

# Astra

## Featured Bride



**Bride: Rosie Hodges**

**Groom: Richard Jenson**

**Date of Wedding: 26th February, 2010**



### Background to the wedding...

We wanted to have a classic wedding with a personal feel, which reflected who we are as a couple. We had always wanted to get married in a traditional wooden church, so St George's church in Epsom was the perfect choice. We both really love the beach so it was lovely to be able to have our reception at McHugh's on Cheltenham beach.

**How long had you been together:** 3 years

**Tell us about the proposal:** We had both been away for the weekend, Richard at a work weekend and me on a girl's weekend with my best friend Tracey. We "met in the middle" at Waihi beach and then went over to Tauranga to stay with my parents. Unbeknownst to me Richard had popped into my parent's place on the way to Waihi and asked them if he could propose to me. By all accounts it was a special time with many a tear flowing! Richard had also convinced me to take the Monday off work so that we could spend the day together in Tauranga. On the Monday morning Richard told me that he had planned a special day for us, we had been on several "Adventure Dates" in the past so I wasn't suspicious of what he was up to. We spent the day visiting several



special locations in Tauranga, which were significant to us in our relationship. At each stop Richard explained why he had taken me there and what it reminded him of about us. Our final stop was at The Mount. Despite the windy weather Richard insisted that we take a walk around The Mount. He stopped at a seat looking out over the water and said that he had written a poem for me. Again this was something he had done in the past so I wasn't expecting what came next. When Richard uttered the words "And will you be my princess for all the days to come..." I realized that this was that special moment. Richard got down on one knee and proposed with my mother's engagement ring. My mother passed away when I was young so it was special to me and added even more emotion to the moment.

**Why is your groom "the one":** Because he is my best friend, someone I completely trust, admire and love. Richard is a man of integrity and wisdom. He treats me with respect and we have a lot of fun times and adventures together.

**What was the feeling you wanted for your wedding day:** We wanted people to feel that they were an important part of our day and significant to us. We also wanted to share our faith and what we valued in each other and our relationship. It was important to us that the day to be rich in sentiment and significance to us.



## On The Day...

It was a beautiful summer's day. We were absolutely thrilled with our day and loved every minute of it! The ceremony was really special to us as it reflected our faith and who we are. We had my niece as our flower girl who looked very cute in her white dress. My older brother Gareth wrote a piano piece accompanied by a cello for our "walk in" song at the ceremony. This was very special to us and had just the feel we were looking for. We moved to have photos at Cornwall Park and the reserve at Narrow Neck Beach. We had a few quick shots on Cheltenham Beach before heading into the reception at McHughes.

For our table settings we had round vases with three floating roses in water with turquoise ribbon attached to them and white stones in the bottom. My Mum and I painted small canvases for each table with lines taken from Richard's proposal poem on them. Every guest at the reception had a black stone with their name written on it in silver denoting their seating place. Our favours were pieces of brownie made by one of my friends in a white organza bag.

The reception was great fun and we hit off the dancing with our first dance to Michael Jackson's "Rock with You".

**What was your most memorable moment:** Walking down the aisle with my Dad by my side, to my brothers' song and seeing Richard standing there with a huge smile on his face.

**What would you change if you did it again:** To be honest I wouldn't have changed anything! I loved it!

**What would you give as advice or recommend to other brides:** Have a wedding book where you can keep information and can make lists. We made month-by-month lists of what needed to be achieved and this helped a lot! Enjoy every moment of the day! I found having supportive friends and family who were willing to help was valuable.



**All about the gown:** My dress was a Maggie Sottero design. It was princess cut with beaded detail on the bodice. The bodice gathered to a point on my left hip with a beaded design. The dress laced up at the back and had a beautiful long flowing train. My dress was pure white, which I loved. My veil, shoes, earrings and bracelet were also purchased from Astra Bridal.

**When did you try on the gown: Was it the first/last or somewhere in the middle?** I found it on my second day of looking at dresses. So it would have been somewhere in the middle. It was the very first dress I tried on at Astra Bridal.

**Who chose it for you:** Samara at Astra Bridal in Auckland city pulled it out and asked me if I'd like to try this one on. I was very keen the moment I saw it!

**What made it special for you:** I knew the moment I put the dress on that "it was the one". It fit perfectly to the shape of my body and made me feel like a princess in it. I loved the detail on the bodice and the princess cut. It fell nicely from the waist and had a beautiful long train!

**What are you going to do with it now:** I think I'd like to keep it. It's sad you only get to wear it once, because it's such a beautiful dress.

## Rosie's Dream Team

**The Dress:** Astra Bridal, Coco by Maggie Sottero.

**Veil and Accessories:** Astra Bridal

**Bridesmaid Dresses:** The bridesmaids dresses were made by a dress maker in Auckland – Christine Bol. Christine was fantastic. The dresses were turquoise and brought a lovely freshness and vibrancy to the day. They also fitted in well with the beach theme.

**Mens Suits:** Exclusive Suit Hire in Newmarket, Auckland.

**Hair:** Jan Waite Hair Dressing did the bridesmaid's, my mother's and my hair on the day. I found the team at Jan Waite highly professional and we were all very pleased with the finished product.

**Makeup:** Karenina Jackson really listened to me. I wanted to have a natural look to my makeup and Karenina did a fantastic job creating that look. She was flexible on the day and created a calm and relaxed atmosphere. I would recommend her to anybody.

**Flowers:** Victoria at Nosh Florist – Glen Innes. Victoria did all the bouquets, buttonholes, arrangements at the church and table settings at the reception. We chose white lilies and white roses as our flowers. Victoria did an outstanding job, was very efficient and had stunning attention to detail.

**Location:** McHughes of Cheltenham. A stunning location with beautiful views of the Harbour and Rangitoto. The food was exquisite and the staff did an amazing job setting up and serving our guests.

**Stationery:** LaserFoil Print. On our invites we included a snippet from one of Richard's poems. Laserfoil were very flexible and helpful with our stationary and did a marvelous job.

**Photography:** Third Frame Photography – Andrew was very relaxed and fun. He created an enjoyable atmosphere and was flexible on the day. Andrew captured the many different emotions and moments of the day. Third Frame provided us with a comprehensive and affordable package.

**Rings:** Alan Priestly – Designed our wedding bands and my engagement ring. We used the diamonds from my Mum's engagement ring in my wedding band. Alan did a fantastic job and talked us through each of the design steps, making us feel a part of the process. We also hired Alan's 1950's Mercedes for our wedding car.

