

# Classy Wedding ON A FRUGAL BUDGET

Information courtesy of Chrystal Brand.



Photo by Popcorn Photography

Not everyone has had their dream wedding planned since childhood; some of us don't even think about it until the question is asked, "Will you marry me?" For those who have never really thought about planning a wedding before, just the thought of everything that has to be done can be overwhelming.

Weddings are traditionally seen as how a couple introduces their style to their network of friends and family. So it's understandable that the expectations can be high. The couple is expected to work together to decide what they both want and how to make it all work. This can be a challenging but rewarding situation as they blend their personalities and tastes together. Thankfully though, there are a lot of resources available to help couples plan their wedding, such as books, magazines, websites, blogs, wedding planners and of course Your Hunter Valley Wedding Planner magazine!

Last year in Australia, the average cost of a wedding was \$36,700. While the average cost is expected to continue to slowly climb, not everyone wants to spend that much on a one day event.

With so many resources out there to help couples plan and save on their wedding it's very easy to get lost and overwhelmed. Melissa Bowman from Melissa Bowman Weddings and Events and Kate Doyle from Plans of Love Wedding Planning share with you some of their money saving tips.

The hardest part of planning your wedding will be deciding what aspects are important to you and your partner. To figure this out it's best to sit down and make a list of the top three important parts, then compare lists. Keeping this in mind, how a wedding is planned comes down to taste, location, personal style and budget. With plenty of time, not only is there less stress but there is also more time to create things for the event.

All these ways to save money, means there is no reason for a couple to spend more money than they want to. With careful planning, creativity and budgeting anything can be possible. So give yourself plenty of time, access the talent of friends and family, remember traditions and most importantly relax and have fun!

## Hot Tips FROM THE EXPERTS

### MELISSA BOWMAN

- Hold a Friday or Winter Wedding
- Book local suppliers
- Use locally grown and in season flowers
- Let groomsmen wear their own suits
- Enlist family and friend help
- Get creative and make your own invites, cake and bonbonnières
- Have your ceremony and reception at the same location
- Have a smaller guest list
- As per tradition – borrow some jewels
- Serve your wedding cake as dessert served with cream and berries

### KATE DOYLE

- Consider investing in a wedding planner with small packages containing lists of reputable suppliers and discounts
- Plan in advance and pay off the wedding as you go, but start with a realistic budget
- Smaller and less expensive weddings can be more stress free as expectations of the outcome are normally lower as well
- Don't let lack of money impact the outcome of your day