

WEDDING GUIDE

a "how - to" guide to make the most of
your wedding photos



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KEEPING IT EASY-PEASY AND STRESS-FREE, JUST FOR YOU

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HEY LOVERS AND WELCOME

You're planning your wedding and I couldn't be more pumped for you both! Lots of Fun love and excitement is ahead of you both and I'm Honoured to know you've taken the time to download this guide.

It's time to discard those 'helpful' opinions, suggestions and tips about what you should do for your wedding. Try and ignore it. We are all here to encourage each other and do what you want the way you want to do it on your wedding day!

All the information I relay is purely on my experience over the years, so if you have ideas outside of this, please share!



I Adore CAPTURING THE Raw Unabashed
CONNECTION BETWEEN Two Souls

- Now let's party!

ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

A CHANCE TO CAPTURE SOME
BEAUTIFUL CANDID PHOTOS

An engagement shoot is a chance to capture some really beautiful candid photos of you and your partner in a relaxed environment. Just the two of you, being you. Perfect if you are feeling unsure about having professional photos taken, and another reason to hang out with your photographer and to feel comfortable around each other before the big day! I recommend planning the session around your favourite things to do together. Choosing a location you both feel comfortable in.

These images are then perfectly used for your save the dates, wedding website placeholders, or even just bragging rights on socials.



WHAT TO EXPECT

If you're anything like me, or like every couple I work with, you're probably a little nervous thinking about being in front of the camera... Even I get nervous when I'm having photos done!! It's weird as heck, haha! It's COMPLETELY normal to feel this way, so I want to encourage you to just relax and have a good time.

My personal approach is to capture those timeless photos that everyone loves. I'll give you simple prompts to get you moving and having fun, TRUST ME, they create some legit magic. All you two have to do is show up and be an adorable couple in love...easy, right?! I take care of the rest and the sessions are lots of FUN!

On the following page you'll find some tips on getting the most out of an engagement session with me.



01. Be on time

We typically plan your start time based on sunset time. If you are late, it cuts into the sunlight we have available! No one wants dark photos, so arriving on time will ensure we have gorgeous light to work with for your whole shoot!

02. Bringing your pets

I adore ALL the cute pups, so naturally, I LOVE it when you bring them along! The best way to include them is to have someone else bring your dog during the last 15 minutes of your session, or choose a session location that is less than 5 minutes away from your home. Contact me so we can work out the details!

03. Empty your pockets

Especially for guys, make sure you don't have anything in your pockets! I am more than happy to store phones and keys in my bag, or ladies, you can bring along a little purse to keep everything in.

04. Relax

You don't have to be a pro at this! I'm going to help you along the way and it's going to be a blast! I don't expect anything from you. Enjoy this time together and make a date out of it! Plan dinner afterwards and celebrate!!

05. Bring comfy shoes

If you're wearing heels, bring a pair of flip flops or comfortable shoes to walk from spot to spot. Your feet will thank me later!

06. Choosing colours

When choosing colours for your outfits, I recommend selecting lighter tones and more muted shades. By avoiding ultrabright, bold colours, it will help bring all the attention to your faces and let the eye focus on the way you feel about each other. Soft pinks, muted blues, and light neutrals like heather gray, creams, leather brown and white all work wonderfully.

07. Skip casual clothes

I know flip flops and graphics tees are *perfect* for everyday wear, but especially for the guys, long pants and closed toe shoes look most masculine and photograph wonderfully! Trust me, it's just for one hour... then you can go back to your most comfortable attire. Instead...

08. Dress it up

Have you ever wanted to rock a sequin dress, or a long flowy maxi dress? Maybe you've dreamed of wearing a floral crown, or wearing a tulle skirt. THIS is your chance! Ladies, especially for your dressy outfit, I typically recommend a long, flowy A line dress that cinches at the waist. This is typically most flattering on most body types! For the guys, opt for a suit or nice pants and a suit jacket with a button down for your fancy outfit.

09. Avoid fake tan

Even though it seems counter intuitive, I highly recommend skipping a spray tan altogether, even if it's a few days out from your session. Spray tans tend to photograph more orange than they appear and will make you appear more orange than tan!

HOW TO APPROACH YOUR WEDDING DAY

You don't have to follow the rules that are set out from past weddings just because you feel pressured and think you should. Make your wedding your own, with your own traditions and ideas. Ditch things that mean nothing to you, and add things that mean something to you! No two weddings are the same so I'm up for any ideas you have, and am an open book! Do what you want to do so there is minimal stress or 'more' that could go wrong. Make it the most enjoyable day possible. Crank the tunes and pack snacks.

A lot of couples worry that photos will be awkward, but they don't have to be. I truly believe that the energy and attitude you bring to the day makes the day what it is. The less you have to worry about, the more relaxed you will be and the easier it will be to have your photo taken. Bring your pets, pop the champagne, pack a picnic for your bridal party, surprise your guests with activities, perform a dance during the reception. So many opportunities to have the best day ever.



BE YOURSELF

Honest, true and organic. There's no point 'pretending' to be happy. Plan a day that will allow you to be! Let your true emotions flow, and don't be shy to cry.

I want you to feel like I'm your new best mate, and be reactive in that sense. Crude humour, sarcasm and mum jokes are my favourite. No words are needed for this really, you know how to be you.



RAINY DAYS

One of the most COMMON questions I get asked by couples is what happens if it RAINS? While this isn't always ideal and doesn't match the sunny day you probably imagine while planning, I want to encourage you that you can still have GORGEOUS photos, and the most amazing day, even if it's rainy!

Some of my favourite photos ever taken were in the most extreme weather conditions. I adore overcast days, but obviously can't control the weather and I will shoot in any condition. Rain, hail or shine you will still get to marry your best friend.

OVERCAST

SKIES
Um.. HELLO perfect lighting. Sunlight, especially mid-day, is actually very harsh. Rainy days give that perfect, soft, natural lighting, no matter where you take your photos! This gives you perfect lighting and the ability to use a lot more locations. It also tends to make colours look more vibrant. Don't get me wrong, I love golden, sunlit photos... but overcast has its advantages as well.





PLANNING YOUR TIMINGS

Allowing extra time during each part of the day means that if anything runs over time, there is still time after. Timing will fluctuate based on how many people are in the wedding party (that's if you even have one!) and how many family members will be present.

Note: allow extra time during ceremony and reception in case anything runs overtime, allow 15-30 MINS for sunset photos, and leave plenty of time for dancing!!



EXAMPLE TIMELINE

01. PREPARATIONS

Note: Make-up and hair to be completed prior to my arrival.

Time with Grooms: 45 mins - 1 hour

Time with Brides: 1 - 1.15 hours

02. CEREMONY

Note: Allow extra time during ceremony and reception in case anything runs overtime and please let me know if you would like a group shot of all guests post-ceremony.

Civil Ceremonies: approx 30 mins

Hugs & Kisses Post Ceremony: approx 15 mins

03. PORTRAITS

Note: I will email you a 'family photo list' questionnaire a month out from the wedding to assist with this. You can also nominate a 'photo captain' who knows everyone to assist.

Family Portraits: approx 30 mins

Bridal Party: approx 30 mins

Just the two of you: 40 mins

04. RECEPTION

Note: Remember to factor in drive-time if going offsite, or if the venue would like you to return early to 'freshen up' as they call it.

Speeches: 5-10 mins per person

Cutting the cake: 5 mins

First Dance: 5-10 mins

GETTING READY

KEEP ONE ROOM EMPTY

Allowing extra time during each part of the day means that if anything runs over time, there is still time after. Timing will fluctuate based on how many people are in the wedding party (that's if you even have one!) and how many family members will be present.

THE DETAILS

Before I arrive, please leave outfits and any details you want to be captured in one area (rings, shoes, florals, invitations, etc.).



CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE

Being surrounded by family and friends who will support you and know how to read your aura is super important. If you think people will stress you out, don't have them around in the morning (or at least when I arrive to document you, lol). A stress-free and loved up environment is key for beautiful and relaxed looking photos. Music is by far the best mood influencer.

NATURAL LIGHT

I will be shooting in a room with ALL of the lights off, so this means lots of good natural light. Mixed-light of any kind tends to lead to odd skin tones. My favourite preparation photos have been with beautiful side light, and drape curtains so I can isolate light if needed too!

Pro tip: Plan to have hair and makeup scheduled to be done around 30 minutes before you're photos are scheduled to begin. This gives you some buffer time in case things run behind!

LESS CLUTTER

TVs are one of the worst things in a photo! They're big, black and bulky. No matter how pretty the surroundings, a big black box will most certainly steal the attention. If you can, remove your tv and replace it with a vase of flowers.



FIRST LOOK

HERE'S WHY I LOVE THEM

01.

You get to spend 2 to 4 hours MORE with your best friend on your wedding day (that's huge!). It allows you to have a chance to talk and enjoy hanging out with each other before the ceremony, and you get to spend more time together.

02.

First looks are almost always more emotional and meaningful than seeing each other down the aisle. If you're afraid you'll miss that "epic moment" down the aisle, I'd honestly say all of my couples STILL got choked up walking down the aisle.

A first look is when you arrange a private time to see each other BEFORE the ceremony. The only people present will be the two of you! I'm a huge advocate for first looks and I love them so much BUT, I also want to encourage you to do whatever you want to do. Because at the end of the day, it's your wedding, and what you prefer matters the absolute most!





03.

They allow you to enjoy time with your friends during cocktail hour because you aren't scrambling for photos. You've already done majority of them! Grab some food and a drink and go celebrate with your friends!

04.

Ideal for non-daylight savings weddings. You'll find you will have a lot more light for your photos allowing you to have a later ceremony and more time to celebrate with your guests!

05.

Your nerves are likely to go away after you see each other! You'll feel more relaxed and the ceremony will be more enjoyable. Plus, you'll probably remember the whole day better because you weren't so nervous. The whole thing would probably be a blur otherwise!

06.

No rush to do your portraits, family portraits, AND bridal party during cocktail hour (not rushed = better photos).

07.

It really does make things run very smoothly.



THE CEREMONY

KISS KISS KISS

Nothing worse than trying to get that millisecond peck first kiss! Even better if you do something wild, dip each other, make it momentous!

LIGHTING / LOCATION

Have a think about the time of day and direction of the light for your ceremony. Harsh light directly in your eyes isn't nice when you are trying to see your partner for the first time. Soft natural light is best, I suggest 2 to 3 hours before sunset being ideal, but please reach out specifically for your date and venue choice, and I can make some suggestions.



NO PHONES PLEASE

Perfect if you want your guests to be present with you, immersed in your commitment with true and real emotions (think of how they will react during the ceremony), and not with a f*ck off giant iPad in front of their face.

It's fine if you don't want to, but put it this way, the worst moment is during the walking down the aisle. Imagine trying to photograph both of you and I have to dodge guests trying to see/take photos, and the only vantage point blocks you both from seeing each other!

Nobody wants my big arse in their face, just sayin'.

EYE CONTACT

Look at each other and soak it all in! It sounds stupid but so many times couples look at the celebrant during the ceremony instead of looking at their love. Embrace, hold hands and kiss if it will calm the nerves. Interact with your guests, make eye contact, they'll be so stoked. But most importantly, take your time with your vows. My favourite moment to capture during the ceremony, so no pressure if you make a mistake, laugh it off and keep going!

CELEBRATE

Now you're married it's time to party down the aisle! Get confetti down your outfits, high five mates, just own it. Enjoy the moment! Allow time for your guests to congratulate you. This is something you shouldn't miss out on, so if time allows, give yourself at least 10 minutes here to enjoy your company. This is where we get the best candid photos of you with your family and friends as there is a heap of emotion flying around.





FAMILY PORTRAITS

CREATE A LIST

One month out I ask you to fill out a questionnaire sharing which family members will be in these photos. I then create a list of all possible groups that are then approved before the wedding and it's what we use to make this part go as quickly and painlessly as possible!



KIDS AT WEDDINGS

They do some whack stuff. So I prefer to capture children in their element, naturally and organically because there's a high chance that the children at your wedding are definitely not going to want to pose for long, if at all.

If you do want them in the family portraits bring a special toy or something that will help me get their attention during the posed photos. It will make for smoother sailing and would be extra handy to fast track this time so you aren't posing for long.

PORTRAITS

WEDDING PARTY SHOOT

I suggest allowing 30 minutes for wedding party and This time is about having a bit of fun with the crew. I will bring a speaker, play some of your favourite tunes and have a laugh with you all.

LOCATION / WEATHER

Have a think about how we will get to different locations. Are we going up hills? Will it likely be windy or be at a different temperature? Pack jackets to keep you all warm if needed, comfy shoes and umbrellas if it is going to rain. I'm all up for fun and adventure even in it rains!

GET COMFORTABLE

Choose outfits you can be comfortable in, relaxed, and not have to fuss over so much puffy stuff, or tight pants about to rip (it's happened).

JUST THE TWO OF YOU

Have a go at it, get close and loved up. Laugh with each other, at each other and with me. It gets easier once couples relaxed, let go and realise there is no need to fuss over the small things.





SUNSET PORTRAITS

Sunset portraits are literally the BEST ten minutes of portraits you'll get on your wedding day. Trust me, they are WORTH IT and are those dreamy, swoon-worthy photos you see all over Pinterest with the glowy lighting. In an ideal world we will sneak out for 10 minutes around sunset time (usually during your reception between your formalities)! Of course you will get some kick arse photos, BUT it also gives you a chance to slow down and connect with each other, away from the chaos of your big day!

If it ends up being overcast, don't worry! I've had SO MANY overcast and/or rainy weddings end up having a beautiful sunset. In fact, the photo on the right here was that EXACT scenario! This sunset was a complete surprise! And if the sun isn't peaking out, we can still sneak out for some extra portraits for variety!



THE RECEPTION

LIGHTING

Total mood killer or epic ambiance creator. Lighting in the venue like house lights don't cut it. Having only a candle-lit dinner might be super romantic, but they don't give off much light, so we won't be able to see much. Festoon lighting can create a great effect, as can hanging installations. Sometimes just speaking with a specialist is worth its weight in gold.

JUST DANCE! DO IT!

Even a little nervous swaying looks killer in photos, or just go nuts with your guests. The best photos happen on the dance floor, and if you play some banger hits you'll be sure to have your guest up with you!

SPEECHES

Not all lecterns are created equal. If you are thinking of having one dedicated spot for speeches, make sure speakers and cables are neatly tucked away. It will also need lighting so people can read their notes. Having a roaming microphone so people can speak from their seat positions is not a bad idea either.



RECOMMENDED SUPPLIERS

Planning a wedding can be exciting but daunting at the same time, and finding great wedding vendors that are extremely passionate and equally amazing at what they do, can be a challenge. There are so many of us out there, and if you find yourself with fifty tabs open on your web browser, I completely understand why you may be finding it all to be a bit overwhelming while trying to plan your day. I have created a list of suppliers whom I could not recommend more highly. I have had the privilege of working with every supplier on this list and strongly encourage you to connect with them to see if they are the right fit for your wedding.



PLANNING & STYLING

Forethought by Samantha	@forethoughtweddings
One Day in March	@one_day_in_march_
Enhance Styling & Events	@enhance_styling
Courtney Conroy	@ccsweddingandeventplanning
Gather Vintage Hire	@gathervintagehire
Bang Co Events	@bangeventco

CELEBRANTS

Tamika Brown	@ceremoniesbytam_celebrant
Lisa Tippet	@lisatippetcelebrant
Simon Goss	@sg_weddings
Linda Savy	@lindasavymarriagecelebrant
Sharon Milsome	@sharonmilsomemarriagecelebrant
Kate Wilson	@weddings_by_kate

HAIR

LoeLou Bridal Hair	@chloelouisebridal
Amanda Bell	@amandabellhairstylist
Mysa	@salonmysa
Emma Mcglone	@Emma.theabbeyhillcollective
Rachel Mead	@rachjmead

VIDEOGRAPHY

Ben Christie Films	@benchristirfilms
Orchard Media	@orchard.media
Josue Films	@josuefilms
Four by four Films	@fourbyfourfilms
Bottlebrush Films	@bottlebrushfilms
Story with heart films	@storywithheartfilms

PHOTOBOOTH

Ledger & Co	@ledgercoeventhire_photoboot
Heartbreak Hotel	h
	@heaartbreakhotel

STATIONARY

The Parker Effect	@theparkereffect
Evergreen Ink	@evergreen.ink
Mickey Loves Jacqui	@mickeylovesjacquilletterpress
State of Reverie Studio	@stateofreveriestudio

FLORIST

Sassafras Weddings	@_sassafrasweddings_
The Refined Bloom Co	@therefinedbloomco
Valley Blooms	@valleyblooms
Forget Me Not Floret	@forgetmenot_floret
Dear Henri	@dear.henri
Friends of Dorothy Floristry	@friendsofdorothyfloristry

SUITS

MJ Bale	@mjbale
Bell & Barnett	@bellandbarnet

ENTERTAINMENT

Luke Dewing (Acoustic/DJ)	@lukedewingmusic
Hey Jack (Acoustic/DJ/MC)	@heyjack_co
Music with Memories (DJ/MC)	@musicwithmemories
Velvet Archers (Live Band)	@velvetarchers
Like This (Live Band)	@likethisband
Kiss Entertainment (Acoustic/DJ/MC)	@kiss.entertainment
Brendan and Sabrina (Acoustic duo/DJ)	@brendansabrinamusic
Bowens Entertainment (MC/ DJ)	@djstevebowen

MAKEUP

Jess Oneil	@jessoneilmakeup
Beauty by Tennille	@beautybytennille
Ess Makeup	@_esswithsteph

DRESSES

Karen Willis Holmes	@kwhbridal
Jillian Franklin	@jillianfranklincouture
Amante Bridal	@amantebridal
Georgia Young Couture	@georgiayoungcouture
Bluebell Bridal	@bluebellbridal_

CATERING

Paulies Corner Cafe	@pauliescornercafe
Pinchos	@pinchos.andiamo
Ebden and Olive	@ebdenandolive
Fiona Landy Catering	@Fiona_landy_catering
Grace Rutherglen	@grace,rutherglen
Raffertys Catering	@ raffertyscatering

CAKE MAKERS

Miss Naked Cakes	@missnakedcakes
The Cake Cottage	@thecakecottagealbury

BAR/DRINK SERVICES

Vinbar	@vinbar_albur
Little Tipple	@littletipple2017
Four Bros Bars	@4brosbars

TABLEWARE & HIRE

Gather Vintage Hire	@gathervintagehire
Enhance Styling	@enhance_styling
Bang Co Events	@bangeventco
Ledger & Co	@ledgerco_eventhire
Barlens	@barlensevents
RBR Party Hire	@rbrpartyandevents
Bourke Hire	@bourkehire
Your Moment Picnics	@yourmoment_picnics

HAPPY WEDDING PLANNING

I hope you enjoyed everything that you have read so far and my ideas have assisted you in your wedding planning journey! If you have ANY questions at all, feel free to reach out to me via email. I hope this guide serves as an amazing resource for you as you plan and prepare for your big day!

At the end of the day, no matter what happens, you'll be married and that's all that matters.





GET IN TOUCH



www.rachaelemmily.com
info@rachaelemmily.com

STAY IN THE LOOP
Social @rachaelemmily