



Wedding Information Guide 2025



Welcome to Makoura Lodge

Tucked away amongst the breath-taking beauty of rural Manawatū, Makoura Lodge offers the perfect setting for an exclusive, destination wedding weekend. You will find all your needs in one unique environment, creating an intimate, seamless flow, and an easy to plan wedding. Here you will discover: stunning landscapes for endless photo opportunities, onsite accommodation, charismatic indoor and outdoor ceremony settings, delicious food, and a bar with your favourite beverages. The following day, enjoy the further company of your loved ones over a big Makoura cooked breakfast.

Our experienced wedding co-ordinator and friendly staff offer genuine, relaxed and professional hospitality. We will take care of all the finer details whilst you enjoy your memorable wedding weekend. This ensures that you get time to make special memories with all of your loved ones in a relaxed, 'home feel' atmosphere. Makoura Lodge weddings are a truly enjoyable experience for everyone.



Sample Itinerary

The Day Before

- 3-6pm Accommodation check-in + décor placement
- 5pm Ceremony rehearsal
- 6pm BYO BBQ & drinks at Burnside Cottage or pre-booked meal at the Lodge

Wedding Day!

- 9am Option for pre-booked continental breaky at the Lodge
- 12pm Clay bird shooting
- 3pm Guest arrival at the Lodge

These timings are for day-light savings. When it ends we recommend bringing your timings forward an hour.

- 3.30pm Ceremony
- 4pm Celebratory drinks & canapés served
- 4.30pm Lawn games + MC briefing + Family photos
- 5pm Bridal party photos
- 5.40pm Newlywed photos
- 6.20pm Bridal party enters the Lodge
- 6.30pm Main course
- 7.25pm Cutting of the cake
- 7.30pm Speeches
- 8.15pm Dessert & wedding cake served
- 9pm First dance
- 9pm Dancing until late
- 12am Bar closes

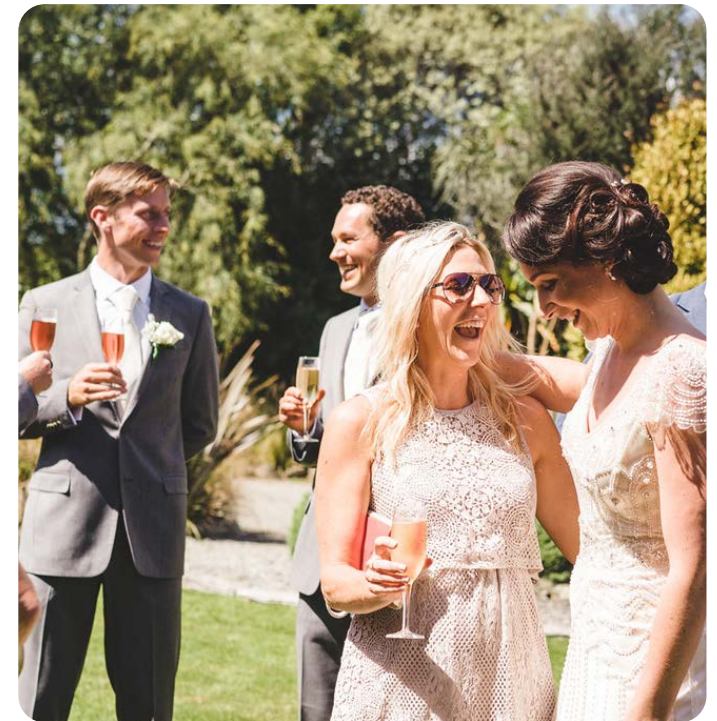
The day after

- 9am Buffet breakfast with guests
- 11am Departure



Ceremony

When it is time to walk down the aisle and exchange vows, our reassuring wedding coordinator will play your music of choice and guide your bridal party to walk down the aisle. Wed in our tranquil native gardens or embrace the rustic charm indoors in front of our heart-warming open fireplace. To celebrate the conclusion of your ceremony you will be served with bubbly and canapes. When it is time to capture your memories in photographs you have the option for us to take you in our four-wheel drive to all the best spots on our 50-acre estate. From majestic hill tops with the Ruahine Range in the background to the pristine awa, Makoura Lodge is a wedding photographer's dream location.

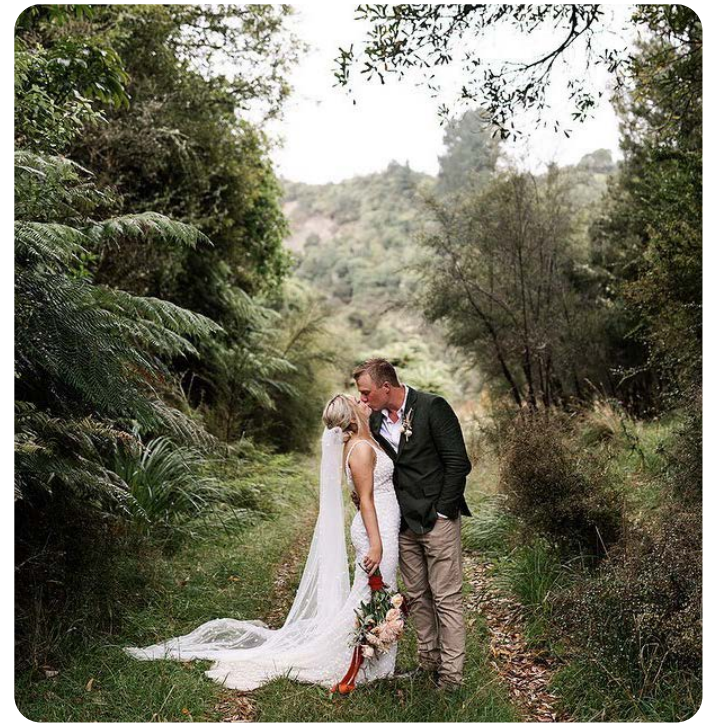




“Makoura Lodge is an incredible place to have your wedding. The team were fantastic to work with, they were organised and very welcoming towards us and all our guests. Our guests all commented on how delicious the food was, both in the evening and the breakfast the day after, and how stunning the scenery was. We definitely recommend Makoura Lodge as a wedding venue, or weekend getaway.”

— Lily and Josh Sutton



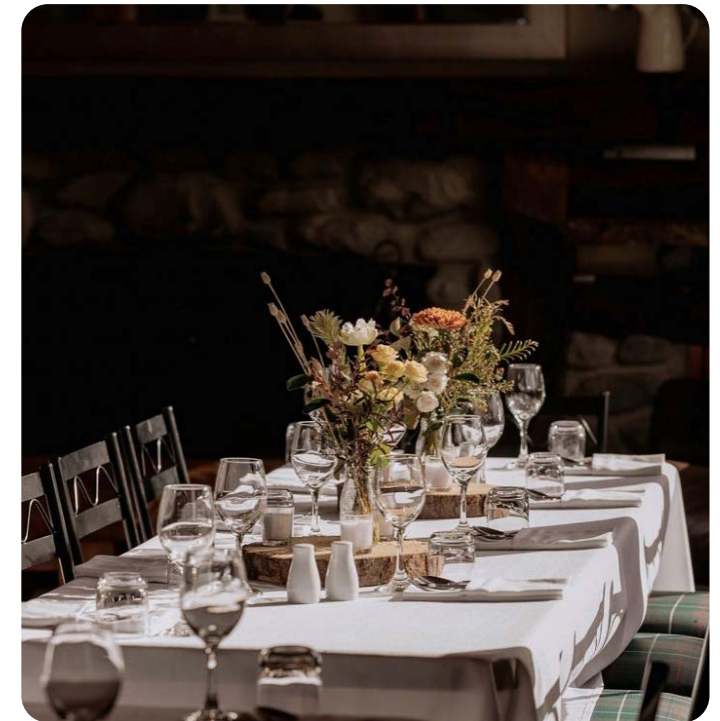


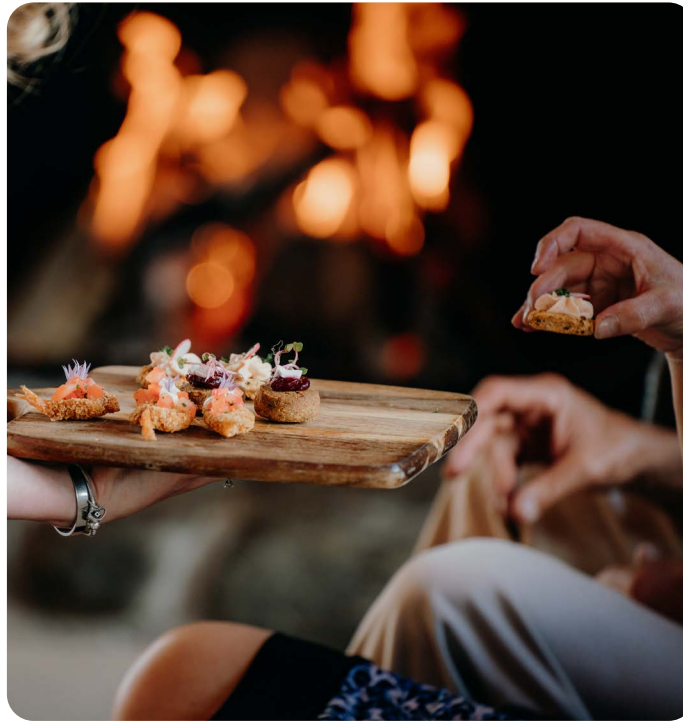


Reception

The reception area seats up to 110 guests and is a charmer with its macrocarpa ceilings and panoramic outlook of the Ruahine Ranges. Your table setting will be ready upon arrival and a simple touch of your flowers or candles completes the look beautifully. In cooler months you can experience the ambiance of having our open log fire crackling away.

We take care of background music and provide microphones for speeches. Once the formalities of the evening conclude celebrate the night away; being a true country venue you do not need to worry about noise infringements! When you are ready to retire for the evening, the onsite accommodation provides an effortless flow.





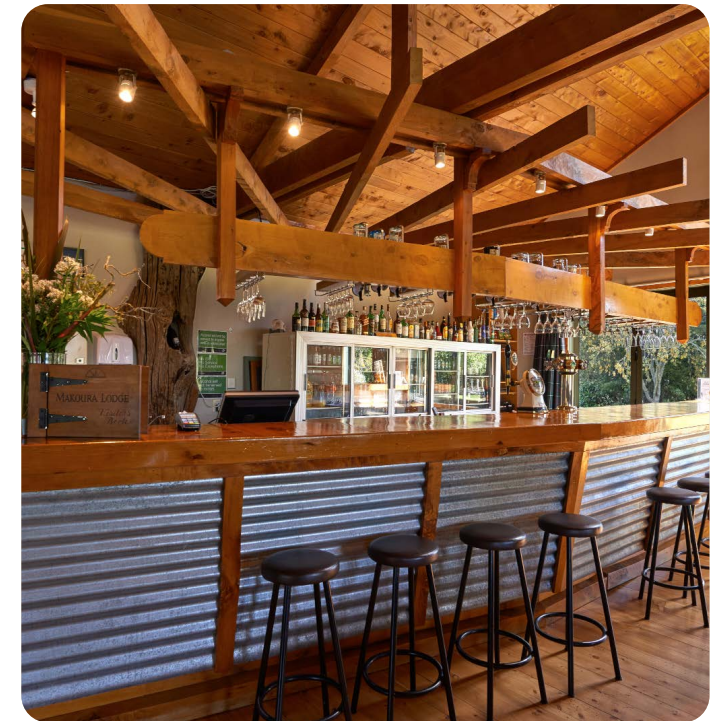
Menus

We offer a delicious collection of buffet menu options with fresh produce sourced from our vegetable garden and a local meat collection. All dietaries can be catered for and we like to ensure the food is bountiful so there is always plenty for seconds!

Our boutique bar has a wide selection of beer, wines, spirits, RTDs, and non-alcoholic beverages. Bar tabs can be set up or guests can pay as they go. BYO Wine is permitted (corkage charge applies) with a limit of two bottles per ten adults.

You can see our wedding and beverage menus on our website.

[Menus](#)



Accommodation

When you choose Makoura Lodge for your wedding you will gain exclusive use of our wonderful accommodation options from the afternoon before your wedding. Makoura Lodge has accommodation for up to 52 people on a shared basis. We have six modern suites attached to the main Lodge, two cottages: Burnside cottage and Glenluce homestead. If our accommodation is booked by a minimum of 40 guests, we allow camping and caravans to stay.

Burnside Cottage is perfect for bridal party preparations with its charming native timbered interior and hallway arch. Two nights' accommodation is included into our Wedding Packages for the bridal couple and you have the option to stay in the Lodge accommodation (Package One) or the secluded Riverside Retreat (Package Two).

Post Wedding Breaky

Reminisce with your guests the next morning over a delicious, cooked buffet breakfast and barista coffee at 9am. As the Makoura dream team do all the cleaning up all you need to do is take your décor home (walk-in walk-out venue!). We have a leisurely check-out time of 11 am so no need to rush!

See our buffet big breaky here.

[Buffet Breakfast](#)

Pricing

Your guests can make payment upon check-in. The following pricing is a flat rate across all the accommodation. Please see our terms and conditions for important lodging information.

Pricing includes **one full cooked breakfast** on the day after the wedding.

Adult BnB discount rate – for more than 30 guests staying

Wedding night: \$96 pp | Two nights: \$162 pp

Adult BnB rate – for 20 to 30 guests staying

Wedding night: \$128pp | Two nights: \$200 pp

Children BnB rate (5-12years)

Wedding night: \$75 pp | Two nights: \$134 pp

Children BnB rate (under 5 years)

Wedding night: \$60pp | Two nights: \$120pp (no charge if staying in a porta-cot & is halved if sharing a bed)

Caravans & Camping BnB rate

Wedding night: \$52 pp | Two nights: \$76 pp (permitted only if more than 40 guests staying onsite)

For useful sleep plan information and extra accommodation providers nearby, please visit our website.

[Group Bookings](#)





Riverside Retreat

Riverside Retreat is included in Package Two for the newlyweds

- Spend your first night married in a pure New Zealand haven!
- Wind down and enjoy the outdoor bath & watch the stars
- Transport is provided to and from the Retreat by your host
- Secluded, peaceful, & private





Studio & Spa Suites

- Two double room spa suites
- Four studio suites
- Close proximity to the Lodge
- Each suite has a private en-suite
- Sleeps three to five guests per suite





Glenluce Homestead

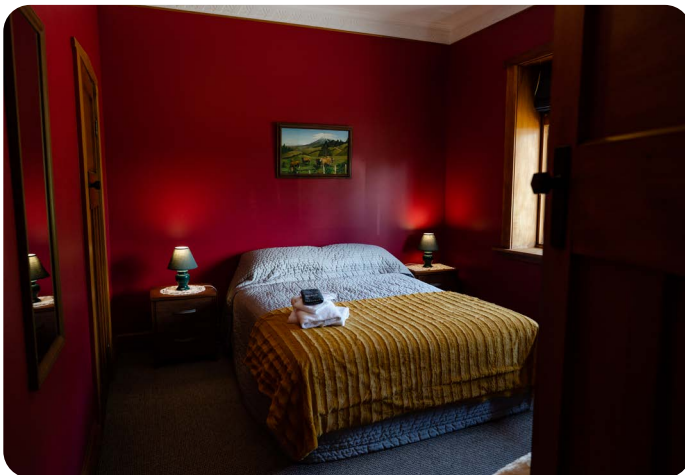
- Five themed bedrooms
- Sleeps up to seventeen guests
- Two showers & two toilets
- Self-contained kitchen
- BBQ





Burnside Cottage

- Recommended for Bridal party preparations
- Quaint character home
- Sleeps up to nine guests
- One shower & one claw foot bath
- Self-contained kitchen
- BBQ



2025 Wedding Packages

Please see our all-inclusive, walk-in walk-out venue package options

Prices include GST. A minimum spend of 60 adult guests for catering applies to November-April weekend bookings.



Package One

Wedding Management & Venue Hire: November-April \$5850 | May- October or Wednesdays' \$4050

- Exclusive & private use of Makoura Lodge from 3 pm the day before your wedding to 11 am the day after your wedding
- Reception set up & equipment: tables and chairs, black or white tablecloths, white linen napkins, cutlery, glassware, crockery, head table valence, seating plan easel, wishing well, menu board, pressie table, cake table, cake stand, & cake knife
- Two nights' accommodation at the Lodge for the bridal couple
- Delish cooked breaky the day after for the bridal couple
- Ceremony set up & equipment: 72 chairs, register table & chair, wooden archway, blankets, picnic tables & umbrellas, sound system

- Rehearsal of ceremony the afternoon before
- Picnic hamper & a selection of chilled refreshments for you to take away on your photos (the cost of beverages consumed is charged to your account)
- Use of Makoura's country acreage for wedding photos
- Storage, cutting, & serving of wedding cake
- Dance floor sound system, microphone & operation of your music
- 3 site visits
- Planning guide & correspondence
- Hospitality staff and bar service to 12 am
- Lawn Games
- Festoon lighting
- Clean up & rubbish disposal

Package Two

Wedding Management & Venue Hire: November-April \$6550 | May- October or Wednesdays' \$5250

Includes everything in Package One plus:

- One night's accommodation at the Lodge and the wedding nights' accommodation at Riverside Retreat

- Clay bird shooting for one hour- great activity pre-wedding!
- 4x4 vehicle & driver to chauffeur you to our best photographic locations on the acreage & be of assistance to your photographer

Booking Process and Payments

Upon booking

\$1000 deposit is required alongside our booking form (please email us).

Six months prior to your wedding

The Cost of your Package Choice is due .

10-14 days prior

- Catering
- Corkage if applicable
- Estimated bar tab (any unused will be refunded)
- Any optional extras you choose

Day after

Any extras or unpaid accounts (including your guests).

10-14 days after

Any damages will be taken off the \$1000 deposit. If all is well this will be refunded back to you within 14 days.



Optional Add Ons

You may wish to add these on to enhance your wedding experience:

Please enquire for current pricing

- Activities such as archery or axe throwing
- A 3m diameter brazier on your wedding night
- Meals the night before please see our menu options- the BBQ is a great idea, or you can BYO food/ drinks to the houses
- Continental breaky the day of your wedding
- Grazing platters delivered to the accommodation for lunch
- Late night snacks
- Projector and screen hire



2025 Terms and Conditions

Your responsibilities

- Any decorations that you wish to use such as flowers, candles, guest books, signs, aisle and archway decor. It is your responsibility to set up your decor and to dismantle and remove from the premises. We have the right to charge a setup fee should you ask us to set up any of your decor and/or a disposal fee for any decor that is left behind.
- Music choice- you cannot beat live music but if you would like to use our sounds system, we will play your playlists for you. Spotify is available.
- Choice of your vendors. We will provide you with a list of useful contacts, but you are responsible for choosing your own photographer, celebrant, makeup artists, bands, florists etc.
- Your table seating plan. We can provide an easel to present your seating plan on. A1 sizing for your seating plan is ideal for our easel size.
- Any damages or requirement for additional cleaning (for example due to the hair from hessian runners, inorganic confetti, spilled candle wax, glitter or jelly balls) may incur extra costs. Stained tablecloths will incur a dry-cleaning fee or if replacement is necessary a replacement fee will apply. Extra cleaning fees will be deducted from your deposit or added to your final account.
- You are responsible for ensuring that no food or alcohol (other than BYO allowance, baby food and wedding cake) or dangerous goods are brought into the lodge or garden areas.
- At least 14 days prior to your wedding date, we require a completed copy of your planning information guide. This includes your accommodation plan, table layout plan, final catering numbers, schedule, menu choices, beverage information and additional requirements.

Accommodation sleep plan

Your sleep plan is required 14 days prior. Makoura Lodge reserves the right to charge for the number of stays notified on your sleeping plan that is received ten days prior to your Wedding date, even if less stay than advised.

Accommodation minimum stay

Upon booking we will exclusively hold our accommodation (Burnside, Glenluce & 6 lodge suites) for the night of your wedding and the night prior. Therefore, we have a MINIMUM STAY the night before your wedding of TEN guests and the night of your wedding of TWENTY guests in our accommodation or payment equal to that amount. Camping/ caravans will be permitted if there are more than 35 people utilising our accommodation. Accommodation check-in for the wedding day will be from 12pm if you require the accommodation before this time it will need to be booked the night prior. Early check-in may incur a charge.

Accommodation guest payment

Your guests will be asked for payment upon check-in. Any unpaid guest payments or damages will be added to the final account or deducted from the \$1000 deposit. For accommodation pricing children are classed as under the age of 12 years. There is no charge for babies sleeping in our or your porta cot.

Accommodation- bridal

The accommodation for the bridal couple in Package One includes two nights (the night before and night of) at the lodge accommodation (Glenluce, Burnside, or the lodge suites). The accommodation for the bridal couple in Package Two includes the night before the wedding at the lodge accommodation and the night of the wedding at the Riverside Retreat.

Accommodation- linen/ towelling change overs

The BnB rate is based on guests staying in the same room if staying longer than one night. We include three free bed change overs if you are needing to re-allocate rooms. Any more than three will be charged at \$35 per bed.

Cancellations or wedding date changes

A change to your Wedding date may be agreed at our discretion if more than 12 months' written notice is provided. An administration charge of \$200 applies. A new booking form is required.

If you provide us with more than 12 months' written notice of the cancellation of your wedding date, we may refund you up to 40% of your \$1000 deposit at management's discretion.

Your \$1000 deposit will not be refunded if you cancel your booking within 12 months of your wedding date.

Your Wedding Management & Venue Hire will not be refunded if you cancel your booking within 6 months of your wedding date. Your deposit will also be retained by us due to the late cancellation and unlikelihood to re-book another wedding.

Your deposit, wedding management & venue hire cost, and your total meal payment will be required/not refunded if you cancel your booking within fourteen days of your wedding date.

Confirmation of menu and final numbers

The number of guests confirmed 14 days prior is the minimum number charged for catering regardless of whether fewer guests attend.

We are open to discussion around menu changes but due to overhead costs, any agreed changes will not result in a charge less than the cheapest buffet option offered by us. Excluding dessert reflects negatively on the venue therefore it is included in all menus.

Exclusive use

We will provide you with exclusive use of the lodge on the day of your wedding. The accommodation will be exclusive to you the night of your wedding. Riverside Retreat may be vacated by another party if you have not booked it.

Makoura Lodge reserves the right to host functions the day before your wedding.

Extra consultations

Please bear in mind that we have included three one-on-one consultations (initial visit, another & your final consult approx. one month before) with our wedding coordinator into your package choice. Any additional one-on-one consultations or driving your photographer around the property will incur an extra cost.

Licensed premises

Makoura lodge is a licensed premise under the sale and supply of alcohol act 2012 and adheres to its obligations in that legislation, including not serving alcohol to underage or intoxicated guests. We have the right to require intoxicated guests to leave to their accommodation. In order to promote a safe drinking environment, we have the right to close the bar at any stage should the duty manager feel the need. No alcohol is to be brought into the venue or into our garden area, it will be confiscated.

Loss of goods

While every precaution is taken to ensure the safety of you and your guests, Makoura Lodge owners and/or staff will not be held responsible for any loss or damage to property (including vehicles) or injury to any person. Any items that have not been collected after the event will be disposed of within 30 days.

Meals for children

Meals for children between five and twelve years of age are 50% of the adult menu price. Meals for children under five years' old are complimentary. Children must have adult supervision at all times.

Minimum numbers

During our peak season (November to the end of April), our wedding packages are based upon a minimum of 60 adult guests or payment equal to that amount. From the start of June to the end of September and on Wednesdays no minimum guest numbers are required.

Miscellaneous

We reserve the right to change these terms and conditions at any time without prior notice. In the event that any changes are made, the revised terms and conditions shall be sent to you prior to your Wedding Date.

In the unlikely event that we need to cancel your reservation, we will provide you with as much written notice as possible.

You shall indemnify us in respect of all liability, claims and demands, actions, proceedings, damages, losses, costs and expenses of whatever nature which may be made by any third party which arise out of, or are in connection with, the performance of our services to you.

We will not be liable for any delay in performing or failure to perform any obligations under this agreement, if such delay or failure is caused by circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the party and for which it is not responsible.

Payment of accounts

We require payment of your account 10-14 days prior to your wedding date. An invoice will be sent. A pre-paid account is accepted. Credit cards incur a 2.5% surcharge (subject to increase). Interest will be charged to overdue accounts at 10% per month. In the event of non-payment of any account you shall become liable for all recovery costs incurred by us, including but not limited to any legal expenses.

Pricing

All pricing is GST inclusive. Due to the reliance on our suppliers' charges, our prices are subject to change without notice. Please check our website prior to your wedding date about current menus and pricing, including but not limited to activities, accommodation, and additional requirements pricing.

Sustainability

In the interest of sustainability, we ask that you to be mindful about where supplied products are going after your wedding. Please consider composting, recycling, repurposing, or returning to the company. For this reason, items such as inorganic confetti, balloons, glitter, fireworks, sparklers, or smoke machines are not permitted on the property. Waste that is left that requires taking to a refuse station will incur a transport and disposal fee.

Surcharges on public holidays

Due to the increased cost of staffing on public holidays a 15% surcharge applies to activities, food, and beverages.

Tentative bookings

We tentatively reserve the venue for a maximum period of 14 days, after which if written confirmation and deposit is not received, we reserve the right to release your booking.

Pandemic Policy

Due to the dynamic nature of a pandemic and government regulations, each pandemic query is taken on an individual basis. Please refer to our website- About for more information.

Now that all that formal stuff is over, we look forward to creating your special day with you!



 facebook.com/MakouraLodge

 instagram.com/makouralodge

enquiry@makouralodge.co.nz

Makoura Lodge,
736 Makoura Rd, RD1, Āpiti

06 328 4746

Please contact us for a viewing

Contact Us

Photo Credits:

Picture Perfect Photography

David Le Design & Photography

Billie Brooke Photography

Florence Charvin Photography

Valley Studios Photography

Laura Ridley Photography

Nick Crarer Photography

Lovina Photography

Shannah Mae Photography

Pure Images NZ

Wesley Johnson

Captured by Tahlia

Avodah photography

Toni Larsen Photography

