



it's my wedding

ISSUE 2

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Hi and welcome!

The team at *it's my wedding* have been super busy since our last newsletter. We've been working on exciting ways to help you, the beautiful bride-to-be, prepare for your special day.

Hot off the Press! You will have seen our brand new online wedding directory that has been created with you in mind. We've listened to your feedback and created an extensive, user-friendly, interactive new website which offers a one-stop destination for every bride-to-be planning on marrying on the Sunshine Coast.

We've also been busily preparing for our final wedding expo for the year which is coming up on Sunday July 24 at [Noosa Springs Spa and Golf Resort](#) in Noosa. If you haven't already marked it in your diary, do it now!

In this issue, we'll be sharing some ideas with you on [choosing your perfect wedding dress](#). We've spoken with some of the Sunshine Coast's premier bridal and formal designers to get their take on what's new and on-trend in 2011. So if you're looking for a gown, check out this article.

While we're looking at dresses, we'll also share some ideas with you on embellishments such as [corsage couture](#) and [jewellery](#) to add that polished, finishing touch to your wedding attire.



We know how much there is to plan for this momentous occasion, so if you're thinking about incorporating [music and entertainment](#) into your day, why not share the load and get your groom involved with planning the music? We'll give you some hints and tips on this too which will make it easy for your fiancé!

CHOOSING THE PERFECT WEDDING GOWN ...

Your [wedding dress](#) is probably your most important wedding purchase. There are a myriad of wedding gown designs and styles available to the modern bride. With many weddings on the Sunshine Coast no longer simply the traditional church wedding, brides are seeking out adventurous, whimsical gowns which express their unique personality.

Before finding the perfect wedding dress for you - do your research. Get some bridal magazines (you'll receive some free ones at the Noosa expo in your goody bag) and have a look at the dress styles that most interest you. Most importantly - wear what makes you feel fabulous!

Whichever way you decide to go, one thing to remember above all when shopping for your gown is to HAVE FUN. Make it an enjoyable experience and leave plenty of time for choosing your ideal dress as it can take some time - especially as you'll want to consider all the options available to you!

Here are some tips on shopping for that all important dress:

Match your dress to your wedding style

Before you launch into dress shopping, take some time to think about the style or type of wedding you want to have. Key considerations include what time of the year



you'll be marrying, whether it is formal affair, cocktail, or a casual beach theme.

If you are considering a themed wedding you might want to make your dress part of that theme such as traditional black and white or 1950's Hollywood glamour or even quirky and colourful.

Dress shopping should be an enjoyable experience

If you're looking for something 'off the rack' grab your girlfriends, bridesmaids or your Mum and go shopping! It's great to have company and often good to have a second opinion (just make sure it is someone whose opinion you trust).

Enjoy the experience allowing yourself plenty of time for shopping and include some fun along the way such as lunch and drinks ... but don't forget to make boutique appointments well in advance to avoid disappointment!

Even if you don't know what you're looking for, bridal boutique staff are there to help so ask questions and don't be afraid to tell them what you like and don't like – remember it's all about YOU! An experienced bridal fitter should be able to suggest styles that will suit your body shape, even if you haven't considered them before.

If you don't find what you want on your first day, don't despair. There are plenty of boutiques and alternative options available to you.

If you are looking for something unique and special, a wedding gown designer is a great way to go.

The Sunshine Coast has some fabulous bridal and formal designers – many of them showcasing their designs at the up-coming Noosa expo on the fashion parade catwalk.

Premier bridal and formal designers Denise and Kate Orr from [e-Visual Bridal Boutique](#), Nicki Hearn from [Away With the Faeries](#) and Janet Francis of Janet Francis Designs will be on show. As will [Gowns of Elegance](#) from the Gold Coast who will also be displaying a wonderful collection of big name Australian and overseas designers.

Denise Orr from eVisual Bridal Boutique believes the recent royal nuptials of Catherine and William have really reinforced the trend back to the sophisticated glamour that was the choice of brides of the 1930's, 40's and 50's.

“There was something about the style icons of those times that seems to have stood the test of time” Denise explains. “Think Marilyn Munroe, Audrey Hepburn and Grace Kelly and you are reminded of an era when women celebrated and rejoiced in their femininity and individual style to such enduring effect.”

If you do go down this path, don't leave it til the last minute. You will probably need to order your gown about 4–6 months in advance as all those fittings take time! Also don't order your dress based on the size you aim to be for your wedding. Plans such as these can often go 'pear-shaped' so don't leave it to chance!



Know what flatters your body type

There are so many different styles and cuts of wedding dress that there is bound to be something to suit you. You may already have a good idea of what suits your body shape but the key is to choose something that will accentuate your best features, while drawing attention away from the parts you aren't so keen on. Remember these key points:

1. Empire line dresses will lengthen short legs
2. Dropped waist gowns will compensate for a short waist
3. V-necks are very slimming and perfect for larger busted brides
4. Detail and gathered material at the bust is great for flatter chests
5. Horizontal lines widen the body and vertical lines elongate it

Be mindful of your budget

If you do have a budget when it comes to your wedding day outfit, make sure you take into account additional items such as the veil or headpiece, shoes, gloves, jewellery, undergarments or any other accessories. Also don't forget to include alterations in your budget as there may certainly be a few.



EMBELLISHMENTS AND ACCESSORIES ...

Once you've chosen your wedding gown and shoes, then it's time to consider some wedding accessories to ensure you look absolutely stunning on your momentous day.

Here are some tips when choosing your wedding embellishments and accessories:

- First and foremost when selecting bridal jewellery and accompaniments, make sure it complements your wedding gown. The piece or pieces you choose should work in with the theme of your dress, be it vintage, tradition or contemporary.
- Remember, less is more. As Coco Chanel used to say "Before you leave the house, remove the last thing you put on as it is generally unnecessary."
- Match the elements. If you're going with crystals, diamantes, pearls or specific beading, be sure to match the type of sparkle in your gown with the sparkle in your bridal accessories.
- For necklaces, consider the neckline. For high necklines, consider a hair piece or some chandelier earrings rather than including a necklace. V-neck gowns are more suited to V-shaped or Y-shaped necklaces tapering to a drop. Strapless gowns reveal a lot more bare skin so there are plenty of options available to suit this look from chokers to embellished necklaces.
- For head-pieces, choose between veils, fascinators, slides, hairpins or tiaras. Again remember the basics, ensure it complements your gown, matches the embellishments and less is more!

While planning her own wedding, Jolene Thompson of Corsage Couture found there was a gap in the market for a stylish take on the traditional corsage. So Jolene set about designing a range of wrist corsages and head-pieces, hence Corsage Couture was created.

[Corsage Couture](#) and [iBare](#) will be on display at the Noosa Expo so visit them for some great ideas.

WEDDING ENTERTAINMENT

Depending on your style of wedding (and budget) there are a number of options available when choosing your wedding music.

At the Ceremony

If you are considering a non-religious ceremony in a garden, beach or alternative setting, you may prefer to include background music whether pre-recorded or provided by a soloist, duo or trio. The most important music choice for your ceremony is when you walk down the aisle, so plan ahead and pick a piece that is meaningful to you and your husband-to-be.

The Offenbach Strings is a local trio who will be playing at the *it's my wedding* Expo - Noosa. They are renowned as one of Queensland's top professional string ensembles playing at weddings and events across South East Queensland and beyond.

Party time – the Reception

With the formal part over, the reception is the time to kick up your heels and celebrate. Choose from a DJ, live band, MC, wedding singer, harpist, jazz quartet and more.

Discuss with your fiancé what sort of ambience you wish to create. Remember, choosing the appropriate entertainment and music makes a huge difference to the day and can make or break your reception!

A number of DJ's and MC's operate on the Sunshine Coast including Noosa DJ's, Moove It and Oz Entertainment – you'll find them all in our wedding directory.

If you're opting for a duo, trio, quartet or band, many of these entertainers are managed by musician /

entertainment agencies. Check online for agencies in your local area and be sure to ask as many questions as possible such as full costs, how many breaks they take, is a meal and drinks required for musicians, how long do they need to set up, is a fee involved for travel etc.

Regardless of who you choose, make sure you download or get a sample of their music prior to selecting your musician or entertainer of choice – that way there are no surprises on the day.

We recommend discussing in advance with the entertainer or agency what type of music you would like played. They will know what is suitable for a wedding but again, it would help them to know your taste in music and the atmosphere you wish to create.

We hope this issue helps with your wedding planning. Keep referring to our online wedding directory and Facebook page for all things wedding related. We'll be keeping you up-to-date with advice, tips and competitions.

We'd love to see you at our *it's my wedding Expo* - Noosa next weekend on Sunday July 24 ... there's amazing prizes on offer worth thousands of dollars, goody bags for brides including free bridal magazines. You'll also see two fabulous fashion parades with

MC Jodie Hedley-Ward, author of the book 'You Sexy Mother'."

We look forward to seeing you there.

Until then, good luck with your wedding planning!

The team at *it's my wedding*

