

Think that getting family portraits done is stiff, boring and an hour of being embarrassed by your kids' behaviour? Not when you book with me! Below is a step-by-step guide on what to expect from first point of contact through to receiving your final images. Please also refer to the FAQ section on my website.

### **GETTING IN TOUCH**

Once we get in touch we will have a quick chat about your family and expectations. so I can get a feel for what kind of a unit you are. Together we check out which venue is meaningful to you, or I can help with finding an ideal location if you are open-minded, or unsure. Then we'll compare diaries and find the best time to meet up for the session.

### **PREPARATION**

You are about to immortalise your entire family into a beautiful series of images. For ladies, this might mean putting on a dab of makeup, but don't over-do it. Even if you don't normally wear any, a swipe of lipstick can make a small but impactful difference. Men, this is the time to ensure all your grooming is up to date and those shoes are polished. For kids, a pretty hair accessory for girls, and a smart vest for boys can also add that magic touch.

If you are unsure on what to wear, please refer to my What To Wear Guide which you will receive when you make your booking. It has helpful tips for the whole family, but the basic points to remember are to avoid being super matchy (ie no white shirts, blue jeans for everybody), and avoid loud designs or patterns that fight for attention. Plan, light colours are best.

### **SESSION**

Once we meet up at the shooting location, I will scope out the best spots to start photographing. To begin with, we do a series of family and group shots while everyone is still fresh and willing. We will move about to get different backdrops and set ups. Expect to have guidance from me the whole way through. I may at times be vague, and at times very specific. If I don't say a lot, you can be assured you are already looking perfect! And when I start to squeal you know that I have just caught some AMAZING shots! Expect this at some point during your session.

All of a sudden things will come to an end and when I am confident that we have a good variety of images, we can call it a day.

### **FOLLOW UP**

After approximately two weeks after the photo shoot I will send out an online gallery for you to look at all the fully edited photos. From there you will pick your 10 favourite images (or all of them, if you can't decide) and I will present these to you in high resolution on a USB.

#### **How many photos can I choose from?**

Following our photoshoot I will have between 20-30 images uploaded to your gallery.

#### **How long until I can see them?**

Please allow up to two weeks for me to fine-tune each image and have them ready to present back to you.

#### **How do we book a session?**

Drop me a line! If you are looking to book a photo session, please either email or phone me anytime. I am available on certain days of the week and also on weekends, so we can negotiate a time by phone.

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### **What should we wear?**

I'm glad you asked! Please check out my What To Wear Guide.

### **I only want a couple of digital files, is this possible?**

Unfortunately this is not a service I currently offer. If you are after an updated family photo, please check out my Family Photo package which includes a large printed canvas/frame so it's all been done for you.

### **When do you hold sessions?**

The light is best early morning, or leading up to sunset. Therefore I avoid taking photos during the middle of the day. I am available on certain days of the week, evenings and on weekends. Please email me your number or phone me to negotiate a time.

### **What happens if it rains on the day?**

Depending on your preferred location and/or the severity of the rain, we can easily reschedule to another day or simply take it indoors. I have a couple of indoor spots where we can still get a variety of images if you are happy to go ahead.

### **Do you photoshop images?**

Yep. I have CCH syndrome (Crooked Camera Holder) and this necessitates that I have to open up and straighten every single photo. While I am there, I will do minor retouches, so rest assured that the pimple that appeared overnight will not appear in any photo. I will also remove that fly on your dress, the bird poo on the seat next to you and the branch sticking out of your son's ears in that very quick, no-time-to-recompose-image! However, I will not make you slimmer, remove wrinkles or change your wardrobe.

### **My kids are tired/unruly/bored/unco-operative...**

Hmmm, this is the fun part. I have a few tricks up my sleeve to help with this. Firstly, I always do the posey group shots first up while everyone is looking and feeling fresh and co-operative. With the younger kids, things go downhill pretty fast after that. I simply ask that you listen to me during this time. This mostly means once in place, ignore the kids and parents look at me! Some parents build up a huge list of things that the child will get 'for behaving' once the session is over, but I can save you hundreds by letting me 'have a go'. It is basically impossible to ask a pre-schooler to keep sitting in the right spot and smiling sweetly at me, so we take our time, we will ALL spend 10 minutes adoring a snail if that's what has gotten her attention, then reel 'em back in for another set of photos. Once the important group sets are done, I will simply allow everyone to relax and take a load of candid shots for the remainder of the session. Easy!