

Astra

Featured Bride



Bride: Natasha McKnight
Groom: Luke Boustridge
Date of Wedding: 27th February 2010

Background to the wedding...

How long had you been together: Four and a half years.

Tell us about the proposal: It was Christmas Eve 2006 he took me to a park, got down on one knee surrounded by beautiful ponds and asked me to marry him. It was gorgeous, he didn't care who was watching us it was so sweet.

Why was your groom "the one": I have never met someone who understands me more, I can be my true self around him, even when I'm having a bad day. He always makes me laugh even without trying. He is extremely supportive in every way possible. He is truly my other half, my sole mate. I love him very much.

What was the feeling you wanted for your wedding day: Classy and timeless. I wanted it to be about family and friends and be a memorable day not only for Luke and I, but for all of our guests as well.



On the day...

What was your most memorable moment:

Luke's speech, it was amazing, he wrote it himself. It rhymed the whole way through not like a cheesy poem but clever like a song. It was amazing! Easily my favourite part of the day!

What would you change if you did it again:

I would have someone video the whole day, we only had parts videoed and the speeches were one of those parts that weren't and I really wish I could hear them at least one more time.

What would you give as advice or recommend to other brides:

Take a 2nd more comfy pair of shoes on the day to slip on during the photoshoot and other parts of the day if your feet get sore, there is a lot of standing involved. I wore jandels whenever I could and no one could see them under my dress, It was great, or get your wedding shoes from Astra Bridal as they are so comfortable.

Was there any disasters you want to share:

No everything went well.

All about the gown: One-piece, corset, strapless gown with sweetheart neckline and fit and flare skirt. The empire waist is decorated with Swarovski crystals, bugle beads, twist beads, seed beads, and sequins. The



skirt front is cutaway to reveal lace beneath.

When did you try on the gown: Was it the first/last or somewhere in the middle: Well actually the dress found me! I had booked a consultation at the Astra Bridal store in Hamilton, this was the first time I had looked at dresses other than on the internet. The plan was not to buy anything but to just get an idea for what I should be looking for. I picked my 10 dresses to try on and made my way to the changing rooms. That's where I saw a gown hanging outside of one of the changing rooms all on its own. I liked the look of it but didn't want to be greedy as I already had my 10 dresses to try. While in the changing room my mum spotted the same dress and suggested that I try it on. So Sheryl kindly let me try on an 11th dress. This is where I feel in love! I stood facing the mirror and could actually see myself getting married in that dress, my eyes welled up and that was it! Sold.

From there I designed the veil which Astra Bridal had made for me. I found a beautiful feather and crystal hairpiece, and a crystal necklace with a pearl teardrop to finish the overall look.

Thanks to Astra Bridal it was EASY!

What made it special for you: I just loved everything about the dress, the colour, the style, the fit, and especially the lace. The dress made me feel beautiful.

What are you going to do with it now: As much as I love the dress I have decided to sell it. I don't want it rotting at the back of my wardrobe gathering dust when I'm sure there is someone else out there who will also fall in love with it. I will keep the veil, hair piece and necklace to one day pass down to my own daughter if I am lucky enough to have one.

Natasha won Bride of the Year as well as the Bride's choice award at the Somerset Kindergarten Bride of the Year competition.



Natasha's Dream Team

Gown: Astra Bridal Hamilton, Maggie Sottero Amara (including my hair piece and necklace.)

Veil and Accessories: Astra Bridal

Bridesmaid Dresses and Flowergirls Dresses: Designed by myself, made by Pat Prince

Mens Suits: Kens Suit Hire

Hair: Mary-Ellen Macgregor-Dunn owner of Phixx Hairdressing

Makeup: Sarah Tweed from Pania Ryan

Flowers: Janelle Ramsay

Location: Rose Gardens Victoria Park Esplanade, Palmerston North

Catering: Creative Catering Awapuni Function Centre.

Entertainment: I put the music together myself and we ran it off a computer

Stationery: Ourselves

Photography: Shelly Amerio-Higgins

Transport: Luke's Granddad's own classic cars

Celebrant: Jane Ellison