

November 2023

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All content is created for information only and is not legal advice, and not necessarily the views of the AMC. It is edited by Lou Szymkow and whilst all care is taken, the editor cannot guarantee the accuracy of information. The editor, guest contributors & guest speakers all volunteer their time for Celebrants.

# AMC South Coast Celebrants Cheering for each other



An update from your AMC South Coast Coordinator, Lou Szymkow

To achieve success, we will continue to grow and do what we can to help each other grow.



## Plan and prepare for bushfire season

- Inside this bumper issue:**
- OPD Reminder
  - Emergency Checklist
  - Ceremony Checklist
  - President's Message
  - Tax Prep
  - Closing 'I Do'
  - Invalid NOIM
  - Covid-19
  - Education dates
  - Knowledge Base
  - **Celebrant Snapshots**
  - Book Review
  - Marketing
  - **OPD & Fee Deadlines**
  - Coordinator Comments

As Celebrants we deal with it all; rain, snow, scorching sun, flood, locust, snakes, drunken wedding party, kangaroos and more, but this time of year the hazard we have to be aware of is bushfires and knowing that, we can make a plan.

**Personal safety:** The first step is making certain that you are safe, that your family is safe and that, as a Celebrant, your records are safe.

Everyone in NSW has a role and responsibility in making sure we're ready for the warmer months ahead. One the south coast of NSW, where we are surrounded by bushland, we have to be particularly vigilant. Whether you rent or own your home, you can **take these actions to prepare for bushfire season and ask venues if they have done the same:**

- trim overhanging trees and shrubs
- mow grass and remove the cuttings from around your home
- dispose of material that can burn, like wood piles and furniture
- clear debris from your gutters to stop embers causing a fire
- install a sturdy hose or hoses that can reach around your home and make sure you've got a reliable source of water.
- Have an evacuation plan
- Stock food and water
- Consider purchasing a generator or similar alternative power source

**Preparation is key.** Make a plan for what you, your family and clients will do in the event of a bushfire. It only takes a few minutes and could save your life.

Avoid naked flames. If having to use candles, enclose the flame in a lantern and keep an extinguisher or fire blanket on hand. Be safe and Be aware.

**Make your fire plan now**

**Checklists on page 2**



COVER PICTURE  
The AMC Conference

### UPCOMING Sth COAST MEETINGS

- ⇒ Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7pm via Zoom (day before AMC education session)
- ⇒ Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023— Dinner at the Mollymook Golf Club





Having ensured your personal and household safety, what about your wedding booking? How will you get there if there is a bushfire, do you take the chance that your home will be fine or that the venue will be

fine? Will you get back home?

**Here are some tips:**

- Make certain your car is in good order and that you have a spare tyre
- Fill the tank, check the oil & water
- Carry a credit card for fuel & emergencies
- Carry some cash for emergencies in case EFTPOS is cutoff

- Have another Celebrant on standby
- Have docs on hand for an alternate venue
- Have spare docs kit on hand in case of a sudden change of venue
- Create an online file with all docs
- Keep an emergency kit & cool water in the car
- Inform your family, friends, and the wedding party of your route and expected arrival time
- Ensure your phone is fully charged
- Have a complete change of clothes on hand
- Have a first aid kit in your car
- Listen to emergency broadcasts
- Check the BOM weather app
- Check weather and wind conditions before you leave home
- Follow alerts on the Hazards Near Me app.

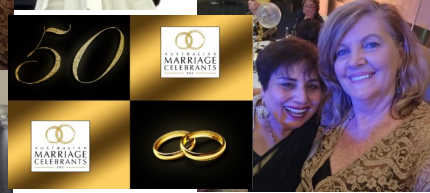
## Generic Checklist

DOCS		RITUALS		CANDLES	
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Docs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ring Cushion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Candle Lantern	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate Envelope	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Lantern stand/table	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> NOIM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Registry Stand</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Candle Large	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Ceremony booklet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Lectern	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Candles 2 X Taper	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate bag	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Lectern cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Taper Candle Holders	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Reader 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Lectern pegs/clips	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Lighter	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Reader 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Cords/Ribbons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Incense	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Groom Vows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Bells	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Bride Vows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower/s	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EQUIPMENT		MUSIC		CLOTHING	
<input type="checkbox"/> PA/s	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Music List	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> speaker tripod/s	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Music up/downloaded	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tie Box	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Microphones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> iPad	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Shirt spare	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Microphone Stand/s	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> iPad stand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Trousers spare	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Cameras (charged)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Music on CD/DVD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Jacket	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Camera Tripods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Music on USB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Jacket spare	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Table	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mobile Phone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Shoes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Linen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Batteries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Vest	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Carpet	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tie	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> ZOOM	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Hat	<input type="checkbox"/>
EMERGENCY CONTACTS		SUNDRY			
<input type="checkbox"/> Bride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sewing Kit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Backup Box	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Groom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Nail clippers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Rope	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Venue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Panadol & Ibuprofen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Stanley knife	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Wedding Planner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Table Clips	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Backup Celebrant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Comb/Brush	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tripod Weights	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Phone List		<input type="checkbox"/> Water		<input type="checkbox"/> Screwdriver	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> PA Weather Cover		<input type="checkbox"/> Pliers	<input type="checkbox"/>



# AMC CONFERENCE

The AMC President, Annemarie McDonell works tirelessly in the background to constantly advance the AMC and Celebrancy and this is having a huge impact because the AMC is once again growing, and the comradery among members is stronger than ever. The editor asked Annemarie to provide an article on her own contribution to the AMC Conference and she humbly and simply responded with these photos and the mention of the amazing Leanne McKay, and Kamal Al Saliby, who worked with her to pull the conference together.







Of course it is not tax time you may think but every time you get paid is tax time and so on going diligence and preparation is the key to removing tax stress at the end of June..

The following tips are to help you prepare now for the 2023/2024 period.

### MOTOR VEHICLE EXPENSES

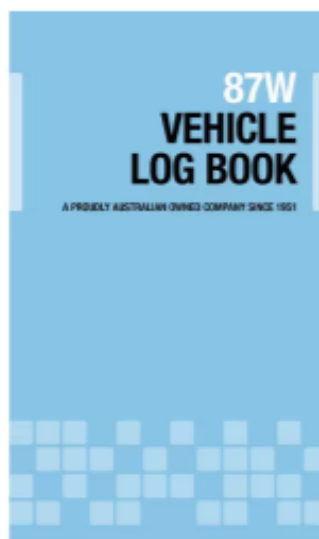
According to Tax Accountants CA Hill & Associates, the set rate per kilometre method rate will increase from \$0.72 to \$0.78 for the 2023 year but will rise to \$0.85 for the 2024 year & onwards.

The best way of maintaining evidence of travel costs that will be claimed, is via a log book which must be kept one in every five-year period for 12 consecutive weeks.

The Government makes the law and the ATO implements rules but the onus of proof rests with the taxpayer.

Hence, the only way to challenge the ATO should a claim be disallowed is to prove the ATO wrong and the best method of doing that is by keeping a log book.

You can make your own log book in a spreadsheet, buy one for about \$6 from a stationery store, or download an app.



### WORKING FROM HOME

According to CA Hill & Associates, Tax Accountants working from home rules have changed.

Firstly, you must be required to work from home to fulfil your employment duties and you must incur additional expenses by doing so.

There are 2 methods for claiming work from home expenses.

#### Method 1 - cents per hour

The cents per hour rate will increase to 67c per hour and there is only that one rate.

This fixed rate is designed to cover electricity & gas, phone usage, internet, stationery & computer consumables. No additional expenses covered by the rate can be claimed if you use this method.

Depreciation of assets used such as computer & office furniture may be claimed along with repairs & maintenance of equipment and cleaning of a dedicated office.

- From 1/7/22 to 28/2/2023 the ATO will accept a record which represents the total number of hours worked from home (for example a 4-week diary).
- From 1/3/2023 onwards, taxpayers will need to record the total number of hours they work from home.

#### Method 2 - Actual cost

To utilise the Actual Cost method, you must have all receipts to claim expenses for phone, internet, electricity etc.

You must keep a record for a 4-week period to show the usual pattern of working from home.

You may only claim that portion of expenses as calculated less the private portion.



**“Within the child lies the fate of the future” ;** Dr Maria Montessori

Maria Tecla Artemisia Montessori was an Italian physician and educator best known for her philosophy of education and her writing on scientific pedagogy. At an early age, Montessori enrolled in classes at an all-boys technical school, with hopes of becoming an engineer. She soon had a change of heart and began medical school at the Sapienza University of Rome, becoming one of the first women to attend medical school in Italy; she graduated with honours in 1896. Her educational method is still in use today in many schools.

This is an incredibly powerful quotation that can be used at Naming Ceremonies.

<https://amshq.org/About-Montessori/History-of-Montessori/Who-Was-Maria-Montessori>





The *Australian Marriage Celebrants I DO* group, on Facebook was founded by Annemarie McDonell, 7 years ago as a part of the AMC's effort to reach out to people who were not members of the AMC and to encourage aspirations to a higher standard of knowledge and delivery.

A lot has transpired over that period. The group grew to over 1300 members across Australia and was greatly admired throughout the industry. It was noted that some of the members of the group were executive members of other associations and they at times used the *Australian Marriage Celebrants I DO* group as a recruitment ground.

Some time after Annemarie was elected President of the AMC, the executive chose to close the *Australian Marriage Celebrants I DO* group so that the energy put into that group, might be better directed to its own financial members of the AMC. Only a small number of the 1300 members of the *Australian Marriage Celebrants I DO* group were actually AMC members but had access to support without financial contribution that was similar to that offered to AMC members who were as part of the actual AMC Private Members Group.

When the announcement was made that the *Australian Marriage Celebrants I DO* group was to be shut down, the response was astounding. Celebrants pleaded and even demanded that the group remain open, others offered to take it over and several started their own groups.

The level of passion clearly revealed that closing the group was leaving a huge void that had not been filled by other associations.

I had come to the party somewhat late as I only joined the moderation team a few months ago. Phil Timbrell saw potential in expanding the group to provide a wider level of education. He recruited the writer to take on a greater involvement and the group grew, however as its popularity grew, so did the efforts by other associations to use it as a recruitment tool while evidently not utilising their own resources to their full potential but relying on the AMC to fill that void.

The AMC supports the concept that all Celebrants should join a professional association to hone and advance skills, knowledge and diversity but it is not the role of the AMC to recruit for other associations.

It is estimated that well over 80% of the group's members were either not AMC members, or were not even a

member of an association at all.

The decision then to close the *Australian Marriage Celebrants I DO* group, though challenging in some respects, was very valid and a clear one to make.

It has been a pleasure being a part of it.

The group's absence has obviously created a huge void and some considerable distress among group members who very much relied upon the group.

The mere fact that a wide variety of Celebrants from across the country have been a part of the group indicates that many are choosing to broaden their skills to advance as celebrants and so it is hoped and expected that many will now join the AMC.

Some group members made suggestions as to how to fill the void despite the fact that they could simply join the AMC to access the great a range of support services including the AMC Private Members Forum to continue without interruption.

Many took up a subscription to this newsletter which is dedicated to assist all Celebrants but of course geared to the South Coast and the AMC.

Some recommended alternative groups or even created their own new groups but some discretion and analysis was urged in choice.

It was noted that about three people bitterly complained that they felt unwelcome in the group but yet remained there until its closure. That they complained of a lack of support was unusual given that there were over 1300 members who continually expressed the very opposite and the group grew because of the high standard of assistance offered. Most members were highly complimentary of the groups' operation and contribution to Celebrancy.

It was noted that one person who had been very vocal in criticism was repeatedly offered direct and personal assistance and mentoring, but failed to take up any of the offers, continued to complain of a lack of support. Something comes to mind about leading a horse to water.

The end result though is that the *Australian Marriage Celebrants I DO* group had for seven years been highly successful, has advanced Celebrancy immensely and over 1300 will miss its presence.

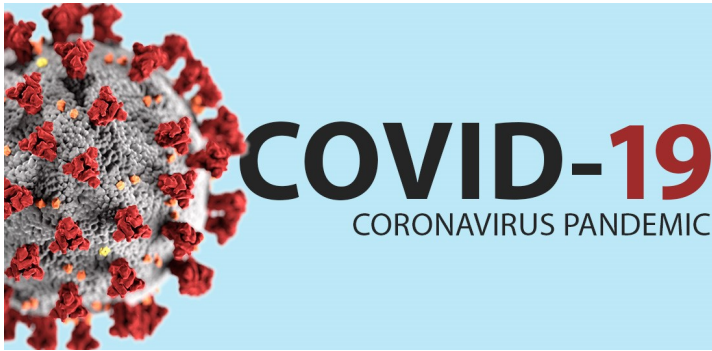
The AMC is to be congratulated on that incredible effort.

For most of the years, the moderation team consisted only of its founder, Annemarie McDonell who was then joined by Paul Guy as a co-admin but by the time of the groups closure, the team consisted of:

- Annemarie McDonell, President AMC.
- Paul Guy, AMC Contact Liaison.
- Lou Szymkow, AMC Sydney South Coast Regional Co-ordinator.
- Phil Timbrell, AMC Sydney West/Blue Mountains Regional Coordinator.

To all, the entire team wishes all former members, every success

**All the best from the admin and moderators team.**



## A CELEBRANT'S BOUT WITH COVID-19

The number of deaths due to Covid across the world were shocking and we had not seen such a devastation since the Spanish Flu also known as the Purple Death or The Great Flu of 1918 that caused more deaths postwar than had occurred during all of WW1. Sadly back then, there was a campaign to remove mandatory masks and isolation when the death toll reduced but once restriction were removed, the death rate doubled. Millions more deaths occurred after masks were removed than before. Some people had a difficulty understanding the same risks in 2020.

I think back to the weddings and funerals just two years ago when a single infected person attending a ceremony resulted in the deaths of many. One funeral in western Sydney sadly had 54 resultant deaths. We are all glad to see that behind us but not before many of us sadly lost friends and family to Covid and were confronted with the deniers which for those of us who lost loved ones, was excruciating.

During Covid, the necessity to isolate had a huge impact on both physical and mental health. The urgent need for vaccines, treatments and rapid testing were evident but Australia was largely saved from the worst by adopting safety protocols that included the restriction of travel to Australia and so no one was bringing Covid or any flu to Australia for some time. Astoundingly the flu rates dropped by 97% because the safety protocols that reduced Covid transmission had a huge impact on other infectious diseases. Rapid antigen tests were and are a quick way to detect COVID-19 and protect yourself and clients.

It has been said that catching Covid 19 is inevitable and that it is here to stay however now that we have a huge number of people fully vaccinated, the number of severe illnesses is greatly diminishing. You don't even have to report a positive test anymore..

It took a couple of years but Covid finally caught up with the writer. Fortuitously, I am full vaccinated and adopt simple but effective Covid safety protocols at all times:

- Sanitize regularly
- Wash hands and face regularly with soap
- Wear a mask in crowded areas
- Keep a distance from others when necessary
- Conduct a RAT when needed.

Like many, I worked on the Referendum and so came into contact with over 11,000 people in the space of just two

weeks. The risks were greatly minimised by ensuring the area was always well ventilated, masks and sanitiser were readily available, traffic was controlled and anything that the public came into contact with was regularly cleaned. Simple, easy and very effective. The same principles apply to ceremonies.

It worked that is until I had to quickly attend a site that was unexpectedly overcrowded and while in the middle of that crowd, I heard someone openly sneezing close behind me. YUK! It was too late to escape and I caught the dreaded bug. Symptoms arose within 24 hours but worsened within 48 which is when I tested positive and so I started recovery treatments.

This year is on record as the worst ever for allergy sufferers however I immediately recognised the difference in symptoms. My body ached from head to toe. Combing my hair actually hurt and at times it felt like my scalp was on fire! A hot shower that might burn my skin, felt cold on my scalp. It started like a light cold but the pain increased however it was manageable. Like with a cold, I had a clouded head and couldn't think straight. I was very lethargic. The doctor and NSW Health recommended I veg out for a week in isolation and so I got to watch the entire series



of Star Trek Enterprise when not sleeping or drinking water.:)

After I tested positive, all staff at all locations

that I had worked were immediately informed and none tested positive which meant that it was highly unlikely that any of the public were infected.

**There are currently no rules in NSW which require you to self-isolate if you test positive to COVID-19, but NSW Health strongly recommends you stay home and take steps to protect others. As Celebrants we certainly carry that responsibility.**

One of the reasons that people stay sick longer with colds, flues and infections like Covid, is because of 'reinfection' in that they come into contact with their own contaminated bedding, clothing and contaminated air and so for them, recovery is slower and longer however there are very simple and easy ways to maintain health safety protocols to prevent reinfection and protect others from infection.

1. I moved into the spare room and had a separate bathroom.
2. Hand Sanitiser was made available in every room
3. I wore a mask when in common areas
4. Rooms and furniture were sanitised regularly with antiseptic sprays
5. Pillows, bedding and clothing were sanitised and/or washed regularly
6. Anything I touched was sanitised (using an



antiseptic wipes)

7. I kept at least 1.5 metres away from family members and did not leave the house or yard.

Recovery was quick and simple. I went onto the antivirals immediately and controlled symptoms with cold & flu tabs, a cough syrup, lots of fluid, and the occasional paracetamol or ibuprofen.

Sadly, people with other underlying illnesses may take longer to recover even with these protocols.

Two other Celebrants have told me that after Covid, their tastebuds have been dulled. For one, he cannot taste his favourite food at all, and another says that everything tastes bitter. One male in his forties said that whilst it felt like a bad cold, there was a point when he laid on the floor and thought he would die as he was in so much pain, but he fully recovered just a week later. A young girl that I know, who had Covid months ago, has been diagnosed with 'long Covid' and still has symptoms months later despite testing negative. She dropped out of sports and though previously very active, is now usually lethargic.

According to NSW Health, most people with COVID-19 can manage safely at home. You monitor your symptoms and if concerned, call your doctor. If you can't contact your doctor, use the online [Service Finder](#) launch to find one near you or call healthdirect on [1800 022 222](#) launch (free and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week). If symptoms become severe, call Triple Zero (000) immediately.

If you are at [higher risk of severe illness](#) and have tested positive, speak to your doctor as soon as possible. You may be eligible for antiviral medicines. COVID-19 antiviral medicines work best if taken as soon as possible, and within 5 days from when your symptoms start.

Although I am told that you can test positive for up to 11 weeks, after just 7 days, I tested negative and have never been so happy to fail a test .

I had warned my couples of the possibility that I wouldn't be available and arranged a backup but as I now have the all clear, I am back on the road again - queue Willie Nelson's "On the Road Again".

- [https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-10/Testing\\_positive\\_to\\_COVID\\_19\\_16\\_OCT\\_23.pdf](https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-10/Testing_positive_to_COVID_19_16_OCT_23.pdf)
- [https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-10/Testing\\_positive\\_to\\_COVID\\_19\\_16\\_OCT\\_23.pdf](https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-10/Testing_positive_to_COVID_19_16_OCT_23.pdf)



- Stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccinations.**
- Talk with your doctor now if you're at higher risk. You may be eligible for antivirals.**
- Stay home if you have cold or flu symptoms and do a test.**
- Wear a mask in crowded indoor spaces.**
- Don't visit people who are at higher risk if you have COVID-19 or symptoms.**
- Wash your hands using soap and water, or hand sanitiser.**

## AMC FREE ONLINE EDUCATION SESSIONS

Did you miss the AMC Conference but still want more UpToDate education on a range of relevant topics?

AMC members should keep an eye out for emails, FB posts and event listing on the AMC webpage. So that you can join the fantastic interactive education sessions broadcast via Zoom.

These are the dates for upcoming education sessions

- ◆ Nov 8, 2023 07:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
- ◆ Dec 13, 2023 07:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
- ◆ Jan 10, 2024 07:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
- ◆ Feb 14, 2024 07:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

## FIND RESOURCES ON OUR AMC WEBPAGE

<https://marriagecelebrants.org.au/member/resources/>

# KNOWLEDGE BASE

## *Guidelines on advertising for Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrants* (Article taken directly from the Fact Sheet)

Celebrants advertising can occur through newspapers, magazines, internet and social media.

Done properly, advertising can benefit you and the broader community by making your services and terms clear. The way you advertise reflects your approach to your duties under the *Marriage Act 1961*.

**You must be a fit and proper person and act in accordance with the Code of Practice for marriage celebrants.**

From 9 December 2017, in all documents relating to the performance of your marriage celebrancy service, including advertisements, online media (website, social media etc) and business cards, **you must clearly indicate whether you are:**

- 1) a religious marriage celebrant (if you are listed as a 'religious marriage celebrant on the Register of Marriage Celebrants), or
- 2) a marriage celebrant (if you are not a religious marriage celebrant). The term 'civil marriage celebrant' can be used and will meet the requirements of paragraph 39G(1)(d) of the Marriage Act.

### **What should celebrants do?**

Make sure you disclose, in your advertising and any other documents relating to your role as a marriage celebrant, what type of celebrant you are (from 9 December 2017).

- a marriage celebrant or
- a religious marriage celebrant

This must be included in all your advertising materials, online media (website, social media etc), business cards and any other documents you make available about your services to solemnise marriages (paragraph 39G(1)(d) of the Marriage Act).

This will assist couples to identify those celebrants who solemnise marriages in accordance with their religious beliefs.

⇒ **Make sure any advertising material is accurate.**

Consumer protection laws make it illegal to mislead or deceive. You should be aware of federal consumer protection and state and territory fair trading laws relevant to your business.

If you set out the legal requirements for solemnising a marriage, make sure they are correct (see Part 4 of the Guidelines on the Marriage Act 1961 for Marriage Celebrants).

⇒ **Be clear about the types of ceremonies you offer.**

Marrying couples are more likely to have realistic expectations if you are clear about the types of marriage services you provide.

Example – the phrase 'Registry weddings' is often used to mean small, less formal weddings; but it could also mean weddings performed by officials at state and territory registries of births, deaths and marriages. Use 'registry-style weddings' instead to make it clear what services you offer.

⇒ **Give couples sufficient contact information.**

Provide several alternatives if possible.

⇒ **Keep contact detail UpToDate**

If you change your contact details, inform the Registrar of Marriage Celebrants by email [[marriagecelebrantssection@ag.gov.au](mailto:marriagecelebrantssection@ag.gov.au)]. This is a requirement under the Marriage Act; you must do this in order to stay registered.

⇒ **Set out your standard terms and conditions.**

A standard agreement, while not obligatory, can help the couple to have realistic expectations and may prevent disagreements.

Consider putting your standard agreement on your website or giving it to couples upfront.

A service agreement may include:

- When and how a deposit will be refunded if arrangements fall through.
- F Handy hint – Celebrants sometimes say in their service agreements that the couple's deposit is not refundable after 'lodgement of the notice of intended marriage (NOIM)'.
  - In this situation, celebrants usually mean that the deposit will not be refunded once they have received the NOIM from a couple. Couples, on the other hand, often take this to mean that a refund of the deposit will not occur after the NOIM has been lodged with the registry of births, deaths and marriages.
  - Simply replacing the words 'lodgement of the NOIM' with 'receipt of the NOIM' may prevent future disputes.
  - How and when rehearsals will occur.
  - Whether you charge for travel to the wedding venue.
  - What equipment you will or will not provide.

The Registrar receives many complaints each year about issues which could be addressed in service agreements. A comprehensive agreement can help you avoid disagreements and complaints.

⇒ **Do not copy or plagiarise other people's advertisements, text, images or audio visual material without permission.**

Contravening copyright law can have significant civil and criminal penalties.

Other celebrants may also be able to take legal action against you for "passing off" (or pretending to be another celebrant's business).

A copyright licence is unlikely to cover copying material from other celebrants' websites.

⇒ **Do not provide advice when you are not authorised to do so, for example, about prospective marriage or spouse visas.**

As a marriage celebrant, you should not provide advice on migration matters. Section 280 of the *Migration Act 1958* states that a person who is not a migration agent must not give immigration assistance. You should be aware that heavy penalties apply.

You can refer couples to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection website for information on visas and immigration-related matters.

Alternatively, you may suggest that couples seek the advice of a registered migration agent for information on applying for marriage visas.

[Guidelines on advertising for Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrants – Updated May 2019](#)



# EXAMPLE OF AN INVALID NOTICE (NOIM)

An example of an invalid notice would include a NOIM given to a person who was not a celebrant

## 39I Disciplinary measures

- (1) The Registrar of Marriage Celebrants may only take disciplinary measures against a marriage celebrant if the Registrar:
  - (a) is satisfied that the marriage celebrant is no longer entitled to be registered as a marriage celebrant; or
    - (aa) is satisfied that the marriage celebrant is no longer entitled to be identified as a religious marriage celebrant on the register of marriage celebrants; or
  - (b) is satisfied that the marriage celebrant has not complied with an obligation under section 39G; or
  - (c) has determined in writing under section 39H that the marriage celebrant's performance in respect of a period was not satisfactory; or
  - (d) is satisfied that it is appropriate to take disciplinary measures against the marriage celebrant after considering a complaint in accordance with the complaints resolution procedures established under paragraph 39K(c); or
  - (e) is satisfied that the marriage celebrant's application for registration was known by the marriage celebrant to be false or misleading in a material particular; or
  - (f) is satisfied that the marriage celebrant's notice under section 39DB or paragraph 39DD(2)(b) (notice requesting to be identified as a religious marriage celebrant) was known by the marriage celebrant to be false or misleading in a material particular.
- (2) The only disciplinary measures that the Registrar may take against a marriage celebrant are to:
  - (a) caution the marriage celebrant in writing; or
  - (b) in accordance with regulations made for the purposes of this paragraph, require the marriage celebrant to undertake professional development activities determined in writing by the Registrar; or
  - (c) suspend the marriage celebrant's registration for a period (the *suspension period*) of up to 6 months

by annotating the register of marriage celebrants to include:

- (i) a statement that the registration is suspended; and
  - (ii) the dates of the start and end of the suspension period; or
- (d) deregister the marriage celebrant by removing his or her details from the register of marriage celebrants; or
- (e) if the marriage celebrant is identified as a religious marriage celebrant on the register of marriage celebrants:
- (i) remove the identification of the marriage celebrant as a religious marriage celebrant from the register for a period (the *suspension period*) of up to 6 months by annotating the register of marriage celebrants to include a statement that the celebrant is not identified as a religious marriage celebrant, and the dates of the start and end of the suspension period; or
  - (ii) remove the identification of the marriage celebrant as a religious marriage celebrant permanently from the register.

Note: A decision to suspend a marriage celebrant's registration, or to deregister a marriage celebrant, is reviewable under section 39J.

- (3) If the Registrar suspends a marriage celebrant's registration for a particular period, section 39F does not apply in respect of the marriage celebrant during the period.
- (3A) If the Registrar removes the identification of a marriage celebrant as a religious marriage celebrant for any period under paragraph (2)(e), section 47A does not apply in respect of the celebrant during that period.
- (4) If the Registrar decides to take disciplinary measures against a marriage celebrant (including a religious marriage celebrant), the Registrar:
  - (a) must give the marriage celebrant written notice of:
    - (i) the decision; and
    - (ii) the reasons for it; and
    - (iii) the disciplinary measure that is being taken; and
    - (iv) if the marriage celebrant has a right under section 39J to apply for review of the decision—that right; and
  - (b) may inform the community, in any way the Registrar thinks appropriate, including by electronic means, that the disciplinary measure is being taken against the marriage celebrant.



## Remote Witnessing of the NOIM

The Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Modifications—Statutory Declarations and Notices of Intention to Marry) Determination 2021 was extended to 31 December 2023.

This allows for an authorised witness to remotely witness the signing of the NOIM by parties in Australia.

AMC is aware that many Celebrants wish to be made permanent. AMC has made representations to the MLCS. Seeking permanency which will involve either new legislation or a change to the Marriage Act. Should the request be successful, we might be looking at early next year for a result.

## NEXT MLCS MEETING



The next MLCS meeting was postponed to 6th December 2023. If you would like any matters raised, please notify the AMC executive with details.

### IMPORTANT:

**a party overseas is required to have the signing of the NOIM witnessed by an overseas authorised witness e.g. a notary public. A celebrant cannot witness the signing of the NOIM outside Australia**

## 25 ways to 'be' in your marriage

1. Be forgiving – no matter what, always forgive before you end the day, always make-up and kiss kindly and thoughtfully, with a loving wish of goodnight.
2. Be Committed – to each other and to the marriage
3. Be Patient
4. Be Considerate
5. Be Loving
6. Be Loyal
7. Be Faithful
8. Be Respectful
9. Be Social - Don't isolate yourself or your partner from friends or family
10. Be Thoughtful – if/when you argue, always have a plan to improve
11. Be Adventurous In All Things – seek & share new experiences together
12. Be Positive & Fun find the pleasures in each day and enjoy them, laugh often
13. Be Mindful Of Each Other & Always Remember Your Vows. They are the promises you made to each other and to yourself and can help you through any difficulty
14. Be Together take time every day, to enjoy each others' company.
15. Be Communicative talk to each other and listen to each other
16. Be Positive—focus on the good and what you can achieve together
17. Be Protective, of yourself, of your marriage and of each other
18. Be Alert to each others' feelings, to each others needs
19. Be Interesting and interested
20. Be Sharing
21. Be Supportive
22. Be Focused on the relationship with each other, that is named 'marriage' which must be your priority above your career, your work, your other distractions
23. Be Relaxed – holiday annually and rejuvenate your relationship
24. Be Clean & Tidy – we all have different standards but your personal hygiene and general conduct can have a significant impact on your relationship (but don't be OCD)
25. Be Budget Conscious –relationships can fall apart because of financial stresses so make sure you apply all the above rules when Working together on your budget

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Lou Szymkow - A Life Celebrant - [www.alifecelebrant.com.au](http://www.alifecelebrant.com.au)

## AUSTRALIAN MARRIAGE CELEBRANTS

The AMC committee are all volunteer Celebrants who freely offer their time and energy. It is a compliment to their character that they paid their own accommodation & entry to the AMC Conference and unlike some other associations are not paid any sort of stipend but are of course reimbursed expenses when they bother to claim

### Office Bearers

- **President & National Regional Coordinator:** Annemarie McDonell
- **Vice President/Education Officer/Regional Coordinator:** Kelly Lawson
- **Treasurer:** Lesley Fazzolari
- **Secretary/Regional Coordinator:** Karyn Bridge
- **Policies Officer:** Kathleen Dodd

### General Committee:

- **Conference Coordinator:** Kamal Al Saliby
- **Rep-AG Govt Liaison Officer:** Brian Brennan
- **Contact Liaison/Regional Coordinator:** Paul Guy
- **Newsletter Editor:** Jacqueline LeGrand
- **Social Media Marketing Officer/Regional Coordinator:** Tanya McDonald
- **Conference Coordinator/Regional Coordinator:** Leanne McKay

There is also a huge list of Regional Coordinators including of course the Author/Editor of this newsletter.

You can find out more about the committee at:

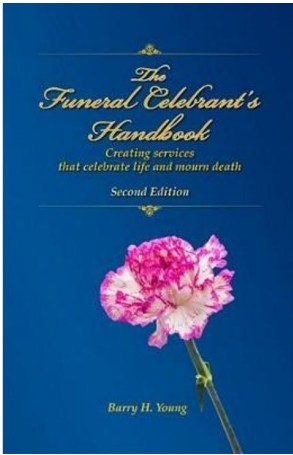
<https://marriagecelebrants.org.au/about-us/executive-committee/>





# Marketing

## Book Review



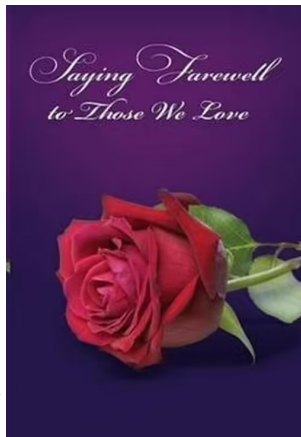
If there is a single essential book that every Funeral Celebrant should have, it is 'The Funeral Celebrant's Handbook'

by Barry H Young.

An experienced Funeral Celebrant, he wrote the first edition in 2008 for qualified celebrants, celebrants-in-training, and those who are entering the vocation of funeral services.

The handbook has withstood the test of time as it covers every aspects of a funeral and memorial services from initial contact with a bereaved family through writing the ceremony and the service itself. Ceremonies may have changed over those years but the basics remain and that is what makes this guide so practical.

The Funeral Celebrants Handbook was updated and re-published in 2016. It is now being used by Celebrants in the United Kingdom, USA, Canada, Scotland, Ireland, Italy and now in Spain and was followed by "Saying Farewell To Those We love".



The majority of funeral services are now conducted by Civil Celebrants and a high standard is essential. My 2016 copy OF Mr Young's book sits on the shelf above my desk and has about eleven tabs to mark special sections as this book includes a varied collection of readings, poems and sample services that are an excellent starting point for writing any service.

The books, 'The Funeral Celebrant's Handbook' and "Saying Farewell To Those We love", by Barry H Young, are available online, from bookstores and direct from the publishers

[www.woodslane.com.au](http://www.woodslane.com.au)

If you can't be a pencil to write someone's happiness, then try to be the eraser to remove their sadness.

**Be seen!** Sounds a bit obvious but we can all easily fall into the habit of NOT being seen. Not advertising, not updating webpages, not adding to social media, not encouraging reviews, avoiding expos, and so simply not being seen. One of my advertising methods is simple magnetic signs. I occasionally drive different cars but the magnetic signs are easily transferable. The template for my signs is pictured but the final sign also has a QR code and people are able to scan the code to go to my webpage and contact details though I've had customers who have simply photographed the sign in a carpark and then call me later . It is fun seeing the faces when people read the sign and then look up and see the same face behind the wheel :)



Don't be hidden in the distance. What are you doing to be seen?



## MAGNETIC SIGNS

This is an important reminder every summer. Car signs are useful at venues and on

the road as well as in carparks, telling clients you exist. Magnetic signs are versatile but need care. The warmer months are just around the corner and that is when sign and care become crucial. Though even in cold or rainy months, care is still required.

Weather and especially heat, can damage the sign and leaving it for too long can damage paintwork as mud and grime can surround the sign and bake onto your paint work but if it is very hot, the glue can melt and seep into your paintwork causing permanent paint damage. Tips to avoid damage:

- When you wash your car, wash the sign.
- apply sun resistant vinyl protector to keep them like new
- Polish the car regularly to keep paint in condition
- Remove the signs from your car regularly
- Dry and clean the paint and back of the sign before you apply the sign to your car panel.
- DO NOT let the signs bake in the sun.

# THE HISTORY OF CELEBRANCY- CELEBRANT SNAPSHOTS

**Today's' feature Celebrant  
is the editor - Lou Szymkow**



**Lou Szymkow has been involved in Celebrancy for over 40 years but only became authorised as a Civil Marriage Celebrant in 2015 and is the editor and creator of this newsletter.**

*I grew up on a small family farm. My Mum, a Polish post-war migrant, an active member of the Kemps Creek community, was widowed when I was just a baby. I was the youngest of 5, and the family story was plastered across the front pages of national newspapers and led to the legislation that created compulsory third party (CTP Greenslip) insurance. The local community came together to build a small house next to the small shack my father and friends had built. With a devoutly religious mother who attributed her survival of WWII to prayer, I was naturally involved in the Catholic Church from an early age but not so much as a teenager. I married very young, and just over a year later, after the birth of our first child, we started a new investigation business. The business grew and so did our family with the arrival of a second child. Faced with the responsibility of parenthood, I reconnected with the church and volunteered as a Reader, Communion Minister and then Acolyte (Adult Altar Service) at our church and, like our Mums, my wife and I were both involved in school and community. I was eventually the beneficiary of a Community First Hero Award for services to the community.*

My volunteering was broad, visiting people in need in their homes, delivering food, and for a time, managing a van patrolling to serve people sleeping rough in the street. It



was deeply rewarding and educational. For 26 years, I was also the official (volunteer) MC for the Mamre Foundation and came to share a stage with many TV

**Celebrant Profile Snapshot. This is just to capture a snapshot in this 50th year. The stories of current and past celebrants. This is not limited to AMC Members but is just a snapshot in time so that in another 25 or 50 years, Celebrants, their descendants and the community, will be able to look back and to read what it was like to be a celebrant in 2023.**

and radio personalities including the complete cast of a Country Practice, ABCs Simon Marnie and Costa Georgiadis and shared tables or dinner with Political Celebrities on both sides of politics from Mayors, to local Members, NSW Premiers and Federal Cabinet Ministers. I also MC'd other charity events and was an occasional auctioneer for charities. The largest crowd was about 7000 people.



I was well known in Western Sydney and when a 23-year quadriplegic girl died, her family insisted that I conduct the funeral service. It was a beautiful and very different service that prompted the funeral director to offer more services but I had to decline because I had a growing investigation business to run. A few months later the same family asked at only a few hours' notice that I conduct a funeral service for another relative but I thought the immediate family would have made arrangements and I again declined, a decision I came to regret because the scruffy celebrant who attended was clearly unprepared, didn't even introduce himself, managed to get names wrong, read from crumpled bits of scrap paper and delivered one of the poorest and most disrespectful services I had ever encountered. I came to the realisation that the unchurched, deserved much better. When I retired from investigations, I taught business to unemployed, helping them achieve goals. I then moved on to sales for an RTO and after multiple company takeovers, found myself in Melbourne managing multi-million dollar training programs. I even became the designer of the first reemployment program for a Middle Eastern country. I felt like Forrest Gump at times, going with the breeze and experiencing life to the full.

After funding cuts and a return to Sydney, I looked to the future and utilising the same life changing concepts that I had taught to unemployed, I decided that I would finally become a funeral celebrant however there was no training available and despite 40 years of experience in Celebrancy assisting Priests and Bishops, I wanted purpose specific training. Finding a Marriage Celebrancy course that included some funeral units, was the obvious choice and once I had that qualification, decided to apply for authorisation as a Marriage Celebrant.

It was at that time that my beloved mother died and I wrote her funeral service and had the privilege of delivering her eulogy. She would have loved that three priest were in attendance.





It was almost a year later though that I left full time employment and conducted my first two weddings, one at a Hunters Hill mansion where a million-dollar cruiser was the wedding limo, and the second in the Sydney Botanical Gardens overlooking the harbour bridge.



Funeral bookings started to come along at last but I continually received more bookings for weddings than funerals. Then Naming Ceremonies started and in preparation for one of those, I

was actually interviewed by the infant to be named because her parents wanted to be certain that their baby was comfortable with me. All went beautifully.

When Covid-19 hit, 17 ceremonies were postponed and bookings stopped for a time. One of the saddest funerals was a highly regarded community member for whom you would have expected hundreds to attend, but because of restrictions, only 7 were allowed, among them was her teenage grandson who had to sit 2 metres from his parents, alone and crying.

Some weddings continued and one was featured in the local press as well as being attended by a Reuters journalist and so the Covid Wedding in a St Marys lounge room received international attention with 74 photos and a video online. I had checked the credentials of



that journalist and discovered before being stranded by Covid, in Australia, his previous story was an interview of President Barrack Obama.

I cannot single out a wedding as being better than any other as I have incredible fun at every single ceremony and work toward my couples and their gathering having even more fun than I do. I have conducted ceremonies on hilltops and beaches, cliff tops and valleys, chapels, kitchens and lounge rooms, restaurants, parks and backyards. I have taken 'selfies' at every single wedding much to the delight of the couples. I had a wedding where 20 people were crammed into a tiny dining room, one that had to change venues because they needed space for 500 guests, another where the

united family involved 7 teenagers and more recently a number in beachside houses and coastal resorts.

My funerals and memorials have ranged from just 7 people in attendance to over 500 and I have occasionally



written poems for specific occasions. One of the most touching was when the mother of that quadriplegic girl, lost her fiancé' after 17 years together, just weeks before they were finally to

be married and so she carried the flowers he had grown for her bouquet as I read the vows she was to speak at her wedding. My oldest couple were in their late 70s and early 80s (see newspaper cutting), and youngest just reached 18 .

Another couple, facing tragedy and both in wheelchairs, married in a back yard and were featured in a nationwide magazine as well as in media across Australia and London.



Building resources including answers to questions, poetry and readings, I added them to my webpage and soon discovered that hundreds of Celebrants from across the world were regularly using my webpage as a resource. I



even received two awards from a UK Celebrancy group to thank me for the contribution. My poem 'You Ask Me Why' has been read at funerals across Australia, England and the USA and my poem about Aldo the truck driver, simply named after him, has also been popular.

During Covid, now grandparents, my wife and I moved from Western Sydney to the beautiful South Coast of NSW and what an incredible paradise it is. It was then that, wanting to get to know the local Celebrants, I gladly accepted the role of AMC South Coast Coordinator. That led to the birth of this newsletter as a single monthly newsletter was far better than the bombardment of daily informational emails. Then at the behest of Phil Timbrell,

who I met years before at training and whom I regard as my mentor, I started to assist in the AMC support services and social media pages.

When the 50th anniversary of Civil Celebrancy came about I wrote to every association asking that it be celebrated and that we include important dignitaries. I was ecstatic that Dally Messenger III accepted the invitation to speak at the AMC Conference and that I have not only managed to meet him, but other incredible celebrants, those new to the profession and those with vast, incredible experience.

*I love what I do.*

# Age can't stop their love

She's 87, he's 78. Next month, they'll celebrate their partnership by getting hitched

EMILY FESICZUK

Elizabeth Giardina and Stanley Carroll are getting married in December. Photo Megan Dunn

For Elizabeth Giardina, 87, and Stanley Carroll, 78, age is but a number. The couple from St Marys have been together for three years and are planning on getting married in December.

Mr Carroll said they came together after meeting like it was meant to be.

"We met through the Red Cross at Doon-side where they had a social group for seniors and when we went on a couple of outings where you stay overnight, we got put in the same cabin," he said.

"It happened a few times and we could have objected but for some reason we didn't. From then our relationship grew quite strongly."

Ms Giardina, who happily admits to being a 'cradle snatcher', said they thought the logical thing would be to get married.

"We just thought it's better if we get married and our kids wanted it for us as well, so we got our celebrant. Let's plan something small for the end of the year," she said.

"We get on so well and you need companionship when you get older, so why not enjoy life as if we are a young married couple?"

The ceremony will be unique to the couple featuring Aboriginal culture to celebrate their shared Indigenous heritage.

"Stanley will be giving me a ring, but I will be giving him an Akubra hat," Ms Giardina said.

"He doesn't like jewellery but he likes Akubras, so it is just a different type of symbol. He will be protected by this gift and, in turn, will protect me in the security of our marriage."

The wedding takes place next month.

The western weekendender - Friday, November 1, 2019

# THE HISTORY OF CELEBRANCY- CELEBRANT SNAPSHOTS

**Celebrant Profile Snapshot.** This is just to capture a snapshot in this 50th year. The stories of current and past celebrants. This is not limited to AMC Members but is just a snapshot in time so that in another 25 or 50 years, Celebrants, their descendants and the community, will be able to look back and to read what it was like to be a celebrant in 2023.

## Barry Henry Young OAM

**Reading the book review in the newsletter, you might have an inkling who Barry H. Young is but here is his story, humbly told in his own words**

My name is **Barry Henry Young OAM**, born 12/11//1933 at Hawthorn-Victoria. I did not become a funeral Celebrant until 1998. I gave a short Eulogy about my deceased father-in-law and the Funeral Director said to me *"You will come and work for me"*. I replied, *"what as?; he answered "as a celebrant"*. I told him that I was 63 years of age and said, *"I do not know anything about being a Celebrant"* but he insisted, *"you will after conducting 100 services"*.



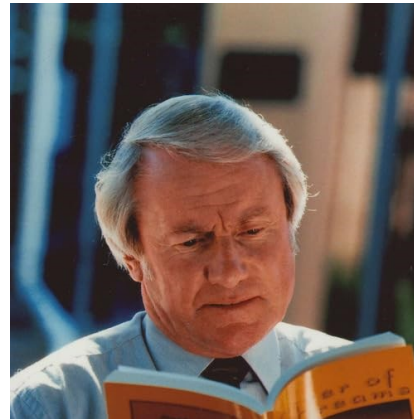
I think I do now, after conducting 1327 services.

At my first service, I was very nervous but not due to speaking ability as had done for many years in different senior roles, but I was uncertain about content. My services completely differed from other celebrants that I had heard conduct services. My service process then and now is done in stages as follows.

- **Opening Music**
- **Welcome and words of Comfort**
- **Eulogy and tributes**
- **Lord's Prayer (optional)**
- **Committal (three stages)**
  - i. **Benediction**
  - ii. **Final Farewell**
  - iii. **Recessional Music.**

This method has worked wonderfully well for me and I have never had a complaint; only some lovely words of gratitude. My area of conducting services are the cities of Albury and Wodonga and far-reaching border regions including the Snowy Mountain regions through to the wine country of Rutherglen and surrounds.

My career prior to becoming a celebrant stood me in good stead as I was the marketing and sales director of the Gas and Fuel Corporation of Victoria which took me all over the world and many committee and speaking commitments. I retired from the G & F Corp after 38 years of service which



was rewarded with a humble Canberra Gold Flame Award for meritorious service to The Australian Fuel Industry.

My personal commitments have embraced many organisations. I rose to President

of the Melbourne YMCA which included 1500 members and twenty-five branches. I became a Worshipful Master in Freemasonry, no easy task due to the study required, I jokingly say that I could have become a brain surgeon with all the study required. I am currently a dedicated Rotarian and a proud recipient of a Paul Harris Fellowship Award, Board member of Aged Concern, Board member of Thurgoona Community Centre and author of magazines for both organisations.

I also work with the homeless and youth. Twenty years ago, due to young students not reading or writing but being engrossed in text messages and computer games, I introduced a short story and poetry school competition for border Secondary and Primary Schools.. Today in its 20th year the competition embraces fifty-four schools for a radius of 150kms. The competition in conjunction named the *"River of Stories"* has been renamed by the Albury City Council *"The Barry Young River of Stories"* and this October 2023 I received the honour from the NSW Government, a Legislative Assembly Hansard recognition for such.

My humble awards, non sought but they happen include:

- OAM (Order of Australia) for meritorious services to Youth and the Elderly
- The 2013-Australia Day Albury City awards for volunteer of the year service to the community
- In 2015, the NSW government Albury Citizen of the year award.
- In 2021 the Rotarian of the year award.

I have been very privileged to be a Funeral Celebrant bringing comfort to the bereaved and my philosophy of my life is *"To give of your heart , mind and capacity in everything you do"*.

We celebrants, wedding and funeral, should be very appreciative and proud to have a fellow celebrant in Lou Szymkow who gives of his heart, mind and capacity in supporting and outreaching our chosen occupation. Thank you Lou.



## COORDINATOR COMMENTS



A common question that arises in Celebrant forums is:

*"What do you charge and what should I charge?"*

The usual response is *"check what others in the area charge"*, But that is the worst possible advice anyone can give!

It is called *'competitive pricing'*, or in other words, *"price just to compete, but not*

*to succeed and go broke in the process"*.

It is very bad business practice to charge what others charge simply to be 'competitive' as you will have no idea if you are making a profit and you probably wont..

**Many people confuse turnover with profit.**

That is the biggest mistake a business owner can make. If you charged \$400 per ceremony but it costs you \$400 to deliver, you are wasting your time and subsidising your clients, giving them a great ceremony and paying them to allow you the privilege of hard work for no profit. I think they used to call that slavery.

If charging \$400 for each ceremony and you perform 100 ceremonies giving you an income of \$40,000, you have actually made a loss of \$40,000, not a profit because at best you have covered just some of your costs and accrued no wages or enough to cover your business expenses. You wont pay tax because you haven't made an assessable profit.

I have said for years and you can tattoo this on your favourite child's forehead:

***"If you make price the focus , so will the client"***.

⇒ Focus on delivery and quality, not just on price.

⇒ Focus on your point of difference.

⇒ Identify your perfect client and market to that person.

For determining pricing, your first step is to analyse and compile a list of your own costs.

Calculate just how much it costs you to deliver a ceremony?

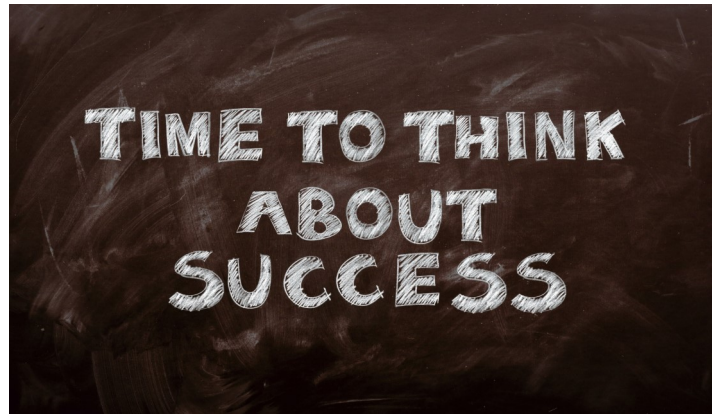
Your list of all expenses including time cost gives you a break even figure.

Typically you will then double that to cover generic business expenses and to fund your expenses for your next ceremony. You then you add another 20% to create your profit margin.

Cut up the credit card and plan to get rid of the overdraft. Plan for your future by setting aside funds every month to invest in superannuation and/or an investment property.

**You are in business as a Celebrant.**

**Make it a successful, financially viable business.**



# DEADLINE

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS TO PREVENT DEREGISTRATION

### OPD

If you do not have an exemption (fee applies) You must complete the obligatory professional development (OPD) activities by 31st December each calendar year. **DO NOT LEAVE TO THE LAST MINUTE** because if there is a systems glitch and your OPD doesn't complete or successfully upload, you could be deregistered.

### Annual Celebrant Registration Charge of \$170.00

You are liable to pay a celebrant registration charge of \$170.00 for the financial year 2023-2024 (section 39FA of the Act). The celebrant registration charge is payable unless you are granted an exemption from the liability to pay the charge for this financial year. Refunds are not available in the event you are no longer registered during the year. **The Charge Payment Day is 60 days from the date of issue of the invoice, so for most 06/11/2023** is the final deadline for payment but check your own due date to be safe.