

# Organising the Perfect Wedding

2016

TIPS FROM EXPERIENCED PERTH SUPPLIERS

**Notes from a professional photographer, videographer, cake maker, florist, hair & make-up artists**

**Tips for summer weddings!**

**Getting the best out of your suppliers**

**Over 30 ideas for keeping on a budget**



# Hello there, bride to be!



Perth, 2016

*As wedding photographers with event planning experience, we are always fascinated by the amount of work that goes into weddings.*

The bride is almost like a Cinderella, working really hard to make everything happen, only to turn into a princess on the day of the ball, and waltzing off into the sunset with her prince.

But before the ball happens, there's **a million and one thing to do**, and hundreds of decisions to make. Wedding photographers are there with the bride and groom for most of the day, so we see the majority of things as they happen. We know for example that a lace-up gown will always take longer than you think it will, and that the corsages are way trickier to attach than they appear.

We have been sharing our knowledge ad-hoc with the couples, but have now decided to pull forces with other Perth based wedding suppliers, and bring you this ebook, full of tips which will help you **make the best decisions**, and **stay on budget!** It's also full of some of our best photos, which will hopefully **inspire you** to be bold with your own wedding.

*Happy planning!*

Marina & Mladen Males  
OBJEKTIV WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY

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# Little things can make a big difference



Apart from flowers, **bridesmaid dresses are the most visible colour** on the day, and are crucial at establishing the theme.

Take your **socks and bra** off early in the day, so you don't have marks showing, especially if you have a strapless gown.



Even though it is your big day, remind yourself that the **people involved are showing you respect** by being there and helping you celebrate, so you should find a way to show them your appreciation, especially the bridal party.

Instead of going to see each guest at sit down receptions, set up a pair of chairs in front of your seats, and **invite the guests to come say hello to you!**

**Practice reading out loud your vows** and sentences you will need to repeat, the nerves will make it hard to understand and speak at the ceremony.

**Don't hesitate to ask your supplier for exactly what you like**, most of the time they will be able to accommodate your requests.

**Prepare and practice your SPEECH!**  
**Don't assume you will be able to think on your feet after such an eventful day.**

## Creating a *Running Order*

for the day is a must!

It's even recommended to do a separate one for yourself and one for suppliers.

Apart from start and finish times of events, include location addresses and all contact details.

## *Budget wedding ideas*

Have fewer people in your bridal party - you will save on transport, hair and make up, and many other details.

Have ceremony and reception at the same place - you will cut the cost of transport, decor, as well as photographer and videographer hours.

Scatter petals instead of having a runner at the ceremony.

Hire a luxury car for the whole weekend instead of a limo for the two of you, and get Uber Black for the rest of the party. That way you have a fantastic car to leave the reception in.

DIY favours, Pinterest is full of great ideas.

Have guests email RSVPs instead of posting them.

Make your own compilation instead of hiring a DJ for the night.

Get a digital package from your photographer with full res photos, and print them when and how you want - also easy to share with family and friends.

Find bridesmaid dresses at outlet shopping centres

Buy your wedding dress from a designer rather than a bridal shop, it will be much more unique, and often cheaper.

Double menus as name cards on tables.

Negotiate what the venue can do for you: is it cheaper on a Friday? Allow byo spirits? Provide centrepieces? Provide ceremony venue?

## *Unique reception alternative...*

Perth has some of the best weather in Australia and is full of lush parks and breathtaking spaces, just perfect for an outdoor wedding.

A **picnic wedding** provides the ideal mix of style and informality and has a more intimate and relaxed vibe than a traditional wedding. It is unique and full of character and it can happen anywhere, including your own backyard. This is becoming a very popular choice with many couples lately.

It is also much more **cost effective** than a traditional reception venue.

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



# Photography

by Marina Males  
Objektiv Photography

**Choosing the right wedding photographer** is really important as it will already determine the style of photos you will end up with.

Some photographers shoot very structured and posed photos, others prefer a journalistic approach, and will do reportage type shots throughout the day. Ideally you will find one that does a combination of the two.

If there is a particular pose or look you like, be sure to mention it. Same as editing, if you are a fan of vintage, for example, the editing can be adjusted.



**Check if the photographer can give you an estimate of delivery.** Some will take as long as 6 months before you see any images, and that can be very frustrating.

**Ask the photographer if all photos are edited, or just a few** as sometimes at viewings you only get to see the ones that were processed, and that can be as few as three, whereas the rest will be untouched.

**To pose, or not to pose?**

We do a lot of natural, 'as it happens' photos, but will also give some guidance to the couple when it comes to location shots.

The photographer won't do any elaborate poses, but give more of a starting point from which the couple 'evolves' with their own movement and emotions.

Do not worry too much about your expressions. The photographer will take hundreds of photos, and as long as you relax, there will be several great shots to choose from.

**On a budget...**

Speak to your photographer to see what they can offer if you have a set budget.

Choose a better quality photographer with fewer hours, rather than a bad photographer for the whole day. Aim to get the important moments captured professionally, the rest will be captured by your guests and family.

Ask for large resolution digital images, and print them yourself.

Go for a photobook, rather than classic album - they fit more photos and are often much cheaper.

objektiv.com.au



**Don't go for fashionable editing trends.**

**Choose crisp and natural, timeless looking photos.**



**Focus on your partner and your bridal party, they will help you relax.**

If you are planning to do a location shoot, usually done between ceremony and reception, **be realistic about the time it takes to get to locations and do the shots.** Remember, the bigger the bridal party, the longer it's going to take to move from one location to the next.



**For outdoor summer weddings,** try to avoid having the ceremony in full sun. You will not only burn, but also have strong shadows on eyes and under the nose.

Also, **don't stand on a red carpet** during the ceremony, as it throws a red glow on the skin and the dress ends up looking pink!



**Unplugged wedding?**

Feel free to ask your guests (and suppliers) to not post any photos of yourselves on social media before you do it. On the other hand if you don't mind it, why not set up a hashtag with #yournames, so everyone can share in the moments together.

**If you have a distinctive birthmark or significant scars, you may want to communicate to your photographer whether you want them softened or removed in important photos.**



# Flowers & Decor

by Jen Nie Lau  
Jen's Floral Designs

## Know your wedding colour theme before going to see your florist.

Flowers that complement the bride's and bridesmaid's dresses is a great start! Try and use similar flowers across all your bouquets, arrangements and floral accessories – having too many different styles can detract from your theme and become visually confusing. Bring along photos and colour samples to your florist to help them design the look you are after.

## Choose flowers that are in season on your wedding day.

They will be cheaper and fresher and therefore look better. Ask the florist for recommendations, or do a search – for instance, type in "flowers in season October Perth". Alternatively, if you haven't picked a date yet but you have a flower in mind, find out when it is in season.



Transporting flowers is crucial, you need enough room in the car, and good airconditioning, or they can get damaged or wilted. It is usually best to have your florist deliver them.



## Hold your bouquet correctly!

Ask how it should be carried. Most are arranged so the most beautiful flowers are in front, along with the stem wrapping. Hold it in front with two hands, comfortably at waist level, angled slightly forward. Stand up straight, shoulders back and don't look at the ground.



Most importantly, have fun with choosing your flowers. They should match your personality.



[jensfloraldesigns.com](http://jensfloraldesigns.com)

## Bouquets come in lots of different shapes, styles and sizes.

Traditional usually have tightly bunched and structured flowers with small additions that make it personal. Or there is more casual, loose and unstructured, creative arrangements. They don't have to be round and uniform, they can be a teardrop shape, have a large trail and be asymmetrical. Be experimental if you like but give it lots of thought, as it will appear in many photos.



## On a budget...

Speak to your florist about your budget and they should be able to come up with other alternatives or designs to suit you. If not, shop around!

At reception your bouquets can be used as table centrepieces or you can dress up the gift, sign in or cake table with them.

Greenery, succulents, berries and pods can be used to great effect to add texture and contrast to the bouquets and arrangements. Greenery can really improve the visual impact without hurting your wallet.

Go with large common flowers, like dahlias, lilliums and gerberas - they take up more space, and less stems should keep the cost down.



The flowers will have to last a long day. **To maintain their fresh look as long as possible**, keep them out of direct sunlight and heat as much as possible. Put them in a vase with water when not in use, so they can drink and keep cool. Consult your florist before using a spray bottle as not all flowers enjoy a direct spray of water. And lastly, don't shake and smash the bouquets until you've really finished with them – that one is obvious!

## For summer outdoor weddings, choose your flowers wisely

- roses, carnations and orchids are a good choice for a hot day, and you also can't go wrong with native flora and succulents.

## After taking bouquets out from water,

remember to dry the stems with a cloth. Water can discolour the stem wrapping or even the bride's and bridesmaids' dresses if it gets on them.

## Attaching buttonholes and corsages can be challenging.

If not done properly, they can be lopsided or even fall off! Enlist the help of somebody who has done it before and check out the 'how to' videos online, but don't assume it's easy.

# Cake, cake, cake

by Snezana Jacimovic  
Snow White Cakes

*These are some initial questions that need answers when getting a cake quote.*

- Do you have a design or style in mind?
- How many servings of cake will you need, and what size?
- Do you require delivery?
- Do you have a set budget?



*Communicate the correct serving size* at the venue, otherwise they might serve too small or too big pieces, and you'll either have too much left over, or even worse, not enough!



*Layer cakes* are infinitely more tasty and exciting, but they do take a lot more work, which adds to the cost. On the other hand, a wonderful layer cake can also serve as your desert, which then gets taken off your catering budget. In this case the serving size will have to be increased.



*Be careful if you wish to use fresh flowers for cake decoration.* This can be a great way to continue the theme from flower decorations, but keep in mind that some plants are toxic, and most are sprayed with pesticides. Check this with your florist or cake maker, don't just do it yourself.

*Make sure the venue is aware of storage requirements* for the cake, and how long it can sit outside, to avoid meltdowns.

facebook.com  
/snowwhitecake

*For something different, do a cake table, with several smaller cakes instead of one big one.*

## *Some popular trends in cake decoration*

**Metals**, gold and silver, painted or leaf

**Graphic**, single colour and oversize flowers

**Geometric**, abstract shapes

**Watercolour** painted fondant

**Ruffles** and frills

**Naked**, rustic looking cakes

**Colourful**, over the top, candy decorated decadence.



*Check with the cake maker whether the stand will have to be returned* and when, and what is the hire fee for it. If returning it might be an issue, request a simple disposable stand.

## *On a budget...*

Go for a 'naked' or buttercream covered cake instead of fondant covered.

Choose a fruitcake or mudcake instead of layer cake.

3D carved cakes are the most expensive, followed by sugar paste figurines and lots of realistic small flowers.

Instead, opt for a 'flat design' – shapes cut out of fondant, or buy ready made toppers online.

Another inexpensive, but effective way to decorate cakes is with ribbons.

The cheapest still are cupcakes and cake pops, which can look just as effective, and you also avoid the cake cutting fee most venues charge.

# Videography Questions

answered by Simon Thompson of  
Lensmunky Productions

## Can we choose the music on our film?

We listen to the music you play throughout the day to get a sense of what you like, and find music that suits you and the feel of your wedding. We don't like using artists' music without paying for it, so instead of using popular commercial songs, we purchase licenced compositions from talented, emerging artists.

You'll have the knowledge that not only are you directly supporting new talent, but your film's soundtrack will be perfect for you. You won't associate your wedding video with anything other than your day, making it so much more special and personal.



## What happens at reception?

The timings at the reception rarely run on schedule, that is why it is important to hire a good MC and let your friends enjoy your special day. A good MC will not only help run things on time, but also work closely with your videographer to ensure they have good audio of the speeches and advise when important events are about to begin to ensure we don't miss anything being filmed.



## Top 5 reasons to have your wedding professionally filmed

There are so many little things that add to the overall cost of your wedding, so is adding the cost of having a professional wedding video really worth it?

Here are the top reasons why it is:

1. The day goes by so fast, that everything is a blur the next day. You can barely remember anything you said/did and nothing can capture the emotions like live action.
2. You don't often hear people making speeches about you; it truly is a once in a lifetime opportunity to capture your parents / friends speaking about you.
3. It is something you can show future generations.
4. Reliving the crazy antics guests got up to on the dance floor after a few too many!
5. Your wedding highlights film can be easily shared online and with family and friends that were unable to attend.



## Will the videographer notice you?

The aim is to make films that reflect the style and personalities of the bride and groom - no silly poses, just comfortable and relaxed shots of your day. The best approach is the use of candid, unobtrusive, film-style filming and skillful editing to produce a beautiful story of the day.

We prefer not to use additional lights during a wedding, as it can be distracting, however, a good videographer will always have light on hand to capture the dance and speeches if the light is poor in some reception areas.



## Why is videography expensive?

Videographers have some of the most expensive and cumbersome equipment to carry around with them on wedding day.

But most of the work actually happens behind the scenes, as editing hours and hours of footage takes a very long time.



## On a budget...

Ask the videographer to tailor the package to suit you.

Opt for having everything delivered on a USB, and make copies yourself.

Have the videographer there for fewer hours, covering only the important parts of the day.

Ask to have only the ceremony and speeches edited.

# Make-up Tips

by Katie Roll

Pure Perfection Make-up

When **choosing a Makeup Artist** for your wedding, do your research. Hiring a professional is the best investment a bride can make! Choose someone whose work you love. You want to make sure your MUA is highly experienced in bridal makeup application and has a top quality bridal portfolio. Additionally, a professional will use only prestigious, top-quality makeup and it will not only be waterproof, but also photo-friendly. You want to look your absolute best on your wedding day in photos as well as in person.

Your Makeup Artist will give you a **time schedule** with their start and finish times. Give yourselves plenty of time to get dressed and have photos taken before leaving for the ceremony by ensuring your hair and makeup is finished at least one hour earlier.

It is essential to have a **makeup trial** for your wedding day, which is basically a preview of what you will look like on your big day. Expect to pay for this as the makeup artist is spending their time, money, and supplies. But it is money well spent, as it will prevent tears on your wedding day! At the trial your MUA will discuss the style of makeup and how you envision yourself to look. Dress, colour theme and flowers will also be discussed, and how soft or bold you'd like the makeup to be. After your trial your MUA will take down notes of everything they use on you - colours and types of make up that were applied, so no time is wasted the day of the wedding. If the makeup is not done to your liking at the trial, you have the time to have it adjusted, so it looks exactly the way you want.



Having **false eyelashes** applied will make a huge difference for a bride's appearance. Lashes complete the look! They not only emphasise your best features, but will make your eyes POP! If you are unsure of having them for your wedding day, have them applied at your trial and it is guaranteed that you will be pleasantly surprised!

It is so important to **prep your skin** and get into a good skincare routine at least 3 months before your wedding day. As well as once or twice during the week, you will need to gently exfoliate your skin the night before or morning of the wedding. This will get rid of any dry, flaky dead skin cells and will allow your foundation to wear beautifully. It will also give your complexion a glow! Drinking at least 8 glasses of water a day will keep you hydrated, and sticking to a healthy diet will also do wonders for your skin.



facebook.com  
/katie-roll-makeup-artist

**To prepare yourselves for when the makeup artist arrives**, ensure you all have cleansed skin with no traces of old eye makeup (mascara, eyeliner etc). Also give your teeth a quick brush before you sit down with your makeup artist. Brides tend to do it after the make up is done, but it is very difficult to try and brush your teeth with lipstick on!

Makeup Artists LOVE working on clients with **good eyebrows!** It is highly recommended that the bridal party all have a professional eyebrow shaping appointment with an eyebrow specialist before the wedding day. You can have them waxed or threaded, and it really does make a huge difference to how you look. Your brows frame your face and your eyes will look beautiful!

**Remember,  
your makeup  
will only look as  
good as the skin  
underneath!**

**Don't do** any major cosmetic procedures on your skin the week of the wedding, such as microdermabrasion, peels or hot wax.

## On a budget

Hire a Makeup Artist that is local to the area that you will be getting ready in, to avoid travel fees.

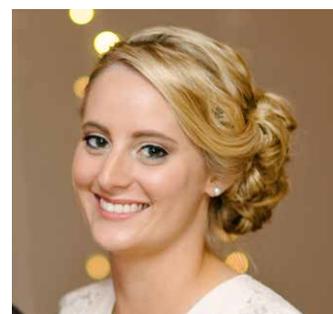
Don't go with the cheapest person you find! Hiring a professional, highly experienced MUA will avoid you spending and wasting money on trial after trial with inexperienced artists.

Have a trial on the day of your engagement party or photoshoot.

Many Makeup artists give complimentary makeup to flowergirls - look for these in quotes, or just ask!

Have some **straws** for your drinks while getting ready to help keep your lip colour in place for longer!

If your t-zone tends to get shiny and oily it is recommended to keep a compact pressed powder or oil blotting sheets to keep your complexion looking matte for photos. Make sure you give yourself a touch-up of lipstick during your bridal party photos and before entering reception, to **ensure you look your best!**



If you want to do a **spray tan**, make sure you have a trial at least 1 month before the wedding, and use only an experienced tan technician. Never ask for a dark tan, but a light natural tan to make your skin 'glow'. Dark tans look awful against white and ivory dresses. Make sure tan is not applied to your face - tanning on the face can go patchy, especially if you exfoliate. An experienced makeup artist will be able to colour-match your face to the rest of your body. Get your spray tan 1 - 2 days before the wedding. Cleanse and exfoliate your skin prior, paying attention to knees, elbows and ankles. Waxing or shaving should be done at least 24 hours prior to your appointment to ensure the pores of your skin are closed.

# Hair Tips

by Chevell Haley  
Chevell Haley Hair

**Be bold** with your choice of hair, you do want to look special, but it's also important to go with what you are **comfortable** with. The last thing you want is to look in the mirror and not recognise yourself. After finding the perfect dress the next thing on your list should be finding the hair style to complement it.



Make sure you know **how long you hair will take** from prep to finish. If you have a time you would like to be ready by, make sure your stylist is aware of this and you leave time for any hiccups along the way. The bride and her party could take anywhere from 1hr to 2hr per head. Time will change depending on the style and type of hair.

**Up do or don't?** Consider the time of year, if you are getting married during the warmer humid months putting it up is a good idea as it will stay and you won't have to worry about it. For the cooler months having it down or up is both an option. For example, do you like a windswept look, because the beach is windy most days.

Always have a **consultation / trial** to avoid drama at the last minute. This is the most important step to having a style you will love on your wedding day. Just because you like the way a stylist cuts or blowdrys your hair does not mean you will like their take on the style you want. Book in your trial at least 4 months in advance just in case they can't achieve the look, or they are booked.

Things to **have ready before you book in your consultation:**

- Have a photo of your wedding dress
- Accessories you want to use
- 4 or 5 pictures of styles you like
- Know the date and time you are getting married (seasons can influence what's recommended)
- Location of wedding (beach, park, indoors..)

**Your wedding hair style is like icing on a cake.**  
**It can either make or break the final look.**

Let your stylist see your dress. There are **a lot of factors when it comes to creating the best look** with your dress, but first and foremost the neckline denotes everything. If you have a highly detailed neckline you don't want to have a down style that is going to hide all the details.



facebook.com  
/chevellhaleyhair

## Having a **style change from ceremony to reception?**

Always start with a down style and go up. Make sure there is enough time in between ceremony and reception and the change is simple. I always recommend having your stylist attended the ceremony if they can, so you can have a quick fix up before photos. If your stylist is unable, make sure one of your bridesmaids has a kit with a small hairspray and hair pins for emergency use.

The recommendation for **guys** is to have their hair cut 5-7 days before the wedding. This is definitely the time to pay a bit more for a good cut, but again, only if you do a trial with the same hairdresser at least once beforehand.

**Colour in advance** 1.5 to 2 weeks before, so the colour settles and no chance of having drama or accidental staining. It is best not to do a drastic cut or colour close to your wedding day.

## On a budget

Shop around for an affordable stylist - just because someone has a lower price does not mean their work is not good. When meeting a stylist talk about your budget first - make sure it is in your range.

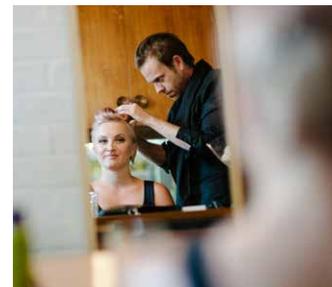
Have a small wedding party, or if that's not an option ask your brides maids to pay for their own hair.

Pick a style for your bridesmaids that they may be able to do on their own - a simple bun that you can use a doughnut in or a similar elegant look that is achievable at home.

A general rule is that the more complicated the style is, the more expensive it will be due to time it takes. This will depend on the quality of your hair as well, so ask the stylist for an exact quote.

## Pros and cons of having a mobile stylist

- You get to get ready in the comfort of your own home, rather than a salon full of strangers.
- You have the stylist's undivided attention. In a salon they will only have a certain amount of allocated time.
- You may be looking at paying more, depending on the location the stylist is required to travel to.
- The time it takes to get ready will take longer with only one stylist doing hair, whereas in a salon you may have multiple stylist working on the party.





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