

# The Celebrants Australia Newsletter

Issue No 3

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## And what a launch it was ..... by Bess Kyriakidis

**Celebrants Australia's new website was born on 1st July, 2006 –** we went live on the world wide web with much enthusiasm – counting down to the moment of our long-awaited launch with gusto.

Check us out! [www.celebrantsaustralia.asn.au](http://www.celebrantsaustralia.asn.au)



**Cutting the CA Celebration Launch Cake**  
(made by Judy Brooks – just visible) are...

(from left) CA President Spencer Flint,

local Member for Wills Kelvin Thompson,

CA Secretary Liz Agius Wiles and

3MP Radio Personality Jane Holmes

### **Members & guests at our website launch**

(from left): Lea Waszkinel, Rob Wort,

Stan Newman, Kelvin Thompson,

Bess Kyriakidis, Spencer Flint,

Judy Brooks, Jane Holmes, Christie Jarrett,

Liz Agius-Wiles and Christine Haddrick.



## In this issue:

**From the Chair** – Spencer Flint

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Christine Haddrick asks Liz Agius-Wiles **‘Who are you?’**

Lea & Gareth submit some **Wedding Wit & Wisdom**

**Updated Membership List**

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## **We launch with radio, optimism and cake!**

The launch was supported by a radio campaign on Melbourne Radio 3MP. Liz had negotiated an excellent deal which comprised of three weeks advertising with 30 and 15 second commercials.



A big thank you to Liz for having such good connections... keep up the good work  
The radio ads were written and voiced by our talented celebrants

Christine Haddrick, Spencer Flint, Liz Agius Wiles, and one of the best and most professional voices in the industry – Gareth Wilding Forbes.... you too Gareth, keep up the good work, we love that “trained” voice...

### **‘Happy snaps’ at the launch of our new website on July 1 at AIET in Brunswick .**

Our guests on the day included Kelvin Thompson, local member and Jane Holmes from 3MP. They both spoke highly of our achievement and congratulated us on our association and our new website and wished us well for the future. Our celebrants can certainly create meaningful ceremonies for life’s special moments. I think we are a talented group and each of us has something unique to offer our clients...

We are now listed in the White and Yellow pages (on line) as an association, namely Celebrants Australia. We will be in print also next year – 2007. The promotions committee will always be looking for ways to promote and advertise Celebrants Australia to the wider community ...

A big thank you to Spencer for the delicious food he was able to supply (at cost price) and to Liz's daughters for helping out with the serving of the food...

...and a big thank you also to Joe Agius, who has spent many hours creating our website, loading members web pages and getting us to this exciting point today when we become **live!**

To all my talented colleagues, I say, get out there and be the best person/celebrant you can be and create some magic moments ...

### **Bess Kyriakidis Marketing Committee**

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**From the Chair-**

**Spencer Flint**

**2006-**

**A YEAR OF SUCCESS !**

Hard work, determination, commitment and sometimes frustrations and are some of the essential ingredients for success. This year Celebrants Australia has surged forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as we developed and successfully launched our fantastic website. Concurrently, we also produced and developed a very professional advertising campaign on commercial radio for the launch – thanks to the incredible generosity of Liz, our secretary.

Bringing together individuals, with very diverse backgrounds with professional and extensive experience, coupled with incredible talents and abilities, has seen our Association leap forward, as members have shared their giftings unreservedly and sometimes sacrificially to achieve our common goals.

The achievement of launching our website, has not only been a very significant move forward for Celebrants Australia, it has also provided a very sound and dynamic foundation for our Association, for the years ahead. A foundation that can be confidently built upon to move forward, in the future.

Another great achievement that is not so obvious at times, is the support and care that is shown for each member of the association. Many times, during our meetings, I have observed different members, sharing and assisting others with

information, articles, ceremonies and encouraging words. This is truly the backbone of our success, as we freely share with each other the experiences gained, as we go about conducting our ceremonies, as we all strive to perfect our performance.

Frustration, frustration, frustration and lots of patience!

Many years ago, as a young and enthusiastic lad, I had finally completed all my studies in Aviation and had been granted a Senior / Airline Transport Pilots Licence. This had taken almost six years of constant study, a huge investment and many hours flying in various small aircraft. I was fully qualified to fly any aircraft in the world, after completing an engineering course on the aircraft to be flown. I was ready to go – nothing could stop me now - except one thing. -- the major airlines were not employing!

I was over- qualified for small aircraft, so no one would give me a job flying their planes, as they knew that I would go to a major airline, as soon as there was a vacancy. TAA, Ansett and Qantas were not recruiting, so I was stuck between two worlds – without a job and with a very large personal loan from flying training, trying to be patient and very frustrated. It is incredibly frustrating, being fully-trained and qualified and not being able to carry out your profession. After nine months of unemployment and disappointment, finally the ‘eagle’ soared. I started a career that was to last 27 years.

Well, after waiting and waiting, then more waiting and no doubt many frustrations, many of our members are now finally at take off and have begun to soar !!!!.

Congratulations to Bess, Christine, Colleen, Jeffrey, Judy, Lesley, Lyndon, Sherinda and Wendy on your registration as Marriage Celebrants. You at last have put the frustrations behind you and now you are on the runway, ready to fly - so everyone, fasten your seat belts!

Once again, I would like to thank all members and especially the Executive, who have all worked so hard to achieve these great steps forward this year to make Celebrants Australia the dynamic association that it has become.

[Spencer Flint ...Chairperson](#)

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## **Congratulations to our new CMC's**

**Christine Haddrick CMC**

**Judith Brooks CMC**

**Jeffrey Lowe CMC**

**Lyndon Shea CMC**

**Sherinda Shea CMC**

**Wendy Maher CMC**

**Lesley Birks CMC**

**Bess Kyriakidis CMC**

**and Colleen Underwood CMC**

## **This Magic Moment** by Robert Wort

For Celebrants Australia members Christine Haddrick, Judith Brooks, Jeffrey Lowe, Lesley Birks, Bess Kyriakidis, Sherinda and Lyndon Shea, Wendy Maher and Colleen Underwood -- I can well imagine and empathise with you the anguish that you suffered during the last days of August as you waited with baited breath for that fateful day in September.

Checking the Attorney-General's website is an arduous task at the best of times and looking for your name to come up is even more so. It also seems that not all newly authorised celebrants are entered in the register at the same time.

I know this myself as I was at first, deeply disappointed when my name didn't show up when everyone else's did; in fact, the first I knew that I was authorised was when I received a whole pile of mail from Celebrant Organisations who invited me to join them. A few days later I received a congratulatory note via email from Allan Barnes but I never received the formal induction letter and paperwork from the government until the last days of October, so don't hold your breath.

I was getting a little anxious about receiving my authorisation number too. You see, I had already obtained a booking for the 30<sup>th</sup>. December from some friends of mine who were getting married on that day. Naturally, I couldn't promise them anything at the time and I suggested that they book with another celebrant instead. They didn't and they said that if they had to wait another year for me to officiate at their wedding, then so be it. They wanted *me* to do it and nobody else; a great ego booster I can tell you. Fortunately, for everyone concerned, it all worked out as planned.

Needless to say, I was greatly relieved to learn that I was indeed authorised.

Was I excited? Well, yes I was, but probably not outwardly so. I'm not really an excitable person as my wife will attest to, but I was certainly very pleased.

I can well imagine the feelings of those that have made it this year and it is a testament to A.I.E.T. for having such a remarkable success rate in getting our people there. Of course, the hard work begins now. It's quite chilling to realise just how much was forgotten during those twelve months of waiting; it was also quite refreshing to realise how much came back when I actually started the procedures.

My advice to all of you is to get yourself known immediately to all of your local reception centres and restaurants. Yes! Restaurants. Many a proposal is made in such establishments and I have gained some bookings from these sources.

Get some brochures made and get them out there too. The Yellow Pages may be handy but it will take at least two years before you can reasonably expect to get any dividends from advertising with them. Why? Simply because people always read last year's edition before they finally recycle them and replace them with the new ones.

It's just human nature.

How much shall I charge? I hear you ask. Well, that's entirely up to you but don't be too cheap.

People have a perception that if you charge less than average, your service will be the same. By way of comparison, why do so many people opt to buy a BMW instead of a Mazda? The Mazda is a far better car than a BMW (Apologies in advance to any BMW owners) but it's a lot cheaper. People have the perception that the BMW is better for that very reason.

Think about how much you think you are worth, then add a little more.

What about my competition if I charge more than they do? You may ask.

I don't have any competition is my answer, and nor have you. You are an individual and your service will be completely different from anyone else's; you will find your own 'niche' in the industry but you must get out there and get yourself known.

Don't forget that you are a salesperson. When you meet with your client for the first time, don't tell them that they are your first. Give them the impression that you have been a celebrant for a long time and don't forget to mention that you are a member of Celebrants Australia. It does actually impress them even if they haven't heard of our association before; they are then convinced that you are a professional – and you are.

Finally, practice. Practise on friends and family and when you do get that booking. Practise your lines everyday for the whole week leading right up until the morning of the wedding itself. The rest will be easy.

Chris, Judy, Jeff, Lesley, Bess, Wendy, Sherinda and Lyndon. Congratulations to all of you. I **know** you will succeed.

**Rob Wort**

**Ongoing Professional Development Committee**

**Celebrants Australia Inc.**

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**Tony Hilliard from John Allison/Monkhouse**

A Funeral Director was an entertaining and informative speaker at our September General meeting. Tony held members' interest as he outlined what Funeral Directors expect from a Celebrant, and gave some valuable insights into why one celebrant may be preferred over another.

He surprised us by suggesting that only one or two of us would 'make it' as Funeral Celebrants. **'Market yourself'** was his advice. ...and it is not necessarily the academic resume which will impress, but the sound of your voice; your ability to project; your professionalism; and that elusive uncanny knack of capturing the essence of the deceased person to put before the assembled family and friends, so that they will all be nodding in agreement – Yes, that was her/him!

Remember too, when you act as Funeral Celebrant for a Funeral Home you represent that company. The way you conduct the proceedings will reflect on the company – positively or otherwise!

Huge thanks to Tony for sharing his knowledge and expertise with us.

We look forward to our planned outing to his Funeral Home in Knox in the near future.

**Liz AW**

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## Who are You

**Liz Agius-Wiles**, Secretary of Celebrants Australia is interviewed by **Christine Haddrick**.

*Hi Liz ,*

*I think it is time a woman was 'canned' in the "Who am I" column and you are the chosen one. How do you feel about this?*

It strokes the ego to be singled out! But we all have a story to tell, and it's interesting finding out about other people's lives

*I think you were brought up in England. Would you tell me a little about your early childhood?*

I was born in Huddersfield in Yorkshire – the eldest of eight children. We emigrated to Australia when I was eight years old. In hindsight it was the best thing my parents could have done. We have all forged good lives for ourselves and developed characters and careers which would have been unlikely in UK .



*What are your fondest memories?*

Being given sixpence to spend how I liked!

*And from where did you develop your warm, friendly nature and ability to say the right thing at the right time?*

Thank you for the compliment. Being the peacemaker in a large family must give you some skills that become useful later in life!

*Did all your family migrate together?*

Yes. My parents and three sisters sailed from post-war England to a better life in Oz. My only brother John, was born in Australia – the only boy in our family of seven girls. Ma said it was the change in climate that brought him on!

*And then what did you do?*

My father joined the Army here, so we moved about a bit. I never went to one school for long. The longest was Rosebud State School for most of grade 5 and all Grade 6. I remember my teacher, Mr Brogan, with gratitude. He was the first person to give me encouragement and praise. He told me I was a good writer. I left school at 13, went to Stotts Business college two nights a week for two years doing shorthand and typing. I got my first job at 14 with the Melbourne office of Consolidated Press. Working in Advertising and Editorial on their many publications. I left them after five years deciding I wanted to be a nun. I joined the Convent of Mercy at Rosanna. After six months (great time in my life) thought I'd make a better real mother than a Reverend Mother! My career has been diverse and I have explored many avenues. Several years in secretarial – mostly newspaper-related positions, and (still to my amazement) 30 years running my own florist business. Marriage and life on tiny Troughton Island (off the n/w coast of WA, emerging unscathed when Cyclone Inez devastated the Island – the year before Tracy hit Darwin) producing five glorious daughters who all have a wonderful appreciation of life and a fine sense of who they are; and now eight grandchildren who all love me!

*That is an amazing story Liz, So looking over this what do you feel gives you the most pleasant memories?*

My proudest moment was to graduate dux of 'The CopySchool' in 1982 and win a job as Advertising Copywriter with John Clemenger. This led to my later freelance copywriting specialising in radio – I have worked on a casual basis with most radio stations around Melbourne. I also enjoy Performance Poetry, and have played the dizzy English mother in a couple of plays (My stage name is Lizzie Graydon).

*Would you mind telling us a little about some of the values or principles you live by, or believe to be important for everyone else to live by?*  
Once I had my 'stars' read by a clairvoyant. It was good fun and she said a lot of positive things. Then she looked at me in surprise and declared "You are fearless"!! I thought this very odd as I am as frightened as everyone else about many things. But I do tend to meet life head on. It can be too much trouble to shirk an issue if you have to do something about it. So its best to dive in at the start. I'd walk into a gang of thugs to ask them what was the matter if I felt it was what should be done....and I can't lie. I'm not clever enough to remember what I should say. It takes too much effort.! May as well be up front straightaway.

*Have there been any challenges that have left you feeling flat or displeased?*

Divorce was such a trauma to cope with – I had the biggest belly-ache for a year – and I'm sure it contributed to my getting bowel cancer in 2000. After surgery and chemo-program, followed by further stomach-repair surgery a year later, I really felt I'd fallen into the pit! It's all over now. Thank God. It's history.

*Do you think you grew from that experience?*

Definitely. After a life of being always well, it gave me an appreciation of people who fall ill and become victims of circumstance. But it also taught me that whatever happens YOU are your own master; only YOU have the power within you to do as you will; YOU choose not to be a victim,- you chew it up, spit it out and get on with what you really want to do. YOU are the master of your own destiny.

*What about hobbies, you seem very creative ?*

Oh, don't start me off! You have uncovered my secret passion!! I have spent all day today (when I should have been doing lots of other things) working on a cross-stitch design for No.9 grandchild due in February. I get so absorbed I don't want to put it down. This one is a crowd of frolicking elves and fairies spelling out 'Welcome to your Family', flanked by 'family' totems and below I am doing a grassy, flowery field which has every member of the new child's relations – and there are lots!-- and wait till you see the 'Bird of Paradise' cloak I am crocheting in glorious 'Feathers' to wear to our Theatre Night!. I just love making things – knitting, crochet, embroidery I just love it. Last Christmas I made gifts for everyone in the family – knitted slippers, hats and scarves – it was good fun! .and my daughters all have 'heirloom' cross-stitch pieces in their homes which I have worked over the years. Actually, I think I'm really basically lazy! I love to settle down in the armchair and relax – and it makes me look busy!

*Sounds like you give a lot of pleasure to people. Your creativity would be a useful skill to have as a Celebrant. What prompted you to be a Celebrant?*

I like making occasions relevant! I like making people feel good about themselves and I especially like finding the right words to best encapsulate the moment and the spirit of the occasion.

*Are there some ceremonies you prefer to do more than others?*

Ask me in ten years time.

*If a fairy godmother told you that you were able to change 2 things in Australian society what would those 2 things be?*

Turn 'Road Rage' into 'Street Peace' and bring in Pokies that pay!

*Well, you have established "Celebrants Australia" as the first secretary on a very solid foundation, not to mention the energy and innovation shown in creating, with Joe, their first website. Would you like to make a comment about the secretarial position and then about the website please Liz?*

In every organization I join I end/start up as Secretary. I can do the job efficiently and with a minimum of fuss. But so can other people. That's why I'm glad our CA constitution allows a two year stint then someone else takes over. Its good to have change. You don't get fed up with the same face and style of doing things, and other people don't get the chance to show what they can do. I am pleased that circumstances allowed us to create our own website at no cost, and that we now have a useful tool to promote members talents and raise the profile of Celebrants Australia. We are fortunate that Joe was willing to do it for us. He's been very generous with his time. It's up to us now what we do with it.

*We really have been privileged to have you in that position, you also established the newsletter, "The Can" – great name isn't it? It flows so well. This "Canner" wants to thank you for all you have done for CA over the past 2 years and I look forward to your creative talents and innovative ideas in the future*

And thank you to you too Christine, and congratulations on getting your registration as a CMC. I still haven't put my application in to the AG yet, or finished off my Cert IV. I'm getting right on to it when I finish this cross-stitch!

*Well Liz, A stitch in time saves nine, thank you so much for sharing some of who you are.*

## **Christine Haddrick**

### **Wit and Wisdom of Marriage.**

Submitted by **Gareth Wilding-Forbes**

The trouble with some women is that they get excited about nothing. Then they marry him...**Cher**

The best way to get husbands to do something is to suggest perhaps they are too old to do it... **Shirley Maclaine**

A man in love is incomplete until he is married. Then he is finished.... **Zsa Zsa Gabor**

Bigamy is having one wife too many. Monogamy is the same... **Oscar Wilde**

My wife and I were happy for twenty years. Then we met... **Rodney Dangerfield**

A wedding is a funeral where you smell your own flowers... **Eddie Cantor**

Marriage isn't a word. It's a sentence... **King Vidor**

The most happy marriage I can imagine would be the union of a deaf man to a blind woman...**Samuel Taylor Coleridge**

Many a man owes his success to his first wife and his second wife to his Success...**Jim Backus**

They say that marriages are made in heaven but so are thunder and lightening ... **Clint Eastwood**

The secret of a happy marriage, remains a secret... **Henny Youngman**

Do you know what it means to come home at night to a woman who gives you a little love, a little tenderness and a little affection. It means you're in the wrong house **George Burns**

*And finally my own contribution .....*

With the rising interest rates I don't marry them any more. Every time lose a wife I lose a house and a car..

**Gareth Wilding-Forbes**

..and more on Marriage

submitted by

[Lea Waszkinel](#)



When a man steals your wife, there is no better revenge than to let him keep her. **Sacha Guitry**

After marriage, husband and wife become two sides of a coin; they just can't face each other, but still they stay together. **Hemant Joshi**

By all means marry. If you get a good wife, you'll be happy. If you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher. **Socrates**

"Some people ask the secret of our long marriage. We take time to go to a restaurant two times a week. A little candlelight, dinner, soft music and dancing. She goes Tuesdays, I go Fridays." **Henny Youngman**

"I don't worry about terrorism. I was married for two years." **Sam Kinison**

"There's a way of transferring funds that is even faster than electronic banking. It's called marriage." **James Holt McGavran**

"I've had bad luck with both my wives. The first one left me and the second one didn't." **Patrick Murray**

You know what I did before I married? Anything I wanted to. **Henny Youngman**

A good wife always forgives her husband when she's wrong. **Milton Berle**

A man inserted an 'ad' in the classifieds: "Wife wanted". Next day he received a hundred letters. They all said the same thing: "You can have mine." **Anon.**

The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once!

I had some words with my wife, and she had some paragraphs with me.

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