1. **To what size group will the speech be delivered?**

* Large (100-110 people)

1. **The speech will be delivered to a group made up of mostly?**

* Family and friends

1. **Where will the event be held?**

* Caversham House, Swan Valley, Western Australia (reception centre)

1. **What kind of speech do you want?**

* Funny, Sentimental, Heartwarming

1. **Is there a key person(s) to whom the speech will be given? Tell us their name(s) and a little about his/her personality.**

* See below – Q10

1. **Please share information about events or memories you have together that you would like mentioned in the speech.**

* See below – Q10

**7. What do you want your audience to think or feel as a result of experiencing your presentation?**

* Warm and fuzzy (and uplifted!)

**8. Is there an action that you would like your audience to take as a result of experiencing your presentation?**

**9. What is your deadline for delivering the speech?**

* 24 November 2018

**10. Finally, please provide your speechwriter with any additional information you would like to have included in your speech. Include all information you feel is essential to your speech.**

* See Notes page – I’ve written some thoughts on each person.. it might be too long.. and fluffy.

**Notes**

Thank you to each and every one of you for coming to celebrate our marriage today. To those of you who know me well and know that I would more than likely give a speech tonight, thank you for still coming ☺

Seriously though, today is a memory that I will cherish for the rest of my life, and the people here tonight are the ones that I wanted to share in that memory with me, so I thank you.

To echo all of the fantastic speeches before me, thank you also to everybody who helped with the preparations for today. I am grateful to have your help, support and friendship in my life.

Particularly, I’d like to thank the creators of Pinterest, without whom this wedding could never have taken place! I’d also like to thank my wonderful work friends for pretending not to notice that I’d turned my office into a wedding stuff delivery point over the past 6 months!

But, oh my goodness, Brad, you have done an amazing job coordinating everything. And putting up with my constant whats-apping wedding pictures and ideas for the last 12 months. We cannot thank you enough for all that you have done and hope that your amazing talent will help other brides in the future to create fairy-tale weddings.

I’d like to acknowledge my new family. Blah blah… Elaine (mum in law) raised 6 boys on a farm.. woman of grace and strength welcomed me wholeheartedly into her family.. If I can be half the McKenzie bride that you were..

To Doug, Hazey and Dicko, my husband’s motley crew. These boys have supported him through the good times, they’ve supported him through the bad times, and most weeks, they’ve supported him on the golf course one way or another. I remember the first time I met each of you, and how warm and welcoming you were of Neil’s new girlfriend. I’m so glad he has in you what I also cherish so dearly in my offsiders.

My beautiful bridesmaids and best friends. Michal, you are my oldest and closest friend. We have been through so much together since we were 4 years old and singing to each other through our respective bathroom windows. Thinking about it now, that singing is a little ironic as it was you that always told me to never settle for anyone less than the one who makes your heart sing. Your friendship has been a source of strength to me over the years and I want to say that I feel honoured to have you standing with me today. Thank you.

Sonni and Maree, you crazy kids, you just look at me and see who I am and how I feel and you accept it, you never try to change me, you’ve never felt the need to. Thank you for being there for me – out of the billion people out there, you’re the people I would call if I ever ended up murdering anyone and needed help to dragging the corpse across the living room floor. I love you all.

Now there are two people I would especially like to honour tonight. And that’s my dear Mum and Dad. Dad, thank you for giving me away. It’s a funny saying that isn’t it, Give me away – I’m actually not going anywhere so don’t think for a second you’ve given me to anyone or gotten rid of me! Maisy reminded me recently when she said she used to want to marry her dad. I remembered, yeah! I used to want to marry my Dad too. There was something about Dad beeping the horn when he came home from work so I could jump in his lap and steer the old EH holden down the driveway and pretend I was driving. That’s what Dad’s do – they let you believe you can do anything. Thanks for always thinking I could do anything Dad.

Mum, you loved me enough to say no to things you didn’t think I was old enough to do yet, to keep me safe. You loved me enough to insist that I get a job and save up and buy new things for myself, and even though there were lots of sulks and silent treatments then, I understand now the lessons you were teaching me. You have made me an independent woman and I have you to thank for that. By your example, I also learnt that you can be an independent, strong woman and still wholeheartedly love and care and nurture a family. Keep them well and happy, feed them good food, do the small things for them that make their life easy.

And between the two of you. After 53 years together, 47 of marriage. Here’s what I’ve learnt. The good times are wonderful, having misunderstandings is quite normal, the contentment you find, giving each other space, doing stuff as a family,– that’s all great. But ultimately, the unconditional love – it shows up when the chips are down and you need each other the most. And that’s completely inspirational to me. Thank you for all you have done, I love you both.

Long-lasting, committed relationships run right through our family, Craig and Tasha – my dear brother whom I set up with my very good friend at a wedding over 20 years ago have been married for a long time and together they have created the most delightful nieces and nephew anyone could hope for. Thanks for being so inspiring to me and for sharing your children with me. Being an auntie is one of my most favourite roles in this life. If Matilda, Maisy and Oscar look at me me one day with as much adoration as I have for my own aunties, I will be a very enriched woman indeed.

I guess that’s what I’ve had the privilege of having these last few years through meeting and marrying you Neil. A ready-made family. Sam and Claire are grown up and have their own lives and family now too, of course. I know Sam is a little disappointed that I don’t follow the west coast eagles but he and I do share a common opinion about his Dad being the World’s Worst Passenger if you’re driving.. Claire, we may not share DNA but when I married your Dad today we officially became family and a precious part of each other’s lives. And now that you are home I hope that our friendship continues to grow. And Caitlyn, well you’re part of the reason we’re all here tonight – we see you now as quite the social butterfly, friends with everyone, in constant contact keeping those friendships alive and really, it was no different when I met you at the age of 9. Making firm friends with Bodhi and I and may that continue for the rest of our lives.

And finally, we come to acknowledge my new husband. I’d like to finish off telling a story. Or rather I thought I’d take you through all the quirks of fate that have brought Neil and I together. Starting with the first hurdle… Finding him!

Yes, the odds of finding our one true love are stacked against us. Especially when it’s essential that they agree that Freddie Mercury is the greatest ever front man to have ever existed in this world, they need to like a gin and tonic as their go to drink and be able to tolerate my rather noisy digestive system through the night.

Thank fate then that Neil decided to continue his theme of choosing houses that overlook parks, at about the same time that I thought it best to move out of Mums and Dads (for the second time) and buy a place in Mount Hawthorn too.

Because, as we heard earlier, Bodhi met Pablo, Caitlyn met Lee and the rest was history in the making. The first time we met, I pretty much had Neil’s entire life story but being the reserved type, I couldn’t get a word in… I mean I held back.

But, by the time we parted ways I already knew I wanted to see him again. Like that opened packet of peppermint chocolate, he was something that I just couldn’t forget was around.

We started dating and as I got to know him better, I discovered another stroke of luck…

It turns out Neil has an exceptionally high tolerance level. This means, despite the occasional moan, he could put up with my loud, outrageous an opinionated friends, my dog farting in the bedroom from time to time, me leaving copious amounts of water in the bathroom after my showers, and hogging the kitchen most nights.

I think we can all agree I was rather fortunate to meet such a man and as our relationship progressed luck continued to play its part.

We discovered we actually had a lot in common… we both our music, particularly live under the open sky, we both love exercising, we both love discovering new activities to try together and we both seemed to rather love each other.

Neil I would have been a very much a happy girl to continue sharing our life together as it was. But then you surprised me with such a grand, romantic proposal. And you know it takes a lot to surprise me because I am a little bit psycho.. I mean psychic. But in that moment, I felt like the luckiest girl alive.

And it’s just gotten better and better.

Neil, you are the sun to my shine, the moon to my light, the heart to my beat and the ice to my cream.

Dr Seuss said ‘People are weird. When we find someone with weirdness that is compatible with ours, we team up and call it love’.

Of course it’s easy to love Neil. I must confess, his unique brand of weirdness always seems rather wonderful. And as his wife I promise to cherish his idiosyncrasies as I know he will tolerate mine ☺

To quote one of our favourite movies, ‘me and you goes together like peas and carrots’.

I’m so proud for you to now call me your wife. Please raise your glasses and toast my new husband.

To Neil.