

ISSUE 02

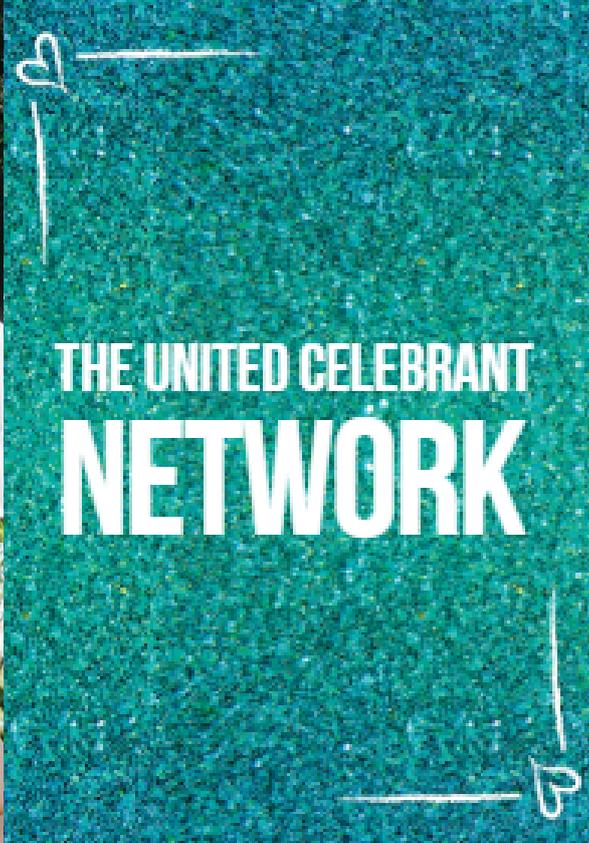
SUMMER 2025



THE CELEBRANT'S GUIDE

E-Magazine

WWW.THEUNITEDCELEBRANTNETWORK.COM



Welcome to

THE UNITED CELEBRANT NETWORK



The United Celebrant Network (TUCN) is a vibrant community dedicated to celebrants who are passionate about their craft and committed to personal and professional growth. As the summer season brings longer days, brighter skies, and a renewed sense of energy, we continue to create a space where enthusiasm, authenticity and creativity flourish.

We warmly acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we gather, learn and celebrate ceremony on. May our work together be guided by connection, care and community.

At our core, we celebrate diversity and inclusivity, recognising the unique talents and experiences each member brings. Our network is designed to be accessible, with affordable membership options and a variety of resources that empower celebrants at every stage of their career.

Members can engage in a range of activities, including regional meet-ups, workshops, and education sessions, all aimed at enhancing skills and fostering connections. Our mentorship program pairs seasoned professionals with those looking to grow, ensuring knowledge and experience flow freely across our network.

The United Celebrant Network is not just about professional development; it's about building lasting relationships and creating a supportive community where everyone can thrive. Be part of a movement that values collaboration, celebration, and excellence in the world of ceremonies. Welcome to a place where your potential can truly be unleashed & united under the summer sun!

 TUCN Team

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GOT AN IDEA OR TOPIC YOU'D LOVE TO SEE IN OUR NEXT ISSUE?
WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! DROP US AN EMAIL:
HELLO@THEUNITEDCELEBRANTNETWORK.COM



*Some of
our
friends*



MEMBER PERKS

- ♥ Real Life Case-Studies
- ♥ Member Exclusive Events
- ♥ E-books & Webinars
- ♥ Professional Resources - such as Downloadable Certificates
- ♥ Members Only Forum
- ♥ Education Sessions
- ♥ Public & Products Liability Insurance
- ♥ Shop Options - such as Mentoring & Resources
- ♥ Discounted Collaborations i.e 50% off Celebrancy Software
- ♥ PLUS the BEST BUNCH of Celebrants to support YOU!

♥ Speak to us about
Corporate
Memberships for
Networks &
Associations



Are you ready to step into a network that celebrates, supports, and supercharges your success?

Join us on the fun side!

www.theunitedcelebrantnetwork.com/join

Spotlight on Celebrants: Unique Styles & Career Journeys

Celebrant Ceremonies by Vicki

Drawing from her experience on stage and screen, Vicki excels in the art of storytelling. “Your love story deserves to be told in a way that resonates with your personalities and touches the hearts of everyone present” Vicki told us. Vicki takes pride in creating a bespoke ceremony script that reflects her clients journey, values, and aspirations, ensuring that each celebration is a genuine reflection of love shared.

Embracing diversity and inclusivity, Vicki is honoured to officiate ceremonies for couples of all backgrounds, orientations, and beliefs. Love is unique, and Vicki is committed to ensuring that her celebrations reflects the beauty of unity that love brings.

Quickfire Highlights on Vicki

- ♥ **3 words that describe Vicki as a Celebrant:** Professional, Inclusive, Fun
- ♥ **Where do you do your celebrancy work:** Eastern Suburbs, Northern Suburbs, Western Suburbs, Southern Suburbs, Sydney
- ♥ **What ceremonies do you offer:** Legals, Micro, and Large Wedding Ceremonies. Renewal of Vows
- ♥ **What do love most about being a Celebrant:** All the joy that a wedding brings to the couple and their guests.
- ♥ **If you had a free ticket, where would you take off to:** Paris



Anna Murray Photography

Vicki is adaptable in her approach to her celebrancy practice, offering relaxed, upbeat, formal, humorous, inclusive, professional and flexible ceremonies. Vicki’s theme song when walking into a ceremony would be “Walking on Sunshine” and pronouncing couples married is her favourites part of the ceremony! We love Vicki’s energy!

Spotlight on Celebrants: Unique Styles & Career Journeys

Darrin Noon from Best Man Civil Marriage Celebrant

Darrin has worked in many industries and had plenty of advantages over the years, including 15 years in the Australian Army, here and Overseas. Having worked for Virgin Airlines for nearly 10 years from its beginnings and watching it grow into a fun enterprise. Today, beside his wife, they run a small Pet Care business near Port Stephens and he has the flexibility and time to be Civil Celebrant. What a wonderful mix - animals and love stories! 500+ Ceremonies accomplished to date with beautiful happy couples from all walks of life, cultures and diversities. Life couldn't be better for Darrin, and we are so very happy to have Best Man Civil Marriage Celebrant as part of our crew.

Quickfire Highlights on Darrin

- ♥ **3 words that describe Darrin, as a Celebrant:** Fun, Vibrant and Honest.
- ♥ **Where do you conduct your Celebrancy work:** Hunter Valley Region, Central Coast and Sydney.
- ♥ **What Ceremonies do you offer:** Legal Marriages, Same Sex Marriages, Commitment Ceremonies, Renewal of Vows and Master of Ceremonies.
- ♥ **What do you love most about being a Celebrant:** It's the best job in the world because you're playing an important part of a beautiful couples most special day of their lives where everyone is smiling and positive. When it's all finished you feel rewarded and have a sense of achievement. You don't get that in many jobs these days.
- ♥ **If you had a free ticket, where would you fly to:** Japan, because of the countries culture, pride and beauty.



Based in Newcastle but not limited to the region, Darrin is the BEST MAN for couples wanting a professional celebrant who has a sense of humour. Public speaking is his superpower along with confidence, discipline and organisation all coming from his years in the Defence Force. Darrin also loves his Rugby League if you are also a fan!

Spotlight on Celebrants: Unique Styles & Career Journeys

Married by Donna Claire

Donna is originally from the UK and now loving life with her beautiful family, her friends, her animals, coffee, wine and weddings...weddings...weddings!

Marriage Celebrancy came to Donna later in her career, after spending many amazing years in Customer Service, Donna now get to channel her superpower of connecting with people, into creating ceremonies that are welcoming, engaging and beautifully personal to them.

Quickfire Highlights on Donna

♥ **3 words that describe Donna as a Celebrant:** Caring, fun and passionate.

♥ **Where do you delivery your Celebrancy work:** Greater Sydney and surrounding regions and anywhere beyond that love takes me.

♥ **What Ceremonies do you offer:** Marriage, Commitment, Vow Renewal, Name Days and for any and all of life's celebrations.

♥ **What do you love most about being a Celebrant:** I love each and every couple's story and being able to curate their ceremony into something that is uniquely them. I absolutely love having a front row seat to their love story on the day and the energy of the ceremony is the best.

♥ **If you had a free ticket, where would you fly to:** Lapland



Donna travels to her Ceremonies with a 'Roadie' - her husband of over 30 years, family is clearly a HUGE part of Donna's heart - always top of discussion. A long term volunteer, giving back to a group from personal experience again shows how big Donna's heart is & she loves a family pet - arhhh our type of person!

2025 Reflections

A wonderful year shared with many

MLCS - Marriage Law & Celebrant Section

2025 saw The United Celebrant Network's first full year of trading as Australia's newest Celebrancy Network listed on the Attorney General's Department, Marriage Law & Celebrant Sections listing of Associations and Networks. A massive milestone for the founder and those that have been on this journey with us. A member of CoCA the Coalition of Celebrant Associations, where 11 Associations & Networks across the country collectively work together for their members. Many new friendships are forming and its also a chance to catch up with lifelong colleagues/friends to share stories and learn.

An interesting point made during December was the importance of **file notes** when working with clients, in case evidence may be needed in the future - do you regularly make file notes?

Focus Groups

The MLCS put together a series of **focus groups** with the intent to work on mini projects for consultation. The focus groups are made up from Associations & Network Committee members. TUCN strongly feels this is a great step towards good consultative practices, coupled with the bi-annual meetings.

OPD

Ensure your **OPD** is completed before 31st December 2025. You will need 2 hours and access to your Marcel Portal.

Obligations

Obligations discussed at the December bi-annual meeting:

As Appointed Celebrants and "Fit and Proper" people we should be diligent in; reporting **forced marriage** - its an obligation. Celebrants can contact 000 for immediate emergencies or the Australian Federal Police. **Interview your couples separately** to check in that they are entering the marriage wilfully on all occasions.

Provide your couples with the **how to complain about a marriage celebrant fact** sheet:

<https://www.ag.gov.au/families-and-marriage/marriage/complain-about-marriage-celebrant>



Knowing and understanding of the law including; the Marriage Act, the Marriage Regulations and the Marriage Guidelines. These are a celebrants key reference tools and will often answer the questions that pop up over our career.

Take your role as an authorised celebrant seriously, it's a privilege to be in the position to support our communities with life celebrations.

Do you do shortening of times - how many and tell us your experience? The MLCS is wanting feedback, send it to us!

Continued...

2025 Reflections

*A wonderful year shared
with many*

TUCN Event Fun!

The United Celebrant Network got a mention on the massive screen at Sydney Town Hall for the **NSW Training Awards** with this came the most amazing **resounding 'ohhhh' from the crowd** as the MC navigated the word 'Celebrancy' provider and network! It was one of the most memorial moments of the night and worth the work we put into our passion.

We held in person **Coffee Catch Ups** in all different locations throughout the year from far north QLD where the beautiful **Georgie** held an event, right down to South Australia with **Peggy** hosting a fun photo shoot event. The Sunshine Coast crew with **Tara** meet monthly and have formed a lovely bond, much like the NSW members who have **Michelle** as their host. These events would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers - we are so proud to have you on our team, representing our ethics.

TUCN keeping to its core value offered **31 Online Education Sessions in 2025!** That is HUGE & we are very proud of this investment into our members. Some more popular than others but this is how you learn and even with small class sizes, the person attending still wants to learn. We put out a **survey mid-year** and the results strongly showed an interest in pre-recorded webinars as well as live events, so 2026 will bring more recorded events to the membership package. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this statistic, your feedback is always valuable to us.

Let us know what you would like to learn next?



NSW TRAINING AWARDS



SOUTH AUSTRALIA



SUNSHINE COAST



MOUNT ANNAN



THE GROUNDS OF ALEXANDRIA

Continued...

2025 Reflections

*A wonderful year shared
with many*

New Business, New Learnings

Despite having years of business experience, this is the first Network-focused business we have operated and with that comes learning. **The Members Forum** became obsolete and so we are working on a new communication option and a few missed opportunities slipped through our fingers while we were busy focused on other celebrancy things. These challenges are not terrible, it just means its time to change and reflect, time to step it up and refocus which falls in theme of this Summer E-mag. We also want our **members profiles** completed in full so we can better promote you individually to enquiries looking for a celebrant in their ceremony region.

In 2026, you will see:

- ✓ A new communication option
- ✓ Improved member profiles
- ✓ New member only content
- ✓ Live and Pre-recorded education

It is great seeing so many members accessing the **Case Studies and E-Books** in the Members Only section. These libraries of resources will continue to grow over the years so please check back in there when visiting the site.

A big thank you to **Kristy** who is doing work on our website for a lot of the above projects. We value your expertise and true understanding of our purpose x



We're Ready to Begin!

Lets make magic happen again in 2026!

Let us know what you would like from your Network, what Education sessions you want presented, & how we can continue to build this amazing community.

Jill Heaton

Your Celebrant Fairy Godmother



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Merry Celebrant!

SHARE YOUR MERRY CELEBRANT STORY TO WIN!

Head to our social media post “**Merry Celebrant- Share your story**” - this can be any story that made your cheeks hurt from all the smiles or maybe you had tears run down your face. We want to feel uplifted by the beauty that our Celebrancy role gives each of you. Be sure to like the post, and follow our page - **The United Celebrant Network**. There are 8 prizes to win!



The images shown are for illustration purposes only and may not be an exact representation of the prize

- **STEP 1:** Find the “Merry Celebrant - Share your story” post on our socials.
- **STEP 2:** Add your uplifting story to the comments section, and like the post.
- **STEP 3:** Make sure you are following our page!
- ***Complete Step 1 + 2 + 3 = YOU'RE IN THE DRAW!!!**



REAL CONSENT

More than a tick- & flick

Real consent continues to be a compulsory professional development topic for authorised celebrants across both 2024 and 2025. The AGD has made this area a priority because consent is at the heart of every marriage ceremony. It is not something to rush through: real consent must be genuine, freely given, and fully understood. A celebrant must be satisfied that both parties know they are entering into a marriage and agree to do so without pressure, fear or coercion.

The scenarios and case studies within OPD highlight why a “quick check-in” is not enough. Consent often becomes clear over time, through conversation, observation, and the tone of interactions between the parties. If at any point a celebrant is unsure of genuine consent, the Marriage Act requires that they must not proceed with solemnising the marriage. This is a heavy responsibility, and one we must hold with care.

Consent takes TIME



Front-line voices & warnings

Leaders from across our sector – including the Registrar, Federal Police investigators, and My Blue Sky – have all reinforced that forced marriages do occur in Australia. Sometimes the signs are subtle. Sometimes the signs are obvious. In either case, celebrants are often the first line of defence. This is why legislation insists on separate meetings with each party so you can speak privately, ask questions, and observe their responses, and behaviours, with confidence.



Real Consent...

Capacity also plays a role. Celebrants should treat elderly or disabled parties as capable of understanding the nature and effect of the marriage unless there is a valid reason to question this. If doubts arise, further information can be sought – with permission from family members, aged care staff, or medical professionals. In some cases, a professional capacity assessment may be required before proceeding. File notes would be essential in this situation.

Capacity matters



Serious legal consequences

The consequences of solemnising a marriage where real consent is absent are serious. A celebrant may face criminal penalties under the Marriage Act, including imprisonment, where there is reason to believe that a legal impediment exists.

Forced marriage offences under the Commonwealth Criminal Code carry penalties of up to seven years imprisonment when the victim is over 18.

These penalties highlight just how crucial our role is.

Ultimately, real consent must always be front of mind. We are not just signing paperwork, we are witnessing a life-changing commitment. Consent cannot be given by a third party or substituted through a power of attorney or guardianship.

Our role is to remain observant, compassionate and confident in our decision-making. When in doubt, we must pause, ask questions, seek guidance, and, if necessary, decline to solemnise. Protecting the integrity of marriage is one of the most important duties we hold as celebrants.

Integrity of marriage



DUE
31st Dec 25

OPD obligations are due by 31st December 2025. Be sure to put sometime aside before the 31st to meet your 2 hour requirement. This will avoid being de-registered.

Marriage Act 1961 and Guidelines will help you to work through the workbooks.



Performance Reviews



A pilot program return for 2026

Celebrants who have been registered for some time will remember the period where regular performance reviews were conducted by the Attorney-General's Marriage Law and Celebrant Section (MLCS). These reviews were designed to support quality, ensure compliance with the Marriage Act, and provide feedback where improvements were needed. While this process has not been active in recent years, it has now been announced that a new pilot program will commence in 2026, using a small sample group of celebrants.

FULL DETAILS *Have NOT been released*

The full details of the pilot have not yet been released. What we do know is that the purpose of the trial is to explore the most effective and efficient way of conducting performance reviews. By focusing on a limited number of celebrants, MLCS will be able to assess what works well, where challenges arise, and how the process may be refined before any broader rollout. The intention is to gather insights that will help determine the most workable approach for the future.

Performance reviews have always formed part of the regulatory framework. Under Section 39H of the Marriage Act 1961, the Registrar may review whether an authorised celebrant is meeting obligations and performing their functions appropriately. Reviews are not designed to be punitive; rather, they support standards, highlight good practice, and help ensure the role of celebrant continues to uphold public trust:

 **Marriage Act 1961 – Section 39H**

At this stage, further information about the scope, structure, and timing of the pilot is still to come. TUCN hopes to obtain more clarity at the June AGs MLCS consultation meeting, where progress updates and expected timelines may be shared. When more is known, we will provide an update to members so celebrants can feel informed and prepared.

As the landscape of celebrancy continues to evolve, developments such as OPD reforms, real consent focus, and the return of performance reviews reflect a shared commitment to professionalism. For celebrants, the message is clear: keep records up to date, maintain good practice, and continue delivering ceremonies with quality and confidence.

Know your legal framework

Every authorised celebrant must understand the Marriage Act 1961 and Marriage Regulations 2017. These documents are your foundation. Revisit them, especially when changes are announced and get familiar with the sections that impact client questions or scenarios, real consent, prohibited relationships, and solemnisation.

Performance Reviews

A Pilot Program Return in 2026



FIT, PROPER & COMPLIANT

Follow your core obligations

Under the Act, every celebrant must follow the Obligations of an Authorised Celebrant in Australia, which include:

- understanding the nature and effect of marriage
- ensuring real consent
- ensuring all paperwork is accurate, timely and complete
- maintaining appropriate records
- lodging documents within the required timeframes
- refusing to solemnise where consent is uncertain

When unsure, pause and seek advice rather than risk a breach.

Stay current with PD

Celebrants must complete prescribed hours of OPD/CPD each year. These topics are chosen because they relate to current risk, best practice and compliance. Treat OPD as more than a box-tick, engage with it fully and apply what you learn. It keeps your knowledge fresh and your practice safe.

Prioritise in-person meetings for building rapport, finalising key details, and ensuring couples feel fully supported.

Real consent is central to every marriage. Take time to observe, check-in, and meet separately. Your role is to protect the integrity of marriage – even when it means declining to proceed.

Keep records organised and secure

Accurate records are essential. Ensure you:

- store documents securely
- follow privacy and confidentiality requirements
- have a reliable system for archiving or backing up files
- can produce records if requested

Your files should tell a clear story of each ceremony from NOIM to registration of a marriage.

Remain "Fit and Proper"

Your authorisation depends on remaining a fit and proper person. This means:

- acting honestly and ethically
- managing conflicts of interest
- being professional in conduct and communication
- keeping criminal history clear
- protecting vulnerable people, especially in consent matters

Your reputation reflects on the profession. Use **BEST PRACTICE** and always aim to act respectfully and with inclusion.

The Quiet Breath

That Holds a Ceremony Together

There is a moment—small, almost invisible—when the entire room seems to lean forward. The music softens. The couple reaches each other. And just before I take the microphone, I pause. I step close, invite the couple to hold hands, to look—not at me, not at the guests, but at each other. And we breathe. Not a dramatic inhale. Not a ritualised moment. Just... breath. I tell them softly, “You’ve made it. I’ve got you for the next 30 minutes. Everything that needed to happen has happened. Now you get to be here. Present. Together.”

Their shoulders fall. Their eyes change. The world stills around them.

That quiet breath has become one of my most sacred tools as a celebrant. Not because it’s poetic—though it is—but because it is profoundly practical. Breath is the still point that holds the ceremony together.

And yet it’s the one element so many celebrants forget to claim.

In a profession built on timing, emotion, connection, and presence, breath is the key that unlocks clarity and anchors us exactly where we are meant to be.



The Quiet Breath

That Holds a Ceremony Together

The Celebrant's Breath: The Invisible Pulse of the Ceremony

Before we guide anyone else, we guide ourselves.

Our breath is the rhythm beneath our words. It's the pulse of our presence. Without it, we rush. We stumble. We forget to hold the space we worked so hard to create.

Breath Clears the Head and Sharpens the Mind

When we breathe deeply, we oxygenate the brain. A well-oxygenated brain thinks more clearly, reacts more calmly, and adapts to the unexpected with grace. We're better celebrants—simply because our brain has what it needs to work.

The science may be simple, but the impact is enormous.

Breath Slows Us Down (In All the Best Ways)

We've all felt the urge to speed through a ceremony—nerves, logistics, the sense of being 'on'. A single, intentional breath before speaking slows the tempo. It creates rhythm. It tells the audience, "This is important; lean in."

Breath is punctuation. The comma. The paragraph break. The silence that makes the words land.

Breath Helps Us Read the Room

A celebrant grounded in breath can see the ceremony in real time:

The wind shifting, a child needing comfort, a microphone issue, a couple becoming overwhelmed.

Breath expands our awareness. It keeps us focused and nimble. It holds us steady so we can hold the space for everyone else.

What Breath Gives to the Couple

A wedding day is noisy—emotionally, logistically, mentally. When the ceremony begins, couples often arrive carrying the residue of everything that came before: timelines, coordination, anticipation, nerves.

Breath cuts through all of it.

Breath Makes Them Present

One intentional breath brings a couple back to each other. It dissolves the haste of the day and marks the beginning of something different—something slower, deeper, and entirely theirs.

Breath Creates Memory

Stillness is sticky. The brain remembers moments of pause more vividly than moments of motion. A shared breath becomes a memory they revisit long after the confetti has blown away.

Breath Strengthens Connection

Breathing together regulates emotion and grounds the body. It allows the couple to meet the ceremony not with adrenaline but with openness.

A breath is not a ritual, yet it is ritualistic in its simplicity. It's a moment that needs no explanation, no script, no tradition—yet it holds tremendous power.

What Breath Offers the Audience

Guests may not consciously register breath, but they feel it.

Breath Calms the Room

A single moment of stillness—the celebrant's breath, the couple's breath, the collective shift—settles the space. Conversations fade. Bodies still. Attention sharpens.

It's the subtle magic of ceremony craft.

Breath Enhances Storytelling

A well-placed pause allows guests to absorb the meaning behind your words. Breath turns sentences into sentiment. It shapes the emotional contour of the ceremony.

Breath is atmosphere.

The Quiet Breath

That Holds a Ceremony Together

Breath Shapes the Ceremony's Architecture

If the ceremony is a story, breath is the structure.

If the ceremony is a song, breath is the tempo.

If the ceremony is a journey, breath is the guide.

Breath Creates Ceremony Syntax

Just as language needs punctuation, ceremonies need space. Breath creates that space. It signals transitions, honours emotion, and gives weight to the moments that matter most.

Breath Holds Emotion Safely

Ceremonies can feel chaotic when they barrel forward without pause. Breath holds the emotional peaks and troughs with care. It contains the moment, allowing it to resonate instead of overwhelm.

A Celebrant's Breathing Technique for Grounded Presence

Here is a simple and effective technique you can use quietly, subtly, and anywhere—even with hundreds of eyes on you:

The 4-2-6 Ceremony Breath

Inhale for 4 seconds.

Allow the breath to expand in your ribs and belly, rather than lifting your shoulders.

Hold for 2 seconds.

Just long enough to steady the mind.

Exhale for 6 seconds.

The slow exhale tells your body, "You are safe. You are grounded. You are ready."

Repeat 2-3 times.

You'll feel the shift instantly.

This breath calms your nerves, slows your pace, and clears your head—all without anyone knowing you're doing it.

Integrating Breath into Moments of Ceremony

Breath doesn't need to be announced. It doesn't need to be formalised. It simply needs space to exist.

1. The Breath Before You Begin

As the music fades and silence settles, take one slow breath before the first word leaves your lips. It transforms your opening line.

2. The Breath Before Vows

A moment of shared stillness right before vows turns a pivotal moment into a profound one.

3. The Breath Before Major Transitions

Moving from story to legal wording?

From vows to rings?

From ceremony to celebration?

A breath gives these moments shape and significance.

Why Breath Matters to Our Craft

We are custodians of emotion, gatherers of attention, sculptors of memory. Breath is the unseen tool that helps us do all of that with intention, clarity, and grace.

Breath is not dramatic, but it is powerful.

Not complex, but transformative.

Not visible, but absolutely essential.

When we, as celebrants, master the invisible art of breath, we elevate our ceremonies from being witnessed to being truly felt.

Breath is the heartbeat of ceremony.

The space between moments.

The quiet magic that turns words into meaning.

And if we let it, breath becomes the thread that holds a ceremony—and everyone in it—beautifully, delicately, unmistakably together.

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The Pivots and Changes of a Celebrancy Business

Being a celebrant in Australia is both a privilege and a responsibility. We stand at the heart of community celebration, conducting more than 84.4% of marriages across our beautiful country. Couples today are seeking someone who truly resonates with them; whether it's your age, your brand, your delivery style, lived experience, or simply the way you make them feel. There is someone for everyone, and more often than not, there is a celebrant who is the perfect fit.

This work invites us to show up as our genuine selves. When our businesses reflect who we are, times of change feel less confronting. We have already established a foundation that feels familiar, comfortable, and grounded. From this place, we can absorb change, make decisions, and move forward with confidence.

Flexibility has always been at the heart of celebrancy. Over decades we have witnessed shifts in religious ceremony, the arrival of same-sex marriage legislation, evolving expectations around inclusivity, and greater attention to individuality and storytelling. Change is part of our landscape, and rather than resisting, we are invited to adapt, evolve, and keep our businesses ready to pivot when needed. It avoids being left behind.

Every change brings opportunity. It may be a new style of ceremony, a different way to present ourselves, or exploring modern ways to connect with audiences and couples. The more agile we are, the more joy we will find in the ebb and flow of this profession.

Ultimately, being a celebrant is a beautiful journey, one that embraces both tradition and transformation. By remaining true to ourselves, continually learning, and welcoming the changes ahead, we can sustain thriving businesses that will continue to serve our communities with heart, courage, and celebration.



End of Year Celebrations

End of year celebrations are important milestones to be acknowledged. With communities, families and individuals taking the time to appreciate the efforts and contributions made throughout a persons education or in the workplace, individuals often feel more confidence to move forward in the next stage of their life.

Psychology development and research has shown that rituals at the end of year or at the end of a stage, is like a book ending where it gives a sense of closure on a phase. This gives people time to digest mentally and feelings of accomplishment arise, ready to enter the new phase.

Acknowledging achievements reinforces belief in a persons abilities.

Community gives a sense of belonging and increases well-being; celebrating with friends, colleagues or community, sharing the experience gives a shared feeling of emotional safety which can boost self-esteem.

With the positive reinforcement of an end of year celebration comes the likelihood of repeating behaviours, that can lead to further success due to good habit forming.



VLOGS

Unleashed & Unscripted - From a Celebrants Lens

The United Celebrant Network and The Unleashed Collective LOVE recording **VLOGS** with our past students who are out operating their successful Celebrancy businesses, sharing all sorts of goodness.

Check out our latest VLOG posts:

With Sharnee

Watch here: [Sharnee's VLOG](#)

Amanda Blake Celebrant

Watch here: [Amanda's VLOG](#)

**Lil' Vow Wow Celebrations
with Amy**

Watch here: [Amy's VLOG](#)

Your Ceremony By Nicole

Watch here: [Nicole's VLOG](#)

Quaich Ceremony

A Toast to Unity

The Quaich Ceremony is a beautiful tradition often incorporated into weddings as a symbol of unity, connection, and shared future. Originating from Scotland, the quaich (pronounced “quake”) is a small, shallow, two-handled drinking cup used for centuries to offer a welcoming drink at gatherings, weddings, and important occasions. It is known as the “cup of friendship.”



Quaich Ceremony

A Toast to Unity

Historically, a quaich was offered to guests as a gesture of trust and hospitality, and the two handles of the cup represented the idea that each person came with open hands and open hearts. In Celtic culture, it was believed that sharing drink from the same cup bonded people together, not just socially, but spiritually. Today, couples use a quaich during their wedding ceremony as a powerful symbol of their shared life ahead.

During a Quaich Ceremony, the couple each take turns holding the cup and drinking from it, often using whisky, mead, ale, or another meaningful drink. The act of accepting the cup from one another carries layered meaning: trust, unity, mutual support, and equality. It is a moment that often brings smiles, warmth and celebration.

The ritual can also be expanded to include family members, for example, parents may pour the drink into the quaich to represent the joining of two families. Others invite children or loved ones to share in the cup as a symbol of connection. No matter the style, it always reflects togetherness and welcome.

Here are sample Quaich ceremonial wording:

“As we celebrate bride and groom taking this beautiful step into marriage, we would like to now turn to a tradition that speaks to unity, trust, and shared joy.

The Quaich, often called the ‘Cup of Friendship’ has roots in ancient Scottish custom and is offered as a token of love and welcome.

Today this Quaich carries whiskies chosen by your family, each one unique, yet together they create a richer fuller taste, just as your marriage is enriched by the love and individuality of those who surround you.

As you drink together shortly may the blend remind you that your journey is strengthened by those who have nurtured you, and that your future is a tapestry woven with family and friendship.

It’s a shared moment that reminds us of the bond now sealed between two wonderful souls.

I invite you both to drink together from the Quaich, symbolising the life you now share.

May each sip reflect the sweetness of your love, the strength of your partnership, and the trust you place in each other from this day forward.

Let this cup carry the warmth of your love, the laughter of your days, and the quiet assurance that, together, you are home.”

We’d love to hear about the cultural celebrations and unique rituals you’ve been part of! If you have a story or experience to share, please submit an article for our next issue. Reach out at hello@theunitedcelebrantnetwork.com we can’t wait to hear from you!





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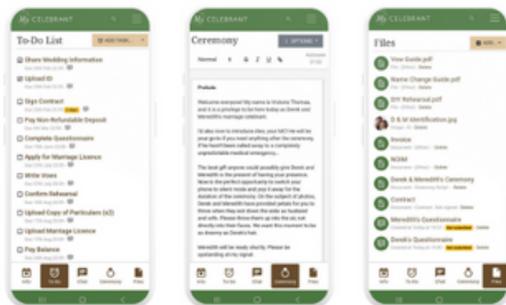
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Do you have a community of
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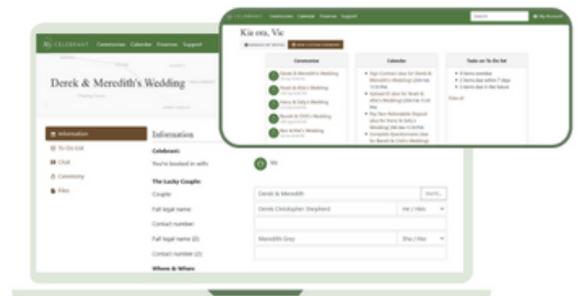


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Creative Inspiration



Is this page your calling?!



CELEBRANT EXPERT CALL

Do you (or someone you know) have knowledge, experience or insights that could inspire our celebrant community?

TUCN is searching for passionate people who want to share their expertise and help elevate our members learning.

If you have a collaborative mindset and share our consistency with making life-long connections, please reach out to us.

We're looking for:

- Conversation Panellists
- Experts to run Educational Events
- Real-Life Case Study Contributors
- Behind-the-scenes Showcase Experience
- Supplier Offerings & Industry Insights

If you love connecting, sharing, education or showcasing your craft - we want to hear from you.



Lets spark a conversation: hello@theunitedcelebrantnetwork.com



Thank you to our hero volunteers
Your time, energy and heart keep this community thriving, and we are so grateful for everything you do.
We are blessed x



Reflect, Reset & Refocus

Summer Wellbeing

Its time for YOU to pause!

The end of the year is a natural invitation to pause. Before rushing into planning, take a moment to reflect. Look back at your year in business, your ceremonies, your growth and even the small victories that may have gone unnoticed.

As celebrants, we are often so focused on recognising and celebrating others that we forget to acknowledge ourselves. Every booking, every script written, every relationship nurtured counts.

Celebrate those wins, they are yours.

Reflection leads to reset, and the reset must come before the refocus. Reset means rest. Reset means stepping back from emails, invoices and ceremony writing, and giving your nervous system time to settle. Let this summer be your deep breath. Whether you are drawn to the sea, the bush, your garden, or simply a quiet morning coffee, let Australia's beauty fill your cup. Rest. Relax. Recharge. When your energy returns, your creativity will too.



Reflect, Reset & Refocus

Summer Wellbeing



Once you feel clear and revived, it's time to refocus. Instead of rushing, make it visual. Bring out your favourite stationery, a clean planner or a pinboard. Map out your 2026 goals in a way you can see – physically. It is easier to reach goals that are visible and shared. Stick them to the wall. Use colour. Use pictures. Bring your business and personal intentions to life. When we see our goals daily, our brain starts working toward them naturally.

The holiday period often means time with those we love. If someone offers to pour you a drink or make lunch – say yes. Being a sole trader is not like traditional employment; most of us don't have structured hours or predictable weekends. We perform ceremonies when others are off – Saturday, nights, public holidays, and peak seasons. Many celebrants also work day jobs, volunteer, or care for others. This carries a mental load, and it's okay to lighten it for a few days.

As January turns into February, start 2026 organised. Good business planning reduces stress and increases confidence. Break your planning into parts: your business plan, financial forecasting, marketing, operations, and legal requirements. Allocate time for each. You don't need to do it all at once. A few hours each week will build momentum and clarity. Strategic planning gives you direction, and direction gives you peace.

Being a celebrant is a beautiful, demanding and meaningful calling. To sustain it, you must care for both your business and your wellbeing. Reflect with gratitude, reset with rest, and refocus with intention. When your mind, body and plans are aligned, you step into the year calmer, stronger and ready for the ceremonies ahead.

Would you like a fun Vision Board Workshop in January - Select YES here
<https://forms.gle/pKrvbEzEwPRXve6TA>



Worksheet

Plan Your 2026 Celebrant Year

Reflect on 2025: What worked?

Your past year offers valuable insights. Look back at your ceremonies, business tasks, and personal achievements. Tick the boxes that resonate or add your own:

- I delivered memorable ceremonies that reflected my style
- I built strong relationships with couples and suppliers
- My booking processes are efficient and clear
- I maintained boundaries around time, communication and workload
- I celebrated my wins (big and small!)
- Other (describe your achievement): _____

What Do I Need Most to Feel Reset?

Refocus with intention. Write one or two reminders to help you reset well now and at busy times throughout the year:



What Do I Want In 2026?

What do I want more of in 2026 - visualise the year?

- Clients I truly enjoy working with
- More income and pricing clarity
- Efficient business operations and systems
- Stronger business confidence
- Other (describe your want): _____

Planning Priorities

Based on your answers, craft a short statement that sums up your **planning priorities**. Example: "I need to purchase a low cost easy to use client management system to keep organised and to save time"

My planning priorities are:

Next Steps: What Is The One Step To Start?



Take an action THIS WEEK! It will help you feel organised. This week I will:



What is the one action I will take to rest when I feel I need to reset?



Write a promise to yourself for 2026. I promise myself, that I will:

Success starts with a clear plan and a courageous first step!



Beyond Weddings:

Expanding your pathways

DIVERSIFYING YOUR OFFERINGS

- **Renewal of vows:** cherished by long-term couples who want their story honoured again.
- **Commitment Ceremonies:** inclusive celebrations of love without legal paperwork.
- **Funerals & Memorials:** meaningful work that supports families during significant life transitions.
- **Naming Ceremonies:** joyful, family-centred rituals welcoming children of all ages and identities.
- **MC Work:** for ceremonies, receptions, community events and even corporate functions.

RETHINK YOUR NICHE

- What type of client do you attract most?
- Who usually makes initial or the most contact with you?
- When are clients reaching out?
- How can clients get in contact with you?
- Where are you sharing your business?

DO MEANINGFUL WORK

- Learn the rituals people are asking for or what is on trend. This might mean education is needed.
- Create a package for life milestones, and inform your market.
- Partner with local businesses and community groups.
- Market yourself as a specialist, not just a wedding celebrant.

YOUR REMINDER

Your next ceremony isn't waiting for chance, its waiting for you to step into what is possible. When you widen your offerings, you widen the stories you're trusted to tell and the communities who get to witness them unfold. Making meaningful connections with people. Expand with impact, opportunity is looking for you.

Upcoming Events

Don't Miss Out on What's Next! From inspiring workshops to unforgettable networking events, there's something for every celebrant. Visit our website from mid-January to explore full event details, book your tickets, and discover even more exciting opportunities! www.theunitedcelebrantnetwork.com

Psst... this first one is a great way to start the year off!

Copywriting and Co-Work Summer Session

January 2026

A relaxed catch-up to open the year with intentions and connection. Giving members a chance to update their bios, websites and scripts together + potentially a vision board workshop.



Creative Labs + AFP Forced Marriages

February + March 2026

A Rituals & Props Workshop, make wishing stones, handfasting cords, or vow cards, and we want to include a "Ask an Expert Panel" + Detective Mathew Fallon from the Human Exploitation Community will deliver a workshop on Forced Marriage impacts for Celebrants.

Relationships Australia + Case Study

April + May 2026

We are thrilled to present this exciting workshop to our members! Relationships Australia is offering a low cost [\$22] event all about Relationship Education. Be sure to check this one out!

+ Do you love to solve a problem? We tend to manage a lot when in public at a ceremonial location. Join us for a professional growth session bringing in case studies, anonymised ceremony challenges where we work out solutions together!



Supplier Connections + Cultural Showcase

June + July 2026

After the SA Photo Shoot we received loads of enquiries of bringing this connection to each State, so that is the goal!

+ Wouldn't it be amazing to showcase our members cultural, rituals or mindfulness skills - lets learn about our colleagues.



Upcoming Events



Celebrant Working Bee + Peer-led Conversations

August + September 2026

August is the cooler months, and usually weddings are not so busy so a great chance to refresh systems and templates - a mid-year reset release of templates and resources.

+ When spring energy hits its time to venture outside again, lets walk and learn. Building on skills via peer-led learnings!

Funeral Directors Q&A Panel + Personal Branding

October + November 2026

We are inviting a few Funeral Directors to form a Q&A Panel for real insight from their professional backgrounds. We understand each will approach their work differently and we are excited to hear it all.

+ An education session on Personal Branding, freshening up your look and translating that across your platforms.



Plus so much more!



End-of-Year Connections + Education/Consultation

December + All Year Round

In true Unleashed and United form we will run a series of Chrissy Connections to make sure no sole trader is left without a Chrissy party!

+ Bi-Annual Attorney General Marriage Law and Celebrant Section meetings + CoCA meetings

+ Consultation with others has also been scheduled

+ Other additional education workshops + webinars

Got an event idea you'd love to see on the calendar? We'd love to hear from you! Drop us an email with your suggestions—hello@theunitedcelebrantnetwork.com—your feedback helps us create even more valuable experiences for celebrants across Australia, both online and in person. Don't forget to visit our website for full event details, the latest updates, and to book your tickets. Please note that events are subject to change, so be sure to check your ticket and our website for any updates.

"As the summer sun sinks, and the stars feel close enough to touch, look up and be reminded of the work you do - bringing lovers together, little pieces of magic, breath held, whispers shared, timeless, effortless and endlessly bright in those moments."





RUN FOR
Heart



LET'S HELP RAISE VITAL FUNDS FOR HEART DISEASE RESEARCH!

We'll be tackling MyMarathon for Australian hearts.

We're going to make a marathon effort to help raise funds for lifesaving heart disease research.

We've signed up for this awesome challenge because there's strength in numbers – the more team members we have, the bigger impact we can make. Will you join our team?

Our team want to show our support for the thousands of men and women living with heart disease in Australia and in memory of Ben Heaton and his dad!

But we can't do it alone. Please support our team by making a donation, or even joining us on this quest for your own better heart health (join our team 'Hearts for Ben' by following the link below).

Together, we can win the race against heart disease.

Donate

<https://www.runforheart.org.au/fundraisers/heartsforben>



Find-a-Word

Ready for a bit of self-care & fun!

Find all the words hidden in the grid below.

Words can be placed horizontally, vertically, diagonally, and even backward! Enjoy.

M C O L B T V
K T O E C O E S O I D C
T E G N J C K U T W G A E Q S E
I A R D S O O P D D D C N T V U A W
U M O P E L U E E N S E B I S E O O R
P U W A N T P U S D N D N K V R K I A
I S P H T A L Q I E O U E O M I A G N
H I S U M M E R R S I C A O M M L N D
R V E B T C N O I T A R B E L E C
A I N L O O H N A T S I R T I
E P I I W T A G I E L W K
H E P C U G I O P O A
T A P A R L N R S
M K A O B K W
M H O P
A N

SUMMER
PEAK
ORGANISED
BOOKINGS
PUBLIC
OPD
CONSENT
OBLIGATIONS

EDUCATION
HAPPINESS
COUPLE
CIVIL
AUTHORISED
CELEBRATION
UNITED
NETWORK



Join the Conversation

Stay connected with TUCN and never miss an update! Visit [TUCN Website](https://www.theunitedcelebrantnetwork.com) for more resources, networking opportunities, and professional development events. Become a member if you are yet to join our community – we would love to see you there.

We hope you enjoy our summer edition of TUCN Magazine – where celebrants come together, learn, and thrive!

TUCN SHOP



PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS CHECKLIST for NEW Celebrants

The ultimate Celebrant Checklist—everything you need to confidently launch your business, from ceremonies to compliance. This is the guide we all wish we had when we started!

BUSINESS HEALTH CHECK for established Celebrants

Revitalise, rebrand, or refocus your celebrant business with our Business Health Check. Plus a one-on-one mentoring session with Georgina Black to unlock your full potential!

MENTORING

Unlock clarity and confidence—book your one-on-one mentoring session today and gain expert guidance, personalised support, and the tools to move forward with ease!

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING

Master social media with our expert-crafted eBook—unlock strategies to grow your celebrant business, engage your audience, and stand out online!

 Coming Soon!

RITUAL & INCLUSION

Looking to add more depth, meaning, and magic to your ceremonies? Our soon-to-be-released eBook is your go-to guide for weaving profound and personalised moments into every celebration.

LEGALS ESSENTIALS GUIDE OZ

Stay compliant and confident—our Legal Essentials Guide for Celebrants Australia covers everything you need to know to run your business legally and professionally!

THE UNITED CELEBRANT NETWORK

www.theunitedcelebrantnetwork.com