

The following two pages, page 7 and 8, are excerpts from ***Engagement and Wedding Traditions and Customs***, available for client use only, through Nancy Batenburg, Dream Dancer Celebrations (www.dreamdancer.com.au) and NT Celebrants (www.ntcelebrants.com.au)

When to marry

Here are two English rhymes that tell of your fate for marriages in each month:

Rhyme 1

Married when the year is new,
He'll be loving, kind and true.
When February birds do mate
You wed nor dread your fate.
If you wed when March winds blow
Joy and sorrow both you'll know.
Marry in April when you can
Joy for maiden and the man.
Marry in the month of May
And you'll surely rue the day.
Marry when the June roses grow
Over land and sea you'll go.
Those who in July do wed
Must labour for their daily bread.
Whoever wed in August be,
Many a change is sure to see.
Marry in September's shine,
Your living will be rich and fine.
If in October you do marry
Love will come, but riches tarry.
If you wed in bleak November
Only joys will come, remember
When December's snows fall fast,
Marry and true love will last.



Rhyme 2

Married in January's roar and rime,
Widowed you'll be before your prime.
Married in February's sleepy weather,
Life you'll tread in time together.
Married when March winds shrill and
roar,
Your home will lie on a distant shore.
Married 'neath April's changeful skies,
A chequered path before you lies.
Married when bees o'er May blossoms
flit,
Strangers around your board will sit.



Married in month of roses June,
Life will be one long honeymoon.
Married in July with flowers ablaze,
Bitter-sweet memories in after days.
Married in August's heat and drowse,
Lover and friend in your chosen spouse.
Married in September's golden glow,
Smooth and serene your life will go.
Married when leaves in October thin,
Toil and hardships for you begin.
Married in veils of November mist,
Fortune your wedding ring has kissed.
Married in days of December's cheer,
Love's star shines brighter from year to year.

And here's what each day of the week brings you:

Monday	For Wealth
Tuesday	For Health
Wednesday	The best day of all
Thursday	For Losses
Friday	For Crosses
Saturday	For no luck at all!

Finally, the proverb "Prosperity to the man and happiness to the maid when married in June" comes from the ancient Romans. The month of June was named after Juno, the Queen of the Gods and the Goddess of women, and who was also seen as the protector of married life. The Romans believed that she blessed marriages that took place in her month.

Wedding Ceremony Customs

Unity Candle

Probably the most familiar religious wedding traditions are the Roman Catholic and Protestant ones. The lighting of the unity candle--where two symbolic flames become one--is a particularly familiar image.

Hindu

In some Hindu wedding ceremonies, the groom is responsible for the bride's clothing. But instead of the familiar white gown, Hindu brides wear a sari. When the bride arrives at the ceremony, she wears clothing from her parents; when all is done, she is dressed in clothing her husband has provided