

Celebrants Australia Newsletter August 2021



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This may well be the Celebrants Amateur Newsletter as I am unaccustomed to the preparation of such a task.

Present :

Our regular editor has been ill, has had a couple of surgeries and I can say that he is now positively improving both medically and mentally. We all wish Steve King a healthy recovery.

Past:

I also acknowledge a couple of our members who have resigned in the last three months and are hanging up their “celebrant hat”. For some it was time and others felt they did not want to continue due to the current climate. We wish them all the very best in the other ventures.

Future:

We have some new celebrants which you may have spotted on the forum

Kim Michelle Dillon, Tracey Anne Cecil, Donna-Maree Winfield, Tracy Carroll, Noelene Jane Mival, Sandra Cottee, Kojo Saffu, Megan Elizabeth Healy.

We all wish them a warm welcome and glad they joined the best Celebrants association ! 😊

Lastly:

Conversations about Covid are difficult to have and we have to approach with empathy and understanding. Many people have conflicting opinions about the pandemic and how it affects our lives, We also need to keep in mind that our peers have different reasons for motivating their actions and choices, We need to understand what is important to them, what they need to know and how it affects and impacts their behaviour. Avoid making assumptions and try to take their perspective, their life experiences, into account.

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AGM

Our AGM is being held on the 21st September 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

We will have the meeting first, promptly at 6:30pm and for those who want to learn more, we then will have as our guest speaker :

Robyn O'Connell

See Christie's flyer on the forum for more information.

Committee

At our AGM we will be asking for more members to help on the committee. The current committee is myself, Judy and Christie. And we are all three working so very hard to run the organisation, It is a lot of different duties for just three people.

Around membership and OPD time there is plenty for the treasurer to do.

At AGM, which is now, our secretary (Christie) is rushed off her feet and she has her membership duties to also perform.

We have mentioned this before, but if you would like to help, in any way, please come forward, at the meeting or sooner. You don't have to take on a big task just something to help take the load off.

We have a couple of people who have said they would help and honestly we have been so busy we did not get back to them. So, we are now asking please let us know if you can help with at least one or two tasks.

Of course, if you have some burning desire to know more about how we work, if you want to make a difference to our association, if you want to help, aid and support our members, then please come on board as an ordinary committee member and see how we perform and then later take on one of the tasks and get onto the executive. You decide!

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Forum

Our online forum (Samepage) is going to cease being available in Australia on the 31st December 2021. This was foreseeable as the company was acquired last year and the intent was obvious.

It means we move platforms once again.

We have been researching for a couple of months now and have a short list of sites. The biggest issue we face is cost. Most sites want to charge per member per month and the cost is so high it would send the association broke in no time.

We know some celebrants don't want another APP on their phone and we know it is good to be able to control the frequency of notifications.

Watch this space for more news in the coming weeks.

New Forms

There has been much debate on the forum about the new forms and we know that the information from AG's department is not always totally forthcoming and we all do our best to interpret and predict what will happen. Please keep asking the questions as we are all learning from both the questions and the answers.

Sarah Aird and she has put together a 2 hour Zoom session on how to complete the new forms that will be required from 1st September.

She is offering to have a session for CAI, at a date & time agreed, not restricted to minimum number.

We will be circulating that detail in the next couple of days.

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Articles

Are you keeping up with our “Bridal Magazine” ?

<https://www.celebrantsaustralia.com.au/bridal-magazine>

We have had a series of articles written for our website.

Our aim with the website is to promote Celebrants Australia Inc as a professional organisation that assist and helps its bridal couples with transparency, respect and integrity

These articles will appear twice a week on facebook, by paraphrasing or taking a paragraph and making a post directing readers to our website. Many celebrants don't like facebook and we are not suggesting you need to follow us on there at all, but our couples, your future brides, do use facebook and that is why we are on social media promoting ourselves.

The articles contain hashtags so that these posts will come up for couples searching for information.

As we build up the number of articles we will increase the frequency of posting of alternate articles

And if you feel like you have something worthwhile to say then please put pen to paper, or fingers to the keys, and let us know, Write something and we will publish it – just like Sharon Szova did with her Rainbow Ceremonies article.

<https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/files.celebrantsaustralia.asn.au/277/The-joy-of-my-first-wedding-ceremony.pdf>

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Some of the articles that we have published:

<https://www.celebrantsaustralia.com.au/how-to-find-the-right-melbourne-marriage-celebrant>

How do you know when you've found THE ONE?

How do you find the right celebrant who will fit right in easily and become an integral part of one of the most important days of your life?

For starters, there's a plethora of directories, websites and blogs (like this one) to get you thinking.

Do you listen to friends? Is the right one for them the right one for you? Do you need to explore what other celebrants are out there? Should you book online, phone chat, zoom meet, go with the first person you happen across, speak to several, meet with a few?

<https://www.celebrantsaustralia.com.au/strongwedding-traditions-rituals-and-symbols>

This is your time to create a ceremony to make memories that mean something to you and your loved ones. Take the opportunity to incorporate ancient traditions with creative rituals to express your authentic selves in your wedding ceremony

From Quaker to Celtic, from African to Chinese; it's entirely up to you from where you draw your inspiration.

There's no right or wrong. Have Granny as the flower girl, Dad as the best man, especially useful if there is a spare Dad. Make the kids part of the ceremony or have your pals walk you down the aisle.

Allow plenty of time to source unusual and original elements. It's a good idea to involve your celebrant at each stage as we can help introduce trusted suppliers and make some suggestions based on our reservoir of experience and contacts.

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<https://www.celebrantsaustralia.com.au/tinder-for-celebrants>

Do you like dogs?

Do you have kids?

Are you Australian?

Do you speak Spanish?

Are you vegetarian?

Do you drink alcohol?

Are you gay?

How old are you?

What's your favourite song?

What kind of music do you like?

Swipe right

These are just some of the questions our celebrants have been asked by couples looking to meet the right celebrant. All questions are welcome – the more the better.

Mario M Anders - Interim Editor