

GREEN DAY

'Eco-friendly' and 'green' may be buzzwords at the moment, and with good reason. The daily habits of an increasing global population are taking their toll on the environment making now, more than ever, an important time to be conscious of the choices we make – especially at large functions such as weddings. Thankfully the number of suppliers with eco-friendly options is increasing, making it simple and fun to organise a celebration that is both beautiful and sustainable.

STATIONERY

Poppies for Grace uses paper products made from 65 per cent post-consumer waste (newspapers etc), and 35 per cent pre consumer waste (printing scraps and trimmings) which are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. They also use vegetable inks. A Little Birdie Design stationery is as green as they come, using FSC certified paper, vegetable or soy inks, and eco-friendly printing companies. The business itself is also carbon neutral, offsetting 3.95 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year.

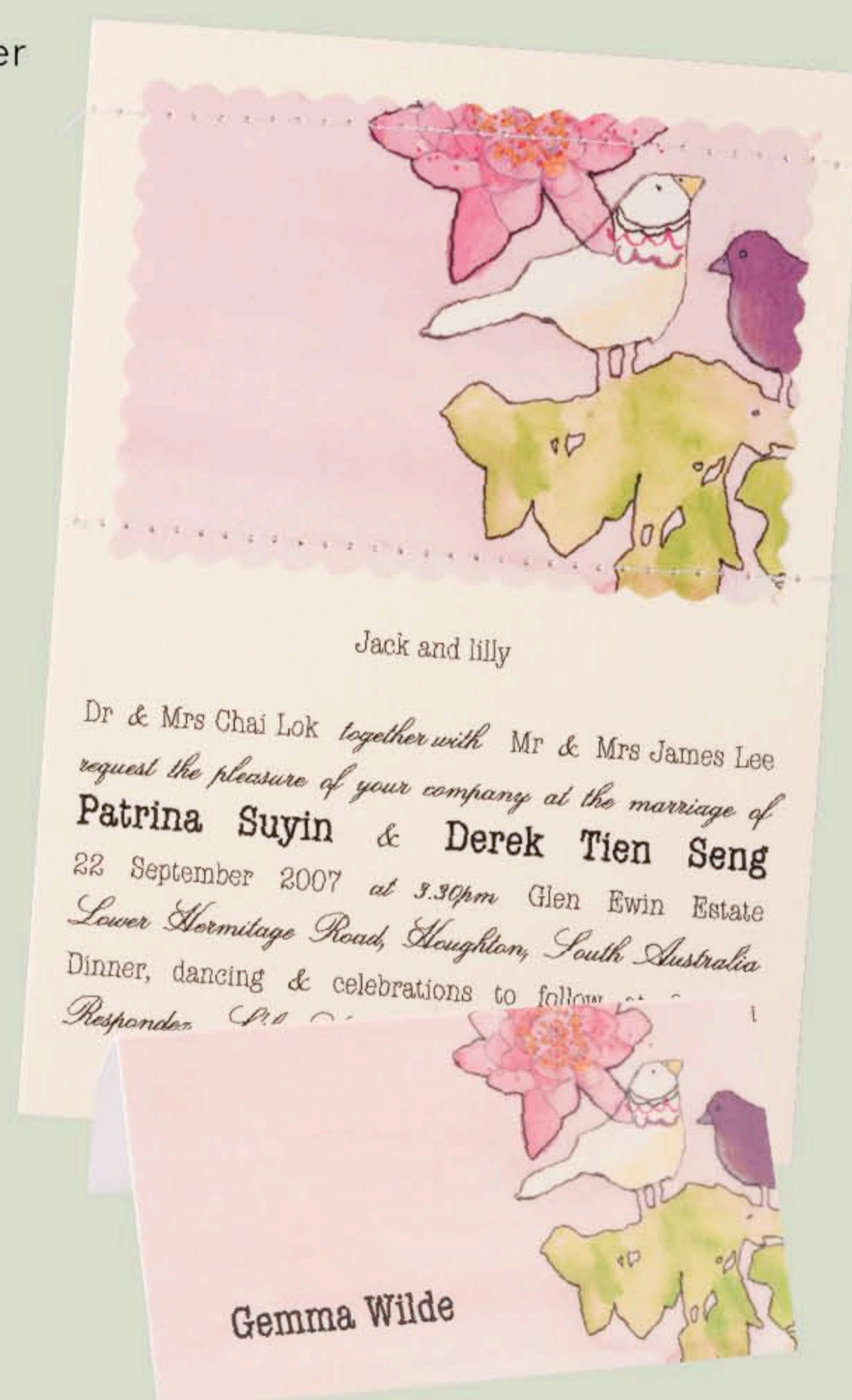
As a further measure, a portion of profits are donated to WWF-Australia to assist conservation work.

JEWELLERY

Utopian Creations in South Australia creates eco-friendly jewellery made from vintage, hand-cut diamonds, and 'up-cycled' materials such as silver, which is retrieved from the refuses of the photographic industry. A portion of sales are also donated to Oxfam International.

GOWNS

Aiming to make a mark on the clothing industry, www.ecogirl.com.au stocks a variety of bridal wear and lingerie made from natural fibres and organic materials such as silk, cotton and hemp. Bridal gowns include designs made from undyed hemp and silk with recycled sashes and vintage beaded collars.



FLOWERS

Native plants which grow in abundance with little cultivation and wildflowers are becoming increasingly popular for bouquets. Continue the natural floral theme by giving your guests seed packets or seedlings as favours. Placing potted plants on your table rather than vases of flowers is another great idea – and you can even give the plants to loved ones who have played a significant part in your day.



TRANSPORT

For the environmentally conscious who want to make a grand entrance, the best option is a horse-drawn carriage! You can also reduce the carbon footprint of your day by having your ceremony and reception at the same venue, preferably somewhere local, or organising buses to take everyone from one venue to the next as a group. Honeymooning in Australia rather than overseas is another way to cut down on emissions. But if your dream honeymoon destination is outside our shores, you can keep your eco-conscience in tact by selecting the carbon-offset option now offered by most major carriers.

CATERING

Selecting organic, locally grown, seasonal foods for your menu is the best way to ensure you minimise carbon emissions and reduce environmental damage. Many venues now offer such options for functions. When choosing beverages, ask whether green and organic beer and wines are available, and try to minimise the number of items that are imported. If you're celebrating at home, why not use environmentally friendly serving ware to cut down on waste and detergents? Green Pack sells bio plates, which are made from naturally fallen palm sheaths and are 100 per cent chemical free, biodegradable and compostable, oil and water resistant, and oven and microwave safe.