

ELOPE OR WED WITH A TWIST

What to Expect on Your Wedding Day

We have written this flyer saying Bride and Groom. Please do not be offended if you are a Bride and Bride or a Groom and Groom. We love you all!

Welcome to the EWWAT family. Here is a little bit of info about what to expect on your wedding day.

Most importantly, you and your bridal party, family members and guests don't have to worry about a thing. We are here to support you every step of the way.

If you are staying in cabins the night before, it makes it easier for you.

If you are not staying in the cabins, we will go through details with the groom when he arrives and once the bride arrives in a car, we will usher her straight into the patio space at the venue.

Dietary Requirements

It is essential that all of your guests advise of any dietary requirements before the wedding day so we can ensure they have a lovely meal. For example, if a guest is allergic to garlic or onion, they may miss out on the meats as we love to pack our food with flavour. If we know in advance, we will cook a serve of meat without the ingredients they are allergic to.

Team Members

A team member known as a runner will arrive in the morning to finish off set up of venue and bar to ensure drinks are cold in time.

Throughout the day different team members with different roles will arrive such as more runners, functions supervisor, videographer if you have booked one and photographer. Your cake and flowers if you have ordered any, will also arrive with one of our team members.

What to Expect on Your Wedding Day

Photography & Video

If you have booked preparation photography, our photographer will come and see the boys & the girls in the cabins and will give you timings for the preparation part of the day. Preparation photos start 3 hours before ceremony time. If you have not booked preparation photography, your photographer will start shooting at the ceremony. The same applies for video.

Your Special Items

Please ensure all of your bits and pieces are at the venue, things such as name tags, guest gifts etc. Always put your name on these items and explain what you would like done with them. As for where certain bits should be placed in the venue, we will discuss that with you on the day. If possible someone will meet you at the venue the day before when you check in to go over everything with you and get the fridge stocked.

Speeches and Songs

Finalising things like names for speeches and the running order of the day will be gone through with you by one of our team members on the wedding day. If there are any changes, we will note them. We will check through your key songs to make sure they are all correct. We will go through the whole running of the day so everyone understands.

What Cabin Should Bride get ready in?

It's important that the girls get ready in either cabin 4 which is a one bedroom and closest to the venue or cabin 5, which is a two bedroom cabin and right up the top.

The reason is because we can walk you over to the venue to prepare you for your walk to the ceremony without any guests seeing you from the ceremony site from those two cabins.

What to Expect on Your Wedding Day

If you get ready in cabins 1, 2 or 3, we need to pick you up in a vehicle and drive you to the venue to be sure you aren't seen, which is time consuming and adds unnecessary stress to your day.

Getting Ready With the Girls

We ask that your bridesmaids be ready approx 1.5 hours before the wedding ceremony time. We then ask that the bride be ready approx 1 hour before the wedding ceremony time. This is so that if there are any issues with dresses (and there often is), we can come and assist and sew anything that needs correcting and fix any problems. Our photographer will go over this with you on the day to confirm timings. It also gives you a chance to just enjoy your last bit of time before the ceremony with your bridal party without the rush and panic.

Often new shoes will rub feet and we advise you add band aid patches to the affected area.

Getting Ready With the Boys

With the boys, we ask them to be ready 1 hour before the ceremony so that if they like they can mingle with guests as they arrive. If they prefer, they can stay in the cabin and can go over to the ceremony once guests are already there. They only mingle if they choose to.

Boys Buttonholes & Mums Corsages

We will pin the boys flowers on them & also the mums corsages as most people don't know how it's done and where it should be correctly placed.

The Bar

We usually recommend not opening the bar before the ceremony, as it tends to tip people over the edge with too much alcohol across many hours. If, however you feel your guests are not big drinkers and would enjoy a drink before the ceremony, that is fine. Just talk to us.

What to Expect on Your Wedding Day

We always have tea and coffee and iced water and iced lemon drink available as guests arrive.

We only serve spirits and cocktails after dinner.

Should anyone become over intoxicated they will be cut off just like any other venue.

The Ceremony

Once we have an accurate head count and everybody is there, we usher your guests over to the ceremony location and if the boys are still in the cabin, we usher them over. If they are with the guests mingling pre wedding, they will walk over with the guests. The boys may also have their own song to walk over to if they wish.

We come and get the girls from the cabin and take them to our patio space at the venue. We get them ready and in order to walk, ensure they all have flowers and everything is fine. A team member will tell each person when to walk and the celebrant will show them where to stand once they reach the arch.

Once the bride reaches the arch, one of our team members will ensure that the bride and groom are standing in the centre of the arch, the brides flowers will be handed to maid of honour or dedicated person and the bride and groom will face each other and hold hands.

If you need tissues, we will supply them and the brides dress will be set out beautifully on the ground. We start the ceremony once you feel ready.

During the ceremony you will sign the register and after the signing of the register, a team member will usher you back to the arch and explain that you will hold hands and face the guests and once you are announced you will walk.

What to Expect on Your Wedding Day

You will be showered with confetti by your guests that we supply and hand out to the guests. Your bridal party should follow you, then guests follow after the bridal party.

Congratulations From Guests

We will usher you to a spot where each and every guest get a chance to congratulate you as they walk past you. This is very important to know that everybody connects personally with you both.

Once your guests have congratulated you, we will usher them into the dome (weather pending) to get them ready for a big group photo. Once you are done being congratulated, we will place you in the group photo in the Dome. Once the group photo has been taken, we ask all your friends who are not related to you to grab a drink at the bar.

Group and Family Photos

We will conduct all family photos using a microphone and speaker and we are very good and running through this quickly and efficiently. You do not need to provide us with a photo list, but you may if you prefer.

Bridal Shoot

Once the family photos are over, usually taking around 15 minutes, you and the bridal party will mingle with your guests and have a drink and enjoy the grazing board (if you have one) and then you will be ushered away for your bridal shoot. Based on the weather and our photographers choice of shoot location, (which is most often based on the best light for the shoot), you will either stay close on location or we will use our mini bus to go off location.

If you have small children that are yours or maybe just in the bridal party, we will take photos of them with you before you leave. It is never a good idea to take kids on a photo shoot.

What to Expect on Your Wedding Day

We supply an esky filled with the drinks you would like on the shoot plus food if you have ordered a grazing board.

A bridal shoot usually takes around 45 minutes for smaller packages and an hour to an hour and a half for bigger packages or larger bridal parties. If you only want a short shoot that is totally fine - always communicate with us.

Fence Love Block

Once your shoot is over, you will go to our love block fence to hang your very own personalised wooden love block with your initials and wedding date on it. Once you have reached the fence, we get all guests to take their seats. Your drinks will be waiting for you at the bridal table when you arrive back.

Bridal Party Entry to Reception

We will come out to greet you and get the list of names in correct order for bridal party entry. Entry is done across the lawn in front of the LOVE sign and into the middle of the dome. Each couple with the bridal party will be announced and they will walk in to your desired song.

The bride and groom enter last and their cake will be on a wine barrel on wheels in the dome. You will cut the cake once you have entered. It's a great photo opportunity for guests to take a photo of you cutting the cake. Once your cake is cut to your desired song you will be seated at bridal table. Your meal will be served very soon after.

If you do not have a guest as an MC or did not book an MC with us, one of our team members will do all basic MC work for you. We do highly recommend booking the services of our professional MC.

Once food is served, cake will be placed on our cake table for when guests would like to eat dessert. After this time, we will hold speeches if there are any.

What to Expect on Your Wedding Day

After your speeches you will go straight into first dance, father daughter dance, bouquet, garter etc under our fairy lit dome.

Once the formalities are over you have time to relax and enjoy time with your guests.

At the end of the night, we serve last drinks around 15 minutes prior to the finish time and start to wind things down around 10 minutes before the end.

There Are a Few Ways You Can End Your Wedding

- Just let it end naturally with a chosen last song if you would like.

- Hold a farewell circle, where we get all guests to form a large circle and bride and groom start at the same spot and go in opposite directions until they meet back up at the end after saying goodbye to everyone.

This can take up to 15 minutes.

- Hold a farewell arch where we have all guests line up in a long straight line and you run through them to the end with them forming an arch with their arms and you disappear into the night. This only takes a minute or two.

- You can also hold a farewell circle and an arch if you like. Bear in mind it is time consuming and will take at around 20 minutes.

- You may have a sparkler exit if you wish, just supply extra long sparklers, we have the lighters needed and the team will organise that for you.

Your Items Left at The Venue

If you are staying in the cabins, just come back and collect all your bits and pieces the next day before you check out. If you aren't staying in cabins, you'll need to take your bits with you. If you prefer to pick them up the next day, please arrange that with us prior to the wedding day.

What to Expect on Your Wedding Day

What Happens at The End of The Wedding

We are just like any other venue that has a start and finish time. As per the terms and conditions of the wedding contract, there is a start and finish time.

30 minutes before the finish time, we serve drinks in end of night disposable cups to ensure our good glasses don't get taken away with guests.

Last drinks are served 15 minutes prior to closing.

Upon closing time guests will be moved on and if they are in buses, they are to board buses at that time. If they are in their own vehicles they are to depart at that time.

We allow 20 minutes after closing for all guests to be removed from the venue so staff may close up and leave.

After this, no person is allowed to enter the wedding venue from any point or in any area in its entirety unless this has been approved first. Just talk to us about this on the wedding day.

If you are staying in the cabins, you are required to return to the cabins at this point. We must stress that there is a strict no party policy in the cabins.

Cabin Guests Staying at The Venue Once it Finishes

If you choose however to stay on and continue in the venue after the official closing time with you and your registered cabin guests, we simply require a list of the names of those staying on at the venue.

We are on strict noise level conditions with council as the region has such a low ambient noise level, so please be considerate.

What to Expect on Your Wedding Day

We will ensure you have disposable cups for drinks and a speaker you can plug your smart phone into with a play list.

Please understand that if you choose to stay on after the wedding finishes with cabin guests at the venue with no supervision, that the responsibility is handed over to you should any persons at the venue injure themselves or damage any property or cause excessive cleaning.

The only space that is to be used at this time is the patio and the outside area out the front of the patio and front of venue.

At the end of the night this will be shown to you by one of our team members.

Conditions of Staying at The Venue Once it Finishes

- No person can be at the venue who is not registered to the cabins.
 - All rubbish must be placed in provided bins.
- Any mess is to be cleaned up. (This can be done early the morning after the wedding)
 - No couches or large furniture pieces are to be moved.
- Any breakages or excessive cleaning will be paid for by the couple.
 - All cabin guests staying on must act sensibly and responsibly as there is no supervision.

Cabins

If you have booked cabins, please stop at the reception office which is at the bottom of the main two storey house before the cabins. You will need to check in and then go to your cabins.

Please only park cars in the driveways of cabins, never on the lawns out front. Only cars belonging to registered cabin guests are to be parked in the cabin driveways.

What to Expect on Your Wedding Day

Spas

Do not add anything into spas like bubble bath, bath bombs etc. It burns out the motors and you will be responsible to pay for any damages. When using the spas, please use the spa lifters to flip the spa covers upright.

Only guests registered to stay in cabins can sleep in the cabins.

We are governed by strict bushfire guidelines, as there is only one road out of the venue, in the case of an emergency we must know exactly who is onsite for an accurate evacuation. We have a very strict no camping policy due to our bushfire guideline rules.

Car Parking

We have a large 2 level car park up the top above the venue.

All cars that do not belong to guests staying in cabins must be parked up there.

There is NO parking anywhere else at the venue for guests or additional wedding suppliers other than the top car park.

This includes hair and makeup people.

Elderly guests can be dropped off at the venue entrance and then the car can be moved up to the car park after drop off.

Dogs at Mystwood

Mystwood have 3 lovely gentle Labrador pets. Lola is black, Coco is brown and Daisy is white. Lola is a pup and Coco and Daisy are pensioners.

They love food but please refrain from feeding them unhealthy food as overweight labradors are not healthy.

What to Expect on Your Wedding Day

They are very good with kids as Mystwood have 5 children of their own that live on site.

If you have dogs, please keep them controlled at all times as there are free range chickens on site and dogs not used to this may attack them. You take full responsibility of your dogs and any damage they may cause to cabins or surrounding areas.

Please be sure that you keep them safe, do not allow them to roam and go under cabins. We are the country and we do have snakes and spiders and the last thing we want is for your dog to be harmed or worse.

PLEASE NOTE - that ALL pets must be approved before arrival.

Wet Weather Plan

If it is too wet to marry outside, do not worry our wet weather option is absolutely stunning. We won't make this decision until around 1 hour before the wedding after discussing it with you both.

We push the tables to the side of the Pavillon and lay the carpet runner down and place chairs on both sides.

You are married in front of the bridal table underneath the French chandeliers it's just beautiful.

If it is only lightly drizzling and you are ok with that, we have dozens of clear umbrellas for guests and bridal party to use.

Your photo shoot will be sorted choosing the best location based on the weather and your photos will be just stunning rain or shine!

What to Expect on Your Wedding Day

Late Guests

If we are missing any guests by the time of the ceremony start time, we will find out from the couple exactly who it is who is missing. It is up to you to make the decision on if you are prepared to wait for them or not.

Waiting for late guests, means you lose time at your wedding, so the decision is yours.

I think it's ok to give late guests ten minutes, but once it becomes longer than that, it may be best to start without them. Unless of course it's a parent or someone you can't imagine getting married without.

Wifi

Yes we do have limited wifi access at the venue and sometimes you can get it at the cabins also. It often drops out and is not reliable as we are rural, and it's not possible to zoom from the ceremony as there is very poor intermittent service at the ceremony location.

You'll find the wifi under MYSTWOOD VENUE in the settings of your phone and there is no password.

Taxis

We recommend your guests do NOT order taxis as they are very unreliable and barely ever turn up to pick up guests. Talk to us in the lead up to the wedding if guests are stuck as there are other companies locally with mini buses which are far more reliable.

We also recommend you do NOT use rover coaches, they are the only bus company that will not drive over the bridge at Milsons Arm Road. Every other bus company will but they will not. They will stop and make your guests walk 1.2 kilometres to the venue which is not acceptable. The bridge over Milsons Arm Road can take the load of a full size bus and it is wide enough.

What to Expect on Your Wedding Day

Forget Something?

*If you forget something, please don't panic as chances are we will have it at the venue. It is a one and a quarter hour round trip into Cessnock.

We have a good supply of so many items.

Just to name a few:

- Ties and bow ties in many colours
 - Mens socks
 - Mens belts
 - After shave
 - Mens razors
- Mens colognes
- Toothbrushes
 - Toothpaste
 - Stockings
 - Perfumes
- Mens and ladies deodorants
 - Garter belts
- Throw away silk bouquets
 - Silk bouquets
 - Sewing kits
- Feminine hygiene products
- Steamer (each cabin has an iron and ironing board)
 - Eye lash glue and eye lashes
- Assorted makeup and hair items
 - Signing books
 - Assorted alcohol
 - Sparklers

And much more.....

What to Expect on Your Wedding Day

Yodas Tips

- Don't drink much alcohol before the wedding as by law no bride or groom can be over intoxicated as you are signing legal documents. It will also make your face red and can cause you to feel more stressed.
- Drink plenty of water as nerves make you dehydrated and dehydration also causes headaches.
- Don't worry or panic about a thing. If you are feeling anxious and need assistance just come and grab one of us from the venue.
- Don't allow too many people in your cabin, it becomes overwhelming and stressful.
- Don't let those around you panic you. Often your bridal party and family members are the worst on the wedding day at causing you unnecessary stress.
- If you feel anxious, just take some deep breaths and calm your mind. Many times, brides mistake anxiety with nerves. It's natural to feel nervous.
- If you are concerned about anything we are there with you on the wedding day to help with anything.
- Finally, please know that we are there to assist you with EVERY SINGLE aspect of the wedding day. Don't worry about a thing. There is no need to micro manage us, we are the most amazing team of experienced professionals. But that being said, please DO communicate anything needed with us across the day. We may be awesome, but we are not mind readers. Relax and enjoy knowing you are in the best hands possible.

What to Expect on Your Wedding Day

COVID-19 and Your Wedding

We are very fortunate being classed as an outdoor venue, meaning density rules don't apply nor do masks.

We have hand sanitisers all over the venue and take our cleaning and sanitising responsibilities seriously.

You are in very safe hands.

You are covered by our Covid Flexibility Guarantee.

This means that if the bride or groom (or bride and groom, groom and groom) should contract covid-19 in the days before the wedding, that we will move your wedding to another date with no financial penalty to you.

This only applies to the bride and groom (or bride and groom, groom and groom).

If a parent or family member or guest should test positive we cannot move the wedding date.

This also covers you in the event of a government snap lock down.

