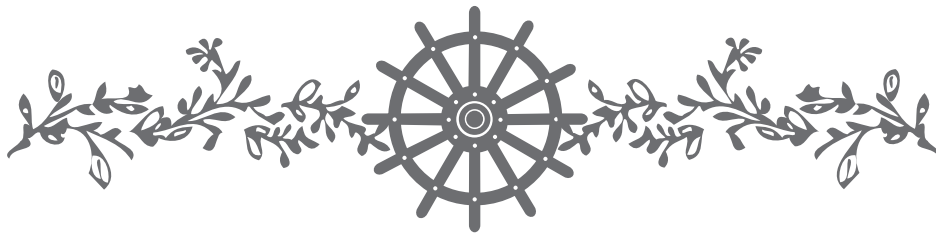




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PARTNERS

Living in a partnership is a life of sharing as equals, so let the love that you have for each other be the one heart from which all words are spoken and let the goodness that you desire for each other be the one mind from which all thoughts and actions arise.

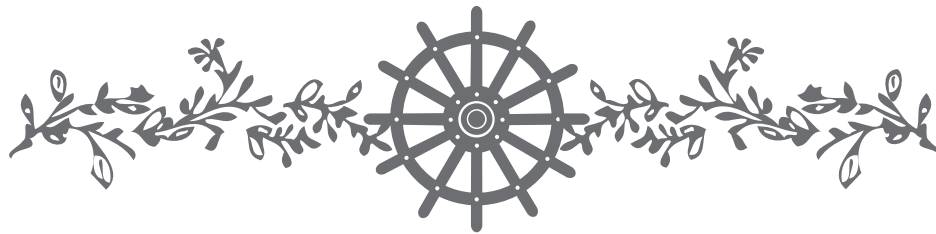
But remember, each is an individual having their own rhythm of life, finely tuned to the silent rhythm found in all of nature ... each needs the freedom to grow in their own way and at their own pace in their own space.

So be quick to recognize the differences that you find in each other, accept and support each other in those differences.

Those differences then will never become a point of departure, instead they will become the firm foundation that supports the edifice of your lives.

Create for each other a haven of peace and happiness where each can enter and be refreshed and strenghted against the adversity of daily living.

- Cliff Cullen 2000



ENGAGEMENT

ANNOUNCING YOUR ENGAGEMENT

The first people to be informed of your engagement should be your parents. It should be done by the bride and groom together but depending on the circumstances, you may wish to speak to them on your own first. This will enable them to discuss any issues they may have with you alone and have time to adapt to your news.

After you have informed your parents and immediate families, you can let other friends and family know either personally or by making a formal announcement via the daily newspaper. Check the newspapers for ideas on how to word your announcement or contact the paper for detailed examples of wording.

THE ENGAGEMENT PARTY

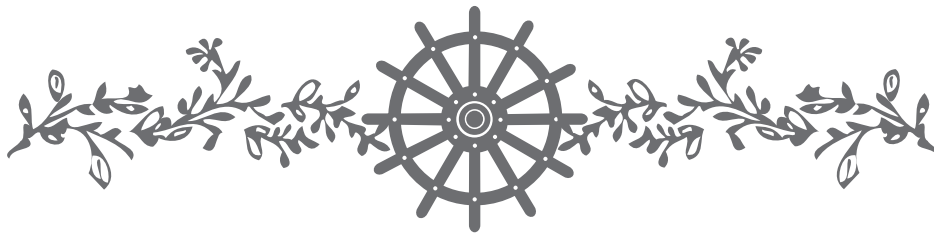
An engagement party can be a formal cocktail party style or an informal weekend luncheon at home. Invitations should be sent for both types. Normally, your parents would give the party but it can be hosted by yourselves if you choose. The party should be held after the formal announcement has been made. As your guests will bring gifts to the party, it might be wise to leave a gift list with your mother or chief bridesmaid for any guests that might like to get a gift that will be needed by the bride and groom. All gifts should be acknowledged by the bride and groom after the party with a thank you note. An easy way to keep track of who gave what gift is to write the gift on the back of the accompanying card when unwrapping.

CHOOSING AN ENGAGEMENT RING

Traditionally, the groom selects a ring of his choosing to give to the bride when he proposes marriage as sign of his love and commitment. However, more increasingly, brides are selecting their own rings as they usually have a particular style or stone in mind. Consider also whether you would like your wedding ring and eternity ring, usually given to the bride by the groom after the first year of marriage, to combine with the engagement ring.

BRIDAL PARTY ATTENDANTS

There is no limit to the number of attendants that you may have in your bridal party but the general rule of thumb is to keep it simple. The bride is attended by a matron or maid of honour, depending on her marital status, bridesmaids and flowergirls, while the groom's attendants are the best man, groomsmen and the ring bearer.



ENGAGEMENT

MATRON/MAID OF HONOUR

Usually an easy choice for the bride as this would be a best friend, sister, close family member or similar. The matron/maid of honour will be a legal witness and sign the marriage certificate as well as hold your flowers, adjust your veil or train when required during the ceremony.

She will also help you to get dressed on the day as well as organise the other bridesmaids attire. Traditionally, the matron/maid of honour will sit next to the groom on the bridal table at the reception.

BEST MAN

As for the matron/maid of honour, the best man will be close to the groom and will take on one of the most important roles at the wedding. He too will be a legal witness and sign the marriage certificate as well as handing the rings to the celebrant during the ceremony. The best man will also finalise any payments, if required, to the celebrant or minister.

He will also propose a toast as required at the reception as well as respond to the toast for the bridesmaids and read any letters or telegrams sent to the bride and groom.

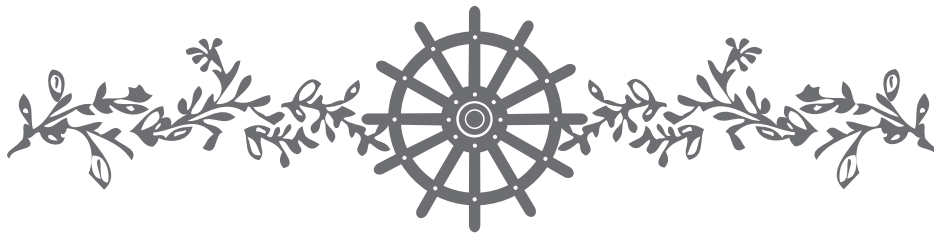
BRIDESMAIDS

The bridesmaids will normally assist with the opening of the both the engagement and wedding gifts and be responsible for recording the gifts next to the guest name for later acknowledgement by the bride and groom. If the bride chooses, the bridesmaids would organise a kitchen tea and also the bride's hens party.

GROOMSMEN

Groomsmen would help the best man with the reading of the telegrams and letters at the reception. They would escort the bridesmaids during the day and participate in the bridal waltz with their designated partner.

They would assist the best man in any pre-wedding activities such as a bucks party if required and overseeing the collection and return of the men's suits if hired.



ENGAGEMENT

FLOWER GIRL

Flowergirls are junior versions of the bridesmaids and generally wear a dress of similar style and colour to the bride. The flowergirl usually carries a small basket or posy of flowers, although it has become more popular for her to carry a basket of rose petals and, preceding the bride, strew them along her path. The best age for flowergirls is between five and ten years. Girls younger than five may be overwhelmed with a lot of guests and may get stage fright at the last minute.

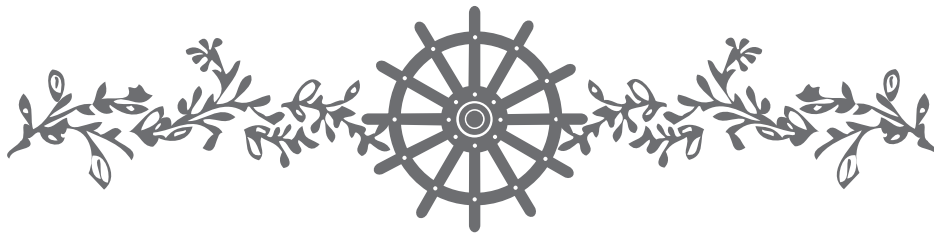
Flowergirls can be seated at the main bridal table but it may be wise to seat them with their parents or people with whom they will feel comfortable.

RING BEARER

The role of the ring bearer is to carry the rings into the ceremony, usually on a cushion with the rings gently attached. The ring bearer can be either a young boy or girl, it depends on the bride and groom but the most popular choice is a boy to partner the flowergirl. If so, the ring bearer would be attired in similar fashion to the men in the bridal party. Give thought to the age of your ring bearer as like the flowergirl, it may be overwhelming to a tiny tot.

USHERS

An ushers role is generally to hand out any order of service booklets at the church and to seat guests as they arrive at the church. Guests of the bride are seated to the left and the grooms guests on the right. If the majority of guests are mutual friends of the bride and groom, they can be seated on either side. The immediate families will sit in the front pew with the mother of the groom being seated around five minutes prior to the processional. The mother of the bride is seated just prior to the commencement of the processional and any late guests should not be seated till after the processional. Ushers would escort both mothers to their seats.



ENGAGEMENT DETAILS

Announcement in newspaper on _____

Engagement party held at _____

On _____

The ring was purchased from _____

And is insured with _____

Bride's attendants will be _____

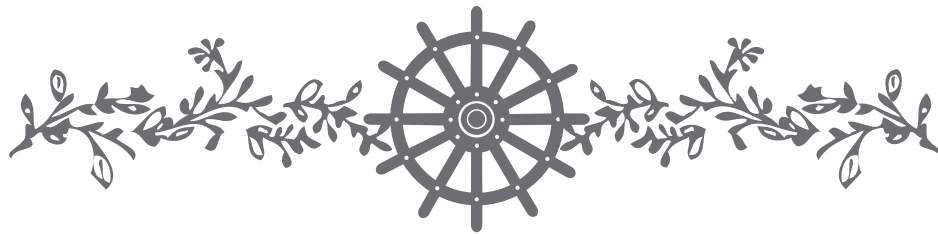
Groom's attendants will be _____

Ushers _____

Flower Girl _____

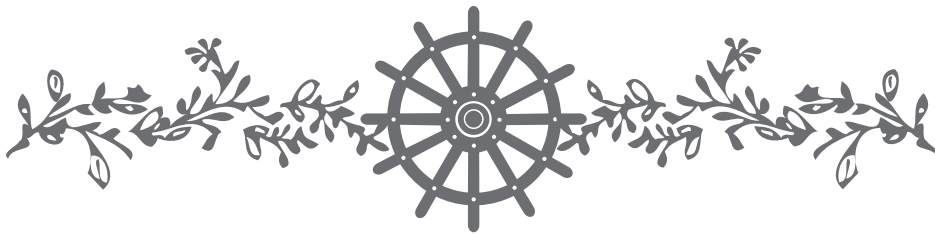
Ring Bearer _____

Celebrant/Minister _____



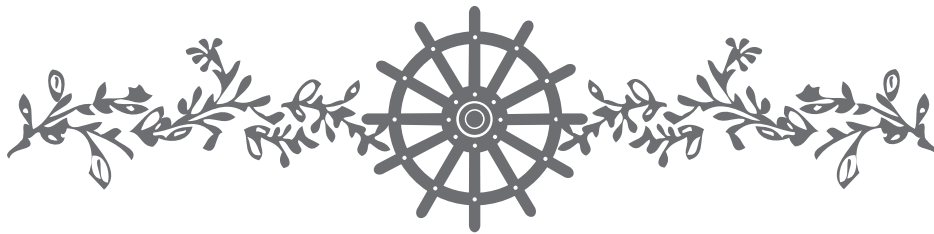
ENGAGEMENT GIFT REGISTER

NAME	ADDRESS	GIFT



ENGAGEMENT GIFT REGISTER

NAME	ADDRESS	GIFT



BUDGET FOR YOUR WEDDING

Before you can start planning for your wedding, you must have a budget to work to. This is very important, for you need to know what funds will be available to you before you put down any deposits or sign contracts for any services for the wedding.

WHO PAYS?

Traditionally, the bride's family bear most of the wedding costs but in these modern times, this is not always the case. With most couples working and living together, they contribute to the costs along with the groom's family in order to ease the burden from the bride's family.

You probably already have an idea as to whether or not your parents will be able to finance the wedding, either partially or with some help from yourselves. The bride, groom and both sets of parents should discuss this issue well ahead of the wedding so that a budget can be made and all parties are in agreement. At this time, you should get an indication from the parents in regards to how many friends and family they would like to invite. You may find that this list may need to be trimmed or a compromise made if it will blow out the guest list. Also discuss any family traditions that they may want you to carry out – this may or may not fit in with what you had in mind.

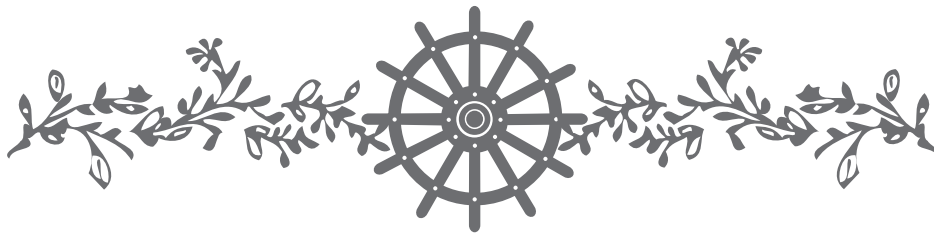
GETTING PRICES

The Internet, Yellow Pages and recommendations from friends are the best way to find out what's available to you and at what cost. The easiest way is to ring around first to find out if what you want is available through that particular outlet, rather than going around to several different shops with no result. When speaking to the suppliers, be specific about what you are looking for and ask them to give you a price (GST inclusive, so there are no hidden surprises) that would be valid at the time of your wedding. If you are planning well in advance for your wedding, you may find that the prices have risen by the time you are getting married.

When you are going to see the goods, whether it be the flowers or the dresses, take a note of the appearance of the business. Are they organized or is the shop organized chaos? Are they neat and tidy? Rate the customer service level as well – cheapest is not always the best in terms of services and little extras.

Once you have chosen your supplier, find out, in writing if possible, when any deposits or progress payments need to be made and when final payment is required.

Normally, the financial responsibilities are as follows



BUDGET FOR YOUR WEDDING

BRIDE AND HER FAMILY

- Invitations & announcements – printing, postage and associated costs
- Flowers for the ceremony and reception venues
- Flowers for the bride's attendants
- Corsages for mothers and grandmothers
- Wedding dress, veil, lingerie and all accessories
- Ceremony music fees
- Photographer and Videographer
- Wedding day transportation for all the bridal party
- Reception – food, beverages, decorations and all associated costs
- Hair and make up costs for the bride and her attendants

GROOM AND HIS FAMILY

- Bride's bouquet
- Any suit hire costs for the groom
- Any marriage licence fees
- Accommodation costs for out of town attendants
- Wedding rehearsal dinner (optional)

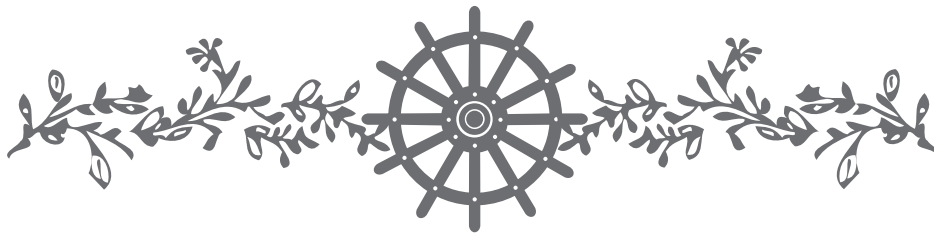
ATTENDANTS

- Personal wedding attire (excluding flowers)

BRIDE AND GROOM

- Engagement and wedding rings
- Wedding night accommodation
- Honeymoon
- Gifts for attendants

Most couples and their families will share the costs amongst themselves – use this list as a guide when discussing the wedding budget



EXPENSES SUMMARY

BRIDAL GOWN

VEIL

SHOES

OTHER ACCESSORIES

BRIDESMAIDS' DRESSES

OTHER ACCESSORIES

FLOWER GIRLS' DRESSES

OTHER ACCESSORIES

GROOM'S SUIT

OTHER ACCESSORIES

GROOMSMENS' SUITS

OTHER ACCESSORIES

HAIR

BRIDE

BRIDESMAIDS

FLOWERGIRL

MAKE UP

BRIDE

BRIDESMAIDS

FLOWERGIRL

FLOWERS

BRIDE

BRIDESMAIDS

FLOWERGIRL

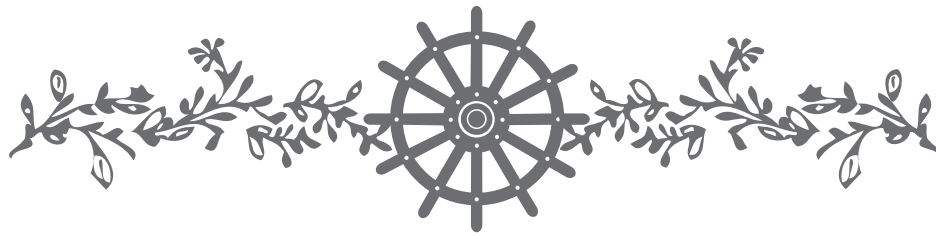
GROOM

GROOMSMEN

RING BEARER

CORSAGES

CEREMONY



FEEES CHURCH
 MINISTER
 ORGANIST

TRANSPORTATION

RECEPTION FOOD & BEVERAGE
 MUSIC
 DECORATIONS

INVITATIONS ENGAGEMENT
 WEDDING
 POSTAGE
 ORDER OF SERVICE
 PLACE CARDS

WEDDING CAKE

PHOTOGRAPHER

VIDEO

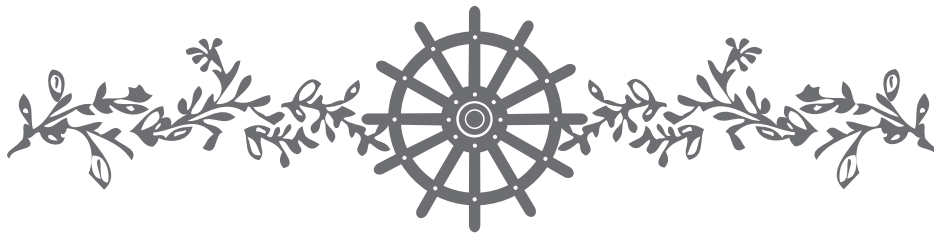
GIFTS TO ATTENDANTS
 BRIDE
 GROOM

WEDDING NIGHT ACCOMMODATION

HONEYMOON

OTHER COSTS

TOTAL COSTS



BRIDE'S ATTIRE

THE BRIDAL GOWN

Most brides already have an idea of the type of gown they would like to wear on their wedding day, whether it be traditional style or something completely different. There are no right and wrong styles of gowns but whatever you choose, it should be comfortable and practical – even though you will only wear it once, you will be standing, sitting and moving around for a long period of time.

If you need some inspiration, browse through bridal magazines or visit a bridal shop. Bridal fairs are also a good idea and are normally held twice a year – they will usually be advertised in newspapers or bridal magazines. The Internet is a resourceful tool that can save you time in finding your gown. You will be able to source suppliers of gowns, bridal fairs and hire shops amongst others.

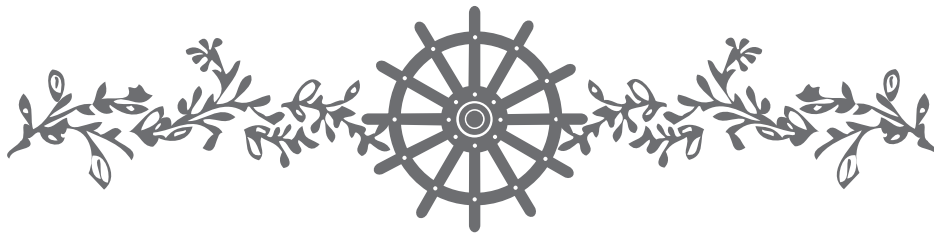
While the traditional bridal gown is white, lacy and formal, the sky's the limit when it comes to style and colour. Modern brides are choosing a gown that suits their individual style and to accommodate their figure. You might find that your dream gown can be found in the formal wear section of a boutique or department store.

Try on lots of different gowns – even if you are sure you know what you want. Enlist the help of your mother or your bridesmaids to get an honest opinion of what looks good and what doesn't. Take along a pair of shoes with a medium size heel and wear a strapless bra, just in case. Take some basic hair accessories like bobby pins, clips or hair ties so you can get an idea of how your hair will look with veils and head pieces.

Alternatives to buying your gown are renting or having it tailor made. Certainly, renting your gown would be cheaper but it limits the styles and colours available to you. Most good formal wear hire shops have a bridal section.

If you can't find what you want in the stores, consider having your gown tailor made by a professional dressmaker. This way, you can create the gown of your dreams with all the preferred trimmings and extras. A good dressmaker can make your gown by just having photos or sketches to work with. Ask friends to recommend someone or look through the Yellow Pages or the Internet.

If you decide to keep your gown, you will need to have it cleaned and stored as soon as practical after the wedding. There are various methods e.g. calico bags, boxes with tissue paper, to store your gown but the type of material, climate and where it will be stored should be taken into consideration. Speak to your drycleaner about what the best alternative is for your gown.



BRIDAL GOWN CHECKLIST

THE BRIDAL GOWN

Bridal Shop/Seamstress _____

Address/Phone _____

Contact name _____

Style/colour of gown _____

Accessories	Veil	Yes	No
	Headpiece	Yes	No
	Gloves	Yes	No
	Stockings	Yes	No
	Jewellery	Yes	No

Total cost including accessories _____

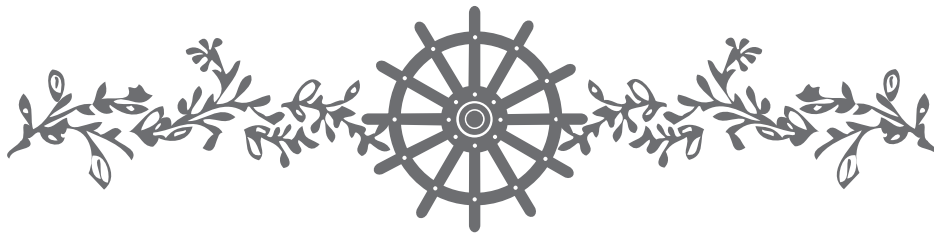
Deposit due _____

Progress payments due _____

Fitting dates _____

Final fitting _____

Final payment required _____



BRIDAL GOWN CHECKLIST

Shoe colour and style number _____

Purchased from _____

Lingerie required _____

Purchased from _____

Fabric for dress _____

Quantity required _____

FOR THE TRADITIONAL BRIDE

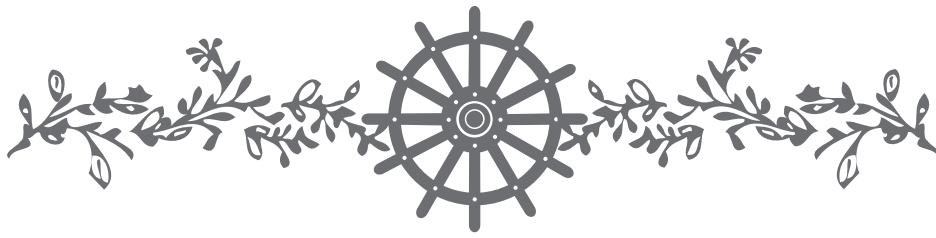
Something old _____

Something new _____

Something borrowed _____

Something blue _____

Notes _____



BRIDE'S ATTENDANTS

The style and colour of your attendants gowns should complement your own gown. Take into account the age, height and weight of the attendants when choosing a style. Strapless dresses may not be complimentary to full figured women. Consider the complexions and hair colours of your attendants when choosing a colour as pastels can make women with fair complexions look "washed out". Discuss with your attendants what they will feel comfortable wearing before making your final decision.

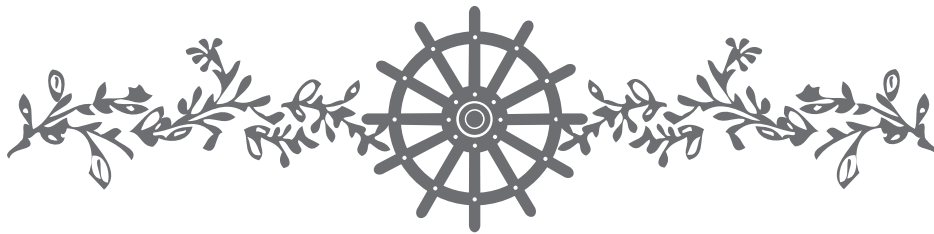
It is becoming increasingly popular for the matron/maid of honour to have a different gown than the other bridesmaids. The bridesmaids usually wear gowns of the same style and colour. Flower girls traditionally wear a smaller version of the bridal gown but this can be optional if you choose to have a colourful bridal party.

As the attendants usually cover the costs of their gowns and shoes, try to select something that will accommodate everyone's budget. A formal style may be more practical so as they will get to wear it again and will therefore be willing to pay extra for a gown they will get further use of.

If the shoes are not covered by the length of the dress, consider having the shoes dyed in the same colour as the gowns or even covered with the same material if possible. This will give a lovely effect when in line at the ceremony and for the photographs. Most shoe stores can arrange for shoes to be dyed or covered in the desired material. If not, source a local boot maker who can do the job. Allow at least four to six weeks for this process. Ask to see a sample of the dye when made up before going ahead – quite often the finished product may vary from the colour chart you choose from.

Flower colours and styles need to be considered also as most attendants carry bouquets. If possible, when selecting gowns or fabrics, try to have some flower petals on hand to hold against the colour to see if they will blend in.

As with your bridesmaids, the costs for the flower girls are usually borne by her parents. As flower girls are usually young girls, consider a dress that will be comfortable and practical for them to wear for the whole day. They may become restless and irritable if they are restricted by a dress that does not allow them to move freely. Remember, they will probably spend most of their time running around and playing when not involved in official duties. Little slippers or ballet type shoes are a great idea and would be the most comfortable choice for little girls to wear for a whole day.



BRIDAL ATTENDANTS CHECKLIST

Bridal Shop/Seamstress _____

Address/Phone _____

Contact name _____

Style/colour of gowns _____

Accessories	Headpiece	Yes	No
-------------	-----------	-----	----

	Gloves	Yes	No
--	--------	-----	----

	Jewellery	Yes	No
--	-----------	-----	----

Other accessories _____

Total cost including accessories _____

Deposit due _____

Progress payments due _____

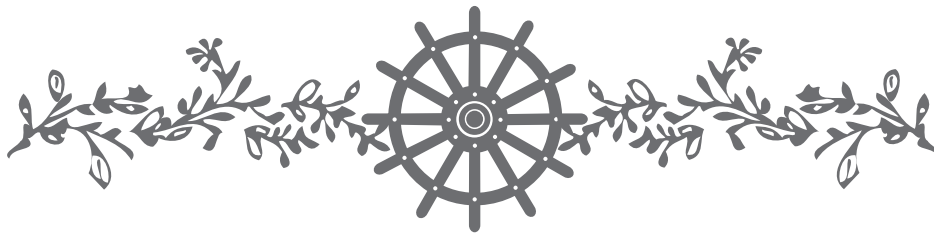
Final payment required _____

Fitting dates _____

Final fitting _____

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BRIDAL ATTENDANTS CHECKLIST

Shoe style and colour _____

Purchased from _____

Shoes to be dyed or covered at _____

Contact/Phone _____

Cost _____

Shoes to be taken in by _____

And ready for collection by _____

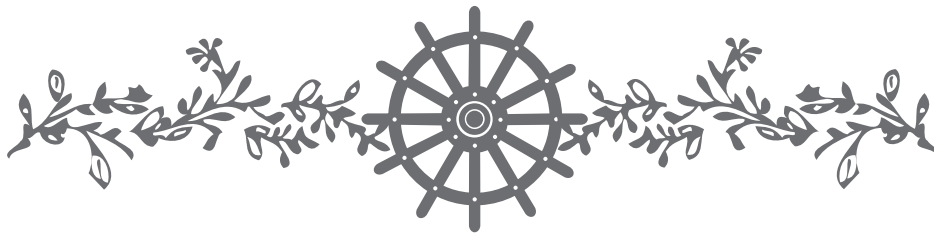
Flowergirl accessories _____

MEASUREMENTS AND SHOE SIZE

Matron/Maid of Honour _____

Bridesmaids _____

Flower girl _____



GROOM'S ATTIRE

Most grooms and his attendants opt to rent their wedding day suit from a formal wear hire store so as to ensure of the same style and colour of suits. Ensure that the groom's suit compliments the bridal gown.

Traditionally, the groom wears a suit with a white shirt and either a bow tie or neck tie and a corsage in his jacket lapel. You will find that modern day grooms are choosing to wear colours that will blend in with the rest of the bridal party or the flowers, whether it be their shirt or tie or with an added vest. Browse through bridal magazines or visit some formal wear hire shops to get some ideas of what is available. The colours for the bride's attendants should be decided before you organise the colours for the male attendants.

As with the bride, the groom should stand out from the rest of his attendants to ensure that all of the guests know who he is. The groom can be different with something like a different coloured shirt or vest.

GROOMS ATTENDANTS

The groomsmen can compliment the bridesmaids by wearing a cummerbund or shirt in the same colour as the bridesmaids gowns. This has a great effect for photographs and when they are in line for official duties. You may choose to have them similar in colour to the groom, but remember that the groom needs to be different from his attendants.

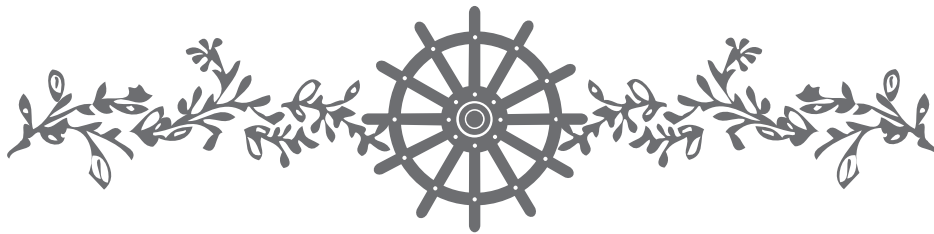
As with the bride's attendants, the groomsmen are responsible for the cost of their suit hire and for any other accessories. The groom and his attendants need to all go shopping together to suit hire shops to make sure that everyone is happy with what is chosen. Arrange to have regular fittings and a final fitting no later than a week before the wedding.

The groom and his attendants normally all wear the same colour shoes, traditionally black, but not necessarily of the same style. If possible, take the shoes along to the first fitting to see if different shoe styles will be a problem.

RING BEARER

As a partner to the flower girl, the ring bearer should also wear attire to compliment her dress. Traditionally, a suit in the same style and colour as the other male attendants will be adequate.

All costs for the ring bearers' attire would normally be met by his parents.



GROOM AND GROOMSMEN ATTIRE CHECKLIST

Name of suit hire shop _____

Address/Phone _____

Contact _____

Colour of Grooms suit _____

Style number _____

Accessories _____

Colour of Groomsmen suits _____

Style number _____

Accessories _____

Colour of Ring Bearer suit _____

Style number _____

Accessories _____

Total cost of suit hire _____

Deposit required by _____

Fitting dates _____

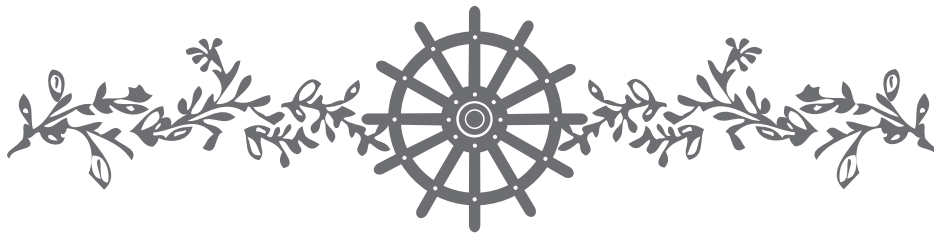
Final fitting _____

Suits to be collected on _____

By _____

Suits to be returned on _____

By _____



WEDDING INVITATIONS AND OTHER STATIONARY

WHO TO INVITE?

In order to establish how many guests you can invite to your wedding, you will need to have a budget in place. A budget will determine how many guests you can afford to invite and make it easier to put a limit on the number of guests.

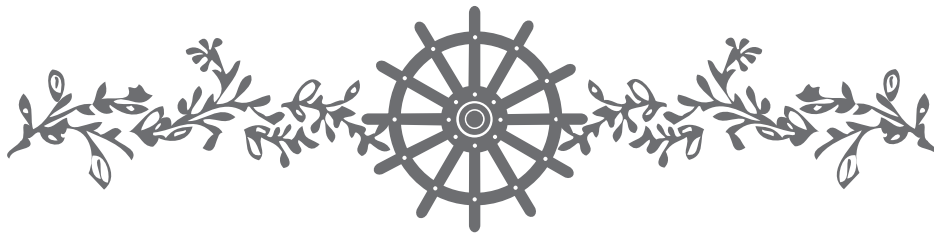
The guest list need not be a major issue as long as all parties involved, the bride, groom, and both parents, are able to discuss it as soon as practicable. If all parties are contributing to the financing of the wedding then the best way is to establish how many guests you can have in total and divide it three ways. If one party has more guests than the others, it may create tension between the other parties. You may have to look at inviting only the immediate families and not the extended families in order to be able to invite everyone else. If only one party is financing the wedding, then there should be a decision made as to how the guest list is divided.

You will also need to decide if you will be inviting children. While they may look cute entertaining the guests, they are also prone to having temper tantrums at the most inopportune times. They can also get bored and restless quickly if there is not enough to entertain them for a full day and night. If there are only a couple of children you would like have in attendance, consider having them in the bridal party. While most of your guests would not be offended if you did not invite their young children, it would be inappropriate to invite some children and not others.

If you have single friends you are inviting but are unable to add "and guest" to their invitation, try to seat them all together at the reception so they do not feel uncomfortable with a table full of couples. While most guests realize they may not always be able to take a friend, they will appreciate being with other people in the same situation.

Even though it might be a good opportunity for business networking for your parents or yourselves, it could blow out your guest numbers. Best to leave this type of guest till last and if you have any room, then invite them.

If you have potential guests interstate or overseas, be prepared for them to come to the wedding if invited. Sending them an invitation on the assumption they won't attend as they live too far away may rebound on you and inflate your guest list further. If you have people in this situation, it would be best to invite them well ahead of time and ask them to give you an indication as soon as possible as to whether or not they will be able to attend.



WEDDING INVITATIONS AND OTHER STATIONARY

WORDING OF INVITATIONS

The bride's parents traditionally send the wedding invitation when they host the wedding. If the financing of the wedding is being shared by all parties, you may want to word the invitation to show all parties as the host. The various wording combinations are endless and depend upon how formal or informal you would like them to be. For examples of different wordings, contact a printer of wedding invitations who will show you a catalogue of different styles and designs. If you have any wedding invitations at home, look through these for ideas in regards to wording, design, fonts and colours. Most bridal magazines can give pictures or examples of wording as well.

While a printed invitation is the most popular way to go, you can do them yourself with the right tools – computer software, elegant paper and a very good laser printer. You might find that the cost difference between printed and home made invitations is minimal and therefore would be easier to get them printed. Before ordering your invitations, consider what other stationary needs you will have and look at ordering everything at once.

OTHER STATIONARY REQUIREMENTS

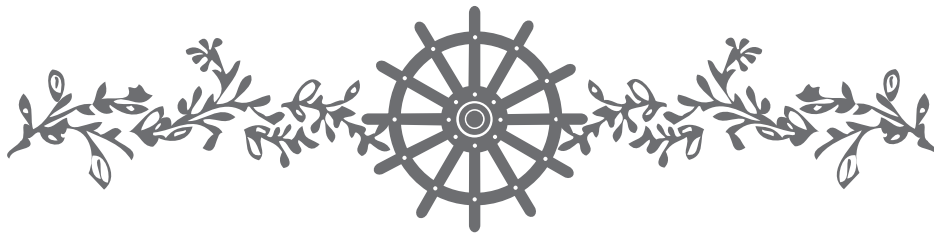
Generally, you will need wedding invitations and envelopes, RSVP cards and envelopes (optional), place cards for the reception and if desired, order of service booklets for the ceremony. It is a good idea to order some extra invitations and envelopes in case of mistakes. Always make sure you have a few spare for keepsakes. Thank you notes can be printed but they are more personal if hand written by the bride and groom.

If you plan on getting other stationary printed, they should all be uniform in colour, font, paper and design. This will carry the same theme throughout. A lot of brides like to colour co-ordinate their stationary in line with the colours of the bridal party or the flowers they will have. While the effects of this can be wonderful, this can often be time consuming and hard to do.

Make sure you proof read all copies before authorizing the printer to go ahead. Once you have signed the proof copy, you are liable for any mistakes. Read through everything carefully, and pay particular attention to the spelling of all names.

SENDING OF INVITATIONS

Invitations should be sent no later than six weeks prior to your wedding. If you are getting married over the holiday season, i.e. January or February, it may be wise to send them eight weeks before. The RSVP date should be two to three weeks prior to the wedding. Don't forget you will need to know final numbers for the reception venue at least two weeks prior to the day.



WEDDING INVITATIONS AND OTHER STATIONARY

RSVP CARDS

Sending pre-printed RSVP cards and envelopes with the invitation is optional but will be convenient for your guests. This means they only have to fill in their name and the number of guests attending. The envelope should be already addressed to either the host or you. If you choose not to enclose RSVP cards, be prepared to follow up late responses.

ORDER OF SERVICE BOOKS

Order of service books are a nice touch for the ceremony as they provide a memento for your guests to keep. Generally, they list all the members of the bridal party, the parents of the bride and groom, the celebrant or minister, readers and any musicians or singers at the beginning then a running order of how the ceremony will unfold. You can include any poems or readings in full as well as a copy of your vows. A message from the bride and groom on the last page will make it more personal. As they are usually not very large, they can be bound with coloured ribbon in keeping with the wedding colour scheme. Ask your printer to show you examples or speak to the celebrant – they may have some from previous weddings.

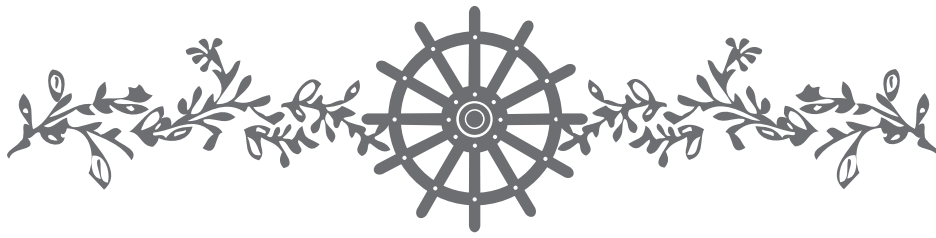
TABLE PLACE CARDS

Place cards are essential for your reception as guests need to be allocated a seat at a designated table. This makes it easier for your guests to find their seats and will ensure that everyone is seated in accordance with your plans. It would be a good idea to have relevant groups together on one table (relatives, school friends, work associates, singles, etc) as guests will feel more comfortable sitting with people in which they have something in common. You will not be able to accommodate everyone in terms of their table location to the bridal table but try to keep close family and friends closest to the bridal table then work outwards.

An alphabetical listing of every guest with their table number next to their name can be displayed in the reception foyer and guests can then go straight to their table without having to look at every place card.

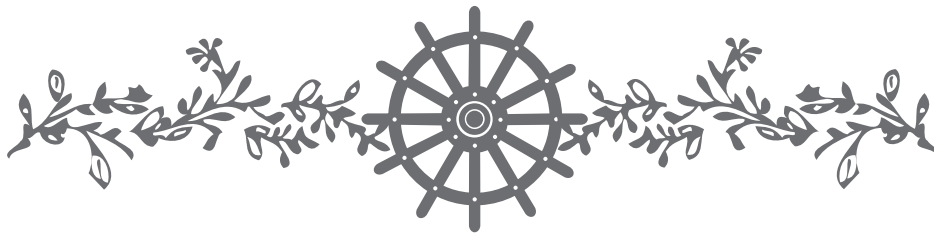
LOCATION MAPS

Maps for out of town guests would be greatly appreciated by them, especially if they are unfamiliar with the location of the venues. A simple photocopy of the street directory with the venues highlighted and showing the most direct route are easy enough to enclose with their invitation.



GUEST LIST

NAME	ADDRESS	INVITATION SENT	REPLY



STATIONARY CHECKLIST

Printer's name _____

Address/Phone _____

Contact _____

No. of invitations _____

No. of envelopes _____

No. of RSVP cards and envelopes _____

No. of Order of Service books _____

No. of Place cards _____

Quotation for printing _____

Order of Service books checked by minister on _____

Proof read copy on _____

Paper style and design confirmed on _____

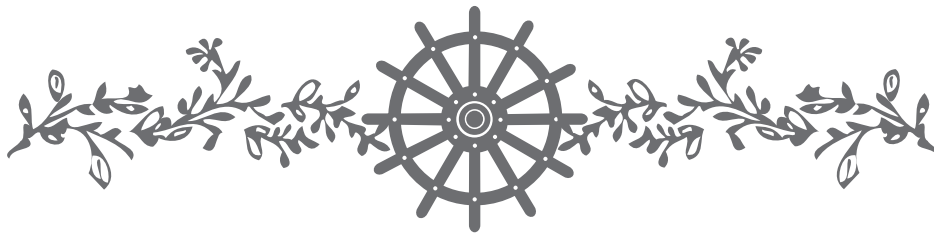
Authorised to print on _____

To be ready by _____

Ribbon colour for order of service books will be _____

Any extras (paper, etc) _____

Final cost _____



GIFTS FOR EVERYONE!

With so many couples living together or living away from home before they are married, it is often difficult to know what they will need to start their new life together. For this reason, a gift register at a major department store will ensure that the bride and groom receive gifts that they need and avoid duplications.

GIFT REGISTER FOR THE BRIDE AND GROOM

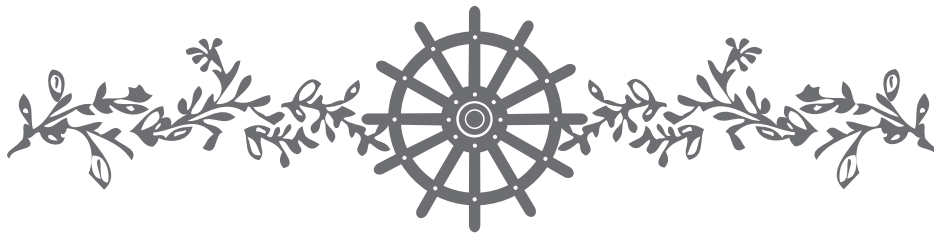
Most department stores, and larger specialty shops, have a bridal register service available with no charge to the bride and groom. To register, speak to a consultant at the store and they will take you around the store and ask you to select what products you what like to receive as gifts. It is a good idea to select small and large gifts as you will probably have a group of guests that will all put in to get one large gift and guests that will giving a gift from only themselves. The store will give you pre-printed cards to send with your invitations to let guests know where you are registered. Your guests can then either visit or phone the store and select the gift of their choosing – this is particularly handy for out of town guests. Once a gift has been purchased, it will be taken off the register so there will be no duplications. Guests can either take the gift to the reception or if you prefer, the store will deliver all gifts to you on a nominated date (usually after the honeymoon). The store will also provide a list of what gifts were given by which guests. This is very convenient when doing your thank you notes.

Even though you have advised your guests of your gift registry, some guests will prefer to get your gift the traditional way – that is, selecting the gift themselves. If you end up with some duplicated gifts, don't despair! Some extra glasses, cutlery, towels, etc can always come in handy. If you receive gifts that are not from your bridal registry, be sure to make sure that you write the gift on the back of the accompanying card.

OPENING OF WEDDING GIFTS

If you receive any gifts prior to your wedding (usually from uninvited guests such as neighbours or work colleagues), open them straight away and record the gift on the card. If you have time, you can write and send the thank you note.

It is a good idea to leave the opening of any gifts that are taken to the reception until the next day. Usually, they are taken from the reception by your parents or members of the bridal party so if time permits, open them before you leave for your honeymoon so they can be recorded correctly in readiness for the thank you notes on your return.



THANK YOU NOTES

While the thought of writing quite a lot of thank you notes for all your gifts may seem daunting and time consuming, it must be done. Most gift givers will be quite generous in what they spend on a wedding gift so it is only good manners to acknowledge receipt of the gift. Notes that have been hand written by the bride or groom, or both, will be far more personal than a printed card that says "Thank you for your gift, from the bride and groom". A hand written card tells the gift giver that you actually know what they gave you and that you appreciate it, even if the gift is something you already have or do not require. In the event that you are able to return or exchange a gift that is not suitable, you should never tell your guests as they may be highly offended.

Thank you notes should be done as soon as practical after the honeymoon but no later than two months after the wedding.

GIFTS FOR THE BRIDAL PARTY

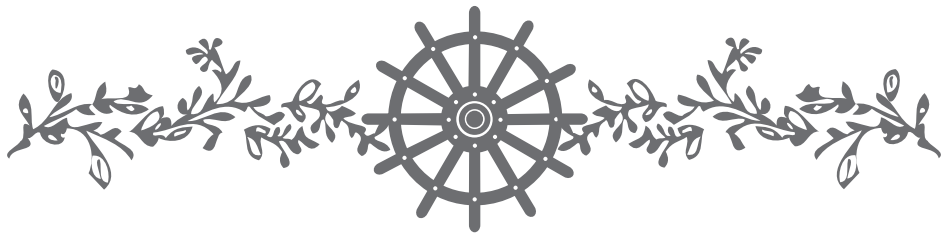
It is customary to give each member of the bridal party a small gift in appreciation for their help and participation in the wedding and so they have a special memory of the day. The bride usually gives gifts to her attendants and the groom gives gifts to his groomsmen. Traditional gifts for the bridesmaids are bracelets, small jewellery boxes, beauty travel cases or the like and for the groomsmen a pewter mug, money clip or pen. To make it more personal, you can have the gift engraved with the wedding date and the name of the bride and groom.

GIFTS FOR THE PARENTS

Most parents of the bride and groom play an important role in their wedding day, whether it be financing the wedding or just helping from start to finish with all the details, big and small. Traditionally, a small gift of appreciation and thanks is given to both parents by the bride and groom.

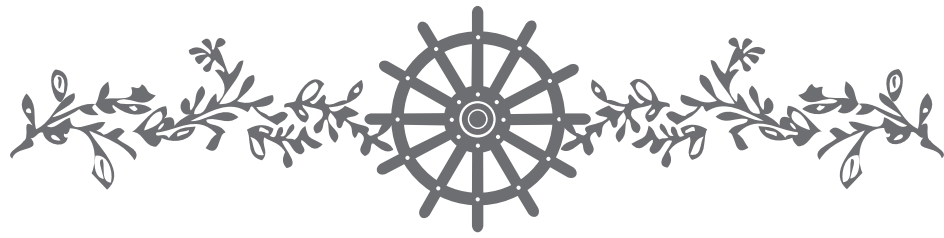
GIFTS FOR EACH OTHER

It is traditional for the bride and groom to exchange gifts with each other for their wedding. Most couples feel it unnecessary as the wedding rings they give each other are sufficient but if you would like to follow this tradition, choose something very personal that can be treasured for a lifetime like jewellery or a framed poem that you have written for the occasion.



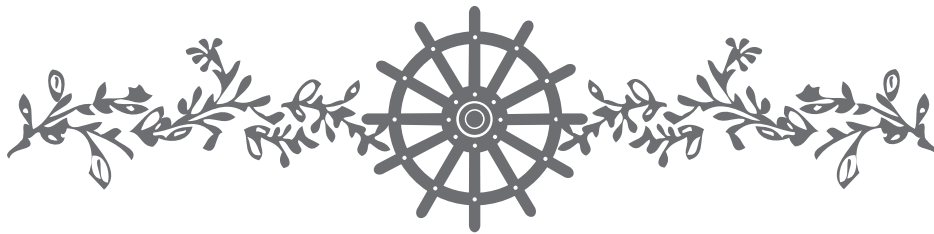
GIFT LIST

NAME	GIFT	THANK YOU NOTE SENT



GIFT LIST

NAME	GIFT	THANK YOU NOTE SENT



WEDDING FLOWERS

Most brides already have a favourite type and/or colour of flower that they would like to have for their wedding day. Depending on the timing of your wedding with the seasons, some flowers are not available all year round. For this reason, you will need to have other choices ready. If you are unsure about what flowers will be in season, your local florist will be able to help. The flowers you finally settle on can have a huge impact on the theme and mood of your wedding, so take some extra time to shop around to make sure you get exactly what you want.

CHOOSING YOUR FLORIST

As with all your other services, the easiest way to choose your florist is to ask friends or family for a recommendation. Failing that, the Yellow Pages or the Internet will provide you with florists that may specialize in weddings or some florists in your area. Flowers, and their prices, can vary from florist to florist so for peace of mind, speak to as many florists as you can (minimum three or four). Before authorizing any flowers to be ordered or arranged, get written quotes on what the total cost will be. Following is a list of flowers that you will need, with some suggestions being optional.

BRIDE AND HER ATTENDANTS

- Bride's bouquet
- Bride's throw away bouquet (optional)
- Bridesmaid's bouquets
- Flower girl – bouquet or basket of rose petals
- Flowers for hair pieces – bride and attendants (optional)

GROOM AND HIS ATTENDANTS

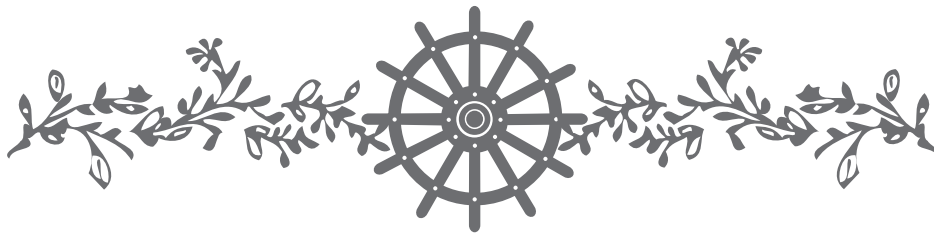
- Groom's boutonniere
- Groomsmen and ring bearer boutonnieres

FAMILY AND OTHERS

- Corsage for mothers and grandmothers
- Boutonniere for fathers and grandfathers
- Corsage or boutonniere for special helpers i.e. ushers at church (optional)

VENUE FLOWERS

- Ceremony – arrangements for the altar and pews. You may be able to use flowers from any earlier ceremonies. Check with your minister.
- Reception – table centre pieces, cake table and the bridal table



FLOWERS CHECKLIST

Name of florist _____

Address/Phone _____

Contact _____

Bride's bouquet _____

Bride's throw away _____

Bride's hair piece _____

Number and type of bridesmaids bouquets _____

Flower girl - bouquet or basket _____

Number and type of attendants hair pieces _____

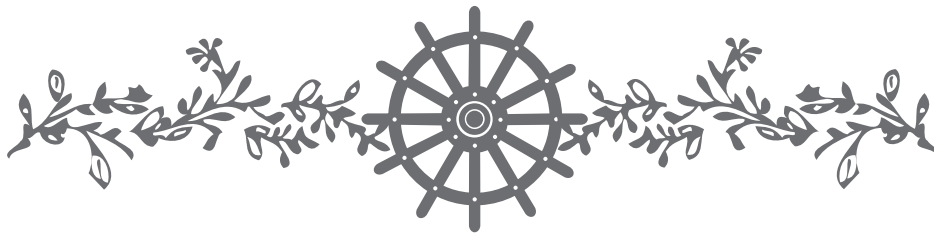
Number and type of corsages for mothers and grandmothers _____

Groom's boutonniere _____

Number and type of boutonniere for groomsmen's and ring bearers _____

Number and type of boutonniere for fathers and grandfathers _____

Flowers for special helpers _____



FLOWERS CHECKLIST

Flowers for ceremony _____

Flowers for reception _____

Total cost _____

Quotation received _____

Deposit due _____

Final payment to be made _____

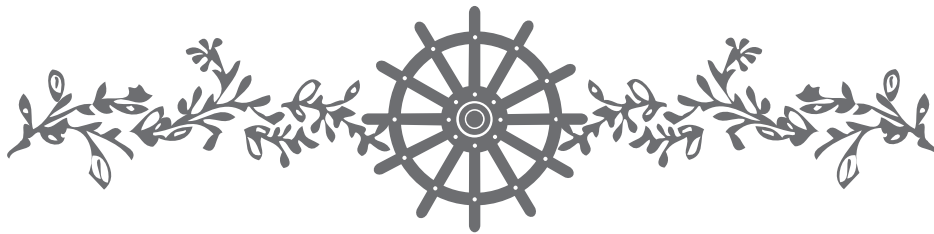
Flowers to be collected on _____

By _____

Or flowers delivered to the bride at _____

And the groom at _____

Notes _____



PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

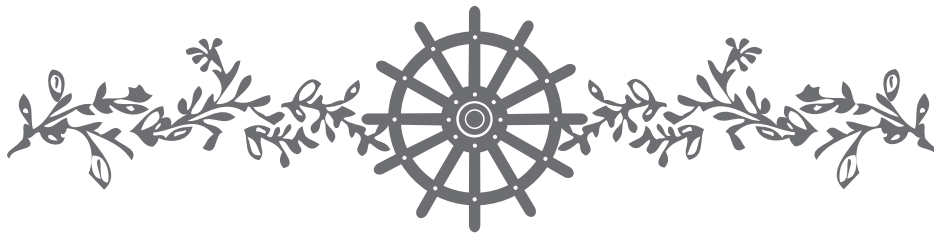
Even though your wedding day will pass quickly, your photographs and video of the day will last a lifetime. They will capture special moments of your day that you may not have even been aware of. For this reason, your choice of a photographer and videographer should be someone who has vast experience in this field.

PHOTOGRAPHER

A good wedding photographer can be expensive so be sure to discuss all costs up front so there are no hidden surprises after the event i.e. what you actually get for the price you pay. Some photographers may charge extra for the negatives or proofs. Good quality photographers will be booked well in advance so be sure to get onto finding one quickly. Ask friends and family for a recommendation or source one through the Yellow Pages, bridal magazines or the Internet. When making an appointment, ask to meet at their studio if possible so you can see the type of work they have done previously. Ask to see photos or a portfolio of other weddings they have done.

Discuss at length what photo's are to be taken and where. Generally, photos are taken of the bride and her attendants getting ready, leaving the house then arriving at the church, all ceremony shots, family portraits with the bride, groom and bridal party then some photos of the bride and groom cutting the cake at the reception venue before the guests arrive. The cutting of the cake is staged – this is actually done during the reception. For photos to be taken between the ceremony and the reception, choose a venue with the seasons in mind and one that will be easy for the participants to get to. Be sure to let them know well in advance that they will be required for these photos so they can arrange to be there on time and therefore ensure your family portraits won't be missing anyone.

It would be advisable not to entrust an amateur photographer with taking your wedding photographs. The results may not be what you envisaged and they only get one shot at it. Amateur photographers would be great for all the shots that your professional will miss and ask as many people as you can to take photos. They will usually produce the best candid shots. As the photographer generally does not take photos at the reception, consider having a disposable camera on each table and ask guests to take photos at their leisure during the reception. Have a responsible person collect all the cameras as the guests are leaving to avoid guests taking the cameras with them by mistake. This way, there would be at least one photo of every guest



COLLECTING YOUR MEMORIES

Make a date with your photographer after the wedding to view the proofs. It can take a few weeks or more. The proofs are generally normal size photos with numbers on the pack to make ordering easier. There will be plenty to choose from as the photographer will take several shots of the same pose and after a while, they may all look the same. Ask the photographer which shots they think are best as they can generally tell which shots have better light, background, etc. Be sure to order enough for gifts to the parents, your bridal party, etc or if you prefer, ask them to choose which ones they would like.

VIDEOGRAPHER

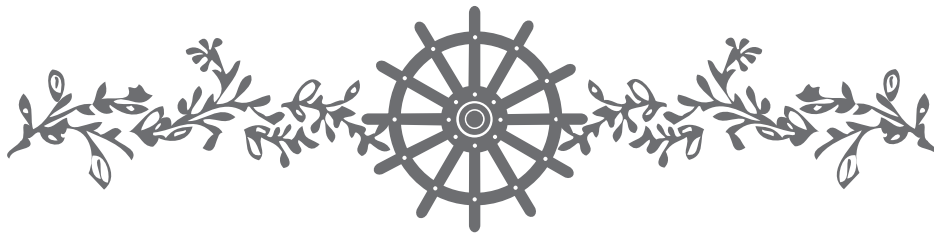
The same rules apply to choosing a videographer as they do to your photographer – get a recommendation or after viewing samples of their work. When viewing other videos, be sure to look for the standard of the lighting of the indoor shots, the audio (can you hear what's being said during the exchange of the vows?), etc. Professional wedding videos can be edited and set to music, have a running order on screen of the main participants or have some wedding day “bloopers” at the end – the possibilities are endless.

If your ceremony is being conducted in the church, you will need to confirm that they allow filming. Most churches nowadays do, but some older churches may not. Do not assume that it will be ok.

If you have budget restraints, consider asking a friend or family member who is handy with a video camera if they would be able to do it for you. You may like to ask a couple of different people and spread the day between them i.e. one being with the bride and/or groom while they are getting ready, one to do the ceremony, one to do the photo session and one or more to do the reception. This way, they still get to enjoy the wedding and you have a back up in the event of one camera not working, batteries being flat, etc. You can then edit the end result yourselves and add music or narrations as required.

With both photographers and videographers, ensure that they will be dressed appropriately for the day. There would nothing more devastating to the effect of your wedding to have all your guests dressed formally and the camera crews wearing casual clothes such as jeans and t-shirts. Be sure to stress to both parties that they, and any assistants they may have, be suitably dressed on the day. Any professional would not have a problem with this.

If you hire a professional videographer and they will be filming from start to finish, be prepared to provide a meal(s) at the reception. Most videographers will have this as part of their conditions.



PHOTOGRAPHER CHECKLIST

Name of photographer/studio _____

Address/Phone _____

Contact _____

Time required for bride and attendants _____

At _____

Time required for groom and attendants _____

At _____

Family portraits, informal shots to be held at _____

Starting at _____

Participants (excluding bridal party) _____

Required at reception to photograph _____

Total fee _____

Deposit required by _____

Proofs ready by _____

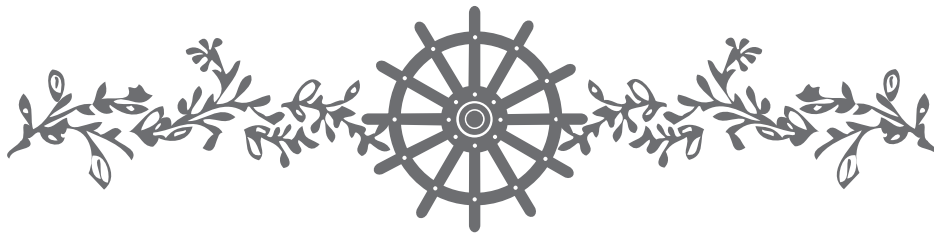
Wedding album ready by _____

KOOKABURRA SHOWBOAT CRUISES

www.showboat.net.au

Ph (07) 3221 1300

Eagle Street Pier, 1 Eagle St, Brisbane



VIDEOGRAPHER CHECKLIST

Name of videographer _____

Address/Phone _____

Contact _____

Time required for bride and attendants _____

At _____

Time required for groom and attendants _____

At _____

Filming of ceremony approved by _____

Required to film at photo session by _____

At _____

Number of people in crew _____

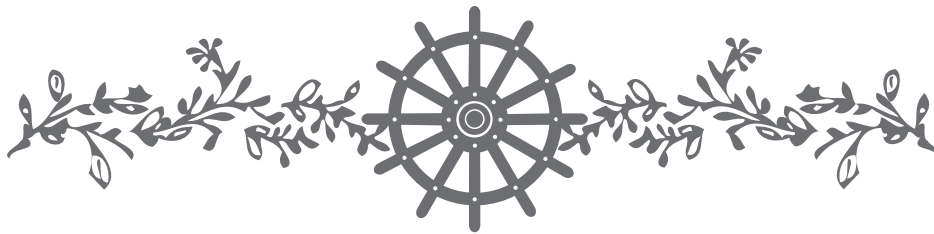
Meals required at reception _____

Total fee _____

Deposit to be paid by _____

Video ready for viewing _____

Notes _____



WEDDING CAKE

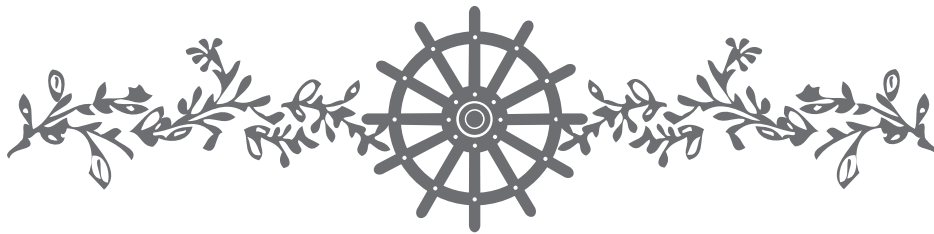
Traditionally, wedding cakes are fruit cakes with white icing and have three tiers with a miniature bride and groom, flowers or other decorations on the top tier. These days, anything goes. Have your favourite cake in any shape or form that you like. The bottom two tiers on a wedding cake are usually given to the guests (either to take home or served as dessert) and the top tier is taken home by the bride and groom and saved for the christening of the first child. If you decide to keep the top tier, it would be advisable to have a fruit cake or similar style rather than a chocolate mud cake for storage purposes.

You may like to serve your wedding cake at the reception as a dessert. If so, you will need to ensure that the cake will be large enough to serve all your guests. The slice that guests take home is much smaller than the serving size they would need for dessert. Don't forget to organise cake bags if your guests are taking the cake home. They can be plain white or printed with the names of the bride and groom.

Check bridal magazines for the names of preferred wedding cake suppliers. Contact the bakers and ask to see photos or a portfolio of their previous works of art. If you want to create something different, be very specific and show photos or give drawings of what you want. You and the baker may have different ideas of the end result. Ask if you can sample a smaller version of the same cake.

Most bakeries will deliver the cake on the day of the wedding straight to the reception venue. Do not assume that this will happen – confirm this with your baker when making your inquiries. If you need to organise delivery of the cake to the reception yourself, enlist the help of a trusted friend with steady hands early on the wedding day. The bakery should have the cake suitably packed for delivery.

The cutting of the cake usually occurs after the toasts. The cake will be placed on a small table with a silver knife and is best situated in front of the bridal table. It can be taken away once the cake is cut. If your photographer is not staying for the duration of the reception, they will ask the bride and groom to pretend to cut the cake before the reception starts so they can leave. If there is any cake left over, ask someone to take it home for you.



CAKE CHECKLIST

Name of bakery _____

Address/Phone _____

Contact _____

Cake type _____

Icing colour and type _____

Number of tiers _____

Decorations for cake will be _____

Cake will be delivered to reception at _____

By _____

Time cake to be delivered _____

Number of cake bags required _____

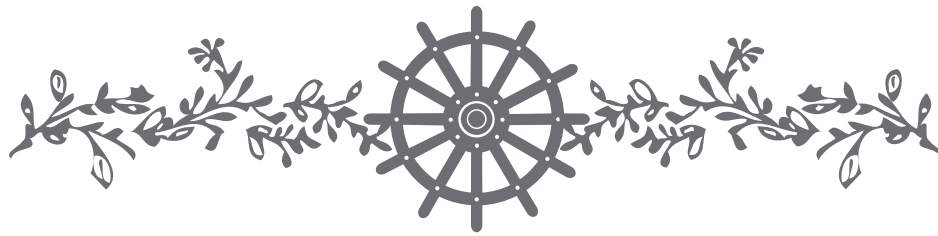
Total cost _____

Deposit due _____

Remaining cake to be taken home by _____

Part of cake to save for bride and groom _____

Notes _____



WEDDING DAY TRANSPORTATION

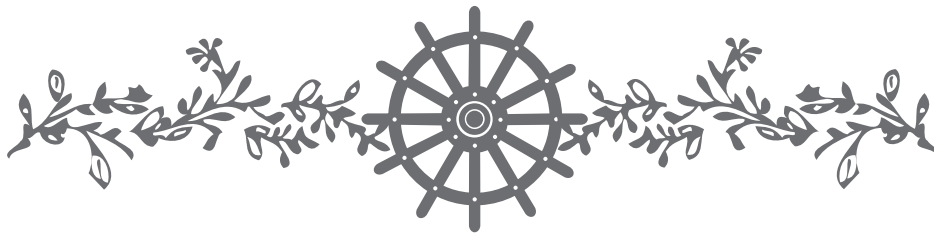
You will need to have transport for the bride and her attendants to the ceremony, for the whole bridal party after the ceremony to the photo session and then to the reception and possibly for the bride and groom after the reception to their wedding night accommodation. Other options include transport for the parents to the ceremony and reception and for the groom and his attendants to the ceremony. Normally, the groom and his attendants make their own way to the ceremony as they are already at the church and in position when the bride arrives.

The best way to co-ordinate your transportation needs is to work out how many people in total you need to accommodate. If the bride is only having one or two attendants, the bride's mother may be able to ride to the ceremony with the bride, her father and her attendants. On the other hand, the bride may choose to ride separately with her father from her attendants. It will all depend on how many people are involved.

After the ceremony, you will need a car for the bride and groom and one for the rest of the bridal party (usually the car that the bride, her father and/or attendants arrived in) to get to the photo session. The cars will usually wait for you, rather than go away and come back. As you will be charged an hourly rate, try and co-ordinate the timing of all venues to be in some sort of order. Most bridal parties have an early toast to the happy couple at the photo session so don't forget to have coolers and drinks pre-arranged (usually the duty of the groomsmen) and give to the drivers after the ceremony for transportation.

If you choose to have hire cars, the possibilities are endless. Cars for hire can range from Rolls Royce to Harley Davidson motorcycles to hot rods. While arriving by motorbike may be different, consider the practicality of having to sit on a motorbike if your dress has a huge train or in an open top car with an elaborate hair do and the weather turns inclement,

At the conclusion of the reception, the bride and groom are farewelled by all their guests. This is where you can make an impression by leaving by boat, horse and cart, a hot rod car or even a helicopter – anything's possible. Speak to the wedding co-ordinator at your reception venue for ideas and possibilities.



TRANSPORTATION CHECKLIST

Name of hire company _____

Address/Phone _____

Contact _____

Number and type of vehicles required _____

Time cars arrive to collect bride _____

And arrive at the ceremony by _____

Groom and attendants picked up from _____

By _____

At _____

Leave ceremony at _____

For photo session at _____

Leave photo session for reception by _____

And arrive at _____

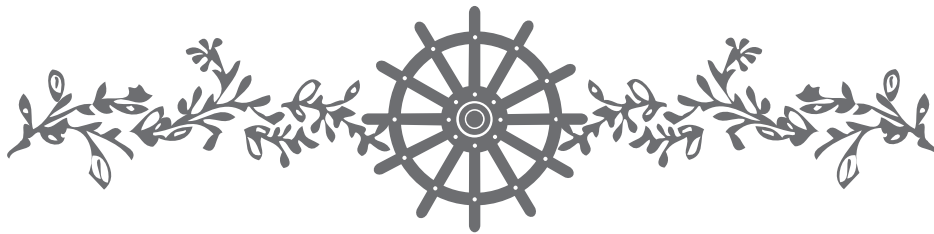
Bride and groom transport after reception to _____

Picked up at _____

By _____

Total cost _____

Deposit required _____



HAIR AND BEAUTY

HAIRSTYLES

While you may have a temptation to get a whole new look for your wedding, it would be a good idea to resist. If you are considering a new style or cut, try it out at least three to six months before your wedding day. What looks good in a magazine or an idea you have can always go wrong and not be fixable in time. New hair colours should be tried at least one month before the wedding as well.

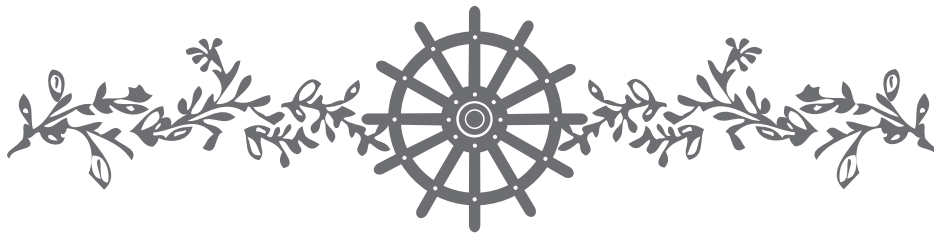
Visit your hairdresser at least six months prior to the day and discuss what styles you are interested in. What you may like to do may not be possible. Talk about whether your hair will be worn up or down and ask for suggestions. If you are wearing a veil and/or head piece, give your hairdresser an idea of the size and shape so there are no surprises on the day trying to work around any obstacles.

Your attendants will have hair of varying colours and styles. Ask them if they are intending to change the length or colour of their hair prior to the wedding so you can make a decision about what you would like. Attendants with long hair may decide to go short a month before the wedding and throw the agreed hair style out the window.

Make your hair appointments with enough time to spare. Consider how many in your party (bridesmaids, flower girl, mother, etc) and the type of style that everyone is having done. Most hairdressers will offer to give you a hair trial two weeks before the wedding so you can see how your hair will like. Take along your veil and head piece if possible. It is a very good idea to have this done to get an idea of how long it will take to do your hair on the day.

You may find it easier to have your hairdresser come to you on the day. If this is what you would prefer, ask your preferred hairdresser well in advance if this is possible. Depending on their situation, they may or may not be able to oblige. Getting your done at the salon can be easier if there are not enough rollers, hair pins etc or if a hairdryer blows up. Also, they all have wash basins, rather than having to stick your head over the laundry sink or wet your hair hours after you have washed it.

Don't forget to wear a button down shirt or dress when getting your hair done to avoid having to take your clothes off over your head and destroying your style.



HAIR CHECKLIST

Name of hairdresser _____

Address/Phone _____

Contact _____

Appointment time _____

To be at _____

Bride's hair will be styled _____

Number and style of bridal attendants _____

Any others _____

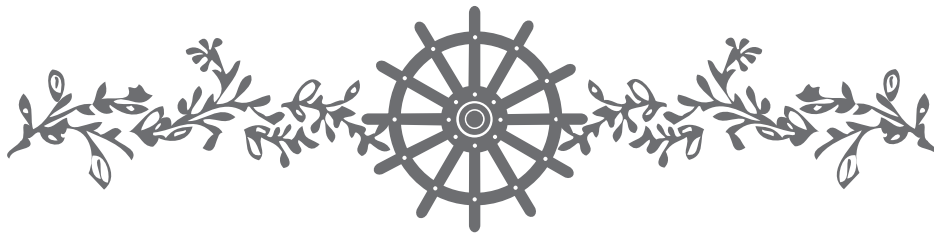
Total cost _____

Hair trial date _____

Brides hair being paid for by _____

Attendants hair being paid for by _____

Notes _____



MAKE UP

Your hairdresser will probably be able to recommend a make up artist as they have usually dealt with plenty of them. Ask your hairdresser to suggest an artist that they know will be able to create the look you're after. No two make up artists are the same - while one might be creative and like to use bright or dark colours and be quite outrageous, the other may be a little bit more conservative and be able to give you a subtle glow.

If you are having no luck in finding someone, visit the make up counters of local department stores or pharmacies and speak with the consultants. If the actual cosmetic company does not offer after hour services, you will find most of the consultants contract their services for weddings.

To save on time on the day, it would be easier to have the make up artist working while you are having your hair done. If you are having your hair done at the salon, check with your hairdresser first before confirming the appointment. There may not be enough room at the salon to co-ordinate both services.

As with your hair, ask your make up artist to give you a trial two weeks prior to the wedding - preferably on the same day as your hair trial. This way you can ascertain both looks at once.

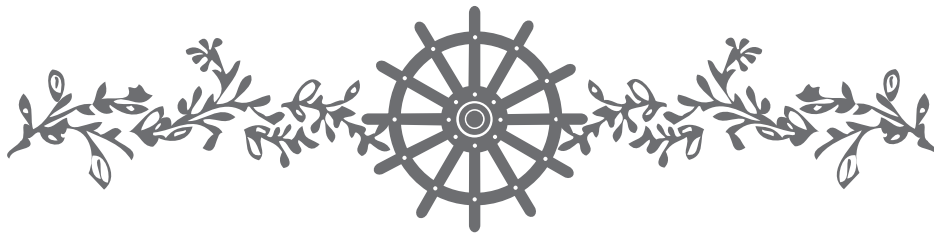
Any facials or other related beauty treatments should be done at least three weeks prior in the event of any skin reactions you may have.

MANICURES AND PEDICURES

Again, your hairdresser should be able to recommend someone to give your hands and feet a bit of pampering for the big day. Try to get both treatments done at the same time, preferably a day or two before the wedding. If applied correctly with the proper top coats, your nail varnish should be fine till after the wedding.

A pedicure is a good idea for your feet, in order to prepare them for a full day of standing, walking, dancing and the like. Try to walk around in your wedding shoes for a whole day a week before the wedding so your feet can get used to the shape of the shoe and if any blisters are to appear, they can be healed before the day.

Tip: If your honeymoon destination is a warm location, do you need to get your legs, underarms or bikini line waxed before you go? If so, do this at least one week before so any redness will be gone in time.



MAKE UP / MANICURE / PEDICURE CHECK LIST

Name of make up artist _____

Address/phone _____

Contact _____

Name of manicurist _____

Address/phone _____

Contact _____

Manicure and/or pedicure booked for _____

On _____

Waxing treatments booked for _____

Make up artist to arrive at _____

By _____

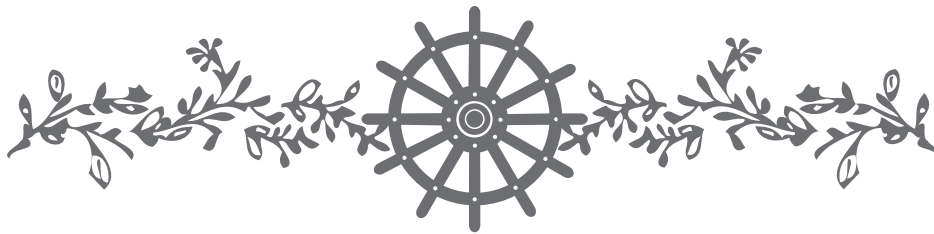
Bride's make up will be _____

Attendants make up will be _____

Total cost of make up _____

Deposit paid _____

Manicure/pedicure cost _____



WEDDING RINGS

When you purchased your engagement ring, you probably thought of what style of wedding ring will compliment it, whether it be a special design or a plain wedding band. As with your engagement ring, your wedding ring can be anything of your choosing. If your rings are designed to merge into one another, consider whether you need to allow for an eternity ring.

At the wedding ceremony, you should wear your engagement ring on your right hand so your ring finger is bare when the groom gives you the wedding ring. After the ceremony, you can change your engagement ring back over.

In these modern times, men's wedding rings are not limited to plain wedding bands. If the groom is able to wear his wedding ring every day and is not limited by work restrictions, he may prefer to get a design of his own making.

Purchase your wedding rings at least a month before the wedding and organise insurance for them as soon as possible.

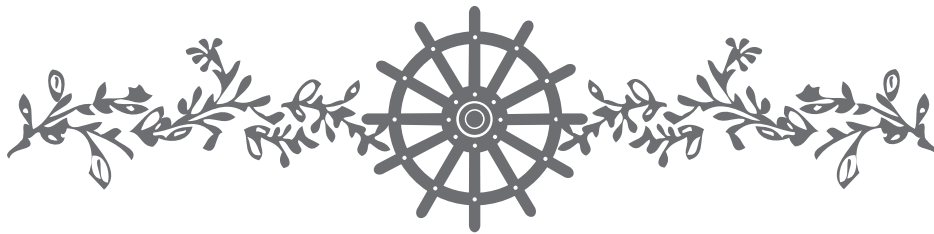
PRE WEDDING PARTIES

KITCHEN TEA

A kitchen tea is usually an afternoon tea style party given to the bride by the bridesmaids about one month before the wedding. Kitchen teas are not as common as days gone by as guests traditionally give the bride small and inexpensive items necessary to stock her new kitchen, whether it be a rolling pin, tea towels, a tea strainer and the like. With most brides having most of these utensils already, a different theme could be a plant party where guest bring small pot plants or garden utensils.

HEN'S PARTY

As with the male buck's party, the hen's party is a female only get together for the bride, her attendants and the guests that will be attending the wedding. It is advisable to have this party at least three weeks prior to the wedding. The bridesmaids are in charge of inviting the guests and organizing where the party will be held. Most popular choices are a good restaurant with guests moving on to dancing and the like afterwards.



BUCK'S PARTY

Usually quite a rowdy affair, the buck's party should definitely be held a minimum two to three weeks prior to the wedding. Some grooms have emerged from the festivities of a buck's night with multi coloured hair or shaved hair and eyebrows no matter how much they protest.

As with the female's hen party, the buck's party is an all male affair for the groom, his attendants and guests. Organised by the groomsmen, traditional entertainment has been known to include female strippers and the like. While this is less popular in this day and age, if you will be offended by any entertainment of this kind, you should let the groom know. Most grooms are subjected to this type of entertainment by their friends even though they request that they do not want to.

A lot of buck's parties are being held at day time activities such as the horse racing or other sporting events so as to avoid the after dark entertainment. This could be the alternative if the groom would like to move away from the traditional style of entertainment.

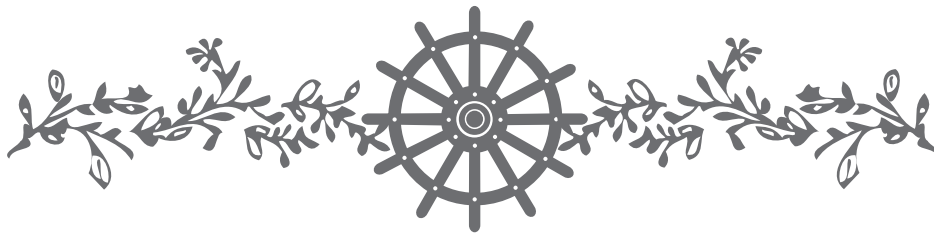
REHEARSAL DINNER

A wedding rehearsal is usually a run through of what will happen at a church ceremony and is done a couple of days before the wedding. The minister will run through where everyone stands and practice readings if desired.

Whether or not you have a wedding rehearsal, it might be a good idea to have a rehearsal dinner to give the bridal party and parents a chance to get together and maybe even meet for the first time prior to the wedding.

If you are having out of town guests arrive a few days early, invite them along so you will have a chance to catch up with them properly, rather than only having a few minutes together on the wedding day.

Where possible, try and avoid having too many activities to attend the week before the wedding. There will be enough details and jobs to attend to without adding to your load.



MUSIC

CEREMONY MUSIC

Traditionally, a church wedding will have processional music when the bride arrives, selected hymns during the service (optional), signing of the register music and the recessional march when the bridal party leaves. If you are having a ceremony out doors, there is more room to move and musicians and volume levels may not be an issue. With church ceremonies, you can be limited to the number of musicians and level of volume due to the size and policies of the church. While a string quartet may look and sound great, they may not be able to fit into a small church. Most churches can organise their regular organist to play for you (an extra fee) or determine what the policy is for taped music or live musicians.

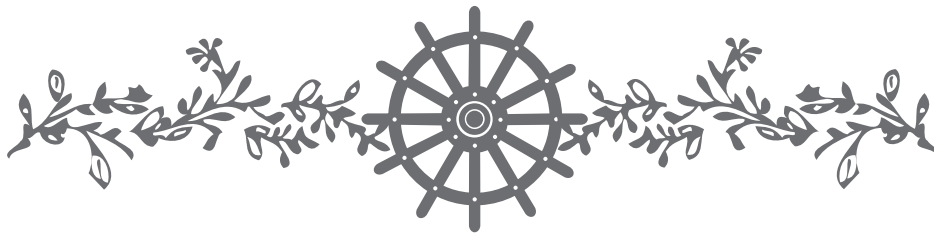
RECEPTION MUSIC

.You will need to cater for all age groups when choosing your music – this will be appreciated by everyone.

The bridal waltz is a solo dance performed by the bride and groom to “their song” or a song of their choosing. If you are having a live band, confirm that they are able to perform your special song. Ask to hear a demo tape and get a copy of their song list as well. Disc jockeys can give you song lists to pick and choose the type of music you would like to have.

Whether you choose a disc jockey or a band, ask them to check with the reception venue for any technical information they may need and to confirm when they will have access to the venue to set up. Make sure you inform them when they will need to be set up and ready by. You don't want them doing sound checks or lugging equipment into the venue while the guests are having pre dinner drinks.

Be prepared to provide the band or disc jockey with at least a main meal and/or soft drinks for the duration of the evening. This is standard practice for entertainers and should be confirmed at the time of booking.



MUSIC CHECKLIST

Ceremony music will be _____

Ceremony musicians will be _____

Address/phone _____

Contact _____

Organists/Musicians Fee _____

Band/Musicians for reception are _____

Disc Jockey will be _____

Address/Phone _____

Contact _____

Total fee _____

Deposit required _____

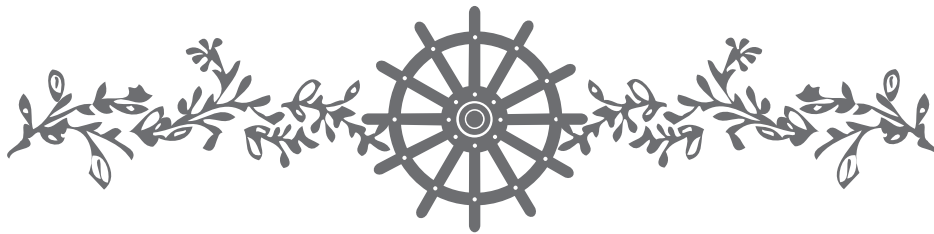
Final payment required by _____

Bridal waltz will be _____

Other special songs _____

Set up and ready by _____

Music will finish at _____



WEDDING NIGHT

Your first night together as a married couple will more than likely find you both exhausted after a long but enjoyable day. In light of this, it would be better not to invite guests back to your hotel room after the conclusion of the reception. You may find overzealous guests staying longer than you anticipated or worse, staying all night. It will give you both a chance to unwind and be alone together after being with your guests all day.

If you are leaving for your honeymoon early on the next day, arrange to have your luggage taken to the hotel on the wedding day. Most hotels will hold your luggage till your room is available for check in. Even if you will not be leaving straight away, you will still need a change of clothes and some toiletries.

Ask the hotel for any special bridal packages they offer which may include complimentary champagne on arrival, breakfast in bed and late check out.

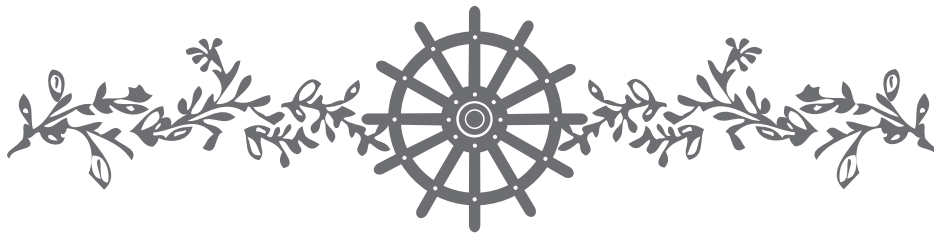
THE HONEYMOON

After all the celebrations are over, you deserve a holiday. Your honeymoon gives you both the chance to recharge your batteries and spend some valuable time together.

Newlyweds tend to take their honeymoon immediately after the wedding but you may prefer to postpone your departure till a more convenient time of year. If this is the case, try to have at least a few days away together before going back to your daily routines.

Your honeymoon can be as simple or as extravagant as you can afford. You may prefer to fly off to a warm location to laze around or be adventurous and undertake lots of activities on a tour.

As with any holiday, ensure you have everything you need to travel like passports, travel insurance, vaccinations, etc well in advance of your departure date. Leave a copy of your itinerary with a family member just in case you need to be contacted but ask them to limit contact to emergencies if you do not wish to be disturbed.



WEDDING NIGHT CHECKLIST

Hotel name _____

Address/phone _____

Room number and floor _____

Check in time _____

Check out time _____

Luggage delivered by _____

On _____

Accommodation will be _____

And includes extras of _____

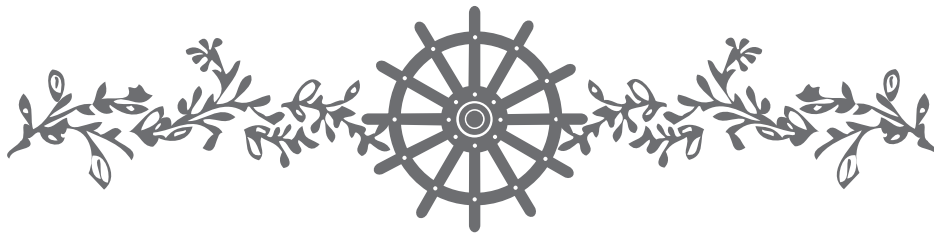
Total cost _____

Deposit paid _____

Arriving at hotel by _____

And departing by _____

Notes _____



HONEYMOON CHECKLIST

Honeymoon destination _____

Departure date _____

Staying for _____

Leaving destination on _____

And arriving home on _____

Flight number _____

Travel agent _____

Address/phone _____

Contact _____

Passport numbers _____

Travel insurance with _____

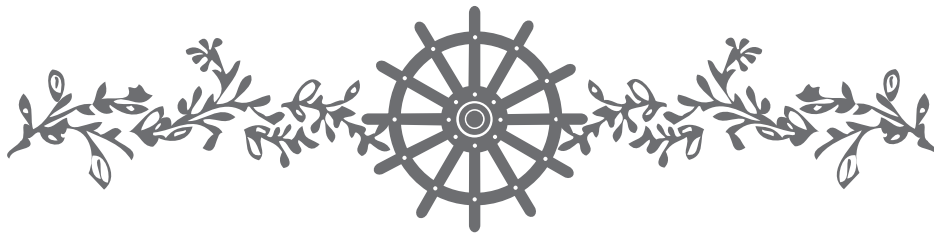
Policy number _____

Vaccinations required _____

Total cost _____

Deposit paid _____

Final payment due _____



WEDDING CEREMONY

For those couples who want an alternative to the traditional church wedding, there are several options you can consider. This can apply to couples who are not comfortable with a religious ceremony if they are not of any faith or if only one person is of a certain faith. Some couples are simply not at ease with being the centre of attention and may prefer to have a private ceremony with family and close friends then invite others friends along to the reception afterwards.

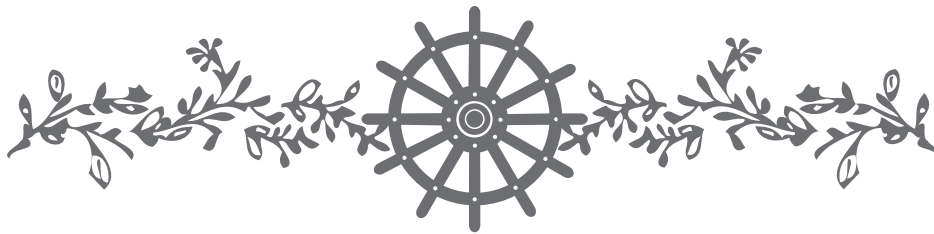
Whichever way you decide to go, create a ceremony which best suits the personality and taste of both of you.

Depending on your faith, the traditional church wedding can celebrate mass as well as the exchanging of vows. Discuss with your partner what you think will appropriate for you while making an allowance for any religious or traditional practices you may need to follow. Once you have decided on the type of service you would like, speak to the minister at the church to see what can be arranged. Most church weddings are flexible now and will even allow the bride and groom to have their own vows rather than the traditional ones offered by the church. The minister will run through how the ceremony will unfold and be sure to ask if you would like something done out of the norm such as the bridal party facing the congregation or not. A rehearsal a couple of days before will make it easier for all concerned to know where they are to stand, walk to, etc. Most churches will either charge a fee or ask for a donation. If you decide to have the church organist, this will normally be extra as will any flowers or decorations you would like to have. Check with the minister to see what you will need to provide.

Most churches will require couples to participate in a pre-wedding program before they will perform a wedding ceremony. The program varies from church to church but generally consists of the bride and groom attending a scheduled number of workshops, either with other couples or on their own, to evaluate your compatibility. The minister will then discuss with you both the results of this program. Ask your minister if you will be required to attend any programs as they can be held over a whole weekend.

For a non-church wedding, you will need to select a venue first – a park, the beach or even the place that you first met. Once you have approval for the ceremony from the relevant authorities, you will need to engage the services of a celebrant. Try the Yellow Pages or your local paper. When speaking to the celebrant, ask them to give you a copy of the vow ceremony they will be using and if you do not want to write your own vows, ask for some ideas or examples.

The time of your ceremony may depend on either bookings on the same day but generally, the ceremony is held late afternoon with the reception following in the early evening. While you have a photo session to complete between the ceremony and the reception, your guests will have to amuse themselves. Try to co-ordinate the reception to be no more than two hours after the ceremony.



CEREMONY CHECKLIST

Name of church/venue _____

Minister of celebrant _____

Address/phone _____

Total fee _____

Pre wedding classes to be held on _____

At _____

Total fee for ceremony _____

Organist fee _____

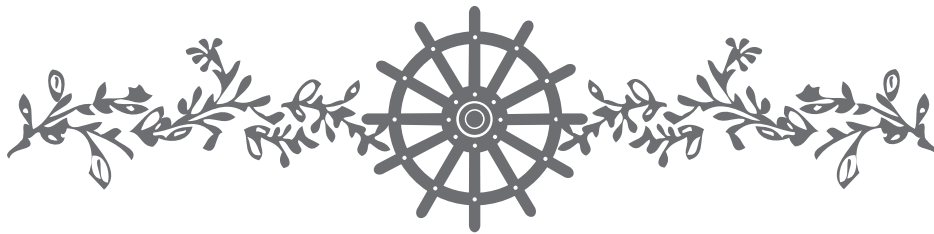
Ceremony to begin at _____

Groom to arrive by _____

Decorations/flowers for ceremony _____

Bells at church to ring _____

Photographer/videographer permission given by _____



CEREMONY CHECKLIST

Order of service books checked by _____

And authorized on _____

Rehearsal to be on _____

Processional music will be _____

Hymns to be _____

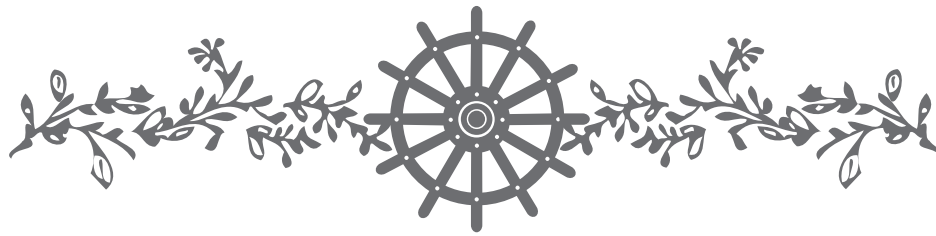
Signing of register music _____

Performed by _____

Recessional music will be _____

Readers of scriptures or other will be _____

Notes _____



RECEPTION

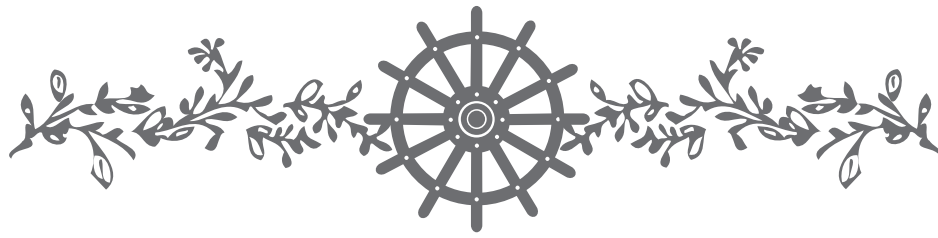
Once you have confirmed the date of your reception, you can think about what decorations you would like and what style of food and beverage package would best suit your needs. Decorations can be as simple or as luxurious as you desire and range from chair covers with sashes to candelabras and table centre pieces with a difference to a stunning ice sculpture. Ask your wedding co-ordinator about other upcoming receptions that are having similar decorations to yours and arrange to inspect the room when it is decorated. It will give you an idea of what your reception will like.

A package can be tailor made for you according to what you require, whether it be a full sit down dinner or buffet style. All dietary requirements can be catered for – you will need to advise of these when giving your final numbers two weeks prior.

TABLE ARRANGEMENTS

The bridal table is a long table set and raised in the middle of the room so all the guests can see you and seats the bride and groom and all their attendants. You may also like to have your parents on this table though they may prefer to have their own table with other family members or guests they have invited. The bride and groom are seated together in the middle of the table with the best man next to the bride and the matron/maid of honour next to the groom. The other attendants would then be seated alternately in the remaining seats, and if your parents are joining you, they would be seated at either end of the table.

As discussed earlier, all your guests will need to be assigned to a certain table and allocated a seat. You will need to have a list (usually in alphabetical order) displayed in the foyer showing guests what table they will be seated at. On the table, you will need to have place cards at each setting, showing guests where they are sitting. Try to group people together in terms of common interests and age groups as this will make it easier for guests who have not previously met to strike up a conversation.



RECEPTION

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The traditional reception starts with guests having pre-dinner drinks before being seated to welcome the bridal party. The bridal party will then be introduced with the bride and groom coming in last. Entrees would then be served, followed by the main course. After the main course, the toasts and speeches would be held and followed with the cutting of the cake. Once the cake is cut, the newlyweds would move onto the dance floor to do the bridal waltz and be joined by their attendants and their parents. Other guests would then be invited to join in. The dancing will continue and after a while, dessert and coffee would be served. Then just before the bride and groom leave, the bride throws her bouquet and the groom throws the bride's garter.

For your reception, you will need to have a MC (master of ceremonies) who will introduce the bridal party and announce the toast makers and advise guests of what event is coming up. The MC is usually a close friend or family member who is familiar with both of you. If you do not have anyone to ask, your band leader or disc jockey can perform these duties for you.

TOAST AND SPEECHES

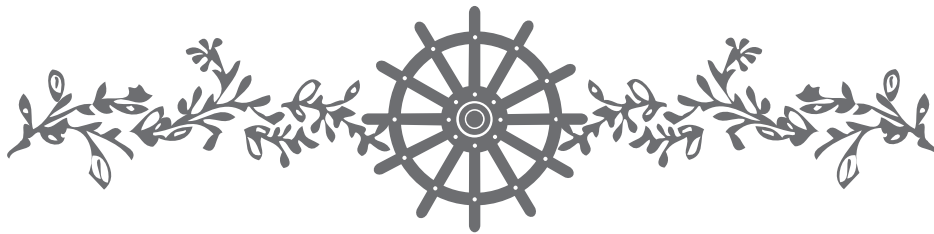
Normally, the first toast will be to the bride and groom and will be made by the MC. After the toast, the groom will then respond on behalf of both of you and will usually go through and thank everyone involved with the wedding day. After his speech, the groom would then propose a toast to the bridesmaids and the best man would respond on behalf of the bridesmaids. He would also give a speech and include some stories about both of you, maybe including how you met. He would then propose a toast to the bride's parents and family. Your father would respond and then propose a toast to the groom's family.

This is intended as a guide only as different cultures may have other toasts to be made.

After all the toasts have been done, the best man and groomsmen would then go through and read any telegrams or faxes that may have been sent to you. It may be wise to censor these yourself as what some people regard as funny may be offensive to others.

CUTTING OF THE CAKE

This is usually done at the conclusion of the speeches and provides a good photo opportunity for your guests.



RECEPTION

BOUQUET AND GARTER THROWING

The final official duties for the night are the throwing of the bouquet and the garter. Tradition states that all the single girls form a circle and the bride stands with her back to this circle and throws the bouquet back over her head. The girl who catches the bouquet is said to be the next to marry. If you would like to keep and preserve your bouquet, organise your florist to have a smaller version of the original made for you to throw.

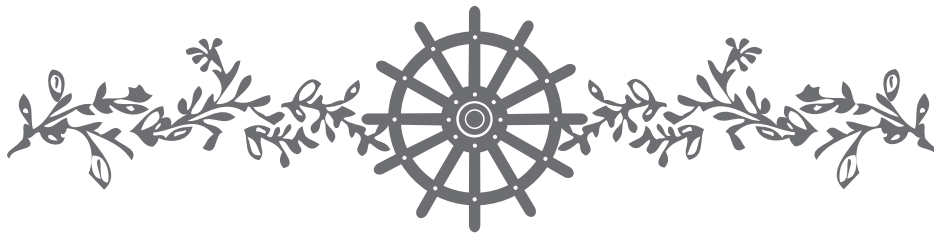
After the throwing of the bouquet, the bride sits on a chair and the groom removes a garter from her leg. In the same way as for the bouquet, the garter is thrown and the man who catches it will also be the next to marry.

SAYING GOODBYE

At the conclusion of the evening, the band leader or disc jockey will ask all the guests to form a circle on the dance floor and the bridal party and parents to form a small circle inside the larger one. Starting at one person, the bride and groom then go around in alternate directions and thank every guest for being a part of their special day. Once you have said goodbye to all the guests in the outer circle, you can say goodbye to your bridal party and parents.

Proper etiquette states that guests should stay still the cutting of the cake but most guests do not leave till after the bride and groom have left.

When the bride and groom have left, this is usually the end of the reception. However, you may like to have your guests stay on – speak to your wedding co-ordinator about having extra time for your guests.



RECEPTION CHECKLIST

Name of reception venue _____

Address/phone _____

Wedding co-ordinator _____

Final guests number _____

Children _____

Others (band, videographer, etc) _____

Total number of guests for reception _____

Reception to start at _____

And finish at _____

Extra time organized _____

Cost per guest _____

Deposit to be paid by _____

Final payment by _____

Final guest numbers required by _____

Decorations	Chair covers	Yes	No
	Candalabra	Yes	No
	Flowers	Yes	No
	Ice sculpture	Yes	No

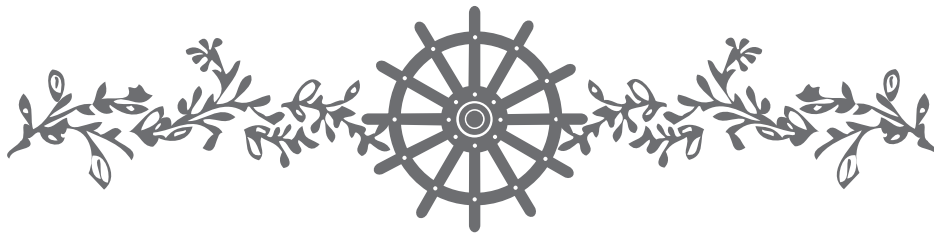
Other _____

KOOKABURRA SHOWBOAT CRUISES

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Eagle Street Pier, 1 Eagle St, Brisbane



RECEPTION CHECKLIST

Master of ceremonies _____

Name of band _____

Contact _____

Name of disc jockey _____

Contact _____

Total fee _____

To be set up _____

And finish playing at _____

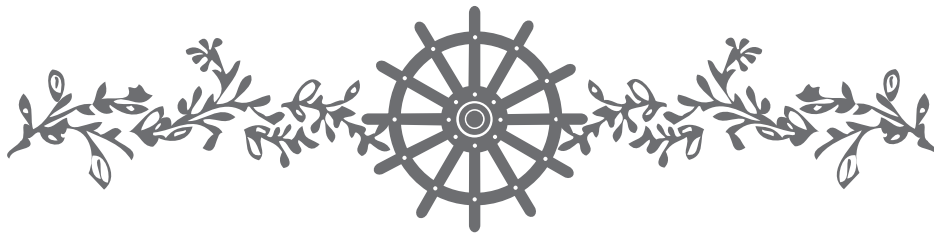
Entrance song for bridal party will be _____

And the bridal waltz will be _____

Number of tables _____

Number of guests per table _____

Notes _____



HANDY PLANNERS

WHEN YOU GET ENGAGED...

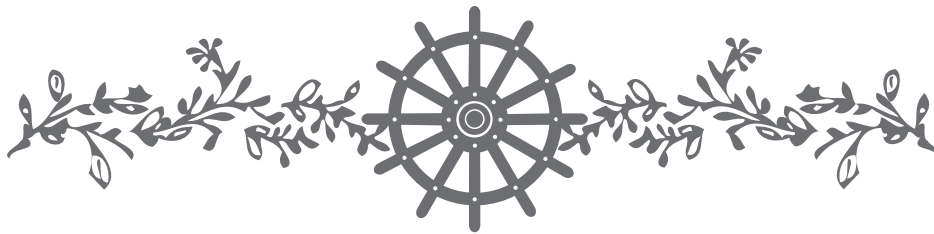
- Decide on your budget with parents
- Decide on your wedding date
- Book a venue for the ceremony and reception
- Have meeting with minister or celebrant
- Choose your bridal party
- Find a photographer and videographer
- Select the bride's and bridesmaids gowns and accessories

SIX MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING...

- Select a florist
- Have dress fittings for bride and attendants
- Choose groom and attendants suits
- Design your invitations and other stationary
- Choose a wedding cake
- Look at bands/musicians/disc jockey for ceremony and reception
- Organise honeymoon destination
- Book wedding day cars or other transportation
- Make appointments for hair and makeup for bride and attendants

THREE MONTHS TO GO...

- Have invitations printed
- Confirm other printing requirements i.e. RSVP cards, order of service books, place cards, etc
- Finalise ceremony order with minister or celebrant
- Write wedding vows
- Attend any pre-wedding programs as required
- Finalise flower selections
- Book honeymoon
- Arrange any travel documents required for honeymoon i.e. passports, travel insurance, etc.
- Register your gifts at a bridal registry
- Book musicians for ceremony and reception
- Draw up draft for guest list and discuss with relevant parties



HANDY PLANNERS

TWO MONTHS TO GO...

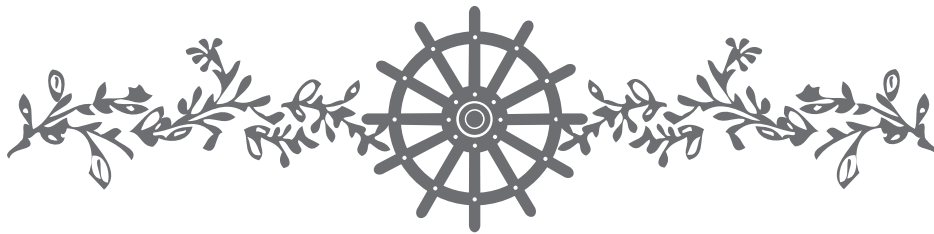
- Finalise guest list and send out invitations
- Speak to your reception wedding co-ordinator to discuss menu's and any decorations required
- Select wedding rings for bride and groom
- Visit dentist and get your teeth polished
- Book wedding night accommodation
- Have another dress fitting and organise final fitting date
- Make final selections for any readings for the ceremony
- Finalise order of service books for ceremony and get minister to check

ONE MONTH AND COUNTING...

- Finalise documentation required for minister or celebrant for ceremony
- Book a date for the ceremony rehearsal
- Work on guest table and seating allocations
- Choose a master of ceremonies for the reception
- Check all deposits have been paid
- Select accessories for the bride's gown
- Have any beauty treatments such as facials
- Confirm groom and groomsmen suits and other accessories
- Buy gifts for bridal party and parents
- Have kitchen tea for bride

TWO, ONE WEEK TO GO...

- Have hair and make up trial
- Book venue for rehearsal dinner
- Confirm appointments for manicure and/or pedicure
- Have any waxing required done now
- Chase up any outstanding RSVP's
- Final guest numbers to reception venue
- Write place cards for reception and drop off at reception with guest list
- Organise disposable camera's for the reception
- Confirm groom's transport arrangements for the ceremony
- Groom and his attendants should have any haircuts done now
- Hen's or buck's parties to be held by now
- Pick up wedding rings and have any other jewellery cleaned
- Organise a schedule for final payments
- Start having some early nights and drink lots of water
- Groomsmen to organise any drinks for the photo session
- Pick up your gown a week before
- Give your shoes a test run at least a week before
- Groom's suit to be collected
- Practice smiling!



FINAL WEEK PLANNER

Sunday _____

Monday _____

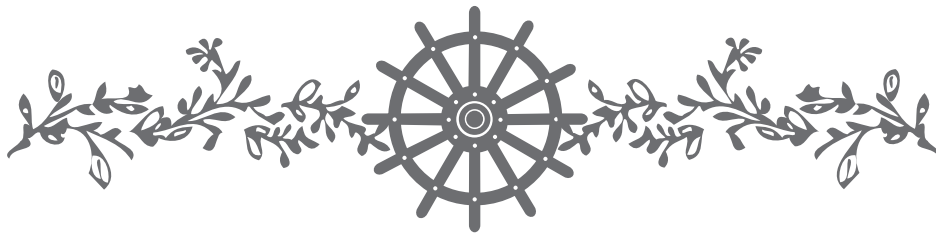
Tuesday _____

Wednesday _____

Thursday _____

Friday _____

Saturday _____



DON'T QUIT

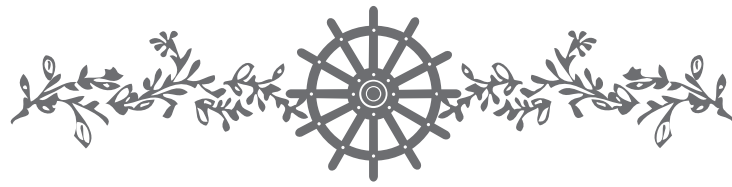
*When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all up hill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,*

*When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest, if you must, but don't you quit,
Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As everyone of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about
When he might have won had he stuck it out;*

*Don't give up though the pace seems slow
You may succeed with another blow.
Success is failure turned inside out -
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far;*

*So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit -
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.*

- Cliff Culleen 1992



Weddings

ABOARD THE KOOKABURRA QUEENS



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info@showboat.net.au

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www.showboat.net.au

Eagle Street Pier, 1 Eagle St, Brisbane
