by the realisation that life's too short for a dull wedding that doesn't speak to who they truly are. It's about celebrating your love story in a way that's uniquely yours.

*How can couples add more of their own personality to their wedding day?*

Dare to be bold, embrace your uniqueness, and be authentically you – it's YOUR wedding day, after all! To infuse your essence into your special day, start by asking yourselves: "What makes us... Us?" From there, the possibilities are endless. From there you can collaborate with us, the professionals, to bring those ideas to life.

I've been fortunate to witness countless examples of couples infusing their weddings with their personalities. Think late-night McDonald's cheeseburger deliveries, anime-themed wedding attire, grand entrances to wrestling themes, Pokémon-themed table numbers, and even fur babies as ring bearers. And if you need more inspiration, the internet is a treasure trove of creative ideas.

*Share how your passion for weddings shines through.*

As one of the few full-time Masters of Ceremonies specializing in weddings in Australia, my commitment to delivering unrivalled event and entertainment services is unwavering. Hosting a wedding isn't just a job for me; it's a chance to leave a lasting mark on lives during a once-in-a-lifetime moment. Witnessing and creating the joy, laughter, and smiles that my MC work brings is incredibly rewarding.

From our initial connection to the culmination of your special day and beyond, I'm dedicated to crafting a seamless and unforgettable experience. My ability to craft unforgettable moments and tackle any challenges that arise, all while ensuring you and your guests have a remarkable experience, fills me with pride. Prepare for a wedding experience that will have everyone talking long after the celebration ends!

*What would be one tip you could give to all couples when planning their wedding day?*

From the outset, draft a comprehensive list of potential wedding elements – DJ, venue, photo booth, custom napkins, and more. Next, go through the list together and ask: "Do we want this at OUR wedding – Yes or No?" Cross off the "No" items and highlight the "Yes" items, creating a separate list for "maybes." Instead of letting the budget dictate, focus on how you both FEEL about each item.

This strategy simplifies your decisions into must-haves, must-avoids, and maybes. Amid the clamour of voices – from family to friends to magazines – this approach keeps you anchored in what truly matters. By curating a list that aligns with your values, you'll find that wedding planning becomes more meaningful and focused on what makes your day uniquely yours. You can then apply your budget after that and, if there's money to spare, then get that champagne tower you always wanted!

*Share your best tip on either wedding planning, the wedding day or after the wedding which is like your own signature.*

Here's a golden rule: Leverage your wedding vendors to the fullest! Countless times, I've discovered couples fretting over details they never brought up to their vendors until the last minute. Remember, we're part of your team, and our goal is to ensure your day is stress-free and exceptional.

Don't hesitate to tap into our expertise. We possess years of collective experience in crafting great weddings, and we're eager to share that knowledge. Need help coordinating a group photo? Reach out to your photographer and celebrant. Unsure about music choices? Have a chat with me and your DJ. Facing a unique challenge? Shoot an email to all your vendors – you'll be amazed at the creative solutions we can conjure. We're not just service providers; we're invested in making your day extraordinary!

*Where are you based?*

I'm based in Parramatta, NSW, a mere 45-minute journey from Sydney (though it might stretch a bit in heavy traffic!). As much as I adore Sydney weddings, I'm excited to journey anywhere your special day is planned.

Yes, you read that right – I'm ready to travel, whether it's to a stunning Sydney location or even as far as Antarctica. Just cover my travel expenses, and I'll be there, donning my snow boots and tuxedo, ready to make your day shine!

*What is your price guide?*

Just like my on-stage style, my pricing stands out from the crowd. Why? Because I'm there for your ENTIRE reception – from your guests' arrival to the grand end-of-night send-off. No exceptions because you can't truly MASTER a ceremony if you're only mastering HALF of it!

Let's keep it simple: one price, and that's it.

\$1400\* including G.S.T.

This also covers:

- Unlimited access\* to me leading up to the big day!
- An array of signature entertainment options that add a touch of magic to the night, FREE.

These include:

- "The Shoe Game"
- "Wedding Couple True or False Trivia"
- Structured Dancing (Also known as "line dancing" – trust me, it's a crowd-pleaser!)
- And many more! Got a unique idea? I'm all ears!
- Expert assistance and guidance in pre-wedding planning, including crafting your run sheet.
- On-the-day coordination with all vendors, ensuring a stress-free and FUN wedding!

\*Pricing updated as of September 2023. Subject to change. Travel expenses not included in the above quote.



Real  
Bride

## INSIDE SHARLENE & DAVID'S WEDDING

Our love story is 32 years in the making. A story of second chances.

It began in the cafeteria at the South Australian Brewing Company where David and I were both working at the time. I was a Management Accountant; David was a chemist working in the lab. We'd often meet up for lunch with several other people in our workplace.

Little did either of us know, the journey that would bring us to where we are today...

Our story at the time was written against the backdrop of the 1980s, when office romances were met with raised eyebrows. Despite the unwritten rules, I couldn't help but notice David's charm and quick wit. As we exchanged conversation and banter, a connection grew but neither of us acted on it, unaware of each others feelings. We needed a bit of a push... Enter Carol, our mutual friend and matchmaker.

At one point, David had a brief stint in hospital. Carol was going to visit him and encouraged me to go along with her. As we were leaving, Carol gave David a 'get well' kiss. I moved to do likewise, when David sat up in the hospital bed, fluffing his pillows in preparation. "OK, you asked for it.." I remember saying before I gave him a lingering get well kiss.

Our eyes met. I think we realised there was something more going on than lunchtime conversation.

He knew I was interested. I knew he was interested.

With a gentle nudge from Carol, David took a leap of faith and invited me to a brewery event. It was the first date of many more to come. Our connection deepened, yet we were living out our love story behind closed doors.

As our relationship grew more serious, David raised the idea of getting married. I was 21, looking for action and adventure. David's dreams were different; he wanted to settle and start a family. With quite different wants, we amicably went our own ways.

## INSIDE SHARLENE & DAVID'S WEDDING

Years turned into decades, and our paths went in different directions. David married and had kids, while I navigated life as a single mother.

In 2011, my beautiful boy took his own life one week before his 18th birthday. It tipped my life upside-down.

By this time, David was single again. Unknown to me, he still thought of me and started looking for me. He saw my Facebook profile and read about my son's suicide. He tells me he 'bawled his eyes out' when he realised. He wrote me the most beautiful heartfelt message, which unfortunately went to my spam folder. There it stayed. Unnoticed.

In 2020, under advisement of my dating coach, I started clearing my old messages. There I found David's message. I replied – some eight years after he sent it – and we started communicating again.

We started with some phone calls, then decided to meet up. It was a Sunday morning brunch date, which lasted 5 hours. The connection was immediate. The embers quickly reignited and our love story rebooted.

Within two months we were looking for a place to move in together, and this time relishing the thought of being married. We started window-shopping engagement rings – there was one which we kept going to look at – it was perfect. Little did I know, that David had circled back to the jeweler and bought it just before our one-year dating anniversary. I was completely caught by surprise when David popped the question after a beautiful dinner.

We had a wedding to plan.

We shortlisted everything. We visited venues and bridal expos, photographers and florists. You name it, we researched it. First was the venue – we narrowed them down to one, Golding Wines in Lobethal. A beautiful location; outdoor gardens for the ceremony, a rustic barn for the reception. Once we had this, all other vendors started to fall into place.

INSIDE SHARLENE & DAVID'S WEDDING





## INSIDE SHARLENE & DAVID'S WEDDING

In lieu of a bridal shower, I opted to spoil my two bridesmaids at a day spa. What a great de-stress in the lead up to the big day. We had a ball.

Our wedding day was the perfect culmination of our love story to date. The weather was beautiful; we were surrounded by the people we love, witnessing our love coming full circle. A string quartet set the mood for the bride's arrival. An acoustic duet set the mood for post ceremony canapes.

My 'ride' for the day – wow! Our accommodation was only 15 minutes from the venue, however I wanted to feel like a princess. Little did I know how close this was to fact. My beautiful Royal Daimler was the very same car that chauffeured the Queen around on one of her visits to Adelaide.

Our photographer and videographer really knew their stuff. They captured the moments and for the most part we didn't know they were there, but their end product is brilliant. The staff, the food and hospitality at Goldings were exemplary – oh, and the wines were fantastic.

Instead of table numbers we used names as a way to honour our loved ones that are no longer with us in particular my son, Scott and both of our parents; a way of still including them in our day.

Our journey – the timing and circumstances of us meeting again after 32 years, the re-igniting of our romance – has got God's fingerprints all over it. So many 'sliding doors' moments. We are so grateful for His presence in our lives.

We don't give any time to "if only's" as we're too busy appreciating the now.

Our story shows that life can present unexpected joys, and love can burn even brighter when given a second chance. Looking forward, I am certain that the warmth of our love story will flame the chapters yet to be written.

INSIDE SHARLENE & DAVID'S WEDDING



*What would be 1 piece of advice you would give a couple planning their wedding day?*

Breathe. Focus on the essence of the day. In the midst of all the planning, remember that your wedding is a celebration of your love and commitment. Prioritise what truly matters to both of you. Choose elements that reflect your personalities and the journey you've shared. It's easy to get lost in details, but don't lose sight of the joy and meaning behind the event. Communication is key; ensure your visions align and make decisions together. Embrace flexibility, as unexpected situations may arise. Surround yourselves with a supportive team, including vendors who understand your vision. Take moments to step back, appreciate each other, and create lasting memories. The day might not be flawless, but its imperfections can make it uniquely beautiful. In the end, your wedding should reflect your unity and mark the beginning of an exciting chapter in your shared story.

*What is the key part of your wedding day, that will hold a "forever moment"?*

The quintessential element of our wedding day that captured a timeless "forever moment" was a tangible sense of excitement and anticipation as I walked down the aisle to the melody of the string quartet.

When I looked at David, I felt an unbreakable connection between us. It was like time stood still, and we were surrounded by the love of our family and friends.

This singular moment has etched itself into the core of my memories.

Each step was full of meaning as we were about to exchange vows and start our life together.

Looking into each other's eyes showed how much we cared for each other and how committed we were as we exchanged our vows and promises to one another.

Now, whenever we remember that moment, it reminds us of the strong love and promises we made on our wedding day.

*Can you describe your style of your wedding?*

Our wedding was all about creating a welcoming and immersive experience for our guests. From the moment they boarded the deluxe coach in the city to arriving at Golding Wines, we wanted them to feel the elegance of the day.

The venue was beautifully luxurious, with a string quartet playing as they arrived and scenic beauty all around. While enjoying wine on the terrace, acoustic melodies added a serene touch.

For the wedding party, we had a photo session amidst this beautiful backdrop as guests enjoyed delicious canapés. We took care to cater for a range of dietary requirements, including providing personalised wedding cakes for guests with specific needs.

Overall, our wedding style blended sophistication with warmth, so our guests could fully enjoy the festivities while feeling at home. The mix of music, food, and personal touches created an atmosphere that truly reflected us and made our loved ones an integral part of our special day.

*How did you choose your wedding vendors?*

We carefully crafted our vendor team by researching and selecting options that matched our preferences. We talked with them face-to-face, like interviews, to understand their approach and find those who shared our excitement for creating a great wedding experience.

We looked for partners who were more than just service providers, but who genuinely cared about making our wedding day special. Their passion meant they were really involved and added to the happiness of the day.

We asked them, "What motivates your work?" to find out if their values matched ours. We also went to Wedding Expos to get ideas and meet vendors in person. These expos helped us understand what's possible and connect with potential partners on a personal level.

Overall, we focused on meaningful interactions and shared values to choose our vendors. Each vendor became an important part of our wedding, making it perfect and creating the heartfelt atmosphere we wanted.

*Share your best tip on either wedding planning.*

A paramount tip for seamless wedding planning is cultivating open communication and teamwork. Start by aligning your visions and priorities as a couple.

INSIDE SHARLENE & DAVID'S WEDDING



## INSIDE SHARLENE & DAVID'S WEDDING

Establish a solid foundation of trust and transparency, ensuring both of you have a say in decisions. This sets the tone for a collaborative process, reducing stress and enhancing the overall experience.

Create a roadmap by breaking tasks into manageable steps and setting realistic timelines. Use technology to track progress and share ideas. Delegate responsibilities according to strengths and interests, involving close friends and family to lighten the load.

Set a clear budget for the wedding to guide your decisions. We found it incredibly useful to create a spreadsheet that outlined estimated costs and actual expenses. Additionally, a check sheet with running schedules for the day ensured everything flowed smoothly.

Maintain flexibility, acknowledging that unexpected challenges can arise. Embrace change with a positive attitude, viewing setbacks as opportunities to innovate.

Remember to carve out quality time together amid the planning chaos. Schedule regular "wedding-free" moments to reconnect.

Finally, seek professional assistance when needed. Wedding planners bring expertise and organisation to streamline the process.

Successful wedding planning hinges on a strong partnership, meticulous planning, adaptability, self-care, and professional support, culminating in a joyous celebration that mirrors your shared commitment and love.

## SHOUT OUT TO THE AMAZING WEDDING VENDORS

Ceremony and Reception Location

Golding Wines

[www.goldingwines.com.au](http://www.goldingwines.com.au)

String Quartet (pre ceremony)

Amicus Strings

[www.amicusmusic.com.au](http://www.amicusmusic.com.au)

Canape music

Him&Her

[www.himandhermusic.com](http://www.himandhermusic.com)

Stationery (invites, signage, place settings, menus...)

Kiki & Poppi

[www.kikiandpoppi.com.au](http://www.kikiandpoppi.com.au)

Florist

Adelaide Hills Florist

[www.adelaidehillsflorist.com.au](http://www.adelaidehillsflorist.com.au)

Photographer

James Devine Photography

[www.jamesdevine.com.au](http://www.jamesdevine.com.au)

Videographer

SMC Studios

[www.smstudios-weddings.com](http://www.smstudios-weddings.com)

Cake

Sugar and Spice

[www.sugarandspicecakes.com.au](http://www.sugarandspicecakes.com.au)

Hair

Karina Chapman

Adelaide, South Australia

Makeup

Cody Porter

[www.codymakeup.com](http://www.codymakeup.com)

Light and Sound

CASO Light n Sound

[www.casolightnsound.com.au](http://www.casolightnsound.com.au)

Accommodation

Adelaide Hills Retreats

[www.adelaidehillsretreats.com.au](http://www.adelaidehillsretreats.com.au)

Cars

Jaguar Classic Hire

[www.jaguarclassichire.com.au](http://www.jaguarclassichire.com.au)

Coaches

Kanga Coachlines Pty Ltd

[www.kangakan.com.au](http://www.kangakan.com.au)

Emergency  
Card



WEDDING VENDOR SPOTLIGHT



Amanda Kelly

Photography

based in NSW, Aus

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AMANDA KELLY PHOTOGRAPHY

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I love that photos can capture a moment in time into something you can keep forever. I'm obsessed with polaroids, film, high quality photos, and capturing emotions, personalities and stories. I want to create images that my clients hang in their homes for years and years, photos that they show their children and grandkids. I love LOVE and I find photography is the perfect way to capture the story of a couple.

I currently live in Sydney, Australia, but I grew up in Northern California. I left California in 2015 to travel full time, which I did for over three years. I started learning photography because I wanted to take beautiful photos of the places I was visiting. I was living a minimalist lifestyle and working remotely, writing blog posts for online businesses and doing some affiliate marketing online. I bought my first DSLR camera from my first big pay check as a travel writer, and it took me FOREVER to learn how to use it! I just could not get the grasp of the magical combination of aperture, ISO and shutter speed.

I forced myself to keep my camera in manual, and it took me another few years (plus a lot of YouTube videos) to get the hang of manual mode. Once I was confident with photography, I fell in love with capturing people. I'm a Libra and I'm such a hopeless romantic, I just love love! Naturally, I gravitated toward shooting couples, and I became obsessed with capturing the personalities and stories of the people I photograph.

*We love hearing from incredible and passionate wedding vendors, can you share how you got started in the industry?*

I started learning about photography while I was travelling full time for three years - I wanted to make sure I captured everything I was seeing in a beautiful way. Once I settled down in Sydney, my focus turned toward taking photos of people, and capturing feelings and emotions. I started photographing families, maternity sessions, and couples; very quickly I realized that couples were my favorite to photograph. Capturing the story between a couple is so sweet and brings me so much joy.



*Tell us a little more about your business.*

I shoot weddings for adventurous and laid back couples. Looking to elope on top of a mountain? I'll hike up there with you. Planning to get married at a beautiful venue in the Hunter Valley with 150 of your friends and family? I'm obsessed with that too. I just love capturing natural and candid moments between couples, and I am happy to do that wherever I can, as often as I can. I love travelling (if you couldn't tell from my story above), and travelling to shoot a wedding is something that makes me so grateful to do this for a living.

I started my photography business to create images that my couples will keep for the rest of their lives. I also just get really excited to shoot at these stunning locations with two people who are just absolutely head over heels for each other. When I edit my galleries, I am always calling my partner into my office to see how cute the photos turned out - I'm just obsessed with photos that showcase love.



*Can you describe your style and how that can enhance a wedding celebration?*

As a wedding photographer, I want to be capturing natural and candid moments. This means that I'm usually hiding out behind guests or in a corner, finding those natural connections, laughs and smiles. I'm just there to capture the joy of the day. Of course we do spend a bit of time getting those perfectly posed photos, but I want my gallery to be a combination of natural, candid moments as well as the posed photos. My style is to capture those natural moments, which means the day will be purely about the love and joy of the wedding celebration - and you'll have some incredible photos to show from it.

*What is your favourite wedding trend making its way into 2024?*

Oh my gosh there are so many exciting trends making their way into this wedding season! My absolute favorites are champagne towers, flash photography, and the return of film photography - I offer polaroids as an add on and they such a fun and nostalgic keepsake!



*How can couples add more of their own personality to their wedding day?*

I love chatting with my couples before their wedding and getting to know them, and ways to incorporate their personalities into their wedding days. Anything from fun poses, to incorporating family heirlooms into your wedding day, to a special location for your portraits - there are so many fun ways to add your personality into your wedding day. One of my favorites is to have the drinks you had on your first date as your signature cocktail, or to incorporate stories of your relationship into your day in unique ways.

*Share how your passion for weddings shines through.*

I truly come alive during couples sessions and wedding days. Capturing the moments for one of the biggest days of my client's life is such a privilege; I feel so honoured to be given this opportunity. A wedding day is such a special time. Capturing a wedding day is so magical, I love all of the details of the day and it's incredible to see the love and care that the guests have for the couple. I definitely tear up during the speeches!

*What would be one tip you could give to all couples when planning their wedding day?*

If your timeline is rushed, your photos will be rushed - make sure to plan enough time for everything you need. I happily chat wedding timelines with my clients to make sure that we can fit everything we want into their wedding day - this is so important!

*Share your best tip on either wedding planning, the wedding day or after the wedding which is like your own signature.*

Add on a polaroid album! This is an add on service that I offer, where I take a few rolls of polaroid film throughout the day, and arrange it into an album that I gift to my couple before I leave the wedding. It's an adorable way to reminisce on the night right away.

*Where are you based?*

I'm based in Sydney, Australia, but I've shot weddings in different states in Australia and I am always happy to travel anywhere to shoot a wedding!

*What is your price guide?*

My current wedding pricing is on my website ([www.amandakellyphotography.com/investment](http://www.amandakellyphotography.com/investment)) and packages range from AUD\$2400 to AUD\$5200 before add ons. The add ons that I include are priced based on the package you're booking, but I offer add ons like polaroid albums, content creation, and engagement sessions.









LOVE

LAUGH

LOVE

WEDDING VENDOR SPOTLIGHT



NAS cosmetics

based in

QLD, Aus

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NAS COSMETICS

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My wedding day remains etched in my memory, but when I remember those photos that are now buried in a box and hidden away, a pang of regret surfaces. The foundation didn't match my skin, my face was itchy and the makeup began sliding off my face during the ceremony, revealing the rosacea. The once hidden flaws were now highlighted for everyone to see!

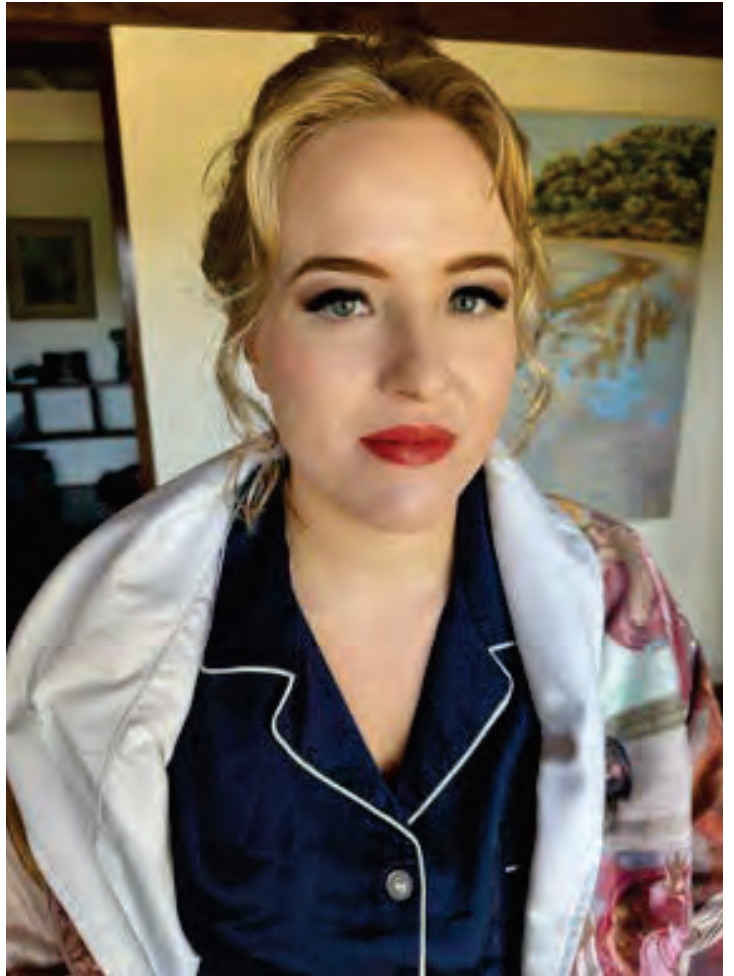
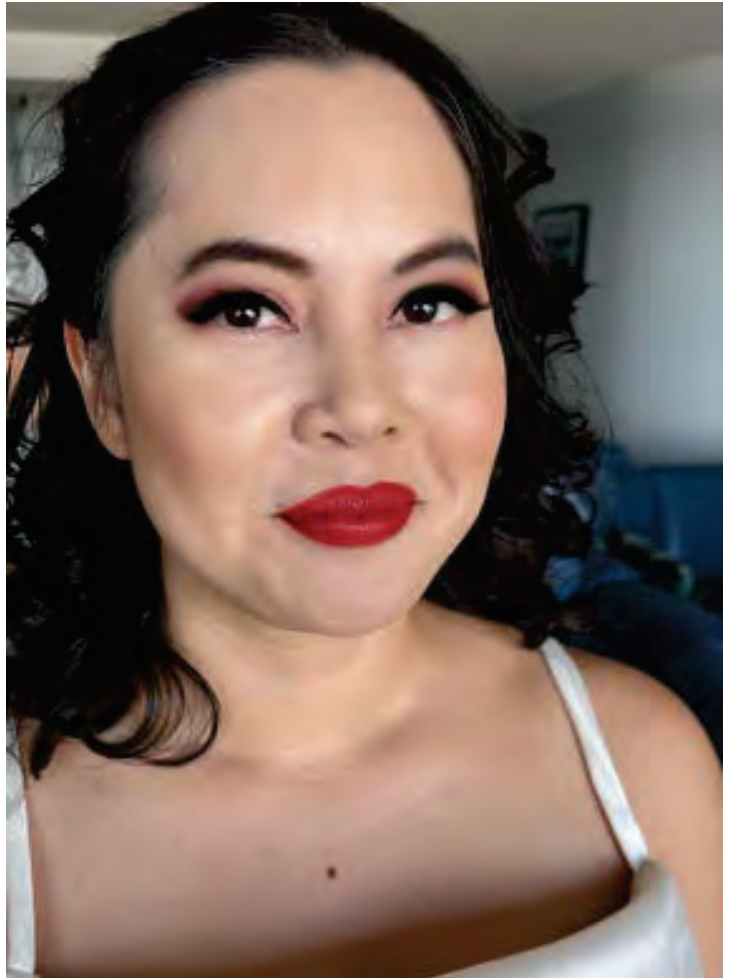
Years later as I prepared for work one morning, I opened my makeup draw with difficulty, having to brace it with my foot. The draw was filled to the brim with products that didn't live up to their promises, the wrong shades and formulations that just didn't mesh well with my skin. A realisation struck me – if only I had invested in quality makeup from the start, I wouldn't be facing this dilemma now.

And so my journey began ...

The process started with research, and by research, I mean avidly watching TV commercials. One brand, a very well-known brand touted for its prowess in film and television, captured my attention. The models on screen looked like they'd stepped out of a dream, and I yearned to capture that magic. With a hint of gullibility, I bought a \$90 push-up stick of foundation, believing in the adage that higher prices equalled superior quality. I proudly displayed it on my bathroom shelf, a statement of my brand loyalty.

The euphoria, however, was short-lived. Four weeks in, I was plagued with headaches and nausea whenever I wore it. A noxious odor lingered, and I thought the product might be spoiled due to my careless display where the sun may have got to it. Ignoring my reservations, I decided to take it back and purchase another one. The saleswoman asked why I was buying another seeing as this one was far from finished, so I filled her in on the noxious smell, my headaches and nauseousness and I suggested it may be off. She scoffed and told me that they all smell like that and that I was overreacting. I hadn't, so I did.

With my two young boys by my side, I declared "I can't be the only one allergic to your toxic rubbish. I'll make my own makeup and I'll do it in two weeks!" (Looking back, I have no clue why I settled on that timeframe). The words were out, a challenge to myself, and a stand against subpar products. Despite my lack of experience, I now had a bee in my bonnet and was determined to change the narrative.



Two and a half weeks turned into two years of relentless trial and error. Once again, I began with research, and by research, (I was much wiser now) I mean avidly standing in shopping centres surveying women and asking them what they would like from their “ideal” makeup products. This revealed much and proved incredibly valuable. These results became my criteria list to formulate to.

I had absolutely no makeup background and hadn’t worn any until my late twenties. But fuelled by a passion to provide women with makeup that exceeded expectations, I plunged into formulating my own range. The process was chaotic – mixing and re-mixing, checking against my criteria list, and discarding anything that fell short. Each time this happened (and it happened a lot in the beginning) I gathered more insights into products and into the industry. An industry that I could see desperately needed to change!

My stainless steel bench migrated from the kitchen to centre stage as I balanced marriage, motherhood and entrepreneurship. My boys became accustomed to the sight of their ghostly mother amidst powder and scales, their curiosity and support unwavering. My determination took me all the way to one of the world's largest beauty expos - the China International Beauty Expo, an industry behemoth that dwarfed my humble display. Despite the odds, I presented, transformed and talked about my passion for safe, high-performance makeup for days. An unexpected turn of events led to the prestigious international BEST Brand Award, a moment that affirmed my journey from a kitchen novice to an international player.

Yet, success was not without setbacks! A disastrous attempt at national distribution left me financially drained. My management skills were weak and had faltered and I had to burn and learn. Another financial hit came with packaging. I purchased 40,000 jars from China that came with sifters that were too loose and wouldn’t stay in the jars. This was only noticed once they were all full and on the shelf. A costly error that only reinforced the importance of quality control. It was like my determination and grit were being tested, but these were all valuable lessons I needed to learn.

Through the highs and lows, one thing remained constant, my commitment to providing makeup that truly performed. My formulations defied industry norms, diffusing fine lines, instead of emphasizing them, products that last all day, long shelf life, protection against the suns burning and ageing rays, products that stand up to humidity and perspiration, cruelty free and vegan and so much more. These were not just makeup products; they were tools for empowerment.

The journey from regret to empowerment was not linear. It was filled with audacious decisions, hard-won lessons, and moments of triumph and despair. But within that journey lies a brand – NAS Cosmetics. The success of my formulations comes from embracing my lack of industry knowledge, daring to use high-end ingredients and listening to what the women told me they truly want from their ideal products.

From my humble beginnings to becoming a true powerhouse in the makeup industry is defined by an unwavering commitment to quality, safety and the use of natural ingredients. The recent accolade from Prevention Australia's 2023 Fitness Awards of BEST Sweat-Proof Makeup underscores dedication to delivering high-performance makeup products that can endure the demands of an active lifestyle.

The heart of NAS Cosmetics lies in empowerment – not just empowering women to look and feel their best, but also empowering others to build thriving businesses in a booming industry. My path led me from my kitchen to a passionate creator, determined to redefine the beauty landscape. So to every bride-to-be, let my journey be a testament to the power of passion, resilience and the pursuit of authentic beauty.

I hope this builds a fire within you and inspires you to grab hold of your dreams and commit to them - only you can make it happen!

Jennifer Hinds,



*We love hearing from incredible and passionate wedding vendors, can you share how you got started in the industry?*

My journey into the wedding industry wasn't a straight path, but rather a heartfelt response to a personal experience. Looking back, it all began on my Wedding day, a day that held profound significance in my heart. While the celebration was beautiful, the photos revealed a different story. The makeup artist I had hired left me less than satisfied, dismissing my input for the outcome I desired, and that regret lingered. I believe it was this point in time that years later was to ignite a passion within me to redefine beauty standards in the makeup industry and to tackle the Goliath makeup brands and formulate my own brand, NAS Cosmetics from my kitchen.

*Tell us a little more about your business.*

NAS Cosmetics is more than just a makeup brand; it's a journey of sheer grit, passion and authenticity. Rooted in my determination to provide brides with makeup that goes beyond expectations, our products embody quality, performance, durability and individuality. From meticulously formulated products that enhance natural beauty to a commitment to empowerment, NAS Cosmetics is about celebrating the uniqueness of YOU.

*Can you describe your style and how that can enhance a wedding celebration?*

Our style is all about enhancing what's already there – natural beauty. It's your wedding day, you still want to look like you, after all that's who he's marrying. NAS Cosmetics makeup is designed to blend with the natural oils in your skin to leave a flawless, air-brushed finish that's also light and comfortable to wear. You don't want to be worrying about your makeup throughout your special day, so it's important to use long-lasting, camera-ready products that allow your skin to breathe, heal and function naturally. This style seamlessly enhances a wedding celebration by allowing the bride's true essence to shine through. It ensures that you radiate confidence throughout your day, from the intimate moments of getting ready to the unforgettable dance at the reception.



*What is your favourite wedding trend making its way into 2024?*

As we embrace 2024, one wedding trend that truly captivates my heart is the “Micro Wedding.” It’s a trend that focuses on intimacy and meaningful connections over grandeur. The beauty of micro weddings lies in the deep connections that are fostered between the couple and their cherished guests. It’s about celebrating love in its purest form, an approach that aligns perfectly with the ethos of NAS Cosmetics.

*How can couples add more of their own personality to their wedding day?*

Personalising your wedding day is a wonderful way to infuse it with authenticity. Think about the unique elements that define your relationship – from shared memories to inside jokes. Incorporate these into your wedding through handwritten vows that reflect your journey, choosing a venue that resonates with your story, or curating a playlist that encapsulates the emotions you share. These personal touches make your day truly memorable and reflective of your love.

*Share how your passion for weddings shines through.*

My passion for weddings stems from more than just makeup; it’s a dedication to creating unforgettable moments of clarity and self-expression. Each NAS Cosmetics product is a reflection of this passion, formulated to empower brides to feel confident, beautiful and alive. I believe that a bride’s journey is not just about her physical appearance, but the emotions and memories she carries into this new chapter.

*What would be one tip you could give to all couples when planning their wedding day?*

In the whirlwind of wedding planning, remember to embrace the genuine connections and moments of energy and love. Amidst the details, your wedding day is a celebration of love’s journey. Take a moment to pause, savour the joyous laughter during preparations, the heartfelt exchange of vows, and the warmth of being surrounded by loved ones.

*Share your best tip on either wedding planning, the wedding day or after the wedding which is like your own signature.*

My signature tip revolves around embracing imperfections with grace. Just as in makeup, life is beautifully imperfect. Let go of the pursuit of perfection and hold tight to the uniqueness of every moment. On your wedding day, allow the unexpected moments to unfold and appreciate the authenticity they bring. Cherish the unplanned laughter, the raw emotions and the genuine connections that define your day.



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WEDDING VENDOR SPOTLIGHT



Lilith & Co

based in

QLD, Aus

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LILITH & CO

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Lilith & Co was birthed in the mix of a crazy pandemic world, the C word if you will. Created as a hobby with no real intention to extend the scope further than this, polymer clay earrings was an after-work creative release. Around one year into creating polymer clay accessories and exploring this scope, I took a quick right turn to the dried flower world, and oh, wasn't it mesmerizing. I was captured by the dainty blooms preserved in all their beauty. I started creating very humble pieces, I often look back and cringe at our very firsts. Looking back, I still had no intention of selling to a few friends and family. I was a bloomy girl in a bloomy world.

Not long into this, a friend asked us to flower their wedding at a stunning Gold Coast collection. Filled with anxiety and imposter syndrome, I committed and DELIVERED! This was pivotal for Lilith & Co. This one dreamy love day created a trajectory of entering the world of love.

From this, Lilith & Co. was being noticed and requested to attend open days and venue showcase days. My first thoughts, what in the actual heck! These opportunities put us on the map. Lovers wanted Lilith & Co. Lilith & Co. is run by self-taught bloomy aspiring designers. I have never attended a TAFE course or ever engaged in bloom classes. However, my passion for blooms and creating lasting moments of dancing stems has highlighted Lilith & Co. as individuals who go against the grain. We don't believe in floristry rules or any rules at that. We believe in our love clients. They are our vision. They push us into a space of being uncomfortable enough to create pure magic. Being self-taught, individual style and twang shines through and there is nothing holding us back from creating bloomy scapes from your wildest dreams.

Moving into birthday 3 of Lilith & Co, we are filling our love day book oh so quickly for 2023 and lovers booking for 2024 and 2025.

Lilith & Co is no average wedding florist. We are designers of love. Our blooms are bespoke in design and created with the intention to create a feeling and leave a lasting moment. This idea of creating a personalized experience for each love day derived from my love of the beautiful Protea flower. This flower represented my Grandmother, I actually have a tattoo of this beautiful stem! Everytime I work with this flower or see it scrolling through Pinterest boards, I effect on lovers.



## LILITH AND CO

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am reminded of her. After her passing, this flower has represented her presence in every special occasion and moment. I wanted to create this same memory for lovers. Lilith & Co is determined to move differently in the floristry world, breaking rules and making unpredictable moves. We choose to put lovers first in every instance and choose to be in an industry that has a life long





*We love hearing from incredible and passionate wedding vendors, can you share how you got started in the industry?*

We were poached by a friend of ours to flower their love day. Our first love day and we were asked to attend the venues open day a month later. The rest is history!

*Tell us a little more about your business.*

We are a Brisbane based Floral Design Business serving from the Sunshine Coast to Northern NSW region. Our floral design is individual and breaks all the floristry rules! We think this is the best part! Our designs are bespoke in character and memorable in personality.

*Can you describe your style and how that can enhance a wedding celebration?*

Our style is bespoke. We create love days to be unique in every occasion, Our style is lovers focused and is dedicated to creating the clients forever love day dream. We are flexible with designs however, we tend to sit against the grain in our design style and mostly in the luxury design space.

*What is your favourite wedding trend making its way into 2024?*

COLOUR, COLOUR AND MORE COLOUR! Give us all the pink and red hues. Lilith & Co is ready to bloom your day with a garden full of tones and textures!

*How can couples add more of their own personality to their wedding day?*

Lilith & Co creates memories for lovers. Lilith & Co is determined to move differently in the floristry world, breaking rules and making unpredictable moves. We choose to put lovers first in every instance and choose to be in an industry that has a life long effect on lovers.

*What would be one tip you could give to all couples when planning their wedding day?*

Enjoy the little moments and celebrate the wins. Booked your venue? Cheers to that! Booked Lilith & Co as your florist? Hell yes to that!

*Share your best tip on either wedding planning, the wedding day or after the wedding which is like your own signature.*

Stay organized with a planner and write down your goals for each month leading up to the love day! It will take the pressure off leaving vendor booking to the last minute!

*Where are you based?*

Brisbane however, we travel where love takes us.

*What is your price guide?*

Currently our minimum spend is \$1000. We do not offer wedding packages instead, we offer personalized quotes to ensure our lovers are services to the best quality.

Photo Credits:

Photographer Amanda Kelly Photogrpahy

Venue @thegroundsestate

Gowns @erinclarebridal (day)

@kwhbridal (night)

Suit @oscarhunt

Models @iris\_hall @iamtomstorey via @busymodels

Champagne Tower @champagnewalls\_goldcoast

Stationery & Signage @littlegreenleaf\_au

Stylist @french\_affair\_hire

Blooms @lilith.and.co

Hair @loveisinthehairbyliz

Makeup @kristylauramua

Cake @cuppamakecake

Vespa @splash\_ocolour





be  
happy

WEDDING VENDOR SPOTLIGHT



PartySound

based in

QLD, Aus

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PARTYSOUND CELEBRANT - DJ - MC -  
PHOTOGRAPHY - PHOTO BOOTH

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PARTYSOUND CELEBRANT - DJ -  
MC - PHOTOGRAPHY - PHOTO  
BOOTH

The best celebrants are those who are experienced in the wedding industry, yet have the energy and genuine love for me services to deliver fun, relaxed, stress-free, and enjoyable dream weddings that reflect the happy couple perfectly. With me, you can truly trust that this is the case. I have been to over a thousand wedding receptions and wedding ceremonies, and am deeply passionate about celebrating the stories and love of every couple that I'm lucky enough to join on their special day. For every wedding, I make sure that looking back, the couple say that their ceremony felt truly perfect. I have had my share of stressed-out, nervous couples and I pride myself on making them feel relaxed and comfortable on their wedding day.

*As the expert, what is your number 1 tip you can share with our audience about wedding planning?*

My number 1 tip is to know what you are getting on your day so there is no nasty surprises. A lot of companies sub-contract wedding bookings to other companies and individuals. When you book us, from the very first planning meeting until the end of your wedding day you will be dealing with myself (Glenn) and my wife (Jennifer).

*What you the best piece of advice you can give on how couples can make sure their wedding feels true to who they are?*

The great thing about weddings is each one is an open book where you get to write the story. There are no rules as to what you can or can't do. So let your individuality shine and do it your way!

*Share one of your secret tips with our readers how they can ensure their wedding goes... Just as Planned.*

Communication, Communication, Communication!

Make sure that your vendors respond in a reasonable time. Hiring a full-time professional means that they can usually get back to you instantly, meet at your convenience, and not be overwhelmed by any extra requirements that couples may want.



ESTD



2021

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WEDDINGS

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