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Stylish decorations set the scene

Photos are one way of providing a lasting memory of your wedding day. Another is to create a feeling of ambience which, studies prove, guests recall long after they have forgotten what the food was like or which wine was served, says Glenys Johnston, of Creative Occasions.

When it comes to planning weddings, she and her husband Kevin have many years experience. It's nothing for them to arrange an entire wedding for an overseas couple, although more frequently it's their ability to transform a sterile venue into an appealing wedding venue.

They will be showing some of what they can do when they decorate Nelson's Premier Bridal Show at the Rutherford Hotel this Sunday.

Glenys says wedding decorating styles are now virtually endless but the three main styles they are being asked for are firstly - simple and elegant eg. candelabra and fairylighting; secondly - themes eg. the sea and thirdly - innovative eg. balloon sculpture. The days of margarine tub posy bowl centrepieces are virtually over, she says.

The important thing is to select a style and make sure all of the decorations are co-ordinated.

Inexperienced people tend to incorporate too much in the wrong areas and the end result is disappointing.

Often less is best and indeed it sometimes has to be when you are working to a budget. And let's face it, she says, everybody is and it has a long way to stretch for a wedding.

Creative Occasions' hire service is one way to keep expenses down. They have a range of decorations to buy or hire from their retail outlet at 87 Nile Street (opposite Central School) for those who want to DIY or you can commission a design and have Creative Occasions do the decorating for you.

Recently they had 13 wedding venues to decorate in one weekend! With keys to most buildings, the couple could well be compared to elves in the night. The decorations went up in the middle of the night and disappeared just as mysteriously the next. But the memories they helped create for the bridal couple and their guests are guaranteed to last a lot longer.