



# Short notice

With only three months to plan their wedding, this Melbourne couple managed to organise two ceremonies and a big party.

Story BRIDGET CULL Images LIFETIMES

## *How it all began*

Sharni Carter was about to leave a St Kilda bar one night when she bumped into Noda Zissis on the way out. The pair hit it off and Sharni changed her mind about going home.

Noda took her away to Sorrento for a weekend and proposed at the Dromana Pier. He gave her a present, which turned out to be a photo frame with pictures of Sharni as a toddler, Noda as a toddler and a recent photo of the two of them. He'd also put a note in the frame asking her to marry him.

## *The bride*

Sharni wore an elegant dress from Mariana Hardwick. The silk chemise gown had a sweetheart neckline and she wore it with Giallo shoes featuring diamantes across the top.

## *As for the men*

Noda and his five groomsmen all wore three-piece chocolate-brown pinstripe suits. Noda had his tailor made while the groomsmen hired theirs from Prinzi.

## *Bridesmaids*

Since two of the five bridesmaids live interstate, it would have been hard to co-ordinate fittings with a Melbourne dressmaker so Sharni found black strapless dresses at Myer.

## *Flowers*

Sharni says florist Debbie O'Neill did an outstanding job putting together the floral arrangements for the wedding, which included bouquets of cream and white roses for the women.

## *Ceremony*

The couple had two ceremonies, to accommodate Noda's Greek Orthodox religion and Sharni's Anglican background. The formalities began at 1.30pm at Christ Church in South Yarra, before moving on to the South Melbourne Greek Orthodox Church at 3pm.

## *Let the party begin*

The couple felt very lucky to be able to book The Peak at Flemington – The Event Centre at only three months notice. Sharni says they cannot recommend it highly enough as they were impressed by the service, food and the venue itself. "The view of the city lights in the background really created a wow factor," she says. "All our guests were amazed at how stunning the venue looked."

White draping was hung from the ceiling to flow through the room in an N shape, and the tables were decorated with tea-light candles and tall vases of white lilies. The bomboniere of boxes with sugared almonds and chocolate

hearts doubled as place settings and guests' names were printed on them.

The couple made a list of songs to play and gave him a couple of drinks which really got the party started. "I wanted the night to be as much fun as possible," Sharni says. "We kept the bulk of the night was about 11pm."

She also says choosing a bride and five bridesmaids and five groomsmen were the best decisions they made. "It was so fun having so many people in the room. We just wanted to relax and get through the night as stress-free as possible." nerves as possible."

## *On camera*

Lifetimes looked after photography for the couple, and Sharni says Ben had plenty of good advice on photo settings. He was scheduled to be cutting the cake but stayed until the reception, which the couple enjoyed.

## *Honeymoon*

Noda's busy job meant the couple went away straight after their wedding. They spent three nights in luxury at Crocetta Resort in Palm Cove eventually





*(Right) The couple outside the South Melbourne Greek Orthodox Church, after their two ceremonies.*

*Sharni says choosing a big bridal party was one of the best decisions they made...*

## *Details*

**Bride's gown:** Mariana Hardwick [www.marianahardwick.com.au](http://www.marianahardwick.com.au)

**Bride's shoes:** Giallo [www.giallo.com.au](http://www.giallo.com.au)

**Men:** Prinzi [www.prinzi.auz.com](http://www.prinzi.auz.com)

**Bridesmaids:** Myer [www.myer.com.au](http://www.myer.com.au)

**Flowers:** Debbie O'Neil [www.debbieoneill.com.au](http://www.debbieoneill.com.au)

**Reception:** The Peak at Flemington – The Event Centre  
[www.flemingtonevents.com.au](http://www.flemingtonevents.com.au)

**Photography:** Lifetimes ph: 0400 141 307

