

## **YOU'RE INVITED .....**

*By Carin Louw – Handmaid*

“**Handmaid** was started as a home based business in 1999. What initially started as a hobby soon turned into a passion as I discovered all the possibilities of paper and ribbon.

Over the past years, I have met a huge amount of people who entrusted me with their wedding invitations. I pride myself in the fact that I treat each client as an individual and allow each client to add their own personal touch to their invitations.

I believe that the first impression your invitation must make, must reflect your personality and the overall feel of your wedding.”

Friends and family will all know that you're getting married and most of them will have diarised the date way in advance. It might remain a distant date to look forward to until they come into contact with the first tangible token indicating that the day has drawn near from an abstract occasion on the distant horizon to a function just around the corner. Your invitation will be the catalyst that sparks a flurry of activity. Women will rush out to find the perfect outfit. Men will consult sporting almanacs in order to determine if there are any big matches they are likely to miss on the day. Registries will be consulted and gift shopping will ensue – from the date of receipt of the invitation probably up till the day of the wedding.

When deciding on a stationer and the style of invitation you would like, there are various factors you need to consider:

- Do you want a printed invitation or a handmade one? Printed invitations are mostly produced by big print houses who don't always have the time to make up the invitations; instead, they supply the client with the different pieces and the clients have to assemble their invitations themselves. This means that wax seals, ribbons and other decorations will need to be done by you. Handmade invitations are a labour intensive process which can take a supplier over a week to make, but you are assured of being given invitations that are ready to deliver. Handmade invitations are much more original and personalised which is why they are more expensive.
- What wording do you want to use? You can source information on the wording of invitations from your stationer, the internet or bridal books.

The details regarding the venue as well as the RSVP details then follow. It is also very important to let guests know what the dress code is, where you are registered for gifts, whether there is a cash bar and if children are allowed to attend. Don't feel that you have to use the traditional wording or a set template on your invitation – be creative and write something personalised if you want to. Just keep in mind that certain styles of invitations don't allow for longer wording while others do.