

Christine and Sean

Christine, 40 and Sean, 33 were married on November 25, 2011

There were 95 guests at the wedding

The reception was at H2O in Narrabeen

Photography by a family friend

Overall cost: \$10,000 to \$15,000

“Mum collected the straps from the dressmaker and promptly lost them. On the wedding day she blamed dad, but either way they were nowhere to be seen so I was strapless (needless to say she has since found them!)”



THE PROPOSAL: We met mountain bike riding. We didn't like each other at all and I made a mental note not to ride with him again. We stayed riding friends until we were training for a race. The training rides gradually grew to a ride followed by a drink and then drinks and dinner - I was so nervous about our first 'official date' that he took me out to dinner on a 'pre-date date' to a lovely restaurant in Manly! We got engaged in New Zealand when we were there for the Single Speed world championships with a bunch of friends. Sean and I arrived a few days before the rest of them to ride a different race first in Rotorua. The next day he kept insisting we went to the Polynesian Spa but I hadn't packed a swimsuit so we wandered about for ages looking for one. Finally I found a ghastly red bikini and we went to a private deluxe spa, which was wonderful. We were chatting while I was having an outdoor shower after the spa and then Sean came around behind me, shaking like he was really, really cold, and asked me if I would marry him. He held out a stunning ring towards me - and I kept asking if he was serious! I had no idea he was going to propose, but he had the ring and asked my parents for my hand in marriage before we left for New Zealand. He bought the ring from Kalmar Antiques in Sydney and it was perfect.

THE WEDDING PLAN: We planned everything ourselves and mostly it was great fun, but more work than I thought it would be! I was very excited initially, so I sourced things for a few weeks but then I had to organise my 40th birthday party so I potted about with the wedding until probably three

months out. I tried so hard not to be a Bridezilla, but I did have one episode where I called Sean and demanded that we elope as the wedding was all too much. He agreed until he realised I was serious...so after consideration, we changed the style of wedding and moved our reception to a sensational restaurant - the best decision I made.

THE DRESS: Sean was very easygoing about The Wedding and only had a few requests, so I felt they needed to be done. The first one, which was a bit of a shock, was that he asked me to look 'like a bride'. I was also planning to ride my horse Narnia down to the ceremony, so I couldn't wear anything too tight. I was lucky enough that my aunt and cousin happened to be visiting from England on the weekend of my 40th birthday, and they asked if we could go wedding dress shopping that weekend. My party was on a Friday night so on Saturday a dusty eight women (yes, eight!) all went shopping for a dress. We went to two shops and the girls with me were fantastic - when I appeared in The Dress they all went 'oooooh'. Everyone agreed that it was the one, and it also fitted Sean's criteria of looking like a proper wedding dress.

HIS OUTFIT: Sean wore a grey suit with a silver waistcoat and tie to fit in with me, and the best man Gus wore a grey suit with a purple tie to match the girls. They both wore fabulous cufflinks of a purple stone with sparkly crystals all around to match the rest of the wedding theme, and crystal buttonholes. Sean chose all of it - I had nothing to do with it at all.

THE COLOUR SCHEME: Sean proposed in October, and that Christmas