



## Rustic & relaxed

Karmin Whybrow and Adam Cooper were married at Hapuku Lodge, Kaikoura on February 7, 2007.

**Girl meets boy...** at work on a Friday afternoon. Adam's boss had sent him to help out my team with a problem. I saw him from behind and thought, 'We're going to be here all weekend, please don't let him be ugly'

**Will you marry me?** I was on our front porch looking for shooting stars when Adam came out, asked me to dance and then asked if I would marry him.

**Small and relaxed** We wanted a wedding location where the reception and accommodation were in the same place so people could enjoy themselves without worrying about driving. We only had 22 guests so that made it easier.

**Our budget** We didn't really have one. We just worked out roughly what everything would cost and went ahead. I think in the end it was about \$28,000 including our honeymoon in New Zealand.

**Planning stress** I organised the bulk of the wedding in a lunchtime. We were lucky to have the team at Hapuku Lodge as they took care of all the details such as the flowers, cake and celebrant, which meant I wasn't stressed at all.

**My wedding look** I found my dress in Sydney quite some time before the wedding. I wasn't actually looking. I just saw it and thought it was perfect. It's designed by George Gross and is simple and classic.

**An amazing venue** I picked the venue because it had tree houses and it turned out to be the most amazing place I've ever stayed in. The atmosphere was friendly and the views were stunning.

**A floral surprise** I had no idea what flowers I'd have until they turned up on the day. Carrie Ripley created a modern and artistic bouquet with no input from me. She chose Calla lilies with sisal wrapped round the stems, then brown ribbon with wire wrapped over the top. And she circled the top of the bouquet with twigs. The tables featured the same Calla lilies with twigs and flax, keeping with the rustic and casual theme.

**Something special** Most of our guests flew over from Australia so two days before the wedding we all went white water rafting.

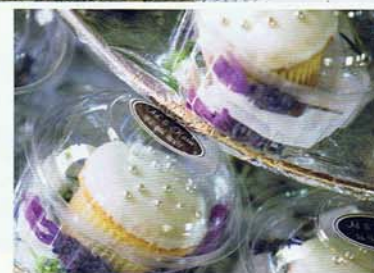
**A couple of hitches** My best friend called up a couple of days before the wedding to say he couldn't make it because his work was sending him to a war zone. The only other thing that went wrong was a run in my stockings while I put them on, but that was easily fixed by not wearing any.

**My advice to brides-to-be** These are the two things I wish I'd known beforehand. If you're using a convertible, use a shawl or scarf over your hair like a 1930s screen siren because windblown hair is rarely attractive. I learnt this after the drive to the first photography location. And New Zealand has sandflies. It hurts when they bite and they leave big welts so take bug repellent.



**Right** Instead of a wedding cake the couple had individually-wrapped cupcakes that guests could take away with them as a memento.

**Above left** The 1959 Austin Healy Sprite convertible may not have been the most practical car to travel in but it added great style and colour on the day.





'The fact we weren't worried about every little detail made the day relaxing and remarkable'

