

Perspectives Photo & Cinema

+ planning guide





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What we've learned

Over the last 15 years, we've witnessed hundreds of wedding celebrations, captured diverse traditions, and seen pretty much every way a wedding day can be put together.

We've experienced things that worked really well and things that kinda didn't. We wrote this guide to share some of our thoughts on what makes an amazing wedding. Practical ideas that make it run without a hitch and a few insights into how to have the best day ever.

But before we get into the nuts and bolts of how your wedding day runs, we want to take a moment to talk about the big picture. The things that really matter.

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You really can have the wedding you want. Other than saying a couple of legally required lines, everything else is up to you.

If your whole bridal party knows one another, maybe you could all get ready together or have breakfast together.

If you secretly wish you could elope, maybe a morning ceremony followed by a long lunch could work? That way you have the whole late afternoon and evening to yourselves.

Keen to spend more time with your guests? Keep the photoshoot short or plan an adventure session for a different day.

Are you a hopeless romantic? Have that candlelit, twilight ceremony.

Wanna swap the first dance out for a bonfire and marshmallows? Do it!

Your guests are going to love coming to a wedding that is filled with love and personality - it doesn't need to tick any boxes but your own.

Make sure your wedding day fits you and reflects the things you are excited about.

— The number one wedding rule is...

there are no rules.



Don't get lost in the details

This adventure started with the question 'will you marry me?', but sometimes the planning and logistics of organising a wedding can take over the joy of it all. The reason why this all started can get a little lost in the background.

So here are two things to keep in mind once your wedding day arrives.



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Plan not to plan

On your wedding day, hand the reins to someone you trust so that you can sit back and enjoy the day. Give them your phone and a list of things that need to happen. Don't be afraid to delegate. If something comes up, let one of your bridal party handle it. Make sure you have enough mental downtime to be present and enjoy the occasion and the people that surround you.

Keep connected

Even if you don't see each other until the late afternoon ceremony, touch base throughout the morning. This is exciting stuff - share the anticipation. This could be through giving gifts or handwritten letters or having a no-look first look. Perhaps you could surprise one another with something thoughtful during the photoshoot and make that memory even more special.

Making sure the wedding day runs smoothly is important, but don't let logistics come before love.

If, at the end of the day, you are married to the one you love, everything went perfectly.

Adventure sessions

Adventure sessions are like an engagement shoot, only cooler. They are a wonderful way to take a break from wedding planning to reconnect - and get some epic photos while you're at it.

We'll chase sunsets, climb hilltops, and explore new places. We get our feet wet and our hair a little messy.

We can show you some of our favourite places or be inspired by some of yours.

At the end of your adventure, you'll come away with photographs to celebrate your engagement and include in your invites. The best bit - you'll realise that this having-your-photo-taken business isn't as scary as you thought.



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During wedding season most of our adventure shoots are booked for a weekday evening or the odd Sunday. We finalise dates for adventure sessions with 1-3 weeks notice.

three reasons to book an adventure session with us

It's a great warm up

Almost every couple we meet with tell us they're not used to being in front of the camera and let's face it - who is?! An adventure session is a chance to get used to being photographed. Trust us - you're going to be awesome at this.

A different location

Do you have a dream photo location in mind that just isn't practical for the wedding day? An adventure session is your chance to achieve it. We'll hike to hidden waterfalls with you, frolic in fields of flowers that only bloom one week a year, climb mountaintops and wait for sunset with you, and even stalk the weather forecasts to find a perfectly clear night to get a photo under the milky way.

Beautiful photos

Many of our couples use their engagement photos for their 'save the date' cards or wedding invites. Most just love having some photos for their wall that feel like 'them' and are a different look and feel to their wedding photos.



Adventure sessions can be booked before or after your wedding. You can jump back into your wedding outfits or go for something more casual.

We encourage you to wear whatever you're comfortable in. Going with a tried and true favourite outfit that

you know sits right and feels good is a much better idea than purchasing something new just for the occasion.

Lighter colours tend to pop a bit more in the type of locations we go for, but if you live in black, that's fine too!



The
wedding
day

Getting ready

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Half the story of your wedding day happens before the ceremony.

For us, it's the chance to show a bit of an insight into you as individuals. Who you are with your best mates and closest family members and what you mean to them.

It's the time when stoic mums and dads get all teary, groomsmen forget that they haven't tied a tie in... well ever, and brides and grooms put the finishing touches on their speeches. It's a time to take a deep breath and let the excitement build. We wouldn't want to miss any of that.

Whether you choose to get ready at home or hire a place, here are a few practical things that will minimise stress and help you relax and enjoy the



If you've booked us for the full day, we ideally want to capture the actual getting ready process rather than a reenactment. Trust us, there's a huge difference in the anticipation and excitement that builds while you're having your hair and makeup done vs someone posing with a makeup brush after the fact. We can tell and you'll be able to tell too.

If you have several people getting their hair and makeup done together, it's ideal if the bride can

have her hair and makeup done second to last. Set up hair and makeup for everyone in the same room. Being able to chat and share the excitement is something that is often overlooked in the quest of finding a space next to a power point.

Your hair and makeup artist are the best person to guide you with how long they will need for each person. Every hair and makeup artist works differently, so check what their preferences are.

Make sure you're clear with your hair and makeup artists on a finish time that still allows you plenty of time to get dressed. We suggest asking for everyone to be finished hair and makeup at least an hour before you need to leave for the ceremony (more if you have a complicated outfit!)

This gives you some buffer time if things run a bit behind, plenty of time to get dressed and take

a breather before going to your wedding, and time for a few photos with your crew before you head out the door.

Guys - you don't have to all shower at once! Rather than leaving showers last-minute, try to be available to hang out and enjoy the anticipation in the last hour rather than everyone disappearing to different parts of the house.



Clear the clutter

Homes don't need to be perfect, but you don't want your breakfast dishes to forever be a part of your wedding photos. Ask your crew to keep an eye on the clutter.

It's all about light

Where you get ready is no exception.

Ask your makeup artist to set up close to a window, so you're facing the natural light.

Get dressed in a room that has windows. You can always close the curtains for any part you don't want to share with the neighbours.

This is your moment of transformation - make it awesome.

Think about who you want with you

... and limit the extra people

There is a pretty clear correlation between the number of people in the house and stress levels for those getting ready. Bathrooms have to be shared, shoes get lost, pets get anxious, kids get hyped, mouths need to be fed - it doesn't leave a lot of space to relax and be excited. Focus on including the important people who you know will keep things positive and calm.



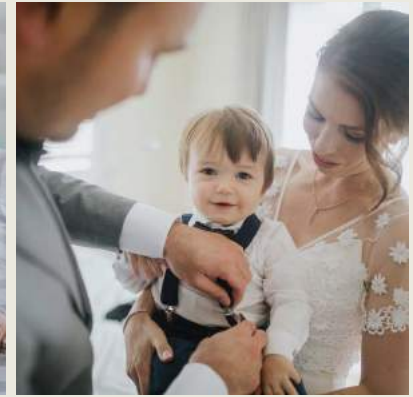


Spend time with the people you love

When you arrive at your ceremony, you'll have a lot of guests wanting to see you. The morning is a great opportunity to spend time with your VIPs.

If you have kids, set aside some time to help them get ready. This can be a big day for your kids too, so schedule some time for them into your morning.

If your gran is your favourite person in the world, see if she wants to come and help put your jewellery or tie on.



Ceremony



Who sits where

Many weddings don't have "sides", but keep in mind that if your immediate family sits on the same side as you, they might just get a lovely view of the back of your head for much of the ceremony. We suggest that the front row of people, usually your immediate family, sit on the opposite side of the aisle, facing towards you.

Thoughts on vows

What you say is up to you. Whether you choose to keep it traditional or make it more personal, how you say your vows can really transform the dynamic and create a rich, meaningful moment.

Although there's no one-size-fits-all, we find that couples that hold vows in their own hands as they read them feel more at ease in sharing their promises than those repeating words line-by-line or craning their necks to read from a celebrant's folder.

The grand entrance

When you walk down the aisle, leave a gap. This applies to everyone walking down the aisle, but especially the bride or groom.

Let the previous person reach the front of the ceremony before you start walking. Kids can get distracted and slow down, so wait until they've made it to the front before you make an entrance.

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Requests for your celebrant

Professional celebrants who marry people every week totally get this and can sail a smooth ship. But sometimes it's nice to have a personal friend or church pastor officiate your ceremony instead. So if we may, here are a few tips for the celebrant friend who doesn't do this very often and is probably a little nervous about it all.

Please stand (and be seated)

It's surprisingly common for celebrants to forget to ask your guests to stand before you make your entrance - and because everyone's super polite, guests will usually wait for permission from the celebrant before sitting again too.

So just double-check with your celebrant at the rehearsal that their notes include a request to "please stand" and "please be seated" before and after your walk down the aisle. This goes a long way for ensuring your guests know what to do and when.



Stand in the centre

Once you reach the top of the aisle, the last thing you want to be thinking about is making sure that you're standing in the centre and keeping everything symmetrical. However your celebrant is totally in a great position to keep an eye on this for you. Just a simple shuffle at the very start of the ceremony can make the world of difference for the photos and asking them to remind you is a great idea.

The kiss!

Celebrants usually know to step aside for the kiss, but often leave it a little too late. This often results in kiss photos with a celebrant awkwardly mid-flight.

The solution to this is to ask your celebrant to step aside before announcing that the big kiss moment has arrived.



Unplugged ceremonies

We really don't mind if your guests bring their cameras to your wedding. We're completely professional and can work around all sorts of guest-created-obstacles.

That being said, there are some great reasons for having an 'unplugged' ceremony, where guests are asked to put their cameras and phones away.

5 reasons to go unplugged

Your guests can be present

Rather than staring at a screen, trying to work out why their photo is blurry, your guests are actually present and enjoying the ceremony.

You'll see faces, not phones.

People look more connected in our photos and film. In the shots of you walking up the aisle, you'll see your guests faces smiling back towards you rather than a wall of phones.

The dreaded "Uncle Bob"

There is less chance that Uncle Bob decides to step out into the aisle, or walk right behind your ceremony at that perfect moment. Like we said, we'll roll with whatever is thrown our way, but reducing the likelihood means better results.

Emotional support

It's more reassuring for you when you look back towards the crowd to see everyone engaged.

Other opportunities

There is plenty of time for your guests to take their own photos throughout the rest of the day and evening.



Congratulations

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This is often the first chance people will get to say hi, and everyone is super excited to see you. We get some of our favourite photos at this time of day. About 15-20 minutes seems to be a good amount of time to have a congratulatory hug with most of your guests before we round everyone up for group photos.

Many venues will have someone waiting at the end of the aisle with a glass of bubbles for you. What we see happen all the time is, couples will take this without thinking when it's handed to them and then be immediately bombarded with hugs. They end up spending the next 20 minutes juggling a full glass and trying not to spill it all over the guests.

Totally grab the bubbles if you feel like it (or just say 'no thank you' if you don't!) but ask a member of your bridal party to hang onto it once you've had enough. The same applies if you're carrying a bouquet - empty your hands so you're freed up for maximum hugs!

Group & family photos



We'll often start with a big group photo of all your guests. This also serves the secondary purpose of gathering everyone into one spot and letting them know what is happening next. We're great at gathering the group together for this, however if you have an MC, they can also take on this role. We usually call out the next group we need ourselves, however having someone available to gather up the next group of people and have them ready makes everything much more efficient.

A great way to structure this is to go from the larger groups to the smaller groups.

We start with whichever of you has more people in your extended family, or if there are any mobility considerations or young kids to factor in, we try and take these photos first.

For each family, a good structure is:

- Extended family (everyone related to you!)
- Immediate family (grandparents, parents, siblings and partners)
- Grandparents
- Parents and siblings
- Parents
- Siblings

We then repeat this list for the other side of the family.

It's great for us to know if there are any family dynamics to be aware of and it's no problem to add or subtract from this list.

After family photos is a good time to get a group photo with any other special people. It's helpful for us to have this list in advance so we know how much time to allow. We usually allow 30 minutes to get through about 15 combinations.

Creative portraits

Creative portraits can happen at any time of the day and for any length of time (they're also completely optional). If you want to spend your afternoon with your guests,

consider meeting up before the ceremony and heading to a cool location for some photos. Even better, hang out with your guests after the ceremony and take 30

mins of photos at sunset instead.

Generally our couples allow anywhere from 30 to 90 minutes plus travel time (if any). Chat to us about your ideas for locations or if



Choosing a location

Finding you an epic location for your photos is all part of the service we provide. But we want it to fit with your vision for the wedding day. So give us some guidance on what you love (or don't love!) and leave it with us.

We're excited to hear if there are any particular places that are meaningful to you and we'll try and work this in for you.

We love finding hidden gems in suburban landscapes, overgrown fields tucked down the back of driveways, and ivy walls that are perfect for just one week of the year.

We'll have a plan A, B and C in place for all kinds of weather conditions or timeline curve-balls, and we're always keeping our eyes open for the unexpected and the spontaneous.

Choosing an adventure outfit

The moments between the posed photos are often the best. So plan to wear something you're happy to be photographed in for the whole creative portrait session. Don't bring fluoro trainers and a raincoat and plan to get back into your heels "once we get there".

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Who to bring

For the most part, the creative portraits are going to focus on the two of you. Think about if you'd like to have your bridal party with you for these photos, or if you'd prefer a bit of time with just the two of you.

A great way to balance this is to take some photos with your bridal party at the ceremony location, and then let them head back to the rest of the guests while we take a few more of just the two of you.

If you want them to come to the first off-site location only, make sure you have enough transport for them to head back to the venue while you stay on. We're usually able to drive you in our car if this helps.

The picnic basket

If you're taking your photos between the ceremony and the reception, a lot of venues will offer to create a picnic basket for you to take away for your photos.

It's completely up to you, but we often find that unless you have a spot in mind and you specifically want to set up a picnic with your bridal party - it's logistically easier to spend more time with all your guests and enjoy your canapes there. It means we can move faster through the photos and get you back to the party sooner.

We also tend to find rather obscure, off-the-beaten-track spots for photos that can make drink and platter balancing difficult.

If you're going to have your canapes with your guests, make sure you let your venue know so that they can bring you some canapes before we head off, and so we're not held up waiting for the picnic basket that you don't really want!



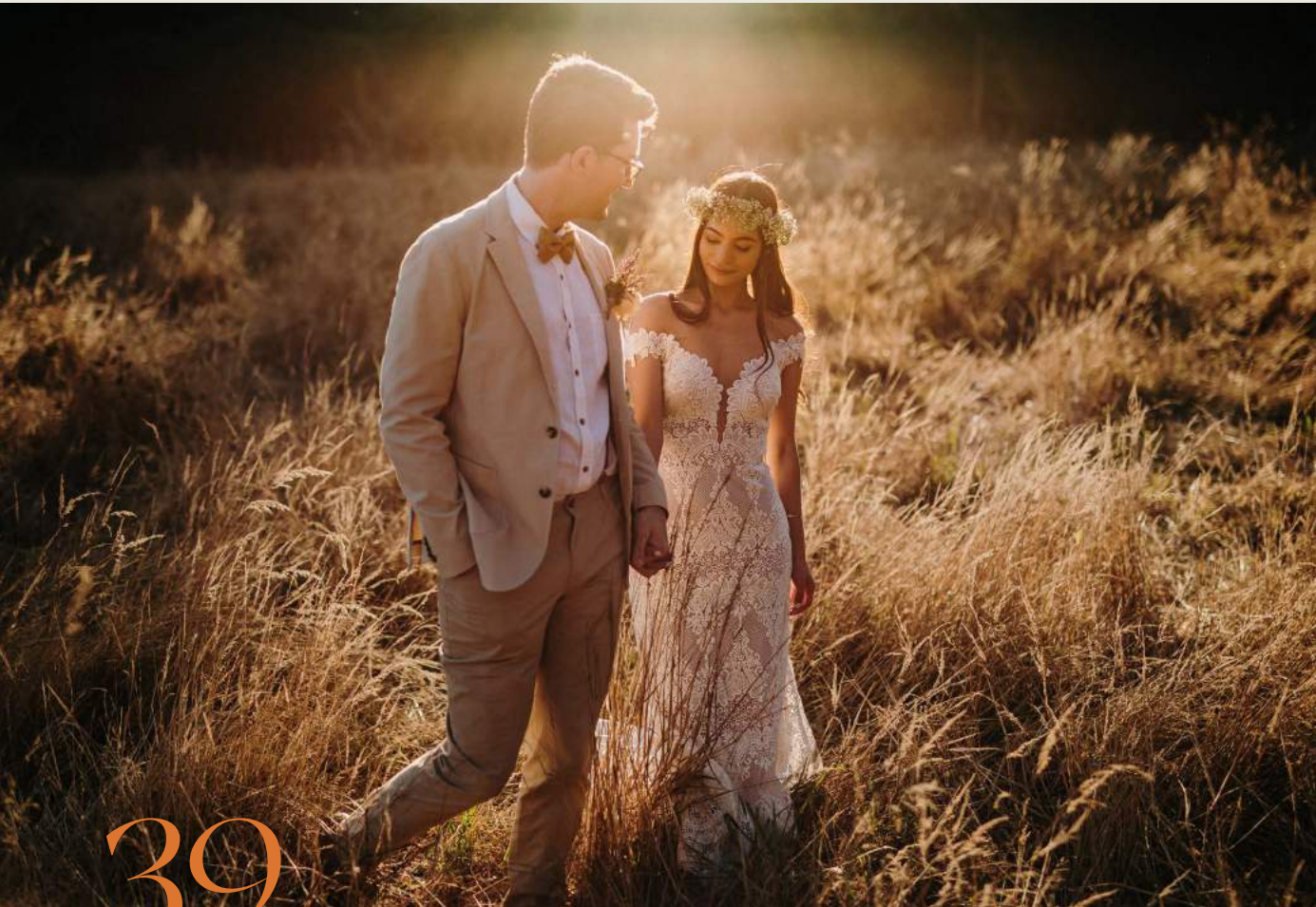
What happens if it rains?

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We've got you.

Golden light



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The very best time of day for photos is the hour before sunset, and the closer to sunset you get, the cooler the light is.

There are a bunch of ways you can make the most of the golden hour.

Firstly, check online what time sunset will be on your wedding day. Google will tell you this down to the minute, years in advance.

In winter, this can be as early as 5pm and in summer it can be as late as 8:45pm.

For winter weddings (and some of autumn and spring), consider timing your wedding ceremony so that your creative portraits can fall during the hour before sunset. In summer, sunset often happens around the time your main meal or dessert is being served. If you can plan your day such that the 30 minutes before sunset coincides with the latter half of the meal service, then your guests will be so busy with their meals that they won't even notice you've snuck out (after eating your own dinner of course).

We sometimes need to drive for a couple of minutes to get clear of any trees or to get a little higher up, so if you're lucky to have an epic sunset view on site, you'll only need a 10 minute window of time.

If this is something you're keen to plan into your day, talk to us about when we reckon the best 'golden light moment' will be for your particular venue, as often the sun can disappear from view long before actual sunset.

Vendor meals

You have probably gathered by now that we put 100% of our energy and passion into a wedding day. We start early and we finish late and we love it. We work away behind the scenes to make sure everything runs smoothly and we don't take a break until you do.

As much as we try to appear superhuman - we gotta eat - and that's where you come in.

If we're staying for the reception - we really need to eat when you do. There are so many amazing things happening throughout the evening (sunsets, speeches, dances) and we need to be ready to capture it at the drop of a hat.

There are some incredible venues out there that totally get this, and make sure that we're able to

eat our meals at the start of the service. But there are other venues that insist on feeding their vendors at the end after all the guests.

We're not being divas - we just don't want to miss a thing for you. If we can be finished eating at the same time as you guys are, we can sneak you away for those incredible sunset photos while the rest of your guests are happily enjoying their meal.

We can set up for speeches, get candid photos of the guests chatting at the tables, and we can scope out an epic night shot.

We know that a lot of you guys are paying for our meal (and we're super grateful!) and others have it included in the venue's package.



We need you to be our advocates with the venues. Talk to them ahead of time and let them know that feeding us at the start of service instead of the end is in YOUR best interest and then remind them again closer to the time.

A fed photographer will be able to pop back into superhuman mode for you the moment our forks hit the plates and you - our amazing clients, won't miss a thing.

Your speech

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There are a whole team of people who helped put this together, so a “thank you” is always appreciated. But a speech can be much more than just thanking your friend who made the cake or toasting the groomsmen.

It’s an opportunity to talk about why you’re here and what this day means to you. What makes your partner so special? What does the future look like for you both? Why are you so obsessed with this person?

If there is ever a time to say something heartfelt, it’s probably going to be your wedding day. It doesn’t have to be fancy or long. It just has to come from the heart!

PRO TIP: A good speech needs a little bit of prep. But with airport pickups, finalising seating plans and last minute logistics to take care of, time really does disappear in the days leading up to your wedding. So think about getting your speech (and vows) written before the last minute mayhem hits and you won’t be up at 1am the morning of your wedding forcing a cluttered and tired brain

The party

Lighting is everything

As the night goes on, the ambient lighting is really going to set the tone for your evening, as well as creating an awesome backdrop for your photos and film. Tea lights, fairy lights, candles, festoons, lanterns and coloured projections are all things that we get very excited about at receptions. The more the better.

Party on!

If you're keen for a bit of a boogie later in the night, there's a few things you can do that will help keep the dance floor pumping.

Firstly, make sure you've cut the cake and the MC has finished their housekeeping before you open the dancefloor. Nothing kills a dance floor faster than the music pausing for an announcement about taxis and dessert.

The 'first dance' is obviously a great chance to encourage mum, dad and the rest of your guests onto the dance floor. But if dancing isn't your thing, just get your bridesmaids and groomsmen to crash it moments after it begins. Even a 15 second penguin shuffle is enough to satisfy your nana and is a great catalyst to get everyone up and busting



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It's entirely possible to capture your day with one photographer or videographer. But here are the reasons to consider adding a second photographer to your coverage.

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One or two photographers?



The morning of your wedding

If you've decided you'd both like the getting ready process documented, one photographer can jump between your locations. If you're getting ready more than a few minutes apart, a lot of your coverage time is spent on us traveling between locations and you need to coordinate exactly when you get ready.

Having a dedicated photographer or videographer spending the morning with each of you means you can get ready at your own pace and the photos are a more natural reflection of the day.

The ceremony

There is a lot going on, and much of the action is taking place simultaneously. When we have two photographers, we can capture both of your expressions during those key moments. The walk up the aisle, saying your vows, and even the first kiss. We can keep more of an eye out for your parents' reactions and have the option to be more creative with our angles.

The location photos

During this time there are a couple of ways we can roll.

Option #1: both photographers can join you on the creative shoot. If this is a part of the day you've been looking forward to, having two creative angles and photographers who can bounce ideas off each other will result in some of our best work.

There are also some locations where we'll add some creative lighting to make things even more epic. For these kind of spots, having a second photographer makes everything much easier. We will let you know if this is something we are considering.

Option #2: our second photographer can stay with your guests and get more photos of your family and friends hanging out and enjoying the canapes and lawn games.



Guest photos

Throughout the day, having a second photographer means we can look beyond the main event (spoiler: that's you two!) and capture even more of the action.

The lead photographer will be prioritising you two first and foremost,

while the second photographer will be able to look more broadly and see all the amazing and often hilarious moments going on around you.

Our couples often tell us that these become some of their favourite memories, especially the ones they didn't even notice on the day.



The final consideration is that having a second photographer allows us to take more creative risks (trust us - this is a good thing!)

Our second photographers are absolutely epic and we 100% trust them to capture the important moments. This can free us up to go for a unique angle, add a lighting setup or stay put while we wait for

the stars to align for the perfect moment. It gives us the ability to set up for a creative night photo while our second photographer are keeping an eye on the proceedings inside.

If the budget will allow it, having a second photographer will take your photos to the next level.





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Wedding albums

After you've come down from the wedding high, have a chat to us about creating an album for you.

Past clients tell us that their wedding album becomes more and more precious with each passing milestone - the arrival of kids, the anniversaries (we have couples whose weddings we photographed celebrating their 15th anniversary this year), and the passing of loved ones.

We exclusively use Queensberry, widely regarded as one of the best album producers in the world. They are precious books that will become precious heirlooms.

After your wedding

Woohoo you did it! Now when do you get to see the results?

2-3 weeks after your wedding, we will have a sneak peek of your photos ready for you. We'll send this to you first, so you guys are the first to see your photos.

Once you've had a chance to laugh, cry and grin your way through the sneak peek, we'll send you a link to a blog post with some of these photos which is a great way to share the day with friends and family.

At this point, we usually share a small handful of our favourites on our social media pages. We totally don't want to steal your thunder, but sharing a few photos from our pages is an awesome way for your guests to connect the smiley faces from behind the cameras to our business pages and it really helps us grow.

6-8 weeks after your wedding day, we'll have the full gallery of photos and/or your wedding film ready for you. From the gallery you can download the full set of photos with the click of a button or just grab individual photos as you go.

From here, we hand over the safekeeping of the photos and film to you guys. While we have every intention of keeping the galleries and videos online indefinitely, you'll need to make sure you download these and back them up in a few places for safekeeping.



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Sharing & enjoying the photos

We can totally help you create some prints for your walls (your gallery includes a print store) or design an album with you. You're also more than welcome to do this yourself - you don't have to print your photos through us.

If you're sharing photos online, a tag goes a long way and if you're able to sneak a cheeky credit in there, we really appreciate it. We also ask (very nicely) to refrain from chucking a filter over the photos if you put them online.

We try our best to tag your other vendors in our posts, so let us know who your team is and we'll include them wherever we can. If any of your vendors would like to share the photos or film, we are 100% happy for them to do this on social media provided they pop in a link back to us. If your vendors would like to use them for advertising or on their website and you're happy for them to do so, connect them with us and we'll discuss it on a case-by-case basis.

We are here to help

We are so excited to get to know you over the coming weeks and months. You've hired a team who want to do more than just show up on the day and capture what is in front of us. The more insight we can gain into you two as a couple, the more this is going to shine through in your photos and film.

We are more than happy to share our 15 years of insights and experience. We 100% encourage you to reach out and share your wedding day vision with us. Photography/videography related or not.

Officially, you can expect to hear from us with a few questionnaires about your day. We'll also be in touch about 4-6 weeks out from your wedding to book in a final catchup with you both.

Unofficially, our door is always open!

Connect with us

- + If you don't already, follow us on Instagram (@perspectives_nz) and say hi!
- + Send us your draft schedule. We're timeline experts and are happy to weigh in.
- + Ask us for vendor recommendations. We are deeply involved in the wedding industry and have seen the good, the bad and the exceptional. We'll happily connect you to some of our favourites.
- + Share your inspiration with us. We don't need a shot list of every photo you'd like, but seeing the kind of photos and films you love (especially helpful if it's from our own work!) can really help us get an idea of your style so send this through any time.
- + Hit us up for a coffee or a beer. We know wedding planning can be full on. If you want to sit down & run ideas by someone who has seen it all, we're in!





Let the adventure begin

