

Burnett
Bridal
Guide 2022



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Jessica Larkin
Daniel Pelcl & Michael Callaghan
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QLD, 4350
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Treasure Pics

Welcome

If you are reading this, your partner has likely recently proposed and you are planning your very own wedding - congratulations!

Welcome to one of the loveliest, craziest, most memorable seasons of your life: your engagement.

Inside this 2022 Burnett Bridal Guide you'll find advice from some of the region's wedding professionals and local stories to glean ideas from.

Lucky for you, my own wedding journey is very fresh in my mind as I only just had my own Burnett wedding in 2021 - turn to page 19 to read more.

I've tried to include as many tips I discovered during my own wedding planning or wished I knew for my own celebrations as possible for this guide.

So for now, take a deep breath, find tips within these pages and have fun. Enjoy planning your dream day with your husband or wife-to-be!



- JESSICA LARKIN Samuel and Jessica Larkin.

Picture: Treasure Pics

The other big question: money

A WEDDING marks the beginning of your committed relationship to each other - your marriage.

Likely, you are already saving up to buy a house or go on future holidays with your spouse, so it is important to keep this perspective in mind when budgeting for your wedding.

MoneySmart offers a number of tips to stay on budget:

- Talk to your partner and both sets of parents early.
- Decide what you can comfortably afford to spend

and stick to it.

- Do your research and shop around for a better deal - always negotiate.
- Check if you can DIY or get a friend to help with flowers, photography or catering.
- Break down the costs and work out what you need to spend on each item. Then ask yourself: do I need it? Will it make a difference to the day?
- The more you pay up-front, the less likely it is that you'll get into debt.



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Picking a venue

A CHARMING wedding atmosphere starts with your chosen venues.

Consider which region you would like to have your wedding -whether it is the bride or groom's hometown or a destination wedding.

The Burnett has an array of stunning, unique backdrops for a wedding, from the grand Bunya Mountains or Mount Walsh to old churches, wineries or farms.

Whatever you choose, make sure it is what you envisioned and is the right fit for you and your partner -make a list of venue priorities with your partner.

Ceremony:

A traditional church ceremony or garden wedding? Perhaps you envisioned a big tent or being outside with a hilltop view or an iconic background.

A community or council hall, farming shed or a backyard could even be a strong option done right. Sometimes a simple venue could be a blank canvas to create the dream setting for your wedding.

If your ceremony is outside, consider what the weather and season may be like.

Traditionally the bride's parents will sit in the first row on the left side of the aisle, while the groom's family sits on the right side.

Reception:

Your reception is where you have your first meal and first dance together as a married couple. It is a chance to slow down and talk to your guests... and enjoy the party.

Does your venue serve alcohol and have a liquor licence? Do they have in-house catering or will you need to outsource this? Is there enough room to have a sit-down meal and a dance floor?

Couples can choose from purpose-built buildings for receptions and functions, a community hall or even



Fancy a vineyard as your wedding backdrop?

Picture: Kingsley Grove Estate

hold the reception outside. The venue will determine the freedom a couple has with decorations -remember many require a huge effort from the bridal party and family the night before and after to ensure everything is set-up and packed down smoothly.

What to consider for your wedding venue:

- Is the venue size appropriate for your guest list?
- Is the venue available for your desired dates and budget friendly?
- Could you hold both your ceremony and reception at the one venue?
- Are tables and chairs and other essentials provided? If not, these little things could stack up the overall cost.
- Is it easy access to the venue and sufficient parking?
- Is the distance between your ceremony and reception venues viable, minimal and easy for guests to navigate?
- Are there nice settings for your bridal party photos at either the ceremony or reception venues?

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Accommodation for everyone

WHEN you pick your wedding venues it's important to scout out what accommodation options are nearby.

- For your guests: Consider where your out of town guests will be staying -include some options on your wedding invitations to suit different budgets.
- For your bridal party: The bridal party will need somewhere to stay the night before the wedding and get ready that morning near the wedding venue.

Factor in if there is enough space for make-up artists and hairdressers to work their magic on the bride and bridesmaids.

- For the new bride and groom: As for the newlyweds, you might like to book a nearby hotel room or cosy cabin for your wedding night so you can enjoy each other's company with some peace and quiet. Try and have an easy morning after such a big day and don't forget to factor in breakfast options.

A relaxed, perfect day

IT'S the perfect match.

Enjoying a country sunset in a rustic setting, with an abundance of woodfired pizza, family-made wine; making memories in front of a rustic wall of wine barrels. You'll note that Kingsley Grove Estate's favourite wedding style is relaxed, down-to-earth and attentive.

Weddings at Kingsley Grove Estate are known to be a dream, offering couples a quaint country affair on a family wine property.

Kingsley Grove are known for their love and dedication to traditional and innovative Queensland styles of wine, but you'll soon note that woodfired pizza is their second love language. Though, like any good venue, they also offer a range of catering styles to match your wedding day if you'd like a more formal affair. Kingsley Grove Estate is just an 8-minute drive from accommodation centre Kingaroy, and rests among a 25-acre vineyard and 192-acre property that provides an idyllic backdrop of Queensland country for your special day.

Beginning with the 500-metre scenic drive through



Kingsley Grove Estate offers the perfect combination of ceremony backdrops, catering and reception space.

Picture: Kingsley Grove Estate

their well-established vineyard, the entry is just the preview of the property boasting well-sculpted dams, lush grass and verdant trees that border the property. There are plenty of venue and photo opportunities for your wedding party, family and friends. Overnight caravanners are welcome.

Kingsley Grove's modern winery, notably awarded a 2022 'Star Cellar Door' in the Gourmet Traveller magazine, is a rustic setting that provides a relaxed and cosy environment amidst the trappings of this boutique winemaking facility. When you book with Kingsley Grove, you are booking with experienced event hosts that are dedicated to make your wedding day the most cherished and special day.



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Choosing your celebrant

WHILE every one of your wedding vendors is crucial to pulling off your big day, your marriage celebrant is the person who will ensure that the legalities of your all-important wedding ceremony are completed properly. Weddings can be held on any day of the week, as long as you meet the minimum timeframe of giving one month's notice to an authorised celebrant.

Choosing a Celebrant is more than finding someone who can competently prepare the paperwork! Each celebrant has their own style, life experience and skills and they will have a huge hand in shaping how your ceremony will feel and flow.

Find someone you genuinely connect with and trust early in your planning, and take advantage of their "no obligation" meet-and-greet to help you, and them, decide how you can work together.

In Australia, couples can choose either a civil or a religious celebrant to solemnise their marriage. Celebrants can be found online, on social media, or through searching the Register maintained by the Commonwealth Department of the Attorney General to locate all authorised celebrants for a location, and the form of their marriage licence. Ask your celebrant also if they are able to travel.

Celebrants manage their own business and will provide you with their fees, booking arrangements, refund policy, how to contact them, how often to meet, information needed to complete the legal paperwork as well as design the ceremony content that aligns with your preferences. Your celebrant helps to get your wedding day off to a cracking start!

Remember...

- There must be two witnesses over the age of 18 at your wedding ceremony for it to be legal.
- Your 'Notice of Intended Marriage' application must be lodged 1 to 18 months before your wedding - your celebrant can help you organise this.



Your wedding celebrant has the honour of leading your ceremony and helping you 'tie the knot'.

Picture: Susie McLaughlan Photography



Picture: Treasure Pics



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Maid of Honour's Emergency Kit



As part of the bridal party, you need to be prepared for every possible scenario to ensure the bride and groom get through the day. Here's a list of things for your bridal emergency kit:

- Blister Band-aids
- Panadol
- Water
- Muesli Bars Or Snacks
- Safety Pins
- Needle And Thread
- White Ribbon
- Stain Remover Pen
- Nail Polish Remover
- Spare Flat Shoes
- Bobby Pins
- Hair Spray
- Hair Ties
- Makeup Wipes
- Concealer
- Lipstick/Make-Up For Touch-Ups Before Reception
- Tissues

Your best bridal party

Picking your Party

Typically the Maid/Matron of Honour and Best Man take on the role as official witnesses for the wedding licence. Beyond that, couples can choose any number of bridesmaids and groomsmen.

Your bridal party will be your right-hand women and men during your wedding journey so choose someone trustworthy. Some couples may break traditions with a 'Man of Honour' or a 'Best Woman'.

It is wise to delegate all possible issues on the day to someone trusted so you can relax and enjoy the day -sometimes this is a parent or friend, rather than the bridal party.

It may be nice to have dinner the night before or breakfast the morning of the wedding with your respective bridal parties and parents.

Be your best bridesmaid and groomsman

The day is all about the bride and groom and you have been entrusted to ensure it is their 'perfect day'. Your job for the day is 'service', so be there for the happy couple and try and anticipate problems before they happen.

It will be a long day, so pack a snack bag and bottles of water for the photo session between the ceremony and reception.

If the bride and groom are off getting photos taken, be on the outskirts ready to assist wherever needed. You may need to stop a dress accidentally falling into water, help a bride climb over rocks or spray veils into the air to capture the light for that 'perfect photo'.

Ensure the bride plans a time to pee -this is so often left off the busy daily schedule and can be difficult depending on her dress.

Above all, try to be the peace amongst all the competing demands for the bride and groom.



Picture: Treasure Pics

Let your conversations calm them down and help them skilfully negotiate their stresses, without adding to them. Google some negotiation and pastoral care tips and tricks.

If a bride or groom is blowing off steam about a relative, remember they are invited to the wedding because they are valued. Speak to their emotions, rather than the situation, and be the person that mends bridges.

Other important roles

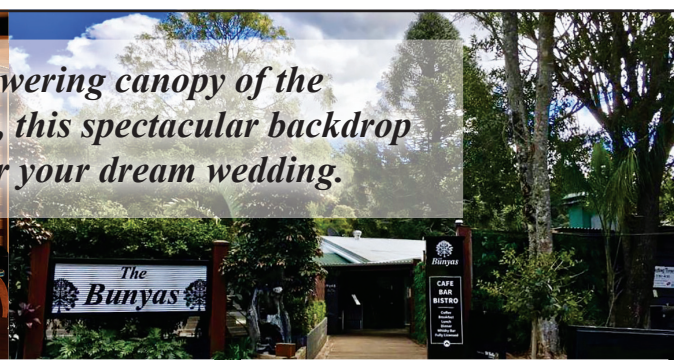
Don't forget about the parents of the bride and groom, and ensure mum and dad have their rightful part in the day.

Ushers are key to helping a ceremony run smoothly and are often siblings or cousins happy to help out.

A lovely touch could be to include the special young people in the couple's lives in the bridal party -sons, daughters, siblings or cousins.

Flower girls and junior bridesmaids may start the bridal procession by scattering rose petals or even blowing bubbles!

A ring bearer carries the rings on a cushion, while an older boy in the role of the page boy traditionally helps with the bride's train.



Just metres from the towering canopy of the Bunya Mountains rainforest, this spectacular backdrop is the perfect location for your dream wedding.

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Snapshots of your big day

LOOKING back at your wedding photos and video you'll see the 'big picture' of your special day: small details you missed because you were captured by your partner and wedding moments you'll remember forever, all treasured in a frame.

When it comes to picking your photographer and videographer, consider what style of photos you want, do your research and look for a professional who fits your vision, quality of work, style and budget.

Be sure to communicate with your photographer so they know the style and feel of images you would like in your gallery.

You and your partner need to decide if your photographer and videographer will stay on for the reception to capture the speeches, the wedding cake cut and that first dance.

Just relax...

The most important thing is to have fun and a good laugh during your session with your photographer and videographer.

They are looking for relaxed, natural shots that show the first moments as a married couple.

It's not your job to know how to stand or where to go - trust the professional that you have hired.

Timelines

The timeline of the day often works around the photographer - consider the time between the ceremony, the 'golden photo hour', sunset and the reception time.

When planning a time frame for the wedding day, always start with the sunset and work backwards.

Google when the sun will set on your wedding day. Allow a minimum of 1 hour for your ceremony (even if



Picture: Susie McLaughlan Photography

it only goes for 20 minutes, it takes time to sign the paperwork, greeting guests and family photos can take a long time!)

Allow a minimum of 1.5 hours for your portraits - this allows a relaxed portrait session and will factor in any travel time to photo locations. All up, that makes 2.5 hours minimum prior to sunset.

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Bright, bold florals

YOUR wedding flowers help soften or 'make' your overall wedding look.

From colours to flower types and how they match your wedding vibe, venue and dresses - there's a lot to consider.

Floral touches to your day are not limited to flower bouquets - they could also include boutonnieres for the groom and groomsmen, a corsage for the mothers and endless opportunities for ceremony- and reception floral decorations.

Bright and bold flowers are gaining popularity as well as those with tons of texture, however the most classic flowers are roses, tulips, lilies, hydrangeas, gardenia and Australian natives.

Boho themes are becoming popular, as well as macrame incorporated designs. Roses, natives, lots of gum leaves, as well as white queen or king proteas and spider chrysanthemums help create this Boho look.

When it comes to creating the perfect bouquet, your local florist will be your best friend - but remember to settle on a theme first!



Picture: Treasure Pics

Make sure you know the colours you want - most of the time your flowers go with the theme of your wedding.

Consider what season you're getting married in and ensure your chosen floral arrangements are thriving at that time of year. However, flowers don't have to be fresh; many florists offer dried and even silk flowers.

TIP: Hold your flower bouquet lower. Position it at your hips rather than your waist - when it's high it blocks the dress. Make sure the bodice and waist are visible and your arms are relaxed.



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Storytelling florals

FLOWERS are so powerful they can tell a bridal couple's love story.

The front of the Burnett Bridal Guide 2022 captures the happy moment of very newly married couple Rachel and Ashley Cross.

Keen to use local vendors, the couple chose The Murgon Florist's Felicity Aitken to piece together their wedding florals.

"Felicity made sure our flowers weren't just beautiful, but were made with our story as a couple in mind," Rachel says.

The Murgon Florist created a bridal- and two bridesmaids' bouquets, spider orchids for the bridesmaids' hair and boutonnieres for the groom and groomsmen.

They also made a beautiful orchid wrist corsage for the bride's mother and floral confetti for the ceremony - both of these creations feature on the front page.

Felicity's philosophy is incorporating a couple's love story in the design, but the Cross' tale went deeper.

"They had a beautiful story," Felicity says.

"When we design our florals, we specially design for the person, their story, their colours - on the day you want to look at your bouquet and let it evoke emotion."

Celosia was the first flower Ashley ever gave Rachel and both being academics - it's also known as the 'brain flower' - it was a very fitting flower to feature in the bridal design.

The inclusion of sea holly was a nod to Rachel's Scottish heritage and an orchid featured in the bouquet to match in with her mother's orchid wrist corsage - Rachel's late father used to grow orchids as a hobby.

When it came to deciding what ribbons to use as



Rachel and Ashley Cross with their bridal party at Dusty Hill Vineyard.
Pictures: Shutter + Lace Photography



Rachel's carefully created bouquet tells her story.

the bridal bouquet's wrap, Rachel asked if she could use part of her father's flannelette shirt.

"We cut up a bit of her dad's shirt and had that as part of her bouquet, so when she walked down the aisle she had her dad with her," Felicity says.

Felicity gifted to Mr and Mrs Cross an extra little flower design for their sign-in table.

"Their florals represented her dad, family, how they met and their heritage," Felicity says.

"That's the beautiful thing about fresh flowers - [they] depict a story and a time."



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Finding the perfect dress

PICKING out the perfect wedding dress has been a childhood dream for many.

However, saying 'Yes to the Dress' will no doubt be an exciting, daunting and memorable part of the wedding planning journey.

Helen Chaseling, who owns Rendezvous Designs, says it should be an enjoyable process, guided by the bride.

"If you bring too many people, with too many opinions -that can be hard. It should be a fun and enjoyable process."

Make sure you book an appointment and try dresses on in the store.

"You might admire something in a book, but until you put it on yourself you don't know how you feel in a dress."

Something simple like the length of the bodice of the dress may be flattering for one bride and sit too low on another.

"Simple things like that and where the skirt starts makes a huge difference," Helen says.



Although some brides are opting to not wear a veil these days, a veil often completes the 'bridal look'.

It becomes a great accessory for the photos as seasoned wedding photographers can create amazing shots with a veil. There are different types, sizes, shapes and edgings with plain or lacey or embellished veils.

A new trend coming through is incorporating a bridal cape into a bride's outfit.

Consider:

- What sorts of brands, fabrics, colours and styles do you like?
- Be open to dresses outside your 'vision'
- Choose a cut that flatters the bride's shape
- Is the dress suitable for the wedding venue?
- Will you go white, ivory, coloured or a dress with an underlay of colour
- Shopping for your wedding dress six months before the wedding to give yourself enough time to breathe, allowing for plenty of time for orders to come in and alterations.
- If you'd like alterations or additions to make the dress 'extra special' -these could include straps, capped sleeves, lace motifs or bodices, keyhole backs or decorative cuts or a trim.



Pictures: Treasure Pics



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Perfect Moments in beautiful Blackbutt

MAREE STIMPSON will forever treasure the quiet moments she had with her new husband Matthew before their reception.

Her 'happiest moments' were enjoying "the moment within the moment" with her groom, maid of honour and best man in the gardens at Wiikiri Bed and Breakfast Retreat after their photo session on 16 October 2021.

The retreat in Blackbutt had beautiful gardens for their ceremony and then photos later on, proving to be the perfect location with Maree's family residing in Blackbutt.

"The atmosphere at Wiikiri was lovely," Maree said.

"It was beautiful - everything was so well presented. They were really nice and made you feel welcomed."

Maree and her maid of honour stayed at Wiikiri the night before the wedding, and the newlyweds stayed their first night in one of the cottages.

The couple, who now reside in Nanango, first met when Maree got a job at Yarraman IGA - where Matthew was working - when her family moved up from Sydney.

Time went on, and soon Matthew gave Maree a big surprise when he randomly 'popped the question' while admiring their lawn after doing some yard work on their property.

When it came around to their wedding day, Maree found it quite surreal knowing that it was actually her own special day after previously working at many weddings as a wedding photographer with Always & Forever's Jessica Nichols.

Maree felt really relaxed when Always & Forever Photography and Film took her wedding photos and footage.

"It didn't feel like it was real - knowing how the day was going, the timeline and things, it really helped with my nerves," Maree said.

After the ceremony, they went across the road to the Blackbutt Town Hall for their reception.

Maree's wedding dress was A-line, flowy and very timeless, and their wedding florals were created by Extra Touch Designs.

"I went really simple: lots of greenery, three big white proteas - a native look," Maree says.

Keeping wedding costs down was important, so they kept their decorations simple and gave potted succulents as wedding favours.

Rhonda Callow was their wedding celebrant and they used Burnett business Celebr8 Personalised to



Maree and Matthew Simpson on their special day.

Picture: Always & Forever Photography & Film

engrave personalised glasses.

Unfortunately, most of Maree's extended family were stuck in locked-down Sydney at the time of the wedding.



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Beauty timeline

2-3 DAYS BEFORE...

Waxing or Hair Removal:

If you decide to wax before your big day book it in two or three days prior for ultimate results.

The most important parts to remember are your brows, upper lip, underarms, legs and bikini area (especially if you are planning a honeymoon that involves swimming).

If you are new to waxing, find a beautician that you trust and try it out at least a month prior to the big day.

After waxing apply a soothing lotion, recommended by your beauty therapist, to make sure that the area is left soft and subtle without angry red dots.

Of course, if waxing is out of your comfort zone there are plenty of other options for painless hair removal like shaving or hair removal cream.

Tanning:

If you don't usually fake tan it may seem daunting to try it out for the first time before your wedding.

To avoid a 'fake tan disaster' book an appointment with a professional and avoid the DIY bottle tan job.

You want to go for a natural, glowy and even look that complements your entire look and makes it look like you have just stepped off the beach.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with embracing your natural skin tone for the big day.

Maybe you only want to even out your tone a little instead of going full tan - consult with a professional to get the best look.

1-2 DAYS BEFORE...

Nails:

A couple days before your wedding is the perfect time to book in your mani/pedi to make sure you are ready



Picture: Susie McLaughlan Photography

for the big day. It's important to get a style of nail you feel comfortable with.

If you don't usually get long acrylic nails, go for a more natural look for your wedding day or do a nail trial a few months prior to see what you like.

The most classic wedding nail colours to match the dress are nudes, light pink, white and silver.

Nail artists are full of ideas when it comes to creative nails so consider incorporating some nail art to complete the look. Try a simple diamante accent nail or a sheer glitter polish to elevate your nail look.

Invest in gel polish so you can stress less knowing that your nail colour won't chip before the big day.

It's important not to neglect the bridesmaids - book in with your bridal party for a 'pre wedding' relaxation and get your nails done together.

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ON THE DAY...

Make up:

When it comes to wedding planning it's easy to get swept up in the many details that you forget about the finishing touches that complete the bridal look.

Brides usually opt for a 'classic, simple' look for their wedding day - with dewy skin, a soft neutral eye shadow and nude lip colour.

The wedding dress will be your stand out feature of your look, so make sure that the makeup is complementary and not overpowering.

The most important part of your wedding day makeup is your skin and making sure that the makeup reflects just as beautifully in the photos as in real life.

Consult with your makeup artist on your skin type.

If you have oily skin keep blotting paper and finishing powder nearby.

For dryer skin it is a good idea to work with illuminating cream products for a fresh and dewy look.

Remember that makeup often needs to be a little heavier to last through the entire day.

Don't shy away from the blush, a rosy cheek gives that fresh look and needs to be bright to really pop in photos.

For an interesting makeup look try working with the colours in your bouquet to complete the look.

The best advice a bridal makeup artist shared was to use a long lasting lipstick.

This way you don't need to worry about reapplying and it won't transfer to your partner when you share your first kiss as a married couple!

For an elevated eye look consider individual fake lashes for a more natural look as opposed to a thick strip lash.

Be sure to schedule a trial with a makeup artist and don't be afraid to ask for what you want. At the end of the day it's your wedding day and you need to feel comfortable and confident.



Picture: Treasure Pics

Hair:

Creating the perfect hairstyle needs to factor in the veil, the neckline of the dress and any jewellery you choose to wear.

Having an outdoor wedding? Consider an 'up-do' to avoid the wind messing up your locks.

On your wedding day bobby pins and hairspray will be your best friend, so keep them close!

Something to consider a few months before the wedding is the length of your hair and whether it will work with your hairstyle.

For a glamorous look consider a statement hairpiece or incorporate some flowers from your wedding bouquet into your hair-do.



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Groom's attire

THE wedding day is just as much about the groom - so enjoy it.

Relish in the power of a well-fitted suit, feeling comfortable, confident and excited about marrying the love of your life.

Make sure your groomsmen are looking dashing by your side - decide whether their outfits match or complement yours to make you stand out as the groom.

Perhaps the groom could be the only one with a jacket or going solo with his tie?

For a traditional and timeless look, try a black tie suit paired with a bow tie and white collared shirt.

Suits, especially tuxedos, can become expensive so grooms may choose to hire an outfit rather than buy one.

Remember, a tailored suit will fit you properly and there will be more formal occasions to wear it again.

If you are hiring suits, check all the parts of the suits are there, and everything fits properly.

Make sure the suit parts are not likely to split and the jacket allows you and your mates the freedom to move. Remember not everyone has the same body shape and type.

You may choose to mix ties and bow ties, wear cufflinks, or match pocket flowers with the bridesmaid's outfits.

Always make sure there are dress socks to go with suits that match the outfits (or are a bit silly to suit the groom's personality!)

Navy blue, black, charcoal grey and brown are popular suit colours.

Appearing in 2022 are some more colourful suits including earthy tones and soft neutrals, velvet, bold pops of colour and monochromatic outfits - the shirt



Lighter colours paired with darker colours create a bold look for the groom.
Picture: Treasure Pics



Try different coloured suit jackets and pants for a unique, but class look.
Picture: Susie McLaughlan Photography

and suit are the same colour.

TIP: You will very rarely need to button up your suit jacket, which will make for more natural photographs.



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12547124-SG20-22

My own love story

UNDER a DIY arbour, garnished with gorgeous flowers and the sweet sound of strings, Mr and Mrs Larkin were married on 6 November 2021.

Samuel asked me to be his wife at sunset on 10 October 2020 at the Bunya Mountains' Fisher's Lookout.

We eventually said 'I do' in 2021 overlooking the pond at Dusty Hill Vineyard, Moffatdale.

Live wedding music was a dream we shared so the South Burnett Community Orchestra's string quartet played during our ceremony.

We chose to cut our small wedding cake after our ceremony. Our guests' mud cake, made by Murgon Bakery, was pre-cut and ready to serve for afternoon tea.

Photographs were taken on-site at Dusty Hill before heading to the winery's 'Cooperage' for our reception.

My gorgeous wedding dress had light layers of lace and tulle, with uniquely pearled beads all over it.

I wore my mother's veil as my 'something borrowed' that my grandmother had actually handmade for mum – which perfectly featured pearled beads!

My bridesmaids channelled a 'Jane Austen era' look with midnight blue dresses and sweet pea flowers weaved in their hair. Our hair was styled by my cousin which was extra special.

The groom and groomsmen wore dark navy suits and boutonnieres, with Samuel standing out with his speckled tie.

A huge highlight was our flowers by The Whispering Branch -we left Stacie to 'create' for us and the result was amazing.

Our flowers were fresh, bright, youthful and felt like they'd been scooped straight out of the garden. The bouquet centrepiece was big beautiful peonies,



Dusty Hill's vineyard was lovely and full in November, creating an amazing backdrop for photos. Picture: Treasure Pics

outsourced and only in bloom that time of year.

As my husband and I are both storytellers in our own right, we chose personalised pens as our wedding favours.

As Kingaroy residents we chose local wedding vendors as much as we could: Photographer Treasure Pics and videographers Jack & May Films captured our day beautifully; Rendezvous Designs did dress alterations; venue -Dusty Hill Vineyard; florist -The Whispering Branch, rings by Elray Jewellers, cake by Murgon Bakery, make-up by Alicia Spa & Hair Worx and the groom's tie and boots from Coppards.

- JESSICA LARKIN



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The question of cake

THE perfect slice of wedding cake is a key detail for your day... especially if you or your partner has a sweet tooth.

Since wedding cake trends often change each year, couples are encouraged to do their research and get some ideas for their 'cake vision' prior to meeting with their wedding baker.

A truly traditional wedding cake is made of fruitcake and covered with marzipan and icing - a tradition dating back to the Middle Ages - but if cake is not your thing, why not break away from tradition?

Cheesecakes, doughnuts, cupcake towers or walls or even brownie towers are becoming more popular than ever.

If you want to keep it classic, though, cutting the cake together as husband and wife is a charming



Picture: Treasure Pics

tradition captured in every wedding album. The cake cutting represents the first activity done as a couple.

Another sweet tradition is when the bride and groom feed each other a small bite of cake, symbolizing a commitment to provide for one another and a show of love and affection.

Preparing a bridal banquet

ONE of the best parts of the wedding- especially for the guests is all the delicious food!

This can, of course, make the organising of food one of the tougher parts of the organisation process.

The first thing to consider is dietary requirements. Make sure you know about any dietary requirements of your guests well in advance so everyone can enjoy the meal together.

The next thing is what time of day is your wedding, and what meal do you want to enjoy?

Are you having dinner, lunch, afternoon tea or even breakfast!

Now don't forget to think about what type of meal

you'll be providing.

If you're feeding a lot of people or trying to keep prices down, a buffet may be good for you.

Grazing platters might be the choice if your guests have intolerances they'd rather not be obvious about. Guests can simply take the foods they'd like and no one will be any the wiser. A grazing platter can also be a great opportunity for decorating and cute arrangements.

A sit-down meal is a wedding classic that has very much made its way back into fashion. A bit more on the pricey side, the meals are often served by waitstaff which can bring up the price. If you want quality over quantity the sit-down meal should be your first choice.

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Getting there and back again

THE drive to the ceremony can often be the most nerve-wracking part of your wedding day.

Though it may be stressful, consider it a special bonding time with your loved one who is 'giving you away' - a chance to share last-minute advice and enjoy some quiet time before you say 'I do'.

Choosing your perfect wedding transport comes down to comfort and reliability.

Wedding cars are the popular choice, with a range of vehicles from vintage to modern to choose from.

If your wedding transport will be a key feature in your ceremony, consider a form of transport that works with the look of your wedding. For your dream fairytale wedding, why not opt for a horse and carriage?

If your bridal party is also joining you for the journey, you could hire a quirky Kombi van or a classic limousine for the drive.

Make sure to book well in advance as transport options might be limited - you don't want to miss out on your dream wheels!



Pictures: Treasure Pics



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A destination country wedding

COURTNEY returned to her home region to tie the knot with her beloved Ian Moffat on 17 April, 2021.

They joined their two families together at a very 'country-themed' wedding at The Washpool, a venue near Kingaroy.

Mr and Mrs Moffat reside in Burpengary, but chose the South Burnett as their destination wedding spot since Courtney grew up in the Blackbutt-Benarkin area and also used to live in Nanango.

The Washpool venue was a blank canvas, not over the top, camping options on-site and best of all had no phone service, so the wedding guests could enjoy an 'unplugged wedding'.

The outfits channelled the country theme with boots, and Courtney made up personalised denim jackets for her bridesmaids.

The bridesmaids wore burgundy dresses, while Courtney's two daughters wore dusty pink as junior bridesmaids. The groom and his mates looked smart in navy suits.

As junior bridesmaids, Courtney's two daughters guided their half-brother, the son she had with her now-husband Ian, down the aisle. Their son proudly wore a sign that read: 'Here comes the love of our life Dad'.

To symbolise the two families coming together, Courtney and Ian invited all of their children to help piece a puzzle together during their ceremony - the puzzle was in the shape of a heart and included all of their names.

Their bridal bouquets and flower arrangements on wedding tables were lovingly grown by Courtney's mother who has her own flower farm.

On the night before the wedding, the bride and bridesmaids put their bouquets together at their overnight accommodation at Hillview Cottages.

"It was such a beautiful experience," Courtney said.



Ian and Courtney enjoyed a classic, country wedding at The Washpool.
Pictures: Alison Cooke Photography



Courtney made personalised denim jackets for her bridesmaids.



Courtney with her daughters who were her junior bridesmaids at Hillview Cottages.

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A Perfect North Burnett wedding

WITH their gorgeous wedding in April last year, Shelly and Phil Driver proved that you don't have to have thousands of dollars in bouquets, live bands and gourmet foods to have your dream ceremony.

When Philip unexpectedly popped the question to Shelly in 2021, they instantly knew they wanted to keep their wedding private and meaningful, opting to have their family and friends gathered on Gayndah's McConnell Lookout on 10 April.

"It was a bit of a surprise wedding," Shelly explained.

"I didn't want to get married again, but one day my husband went down on one knee, and said we're going to get married!

"We made the arrangements and Shirley [our celebrant] was lovely enough to marry us - it was a great day," she added.

Gayndah-based wedding celebrant Shirley Hampson proved to be the perfect fit for the couple, providing them with everything they could have asked for leading up to their big day.

"She was amazing - absolutely amazing," Shelly said.

"My husband - being my husband - didn't want to write vows for the day and wanted to wing it; Shirley went along with it and she was so funny.

"She gave us all the support we needed - leading up to and on the day of the wedding.

"It was a hard time for me as I was losing my mum. Shirley and her husband Fred helped me all the way through that as well," Shelly added.

By involving local businesses in their post-wedding celebrations, the newlywed Drivers did not have to leave their home region.

"It was a small get-together, just the people we had at our wedding as it was a very private event," Shelly explained.



Philip and Shelly Driver kept their wedding preparations all in the North Burnett.
Pictures: Contributed



Their vows were set to the breathtaking backdrop of Gayndah's McConnell Lookout.

"We had a reception down at the Golden Orange with some nibbles, and for photos we used Amy, from Little Bug Photography, a young local girl who was trying to set herself up as a photographer."

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Treasured keepsakes

BE sure to collect small items from your special day and put in a keepsake box to share with generations to come.

Whether it is your save the dates, invitations or order of ceremony, you'll surely hold these special items close to your heart.

Allocate a wedding favour for yourself and consider drying your floral bouquet as a lasting memory of your day.

A classic keepsake is a photo album or scrapbook of memories from your day -set aside some time after your wedding to sit down and create one.

There's so many clever ways to reuse your wedding items so do your research -a shadow box could feature your keepsakes, or look up how to press petals from your bridal bouquet onto your phone case!

Keep your wedding dress and veil packed away -part of this may be used by your daughter as her 'something borrowed' in the years to come.

Think ahead whether your wedding signs or decorations could have a 'second life' hanging in your home, picture your 'Mr & Mrs' sign hanging in your hallway.

A newspaper cut-out of your wedding announcement will be a treasured keepsake for generations to come.

It may be a nod to a bygone era, but there's



Picture: Susie McLaughlan Photography

something special about seeing an engagement or wedding announcement in the newspaper rather than a quick post on social media. The bride or groom's parents, or even the couple themselves, put the notice in the paper to share their joy with their friends in their community.

Renewing your vows

THERE could be a rise in vow renewals as covid-19 restrictions continue to ease for weddings.

Couples who chose to have a smaller wedding or

elopement due to the covid-19 restrictions on weddings may choose to have a vow renewal ceremony in front of a bigger group of family and friends.

A vow renewal is a celebratory ceremony for a married couple to reaffirm their commitment to each other.

It is purely ceremonial so there's lots of freedom to create a meaningful celebration.

There are no legal documents involved and no requirement to obtain a marriage license or use a registered church minister or official.

Couples often choose to renew their vows on milestone anniversaries, to include more guests than their initial wedding, or for couples simply crazy in love and want to say 'I do' all over again!

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Your reception

A WEDDING reception is ultimately a big party celebrating love.

Decorations:

Don't forget you'll need a way to communicate with your guests where their seat is at the reception -look around for inspiration as there are many clever seating charts.

If you have set-seating arrangements put together name place-settings at the tables -this could be combined with the wedding favours.

Wedding favours are a nice way to thank guests for celebrating with you. Whether the favour is chocolates, tea, pens, succulents or stubby holders -what these unique keepsakes are, ultimately comes down to the couple's style.

Speeches:

A great MC who is known to both of you will add a nice, personal touch to your reception.

Wedding speeches are a chance to thank those involved and honour the newlyweds and normally occur towards the end of the meal, either before or after the dessert-the order is ultimately up to you.

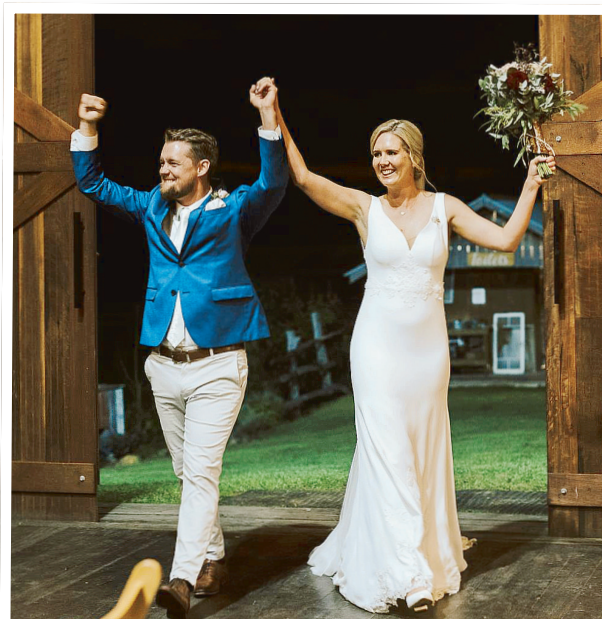
The traditional speech order is often the father of the bride, groom, bride, maid of honour and best man, followed by other speeches.

Games:

The Wedding Shoe Game is a classic reception ice-breaker, and puts the spotlight on which of the newlyweds knows their beloved best!

Table games as part of the centrepiece might be a great way for guests to start conversations at the reception -think decks of cards and activity packs to keep the little ones entertained.

Trivia or crossword quizzes about the newlywed's love story or wedding traditions might be a hit -have



Picture: Susie McLaughlan



Picture: Treasure Pics

your MC read out the answers and see which table knows the bridal couple's love story.

Set up a photo booth, a date night jar, marriage advice cards or a wedding guest book for guests to do during the reception.

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Your love song

YOUR chosen song for your first dance, bridal walk or signing of the register will stay with you forever.

You could hire a live band, a professional DJ or ask a friend to look after a playlist of the newlyweds' favourite tunes hooked up to good-quality speakers.

Nothing beats live music for a ceremony or reception, but factor in your budget and space available at your venue.

Different songs you'll need to consider for your wedding ceremony include:

- Background music as guests arrive
- Bridal processional: walking down the aisle
- Signing of the registry
- Walking back up the aisle

Classical bridal processions include Mendelssohn's 'The Wedding March', Pachelbel's 'Canon in D' or Bach's 'Ave Maria'.

Or perhaps, try a more modern twist such as Christina Perri's 'A Thousand Years', Elvis Presley's



South Burnett Community Orchestra string quartet sets the tune for the wedding day. Picture: Treasure Pics

'Can't Help Falling In Love', James' Taylor 'How Sweet It Is' or Etta James' 'At Last'.

When it comes to making a memorable bridal party entrance at the reception, pick a fun iconic song to get your guests clapping.

Consider 'background dinner music' and some well-known 'dance-worthy' tunes for later in your reception. Some couples even ask their guests for song requests on their invitations.

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Your first dance

BEFORE the guests bust a move on the dance floor, weddings traditionally hold the newlyweds' first dance.

Consider a traditional bridal waltz or ballroom dancing, jive to a tune, have a little 'sway' or make up a dance routine that's modern or funny - whatever you and your partner are comfortable with and matches your personality.

Typically the father-daughter dance happens right after the couple's first dance, with the mother-son dance following afterwards.

Traditions:

Originally, the father-and-daughter dance would come before the newlyweds' dance as an extension of 'giving away' the daughter.

At 17th Century dance balls, it was custom for the hosts or guest of honour to take the evening's first dance. This tradition made its way into weddings as the first dance between a newlywed couple as a celebration of their love and union.



Picture: Treasure Pics

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Honeymoon hints

A WHIRLWIND of last-minute preparations and a huge wedding day is a guaranteed call for a chance to unwind as newlyweds.

A honeymoon getaway should be filled with a chance for fun, quality time, to relax, and of course, romance.

Remember to organise a way to leave your reception -even if a friend brings your car to your wedding venue (be wary of possible 'Just Married' decorations).

Do you envision a bush retreat or a beach escape with your new husband or wife?

Planning a winter wedding? ...picture a cabin with a fireplace.

Getting married in the Spring? ...try ocean views.

Research locations, honeymoon packages and reviews to find the best deal for you -consider a travel agent and start planning early.

If travelling overseas -don't forget to pack your passport!

Your honeymoon is a once-in-a-lifetime experience so it is ok to splurge, soak it all up and enjoy the break... but decide on a realistic budget and watch for hidden costs.

TIP: Take into account the distance between your wedding venue and honeymoon spot.

Stay a night or two near your wedding location, relax and recover from the wedding day -trust us, you'll be exhausted!

Then, travel at your leisure to your honeymoon destination.



The newlyweds stealing a quiet moment at Hillview Cottages.
Picture: Treasure Pics



Picture: Susie McLaughlan Photography

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After the celebrations

Changing to your married name?

As a couple you will need to decide if you will take your spouse's surname. Your registered celebrant or minister will give you a ceremonial marriage certificate which is not official.

You will need to apply for and buy an official marriage certificate through the Queensland Government as proof of the change of name through marriage. (More details here: bit.ly/3MJckjO)

Update your details

As marriage is a legal agreement, you will then need to review or update your legal and financial documents.

You will need to update your will, super details, emergency contacts, details at the tax office, insurance and bank details.

Reviews and thank-yous

Your wedding day was likely a huge effort on behalf of a huge team of people, from family members to friends and your trusty wedding vendors.

After you've settled into life at home as a married couple following your honeymoon, send out thank-you cards to your wedding attendees - perhaps wait until you receive your snapshots back from your photographer for a personalised note of thanks!

Your dream wedding day would not have been possible without the wedding experts who were part of your day, so be sure to leave them a review and a photo or two to help future bridal couples know just how wonderful your photographer, florist, celebrant, venue, caterer, musicians, cake, make-up artist or hair stylist was.



Pictures: Treasure Pics



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Wedding gems of wisdom

WHEN it comes to planning your wedding, it's sometimes best to learn from former brides and grooms. Here's a list of gems we've collected to keep in mind while you pull together the details of your special day:

- Choose a naturally beautiful venue - that way, you can keep your decorations simple, effective and budget-friendly.
- Don't be afraid to send out several emails to different vendors, asking questions and collecting quotes to find your best fit.
- Make a budget, but also work out what's really important to you and your partner. Do you value quality photos or live music? Don't skimp on the things that are really important to you.
- Consider doing some DIY decorations and place-settings.
- Make sure you buy enough of every item you need for your wedding, plus extra of everything!
- Have a schedule and allow extra time for everything.
- Try and make your day as chilled as possible, so you can slow down and enjoy it.
- Give your bridal party early guidance, well ahead of the wedding. Communicate what you'd like for your hen's or buck's party and who you'd like to be present - then leave the planning to them! Then that's one less thing for you to plan, but it still ensures every special person in your life is included in those celebrations.
- Factor in your dress size when choosing your vehicle to get to and from the wedding.
- Check if your wedding venue has phone reception; otherwise ensure all of your wedding music playlist is fully downloaded and ready to go.
- Include a song as part of your ceremony that means something to both of you - this gives you a brief moment to slow down, take in and enjoy your ceremony.
- One or two days before your wedding, gather your bridal party together with your registered celebrant or minister to go through the ceremony. This ensures everyone knows where to stand and helps them be much more relaxed on the day - any little ones in your bridal party may need a few practice rounds!
- Spend the night before the wedding with your bridal party - make sure it's nice and close to your wedding venue so there's limited travel and stress on your wedding day.



Pictures: Treasure Pics

- Make sure your 'getting ready' accommodation has plenty of room and natural light for your hair stylist and make-up artist to work their magic.
- Stay the night and possibly the next day locally after you get married before heading off on your honeymoon.
- Don't forget to consider what your wet weather plan is at your venue. A rainy day can make for some incredible photos if the couple are willing. Perhaps consider purchasing some nice, clear umbrellas for your bridal party for an effective, uniform-look if your wedding or photo shoot is mostly outside.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Susie McLaughlan Photography

Ph: 0428 416 632

A: Monto
www.facebook.com/SusieMcLaughlanPhotography

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