

WEDDING

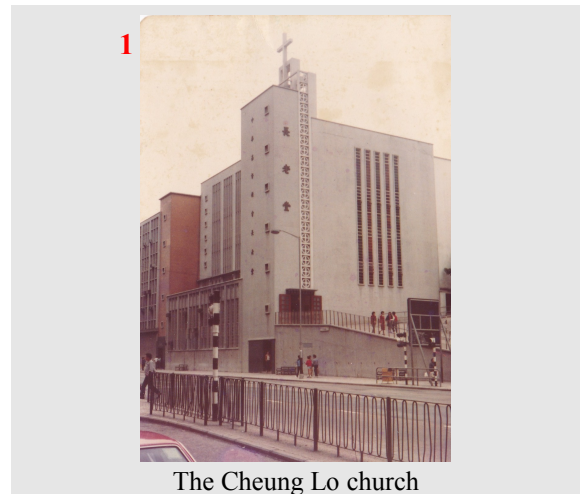
Vanessa and I were married on July 12th, 1975 in Hong Kong at the end of my first year working at the Hong Kong Technical Teachers' College. It was a Saturday at the start of the summer break. The weather was fine, but being the middle of summer, was hot and humid.

This account describes some of the happenings related to the wedding ceremony, the reception and the honeymoon. Only a few photographs are included here. For more photographs, please refer to the separate file. The only photographs I have are, unfortunately, either black and white or are in colour that has badly faded.

Ceremony

The ceremony was held in the afternoon at the Cheung Lo Church, the CCC church in Waterloo Road that Vanessa and her parents attended. The bridesmaid was Vanessa's friend Marietta and the best man was David Foulds, my colleague at both Ming Yin College and the Technical Teachers' College. There were two officiates: the minister of the church and the Reverend Tom Lung, one of the small group that used to sit together while having dinner in the YMCA dining room. The ceremony was conducted in both English and Chinese.

The bride wore a white wedding dress (of course!) while I wore a new brown coloured suit. (I still have the same suit and the tie I wore.)





The wedding party

There were relatively few people at the actual church ceremony; most just turned up for the reception! Many of those at the church were from the TTC, all of whom were invited to the wedding.



The congregation

After the ceremony, Vanessa had to do many things that I am not sure about. So that left several hours until the evening reception. So David and I took a taxi to Tsim Sha Tsui for a while to chill out as there was little else for us to do but wait.



Exchanging vows



The ceremony ends



The complete party

Reception

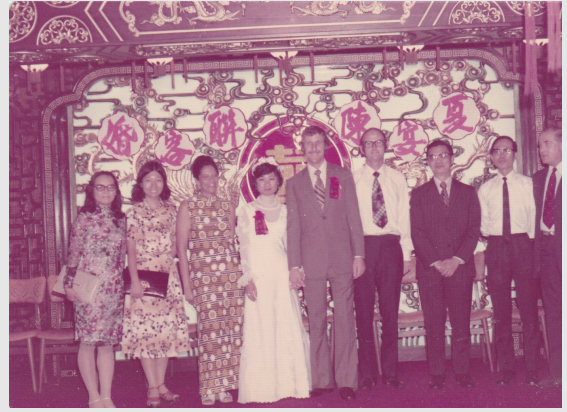
The reception was held the same evening in a Chinese restaurant just a short way up the road (and above the garage where I bought my first car after arriving in Hong Kong!). There was a large crowd. I knew relatively few of them; many were friends of the parents who had little other connection. But I still paid for the everyone and everything, though the Chinese red packets given us helped a little.

Vanessa arrived in her white wedding gown but later changed into a traditional Chinese red cheongsam.

The reception was very traditional. There was no dancing as there might be nowadays. Nor was there any lion dance. About half-way through proceedings, there was a pause in distributing food dishes so that the bridal party could move from table to table to drink a toast to each other's health. There was one gentlemen, a friend of the parents, but who did not know us, who was asking who the Westerner was that kept hanging around with the bride!!

At the end, guests left and shook hands with the bridal party. At this stage, Vanessa had changed into her very attractive yellow going-away cheongsam; there is just a glimpse of this in the bottom left of the last photograph (arrow).

At the end of the reception, at around midnight, we left in my car for the flat on the Peak.



With staff from the TTC



General view of reception



Vanessa now in red cheongsam with her family



Guests leaving

Honeymoon in New Zealand

Shortly after the wedding, we left for a honeymoon and holiday in New Zealand. The map shows the places we visited.



- We arrived in Auckland and stayed with the O'Kanes, the folk I boarded for term terms in 1962 in Christchurch. I remember playing billiards and snooker with Dene, their 13-year old, who later became NZ snooker champion and one of the best in the world.
- By bus to Whakatane where we stayed with Brian Heney, a former colleague at Burnside High, who was the high school principal there.
- Bus to Gisborne, where we stayed with friends from church days.
- By railcar to Danniverke. On passing through the Wairoa railway station, we met my Auntie Alice (mother's sister) and her family on the platform. Farm at Danniverke with Auntie Hilda, another of my mother's sisters. Vanessa has trouble with sheep!
- Rail to Wellington to stay with Auntie Pat (mother's sister) and family.
- By overnight ferry to Lyttelton and Christchurch to stay with parents. Attended a



Corralling sheep in Danniverke



Having trouble catching a sheep!



Trip on a postal boat in Pelorus Sound



Rugby test (with All Blacks) at Lancaster Park

Rugby test match with Heather and Bruce.
(Heather was a Rugby fan then.)

- In my father's Holden to Marlborough sounds (stayed in a youth hostel, the former primary school of Lord Rutherford); bought a 1 kg (minimum available) pack of frozen mussels and shared them with people at the hostel. Took a trip of a postal ship around one of the sounds.
- To the West Coast; visited a coal mine.
- Separate trip with Keith to Mt Cook - very cold. Stayed in a mountain club hut and went for a plane ride up and onto the Tasman Glacier.
- While in Christchurch, Vanessa got her car driver's license in the Holden - a very difficult car to drive.

NB: I am not completely sure if those trips around the South Island were on this visit or during the next in 1997. I did not seem to be keeping a diary in those years.

Hiking in the Mt Cook area



Cold in the mountain hut in the middle of winter!



Mt Cook mountain club hut



Plane on Tasman Glacier



View of Mt Cook from plane



Preparing dinner in the hut