

What not to wear – and other tips for a great portrait!

- + Many people are not comfortable being photographed. **Dressing comfortably** is one way you can feel more relaxed. If you're physically uncomfortable, it's going to show.
- + Specifics for clothing:
 - Follow the **K.I.S.S.** principal and keep it simple! Think "style" not "fashion". Fashions come and go, but those photos are forever.
 - **Avoid "busy" clothing** – complicated patterns, large flowers, polka dots, stripes – they're distracting and will become the feature of the final photos.
 - Similarly, **very bright colours** like tomato red, yellow, royal blue, etc, will **draw attention away from your face** – the true subject of the photo!
 - Exceptions to the above – if you are "known" for dressing in a particular style or colour – go with it! **If it's part of your personality, then let it show.**
 - **Dark tones, pastels, and white are all good** (although white can be somewhat tricky and doesn't suit some people – like "bright" colours, it can draw attention.
 - For **outdoor photos, casual clothes and earthy tones** work really well.
 - **Subtle patterns** are fine – have a look at yourself in the mirror, and think "What is the very first thing I see?" If it's that Hawaiian shirt.... change it!
 - **If in doubt**, you can bring a couple of outfits (bearing in mind that for locations there may not be a suitable private changing area.)
 - Family portraits look really great when everyone is wearing the same, or at least co-ordinated, colours. Think about photos you've seen that look good – mum, dad and kids all in black tees and jeans, or every one dressed in blue and white, or similar. Now think about photos that don't look good – one person dominating the scene with a big flowered print, or everyone wearing solid clashing colours. It may work for the Wiggles, but they're the exception!
- + Ladies, we all want to look our best, but **don't go out of your comfort zone** – wear the makeup you normally wear – look like "you".
- + Men – arrive **freshly shaved** please! Or with a **neatly trimmed beard/moustache** if you have them.
- + **Take your sunglasses off** – we want to see your eyes, not a reflection of the photographer.
- + **Leave purse, backpacks, strollers, etc at home** for location sessions. I may ask you to walk around for some photos, and those things will just hamper your movement and ruin the photo!
- + For babies and small children, bring their **favourite stuffed animal or small toy**. It can help get their attention when nothing else works.
- + If you or your child is feeling ill on the day, please **call and reschedule**. I'd rather rebook you for a great portrait session than have you struggling to make a sick child look happy.
- + I think candid moments are the best – when you make eye contact with a loved one, or a child giggles or pouts. Yes, I will ask you to "pose" for particular shots, but I'm also very likely to photograph you without warning – these are often the best images – natural, true to your personality, and filled with emotion.
- + To do my part in helping you relax, I approach the session professionally but with a casual style. I may tell silly jokes, or even do silly things to amuse children – anything to break the ice. Prepare yourself to laugh – even if you're laughing "at" me, not "with" me – it doesn't matter. Just have a good time!