

Planning an affordable wedding



Invitations

We bought some nice paper and envelopes and printed up our own invitations on a printer. This was a gift from my mother in law, so the cost to us was nothing.

Contributed by Lynne Remnant

We made a web site for our wedding invitations and just bought a pad of invites for \$2.50, containing the basic information and directing the guest to the website for more details.

Contributed by Kate Sutherland

Decorations

Ask your guests to decorate trees. When my friend married in a park, she asked her friends to each bring two coloured ribbons to hang in a tree when they arrived. It looked lovely, and gave the guests something enjoyable to do. We used the same idea with streamers. We bought 10 packets of streamers for \$2.00 each and while our friends were waiting around before the ceremony, our MC asked them all to decorate the trees with the streamers. It looked terrific and everyone had a ball!

Contributed by Fiona Lippey

Venue Hire and Music

It is cheaper having your wedding reception between Monday and Thursdays during the week at most reception houses.

We saved almost \$30 per head by having our reception on a Thursday night, as opposed to Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

With over 80 guests, we saved around \$2 400, and you can save even more by marrying during off-peak season.

Contributed by Serena Ostrowski

Have a breakfast wedding. We saved a fortune here - no alcohol bills either! Simply find a restaurant which will serve a buffet breakfast to your guests. We got a great package by shopping around. We found it helps to tell the restaurant it is for an engagement party. They seem to magically increase their rates if they know it is for a wedding!

Contributed by Merrett Pastourel

Make a list of your favourite CDs and get someone to bring a sound system. They can be DJ for the night, for no cost!

Food

Instead of giving us wedding gifts, we asked all our guests to pay for their own meal (at \$23 per head). This was a cheap and stress free option, saving us thousands on catering bills.

Contributed by Robbyn Maddison

Wedding Cake

You can save up to 50% on your wedding cake by having one made by one of the many people who enjoy making cakes as a hobby. Some advertise in the local papers and do lovely work. If you ring the Cake Decorator's Association in your State (listed in the Yellow Pages), they will refer you to the nearest ones in your area.

Contributed by Salma Taylor.

Gifts for Guests

I bought small photo frames for the token wedding gifts, and placed the guests' names in the frames, so they doubled up as place cards. At a cost of just \$1.50 each, I saved around \$3.00 per guest on not having to buy separate place cards.

Contributed by Melissa Tippett

Dress and Accessories

It is easy to make your own veil for under \$50. Op Shops sometimes have old veils for sale, which you can buy, take apart and make a new modern version on a cheap comb.

Look in formal shops for your wedding dress. I bought mine for \$280 and got a dressmaker to alter it for \$40. The total cost was \$320 for a perfectly fitted, elegant new wedding dress. A similar dress in a bridal shop was \$900, so we saved a total of \$580.

Contributed by Fiona Lippey

Shoes

When I married, I didn't want to spend a lot of money on a pair of white high heels that I would wear only once. I went to the local Op Shop and bought a perfect pair of cream shoes in excellent condition for just \$2.00!

Contributed by Katherine Wheatley-Carter

Suit Hire and Bridesmaids

Get the males to wear their own suits. If they are the same colour, no one will notice if they are slightly different styles. Ask the bridesmaids to bring their own dresses over for an evening and see if they have any similar themes or colours. They can always be dressed up with matching accessories to bring the theme together.

Contributed by Merrett Pastourel

Cars

Ask friends with nice cars if they can decorate their cars and transport you to the wedding. Our friends had three Commodores, which we decorated with ribbons for very little cost.

Honeymoon

When we got married, there was nothing we really needed, so we set up a 'Honeymoon Registry' instead of a gift registry. The travel agent was happy to help and they printed little cards with payment options for all our guests, which we included with the invitations. We had a fantastic two weeks in Hawaii!

Contributed by Elizabeth Kidd

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