

Choosing a Venue for Your Wedding

Janet has put this information together as a result of the many requests from her couples and this article is an accumulation of her experience of over fourteen years as a civil celebrant.

She hopes that couples find it a useful, and can be combined with her experience to ensure that you have a great ceremony.

For information about my services please visit my website, I also have other useful tools that will make your day special.

Janet

www.CivilWeddings.com.au



Choosing the right venue

I find that my couples often agonize as to where to have their wedding ceremony. In days gone by it was not an issue because couples were married in a church and apart from having your reception in the church hall the reception was normally at a hotel or a venue especially set up to cater weddings. There were usually several hours in between reception and ceremony.

I'm sure many of us have memories of filling in time between the ceremony and the reception whilst the bride and groom were photographed.

These days it is possible if not desirable to have them both at the same venue. Many hotels and restaurants have an area set aside in which the ceremony can be conducted. This allows guests to wait comfortably with a drink or light refreshment whilst the photographer does his job.

September is the height of the wedding season and in Brisbane it is also often very hot and humid so a dual ceremony/reception is desirable, as this reduces waiting time for guests and allows more time for your photographer.

Parking

It is important to make sure that parking is catered for as you do not want elderly or infirm guests having to walk several blocks to get there. The other advantage is that guests will be on time for the ceremony as they won't have trouble finding a car park or get lost making their way back to the ceremony location.

Some couples are adamant that they want their ceremony in a garden or beach venue. If this is the case there are some guidelines that will make the day more comfortable for your guests.

Make sure that there are cold drinks at the site to ensure your guests comfort for young and elderly guests. Pick a cool shady location with nice big trees and if possible pick a park with local toilet facilities.

Whilst a romantic wedding in the sand dunes looking towards Surfers Paradise might catch your eye remember that your guests may not be so enthusiastic. Ensure to provide large golf umbrellas as well as cold drinks from an esky to ensure comfort. Remember to advise your guest that heels may not be an option and that the bride will be barefoot or in sandals.

The best thing you can do for your guests and all the professionals bringing your wedding together is to be on time. Be careful that the professionals servicing you are on time and efficient. No one will thank you if the photographer hogs the day and keeps everyone waiting. The beautician who is a poor time manager will have you stressed and not have you looking your best in spite of all her tricks if you are racing the clock.

Be firm, its your day.

Local Council Parks

Local council need to be advised and the venue has to be booked if you want a park wedding, you can find links on my site for Brisbane City Council for booking your venue online.

If you can find one with a pergola that is advisable as the day may bring rain. If the rain is too disruptive a second venue may be an option. So discuss this with your celebrant and photographer whilst you are booking their services as they may have ideas to help you in case of inclement weather.

Brisbane Weather

Remember that in Brisbane it can become quite windy around the water in the later part of the afternoon, so early morning weddings don't seem to present this problem for wind.

Brisbane can often be lightly raining early in the morning but usually clears by around midday, so don't panic and remember to have a covered location as a backup location.

Important notes about location

- It is not too far between ceremony and venue.
- Shade is available and cold drinks.
- Toilet facilities nearby.
- Parking is available.
- Rain or wind will not spoil your day.

I hope this has provided you with some basic ideas for your wedding day, and I hope that your day and location is perfect.

For my clients if your wedding is small (15 people or less) I have a Bali Garden which you can use for a small fee. I also have a covered verandah with tropical garden area which can hold 15-20 comfortably.



Ceremony held in Bali Garden