



Love birds

SIMONE COLLIER & CHRIS SMITH
MARCH 21, 2009
ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH,
BERRIMA, NSW

Taking flight Simone and Chris, both 26, settled on a wedding theme based on Chris's love of birds. A lawyer by trade, the groom showcased his creative side by drawing a bird image that was letterpressed onto their save the date cards and invitations. "Our save the date cards aptly told our guests 'Don't let the date fly away'," says Simone. The bird theme was also present during their ceremony at St Francis Xavier Catholic Church where the couple's page boy Dylan Greenwood carried a bird's nest-style ring pillow and guests threw bird-shaped confetti. A reception for 90 guests followed at Milton Park Country House Hotel in Bowral where the gardens were decorated with bird cages filled with flowers hanging from trees. Escort cards in envelopes stamped with Chris's bird motif directed guests to their tables and the couple provided a paper dove on which guests could leave their message, rather than a traditional book.

Bridal waltz The couple chose *Unchained Melody* by the Righteous Brothers to waltz to for their first dance. "Chris and I spent months, try six, learning our wedding dance thanks to the patience and talent of our teacher, Terry Fitzgerald," says the bride. The bridal party, knowing the effort Simone and Chris had gone to, decided to judge them on completion. "Thankfully, we scored a few tens and our guests seemed to be most pleased with everyone rising from their chairs and applauding us," recalls Simone. "It was a very special moment even though we did make a few mistakes!"

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Simone wore a silk-georgette gown with sweetheart neckline and ruched bodice featuring freshwater pearls and Swarovski crystals by Corston Couture. The three-tier, pale blue cake with white lace detail, handmade white roses and small white love birds by Faye Cahill Cake Design. The bridesmaids wore silk-georgette, aqua-blue, knee-length dresses with ruched bodices and grosgrain bow detail from Harvey & Ella.



WORDS: EMMA DINWIDDIE. PHOTOGRAPHY: INFINITYPHOTOGRAPHY.COM.AU



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: The newlywed couple photographed out in nature by Infinity Photography. The bride wore a pair of heart-shaped crystal earrings that were a gift from her late father to her mother. Bomboniere of bird cage-shaped shortbread from Polka Dot Cookies & Cakes were adorned with handmade cards featuring birds, ordered online at etsy.com. The rustic birds' nest ring pillow featured sweet miniature blue eggs. Birdcages full of flowers decorated the gardens of Milton Park Country House Hotel. Pretty ornamental birds helped tie the couple's theme together.

sources list

CORSTON COUTURE (GOWN)
corston.com.au
FAYE CAHILL CAKE DESIGN (CAKE)
fayecahill.com.au
HARVEY & ELLA (BRIDESMAID DRESSES) (03) 9509 3126
INFINITY PHOTOGRAPHY (PHOTOS)
infinityphotography.com.au
MILTON PARK COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL (RECEPTION) milton-park.com.au
POLKA DOT COOKIES & CAKES (BOMBONIERE) polka.com.au
THE SYDNEY DANCING SCHOOL (WALTZING LESSONS)
dancingschool.com.au

