

Centenary Lakes, Caboolture.

MORETON BAY  
  
*Celebrancy*



# **Your guide to getting married in a park**

Here in Moreton Bay we have some truly beautiful places that you can reserve for your wedding ceremony.

Waterfront ceremonies, ceremonies in botanic gardens, weddings beside creeks and rivers and gorgeous mountainside or bushland settings. The region stretches from Redcliffe to Bribie Island; from Mt Mee to Ferny Hills and Petrie.

The same goes for surrounding areas.

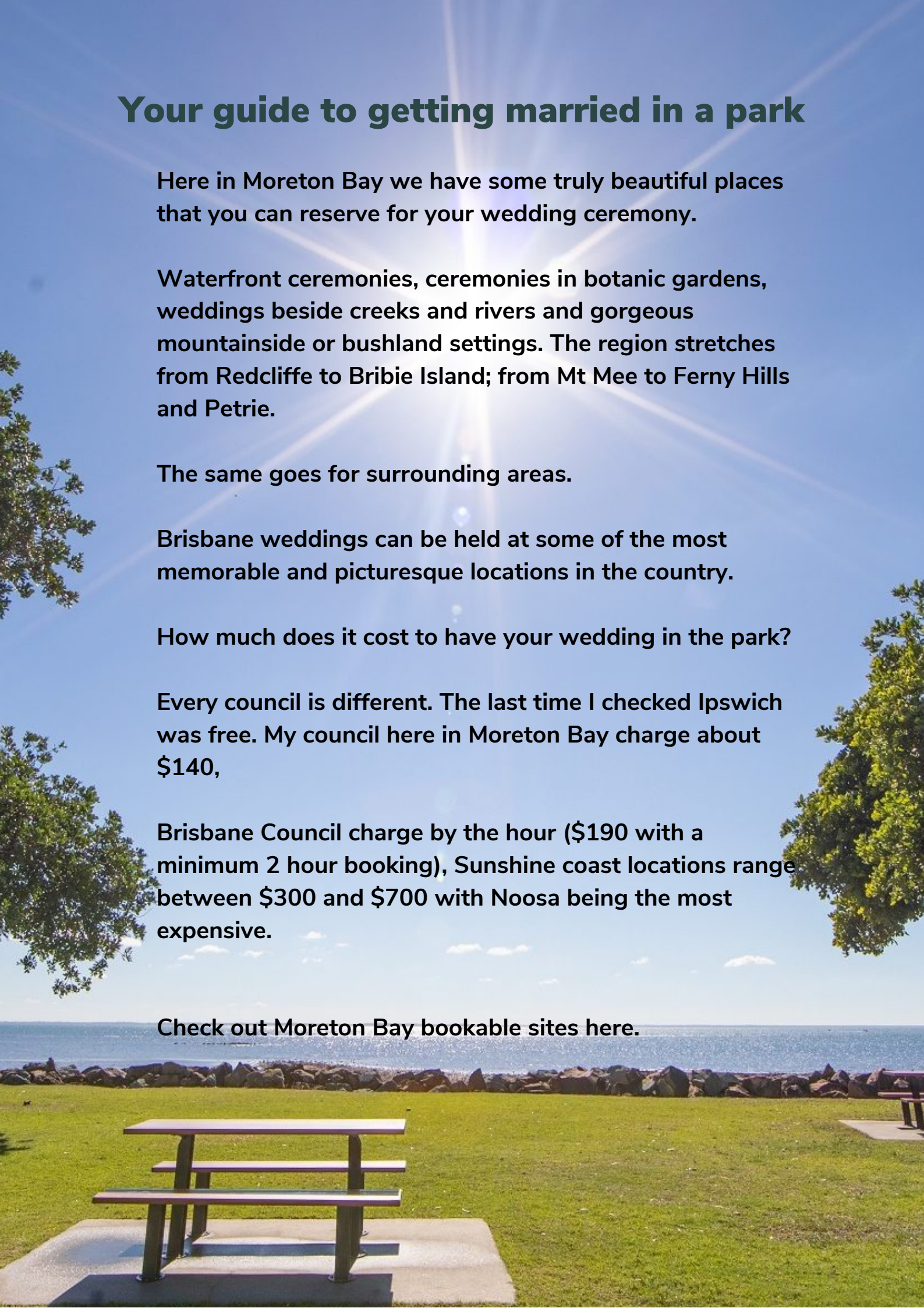
Brisbane weddings can be held at some of the most memorable and picturesque locations in the country.

How much does it cost to have your wedding in the park?

Every council is different. The last time I checked Ipswich was free. My council here in Moreton Bay charge about \$140,

Brisbane Council charge by the hour (\$190 with a minimum 2 hour booking), Sunshine coast locations range between \$300 and \$700 with Noosa being the most expensive.

Check out Moreton Bay bookable sites [here](#).



# Do you need to book the site?

It all depends on how many people will be attending, if you want to set up furniture and how much of a risk you're prepared to take.

Here's a little checklist for setting up a wedding in the park:

<b>IF YOU WANT TO</b>	<b>THEN I ADVISE YOU BOOK</b>
<b>Erect an arbour or bring in seating</b>	<b>You cannot erect any decorations or furniture in most council areas without a permit</b>
<b>Have more than 20 guests, use my PA or play music through the PA</b>	<b>You also can't play amplified sound in most council areas without a permit, and if you have more than 20 guests we will need to.</b>
<b>Get married on the weekend</b>	<b>Then there's no other way to make sure the space is available</b>
<b>Ask others to move on</b>	<b>If you have permit, other patrons can be asked to vacate the area</b>

If there are only 10 guests on a Monday afternoon and you don't want music and styling then you can absolutely get away with not booking the area – but you still run the risk that they might be mowing!

When Council takes a booking they make sure there will be no maintenance carried out in the area at that time.

And don't freak out when they only let you book for 2 or 3 hours, I know Moreton Bay only ever take one booking per day so we won't have to move out quickly to let the next couple in.

# What do I need?

## **Arbour.**

Almost everyone wants to put up an arbour and almost always you probably don't need to. My theory is this; if you've chosen a beautiful, scenic location with mountain, bush or water views, why are you then blocking that view with a plastic arch decorated with fake flowers.

Unless it's really wide arch, your attendants (if you have them) won't fit within it so will be blocking the view of the thing blocking the view. More often than not the hire companies put them up in such a way that I then can't fit behind you for the (very few) times I need to stand with you. The chick at Versace got really shitty with me when I wanted the pillars moved further forward until the photographer got on board and asked as well.

One of the best setups I ever saw was under the Fig Tree at Sandstone point where the stylist had decorated the tree trunk with garlands of flowers rather than in front of or beside it. Those flowers were then re-purposed to the reception tables while the photos were being taken elsewhere.

## **Chairs.**

I have done weddings where couples have set up 70 chairs in the park and only half of them are used. Outside, people are a bit funny about taking a seat for some reason.

I have done weddings where there have been no chairs which works fine so long as none of the guests have mobility issues. Most ceremonies will include a few elderly relatives or mums with bubs and this is where a few nice seats come in handy.

You DO NOT need a chair for every guest and just a half dozen up the front will see you right.

# What do I need?

## Signing Table.

If you've hired a "ceremony package" to be brought in and set up it will probably include this. If you're not, it's another one of those "nice to have" things but not essential.

Some celebrants offer signing tables and chairs – I have a small car and travel alone so I don't do furniture – but I can bring a small decorative table for you to stand at to sign, or have you sign at my lectern – or even using a park table, large rock, boardwalk balustrade – there's always a way.

## Aisle Runner.

This is the one thing I always think is a good idea, particularly if you don't have chairs or an arbour – because it will define the ceremony space. It will make sense of the area to people and signal where they should assemble and where you will stand. It will make it easier for you to walk in heels and to find your way when you're drop dead nervous.

The runner doesn't have to be an expensive hired thing – 3 natural coloured runners from Kmart or if you're posh, Ikea and you're done. Hey – maybe I should think about this for my ceremony kit... what do you reckon?



# What should I look out for?

## **Parking**

Guests with young children or mobility issues will be looking to park up as close as they can, as will vendors with gear to unload (like me!). Also look at where the wedding cars will be letting you out - in full view, secluded, close by or will you have a long walk from the car?

## **Toilets.**

Not all great weddings sites (I'm looking at you Bribie Island) have toilets nearby so if that's the case a note about this on the invitation with the location of the nearest loo stop on the way is very helpful; for parents and women of a certain age (like me!).

## **Slope.**

Not all wedding sites are created equal. Some have a slope. If you're on an incline decide whether you should be at top or bottom of the hill - do you want people looking up at you or down? Also assess where you'll be entering from. This is why I hate Roma Street Parklands. I'm not a pack mule and it's a long walk up hill and down dale with my trolley full of gear.

## **Positioning.**

Is your site too close to the public footpath or toilets and the most important one - where will the sun be? Last year I went for a rehearsal with a couple who had arranged to have their backs to the setting sun. Not a good choice for the piccies or for the guests to be squinting at them. We pivoted the set up around so the sun came in from the side and all was good.

# What should I look out for?

## Shade

It's always nice to have somewhere out of the sun for guests to wait in because as much as you say you won't be late only 1 wedding it 10 actually starts on time.

## Comfort Station

I also recommend setting up an area either on a table that's in situ or on a small folding table with chilled water, sunscreen and insect repellent so that everyone can enjoy being there without feeling too hot or uncomfortable

## Plan B

in this part of the world we always need a wet weather backup plan. My advice is to check for park locations that are handy to a rotunda or large picnic shelter that we can dive under if the heavens open.

Sprinting under the veranda of the clubhouse between the vows and the ring exchange will be a great story for your grandchildren! And actions like this are easy as if you haven't hired a ton of furniture and decorations to be begin with.

If you are planning a more elaborate ceremony setup there's a good chance your local stylist will know places not too far from your original choice that would make for a good backup plan.

Putting the local Scout Group on standby is not a bad idea... look for "not for profits" that might be agreeable to a last minute couple of hundred to use their hall.

Make the decision a day or two before the wedding if you're going to relocate or risk the forecast.

# What are the rules?

Rules will vary from council to council, but the things they have most in common are:

- No alcohol. Most (not all) council outdoor areas are alcohol free so save the champagne tower for the reception. We can get away with a “bridal shot” if you want to incorporate that into your ceremony, we just shouldn’t serve booze to the guests.
- All furniture must be free standing - if you’re hiring someone to set up your styling they will be totally across this. If you’re doing a dry hire you must be aware that arbours or signs must be weighted, you can’t secure them with tent pegs.
- You can’t throw rice or confetti but can use bubbles or scatter flower petals on the ground
- You can’t drive a vehicle onto the grassed areas
- Most council’s require a completed Risk Management Plan (we’ll get to this on the next page)
- All councils require Public Liability Insurance (see next page)



# Insurance and Risk Management

There are websites out there that specialize in 1 off, 1 day public liability policies for events such as wedding ceremonies the park, but they cost, on average, around \$300.

All Brisbane marriage celebrants have Professional Indemnity Insurance. This covers them for situations arising out of their duties as a celebrant, which does **not** include booking any sort of facility and even though a lot of councils will sight a celebrant's insurance and grant the booking, things could get tricky if a claim was made.

My regular insurance is through my professional association and I took legal advice on this some time ago. I'm not saying all celebrants are in this situation, but it is **THE** question to ask if your celebrant is supplying their insurance certificate for you to book a park.

I took out another policy specifically for booking ceremony locations on public land. All you have to do is let me make the booking for you and your only extra expense is the council fee.

Having worked in the construction industry for many years I also know my way around a risk management plan. Most council's have their own template but the language can be confusing if you're not used to such things. I can also help with that and supply them as a matter of course when I'm the one making the booking.

So there you go.

If you are planning on a beachfront ceremony or a wedding in the park, as your celebrant I can also make the council booking for you.

Yes you'll have to pay the booking fee but we eliminate that hidden extra of event insurance because I have you covered. Just another way your journey with me is as effortless as possible.

If you'd like to have a proper old chin-wag about the ins and outs of some of our local beauties - including some that are NOT listed on council's website (like Roxburgh Heritage Park in the photo) book a free call with me today.



# TESTIMONIALS



**WE HAD THE IDEA THAT THE CEREMONY  
PART OF THE WEDDING WAS THE  
BORING PART THAT YOU JUST HAD TO  
GET THROUGH BUT SALLY-ANN MADE IT  
THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE DAY FOR ME.  
(DAVID S)**

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**SHE MADE IT FEEL LIKE SHE HAD KNOWN  
US FOR MANY MANY MANY YEARS.  
OUR GUESTS ADORED HER! WE  
LAUGHED, WE CRIED! IT WAS GLORIOUS!  
(DANNI R)**

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**OUR FAMILIES ALL SPOKE VERY HIGHLY  
OF THE CEREMONY, IN PARTICULAR OUR  
DAD'S REALLY LOVED AND APPRECIATED  
BEING CALLED OUT AND A PART OF THE  
CEREMONY. THANKS SO MUCH!  
(RACHAEL B)**



## **CLAIM YOUR FREE NO-OBLIGATION 30-MINUTE CONSULTATION AND I'LL SPILL ALL THE TEA ON EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR WEDDING.**

Thank you for taking the time to read this eBook – I hope you've found the information helpful and can use what you've learned to successfully choose your perfect wedding suppliers.

During your 30-minute session, we'll discuss your current situation, what your hopes are and how to make all your wishes come true.

We'll also cover a stack of valuable information together, including...

- What the real difference is between a \$500 celebrant and a \$2500 one
- What you DON'T have to do at your wedding
- Is there really a "wedding tax"?
- What to look out for when you're booking a venue

There's no cost or obligation to move forwards with me as your celebrant. It's simply a free information session designed to educate you and provide value to you in advance.

You won't find a link to this on my (hilarious) website. This offer is exclusively made to couples who download my eBooks.

To claim your free consultation all you have to do is click the link below.

## **BOOK IT HERE**

# THANK YOU FOR READING!



SALLY-ANN THOMAS  
AUTHORIZED  
MARRIAGE  
CELEBRANT

Book a chat now!

