

# You Too Can Have Full, Luxurious Hair...



comes across them personally and may only have one or two brides each year who are a little harder to please. "I remember one in particular who wanted her dress tighter but then it was too tight. So I made it looser and then she said it was too loose. She just couldn't make up her mind but we got there in the end." Irene recalls another older lady who was determined to wear a large glitzy tiara for her special day, despite Irene's best efforts to talk her out of it. "She wanted the biggest tiara I had and it didn't suit at all," she laughs. "I coaxed her into some flowers and jewels instead but in the end she went back to this huge tiara and I just kept hoping that nobody would know that I had sold it to her."

**"The girl tends to get a certain smile on her face and I am always waiting for that look."**

Irene says she simply tries to go with the flow when these tricky situations arise. "I am there to make the girls happy and that is always my goal. Most girls are so lovely and you make so many friends. I have to admit I do have trouble remembering every single one of them though. Sometimes I'll see someone in the street and really struggle, it's embarrassing because you would think after all those fittings you would remember who they were."

Irene has seen many changes in the Cairns wedding business and despite the current economic downturn she believes the industry is still stronger than ever. "I think the wedding industry is very important to the area and it's definitely become busier over the years. It's a beautiful place to have a wedding, anywhere from Cairns to the Tablelands and it's no wonder that people come here from the southern states and overseas to let their hair down and have a great time."

It looks as if Irene will make many more friends before her time as a wedding seamstress ends. After sewing almost every day since her teens, she still thrives on her work and says she will keep going as long as she continues to enjoy it. "I will try and walk away before I lose the thrill and become a grumpy old woman but I don't think that will be any time soon. Some people call me their favourite aunt, perhaps when they start calling me their favourite grandma it'll be time to go." CL

## Cairns – To Do Or Not To Do

Everybody loves the pomp and pageantry of a celebrity wedding and fortunately in the north we have had our fair share of them. It was a shame when Natalie Imbruglia and Daniel Johns' exclusive wedding at Thala Beach and their wishes for a happy ever after didn't turn out quite out the way they expected, but there are still many more goings on to keep the gossip columns full and us locals entertained. Last year a whole television crew from Belgium arrived downunder to shoot the next generation of reality TV. Titled somewhat originally, *Wedding Downunder*, 12 couples vied for the chance to have an all expenses paid wedding at the ultra-exclusive and uber-expensive Double Island Resort. Yes that's right, after three months of some rather unusual "couple" challenges, one couple got their dream wedding, and Port Douglas celebrant Rosina Santarossa was there for it all. "It

was just beautiful, magical really and so well done." As for any more celebrity thoroughfares, wedding planner to the stars Xen Pardoe-Miles, says we will have to wait and see. The gun behind the Imbruglia and Johns' nuptials, says the north holds enormous appeal. "There has been a lot of secret activity, but confidentiality agreements prevent me from talking about. The north is so appealing because it has everything." However, Zen admits the north's biggest drawback is the fact it is so far from the capital city based paparazzi. "Let's face it, if the wedding can be kept quiet and the paparazzi only get a whiff of it on the day, then by the time they catch a flight and get to where they are want to go, it is usually all over." Now that's putting it into context – the north, not for its beauty, but more its geographical location. Either way, we love them, which begs the question, who will be next?

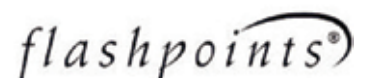
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