



# Information kit

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## Letter of introduction

So, you're getting married? Congratulations. Thank you for selecting me as your Celebrant for your special day.

Obviously, you are going to want to plan the perfect day without a hitch whilst getting hitched! This is why I work hard for each of my clients, helping them plan and host their upcoming ceremony free of stress and with confidence. So what can you expect?

First up, our planning meeting. This is where I ask you lots of questions and listen to exactly what you want for your ceremony. We also get all the official documents done a dusted, so we can focus on the exciting bit, the planning! It's also the time that I can help you out with ideas if you're just not sure. The follow ingredients of a wedding need to be discussed:

- Housekeeping – where what how and when and all things your guest should know before everything starts.
- The Bridal march or processional proceedings, will there be a “giving away”
- Special welcomes & Introductions, such as overseas guests or remembering loved ones who have passed away.
- Will there be any reading or poems?
- The “I do's” or the “We Do's”
- Your Vow's – are you going to write some yourself or stick to traditional? Legal vows normally come first followed by any personal words. It very important that we stick to the legal words but after that you can use your creative licence as you wish.
- Ring exchange.
- The pronouncing – what would you like to be introduced as?
- Signing of the register. Perfect opportunity for you to engage other significate people to be your witnesses. They must be over 18 years old. What music would you like to be played, will you have a band or a singer? Your photographer will most likely want a photo.
- Would you like to perform any extra rituals – this is a good time to include this to formally bring the ceremony to an end,
- Conclusions – include any formal instructions we have for your guests' attention. How you like would to leave your ceremony (your recessional),



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is there any special music you would like played at this point? Any custom rituals which have a significance to you.

This information kit will cover off the above points in more detail. If you have any questions or need any help then please just ask, I'm here to help.

## Poems and readings – some suggestions

A point of conversation that comes up fairly often in my chats with wedding couples is about alternative options to bible readings. What do we use in the absence of bible verses and hymns?

Surely someone should be able to express their complete devotion to another without mentioning God (if it's their wish to do so). I totally understand the question because I myself am not religious, and opted out of bible verses for my own wedding.

If you would like to include a poem or reading into your wedding then consider some of the following. Thanks to google here are some of my top picks...

### [A passage from Captain Corelli's Mandolin by Louis de Bernières](#)

Love is a temporary madness,

it erupts like volcanoes and then subsides.

And when it subsides you have to make a decision.

You have to work out whether your roots have so entwined together

that it is inconceivable that you should ever part.

Because this is what love is.

Love is not breathlessness, it is not excitement,

it is not the promulgation of eternal passion.

That is just being "in love" which any fool can do.

Love itself is what is left over when being in love has burned away,

and this is both an art and a fortunate accident.

Those that truly love, have roots that grow towards each other underground,

and when all the pretty blossom have fallen from their branches,

they find that they are one tree and not two.



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## Love by Roy Croft

I love you,  
Not only for what you are,  
But for what I am  
When I am with you.  
I love you,  
Not only for what  
You have made of yourself,  
But for what  
You are making of me.  
I love you  
For the part of me  
That you bring out;  
I love you  
For putting your hand  
Into my heaped-up heart  
And passing over

All the foolish, weak things  
That you can't help  
Dimly seeing there,  
And for drawing out  
Into the light  
All the beautiful belongings  
That no one else had looked  
Quite far enough to find.

I love you  
Because you have done  
More than any creed  
Could have done  
To make me good,  
And more than any fate  
To make me happy.



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## Us Two by A.A. Milne

Wherever I am, there's always Pooh,

There's always Pooh and Me.

Whatever I do, he wants to do,

"Where are you going today?" says Pooh:

"Well, that's very odd 'cos I was too.

Let's go together," says Pooh, says he.

"Let's go together," says Pooh.

... "I wasn't afraid," said Pooh, said he,

"I'm never afraid with you."

So wherever I am, there's always Pooh,

There's always Pooh and Me.

"What would I do?" I said to Pooh,

"If it wasn't for you," and Pooh said: "True,

It isn't much fun for One, but Two,

Can stick together, says Pooh, says he. "That's how it is," says Pooh

## Sonnet 116 by William Shakespeare

Let me not to the marriage of true minds admit impediments.

Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds,

or bends with the remover to remove:

Oh, no! It is an ever-fixed mark.

That looks on tempests and is never shaken;

it is the star to every wandering bark,

whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.

Love's not Time's fool,

though rosy lips and cheeks within his bending sickle's compass come;

love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,

but bears it out even to the edge of doom.

If this be error and upon me proved,

I never writ, nor no man ever loved.



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What's Mickey without Minnie? Author unknown

What's Mickey without Minnie,

Or piglet without pooh,

What's Donald without Daisy?

That's me without you.

When Ariel Doesn't sing,

and Pooh hates honey,

when Tigger stops bouncing,

and Goofy isn't funny.

When Peter Pan can't fly,

and Simba never roars,

when Alice no longer fits

through small doors.

When Dumbo's ears are small,

and happily ever after isn't true,

Even then, I won't stop loving you.



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## WHY MARRIAGE, BY DENA ACOLATSE

Because to the depths of me, I long to love one person with all my heart, my soul, my mind, my body...

Because I need a forever friend to trust with the intimacies of me, Who won't hold them against me, Who loves me when I'm unlikable, Who sees the small child in me, and Who looks for the divine potential of me...

Because I need to cuddle in the warmth of the night with someone who thanks God for me; with someone I feel blessed to hold...

Because marriage means opportunity to grow in love in friendship...

Because marriage is a discipline to be added to a list of achievements...

Because marriages do not fail, people fail when they enter into marriage expecting another to make them whole...

Because, knowing this, I promise myself to take full responsibility for my spiritual, mental and physical wholeness. I create me. I take half of the responsibility for my marriage. Together we create our marriage... Because with this understanding, the possibilities are limitless



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## Song Selection Suggestions

### Guest arrival and welcome

- Sufjan Stevens: "For the Widows in Paradise"
- Bob Dylan: "Forever Young"
- Magnetic Fields: "The Book of Love"
- The Weepies: "Somebody Loved"
- Judy Collins: "How Can I Keep from Singing"

### During the signing

- Velvet Underground: "I'll Be Your Mirror"
- Johnny Cash: "I Walk the Line"
- Yo La Tengo: "Our Way to Fall"
- The Corrs: "Haste to the Wedding"
- Ennio Morricone: "Once Upon a Time in the West"

### The procession:

- Love Actually Soundtrack-Glasgow Love Theme. Info. ...
- Train - Marry Me. ...
- Somewhere Over the Rainbow by Israel Kamakawiwo'Ole.

## Rituals

There are different types of Rituals you can use to symbolise different occasions and special meanings.

### The Sand Ceremony

A type of unity ceremony, the wedding sand ceremony expresses the coming together of two people or two families into one new family. ... Typically, each person has different coloured sand and takes turns pouring it into one clear vessel, forming a layered effect

### Handfasting

In a ritual that originated in my home country Great Britain during pagan times. The bride and groom bind their hands together with a ribbon, or yarn symbolizing the joining of their lives. The binding was then tied in a knot to symbolise their unity! So you know that saying "tied the Knot", now you know where this comes from.

Today, many couples do this immediately before or after the exchange of rings.



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## Ceremony Options

### Traditional components

In order to have a legal wedding, there must be there has to be an exchange of vows and the book signing but everything else is optional. Most people would recognised the tradition components or rituals generally used in a wedding, these can be;

- Exchange of Rings
- The giving away of the bride
- 

## Script samples

### The welcome

Good afternoon, family and friends. We have come here today to celebrate the wedding of Sandra and Raj, and on behalf of them I want to thank you all for joining us. I'd like to ask you to please make sure your phones are on silent throughout the ceremony.

For overseas visitors and family members

So many of you have travelled a long way to be here today. It is so wonderful to have Sandra's father and partner who have flown in from Italy. Raj's cousin Ray from India, Troy Williams from Hong Kong and Raj's friends from North Queensland.

Small gathering (less than 20)

The Bride and Groom have opted for a small intimate wedding with their nearest and dearest, they are delighted that the special people in their lives are here today to celebrate with them. Your presents makes this occasion even more special.

### Words about marriage

Marriage is a bond to be entered into only after considerable thought and reflection. Marriage is not just a piece of paper. Marriage is a promise to honour each other. By making this commitment today, Raj and Sandra's relationship will become deeper and stronger.

Acknowledge the joining of two cultures



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"Today we will witness a truly special joining of Two Cultures, Raj's Indian back ground and Sandra's Italian heritage. Wow can you begin to image the dinner table of two cultures who live to eat! "

Subsequencial Marriages involving children in the ceremony or acknowledgement of.

Today Raj and Sandra not only celebrate their union in marriage but the commitment to each other today means that they become a new family.

To mark this this we ask Sandra's daughter Jessica to join us now for the special family rites of this wedding..

Raj:

Jessica, thank you for sharing Mummy with me, loving me and allowing me to love you with all of my heart. I was not there when you took your first steps, but I promise that now I will love and support you in every step that you take in your life from here on.

Jessica will now come forward to help us with the Blending of the sand in a special ceremony that will show the union of this family which will act as a keep safe for Jessica.

## The giving away

Bride wishes not to be given away but parents to affirm their blessing:

Said to parents ""Do you give yourloving parental support to the union of this lady to be married?" parents say "we do",

Couple asks for a community vow of support:

"Today is not only the joining of Raj and Sandra, but also the joining of their families. As family and friends, you form a community of support where we stand beside them, never between them. Offer them our love and support, not our judgement. Encourage them when encouragement is needed and listen to them when they ask for advice. In these ways, do you as family and friends honour this marriage into which they have come to be joined today." EVERYONE: WE DO

## The asking

It's said that to make a marriage successful you need a strong dose of friendship, a massive slice of respect, and a mixing pot to accept each other's weaknesses in which we rejoice in each other's strengths.



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So with us all as privileged witnesses allow me to lead you both and ask;

“Raj/Sandra do you promise to trust, respect and cherish each other?” Ans: I Do

“Do you Raj/Sandra present yourself here today to be joined in marriage with Jane, promising to be faithful and honest with her as long as you both may live?” Ans: I Do

## Personalised Vows (additional to the mandatory)

I promise from this day forward ,  
you shall never walk alone.  
May my heart be your shelter  
and my arms be your home.  
For you will always be my best friend.

## The Ring Exchange

Both parties will wear a ring

Raj and Sandra, let these rings serve as a reminder of the feelings you have in your hearts at this very moment. There are times in life when you may focus on the things not yet accomplished, the things you don't have and the things you have lost. At those times, look at your wedding band, and remember the great gift that you have been given and all that you have in one another. Remember that you have someone to share this life with.

Groom will offer a ring to the bride

Said by groom: I offer you this ring, as a symbol of my love for you, the never-ending circle shows how i will continue to love you forever with no end. Please wear this with pride and to our union to all those we meet.

Presentation as husband and wife

With these statement made of love and trust, which we have just heard, I now wish you congratulate Raj and Sandra and Introduce you as husband and wife.

## Code of Practice for wedding celebrants.

Set out by the Attorney – Generals Department there is a Code of Practice (regulation 37L) which all celebrants are to adhere to. Below is the code.

### 1. APPLICATION OF THIS CODE OF PRACTICE



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This Code of Practice applies to marriage celebrants (being persons registered under Subdivision C of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*).

*Note:* Under paragraph 39I(1)(b) of the *Marriage Act 1961*, if the Registrar of Marriage Celebrants is satisfied that a marriage celebrant has not complied with an obligation under section 39G of that Act, including this Code of Practice, the Registrar may take disciplinary measures against the marriage celebrant.

## 2. HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE

A marriage celebrant must maintain a high standard of service in his or her professional conduct and practice.

## 3. RECOGNITION OF SIGNIFICANCE OF MARRIAGE

A marriage celebrant must recognise the social, cultural and legal significance of marriage and the marriage ceremony in the Australian community, and the importance of strong and respectful family relationships.

## 4. COMPLIANCE WITH THE MARRIAGE ACT AND OTHER LAWS

A marriage celebrant must:

- (a) solemnize marriages according to the legal requirements of the *Marriage Act 1961* (Cth); and
- (b) observe the laws of the Commonwealth and of the State or Territory where the marriage is to be solemnized; and
- (c) prevent and avoid unlawful discrimination in the provision of marriage celebrancy services.

## 5. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE CEREMONIES

A marriage celebrant must respect the importance of the marriage ceremony to the parties and the other persons organising the ceremony. To that end, the marriage celebrant must do the following:

- (a) give the parties information and guidance to enable them to choose or compose a marriage ceremony that will meet their needs and expectations;
- (b) respect the privacy and confidentiality of the parties;
- (c) maintain appropriate facilities to interview parties and provide office facilities, including facilities for the secure storage of records;
- (d) within a reasonable time before the marriage ceremony:
  - (i) confirm all details with the parties; and
  - (ii) ensure the return of all personal documents belonging to the parties (unless it is necessary to keep the documents for the ceremony); and
  - (iii) sign any necessary declarations;
- (e) if requested by the parties, conduct a marriage ceremony rehearsal;
- (f) ensure that his or her personal presentation is of an appropriate standard for the marriage ceremony, and respect the expectations of the parties in relation to the ceremony;
- (g) make efforts to ensure that the marriage ceremony is audible to all those present (using audio equipment, if required);
- (h) ensure accuracy in the preparation of documents, and in the conduct of the marriage ceremony;
- (i) arrive at the venue for the marriage ceremony no later than the time agreed with the parties;
- (j) if the marriage celebrant has agreed to perform more than one marriage ceremony on the same day:
  - (i) ensure that the parties to each marriage receive a level of service that meets their separate and special requirements; and



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- (ii) be available at the venue for each marriage ceremony at least 20 minutes before the agreed commencement of each ceremony (unless, in the case of consecutive ceremonies, the ceremonies are to be held at the same venue);
- (k) ensure that all relevant documents are completed and sent to the appropriate registering authority within 14 days after the marriage ceremony, as required by section 50 of the *Marriage Act 1961*;
- (l) in relation to the provision of marriage services, accept evaluative comment from the parties, and use any comments to improve performance;
- (m) give the parties information about how to notify the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department of any concerns or complaints they may have regarding the marriage services provided by the marriage celebrant.

## 6. KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS SERVICES

A marriage celebrant must:

- (a) maintain an up-to-date knowledge about appropriate family relationships services in the community; and
- (b) inform parties about the range of information and services available to them to enhance, and sustain them throughout, their relationship.

## Complaint process

I do hope that I meet and exceed your expectations of me, however from time to time things don't work out according to plan. For those moments I do hope that we can talk it through and come to an agreement. I also welcome any constructive feedback you can give me in the conclusion survey as I wish to be the best celebrant I can be.

In the unlikely event that I'm not able to fully address your concerns you are able to make a complaint using the Attorney General's complaints form found on their website.

## Checklist – what I need to give Alex.

| Item   | ✓ |
|--|---|
| 1) Completed your Notice of Intention To Marry |   |



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|  |  |
|--|--|
| with Alex or as directed by AJ.  |  |
| 2) Selected song choices   |  |
| o Bridal Entry:  |  |
| o Signing Song:  |  |
| o Leaving Song- consider an upbeat option  |  |
| 3) Full Names of witnesses – don't forget to check for middle names!   |  |
| 4) Email Alex your Vows if you are writing your own and would like them printed on a card for your ceremony. |  |
| 5) Copies of Divorce certificates if applicable:   |  |
| 6) Any specific Information that your need Alex to pass onto your guests after the ceremony.                 |  |