

ALEXANDRA'S LOVE DUET

mermaid tail and elegant train, was paired with a bolero jacket of French guipure lace.

After a morning of girly pampering, the four "best women" – long-time pals Royce Dewe and Jan Hodges, Lockwood's senior private secretary Beryl Bright and business-woman Diane Foreman – donned purple silk outfits before helping Alexandra dress at the couple's penthouse flat near Parliament. Alexandra says, "I felt beautiful in it."

But a minor disaster nearly delayed the wedding. An elevator door suddenly shut, leaving the bride travelling randomly up and down the floors of the apartment block, all alone and with no way of stopping the lift.

"This poor young man walked in, saw me in my dress and looked dumbstruck," she remembers. "I said, 'Help! I'm trying to get to my wedding. I have to get out of here!'"

The unknown man's security card let her out at the car park, where the worried best women "collapsed in relief and laughter".

A Crown car then delivered them to Parliament where 266 guests – including Prime Minister John Key and Governor General Anand Satyanand – packed the ornate Legislative Council Chamber.

Carrying a bouquet of orchids, Alexandra was a vision as she slowly walked up the aisle behind her best women, her four adult children and two young ringbearers.

The groom (60), dapper in formal tails alongside his best men, Andrew McKenzie, John Bolt, Craig Anstiss and Richard Ninness, couldn't wipe the smile off his face when he saw his bride. "She looked so beautiful and so regal," he beams.

Alexandra (57) adds, "When I turned around and looked at everyone, it was a bit overwhelming and very emotional."

Exchanging vows, Lockwood said to Alexandra, "I will hold your hand as we walk forward together through sunshine and through rain. I will laugh with you and cry with you through the good times and through pain. I will share with you all the hope born of our dreams. These things I promise and will hold true because, in

my heart, I know I've always loved you."

Then despite a lingering cold and ear infection, the baritone kissed his bride and launched into the song *No-one Like You* with Alexandra spontaneously joining him in her soprano voice for the lyrics, "I believe in miracles. There's no-one like you."

Later, at the reception, best woman Beryl admitted in a heartfelt speech that when she started working for the groom, she thought he was "pretty hot".

"He still is!" a guest piped up, leaving Lockwood beetroot-faced with laughter.

Beryl added that there'd been "a change in Lockwood – a softening of the edges." He now realised there was more to life, she said, than the papers strewn across his desk.

At the end of the speeches, Alexandra tossed her bouquet straight into the arms of best woman Diane, then Bronagh and John Key hosted a more intimate dinner at Premier House, where a jocular PM got up to congratulate "the singing speaker", quipping, "I think some of your rulings could be delivered that way." Referring to Beryl's speech, John said, "I'm going to ask my executive assistant if she thinks I'm hot. Don't take this the wrong way, but I think you do look pretty hot after all these years."

Before Alexandra, Lockwood says, he assumed he'd never marry. And once they got together, he never worried what people thought of the de facto relationship. "What was important was my love for my partner. And this wedding is a way to acknowledge our love," he says. "She is an extraordinary person. She has made a more caring person out of me, made my house a home and has brought me so much love and happiness."

In turn, Lockwood has changed Alexandra's life too. "He has brought me more love and joy than I would've thought possible – and a lot of fun. I absolutely adore him."

Although she was happy before, she "didn't want to die not being married to him," she says. "It was most definitely worth the wait and quite literally a fairytale come true."

Sarah Lang



Here comes the bride: Alexandra enters Parliament's Council Chamber



Slice of heaven: The happy couple cut their cake



PM John Key congratulates the groom

MR & MRS SMITH

LOCKWOOD &



Parliament's 'singing speaker' finally weds the woman who has loved him for 40 years

Although it's one of the most common surnames, Mr and Mrs Smith has always had a romantic ring to it. But it was a ring of another kind that Alexandra Lang had been waiting nearly 40 years for, since she first fell in love with Lockwood Smith.

Now Parliament's Speaker of the House, he was just "Smithy" when the university pals became sweethearts in 1970s Palmerston North. Lockwood was at Alexandra's side for her 21st birthday but left early to sing the role of Prince Charming in a *Cinderella* pantomime.

Two years later, Lockwood called it quits on their romance but in 1999, after the break-up of her first marriage, Alexandra reunited with her prince. And

almost a decade later, he proposed on Christmas Day.

Because Alexandra had never had a wedding gown of her own choice – the first time, she wore her mother's dress, which she'd bleached with Janola – she asked bridal designer Jane Yeh to make her vision a reality. The silver silk-satin gown with its

'She has brought me so much love and happiness'