



Trevar Alan
Skillicorn-Chilver
celebrant

Services Guide

– Weddings –

Congratulations!

Finding someone you want to share your life with is something worth celebrating. Finding a celebrant who can help you shape the celebration you want is no walk in the park either. Lucky you found me!

Marriage celebrations can be loud and extravagant, or simple and intimate: however you choose to celebrate, I will be there to make sure you get the ceremony to fit your vibe.

A wedding, however, is more than just a celebration of a great event in your lives. It is a ceremony that changes your legal status, and to do that, it has to meet the requirements of Australia's Marriage Act. Some components of the ceremonies you've been to are prescribed by that Act, and others are customs we enjoy. Together, they mark the decision you've made to spend your life with the person you've chosen, and allow your community to celebrate with you.

This booklet is a starting point to help you make the decisions that will create the celebration you want. In it, we cover:

- ♥ The Celebrant
- ♥ Preparing for Marriage
- ♥ Getting Ready for Your Wedding
- ♥ Planning your Ceremony
- ♥ Fee Structure
- ♥ Service Quality

Your wedding might not be the beginning of your relationship, but it does mark the new phase of life that your relationship creates. Make sure you celebrate it in your own way.

About Trevar

Whatever the occasion, you need a celebrant who celebrates you.

Trevar is an **Authorised Celebrant** with the skills and experience to solemnise baby namings, transition ceremonies, legal marriages, funerals and other rites of passage.



He is a father of three splendidly weird offspring, and husband to one wicked **drag queen**. Descended from four generations of Gippslanders, Trevar was born and raised in Sydney's west. After two decades in the rather more humane environs of Canberra, he has finally been liberated from urbanity, and finds himself ensconced among the sublime hills of **South Gippsland**.

Trevar has worked in **education, theatre** and the **community sector** most of his adult life. He relishes the opportunity to celebrate with lovers as they make a lifelong commitment to each other, welcome new members of their family, and support families in the grieving process.

He has written over forty feature length and short **plays** for the stage, which have been performed in Canberra, Sydney, Brisbane, Hollywood and London.

Trevar is an out-and-proud member of the rainbow community, deeply committed to supporting queer Australians to take advantage of their hard-won **equality**. He is eager to celebrate the journeys of trans folk and to support and celebrate the commitments of the polyamorous.

All this, as well as his **Scottish-Australian** heritage, gives him a strong sense of ceremony, just the right amount of irreverence and a fabulous sense of humour that will strike the right balance between solemnity and joy on your special day.

Preparing for Marriage

Marriage is not all fancy clothes and champagne. Hollywood's endless stream of romantic comedies reflect the fluctuations of relationships, and that's before we even get the rings on our fingers.

Many think that relationship counselling is for relationships in crisis. But like a vaccine, talking about our relationships openly and honestly when they're going well builds its strength, adds value and can prevent us arriving at a crisis.

There are a range of services available to help you build stronger relationships. Listed below are a small number who could help point you in the right direction.

Thorne Harbour Health

Supports the health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ Victorians through medical and psychological services. Sites in Melbourne and the Mornington Peninsula, as well as online services.

thorneharbour.org

1800 134 840

The Orange Door

Family violence service supporting all victims.

Morwell office:

iga@orangedoor.vic.gov.au

1800 319 354

Relationships Australia

Provides support for many family relationship matters including a Family Relationship Centre in Berwick.

relationshipsaustralia.com.au

1300 364 277

Getting Ready for Your Wedding

Before we even get close to the wedding day, there are some things that need to be put in order. These requirements ensure that your marriage will be recognised by law.

Notice of Intended Marriage

Every couple intending to marry must submit a Notice of Intended Marriage (NoIM) to their celebrant at least one month prior to the wedding.

Identity documents

Your celebrant must see proof that you are eligible to get married. This means confirming your date of birth and making sure you are not already married. You will need to bring these original documents to a meeting with your celebrant when you submit your NoIM:

- ♥ Proof of age in one of these forms:
 - ♥ passport
 - ♥ birth certificate plus photo identification
- ♥ Proof of the annulment of any previous marriages, using either:
 - ♥ divorce or annulment papers
 - ♥ death certificate for previous spouse

If your documents are in a language other than English, a translation must be provided by an accredited translator.

Witnesses

Although technically not required until the day, witnesses' names must be included on the certificates prepared for your wedding, so it is best to select and prepare your witnesses early.

Declaration of No Legal Impediment

Before the ceremony, but as close as possible to it (usually at the rehearsal), parties to the marriage must sign a declaration stating that there is no legal reason why they can't be married.

Planning Your Ceremony

Mandatory inclusions

There are three rituals that must be included in your ceremony:

- ♥ **The Monitum** is a statement that defines marriage, and establishes the celebrant's authority to officiate the wedding
- ♥ **Mandatory Vows** must be spoken by the parties to the marriage, but parties may also speak personal vows in addition to the mandatory vows
- ♥ **Signing the Register** involves each party, the witnesses and the celebrant signing three documents.

There is a little scope to adjust the wording for the Monitum and vows:

<i>Monitum as legislated</i>	<i>Monitum in plain English</i>
I am duly authorised by law to solemnise marriages according to law. Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter. Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.	I am legally registered to solemnise marriages according to law. Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn and permanent nature of the relationship you are now formalising. Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.
<i>Mandatory Vows as legislated</i>	<i>Mandatory Vows in plain English</i>
I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, [full name], take thee, [full name], to be my lawful wedded wife/husband/spouse.	I ask the people here present to witness that I, [full name] take you [full name] to be my lawful wedded wife/husband/spouse.

Planning Your Ceremony

Your ceremony doesn't need to include any more than the three mandatory rituals discussed on the previous page. But you can opt for anything between that and a grand ceremony including every ritual under the sun if you really want to.

Traditional customs

The following list suggests some of the more common features of traditional weddings in Australia:

- ♥ **Processional:** traditionally, brides make an entrance by walking down the aisle towards their grooms: you could both walk down the aisle, or even make your entrance from a helicopter!
- ♥ **Giving away the bride:** traditionally, brides are "given away" by their fathers; you may opt to not be given away; both be given away; or use a more modern form of family blessing
- ♥ **Asking:** in this tradition, the celebrant asks "do you take this woman/man to be your wife/husband?", and the wedding parties respond "I do": this custom overlaps with the mandatory vows, but you may like to keep it for old time's sake
- ♥ **Exchanging of rings:** one of the more enduring traditions in which couples put rings on each other's ring finger: you can do this, omit the ritual, or come up with a new one
- ♥ **Pronouncement:** when the legal portion of the ceremony is complete, it is customary for the celebrant to pronounce the couple's new status; this can be done in any way the couple chooses
- ♥ **Kiss:** in times past, the celebrant would follow the pronouncement by giving the groom permission to kiss the bride; to remove the misogyny from the phrasing, modern celebrants frequently have some fun with the way they say this.

Planning Your Ceremony

New customs for same sex weddings

- ♥ **Wedding party:** although not exclusive to same sex weddings, many same sex couples are including people of any gender in their wedding party, or not having one; the choice is yours
- ♥ **Processional:** many same sex couples both walk down the aisle; you could have more than one aisle if you want, or pop out from a cake; there are no rules!
- ♥ **Giving away the brides or grooms:** although this tradition has some negative connotations when used in the conventional manner, it is different when a family shows their support for a same sex couple by bringing them to the celebrant to be married; and if your biological family isn't that supportive, do what we've always done and turn to your chosen family!
- ♥ **Pronouncement:** there are a few new options for the celebrant to declare your new status, such as "I now pronounce you husband and husband", "I now pronounce you wives together" or "I now pronounce you partners for life", all of which are quite popular
- ♥ **Taking a spouse's surname:** many heterosexual brides still follow the convention of replacing her surname with her husband's, but in the case of same sex weddings the most prominent convention is for both parties to retain their original surname; another popular option is to combine surnames; or you may choose the dramatic route of having a coin toss at the end of the ceremony to select your surname! If you wish to take your partner's surname, your marriage certificate will be sufficient evidence of the change. Your new names may be declared at the completion of the ceremony.

Planning Your Ceremony

Other customs and rituals to consider

There are a range of broader customs and rituals from other cultures that are being used in modern Australian weddings. You may like to consider these:

- ♥ **Welcome to country:** many couples, especially those getting married outdoors, are choosing to honour the first Australians by beginning their ceremony with a welcome to country; contact the local Aboriginal Land and Waters Council to book an elder for this; alternatively, your celebrant can perform an acknowledgement of country
- ♥ **Smoking ceremony:** performed by Aboriginal groups to cleanse a space and ward off bad spirits; contact the local Aboriginal land and waters council to find a group to perform this ceremony
- ♥ **Pinning the tartan:** the mothers of Scottish grooms may pin a rosette or lay a sash of their clan tartan to/over the bride's right shoulder to welcome her to the clan; this tradition can readily be adapted for cultures without tartans and for same sex weddings
- ♥ **Hand Fasting:** this is an ancient Celtic ritual that symbolises the unification of the couple by wrapping a rope around their forearms
- ♥ **Unity Bowl:** an Aboriginal ritual in which the families of the couple fill a small bowl with stones of various colours, shapes and sizes to represent the various qualities of the couple; in modern weddings the bowl could be filled by the wedding party or family, and they can describe the qualities as they place their stone
- ♥ **Releasing doves:** a ritual that symbolises the freedom and peace of living in relationship.

Fees

Booking Fee:

Applicable to all weddings; due upon lodgement of your Notice of Intention to Marry (NoIM)

This fee is not refundable in the event of cancellation. If you choose to postpone your ceremony more than two weeks beforehand, 50% of your booking fee can be applied to another date. If the celebrant needs to cancel, the fee will be refunded in full.

\$200

Ceremony Options:

Ceremony Without Ceremony

The bare minimum required for a legal marriage

Includes:

- Confirmation of eligibility requirements
- Preparation, completion and submission of paperwork
- Performance of ceremony
- Commonwealth Marriage Certificate
- Celebrant's travel (<100km from Leongatha)

\$300

Ceremony With Feels

A simple wedding ceremony following a set script

Includes all the above, plus:

- Selection of scripts and minor modifications
- Official State Marriage Certificate
- Performance rights for commercial music

\$400

Ceremony With All The Feels

A bespoke wedding ceremony scripted for you with your background and circumstances in mind

Includes all the above, plus:

- Custom scripting of ceremony (up to three drafts)
- Support to select relevant poems or readings
- Support to write personal vows (up to three drafts)
- One rehearsal on location

\$600

Fees *continued*

Other Costs:

Public Holiday Surcharge

For ceremonies on any public holiday gazetted in Victoria \$150

Livestream *of your ceremony via YouTube* \$150

Additional Rehearsals \$50

Additional Drafts of Script or Vows \$50

Letters *for legal matters such as visas or shortening of time* \$50

Ceremony Overtime

Charged per 30 minutes (or part thereof) over the first hour, measured from scheduled start time

This charge will be applied after the ceremony in the event that the commencement of the ceremony is delayed \$50

Travel Expenses

No charge within 100 kilometres of Leongatha; then \$1 per kilometre

If the ceremony requires an overnight stay or travel over 400km from Leongatha, all travel and accommodation expenses will be passed on at cost \$POA

Bespoke poem, vows or reading written for you

Price to be negotiated with celebrant \$POA

External bookings

Any external bookings made by the celebrant will attract a 20% finder's fee, but your celebrant will collaborate with any external bookings you make yourself at no charge

eg.: welcome to country, smoking ceremony, hot air balloon, candles or doves \$POA

Fees *continued*

Payment options

Payment is accepted by

- ♥ PayID / direct transfer
- ♥ Card (tap or online)
- ♥ Cash.

Fee policies

Following the initial meeting and submission of the Notice of Intended Marriage, an invoice will be provided.

All payments must clear at least seven days before the ceremony, or the ceremony will not proceed. If paying by direct transfer, allow another two days for funds to clear.

Service Quality

If you feel your celebrant is not meeting your needs at any point in the process of preparing for or celebrating your wedding, your first priority should be to communicate your concerns to your celebrant.

Celebrants Code of Practice

Australian Celebrants should always adhere to the code of practice published by the Attorney-General's Department.

If you feel your celebrant is not adhering to the code, raise this with your celebrant first. If your concerns are not addressed, it is your right to take your complaint to the Attorney-General's Department.

Feedback

About a month after your ceremony, your celebrant will send you a link to a quick survey. Completing this can provide valuable feedback, which is great for improving the service provided.