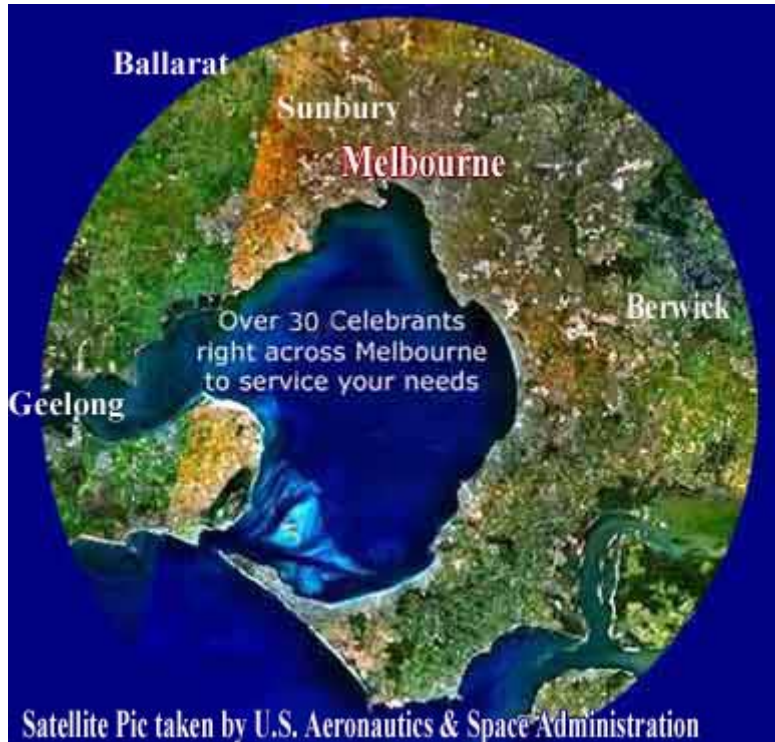


Celebrants Australia Newsletter

Issue No 2 (Website Version)-May 2006
Our new website is nearly ready to launch!



We're all on the map!

Who would have thought of putting a satellite picture of Melbourne and suburbs on our new website's Home Page? –

Joe Agius – our website builder extraordinaire! Joe is the silent, unseen face behind the construction of our Celebrants Australia website, quietly tweaking and clicking and patiently organizing the technical aspects that have created our wonderful, interactive, informative and colorful website.

A massive 'Thank you Joe' from all the members of Celebrants Australia.

The photo was taken by the U.S. Aeronautics and Space Administration Satellite as it passed over Melbourne.

Joe will make the photo interactive; dividing it into six or eight parts, so that a click will reveal all CA members in that area. Further clicks will take the browser to a complete list of celebrants, and to each members own page.

At this stage, members details and photographs are still being uploaded, and we are putting the finishing touches to our Picture Gallery. Launch is getting closer!

From the Chair...



Spencer Flint was actually enjoying a Singapore holiday when we had our first meeting this year!

Now he is definitely in the pilot's seat and in full control.

Here is his first piece for 'The CAN '

Dear Friends and colleagues, The first few months in the Chair have been very exciting, as we see a very enthusiastic group of Celebrants forge our way ahead for the future.

It is such a privilege to work with such dynamic people in building a new entity in Celebrants Australia Inc. We have such diversity in our members, yet working together to achieve a common goal.

There are a number of projects currently being undertaken by each of our committees. Christie is doing a fantastic job in organizing our social events. A lot of thought and planning has gone into developing our social calendar, so I trust you will give it your full support. Our first social event will be the launch of our new website.

Stan has done a wonderful job in securing an insurance company to provide insurance to cover us all, as we go about our celebrations. This was a mighty effort to find to find an Insurer who was reasonable with their costs. In the past, we have had quotes from other Insurance companies that were out of our reach, with the premiums they expected us to pay. Well done Stan.

Liz has done an awesome job in gathering information for our new website, which is under construction at present. When it is complete, it will be the best Celebrant website on the web. It will be interactive, personal, informative and I know, will be a great asset to Celebrants Australia. We thank Liz and Joe for their many hours of dedication to present the website as a very professional and user-friendly place to visit on the web. Other websites will follow our lead.

The majority of phone calls and emails I receive regarding wedding ceremonies come from the website of the Attorney General's Department. So, to have our own informative website will no doubt generate a lot more enquiries for us all.

One of the greatest things about Celebrants Australia is that we are getting all our members involved in different ceremonies to keep their skills and training alive whilst they wait for their appointments as Civil Marriage Celebrants. This in itself is unique about Celebrants Australia. You can only join most other Celebrant organizations after you have been appointed by the AG's Dept. So, those who are waiting around, not being with others who have trained and not able to network together, are losing their skills whilst they wait. In Celebrants Australia we encourage everyone to go and use their skills immediately and build experience. This in itself makes our organization dynamic. Gaining experience in ceremonies will put our members well ahead when the barn doors are opened in 2008.

Thank you all for your commitment, especially AIET for your continuing support.

Kindest regards, Spencer Flint [^](#)

LICENSED to WED

By Howard Langmead

Published in The Melbourne Anglican September 2002

The inadequacy of my theological education was exposed at the rehearsal for the first wedding I celebrated. I was stumped by simple questions such as "Which side does the father of the bride stand on?", and "How can we sober up the groom?", and "Is Celine Dion an Anglican?" It was a wonderful wedding. The bride looked stunning and the groom looked stunned.

Jesus performed his first miracle at a wedding. Performing my first wedding was a miracle. The next week I bought a copy of 'Wedding Etiquette Made Easy' and I still read extracts as part of the daily office.

Some clergy recite the litany of famous people they have married. I've only managed to marry the infamous. One infamous bride, with a well publicized criminal conviction, attracted media interest to her wedding. Somehow television news and magazine articles managed to cover the wedding without mentioning my name or referring to the succinct (but poignant and witty) sermon that I carefully crafted for the cameras. This was an unfortunate editorial oversight. Maybe if I had preached on tithing at that wedding the church would have received a share of the \$10,000 that *Woman's Day* paid the bride.

I did take a wedding with a famous bridesmaid; a cat, who had been the subject of a short film featured in the St.Kilda Film Festival. I loved the film and the wedding. The bridesmaid was carried in a lace and ribbon decorated cage and placed on the front pew. The bride and groom requested that a friend of theirs play the piano for the service. He was blind, deaf, and a great musician. My concern was whether the pianist, the cat and I would start singing 'Amazing Grace' at the same point in the service. The only sour note in that memorable wedding was that the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages hung up on me when I rang to ask whether a cat and a man who is blind and deaf can be legal witnesses at a wedding.

I've learnt a lot as a marriage celebrant. These days I tell the bride that if she wants to avoid pre-wedding stress she needs to remember one thing, it's not her wedding, it's her mothers. A clergy training video is now available called 'Four Weddings and a Funeral'. If the archbishop takes my advice it would be given to priests with the Bible when they are ordained.

Reproduced with kind permission from Howard Langmead.

Howard is a popular Anglican Priest, social commentator and comedian.

His parish church is St.John Chrysostom in Victoria Street, West Brunswick (opposite AIET).

He recently celebrated the 25th Anniversary of his ordination. Howard is a regular guest on radio, notably 774 Drive's 'Thank God it's Friday', and can currently be heard online in 'The Anglican and the Aethiest'. You can join his weekly Laughter Group at St.Johns, 6.30 – 7pm Thursdays from April 27.

Visit his interesting website at www.howardlangmead.com.au.

MEET A.I.E.T Director **ALLAN BARNES**

Founder of Celebrants Australia

By Christine Haddrick

Allan Barnes is one of the three original Directors of the Australian Institute of Education & Training, which was established in 2003 originally for the purpose of providing quality educational outcomes to participants looking for an alternative to TAFE courses. I interviewed Allan just after Easter in an effort to find out a little more about this calm and generous man.

Hi Allan, did you have an opportunity for a rest over Easter at all? What did you do?

We got away to Phillip Island for a couple of days. I do try to keep the weekends free for my family if I can because I do work pretty hard during the week. It's a different type of rest, I guess, but certainly it was a break from the office which was refreshing.

Is it just my impression that you are calm & generous or do others feed that back to you as well?

I think it might be just your impression!! Not too many people say those things about me. No seriously, it is a nice thing to say. One of the things I didn't like about working for a secondary school or TAFE was that I couldn't do things that I wanted to. If someone rang

up and said that they wanted to study for a course but couldn't afford it, it was out of my hands, whereas at AIET, I can make the decision to give them a discount or offer it for free.

It is always hard to talk about your positive qualities, isn't it, but what other qualities help you in your work & relationships?

Gee, I hope the questions get easier - this is a tough one as well I think vision and drive are also important. My wife says I am obsessed with work. I am always trying new things or thinking of new things. In fact, we have just applied to have hairdressing placed on our scope of registration so that we can train apprentices in hairdressing. It is an area of real shortage, and a lot of the institutions are charging \$9000 - \$15,000 for the course, which I think is very expensive. Hopefully with government grants and money we can charge students under \$1000 for the course.

Speaking of relationships, who are the most important people in your life?

Without doubt my wife, children and extended family -- parents, sisters and in-laws. I am a very family-oriented person.

Would you like to tell us a little more about them?

I have three gorgeous children aged 10, 8 and 6. They go to the local primary school which we think is great. My wife Connie now works at AIET 4 days a week, so it is all in the family here at the moment!!!!

I believe you were married in Brunswick, so obviously you are a 'local yokel'?

Yes, we have a great history here. My great grandfather was a sailor with the English navy and jumped ship at the turn of the century, and moved to Brunswick in about 1900. My grandfather and father were born and bred in Brunswick, my father and uncle were both on the Brunswick Council, and my uncle was a local icon. He knew all about the history of Brunswick - when each building was built, every fact and figure!

Are there any interests or activities that you did in adolescence that you have integrated into your present life?

It may sound strange, but not really. My life has gone in stages, with each stage seemingly separated from the earlier one. My adolescence was spent in a different environment to what I now move, and I felt quite dislocated from it.

You are a bit of an IT wiz. Have you always been inclined that way?

No I haven't. We really only had computers at school when I got to about year 11, that's how long ago it was when I went to school! . Even through Uni they were very rare. It wasn't until the mid 1990's when I was working fulltime and our first baby was about 6 months old that I went back to Uni 2 nights a week to study IT. That was a very difficult period for us. I then became an IT teacher at a government secondary school and it snowballed from there.

You always seem so busy, what on earth do you do?

Not sure - sometimes I stop and think about what I do and I shake my head. Basically I run an investment company, AIET, a superannuation company, and now a hairdressing salon, probably about 60 - 70 hours a week. I look after the finances of all of the companies up to the point of doing the BAS returns. I would like to do a Diploma in Accounting so that I can understand it more.

That is very interesting. The readers would be interested in your story about the conception & development of AIET.

It's a bit of a long story, so feel free to cut the answer a bit. Basically, I was working as a sessional lecturer at RMIT when we were told that we could do a Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training course for free. This is a course that you need to do to be a qualified trainer - a bit like a Dip Ed for teachers. So I did it, and Phil Quinn was my lecturer.

Anyway, that was that until about 4 or 5 years later. Connie and I had a wedding to go to in Lygon Street, and as we were going home, we ran into Phil having coffee. We sat and chatted, and talked about me doing some work through the place he was working at. That didn't work too well as the bosses there couldn't see the value in what we were doing, but it was very successful. I remember sitting with Phil having coffee about 12 months after we started this work together, and saying to him, "Phil, at what stage is this profitable enough for us to go into business for ourselves"? And Phil said, "Well, about now I reckon!" So the idea for AIET was born, and we eventually set it up in May 2003, and here we are now!!!!

What major hurdles gave you grey hairs....not that they are noticeable?

The major one is working for yourself and wondering how you will pay the bills each week. When I first started at AIET in 2003, I was paying myself about \$200 a week. It was a bit tight at times. Now the major worry is having 3 employees and making sure that I can pay them each week as well.

You seem to have a progressive spirit, do you think that is one reason AIET is so successful, that you don't just accept what is?

Yes, I think it is my obsessive nature. That's why I decided to go for the Hairdressing course and set it up. My blood boils to think that some students are being charged \$15,000 for a course that can be offered for much less. I hate being ripped off or ripping other people off.

So, forgetting about work for a moment, who is Allan Barnes?

I think work is so intertwined with me at the moment that I am not sure if there is a separate entity called Allan Barnes. I guess I am a family man. With the hours I work, there is not a lot of time for other things like hobbies. The weekend is spent ferrying the kids to and from sporting engagements, trying to paint the house, and catching up with family and friends. There always seems to be a birthday party happening somewhere or other.

So as a father, and as a citizen, what is your greatest social concern in the modern world?

The lack of peace in the world, and the excuse that people use to say that religion is the cause of all of the wars. I don't understand why people can't talk through problems rather than invading countries and killing people. To me, wars are a senseless waste of human life. My dream as a teenager was to be the Chairperson of the United Nations so I could ban all wars.

What about music and ways to relax, what do you enjoy most?

Pink Floyd had a big impact on me in my youth, as well as the Beatles, ELO, and bands of that era. I didn't really connect with the music of the 80's or 90's like the Spice Girls and stuff like that.

What is your favourite meal Allan?

Home made pasta!! We have a pasta machine and Tuesday night is pasta night. My 10 year old daughter has my nature, so she has taken over from me - I showed her how to do it and now she elbows me out of the way and makes it herself. That apple hasn't rolled far from the tree

Oh, that's the one you like with a drop, or two, of Penfold's?

Absolutely. Red wine is one of my passions. I have a cellar with about 10 dozen bottles in it. Nothing huge, but nice all the same.

We know your favourite sport is table top dancing but do you have any others? What about your team?

I love table top dancing as long as I am the spectator!! If I had to name a sport then it would be football and Collingwood. I used to get down to Phillip island for the motorcycle grand prix, and I used to watch the F1 cars each round, but it is on pretty late. I am now into the Kew East basketball team as my 2 daughters play in the local competition. We spent 2 great weeks at the Commonwealth Games - we went to the swimming, diving, netball, basketball, hockey (which I played in my youth), athletics. It was a great 2 weeks.

Well Allan, the CA team think you are pretty good and a great ongoing support over and above the call of duty. It was a happy day, the day we responded to the AIET advertisement. If we take you out to dinner we will make sure home made pasta is on the menu! Thank you for your time & we wish you many years of ongoing happiness & success.

Christine Haddrick



Allan ! Congratulations on your fabulous achievement In the development of AIET

and with **Celebrants Australia**. You have the appreciation and support of all the members.



**Australian Institute
of Education and Training**



Phillip Quinn is a very busy man – as everyone can see...

But he found a few minutes on one very hectic day

To write about our O.P.D.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The main complaint made about the process of registration of marriage celebrants relates to the delay between completing the required training and gaining registration. During this time prospective celebrants cannot perform marriages and the Attorney-General's Department have advised against performing ceremonies using a registered celebrant to 'do the legal stuff'. Of course, you are able to perform other ceremonies such as naming days, funeral ceremonies, etc.

The problem then remains of keeping up one's knowledge and continuing to develop professionally. The Attorney-General's site should be marked as a 'Favourite' and the e-news read to keep up on any changes in the area. The web address for this site is: <http://www.ag.gov.au/celebrants> and then click on 'Latest News'. Did you know, for instance, that there are changes in the marriage certificate (Form 15)? Did you know that the Queensland Registry of BDM (Births, Deaths and Marriages) has changed address?


As a trainer I cannot go past suggesting further training. AIET provides the Certificate IV in Marriage Celebrancy and details are available through ringing or emailing. The course builds on the training undertaken for aspiring marriage celebrants and focuses on developing the competencies to run a small business, to perform other ceremonies, to work with clients from other cultures and those with special needs.

Joining Celebrants Australia (CA), as you have probably already done as you are reading this article, is an excellent way to network with other registered celebrants and those awaiting registration. CA is providing professional development through its members who have shared their talents at meetings to conduct sessions on copyright (Spencer), presentation skills (Gareth), etc.

Other activities to continue developing skills might include a reading or research program using the Internet. For instance, what do you know about weddings in other cultures? How do indigenous people celebrate birth? What special wedding rites are specific to the Buddhist religion? The Internet has a host of information that can provide answers to these questions and assist you to prepare for the possibility of working with clients from these specific groups or including aspects of these cultures into your ceremonies.

It is also a good idea to keep an eye peeled on the newspapers for trade fairs and similar opportunities to see what 'the opposition' is doing. The Attorney-General's Department have frowned on approaching other celebrants to observe other celebrants' ceremonies so fairs and 'open days' present the best opportunity to look at services that other people provide.

The program of professional development advertised on the Attorney-General's web site can be accessed by celebrants-in-waiting. Further opportunities might include joining 'Toast Masters' or a similar organisation for public speaking, doing acting classes, volunteering on a community radio station

Phil Quinn 

Who's who ?

on our Celebrants Australia Committee this year

Chairperson – **Spencer Flint**, Vice-Chair – **Judith Brooks**,

Treasurer – **Stan Newman**, Secretary – **Liz Agius-Wiles**,

Sub-Committees:

Ongoing Professional Development: **Rob Wort, Allan Barnes**

Marketing: **Bess Kyriakidis, Gareth Wilding-Forbes**

Membership: **Judith Brooks, Stan Newman**

Editorial: **Liz Agius-Wiles, Christine Haddrick, Rob Wort**

Social: **Christie Jarrett**

What's new from the AG?

We have heard a little whisper

That the AG may allow more celebrants through this year, due to the large number on the waiting list at present.



OPD Sub-Committee Report - from
Rob Wort

How do we define Ongoing Professional Development?

Is it something that sees us merely going through the motions, just to satisfy the requirements of the Attorney-General's Department; peregrinating through five hours of nonsense per year!. Or does it have a much deeper meaning?

Let's look through the eyes of our clients for a moment.

They are trusting us, not just with their personal details, but trusting us with their very future. If we make an error, it's not just an inconvenience -- it also has legal implications for both the celebrant and the newly married couple.

But it goes much further than that (and maybe it isn't just five hours of nonsense per year after all). OPD (Ongoing Professional Development), acts as a slide-rule in our quest for excellence in service and if we are serious about our objectives, we will go above and beyond our legal requirements and hopefully achieve a standard that all others will be judged by.

We don't have to limit this exercise exclusively to Civil Marriage Celebrants either. A simple Client Feedback Questionnaire (as detailed earlier this year), is a good start and shows the client/s how genuinely interested you are in their welfare.

Ask plenty of questions during your interviews with them. Make certain that the service you are performing for them is of their choosing and not your own.

Take positive steps to your professional development. e.g. AIET are currently offering their 'Construct your own Website' course – this can be done by distance ed. But a couple of face-to-face sessions are being planned for May. They are Saturday morning 13th May 9.00am to 1.00pm and Monday afternoon 22nd May from 1.00 pm til 5.00 pm. Fees were initially set at \$120, but we are offering it at \$100 to other celebrants for these two. If any members are interested the cost will only be \$80. The activity counts as four hours towards the annual five-hour requirement. The sessions will only run if more than 6 persons enrol.

We are, but a fledgling organisation; the regular attendance at the meetings by our members already proves our commitment to achieving our goals.

My opinion (and this is shared by others), is that by attending these meetings, we are already achieving a certain fulfillment of our OPD requirements, but don't just let it end there.

As your OPD representative, I invite you all to submit any ideas on how we can evolve into a finely-tuned and well-oiled machine. You may think that comparisons to a machine are somewhat unkind but the converse is true. A well-tuned machine gets it right -- over, and over, and over again. This takes practice and it takes team effort. I am sure that many of you have some excellent and constructive thoughts on the matter. Please don't lock them in a vault. Share them with us.

Best wishes, **Robert Wort.** [^](#)

...It's your funeral..! ...If you really want it!

***Gareth Wilding-Forbes* talks about breaking into the funeral industry.**

So you want to market yourself to the funeral industry. Good Luck. Sometimes I feel it's easier to knock your head against a brick wall. At least it doesn't hurt when you stop.

O.K.. First you need to have your business cards printed and prepare a biography on yourself. Tell them what you have done in the past and what your interests are; but remember it has to sell your product – You!

Then make a list of the funeral parlors you intend to approach. I recommend you select an area. I chose the Eastern Suburbs including South Yarra, St, Kilda, Toorak and Armadale. You will suit certain suburbs better than others.

Don't bother to telephone for any appointment. Dress smartly and just call in on them. Ask to see the manager and be prepared for a very short visit, in most cases. You'll get fed up constantly being told that this is a competitive market. Be bold and tell them you are as good, if not better, than the competition, with obvious exceptions, and will bring a refreshing new approach to your work.

Try to get at least one or two directors on your side and the work will come. You only need one funeral to establish a background. In my case I also mentioned that if they have a very needy family who can't really afford a slap-up funeral, I will perform the ceremony for free (how I hate that word) for the sake of the family (?) but more, to prove myself to the funeral director.

In the past six weeks I have been offered two funerals by the same director. Each time, I was interstate or giving a lecture. I had coffee with him last week and that helped establish our future relationship.

Nobody can sell you as well as you can.

Hope all of the above is a help. Remember you may only see one director at each funeral parlor and you have to rely on having your details passed on to their colleagues and for them to recommend you. Also at all times believe in you and be bold. Good Luck!

Gareth Wilding-Forbes

Updated list of financial members

Financial Members – Celebrants Australia Inc. -- May, 2006

	Name	E-mail	Category
1	Allan Barnes	abarnes@aiet.com.au	Honorary
2	Phil Quinn	pquinn@aiet.com.au	Honorary
3	Connie Barnes	cbarnes@aiet.com.au	Honorary
4	Lea Waszkinel	leas.eddie@optusnet.com.au	CMC
5	Carol Shepherd	a_shepherds_touch@hotmail.com	
6	Glyn Ellis	glynellis@bigpond.com.au	
7	Anna Schembri	petalsoflove@iprimus.com.au	CMC
8	Judith Brooks	jvbrooks@bigpond.net.au	
9	Christie Jarrett	pjarrett@bigpond.com	
10	Gareth WildingForbes	successisyours@unite.com	
11	Irene Wrochna	wrochnai@ozemail.com.au	CMC
12	Jeff Lowe	ewol@qonline.com.au	
13	Wendy Maher	wendyamaher@hotmail.com	
14	Stan Newman	stannewman@dodo.com.au	
15	Liz Aguis-Wiles	lizagiuswiles@optusnet.com.au	
16	Spencer Flint	sepf@iprimus.com.au	CMC
17	Kim Walsh	altonalotto@iprimus.com.au	CMC
18	Robert Wort	rhwort@bigpond.com	CMC
19	Christine Haddrick	christine.haddrick@whitehorse.vic.gov.au	
20	Rebecca Persichetti	rpersichetti@aiet.com.au	Honorary
21	Sheila Freeman	sams48@primus.com.au	CMC
22	Sherinda Shea	lsshea@gmail.com	
23	Lyndon Shea	lsshea@gmail.com	
24	Bess Kyriakidis	bess.k@optusnet.com.au	

25 _____ 26 _____ 27_ _____	Judith Lansbury	Judith.Lansbury@justice.vic.gov.au	
	Ruth Johnson	Not available	_____
	Roger Blakeman	R_blakeman@hotmail.com	_____

Lapsed members:

Mila Churilov, Jacinta McNena, Colleen Underwood,

Dionne Black, Van Ngo, Leul Fesseha

Celebrants Australia meetings are held monthly, on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Executive (working) meetings alternate with General meetings. All members are invited to attend Executive meetings and participate in the discussion and decision making. General meetings aim to be more social, members are invited to arrive from 6pm for drinks and nibbles, and at 7pm we have a presentation – usually by one of our talented members. The general meeting (which is kept short) follows the presentation.

At the last general meeting Gareth Wilding-Forbes, who has a background in the entertainment industry (actor, author, director, broadcaster, corporate manager) demonstrated some of his Presentation Skills. At our next General meeting (next meeting May 2) Bess Kyriakidis will talk about ‘My Funeral’. Bess has a marketing background, is fluent in Greek, and is going to tell us about the first funeral she conducted.

Membership of Celebrants Australia is open to all Celebrants who have completed a recognized training course in Marriage Celebrancy. Our association aims to develop the skills required to conduct ceremonies of excellence and to provide a social and professional network to stimulate and enhance our lives as Celebrants and provide us with a unique fraternity in which we can all aspire to develop and excel. ^



..@@

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

CELEBRANTS AUSTRALIA Inc.

I,.....(name)

.....

(occupation)

of.....

(address)

Suburb.....postcode.....

Contact details

Telephone – home

:.....Work.....

.....mobile:.....

Email address -

desire to become a member of **CELEBRANTS AUSTRALIA INC.**

In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the Association for the time being in force.

Signature of Applicant:.....Date:.....

I,

(Name of proposer)

being a member of **Celebrants Australia Inc.** nominate the applicant, who is personally known to me, for membership of our Association.

Signature of proposer.....Date:.....

I,.....

(Name of seconder)

being a member of **Celebrants Australia Inc.** second the nomination of the Applicant, who is personally known to me, for membership of our Association.

Signature of seconder.....Date:.....

Fees: **Joining Fee: \$25.00**

Annual Fee: \$50.00 – payable January of each year.

Pro Rata Annual Fee (if joined during the year): \$5.00 per month to maximum \$50.

Applications may be handed in personally or forwarded to:

Celebrants Australia Inc. Treasurer, Stan Newman, 3 Garden Court, Berwick.3806

By cheque made out to **Celebrants Australia Inc.** or by internet transfer to our account with Bendigo Bank BSB 633-108 A/c 124 969 908, please confirm by email to stannewman@dodo.com.au

Office Use

Date membership received		<i>Date payment received</i>		Officer Initials
		<i>Paid by</i>	Cash/Chq/Card	
<i>Certificate number</i>		<i>Date Certificate issued</i>		Officer Initials
<i>CA Membership letter & newsletter</i>	Yes / no	Date sent		Officer Initials
		<i>Post or email</i>		

For help in looking at the lighter side of life consult the slim volumes of verse by:

Pam Ayres – ‘Yes, I’ll marry you my dear, And here’s the reason why..

So I can push you out of bed when baby starts to cry.....and so on!

Michael Leunig – ‘Upon the sagging mattress known as life

The weary husband lays down with his wife

To feel the nasty shapes and awful lumps

To get no rest, to only get the grumps.....and so on! [^](#)
