

THE **MARRIAGE** *Meander*  
COLLECTION OF BOOKS GAUTENG

THE MARRIAGE MEANDER COLLECTION OF BOOKS EDITION 12



WEDDING SUPPLIERS AND THEIR JOURNEY

# From the Editor

*Beginning the Journey on the twelfth edition of the Gauteng Marriage Meander Collection of Books, I decided that our path for this needed to take a slightly different direction in that the Wedding Planning Journey is one that is increasingly becoming more overwhelming for the bridal couples with the onslaught of social media, blogging and numerous local and international bridal publications hitting the shelves monthly and wanted to bring simplicity back into your print media lives.*

*This is what the Marriage Meander has always strived to do, simplify your planning process, provide tools in a straightforward, carefully categorised and systematic format so you are able to plan from beginning to end by following our guidelines.*

*Then to take it a step further – help you really connect with the suppliers within these categories. With our brand being “A Wedding Journey” I decided that it would be an engaging idea to do the “Journey of the Suppliers” and give our readers more insight into the suppliers background, get an idea of what makes them tick, what got them to where they are now and what you can expect to find when you approach these suppliers to assist with your wedding or event.*

*I have found it an interesting Journey and learnt so much more about my suppliers, even those I have worked with for many years and I do hope that in reading about their Journeys and gaining more insight into their brands, that this will further assist with your selection and give you more confidence in your planning as a whole. I firmly believe in relationships and trust that this Collection will be the foundation to forming kindred bonds between you and your suppliers, the recipe for any successful function.*

*Please remember that we are not just a bridal publication, we are all about the bigger picture and are on hand to offer ideas, advice and what we refer to as “Wedding Planning Therapy” at any stage of your wedding planning Journey. This is not for the insane, this is purely a hand's on interactive get together where we will discuss your specific wedding planning Journey and put things back into perspective, redirect you onto the right path and put you in touch with the right people at the right time, sipping a morning cappuccino or an evening glass of wine.*

*Embrace your Journey, this is the time for love, life and everything else.....*

*Nici*



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Tyme Photography &  
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*Congratulations! Your wedding planning Journey has officially begun... Already you are juggling the celebration of it all whilst still trying to manage work, play and your normal hectic schedule. Creating this event should not drive you to panic, as with good organisation, forethought, planning and the right contacts, the process will be fun and enjoyable.*

*A marriage is a time to celebrate love and commitment to your partner. You will both need patience, respect, listening skills and of course, compromise throughout the planning process.*



*Moments by Annalene*

*In order to stay sane, try to anticipate what kind of stresses you will be under and the kind of things that push your buttons and adopt strategies to deal with these. Friction over the guest list or selection of the venue can transform even the most relaxed of people into raving lunatics.*

- *Establish a program of anti-stress techniques, from a regular exercise routine to a weekly get together with a close friend.*
- *Book yourself for a monthly facial or resolve to do one positive thing for yourself each day.*
- *Eat healthily and try to ease back on the celebratory drinking!*
- *Do not diet as you will tend to lose weight naturally in the build up to the wedding and sudden weight loss can cause fatigue and irritability.*



*Moments by Annalene*



*Tyme Photography*

*If you feel strongly about organising certain aspects of the event, make sure you keep tight control of these and delegate responsibly to family and friends the parts you feel less strongly about.*

*In short, be prepared to compromise. A wedding is a shared affair and although traditionally called "the bride's day", it tends to extend to relatives, friends and in-laws-to-be! The Groom very specifically should have the right to be involved in all decisions and makes it more valuable if planned together.*

*In order to maintain healthy family relationships, try to remain positive and happy throughout, communicate your intentions to family members, clarify from the beginning who is doing and paying for what and call in friends where necessary.*

*There are many people and platforms to assist throughout your wedding planning, be it a wedding planner or wedding planning events. Visit wedding expos, go on a Marriage Meander Journey, purchase bridal magazines, blog and visit the wedding sites.*



*These will all assist you in the wonderful world of weddings and make your wedding planning an interesting and wondrous journey.*

*Off to a Great Start*

# Dates to Diarise

## *Buitengeluk*

- Regular food and wine evenings
- Something special on all celebratory dates  
[www.buitengelukvenue.co.za](http://www.buitengelukvenue.co.za)

## *Café Fleur & Cor de Rosa Open Days*

- Held on the first Saturday of each month  
[www.cafefleur.co.za](http://www.cafefleur.co.za)

## *Indaba Hotel*

- Bridal Indaba Expo - 4th and 5th February  
[www.indabahotel.co.za](http://www.indabahotel.co.za)

## *Guvon Hotels & Spas*

- Regular food and wine evenings
- Something special on all celebratory dates  
[www.guvon.co.za](http://www.guvon.co.za)

## *Marriage Meander Journeys*

- Held during the winter months  
[www.marriagemeander.co.za](http://www.marriagemeander.co.za)

## *Memoire Function Venue*

- Monthly food tastings  
[www.memoire.co.za](http://www.memoire.co.za)

## *Oakfield Farm*

- Annual Bridal Expo January
- Wedding Workshops
- Venue Tours on Saturdays  
[www.oakfield.co.za](http://www.oakfield.co.za)

## *Toadbury Hall*

- Toadbury Food and Wine Festival – 29 April and 2 September.
- Something special on all celebratory dates
- Deli is open Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays - "Five Star service in shorts and t-shirts... light faire by the Crocodile River." [www.toadbury.co.za](http://www.toadbury.co.za)

# All Wrapped Up and Ready to Go

Up market, elegant gifts and home ware, beautifully wrapped with the guests' personal message, and delivered directly to the bride, not only locally but anywhere in the world. This is a service made possible thanks to Johannesburg businesswoman Sharon Richards-Lund, who started Silver Ribbon online bridal gift registry six years ago, enabling South African brides to benefit from a site that is easy to navigate and gives friends and family a convenient way to purchase wedding gifts – from anywhere in the world.

Speaking to Sharon about her passion for the environment, home wares and beautiful things, one can tell immediately what makes this such a successful brand.

FREE  
SERVICE



At Silver Ribbon Online Bridal Gift Registry we pride ourselves on being the perfect Registry Specialist, and hundreds of South African brides who have registered with us clearly agree.

If you love beautiful things for all areas of your home, registering with [www.SilverRibbon.co.za](http://www.SilverRibbon.co.za) is the only choice for you, and your guests will love it too.

Visit our website to see a video on how our service works.

SPECIAL, FREE, CONVENIENT and ONLINE

 Silver Ribbon ONLINE BRIDAL GIFT REGISTRY

[www.SilverRibbon.co.za](http://www.SilverRibbon.co.za) | [gifts@SilverRibbon.co.za](mailto:gifts@SilverRibbon.co.za)

Says Sharon "Inspired by the online shopping available in London, I started thinking about how this business model could work in South Africa. Traditionally, SA gift registries are done in store with a scanner. Once completed, the bride is left with a list of codes, without pictures, descriptions or an idea of what she has chosen. What my vision was with Silver Ribbon was for the bride to be able to see an image and description of every single item she has chosen, and make changes to her list right up until the last moment. The process should involve planning and not impulsiveness. And this is exactly what Silver Ribbon Online Bridal gift registry has achieved.

When asked what sets Silver Ribbon apart from other wedding registry services, Sharon explains that besides the fantastic selection of gifts to choose from, she also offers the couples the opportunity to discuss their selection with her, and customise their gift registry accordingly. They carry unique gifts as well as the "well known" brands in the world of home furnishings, appliances and crockery, in a variety of price ranges, making this a perfect choice for the beginner bride as well as the couple who already have everything. A well thought out checklist covering every room in the home is provided on [www.SilverRibbon.co.za](http://www.SilverRibbon.co.za)

Amazingly, registration and delivery is free to the bridal couple anywhere in South Africa. They can also deliver nationally and internationally for a nominal fee.

Six years down the line, having established Silver Ribbon as the most convenient, sought after brand for the bridal couples, Sharon says "A good friend of mine once told me that resigning from a stable job is the hardest thing to do – it's tough, but there is no looking back. I am very glad I followed her advice and embraced the challenge."



# Silver Ribbon Suggestions

We are constantly being asked for advice on what you should add to your gift registry.

If you want to avoid receiving five identical kettles and several toasters, it is a good idea to have a "wedding list". With over 25 000 products in our virtual department store, the selection may seem a little overwhelming and that is why we like to assist with your personal selection but here are some generic tips for different areas of your home.



## Dining and Glassware

A dinner service is de rigueur on a wedding list, but don't think that a setting for eight is enough... You've got a lifetime of dinner parties, family occasions and holiday celebrations ahead of you and you definitely don't want to be mixing and borrowing then! So rather think along the lines of a 12 person setting, even if your current dining table won't stretch that far. And from champagne for two to Pimm's for twenty two, you'll want a decent assortment of glassware or crystal for special occasions and everyday drinking.

## Cooking and Kitchenware

Face up to the fact that you're all grown up now (hello...you're getting married!) and replace the warped pots you've had since digs with something decent. Think about what and how you cook so that you're armed and dangerous when it comes to the stove. Spaghetti mad – a pasta pot will hit the spot. Stir-fry much - then wok this way! And there's preparation and storage to consider too, not to mention looks. You want your kitchen to look hot, even if your cooking's not.

## Décor and Accessories

Transform your newly-wed pad into home sweet home and give yourselves a great excuse to stay in and get cosy. Some super soft throws are a great place to start, making that old couch more snugly. And love 'em or hate 'em, those home makeover shows are right – a few well chosen "smaller details" such as vases, picture frames and mirrors will give any room an instant face lift. As any well-heeled woman will know, the secret to successful style is in the accessories.



## *Furniture and Lighting*

Want a completely new look to set the scene for your happily ever after? Set the style with furniture and the mood with lighting. Add drama to your rooms with statement pieces, or get back to basics, and throw a little light on the subject with a glittering chandelier or hurricane lamps. To refresh, warm, soften or brighten, don't underestimate the power of the bulb.

## *Bed and Bath*

When people say that things got boring in the bedroom after they got married, they simply didn't put the right bed and bath accessories on their wedding list. Think of your bedroom as an oasis and your bathroom as your own personal spa and choose accordingly. Soft neutral colours are good (white is best) and go for the best quality you can. Cheap isn't always cheerful in the land of nod – you'll want your bedding and towels to survive more than one wash!

## *Household and Garden*

Opposites attract. So it's not surprising that one of you likes to keep busy on a Sunday afternoon: replanting those geraniums; fixing that wonky shelf, tinkering, tidying, gardening, potting and pottering. And of course there's getting the braai going and entertaining al fresco on a hot summer's eve. For one of you, there's always so much to do! Just as long as the other half has a comfortable place to snooze, like a lounge with colourful scatter cushions...

## *Eco Friendly*

I've just raised sponsorship to plant an entire bushbaby corridor in our wetland consisting of 270 trees which makes me feel like I'm giving back to the area which we've developed. This was done in consultation with Bushbaby SOS. As often as possible we promote and stock environmentally kind products, made from sustainable resources, in addition to our owl and bat boxes and various other eco-friendly gift options.

## *Big Day Boutique*

You've organised the flowers, tasted the cake and mastered the first dance – you've even sorted through your [www.silverribbon.co.za](http://www.silverribbon.co.za) gift registry list! So how do you repay your nearest and dearest for their support and love throughout, not to mention arranging those fantastic hen and stag dos? With a range of gifts for all members of the wedding party – from classic and luxurious to cute and quirky... the Big Day Boutique has all the extras you'll need for your Big Day.

[www.silverribbon.co.za](http://www.silverribbon.co.za) has a downloadable pdf checklist on their home page



# Learning to Create Personalised Perfection



The SA School of Weddings is not just any wedding school, it is a training facility for future leaders in the wedding industry.

It is the only industry endorsed wedding school and aims to give potential wedding personnel a solid background and knowledge base in the wedding industry. The training venues are based in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Durban and Port Elizabeth.

The SA School of Weddings offers a wide range of courses - Wedding Planning Course, Flower Arranging and Function Decor, Event and Wedding Draping, Stationery, Professional Cake Course, Photography, and Bridal Make-Up.

The Founder of The SA School of Weddings, Khali Collins, holds an excellent reputation in the wedding industry and enjoys the respect of various industry leaders. Khali has previously been involved in the design and implementation of courses in Conference, Exhibition and Events Management for a national tertiary education group. Thus, in addition to her extensive knowledge of the wedding industry, Khali is well equipped to educate future professionals. However, it is her love for weddings and her passion for creating that perfect day which are the qualities she hopes to share with her students.

A strong practical hands-on approach to planning that special day. All courses offer useful hands-on experience, which can't be found anywhere else except for working in the industry itself. The students are able to participate in planning of charity events, wedding set-ups and other important wedding industry events.

All courses offered by The SA School of Weddings are designed by industry professionals to equip future wedding industry leaders with the skills they will need for a successful career. The courses are presented by the industry leaders - Khali Collins herself, Eve Poplett of Splendid Affairs, Michelle Du Plessis of Silver Lining, Michael Tree and Christiaan David, Kate of Sugar 'n Ice, Carol from Le Papier, Paul from Zoo Sound, Jem Catering, Lyn Reece and Lady Marmalaide.

To find out more, visit the SA School of Weddings website for more details:



<http://www.saschoolofweddings.co.za>  
[info@saschoolofweddings.co.za](mailto:info@saschoolofweddings.co.za)

Khali Collins, the owner of *The Wedding Specialist* is a seasoned wedding professional. Khali is a well-known wedding planner, coordinator, floral designer as well as the owner of the SA School of Weddings. Her business is now seven years old, and with 10 years of experience in the wedding industry, she knows every aspect of a successful wedding.

From the moment a bride walks into *The Wedding Specialist*, the sense of being in the right place at the right time fills even the most anxious bride with confidence that all her wedding plans will be handled professionally.

Khali built her reputation for being one of the most respected individuals in the wedding industry by working hard, striving for the highest levels of professionalism by giving her clients dream weddings, perfectly planned and executed to the finest detail. Anyone who knows Khali always notes and compliments the exceptional way she is able to connect with the bride. She always knows what is needed - a cheerful smile, a hug, a cup of coffee or simply a chat to go over the previously discussed and perfectly planned final details for a wedding. Khali makes herself available to her clients throughout the whole process, the wedding day and even after the wedding.

Khali has a great talent for making couples feel comfortable exploring and ultimately realising every aspect of their perfect wedding day. Every idea and request is carefully considered and every (reasonable) wish is accommodated.

On the day of the wedding, Khali and her team will make sure that the bride, groom, their families and friends have an amazing day. All set-up requirements are professionally handled with careful attention to the smallest details. Khali is the kind of planner who will notice if a veil is pinned the wrong way, or will calm a distressed bride who may be unhappy with her hair. She will fix any wardrobe malfunction and will make sure her bride walks down the aisle looking exceptionally beautiful and feeling calm. She will not shy away from the challenge of coordinating complicated wedding requests, even those involving pets! Khali has a gift for turning even the most challenging situation into something a bride will smile about.

And if you ask her why she does what she does, she answers with a smile – “Weddings are about celebrating two people in love, the beginning of an incredible journey and the day which will be remembered by the couple forever. A wedding is a day when a new story begins, an occasion that celebrates love, family, community and life. A wedding is that one day that will come and go, and there are no do-overs. A wedding planner has only one day to get things 'right' and make sure that at the end of the planning process, and at the end of the magical day, all that bride and groom will think of is just how perfect the day was - a perfect beginning to a perfect life together.”

Why Weddings are so Special

So if you want your wedding day planned by a professional planner who is not just experienced but also a wonderful and caring woman who will see you through the entire process, contact *The Wedding Specialist*.

Khali Collins 082 445 9086  
[www.theweddingspecialist.co.za](http://www.theweddingspecialist.co.za) | [info@theweddingspecialist.co.za](mailto:info@theweddingspecialist.co.za)



Simply... Splendid!

Splendid Affairs is a Wedding Planning Company specialising in Full Event Design, Flower Arranging and Décor Styling . Evegenia Poplett, the owner of Splendid Affairs, has the following insight into wedding planning:

"I have been a wedding planner since 2007. I style weddings by using relevant décor, and do all the flower arranging myself. The success of past weddings I have planned is largely due to the established network of trusted and professional wedding service providers who are passionate about their art, as I am about mine. I use my professional knowledge and experience to plan, guide, design and create your beautiful, unforgettable and splendid wedding.

Some of the incredibly crucial facets of modern event design is personalised style, simplicity, elegance, and an ability to enjoy your special day. When planning and designing a wedding, I work together with my clients in designing a wedding that is uniquely theirs and not a copy of re-used ideas. Everything you see on my website I have designed, sourced and created myself. I am proud of every single wedding I have produced and still remember all my clients – their dates, venue and small details. I treasure each relationship I form and to me, a wedding is a special occasion and I consider myself privileged to be a part of a wedding.

I do not follow trends, but rather try and find ways to set trends using my couples for direction and inspiration. No one is a blank slate, so when I am talking to clients about their wedding wishes they tell me what they have in mind. Couples are comprised of likes, dislikes, experiences and aspirations. I want to learn about their personal taste and interests, and not only what they've pulled from wedding magazines and blogs. What they love in their personal lives is what they are going to connect with most on their wedding day. Once I understand and connect with someone, designs come effortlessly.



"I know it is important to stay on top of things, seek out new and exciting products and I love the search for that 'newness'. Yet, at the same time it is all about my client and how I can bring their vision to life with a touch of that signature Splendid Affairs style.

I am confident in my knowledge of all aspects of weddings, and this is evident by my qualifications, as I am a lecturer at The SA School of Weddings. Furthermore, I am a qualified and registered pre-marital counsellor, and able to provide much needed support and guidance to all my clients during this highly emotional time for them and their families.

In a nutshell I am creative and passionate about weddings! I love creating beautiful weddings and I would love to meet with you and hopefully work with you on creating the wedding day of your dreams."

Evegenia



Custo Photography



Alexander Smith



Custo Photography



[www.splendidaffairs.co.za](http://www.splendidaffairs.co.za)  
[www.blog.splendidaffairs.co.za](http://www.blog.splendidaffairs.co.za)  
072 221 5882  
011-4638306

# A Wedding Journey



Time Photography

The Marriage Meander began with the concept of collaborative marketing and has continued with these efforts since its inception in 2001. The original concept included Marriage Meander Journeys and Marriage Meander booklets (originally an eight page booklet used as Bridal Expo Guides).

To this day, the concept remains the same. It is the collaborative scale that has grown and the support of the industry and the bridal couples along the way that have made the Marriage Meander's Journey such a successful one.

Nici Bailes, Gauteng Director of the Marriage Meander says "We are all about networking, match making client and supplier and forming relationships to ensure the perfect Marriage."

The Marriage Meander tools include Wedding Planning Therapy (not for the insane, just an informal meeting to assist you at any stage of your planning and put you back on track, connect you with the right people and put your mind at ease), Marriage Meander Journeys (luxury coach trips transporting you to select wedding venues and meet professional wedding suppliers) and Marriage Mazes (interactive workshops with interactive people).

The Marriage Meander Website [www.marriagemeador.co.za](http://www.marriagemeador.co.za) hosts reliably sourced wedding suppliers and venues, together with useful event dates, features and promotions.

*It's all about the Journey.....*

THE MARRIAGE

Meander  
GAUTENG



*info@marriagemeador.co.za / (011) 469 5494 / 083 267 2946*

Contemporary weddings are not always religious in nature, but often secular (known as civil weddings) and different traditions apply to different ceremonies.

Religious options may include your current church, temple or synagogue, your parents' place of worship, a school or college chapel.

Civil weddings may take place in gardens, on roof tops, a registry office or at wedding chapels by inter denominational ministers or marriage officers.



Many of the purpose built wedding venues have their own chapels on the premises and this allows you the convenience of getting ready at the venue, having photographs taken just before the ceremony and the comfort of knowing you will not be delayed by traffic.

Celebrants bring their own personality to the occasion and set the tone for much of the ceremony. If you decide to have a religious ceremony, your priest or rabbi will normally preside over the arrangements. For the civil ceremony, you will select your own celebrant. A celebrant will guide you through the required legal procedures required for your marriage, as well as perform and direct your ceremony on the day.

### *Important things to keep in mind:*

- ⦿ Meet with your celebrant of choice beforehand to discuss the proceedings and ensure you are comfortable with their style and beliefs
- ⦿ Decide whether you are going to write your own vows or follow a traditional order of service
- ⦿ Check how many guests the chapel/church can accommodate as this is not always in line with the reception venue
- ⦿ Check whether photographs or recordings of the ceremony are permitted
- ⦿ Check whether confetti (paper, rice, flower petals etc.) is allowed
- ⦿ Have a rehearsal (no matter how informal the ceremony) so that all those involved have a clear understanding of their cues, entrances, exits etc.
- ⦿ Check the transport route if not at the wedding venue and ensure that major sporting events will not interfere with your timing



# I Do

# Committed to South Africans who are Committed to the Future of This Country

Kuilman Mundell & Arlow are not your normal firm of attorneys. They believe that a marriage contract is not your typical legal agreement. It involves aspects beyond the law. It is an agreement which has lifestyle and moral connotations and do not take their responsibilities in this regard lightly. For this reason, they offer ante nuptial consultations and contracts at a fixed price regardless of the length and complexity of the consultation. They also believe that it is essential to ensure that both parties properly understand the nature and purpose of the contract which they are signing. They prefer for parties to consult with them face-to-face unless it is absolutely impossible. This may sound old-fashioned, but it does not cost you anything extra and is extremely worthwhile.

Their goal is to ensure that couples enter into an ante nuptial contract that is fair to both parties, whilst at the same time protecting both parties as best as possible from creditors and exposure to the debt of a spouse. Says Patrick and Bernadette: "We also strive not only to have fun at work ourselves, but also to make the ante nuptial consultation relaxed and amicable. In short, we enjoy doing what they do.

Quite often a young person's first experience with an attorney is the ante nuptial consultation and we believe that it is an opportunity for us to form relationships with our clients which will last a lifetime. We do offer a variety of other services such as the preparation of wills, conveyancing, general property matters and property litigation, town planning and outdoor advertising advice, administration of estates, registration of trusts and companies and general legal advice.



Tyme Photography



## Kuilman Mundell & Arlow Attorneys

Kuilman Mundell & Arlow specialize in the preparation of ante nuptial contracts and advice on how to structure your matrimonial property system.

Consultations at your convenience including Saturdays.

In addition you are welcome to e-mail to us any query which you may have on marriage contracts.

Contact: Patrick / Bernadette  
Tel: 011 465 4151  
Fax: 011 465 6639  
E-mail: [bernadette@kmattorneys.co.za](mailto:bernadette@kmattorneys.co.za)

The firm's philosophy is to provide a personal service to its clients and in order to meet the extraneous needs of clients not covered by our areas of speciality, we practice in association with Matthew Kerr - Phillips who specialises in general litigation. We also put our money (as opposed to yours) where our mouth is. If you consult with us for an ante nuptial contract but do not conclude a contract with us, then we will not charge you for the consultation."

[www.kmattorneys.co.za](http://www.kmattorneys.co.za)  
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e-mail: [dieter@rentaparson.co.za](mailto:dieter@rentaparson.co.za)

website: [www.rentaparson.co.za](http://www.rentaparson.co.za)

*A South African of German origin, Dieter is English, German and Afrikaans speaking.*

*Many years ago, while still an artisan, Dieter became involved in youth work to such an extent that he decided to be fully trained as a pastor.*

*He studied theology in Germany and South Africa and was ordained as minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, thereby also becoming a licensed Marriage Officer. He served in several congregations throughout KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng until his early retirement in 1998.*

*Since then, he has continued with the part of his work that he enjoys most which is working with couples on an individual basis, preparing them for a lifetime together. In this way, he feels he can pass on his many years of counselling experience which he finds most rewarding.*

*While also doing relief work in congregations around Gauteng and beyond, his main focus is on weddings.*

*Says Dieter "Meeting people from around the world and every walk of life is what makes this an especially enjoyable task, and I am looking forward to continually offering my services to couples in the future."*



*Beyond Photography*

*Rent a Parson*

# My Story

I studied Theology and practiced as a fulltime Minister for 8 years before being diagnosed with cancer in 1995. After undergoing surgery and chemotherapy, I was suddenly out of "Fulltime Ministry" and had to look for a job in the secular world. I worked various jobs in admin, even spending a year in the control room of a Security Company! What a culture shock it was for this Pentecostal boy! Suddenly I had to live what I believed and preached without saying a word.

I believe that in this time I became a more balanced person, more in touch with the reality of everyday living and the challenges that every person experiences in life "outside the church". I realized that as Christian believers we need to be the church. It is a way of living 24/7, not a place you go to. God wants to be involved in everything in your everyday living and He wants you to enjoy it!"

In 2002 I started advertising my services as a "Non Denominational Marriage Officer" in order to create the opportunity to preach. It was around this time I found myself retrenched and realized that if I could do 2 weddings a week I could replace the salary the factory had paid me. I have never looked back.

Within a few months, the Ministry / Business had grown so well, I was networking with +- 40 Pastors around South Africa. In a sense God used me to pioneer a new Ministry, specializing in doing weddings and baby dedications all over the country for couples who, for whatever reason did not have a Pastor. This gave us an opportunity to share with them and their guests the Good News of the Gospel about having a Loving Relationship with God without any condemnation and drew that through to the Marriage Relationship. My heart's desire is that the wedding ceremony will set the trend and atmosphere for the rest to follow on the day. People must be able to say: Wow! That was the best wedding I have ever been to!

I met my second wife Mariana in June 2005. A year later she started photography and since 2007 she stepped out on her own as a Professional Photographer. We have built on a photo studio / Chapel at our home and expanded the business / ministry in that way too.

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www.wedbyjaco.co.za  
www.magic-moments.za.net

Personally, I do an average of 12 to 20 weddings a month at R1400 a wedding, plus transport fees. This we expand by offering a service for clients to apply for their Unabridged Marriage Certificates at Home Affairs on their behalf, at no extra cost. I have also equipped myself with a quality Sound System to rent out and have gone through a major learning curve becoming a DJ too!! I hope to expand the use of the Sound System with a personal singing ministry, linked to weddings but hopefully also at other gatherings.

My understanding of ministry has totally changed from the idea of being a Pastor of a local church, preaching to the same crowd every week, to reaching out in the marketplace to the unsaved. I see more and more how God also take pastors out of the Main Stream Church setup and throws them back into the marketplace through business opportunities that become ministry opportunities. Today I see in every business opportunity a ministry opportunity – there where the "Tekkie hits the Tar"!

In Him  
Jaco Venter

# I now Pronounce you Mrs

If you're anything like the i'm a mrs team, back in your school days you doodled away many a maths class practising what your signature would look like if you married your favourite crush. Little did you know that once you really did have to change your name, it would make choosing your wedding venue seem as easy as pie. And let's face it – once you have spent months agonising over guest lists, debating whether it's a good idea to seat the Book Club girls with his vulgar varsity buddies, who really wants to face more admin?

Not Michelle Farren-Handford. A newlywed herself, she realised the plight the new bride faced having to rearrange her clothing accounts, ID book, passport and other necessities into her new name, AND all the hassle that went into finding the right forms to send to the right people at all the different organisations – so she set up a website to assist those facing the same trials and tribulations.

i'm a mrs

Say 'I do' to [lamamrs.com](http://lamamrs.com), where you'll find a database of more than 800 companies, from retail outlets to municipalities and other government departments, as well as loyalty programmes. Michelle has done all the slog of finding the right forms for you, so all you have to do is click on the organisation, download the appropriate document, and send to the contact person detailed on the site. 'I'm a Mrs' gives you the where's (who to send to), what's (what to send) and how's (how to send it i.e by fax, email or phone) of name change - it really couldn't be simpler. Unfortunately, you'll still have to queue at Home Affairs to make the actual name change, but with all the dog work done, even this nasty task becomes a whole lot more palatable – and besides, with identity theft being a major issue in South Africa, would you really want someone else to do this for you?

A package from [lamamrs.com](http://lamamrs.com) makes for a fabulous bridal shower gift – so hold off on that leopard-print thong that your white cotton knicker-loving friend probably wouldn't have worn anyway. The website offers two packages to choose from: their standard package gives you access to contacts on documentation required to change your name on all government forms, including driver's license, ID book, passport and municipality forms, plus a further three forms of your choice, and costs R299. Their premium package gives you unlimited access to every company listed on the site's extensive database, for R399. Plus, if they don't have information for a company that you need, they will get it for you in 3 days – no problem, no charge!

Best of all, you can access the forms whenever you want – because as wonderful as married life is, you may want to hold on to your own name just a little longer. After all, it did serve you well for so many years... Plus, as a new bride, you have better things to think about – such as trying out that leopard print thong after all...



Contact the I'm a mrs team on [za.info@imamrs.com](mailto:za.info@imamrs.com) or check them out at [www.imamrs.com](http://www.imamrs.com)



# Location Location

*When choosing the setting for your reception, remember this is about having your friends and family in one place to celebrate with you and so should speak to you about your style and personalities as a couple.*

*It is important to discuss with your partner what you think is realistic to spend on the reception and this will determine where you can hold the event and what sort of extras you can look at. There are many options to the traditional sit down Saturday evening reception and it is essential that if you find the venue of your dreams you discuss these options with them as many of them offer a variety of midweek, winter, cocktail or Sunday luncheon reception options. Also keep in mind that most venues have their own chef or caterer and will provide a selection of menus, some of which may be altered to your specific taste (this may reflect additional costs and is essential to discuss this with the venue). The venue will also take care of the bar arrangements for you, together with the waiting staff and these costs are generally additional to the venue hire.*



Snapdragon Pictures



Tyme Photography

*When selecting your venue, keep the following in mind:*

- ⦿ Does the venue comfortably hold your number of guests
- ⦿ What is included and excluded in the venue hire and cost per person
- ⦿ Are there noise restrictions
- ⦿ Is there accommodation on the premises or close by
- ⦿ What is the lighting/atmosphere like at the time of your reception
- ⦿ How far in advance should you book
- ⦿ Can you bring in your own suppliers eg. décor, music etc.



# Buitengeluk

Buitengeluk, located within the magnificent Broadacres Estate in the Heart of Fourways, Johannesburg, offers its guests a unique combination of a traditional Cape Dutch venue, situated in a haven of carefully tended gardens.

This unique ambience is created by the distinctive Cape Dutch feel, and offers a perfect setting for luncheons, meetings, daily seminars, weddings and conferences. Your every wish will be catered for by a skilled team of specialists. Personal attention is paramount when planning a function, and here no detail will be overlooked when ensuring that day is perfect. You and your guests will have a once in a lifetime experience that will be remembered for its individuality, grace and charm.

## Weddings and Private Functions

Buitengeluk provides a particularly appropriate setting for wedding receptions and with the availability of a chapel it provides an all in one venue. The magnificent gardens and tasteful landscaping provide a perfect photographic opportunity.

Their courteous and friendly staff will be on hand to welcome you and offer an unpretentious service making you feel immediately at ease. You are assured of being well looked after and treated with the individuality, care and attention you deserve. The management and staff will personally assist you at every stage until all aspects of your dream day are arranged.

## Restaurant

The Buitengeluk restaurant, open from Wednesday to Sunday for breakfast or lunch, provides a beautiful setting for any such occasion. Buitengeluk is available for conferences from Monday to Friday. They also specialize in small to medium size functions including: Stork Teas, Engagement Parties, Year End functions, Bridal Showers, Birthdays and other private celebrations.



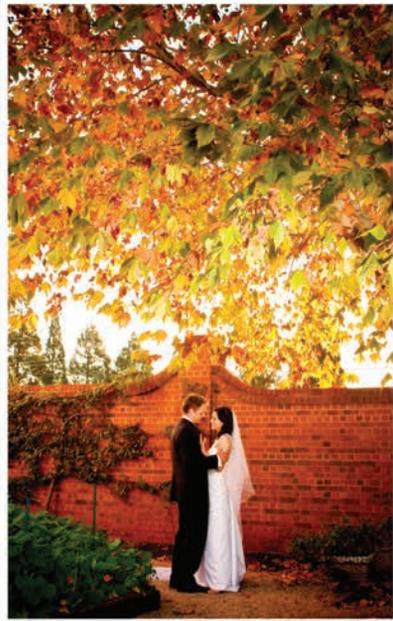
Moments by Annalene

Tyme Photography



Enjoy their superb service, exquisite food and peaceful surroundings.

# Buitengeluk



*Gourmet Food, Breathtaking Gardens and Traditional Hospitality...  
...a Venue of Unsurpassed Elegance*

w e d d i n g & f u n c t i o n v e n u e

Phone: 011 540-1562/56 Fax: 011 540-1563 email: [buitengeluk001@telkomsa.net](mailto:buitengeluk001@telkomsa.net) Web: [www.buitengelukvenue.co.za](http://www.buitengelukvenue.co.za)  
BROADACRES LIFESTYLE CENTRE, CNR. CEDAR & VALLEY ROADS, BROADACRES, FOURWAYS

# From Picnic to Golf Greatness

Oom Gustav Pansegrouw, as he is fondly called, is now 79. Like a wonderful vintage wine, he has aged with grace, wisdom and a healthy dose of humour. In 1978, Oom Gustav established Guvon Investments. What started as a vehicle for property development for big names such as the Morningside, Sandton and Olivedale Clinics, soon expanded to the hotel industry with Glenburn Lodge as the first of the ever-expanding hotel and spa portfolio.



In 1990, Glenburn Lodge, situated in 'The Cradle of Humankind', was opened as an intimate weekend getaway on a large piece of farm land. Simple weekend accommodation and thatch umbrellas graced the natural countryside and the Pansegrouw family grew up playing next to the river. Chalets were built and a garage-sized room was converted to a conference room for around twenty delegates. Additions to the original buildings and facilities were carried out every year thereafter and Glenburn Lodge developed over a period of two decades into an award-winning conference and wedding venue with 100 bedrooms and three magnificent wedding venues.

Umbhaba Lodge opened in 1997, just outside Hazzyview in Mpumalanga. This friendly little lodge has grown from a small 14 bedroom hotel to 30 suites, with weddings in the romantic open-sided chapel on the dam being its core business.



Kloofzicht Lodge then opened in December 2004. Also situated in 'The Cradle of Humankind', adjacent to Glenburn Lodge, the hotel is built on the banks of the Blaauwbank River around 6 beautifully positioned fly-fishing dams within a pristine nature reserve. The original 30 suite lodge expanded to 60 suites with a beautiful Spa last year.

With Oom Gustav now semi-retired, his son Kosie Pansegrouw runs the Guvon Group with the Pansegrouw family actively involved in different aspects of the business. Having the Big 5 and a Golf Resort still eluded the Guvon Group. This was rectified two years ago when Kosie partnered with Giuseppe Plumari on two projects.

Famous for its elephant wedding blessings, Askari Game Lodge in Hekpoort has grown from an 18 roomed lodge to a 30 room hotel with exquisite function, wedding and conference facilities. The main lodge is in fact the old Bodenstein family farmhouse, where guests can admire South African décor pieces dating back to the 1800's. Askari Lodge has one of the largest private collections of ox wagons, carts and other animal drawn vehicles from the period 1800 to 1900. In contrast with the rich Boere and Afrikaner history depicted by the main farmhouse decor, the Day Visitors Center is abundant with African symbology, rich earthy colours and unique



*African décor focal points. The two contrasting décor themes pay homage to the Afrikaner history whilst highlighting the significant influence of the indigenous African tribes of the area.*



*The Fairway Hotel & Golf Resort on the Randpark Golf Course is now just over a year old and has in its short life span hosted the rich and famous, kicking off with the Brazilian Soccer World Cup team as its first guests. This flagship property is extremely popular for its fine dining restaurant, Balata, under the guidance of chef Jean-Pierre Siegenthaler.*

*What started as small beginnings with the joining of the names of Oom Gustav and Tannie Yvonne, has happily evolved in a hotel and property giant, Guvon Hotels & Spas, which has literally provided the perfect backdrop for hundreds of brides over more than two decades.*



# Your dream wedding



## Guvon Hotels & Spas feature

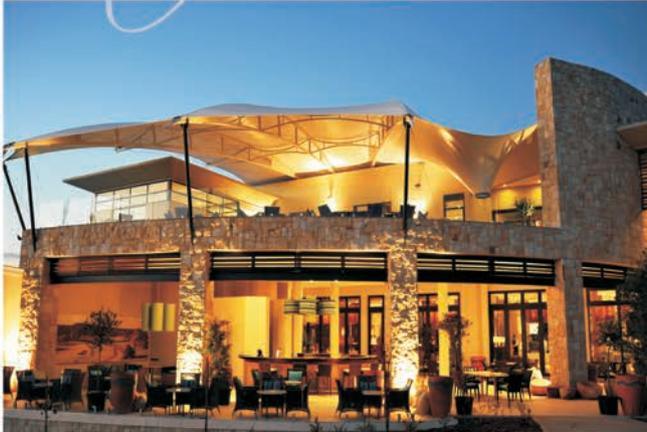
**Glenkyle, Glenburn Lodge**  
**Glencove, Glenburn Lodge**  
**Glenwillow at Bush Willow Tented Camp**  
**Chicama Spa**  
**Kloofzicht Lodge**  
**Umbhaba Lodge**  
**Askari Game Lodge**  
**The Fairway Hotel & Spa**

200 + guests? We have a solution  
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An African inspiration  
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Call one number for wedding quotes at 8 destinations in  
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with Guvon Hotels



[www.guvonhotels.co.za](http://www.guvonhotels.co.za)

LESS 20% ON ACCOMMODATION BOOKED ON THE WEBSITE

# Indaba Hotel and Conference Centre

*The Indaba Hotel and Conference Centre is the perfect place for you to say your "I Do's" and to start the journey of many happy memories together. With our tried and tested excellence you couldn't go wrong.*

*Built in 1952, the Indaba Hotel was first known as the "Little Rose Neath Hotel". It had a warm country house feel and consisted of a mere fourteen bedrooms, a small bar and restaurant. Situated in Fourways it was considered a day's trip from Johannesburg and was famous for its Sunday lunches.*

*The Hotel was well known amongst the mink and manure community. Guests would arrive on horse back and hitch their horses under a tree whilst enjoying an ice cold beer or welcomed gin and tonic accompanied by a delicious luncheon.*

*In the early 70's the Hotel was sold to a Greek lady by the name of Madame Stetakis. She added a function venue which is today known as Ndaba Palace. It was very popular for weddings and other functions and remains popular today.*

*Shortly thereafter, the Hotel was sold to and renamed The Fourways Gardens Hotel. It was later sold to Barclays Bank who added an additional 120 bedrooms and 22 conference venues as well as the 200 seater Auditorium, and was used primarily as a training facility for the Barclays Bank staff.*

*Karos Hotels took over in 1989 and an additional 88 rooms were added as well as the Injabulo function room.*

*The Hotel has been owned by African Procurement Agencies since 2002 and Rob Mickel, the Operations Director and Fanie Botha, the Financial Director, manage the Hotel and property.*

*In the years since the Kgotla function room, 50 additional hotel bedrooms, a gym, beauty salon and our very own African dining experience restaurant Chief's Boma have been added to the list of facilities we can brag about.*

*The Hotel continues to grow from strength to strength and has become an 'Oasis in the City' and will always be remembered for its award winning facilities and warm country house feel with friendly and welcoming staff.*

*We look forward to welcoming you to the Indaba Hotel!*





  
**INDABA**  
HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE  
FOURWAYS JOHANNESBURG

The Indaba Hotel is the perfect place to say your "I do's". We are in the hustle and bustle of the city that is Fourways, but it feels like you are a thousand miles away in the country. We have a variety of venues to choose from for your reception and a venue for your chapel service as well as a gazebo for those that want a garden wedding. You can choose from our Wedding Packages or we can assist you in custom making your day special day. Our hands on staff are ready to make YOUR DAY the perfect day for you and your loved ones.

**We are ready to welcome you to the Indaba Hotel.**

Contact details:

Tel: 011 840 6600 Fax: 011 840 6610

Email: [sales@indabahotel.co.za](mailto:sales@indabahotel.co.za) Web: [www.indabahotel.co.za](http://www.indabahotel.co.za)



# Kleinkaap

Inspired by the fairest Cape, the gracious Kleinkaap Cape Dutch Manor Hotel enthuses beauty and elegance. Encapsulated in solitude, amidst lush majestic oak trees in natural free flowing indigenous gardens, in the foremost suburb of Clubview in Centurion, Kleinkaap offers picture perfect luxury.

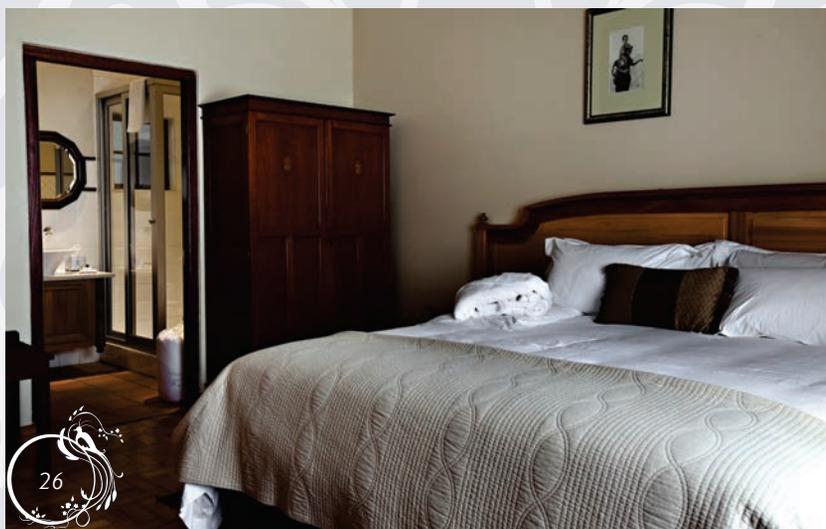
In keeping with tradition, the current owners, the Malan family, have expanded the estate maintaining the original Cape Dutch style architecture. The Manor House is in extent of 1000m<sup>2</sup> and the venue facilities cover an estimated 600m<sup>2</sup>. Currently there are four grain silos, huge shady trees, and of course the Homestead on the estate to remind them of their proud heritage.

Garden or Banquet weddings and functions are held in this lush tranquil setting under the oak trees. Should you choose to have a more intimate wedding, banquet halls and other indoor venues are also available. Secure parking for all guests is available within the estate.



The Four Star Kleinkaap Boutique Hotel, situated within the property, is a proud addition to Kleinkaap Estate. Luxury facilities and accommodation have recently been completed, also maintaining the elegant Cape Dutch style. All rooms are luxury en-suite king rooms with state of the art amenities, flat screen televisions and wireless intranet. 36 Double rooms are available to enhance the beauty of Kleinkaap and to make your journey unforgettable.

First class cuisine and professional service is the standard at Kleinkaap. Their menus mirror the seasons incorporating many of South Africa's finest natural ingredients and their executive chef will ensure that your guests have a memorable and unforgettable experience.



*[www.kleinkaap.co.za](http://www.kleinkaap.co.za)  
[info@kleinkaap.co.za](mailto:info@kleinkaap.co.za)  
Tel: 012 654 4632*



# *Kleinkaap Boutique Hotel*



*Personal Tranquil Everlasting*

Tel: +27 12 654 9878 Fax: +27 12 654 1979 Cell: +27 82 883 3383/9 Email: [info@kleinkaap.co.za](mailto:info@kleinkaap.co.za)  
87 Jim van der Merwe Rd, Clubview Centurion [www.kleinkaap.co.za](http://www.kleinkaap.co.za)







*Memoire offers the perfect venue for your wedding ceremony, with spectacular settings to choose from.*



*This exquisite establishment not only promises distinct quality and excellent service, but also guarantees a memorable experience in style, grace and opulence.*



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*[www.memoire.co.za](http://www.memoire.co.za) [info@memoire.co.za](mailto:info@memoire.co.za)*

# Muldersdrift MILE

*Where dreams come true*



The Muldersdrift Mile is a concept driven by four well known wedding venues in the Muldersdrift area who recognise the need to assist the bridal couples in delivering service, style, variety and choice.

**CASALINGA** is an elegant Italian country restaurant off Beyers Naude Drive and is the ideal setting for tasteful business luncheons and dinners, corporate functions or intimate dinners for two. Casalinga's delicious fare has established it as one of Gauteng's leading restaurants for the past twenty two years.

Seating from 24 – 250 guests, the beautiful setting, classic Italian architecture, fragrant flowers and breathtaking views give Casalinga a different appeal – relaxed, yet undeniably elegant. In total, they offer five different dining areas, most of which can be interlinked.

Casalinga offers memorable weddings, with in house fairy lights, draping and music. Function coordinators are available during the planning stages of your wedding, to advise you personally on all the preparations. Share your wedding vows in their charming, rustic chapel with candlelight, rose petals and magnificent flowers and enjoy a selection of drinks and stylish cocktails in the garden after the service.



Undoubtedly the best thing about Casalinga is the delectable, traditionally Italian cuisine with a touch of country flair. Three function menus are available to cater for all budgets and dietary requirements. Herbs and vegetables are organically grown in their cultivated garden and only the freshest ingredients are used. Your guests will be treated to an unforgettable feast.

enquiries@casalinga.co.za | [www.casalinga.co.za](http://www.casalinga.co.za) | 087 805 6222 | 011 957 2612

Continuing along Beyers Naude, crossing over the highway and then turning left onto the Ruimsig Road, you will come to

## MEMOIRE WEDDING & FUNCTION VENUE.

From a tranquil, lush forest wedding on the banks of the river to a cosy indoor ceremony with a view over spectacular landscaped gardens and waterfalls, they offer everything you desire in one setting.

Their magnificent venue that caters for up to 300 guests not only guarantees distinct quality and excellent service but also promises a memorable experience filled with style, grace and luxury which will be the perfect place to start your married life together.

Memoire understands that your wedding is one of the most memorable days of your life and their professional banqueting team will be there to look after your needs and ensure the smooth and successful management of your function. Their meals are prepared by top flight chefs using the finest fresh ingredients to meet the individual's needs. The options vary from classical home cooked styles to haute cuisine options.



Accommodation at Memoire ensures peace and tranquility with an added touch of class, providing the personal attention you and your loved one deserve. Each of the suites is individually decorated and reflects a cosy, understated, yet stylish atmosphere.

Their spacious bridal suite (with private landscaped garden, water feature and enclosed parking) awaits the bride and her entourage as a private dressing room to be used before the reception.



info@memoire.co.za | www.memoire.co.za  
Jacq: 079 170 9431 | Mark: 074 419 1166 | Alet: 079 742 4624  
Office: 071 286 7774

Love, Love, Love

# Muldersdrift MILE

*Where dreams come true*



You will find two uniquely designed private Chapels each with their own distinctive architectural style; as well as an elegant Conservatory for the most important moment of your wedding. Their unique Homestead, Summerhouse and Dairy which open into indigenous forest and beautiful English gardens are the perfect setting for your reception.

Special dressing rooms with glass skylights for the make - up artists and space for the entourage are purpose built with private gardens right near the wedding venues. The Bridal Suites have been specially designed for the couple with king size beds, steam showers and are of course, completely private. Their wedding basket also offers special options to make the day memorable for the guests and the couple alike. These include the Horse & Carriage, peace doves and décor items.

With the wonderful Oakfield setting, it is so important that the food exceeds your guest's expectations. They have an extensive selection of menu choices and are happy to assist in creating a menu especially for you.

082 606 6000  
010 590 2041  
[info@oakfield.co.za](mailto:info@oakfield.co.za)  
[www.oakfield.co.za](http://www.oakfield.co.za)

Less than a kilometer down Beyers Naude Drive is **Oakfield FARM.**

On entering the gates, guests at Oakfield Farm find it hard to comprehend that such peace and tranquility can be found buried in the metropolis of Gauteng.

Oakfield Farm is famous for hosting weddings, conferences, product launches and exhibitions in a setting which can only be described as an African Eden. The beauty and tranquility is matched only by the dedication of the staff to provide unmatched service and facilities.





*Your wedding day is the most special day of your lives together, and you want it to be as unique and individual as you are.*

For this reason, **TOADBURY HALL** is your perfect choice as the ultimate venue, offering you a pristine canvas upon which to paint your ideal memories of an unforgettable occasion.

Set on the banks of the Crocodile River, just twenty minutes from Fourways in Gauteng, Toadbury Hall is nestled amidst majestic Plane trees and magnificent rose and lavender gardens. Toadbury Hall offers a number of venue options to make your wedding truly memorable.

Situated in a quiet corner of the estate, Toad Abbey is a quaint Olde English-style chapel in a tranquil garden setting. Seating up to 120 guests, Toad Hall – the estate's main banqueting hall – features glass doors opening onto a spacious balcony overlooking manicured lawns and has two fireplaces for chilly winter months.

Located on the banks of the river, Otter's House accommodates up to 60 guests and offers you the uniqueness of a wedding ceremony held in a forest clearing. Your reception can be held under a marquee on the lawn or on the deck at Otter's House overlooking the river.

For smaller weddings, Toadbury Hall is the ideal choice with its exquisite gardens offering the perfect setting for an intimate outdoor wedding. If the weather is inclement, the elegant dining room comfortably seats up to 30 people.

Toadbury Hall's Five Star accommodation is truly world-class with top quality finishes, mini-bars and DSTV in all Suites. Some of the Suites have under floor heating and/or air-conditioning and two have fireplaces. Toadbury Hall offers four Executive Suites and five Standard Suites. As the bridal couple you are entitled to a complimentary Suite on your wedding night.

Executive Chef Werner Snoek expresses his passion for cooking in the way he perfects each dish, carefully selecting premium ingredients and combining them in a way you never thought possible. Toadbury Hall boasts their own onsite organic garden, fresh herbs and vegetables from which the chef gains inspiration. A delectable choice of either plated or buffet wedding menus are offered and can be customized to suit your guests' requirements.

The breathtaking gardens make the perfect backdrop for exquisite wedding photographs.

Toadbury Hall's experienced wedding coordinators are on hand to ensure your wedding is everything you've always wanted it to be. Give them a call on 079 512 0554 or email [enquiries@toadbury.co.za](mailto:enquiries@toadbury.co.za).



*Love, Love, Love*

*Love, Joy, Happiness, Freedom, Love, Joy, Happiness, Freedom.*

*Happiness, Freedom, Love, Joy, Happiness, Freedom.*



*Freedom, Love, Joy, Happiness, Freedom.*



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*With*



[www.oakfield.co.za](http://www.oakfield.co.za)

# *Muldersdrift* **MILE**

*Where dreams come true*

# JUST WRITE



Tyme Photography

The invitations are the first indication your guests will have of the overall style of the day. The more formal the wedding, the more classic the invitation tends to be. However, the style should also reflect your personality and taste.



Moments by Ammalene

The invitation has a specific task – clearly and simply informing the guests the when where and how of your wedding, whilst at the same time incorporating into this the look and feel of your wedding. You should think about the other stationery required when printing the invitations such as “save the date” cards, RSVP cards (less utilised these days with most RSVP's done via the internet), orders of service, table plans, menus and name cards. These are all best ordered from the same supplier so everything is coordinated and is the most cost effective way of printing.

You should ideally select your stationery at least six months before your wedding day, allowing ample time to order paper, organise quantities, printing, delivery, addressing envelopes etc. and then send out the invitations about 12 weeks prior to the wedding.

- One invitation per couple
- One invitation for each of your attendants and their partners
- One invitation for the celebrant and his partner
- One invitation per single guest
- Each child over 18 even if they are invited with their parents
- 20+ spare invitations for additional guests and to be kept as mementos
- 30+ spare envelopes to allow for additional guests and mistakes

Afrocardz was born in 2002. This was in response to a glaring need in the market for custom made stationery, especially for African traditional weddings. The traditional wedding has its own theme and specific stationery requirements. A bride might require a separate invitation for her traditional wedding and for her civil wedding or "white wedding" as it is commonly known.

"These unique requirements created a gap for a service provider who would not treat all brides as a homogenous market segment but as individuals with different needs," says Nthabiseng Sibiya, owner and founder of Afrocardz. I've always aspired to work in a creative and stimulating environment and my aim is to create invitations as keepsakes".

Whether you are having a bush, beach or traditional wedding, Afrocardz will design stationery that will capture the theme of your special occasion. Their product offering is unique and is designed and tailored around your needs.

## What is in the Cards



Despite the development and proliferation of communications technology, the physical invitation card is still a must for most couples. It's both personal and sets the tone for your big day, with the colour, texture and all the accessories that go into making beautiful invitations and related stationery forming the foundation of the wedding planning process for most brides. Invited guests also still appreciate it more than an internet delivered e-card.

While Afrocardz' service offering is largely focused on stationery, knowledge of the broader wedding industry is critical as the client often looks to you for referrals of other service providers, trends, do's and don'ts when planning a wedding. "Playing the role of a wedding psychologist is also not uncommon.

The most rewarding part of my job is seeing a totally satisfied client. It gives me the adrenalin required to tackle the next order.



My motto

*"It is not about what you're selling but how you feel about what you're selling"*

I heard this statement on a radio show a few years ago. It has stayed with me and rings true every time I hear it.



Moments by Annalene

## Rising to the Challenge

Vera was born in Torino, Italy and is the daughter of dress designer and internationally acclaimed fine artist Felice Colombo.

23 years in this industry has seen her create wedding invites and stationery for clients worldwide yet everything she creates is unique and she personally sees every stage of each project through from beginning phase until completion. Her personal touch and her clients' satisfaction has a vast track record.

Everything in her printing business is made using specific machinery for each different process required, whether it is digitally, litho, resin or Virko printed, foiled, embossed, die cut, scored and together with the finest hand finishing personnel capable of creating beautiful bows and attentive gluing and finishing, she is able to create exquisite results. Everything she makes has to be artistically beautiful and pleasing to the eye, well balanced with the correct colour combinations to enhance the invitation and all the wedding stationery.



**PRINT POINT**  
Wedding Stationery

56 6th Street, Parkhurst, Johannesburg  
Tel: (011) 447 5520 Fax: (011) 447 5201  
Cell: 083 234 0612 vera@printapoint.co.za



- I had a lovely client who, although they now lived in the States, her family was from South Africa, so wanted an african hut invitation. She had gone to many printers in America and no one could come up with any ideas. So I made a beautiful hut of paper with a roof that looked like thatch. The hut opened and was made up of 3 layers, one with wedding details, one showing where all the family came from and the third was a map of South Africa.
- Then there was the wedding to be held at the Oyster Box where the couple wanted a box, inside the box an oyster and inside the oyster a miniature scroll invitation. One cannot get oysters from a restaurant that have both top and bottom attached, and if separated the oysters do not match nor can they close properly. So my husband and I, being food connoisseurs, HAD to force feed ourselves a massive quantity of oysters and carefully eat them without separating the top and bottom. These then had to be soaked in Javel for 2

weeks to remove the fishy smell, then thoroughly scrubbed (an act of love with a lot of elbow grease), then once completely dry were varnished, the scrolls were made and finished with a little pearl at either end. The wording in gold on these miniature invitations was surprisingly legible and printed on a pearly paper then tied around the scrolls. These were each tied with a gold organza ribbon finished in a bow. Then they were placed inside the oyster, rested on gold angel hair in a gold box and the box was finished with white organza ribbon bows with a tag with the guests' names.

There are many examples of different invites she has made in order to carry out the couples' wishes. The beauty of going to Vera is that if you have a certain budget and give her some ideas of what you want, she will try to fit in with you (within reason) to create your stationery dreams.

# All Made Up

What you wear on your wedding day is one part of boosting your bridal confidence, the other is embarking on a beauty regime in the months leading up to the wedding to ensure you look and feel your absolute best on the day. Realistically you want to allow about three months for this pre wedding beauty regime as this gives you enough time to see results but not too much time to lose interest or start to feel too pressured!

Even if you don't usually wear make-up, you will need to wear a little on the day to ensure you look radiant and glowing in your wedding photographs. A professional make-up artist will offer advice in this regard and do a trial beforehand to ensure you are both on the same page with regards to your "look". They will also offer specific advice with regards to your overall beauty regime and discuss specific products, especially if you have problem skin.

Make an appointment with your hairstylist or find a wedding specific stylist who will travel to your venue on the day and again, have a trial to go through ideas and ideally, take your headdress and a picture of your wedding gown so he or she can design the style according to the overall picture.

Most brides would like to think they can drop a dress size or two before the wedding and though this is possible, rather than putting yourself under huge pressure and potentially turning into an irritable bridezilla, rather concentrate on shaping and toning what you have. This is a healthier, happier option and will give you more energy to cope with the wedding plans in general.



Snapdragon Pictures

# For the love of Mother Nature ...

MatsiMela Home Spa is a premier Body Care Range that was developed 6 years ago by husband and wife team, Wayne and Olivia Nel. The MatsiMela Home Spa Range is inspired by their love for mother-nature and the fine botanical ingredients indigenous to Africa.

MatsiMela is an indigenous word meaning "roots" and originates from the African language Sotho. Their philosophy is to create a unique and ever-evolving product range that incorporates the finest natural ingredients selected for their beneficial properties.

The team at MatsiMela endeavour to source natural ingredients from rural communities, in their effort to support upliftment projects within Southern Africa.

The MatsiMela retail environment in Clearwater Mall, Broadacres Lifestyle Centre and Bedford Centre is classically African and modern in look and feel. With stone clad walls, glass shelves and perspex-lit middle unit tables on which the products are displayed, calls for a unique interactive African experience in which you, the consumer, can willingly participate.



The MatsiMela Home Spa range of products is constantly growing and developing with the ethos of caring for yourself and the environment. Their new product offering includes six 10 minute time-out masques developed for face and feet! The products are naturally derived and the ranges are centered around exfoliating, detoxing and moisturizing.

Prior to your wedding day ~ give yourself some time out to relax and go back to your roots!

For more info please visit their website: [www.matsimela.co.za](http://www.matsimela.co.za)

**MatsiMela**  
HOME SPA

Let MatsiMela Home Spa assist you on your special day. Giving gifts is a time-honored tradition of showing your appreciation to all who have helped you and your partner with your wedding.

We can also assist you with beautifully fragranced individual gifts for the tables.

Olivia Nel  
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E-mail: [olivia@global.co.za](mailto:olivia@global.co.za)

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Next to Mugg & Bean  
Tel no: 011 675 6502

Broadacres Centre  
Inside Garden Shop  
Tel no: 011 467 4110



[www.matsimela.co.za](http://www.matsimela.co.za)



# A Hair Genius

Brett CrowCour is one of South Africa's up and coming celebrity stylists, as well as a worthy ambassador, having attended annual International Seminars all over the world. Celebrities under his "wing" include 'Koula from 94.7' and 'Chix with Stix', a well known girl drummer band.

His passion for hair started 32 years ago. He commenced his career at Carlton Hair in 1987 and in May 1988 moved to Schiaparelli where he won an achievement award trip to London and a San Rizz course.

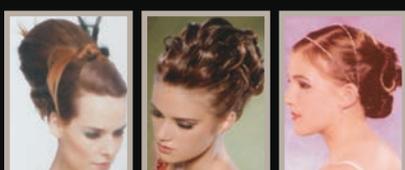
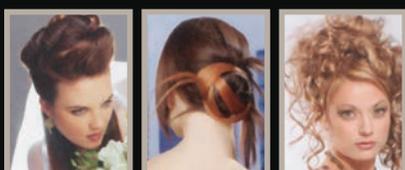
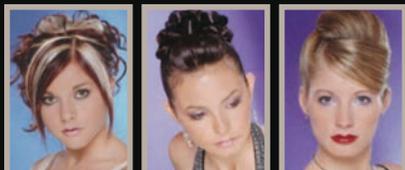
He specialised in perming and achieved Bronze, Silver and Gold Schwarzkopf colour awards in 1990.

He opened his first Salon, "Talking Heads" in 1994 and "Mirrors" in Norwood in 1995. Brett kept busy with backstage Pageant styling as well as having been appointed to the Goldwell Artistic team. He has specialised in Wedding Hair creations and Kryolan make up techniques. He then opened his current salon 4Hair, Bedford Centre in 2004 with a track record of having produced 6 successful salon owners from his apprentices.

In 1999 Brett met Wilfred Stefan, inventor of Foil Doctor Systems - a foil highlighting method. For the first time he decided he could move from cap to foils. A week later he flew down to Cape Town to do the training - Wilfred was so impressed with his teaching ability that he gave Brett the license to train the Foil Doctor System in Gauteng. Now we have two "Dr Foils", one in Western Cape, the inventor of the system and one in Gauteng, trainer of the system. And the rest is history.

Three years ago Dr Foil met Fatima and she has been with him as his skilled assistant for numerous weddings over the years. She has trained in both professional hair and make-up at Face-to-Face, Parktown.

Currently Dr Foil is expanding further with HairGenius Events all around Johannesburg, helping women to better manage their hair and make-up. His hands-on approach gives women the confidence they need to improve and experiment with their preconceived self-image.



*images courtesy of inspire.*



# HAIR Genius

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Website [www.4hair.co.za](http://www.4hair.co.za)  
Twitter @Dr\_Foil  
Facebook HairGenius at 4 Hair

# Why Make Up? David John of Make Up International tells us why

This is a question so often asked of me, and is a combination of my experiences in both fashion and modelling together with hotel management at the Mount Nelson Hotel together with working in my family's extremely successful restaurant 'The Farm House Kitchen' run by mama Doris in Cape Town. The restaurant attracted fashion editors, lawyers, ballet and theatre patrons and top hair and make-up stylists also graced our tables. As one can imagine, it was only a matter of time before I was caught up in this fantastic world of glitz and glamour.



The Mount Nelson Hotel ran the most renowned and prestigious hair salon called Linda of London, and this is where I was given the opportunity to explore my talent in hair and make-up under the direction of Linda Sudren, the Grand Dame of make-up and hair dressing internationally and owner of the salon, who recognised the magic I saw in make-up and my enthusiastic manner I shared with the customers. It was also my good fortune to work with Paddy Crofton, the most recognisable make-up artist in Cape Town at the time, and as the time drew near, I was offered the opportunity to jet off to the USA to gain knowledge and expertise in make-up and beauty, working with the very best artists in the industry and having that magic and excitement rub off on me.





*That magic I still have today, this can be seen and experienced in my make-up artistry then, now and always. It was not long after my return from New York that the giant in the cosmetics industry, Estee Lauder, offered me the position of national make-up artist, which was truly the start of my fantastic career.*

*Working in this glamour world of beauty kept me with Lauder for many successful years, and then opened the romantic doors to the bridal industry. I had the opportunity to launch Make Up International, working closely with brides and photographers in the fashion and modelling world, at my studio situated at Galleon Pharmacy in Hyde Park Corner .*

*Working with the fabulous cosmetic brands they have in the pharmacy and meeting their exclusive clientele, giving make up lessons, and my*

*absolute favourite, bridal workshops - which have been so successful due to the support of Nici Bailes of the Marriage Meander who kept me supplied with the best bridal book in the business, which all my brides continually receive, assisting them with their wedding planning. My brides and I refer to these pages of wisdom constantly. Thank you Nici for the years of support.*



*I have now set up my make-up studio at the new Yves St Laurent counter in the newly designed cosmetic floor at Edgars, Sandton Protea Court in Sandton City.*

*For your own Yves St Laurent fashion make up experience, call David John on 082 659 2140 or mail [david-john@mweb.co.za](mailto:david-john@mweb.co.za) for a personal consultation.*



# *I love people. I love beautiful things. But mostly, I love making people beautiful.*

That, pretty much, sums up me and my company. But of course, you are expecting all the nitty gritty details about how Lashline Make-up began aren't you? Now it would be expected to say that I had "always wanted to be a make-up artist". This would indeed be true. I suppose it's a good thing I never lost sight of that - for here is my story...

I had been working in a studio as a photo stylist since 2004. I developed my love for working behind the camera and became exposed to the glitz and the glam of the fashion industry, the excitement of creating a piece of real life art, and the hard work which came along with it! It was thrilling to see our blood, sweat and tears on the pages of magazines, in stores and on billboards.

During my time at the studio, I relished working with top make-up artists. I thought that they had the ultimate dream job. I absorbed every bit of detail I could. I watched their every stroke of the brush and drew in how they managed to transform normal people into supermodels right in front of my eyes. I became transfixed that this was what I needed to do - my calling - my passion - my life.

I completed a part-time course while still at the company, trying to balance what was often a 12 hour work day, with evening make-up classes, wedding-packed weekends, and a private life at home. It was tough. But it was worth it. I qualified with an A.

After four wonderfully insightful years at the company, I took the largest leap of faith, and branched out on my own. It was then in 2008 that Lashline Make-up was born. Determined that I was going to create a successful brand, an identity, I spent many late-night hours researching latest trends, styles, top photographers - and their contact numbers.

It has been through this persistence and perseverance that three years later I now have an impressive portfolio to show - glittered with icons such as Abigail Betz and Helen Zille, and music acts Freshly Ground, Flash Republic and Lady Leah. Many TV commercials, print ads, and magazine covers under the belt, I am proud that I have now just this year been signed up for my first TV series.

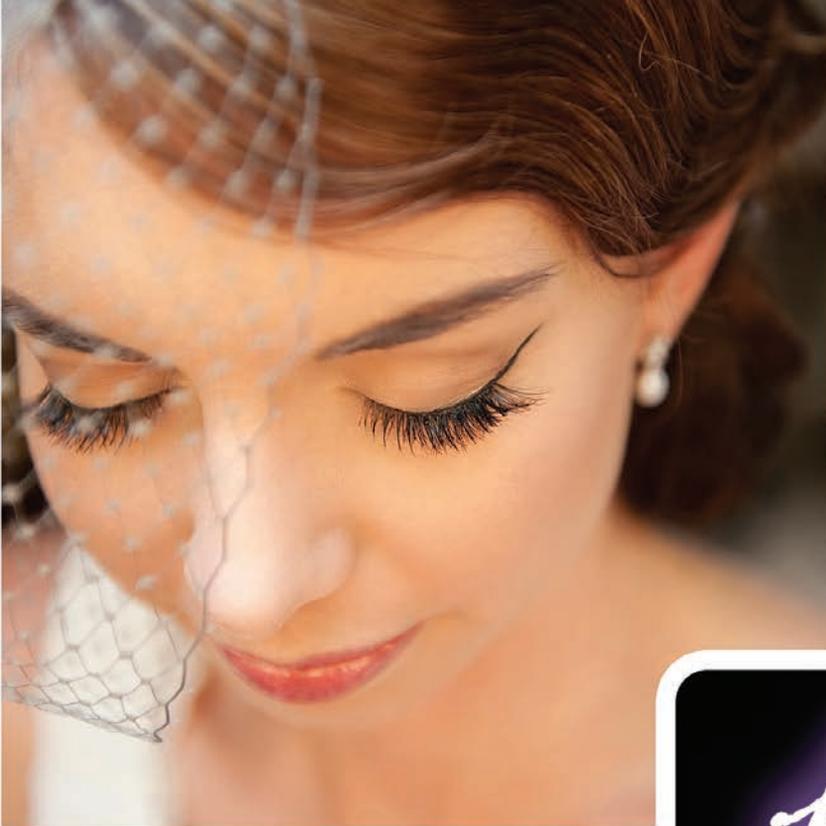
Lashline Make-up has become a widely-known name in the bridal industry. Having been listed as a preferred supplier at ten of Gauteng's top wedding venues, I take pride in ensuring the bride looks magnificent on her special day. Looking back, hundreds of weddings later, I still remember my very first wedding and how excited I was about it. Not one thing has changed - the tearful gratitude shown to me by my brides is priceless - it means the world to me.

So coming back to the beginning: *I love people. I love beautiful things. But mostly, I love making people beautiful.*

That's just it really.

Sam





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professional make-up

082 576 3498

[www.lashline.co.za](http://www.lashline.co.za)

[sam@lashline.co.za](mailto:sam@lashline.co.za)





You may know exactly what your dream dress looks like, you may have 100 magazine clippings of different styles and expect to find the dress that blends all 100 styles into one, or you may be open to suggestion and just beginning to browse through the wedding stores.

Whichever route you are going, there are many options available and it is essential that you try on different gowns before making that final decision as the gown you may have in mind may not be the ideal "fit" for you and you may decide on something completely different to the original style you always dreamt of.

It is best to make an appointment as this allows you the personal attention you deserve during your fitting. Try where possible to avoid a Saturday as they are busiest and weekdays allow you a quieter more intimate consultation with the store. It is essential to listen to the advice of the consultants as they are trained professionals and will be able to offer invaluable advice as to what suits your body shape.

# All Dressed Up

*When shopping for your wedding gown, keep the following in mind:*

- Take someone along who's opinion you trust but keep this limited to only one or two people or this can turn into a debate rather than a fun shopping experience
- Wear supportive lingerie with a strapless bra and a pair of shoes with heels roughly the same height that you are planning to wear on the day
- Keep your budget in mind as trying on gowns way out of your price range will just be depressing
- A line, gently flaring out from shoulders, is the most flattering style and suits most figure shapes
- Ball gown, the ultimate fairytale dress, has a narrow waist line and full flowing skirt and tends to suit taller girls
- Empire, with a high waistline just below the bust, is usually slim and flowing and should be avoided if you have a full bust
  - Princess, with vertical panels of fabric following the natural contours of the body, is another flattering shape for most figure types
  - Sheath, simple and elegant, follows the natural curves of the body from shoulder to hem, usually in fairly clingy, figure hugging fabrics, does not really suit either very thin or curvy forms





# DRESS *Destinations*

Elsa De Wit of **GF Bridal** began in the Bridal Industry 14 years ago as a "sales assistant" and four years later was promoted to manageress. She then bought the business after eight years, taking the Grandiflora name to a new level and one year later opened both a mens' store and a gift store in the Multiflora Complex. She then followed her dream further and opened a second bridal store opposite Design Quarter in Fourways.

Elsa travels overseas regularly both for the buying and assistance of designing of her gowns. She has just signed a contract that she has been wishing for with a well known designer from Paris, Herve Mariage. Other brands Elsa stocks are Moonlight, Nightly and Monsheri together with a selection of European designers.

Says Elsa, "What makes me tick is seeing how I can change a bride's idea in choosing her perfect dress, seeing an extremely happy bride walking away with the gown of her dreams. As a person I'm always busy planning and taking on new projects because it gives me a kick, especially when the outcome is what I visualized!"



**Olivelli** was founded in 2006 as a company trading in high quality evening and bridal wear. It started with an unknown name and unknown brand names with no visibility operating in a separate building behind a residential home. Karen and Barbara De Villiers (mother and daughter) are the dynamic duo behind the brand.

Through hard work Olivelli has become a well known and respected name in the wedding industry, known for excellent personal service and quality products.

The Olivelli head office is situated in Randburg and clients are seen by appointment. Olivelli is constantly expanding and new Distributors of their beautiful gowns are opening their boutiques country wide.



Olivelli are the proud stockist of Maggie Sottero; Sottero & Midgley and Maggie Sottero Destinations. They have also become the exclusive distributor of dresses from the Rosa Clará Group in Barcelona and the collections are as follows: Rosa Clará; Two by Rosa Clará; Aire Barcelona; Almanovia and Lunanovia.



*Bridal Couture*  
*www.gowns.co.za*



**Lady Marmalaide** was born in September 2005. The owner (Lani Butler) was inspired by the Demetrios brand and flew to Milan to visit the European Head Office for Demetrios. Lani was invited by Demetrios himself to visit the Harrogate Bridal show in the UK a year later, when she was awarded with the International Contract for Demetrios for Southern Africa.

Lady Marmalaide's name came about in honor of the new fashion trends with exquisite and rich fabrics and styles that reminded Lani of the Moulin Rouge era. The logo was designed by Lani's sister, Jeani Butler – the legs symbolise the Moulin Rouge fashion trends and the beauty of woman all over the world! Their aim - a modern, elegant yet energetic vibe and have brought this through with their dynamic team, striving for service and quality.

Lady Marmalaide's head office is situated at The Pivot, Montecasino and represents the well known Demetrios labels such as Demetrios Couture, Illisa, Young Sophisticates, The Princess Collection and Sposabella – to name a few. Each line has its own look and voices the elements of design that Demetrios is known for.

To truly appreciate a Lady Marmalaide gown, it must be experienced. It must be caressed and felt on the skin. With every style available, Lani and her team will ensure you walk down the aisle towards the man of your dreams looking like a million dollars!



**olivelli**  
*www.olivelli.co.za*



*Bridal Couture*  
[www.gowns.co.za](http://www.gowns.co.za)



011 705 3073 | 011 705 3091  
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[www.ladmarmalaide.com](http://www.ladmarmalaide.com)

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janina@olivelli.co.za

# Setting the Scene

It is important when you view your potential venues for your ceremony and reception that you pay particular attention to the existing décor of the settings. For example, if you have a modern wedding in mind, then a country house with gilded fittings and patterned wallpaper probably is not the best setting. If you already have a colour scheme in mind, carpets, curtains and general fittings will need to complement your theme, not fight it. Also find out how amenable the venue is to you moving furniture and fittings as this is not always practical and is not allowed in historical buildings. What you want to achieve is a few "wow" details that will focus your guests' attention in the reception area where they will be spending most of their time. Well - coordinated tables, welcoming flower arrangements, an eye catching cake and additional attention to detail will all make an impact. Work with your venue and your floral designer to see what cost effective and eye catching ideas they can suggest.

Compiling your seating plan may sound easy but it can cause many headaches if you do not have a few simple guidelines. You need to take into account modern age families, groups of people who do not know one another, different age ranges and people who will not get along. The seating plan can be a juggling act of massive proportions and as much as one would like to think everyone will go out of their way to make an effort on your "day" this is not always the case.

*Here are some guidelines:*

- If your two sets of parents have not met before, you may like to switch the dads around so your parents are seated together
- If parents are divorced, it is polite to include any new spouses at the main table, usually sitting with their partner
- If you think there will be ruffled feathers, choose a round main table so that who is sitting where is less obvious and chatting is much easier
- If you have a complicated family or a large retinue, forget the main table altogether and seat parents with their own family and friends and retinue with their partners and friends
- Seat the celebrant with the members of the bridal party (or one set of parents) as they generally do not know anyone at the wedding
- Put people with similar interests and of similar age together
- Seat work colleagues together
- Put single guests with chatty friends and request they ensure they make them feel welcome





# Something from the Heart

*Cafe Fleur & Cor de Rosa* is no ordinary *Flower & Decor* Company - it is a hub of bridal activity & wedding planning.

At *Cafe Fleur & Cor de Rosa* *ideas come to life* and the brides are very often the inspiration for these. Brides can discuss their requirements in a perfectly enchanting atmosphere with a *broad variety* of decor collections to choose from.

We also offer free decor consultancy services to help you *design* your wedding Flowers & Decor. You are welcome to bring your own ideas along.

Should you have your own florist, they are welcome to *hire* our decor items & we are more than willing to help with advice & share our expertise.

Everything about you and your wedding day will *create an impression* - a reflection of yourself. The flowers & the decor you select are an intrinsic part of the celebrations.

Our aim is not only to help you make the correct selection, but to show you ideas on how to enhance your wedding flowers & decor & guide you to develop a *style of your own* & to create the atmosphere you always dreamed of for your wedding day.

We are looking forward to meeting you soon.

Warmest Regards,  
The Team at *Cafe Fleur & Cor de Rosa*



*The Art of Flowers, Décor, Draping & Linen*

# Café Fleur & Cor de Rosa



*The Art of Flowers, Décor, Draping & Linen*

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Website : [www.cafefleur.co.za](http://www.cafefleur.co.za)

GPS: 25° 59' 25" S | 27° 50' 38" E

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 08:00 - 16:00 • Saturday 09:00 - 12:00

# *Life is like a Box of Chocolates*

Let's talk about life's little pleasure, chocolate. One of the best things since, well, just about anything. The Chocolate Tier team told us more about this guilty need. "Chocolate to me is like wine, our palates change constantly," says Kate Waller, owner of The Chocolate Tier. I met up with this self-confessed chocoholic who does not believe that anyone can resist her chocolate truffles. This loud and passionate mother of three little boys and wife to Brent (whom she absolutely adores) has always had a passion for food and fresh produce and all things that are beautifully presented.

Seven years ago Kate turned her passion into a business and imported a few chocolate fountains from The United Kingdom, and so a thriving occupation of chocolate tiers and decadent dessert tables was born. The Chocolate Tiers come in a variety of sizes and provide your guests with a selection of rich white, deliciously dark or mouth-watering milk chocolate. These fountains can also be surrounded by a decadent dessert table that boasts newly baked pastries, the freshest seasonal fruits and an irresistible assortment of sweets. Dessert tables are colour co-ordinated and truly delectable.

The Chocolate Tier specialises in chocolate and you can visit their boutique lifestyle shop in Johannesburg, situated in the entrance of the well-respected Casalinga Restaurant. A truly great opportunity to experience the joy of chocolate, with hand crafted chocolate truffles, a selection of divine chocolate slabs, chocolate coated single estate coffee beans, cranberries or rose Turkish delight. Beautiful gift boxes and sumptuous hampers can also be created for you on site - they have it all.

If there is no time to take that short drive out to Honeydew, then The Chocolate Tier has a simple alternative - [www.thechocolatetier.co.za](http://www.thechocolatetier.co.za), yes, on line shopping. You can order any size box of chocolates, wedding favours or chocolate treats to serve with coffee. Deliveries are made within a twenty four hour period in and around the areas of both Johannesburg and Pretoria.





*Kate has realised that love affair most of us have with chocolate, she now hosts a number of chocolate experiences including the history and of course, tasting of chocolate. Chocolate with either coffee, wine or single malt whiskeys. You can make your way through to Casalinga and make a meal of it, or Kate will come to you.*

*Kate says "When thinking about wedding reception ideas, there are many things to consider - invitations, desserts, entertainment, centre pieces and thank you gifts. All of these things should make you think of The Chocolate Tier. Create your wedding invitations or thank you favours with custom branded slabs of chocolate. Indulge your senses with the rich fragrant taste of chocolate as it cascades down a Chocolate Tier and treat your guests to a masterpiece with our decadent dessert tables. Or have us fashion your gifts and hampers for your Groomsmen and Bridesmaids. I look forward to putting ideas together with you."*

The Chocolate Tier

083 562 7748

011 675 2668

[www.thechocolatetier.co.za](http://www.thechocolatetier.co.za)

[info@thechocolatetier.co.za](mailto:info@thechocolatetier.co.za)



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Living and working on a rose farm, it was a natural progression to go from growing roses to arranging flowers, although it did not take long for me to realise it was not as simple as it looked! So in 2004 I did a basic flower arranging course with Sandy Rogers at Multiflora, just for fun and fell in love with the concept. So after my basic course I went on to do the Intermediate, the advanced and then the full bridal courses with Sandy.

My very first wedding dove me right into the deep end! My nephew was getting married and I was asked to do the flowers (for free of course!). I readily agreed, believing that it would be good experience. A month later the bride and her sister decided that it would actually be a double wedding – two brides, six bridesmaids and what seemed like hundreds of corsages and buttonholes. What started out as a small intimate wedding of +- 50 people (5 guest tables) escalated into 120 people with 12 guest tables plus the main table and buffet. Of course, as Auntie Lyn was doing all this for free, cost was not a factor – the brides chose wired orchid bouquets for themselves, and wired teardrop bouquets for their bridesmaids. With great enthusiasm, I started the bridesmaids' bouquets on Friday afternoon (I had plenty of cold room space to store these in) and finished at about 9am on Saturday morning! I still had all the guest tables, chapel etc. to do plus delivery to the venue in Hartbeespoort, all before 3pm. Needless to say I could not wait for the wedding to be over so I could go to bed. That was lesson one.

Lesson two came a few months later when my daughter's best friend was getting married. Having known this girl since primary school, and knowing that she would have to pay for everything herself, my enthusiasm (and foot in mouth tendencies) landed me with not only the flowers, but the wedding dress as well. My daughter and I even made the napkin rings out of twigs and beads to go with the centerpieces. As I seemed to be totally fearless, I also offered to drape the venue. Doing the draping was the hardest lesson – one I will never ever repeat!

During 2005 I did 7 weddings as Expressions Floral and by 2010 I was doing up to 40 weddings a year - and still loving every minute of it. Each wedding is unique and every bride has been a pleasure to work with. Although my business has grown, I still pride myself in dealing with each bride individually and set up each wedding personally.

2012 has seen the inception of the Bridal Village in Muldersdrift. The Bridal Village offers brides the opportunity to meet many service providers, together with Expressions Floral, all under one roof. Many of these businesses are the smaller service providers who offer a very personal service yet with high standards of workmanship. Hopefully this village will grow over the next few years to become a landmark in Muldersdrift and an essential place for every bride to visit.

Lyn



Beyond Photography

# Bring me Your Dreams

Known for her passionate and artistic approach to floral design, Isabel Thomys is one of Gauteng's most respected floral designers. Isabel started ICT Flower Designs as a "flowers done in the kitchen" small business ten years ago and from those humble beginnings has built ICT Flower Designs into a reliable function and wedding flower specialist company.

Isabel's style is relaxed, informal, pleasing and always satisfies the clients brief.

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Her invitation to her client :

*"Bring me your Dreams and I will cover Them in Flowers"*



# *The sun is shining on Ruby Rain*

Luanne Van Der Schyff and Cindy Dirker started Ruby Rain in 2009 while they were working as Merchandise Buyers and Planners for Boardmans.

## *Why did you decide to start a Wedding Décor and Hire business?*

After spending way too much of our free time dreaming about one day starting our own business – we actually decided to take the leap and started the business in 2009. We had worked so well together as a buyer and planner with amazing growth and turnover that we felt that we were a dynamic duo unlike any other. Cindy had just gotten married and felt that there was a massive opportunity in the wedding décor rental industry for whimsical/French/vintage décor for hire. We felt that between the two of us we had a skill set that most new business owners could only dream of. Cindy as a buyer had built great relationships with local and international décor suppliers and had years of experience on what a good or bad décor seller is and I had the financial and logistic background to get this show on the road.

## *Why do you call yourselves Ruby Rain Décor and Tableware?*

Ruby Rain was just the most whimsical name we could think of and that is what we wanted to portray through our name. Cindy got the opportunity to consult for a leading tableware company (Inter Table Top Company) and has been fortunate to have worked with well known brands such as Jeremy Mansfield, Gordon Ramsay, Carrol Boyes & Jenna Clifford.

## *What do you love most about the business that you are in?*

We are so passionate about beautiful décor that we just love designing tables for our Ruby Rain Brides. We are so lucky because we get to work with the latest trends / “pretty” things & memorable moments all day. The most rewarding part of our business is when the Bride/Groom or even the mothers and fathers call us to tell us how blown away they were with the décor at the wedding and how it surpassed their expectations. We live for that moment!!



## *Advice for brides and grooms planning their wedding décor?*

When planning a wedding one should start with your décor as soon as you have finalised the venue. The décor sets the scene for your wedding. By getting the look and feel sorted it will be easier to choose the invitations, cake, wedding favours etc. We also feel that you do not have to spend a fortune on your décor and flowers. These days the trend is to use more statement pieces like bird cages and lanterns versus using lots and lots of flowers which cost a fortune. Using heirlooms like your grandmother's old tea cups or tea pots is an awesome way to personalize your tables and also helps you save on décor rental.

## *What is next for Ruby Rain:*

We are excited to announce that we are launching an awesome decor brand called Lisbeth Dahl which will be available to wholesale customers in March 2012. It is the most beautiful, feminine vintage décor that we have ever seen and we just had to have it!! We are importing it from Denmark and the attention to the detail of the design is just magnificent. Go have a look, it is amazing - <http://lisbethdahl.dk>. Watch this space!

Cindy & Luanne



Luanne van der Schyff : 082 853 2023 | Email: [luanne@rubyrain.co.za](mailto:luanne@rubyrain.co.za) | Website: [www.rubyrain.co.za](http://www.rubyrain.co.za)

# My Favourite Things



Sparkling Bride, established by Nicola Skoro in 2005 and based in Fourways, is absolutely passionate about bringing you the most exciting, latest, unique and utterly fabulous Wedding Favours at the best possible price. Initially they sold bridal costume jewellery, hence the name Sparkling Bride. However, they found themselves spending more time sourcing exclusive gifts for their clients and have since concentrated on this.

Nicola began sourcing her products when planning her own wedding! Whilst browsing the international wedding planning websites it appeared that the international brides had an unlimited choice of anything and everything for their weddings. Unfortunately, nothing she found locally could match the international standards set and so began sourcing the products her heart desired. After a few years of trying to secure a distribution license, her negotiations finally came to fruition. The products are designed by a dynamic team of women in the USA and Nicola imports in bulk on a quarterly basis to keep costs to a minimum. Their products are now distributed nationally, as far afield as Angola, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia.

Sparkling Brides' favours are gift-ready, trend-right, and designed with the understanding that each couple is unique. The collection offers a little something for everyone, from traditional to whimsical and everything in between! Each item is beautifully packaged and ready to be placed on the table. Nicola's advice to the brides' when selecting her favours: "Stick to your budget! If you have a limited budget, buy one gift per couple or family rather than one per person - that way you CAN afford to give your friends and family a quality keepsake. Your wedding should be a reflection of your personalities and your vision for the day."

Her favourite product at the moment: "The Lovebirds Salt and Pepper shakers – the little rhyme reads, "Two Little Love Birds sitting a tree ... K-I-S-S-I-N-G! It reminds me of childhood. And definitely the Diamond Ring keychain, which also doubles up a napkin ring."

Sparkling Brides vision is quite simply to provide outstanding service and offer the greatest variety of quality wedding favours South Africa has to offer.

To see their extensive range, visit [www.sparklingbride.co.za](http://www.sparklingbride.co.za).



Gifts



Favours



Bombonierre



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Cake Toppers

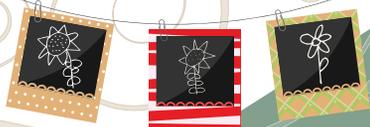
# Sights

Popular wedding photo/videographers are booked up well in advance so it is essential that you do your research and try to meet with those that you have shortlisted as long before the time as possible to try to secure your date.

It is very important that both of you meet with them as it is about relationship building - the bride is well aware that she will be the centre of attention on the day and tends to accept this gracefully, most often embracing the fact (unless desperately shy). It is the groom that needs to be 100% comfortable with the selection of the photo/videographer so that he can relax on the day and enjoy the experience. Also try to select someone who specialises in your preferred look as reportage photo/videography may look easy but it takes a certain skill to capture "unposed" moments.

You should ask to see previous wedding albums and show reels and not just a carefully compiled portfolio of the best shots from several weddings. You want to make sure the standard is consistent throughout the entire event.

Many couples are surprised if they do not own the copyright to the pictures/DVD after the wedding, which means they do not get the high resolution negatives/images on disc and have to pay for additional prints made. This should all be made clear in the initial agreement, including number of prints, enlargements, album, DVD copies etc. as each photo/videographer has their own set of rules and differing packages accordingly.



# Looking Beyond The Photography



Cathy loves photography because she can lose herself in another world while capturing that one moment. As Cathy puts it: "It's just you, the camera and the beauty in front of you. No one can take it from you. With weddings you are capturing a couple's special day and with my help I will make it last forever for the couple. Each time they open their album, I know that somewhere in the world I made someone remember those moments – that's what I love most about photography!"

They both say that if anything, they are now more excited about photography than ever before, sharing and capturing moments that will rekindle those memories they know will last a lifetime.

## Beyond Photography



[www.beyondphotography.co.za](http://www.beyondphotography.co.za)



Karen - 082 851 4085  
Cathy - 082 715 1850

karen@beyondphotography.co.za  
cathy@beyondphotography.co.za

Karen and Cathy united to form Beyond Photography in 2004 and have never looked back.

Karen is a full time international photographer and magazine addict who loves to travel, lives life passionately and photographs everything along the way. Why weddings – because they are filled with romance, happiness and overflow with love! She loves family, friends & God and thinks love is what makes the world go round.

As Karen says "I know a little cliched but imagine the possibilities if everyone loved a little more..." I not only enjoy being a spectator at a wedding but being a part of the day, photographing all the special moments and emotions. As Africa is another of Karen's passions, her perfect day would involve sitting in the bush watching the sunset with a glass of wine and her camera (of course).



My other favourite stage to photograph babies is at the sitting stage. This is usually around 8 months. By this time the baby is responding beautifully to games the parents and baby have discovered over the past months and the child will laugh and give the biggest gummy smiles. It is enough to warm the coldest heart.

These little people inspire me daily. They bring a sense of what is important in life when you look upon their tiny sweet faces. When they hold onto your finger for comfort, you cannot help but feel humbled to have been allowed into their world, even just for a while. I always wonder what they will achieve in this world as I look upon them. What immense joy they will bring to their parents and how much love will be bestowed upon them. This is what makes my life more worthwhile.

So to say I enjoy my work is an understatement. I love my work. I love each and every one of the babies that visit my studio. And I know too, that they will appreciate that their parents brought them to have their image taken at such a young age. I often think that the children will look at these images later in life and joke about how young their parents look!

A couple should always invest in a good wedding photographer when getting married. The same applies to choosing a photographer when pregnant and photographing their precious newborns. Look at a selection of photographers' websites and portfolios. Be mindful that what you see in someone's portfolio is their best work. If you are uncertain of the quality of the images or the style, don't book them. Do not go on price alone, this is an investment. Something you will treasure for all time.

Cathy Heaton



Cathy Heaton / 702016, cathyheaton.co.za / cathy@cathyheaton.co.za / 082 601 3625



# My Moments - by Annalene Rautenbach



Most people insist that they do not like having their photo taken. The reason for this is easy to understand: photography can be very invasive, and the results are rarely pleasing due to the distortion in small cameras. This leads people to think they are not photogenic. The professional wedding photographer knows better. It is their job to break down these barriers and find the beauty of the subject. Brides look amazing on their wedding day: make-up, hair and a dress on the outside, and the glow of happiness from the inside.

As a photographer I see the world for what it can be. In the photographic world, every client and place has the potential to become an amazing photo. I love telling the story of two people who share their special day with family and friends. My camera does not tell the truth, it tells a version of the truth, like a memory where all you remember are the good times. The final album is a journey of the day told in scenes.

My style is classic with a dash of fashion photography. Wedding photographers tend to mix photojournalism with their own particular style. I feel that wedding photos must stand the test of time and not get dated by fads. The influence of the great portrait artists of the 18th and 19th century is visible in my work. Whilst modern times do not afford people the luxury of traipsing around in ball gowns every day, wedding attire gives that fantasy feel and look, and an opportunity for me to explore my own vision.

I started art classes at a very young age and our family travelled extensively locally and overseas. Years of visiting art galleries and international travel had a profound impact on me. My journey to become a photographer was a long one. I started at a young age with a manual camera and film, and this led to my speciality choice of photography in Art Class. At university I studied fashion and design and worked in this profession before I left to work overseas. Upon my return I was more involved in graphic and layout design. In time all these influential elements (design, art, travel and fashion) came together and I gave more attention to my photography until it became my career.



Studio photography is my other passion. The effect the light creates is glamorous and reminiscent of Hollywood photos of the early 20th century. With effective hair and make-up, the use of light and a good photographer, anyone can be a cover model.

# My Love for Weddings



Photography is not only my occupation, but my hobby as well. I live it, I dream it and I'm in love with it!

When it comes to Wedding Photography, it really is an extremely precious moment in a couple's lives. When I think or hear wedding, I can see the brides sitting with their day-dream smiles, imagining this special day she has been dreaming about since she was a little girl. For this reason, I love to personalise things so much more for my couples-to-be.

It is extremely important for me to meet with the future bride and groom beforehand. I don't just send my packages via mail or take any bookings without having met the bride or couple first. For me it's a top priority to have coffee or lunch and talk about their wedding and requirements. I need to feel that we connect, because this will surely influence their precious wedding photographs. Once you connect with a couple, the opportunities are endless and the results breathtaking.

A photographer is only as good as their last shoot and their skills and mood also reflect in their images. I love to sit with my couples, spending some time with them... not only to get to know them better, but also to subtly observe the interaction between the two.

I love weddings – seeing that it's a bit of everything all in one. Therefore, nothing gives me more pleasure than to shoot a wedding from start to finish... portraying the fairytale. I specialise in weddings, but also shoot fashion, food and fine art photography. I strive to change the way people look at a photograph. I aim for them to be enchanted by a photograph that tells a story on its own – without me having to explain anything.

Allow me to spend the most precious day of your life with you – capturing those moments that will have a place in your heart until eternity.

Maritza



# snapdragon's journey in snapshots



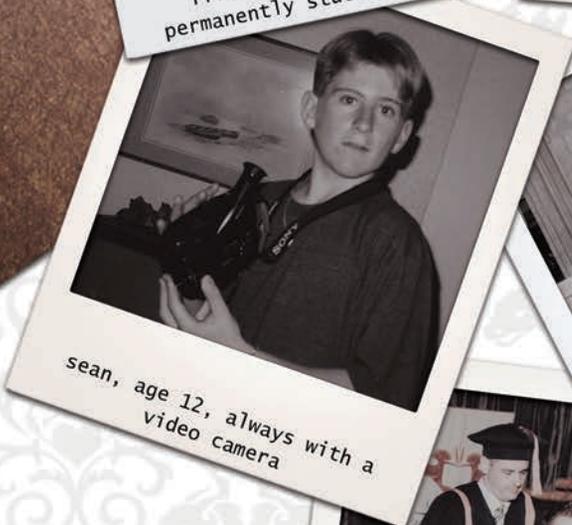
little Leanne, a camera permanently stuck to her hip



sean, age 9, giving his dad a lesson on shooting video



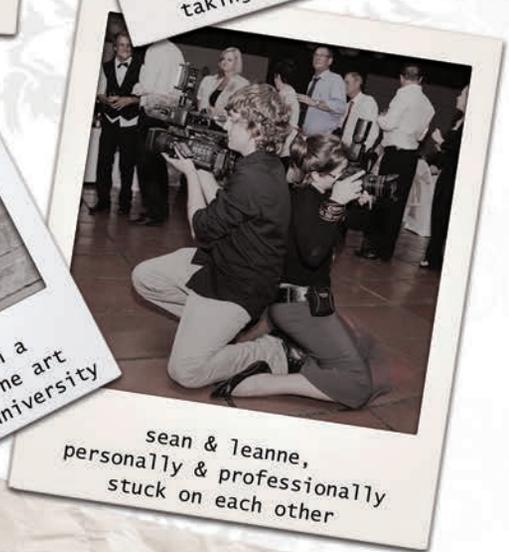
Leanne taking a photo of her mum taking a photo of her mum



sean, age 12, always with a video camera



Leanne graduates with a bachelor of arts in fine art with honours, at wits university



sean & leanne, personally & professionally stuck on each other



sean graduates with a bachelor of arts in audiovisual production management, at uj

Husband & wife team, SEAN & LEANNE WILLIAMS, have been CaMeRa-CrAZy since childhood. They **love** working together, & around each other, to bring you **exquisite memoirs** that reflect YOUR unique LOVE & lifestyle.

snapdragon



PICTURES

videography | photography



[www.snapdragonpictures.net](http://www.snapdragonpictures.net)  
[blog.snapdragonpictures.net](http://blog.snapdragonpictures.net)

Dylan and Tamlyn Little make up the husband and wife team who specialize in a natural and unpretentious style of shooting. They aim to go unnoticed, rather than putting on a production, enabling them to capture the true emotion and mood of the biggest day in a couple's life.

In the presence of the Tyme team a couple immediately relaxes, enjoying every minute of the shoot. Their excitement, passion and playfulness are reflected in each image.

Local celebrities among many other happy clients have trusted Tyme to deliver breathtaking, unique images of their unforgettable day. Contact them to do the same for you.



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# Timeless



*My passion for filming started way back and really commenced after filming and editing a documentary of us climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro in 2006. The group consisted of 9 climbers, my wife being one of them who was roped into this challenge. I convinced my wife that there was a duty free shop at the top.....Needles to say I've been paying the price ever since!*

*After graduating from the University of Pretoria in 1996, my career path developed at the Kagiso Media Group until venturing on my own and creating Timeline Productions. The experience, knowledge and ethics within the group has proved invaluable.*

*My passion for filming weddings is unstoppable, the reward and gratitude I receive from bridal couples is endless as its more than just filming an event, we feel we are really giving the couples treasured memories. (In June of this year we filmed a wedding in Durban, two weeks later the bride informed me her dad had passed away and would we mind using as many shots of him as possible, this left a lump in my throat and reiterated how the DVD will have a very different meaning for this bride).*

*Every wedding is different and the ever increasing and on going improvements in technology are pushing the boundaries in wedding DVD's to film like quality- that is most probably what excites me most, the fact that wedding videos have moved from old black and white cine film to high definition blu-ray and even entering 3D technology. (I am a tech gadget junky! If it's out there I need it!)*

*Filming weddings as a full time career path has definitely had its challenges, but would most definitely not be possible without the love and support of my wife Sally who doesn't see me much over weekends. (My passion is now my career!) The industry has also created some amazing friendships along the way and its evident that suppliers who love what they do will always be successful.*

Ryan

## WEDDING DVD'S



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# Audio & Visual

Xanmar Video Productions is a father and daughter team who began to produce wedding videos in 1998. Janine and Pieter were both bankers and videography was a hobby until it later became both their fulltime job and passion. Their main focus is weddings, though they also do corporate events, festivals, concerts, shows & training videos.

The name Xanmar is a combination of Pieter's grandchildren's names, Xander & Marcelle (Janine's two sons).

Their wedding videos are done in documentary style using two professional cameras operated by Pieter and Janine throughout the whole event. They believe crystal clear audio makes up 70% of a good video and therefore use professional audio equipment during capturing.

Apart from a backup camera and equipment on site they also have backup camera operators on call.

Their editing suite consists of the latest technology for post production and they proudly say they have never had a bride not book them after seeing their demo videos.



Capturing your wedding day on DVD or tape using multiple professional digital video cameras fitted with radio lapel microphones and using unobtrusive studio lighting to ensure a broadcast quality image and audio.

**XANMAR**  
VIDEO & DVD PRODUCTIONS  
Pieter van Heerden  
082 448 6956  
xanmarvideo@mweb.co.za

This unsolicited testimonial comes spontaneously and from the heart, having just received the DVD that you and Janine produced of our daughter's wedding:

My wife and I are stunned by the exceptional professional quality of the production! Trained as a TV producer and with almost 33 years' experience of the industry, I know what I'm talking about when I say that your work complies with the requirements of the highest broadcasting standards, to the minutest detail. It is evident that you are a perfectionist who is satisfied with nothing but the best.

The DVD is a perfect documentary of the day's events. You succeeded masterfully in capturing the relaxed, serene beauty of Toadbury Hall and combining it with the excitement and anticipation as well as the elegance and panache of the wedding ceremony and reception. It enabled us to relive in a nutshell all the events of the day without missing a single thing.

In addition, we have endless appreciation for your attitude. From start to finish you were the epitome of peace and calm; you remained professional throughout and were never obtrusive or prescriptive, thus greatly contributing to a relaxed atmosphere for the bride, her entourage and the guests. Thank you!

Warm Regards,  
Riaan Cruywagen

# Sounds

Your guests are bound to be a mixture of ages and will not all share the same taste in music so take this into consideration when selecting your musicians for the occasion as you can quite simply overcome this with a combination of classical and contemporary throughout the function by incorporating a more classical feel into the ceremony and picking up the pace within the reception.

By using professional musicians, they will easily read the tone of the function and adapt the tempo accordingly, most often without you even realising the undertones of what they are doing with background music by creating an atmosphere subliminally, even playing your favourite songs at times you may not even realise, yet at the end of the function realising that you have heard them played at some stage.

Do not be too prescriptive with what you want played at what time as the musician/DJ will use their discretion depending on the mood. Rather let them know at the pre function meeting what you would prefer not to be played and discuss the more important aspects such as the main event songs eg. walk in, first dance, cutting of the cake, throwing of the garter etc. Also select music that is symbolic for the both of you and have fun with it.

There will always be requests from the guests and it is difficult to dictate to your musician/DJ not to take these requests, rather let them use their professional approach by appeasing the guests and playing something similar or along those lines – they will happily deal with this scenario. It is amazing the flack that most musicians/DJ's can endure, especially as the function gets into full swing!

It is essential that you check the sound limitations with the venue and the "cut off" times of the function as this is another area where musicians/DJ's take a beating and this must be clear from the outset so there is no problem at the end of the function and the event ends on a happy note with the music playing the guests out accordingly.



Tyme Photography



Tyme Photography



Moments by Amalene





Ingrid grew up in a household where both her parents played music and her godmother, Sylvia Sullivan, was an esteemed pianist and singer. She studied a Bachelor of Music at Wits and went on to achieve two Licentiate diplomas from Trinity College of Music in London. She has held the position of Chairman of the Harp Society of SA for the past 24 years (she says they won't let her resign!)

Since her daughter, Vivienne, was born 17 years ago she has been teaching the harp privately and at schools in the north of JHB. She is a freelance musician, playing for people that love the musical sounds of the harp at their function. "If I had to add up all the weddings I have played at, by now it must have reached 10 000 at least! I have played in the presence of Nelson Mandela, Tokyo Sexwale, Thabo Mbeki, Cyril Ramaposa, First Minister for Wales, Prince Edward and Sophie, Arab Princes and many more esteemed guests."

Ingrid also owns the only harp shop in South Africa, supplying all the harpists in the country with music, strings, insurance, spares and accessories and imports a technician from the UK every 2 years to service their harps. She loves assisting new harpists with their decisions on buying a harp, finding out why they want to play and what they want to do going forward. Her students range from 5 years to those more mature in there 60's.

Her daughter is also a very talented harpist and has been fortunate enough to enrol at Interlochen Performing Arts Academy in Michigan, USA. Now that she is away, Ingrid practices about 2 hours 5 days a week and loves it.

"I don't know what to do with myself if I can't practice. I love learning new pieces – the challenge of getting one's fingers around a new piece and a difficult passage is so fulfilling. Every new piece is a challenge – a few bars that will drive one insane because you can't get it right. Then suddenly, after a few weeks, it's as if the lights go on and your fingers (and your brain) seem to connect and it all starts falling into place.

My life would be empty without music and the harp – apart from its beauty, the sound from this instrument is fantastic. Not only can we play romantically, but the 20<sup>th</sup> century techniques that can be used are dynamic – creating all kinds of new sounds that one would not associate with the harp.

As Stravinsky said - *harpists spend half their life tuning and the other half playing out of tune*

Why? The harp is a living instrument – susceptible to weather conditions. Rain, cold, heat, dry air, humidity makes the wood and strings expand and contract. Tuning can be a nightmare if the weather changes suddenly. But then again, it is what we do because we love it!!"



## A Living Instrument

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# From NY to SA



*I have always enjoyed playing ensemble chamber music while growing up and studying music. Whilst attending various US Universities and particularly the Manhattan School of Music (yes, the fabulous arena that Fame was based on), as students we used to grab some music and our instruments and take a subway down to Greenwich Village where we would open one of our cases and literally play for our supper! The only problem was that I had to carry not only my cello but a chair too!*

*Along with playing for our supper we also played in upmarket cafes and from there we were referred for weddings and other functions, these were usually as trios or quartets.*

*I also loved going to cafes that featured swing band music and ended up combining strings with swing in collaborations for large functions in Manhattan.*

*When I came to Johannesburg to play in the SABC orchestra after being recruited in NY, I brought my ensemble music with me and found that with my experience in The Big Apple, I could continue to add and expand my repertoire for weddings and functions here in South Africa. I have been very lucky to be able to*

*Lyric Ensemble*  
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*play not only here in SA but also in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.*

*Over the years, as times and tastes have changed, we have expanded and altered our ensembles to suit the tastes of our clients by adding singers, sax, flute or harp to the strings, and of course constantly creating additional repertoire which keeps growing.*

*We now offer electric instruments, violin and cello, along with the normal acoustic instruments to give us even more variety. So yes, I'm still playing for my supper, and enjoying it!*

Laurie



## Why Their Sound Works.....

The journey of Soundworx Entertainment began in 2005 when the part-time hobby of a restaurant manager turned into the lifelong business dream of Barry de Vaal, owner of Soundworx Entertainment. The idea was to create a business that specialised in all aspects of sound for events and weddings while focusing on the client and their specific needs, ensuring memorable and tailor-made DJ and sound services.

From the selecting of pre ceremony music to the cutting of the cake and first dance, the DJ's at Soundworx Entertainment are able to provide couples with a wide selection of music together with assisting couples in selecting the perfect playlist for their wedding reception.

Soundworx Entertainment has developed into one of Gauteng's top DJ companies, providing professional and personalised DJ services, creating the perfect mood for your wedding. From intimate affairs to larger celebrations, Soundworx offers a wide range of music, excellent sound and lighting equipment along with dynamic DJ's to make every occasion absolutely perfect.

*"Where words leave off, music begins" Heinrich Heine*



**Wedding DJ Specialists**

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# The Disco that Always Comes To the Party

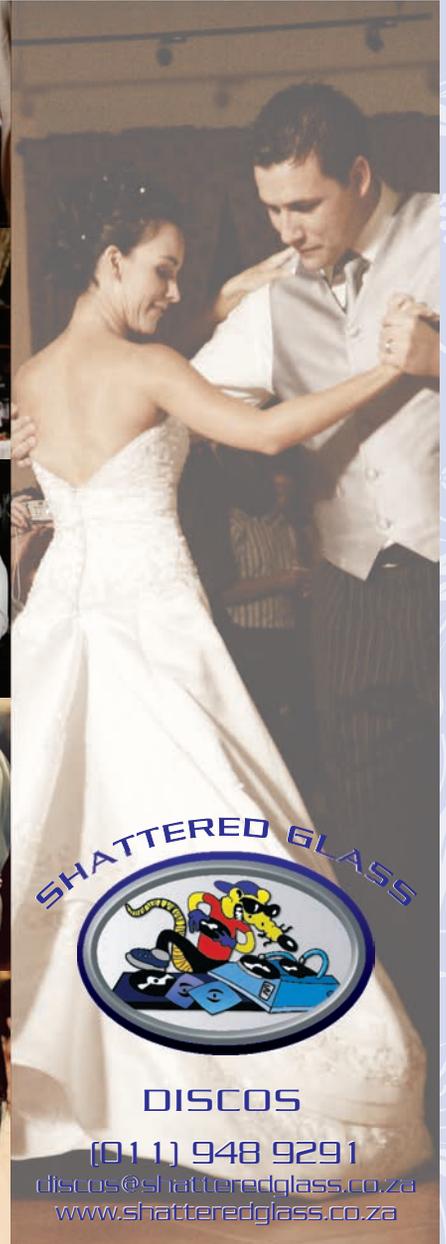
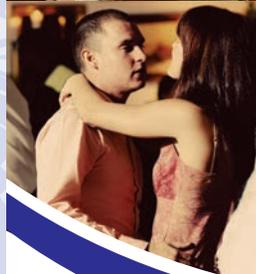
Shattered Glass Discos have been providing quality entertainment for weddings, corporate functions and other special events since 1985. Our Dj's are trained professionals (SADJA) who are always willing to go the extra mile to ensure that your special day that you have put so much time and effort into planning, is as momentous as you expect it to be.

Our unobtrusive discotheque units are all fitted out with state-of-the-art equipment to ensure outstanding sound clarity.

All our Dj's have a wide selection of music and are able to cater to the tastes of all ages and musical preferences, they are happy to take requests and play your music choices.

We have dedicated staff to assist with bookings or enquiries and the infrastructure to ensure that you receive the most professional service at all times

Our office hours are 8:00 - 17:00  
Monday to Friday



DISCOS

(011) 948 9291

[discos@shatteredglass.co.za](mailto:discos@shatteredglass.co.za)

[www.shatteredglass.co.za](http://www.shatteredglass.co.za)



Images courtesy of Tyme Photography



Tyme Photography

# Final Countdown

## *12 Months Ahead (or as soon as possible)*

- ⦿ Decide on a wedding month (do not be too specific on an actual date as your choice of venue may not be available and you may need to work around that – keep in mind that weekday and winter weddings are more cost effective with regards to the venues and suppliers)
- ⦿ Discuss your budget and determine who will be paying for what
- ⦿ Draw up your guest list – this should be discussed with both relevant family members
- ⦿ Select your wedding attendants (bridesmaid, flowergirls, page boys, groomsmen and MC)
- ⦿ Attend any upcoming bridal shows
- ⦿ Visit wedding venues and book available date
- ⦿ Consider honeymoon options and if travelling abroad, ensure that your passports are in order. Keep in mind that South Africa boasts some of the most spectacular honeymoon destinations in the world
- ⦿ Begin with a shortlist of suppliers you have met or been referred to



## *4 – 6 Months Ahead*

- ⦿ Streamline the guest list and send notices to any overseas guests so they have ample time to make travel arrangements
- ⦿ Confirm the location for the Ceremony
- ⦿ Ensure that your Minister/ Marriage Officer is available on the selected date
- ⦿ Order your wedding stationery and ensure that the theme you have selected for your wedding is brought through into the style of invitations
- ⦿ Order your wedding bands
- ⦿ Book as many wedding suppliers as possible in order to ensure their availability
- ⦿ Discuss menu options and décor details with your venue

## 1 – 3 Months Ahead

- ◉ Mail invitations and sms/email/twitter guests letting them know they can expect a very special invitation in the post
- ◉ Dress fittings with yourself and your retinue
- ◉ Finalise menu details with your venue
- ◉ Keep in touch with all wedding suppliers you have selected to ensure all arrangements are still in order
- ◉ Meet with your hair stylist for colour, treatments etc.
- ◉ Collect your wedding bands
- ◉ Confirm all transportation, including honeymoon details



Tyme Photography

## 2 – 3 Weeks Ahead

- ◉ Meet with your musicians/ DJ for a pre function meeting
- ◉ Set the date for your wedding rehearsal (normally the day before or 2 days prior to wedding)
- ◉ Make appointments with beauty salon
- ◉ Confirm honeymoon reservations



Moments by Annalene



Moments by Annalene

## 1 Week Ahead

- ◉ Pack for your honeymoon
- ◉ Send reminders to the relevant parties re the wedding rehearsal
- ◉ Send final numbers of guests to the venue and confirm the menu
- ◉ Confirm all final details with wedding suppliers
- ◉ Confirm hair and make up times for the wedding day
- ◉ Hold the wedding rehearsal, Pamper party and bachelor evening

## *The Day Before*

- Visit your beauty salon for manicure and pedicure
- Discuss order of wedding day with parents, family and retinue

## *The Night Before*

- As things have been frantic in the lead up to this time, it is vitally important to have a relaxing evening
- Possibly invite your bridesmaids or Maid of Honour to stay over for a pampering evening
- Whether with your friends or family, make it an evening to remember whilst getting your beauty sleep in at the same time

## *Your Big Day*

- Ensure you have a healthy breakfast
- Indulge in having your hair and make up done – preferably at your venue as this will be far more relaxing. If you do go to the hair salon, remember to have your bath before you go and to wear a button down top so you do not have to pull anything over your beautifully done hair.
- Pack a change of clothes if you are going away straight after the reception

*Most importantly – relax and take it all in!  
You have planned this for so long so do not stress  
and savour each and every moment...*

