



Crafted Ceremonies with Nicky Hood

Wedding Planning - Guide



Topic	Timing	Ideas	Things to consider / Notes	Decision	Budget
Date:	Generally the first decision to make.	Date of significance, seasonal weather, venue availability, style.	A good place to start, consider planning time required/ booking times/ travelling guests.		
Venue - Ceremony & Reception:	12+ months out, as soon as you can.	Indoor, outdoor, mixed, backyard. Book ASAP. Check out venue prior to decision. Check availability.	Is there a weather contingency plan? (No soggy guests). What facilities does the venue have? Are they accessible? Do they have adequate parking?		
Budget:	12+ months out, flexibility.	Start with your must-haves and work backwards from there.	Try to stick to it and don't add up all your receipts afterwards, trust me. Do you want to hire a Wedding Planner to assist with arrangement and budget?		
Invitations / Save the Dates:	6-12 months prior.	DIY or professional, fully customisable. Consider an environmentally friendly option and go for e-vites.	Vistaprint, Officeworks, design & print at home. Don't forget to confirm your RSVP's for planning.		
Celebrant:	8-12 months prior.	Someone that is a good fit for you both. Meet with a few see what they offer, other than shouting you a coffee. Ceremony planning.	Each party to the marriage will also need to meet separately with the celebrant. The celebrant will take care of the legal paperwork, but you'll need ID documents. Have a think about what kind of ceremony you want, length, adaptations etc.		
Counselling:	8-10 months prior.	Pre-wedding marriage counselling is highly recommended, find someone who suits you both & attend.	Celebrant should have paperwork (local recommendations) on this to help.		

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Theme:	12 months prior.	Fairy tale, backyard, beach, destination etc. Not essential, just an option.	Do you want this just for the wedding party or for the guests also?		
Colour Scheme:	12 months prior.	Rainbow, shades of blue, sunset etc.	Be sure to mention guest attire requirements on the invites e.g. no onesies allowed.		
Attendants:		Bridesmaid(s)/ Maid of honour Grooms(men)/ Best Man Flower Girl(s)/ Paige Boy(s) Ring Bearer(s) Presenters - Will there be any readings? Who will present? Pet(s) - Do you need to hire a pet-sitter? No Attendants Witnesses	Ask nominated persons if they're happy to stand up for you on the day. This is a good way to get more people involved in your ceremony. Attire and extras (flower petals/bubble guns/basket of goodies). Don't forget to give a list of presenters to your Celebrant; they can help you coordinate everyone. Your witnesses need to be over 18.		
Guests:	6-12 months prior.	A list, B list, others depending on budget and venue space.	Remember it's your celebration, so don't invite people just because people are pressuring you to.		
Seating plan:	1-2 months prior.	Arrange when you have most of the RSVPs	If applicable. My best piece of advice here is don't stress too much, people will move about anyway.		
Attire:	8-12 months prior.	Party 1 & 2 + Attendants. Choose your design, try it on. Once chosen, order, have fitted. If renting, organise early. Accessorise – veil, shoes, undergarments etc.	Suit – hire or buy. Shoes, tie, hat, kilt & sporran, cuff links, cologne, button hole flowers/sprig. Dress – Do some online research, but definitely go to a couple dress shops, see what suits you. You'll know when you're ready to say yes to the dress.		
Jewellery:	8-10 months prior.	Wedding bands/ rings and bridal party.	If wanting custom work may need longer time.		
Hair, Beauty & Make up:	Trial – 6 months out Book for the day.	Try before you buy, make sure that you're comfortable and getting what you pay for. Hair cut/colour, tanning, teeth whitening, waxing etc.	Strongly recommend trials, make sure your confident in your chosen artist, photos last a long time. Book beauty appointments like tanning and waxing a few days out so if there's any issues you can recover.		

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Flowers:	6 months prior.	First, decide where you want them (bouquets/ table pieces/ buttonholes/ decoration). Then decide what type/ colour/ materiel (real, silk, paper, button) etc.	Wedding party extras and table decorations, venue decorations etc. Think about what's in season and colour scheme.		
Photos & videos (social media):	8-12 months prior.	Book a photographer and / or videographer. Selfie booth, disposable cameras on tables etc.	Do your research, read reviews, look at cost. Consider Social Media advice for guests – are you happy for them to post before you, or ask them to wait, the Celebrant can help with this advice.		
Decorations:	6 months prior.	Consider colour scheme & wedding theme.	Having guests contribute to decorations can be a fun way of involving people, such as a guest mural		
Music/ Entertainment:	8-10 months prior.	Simple as an iPod with a speaker or full band or live DJ.	You can go simple or all out these days with various entertainers including a magician, MCs, performers etc.		
Catering – Food & Drinks:	6 months prior.	May come with venue, if not try a few places/trucks out before deciding.	Consider guest allergies/ intolerances. Something with vegetarian/ vegan options. Consider kids etc. If you're a foodie, this one will be important whether it's stand-up cocktail style, or seated multiple courses.		
Cake:	6 months prior.	Taste test! Style – vintage or modern, size for guests.	Suggest Googling cake styles and taking a few images to the baker of choice to see what they suggest/ offer. Cake can be symbolic, or can be dessert for guests. Current trend is to have a dessert bar for guests and a smaller cake for the couple to cut.		
Bonbonnieres (wedding favours):	6 months prior.	So many choices, can be personalised so much, Google for ideas. I love the hangover kit personally. Traditional is 5 Jordan almonds.	Depending on the choice of contents, these can be prepared with plenty of time to go, try roping in some friends or wedding attendants to help.		

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Guest Book:	6 months prior.	Completely customisable, so many options to personalise.	Polaroid photos, traditional sign, telephone with voice recordings, mural etc.		
Wedding Gifts:	6 months prior.	For your wedding party and for each other.	Will you be buying a wedding present for each other? Did you want to get a small gift for your wedding attendants to say thank you?		
Registry or Wishing Well:	6 months prior or 2-4 weeks prior.	Basket/ gift box/bird cage/ well/ safe, so many options for this. Consider theme.	If doing a registry be sure to register with plenty of time for your guests. Get creative with this one, Google some ideas and decide what goes with your style/ theme.		
Transport:	8-10 months prior.	To & from ceremony, reception, accommodation, to airport.	Can you borrow a car(s) from mates or do you want to hire transport?		
Honeymoon:	8-10 months prior.	National, overseas, beach, adventure, ski etc. Package or DIY holiday.	This is the fun part! You can do a honeymoon registry through some travel agents instead of a wishing well. When are you heading off, do you need to pack pre-wedding? I feel like you need a separate list just for this one.		
Bucks/Hens parties:	2-4 weeks prior.	Good idea to nominate someone to help with organising these.	Can be combined or separate. Think about the timing of these in regards to the wedding.		
Wedding Rehearsal/ Dinner:	2-4 weeks prior.	Do you want to have a rehearsal of your ceremony to alleviate nerves on the day? Do you want to combine with a dinner?	Celebrant will assist with rehearsal, and will likely recommend. A dinner for out of town guests is a good way to see more of them given the day will likely be a blur.		
The Leftovers:	2-4 weeks prior.	Who will take home your extra bits and bobs like the flower arrangements, leftover cake, decorations, food, wedding certificate etc.	Good idea to make sure they can park near the venue so they don't have to carry everything too far.		