

March 2025

Volume 4, Issue 2

All content is created for information only and is not legal advice, and not necessarily the views of the AMC. It is edited by Lou Szymkow and whilst all care is taken, the editor cannot guarantee the accuracy of information. The editor, guest contributors & guest speakers all volunteer their time for Celebrants.



**Cover Photo**  
Wedding under an historic fig tree in Milton. One of the many wonderful Sth Coast NSW wedding sites.

An update from your AMC South Coast NSW Coordinator, Lou Szymkow

To achieve success, we will continue to grow and do what we can to help each other grow.



AUSTRALIAN  
MARRIAGE  
CELEBRANTS

# AMC AGM & ELECTION

The AMC  
Annual General Meeting  
7pm (EST)  
Tuesday 18th March 2025  
Concord Oval Zurich Centre,  
Loftus Street, Concord NSW  
(corner Gipps St)

The gathering will start 6:00pm upstairs in the Canadian Exiles Rooms, with a bit of socialising and networking. It is a chance to spec some time with other members, to meet old friends or make new ones and to meet the committee nominees.

There is plenty of street parking in and around Loftus Street, or under the fitness centre which has an entry off entry via Gipps Street.

All members are strongly encouraged to attend and those unable to be there in person, check the AMC official newsletter and the email containing the:

**Notice of Annual General Meeting** in your inbox where you will also find the Zoom link.

**This is a meeting for AMC members only and there will be an election of a new AMC committee at this AGM.**

Note that only financial members can vote and will be able to access the online voting system which worked so well at the Special General meeting in January 2025 at which the new [AMC Constitution](#) was approved.



## NOMINATE NOW!

You might want to [nominate](#) yourself or another to the new committee and so to learn more about how to [nominate](#) for the committee and what responsibilities are involved, you can attend one or both of the special information sessions on zoom as follows:

- **7:30pm EST, Thurs 6th March 2025**
- **7:00pm EST, Mon 10th March 2025**

At these sessions the AMC Public Officer, Lou Szymkow, and Constitution Sub-Committee leader, Joy Allen will outline what volunteering for the AMC Committee involves.

This is your time to help the AMC become the very best it can be and you do that by either nominating for the committee and/or voting for a fellow member who will contribute and act.

### Inside this issue:

- AMC AGM
- How to Nominate
- AGM Details
- Best Practice Guide
- The work done
- Membership works
- AMC Committee Composition
- Letters
- Benefits of Membership
- A Love Poem
- BDM Complaints
- The Good, the Bad & the Ugly.
- Weddings of the Past
- Cyber Security
- More Police Prayers
- BDM Expansion & More Complaints
- Mipro SLA Batteries
- Regional Coordinators
- Book Reviews
- Coordinator Comments

**YES!**

# AMC AGM & ELECTION DETAILS & LINKS

## Tuesday 18th March 2025

## RSVP NOW

**Canadian Exiles Room  
Concord Oval Zurich Centre  
Loftus Steet, Concord NSW  
(corner Gipps St)**

*(aka Wests Tigers Centre Of Excellence on Google Maps)*

- Free street parking or [onsite under the fitness centre via Gipps Street.](#)

### SCHEDULE

**6pm start**

drinks, nibbles & networking in person

**7pm AGM commences**

In person & via Zoom

[Zoom link is on the AMC webpage](#)

### AGM AGENDA

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
- 4 President's Annual Report
- 5 Treasurer's Annual Report
- 6 Public Officer's Report
- 7 Q&A Session
- 8 Committee Election
- 9 Special Announcement
- 10 Any other business for the AGM
- 11 Meeting close

### Live Voting at the AGM

An impartial, independent Returning Officer will oversee and chair the elections for transparency.

AND, in exciting news, we will have live voting on the night – via the wonders of technology. For those who attended our Special General Meeting in January 2025, this worked a treat!

## IMPORTANT HYPERLINKS

- ◇ [AGM Information on AMC webpage](#)
- ◇ [RSVP in Person](#)
- ◇ [RSVP for Zoom](#)
- ◇ [RSVP Apologies](#)
- ◇ [NOMINATIONS LINK](#)
- ◇ [New Constitution.](#)
- ◇ [New Code of Conduct and Objects](#)
- ◇ [Minutes: 2023 Annual General Meeting](#)
- ◇ Financial Reports: [2019](#) | [2020](#) | [2021](#) | [2022](#) | [2023](#) | [2024](#)
- ◇ [President's Report](#)
- ◇ [Treasurer's Report](#)
- ◇ [Public Officer's Report](#)





## Who/How to Nominate

Who would you like on the committee, Who do you see as a leader or potential leader? Is it YOU?

✓Must be a current

Financial Celebrant Member

- ✓Can nominate for one or multiple positions but if elected to a position, all other nominations lapse
- ✓Submit a 250-word bio to support the nomination
- ✓Submit a current headshot photo with a white plain background that is no more than 6 months old and not AI generated
- ✓The Photo and bio will be included in AMC ballot paper produced by Returning Officer

Nominations must be accurately submitted by **10:00am, Friday 14th March 2025** via the AMC website or emailed to the independent Returning Officer as follows: [returningofficer@marriagecelebrants.org.au](mailto:returningofficer@marriagecelebrants.org.au)

If nominations exceed the number of vacancies, a ballot will be held but if the number of nominations received is equal to, or fewer than, the number of vacancies to be filled, the Members nominated will be duly elected **at the AGM.**

**[The Nomination form is on our AMC website.](#)**

If you cannot access this, or would like an email form, please contact the AMC Secretary Carolyn Clarke at [secretary@marriagecelebrants.org.au](mailto:secretary@marriagecelebrants.org.au);

For more information, please read the [AMC Constitution](#), dated 23 January 2025, on the AMC website before Nominating for the Committee.

**AMC Constitution.** Key points are:

- ◇ The voluntary Committee comprises a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and at least three other Members but not more than 7 (Clause 19).
- ◇ The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are the Executive positions
- ◇ the Committee meets **at least** 4 times a year, usually by Zoom but it is expected will meet monthly in 2025

- ◇ a Member cannot hold two Executive positions concurrently
- ◇ all Committee Members must work for the benefit of the Association with due care and diligence and ensure that the Constitution, Code of Conduct, Objects and policies and procedures are met and upheld.
- ◇ **All nominees are strongly encouraged to attend a pre-election Zoom Information Session prior to nomination**
- ◇ Committee meetings are held to good governance protocols. Written papers are circulated with the agenda 48 hours before meetings with a proposed resolution included for consideration.
- ◇ Robust discussion is encouraged and all views respected – it's about the betterment of our AMC.
- ◇ Conflicting views are voiced with respect and must centre on the subject and not any individual
- ◇ Committee confidentiality is vital and key discussion points will be documented in meeting minutes

## BEST PRACTICE GUIDE

There are some best practices tips based on recommended by 'Personify' an NFP advisory body, to ensure our committees functions the best it can.

### 1. Diversify who is on our committee

New members, reengaging members and anyone and everyone else should be encouraged to join committees.

### 2. Flexible committee member strengths

New members may have different skills and unique experiences that they bring to our organization to keep ideas current while experienced members may have broader knowledge. Both are important to growth.

### 3. Run efficient meetings

Running efficient, regular, and decisive meetings is truly vital. Having an agenda, keeping to a schedule, and having someone taking meeting minutes are essential.

### 4. Self-promote with reports of action and successes to members

Committee reports inform and encourage members and enables & encourages involvement.

### 5. Set deadlines for actionable items

### 6. Evaluate progress

# THE WORK IN LATE 2024-2025

**There has been so much incredible work performed in the last few months and at last, the AGM and Election are about to be called, so let's look at some of the incredible progress since September 2024 to grow and strengthen the AMC.**

- 1) Training has been developed for Committee members to assist and guide potential nominees ensuring a healthy and capable committee into the future.
- 2) A new Public Officer was appointed and registered with Fair Trading, along with a new address.
- 3) Though as far back as 2016, it was realised that a new Constitution was needed, and despite there being several attempts, it was finally in late 2024 that a fast-acting, Constitution Sub-Committee, rewrote the AMC Objects, Code of Conduct, and Constitution, all of which were approved by members on 8 January 2025 and were immediately registered with Fair Trading.- an overdue and much needed step forward.
- 4) At the AGM, the Treasurer and the President will present not just the 23/24 financial reports but there will be reports for the previous 5 years correcting a lapse in compliances.
- 5) ATO records are in the process of update and correction.
- 6) The failed website created by the 2023 Committee was closed and the new website is an entirely new build with SEO and increased functionality including online voting for Constitution and the AGM – but more is yet to come.
- 7) All AMC records are being migrated to one location on the new AMC website to enable better and more convenient access for all members but with an offline backup for security.
- 8) The use of official AMC email addresses has been instigated to enhance professionalism, meet industry standards and ensure there is a record of official communication.
- 9) There is continued and expanded Member support through the addition of more regions and local meetings, on-line education sessions, and our social media groups.
- 10) The recruiting and promoting of committee positions began well before the AGM and all members should consider nominating.
- 11) The current AMC committee has actively began looking for opportunities for sponsorship,

reduced cost and grant support as a not-for-profit association, and so identifying financial and administrative opportunities for building a healthier and stronger AMC

- 12) The current committee is investigating the introduction of Celebrant Industry Awards to promote Australian Celebrants. You'll hear more at the AGM.
- 13) Opportunities are being acted upon to better promote AMC Celebrants, not only nationwide but internationally to make Australia, with AMC members, a more sought-after wedding destination.
- 14) The AGM, though postponed, has been called at an appropriate time with Fair Trading approval, to ensure proper compliance while seeking a new cohesive, energetic and active Committee for the benefit of all AMC Members.
- 15) Additional insurances are being obtained for the AMC as an association to protect member assets and the AMC

**So overall, the AMC is leaping forward ensuring professionalism and representation for the benefit of members.**

**So much has been achieved in a very short time, giving the soon to be elected 2025 committee a clean slate and solid foundation to continue the momentum in confidence.**

**So much more can yet be achieved with your support, involvement and action.**

AMC needs to be vibrant, forward thinking, communicative and strategic to revitalise and strengthen its value to Members and to the marrying public.

Every Member, each one of you, has of course, personal demands including operating your own small business, involvement with your families and friends, as well as keeping up with other personal interests and challenges, and so volunteering can be a personal challenge but ...

- **this is YOUR Association!**
- **this is Your committee.**
- **Our AMC Committee is made up of volunteers from among YOU.**

If you have skills or talent in a particular area, let it be known. We can use your help, your ideas and your assistance. It is time to step up.

**Be positive and be proactive.  
We can do this together.**





## Examples of AMC Membership at work

After several names changes, AMC was incorporated 30 years ago and so this is sure to be a big year.

The Australian Marriage Celebrants Incorporated, (AMC) is an Association that provides benefits and support for marriage celebrants in Australia as well as connecting couples to Celebrants while promoting Civil Celebrancy nationally and internationally.

Joining this professional marriage celebrant association gives access to valuable support, resources, insurances, and networking opportunities. There is even access and support for Student Celebrants.

Being a part of AMC enhances your professional standing and development, helps you stay connected with the industry, and enables access to relevant information and guidance for your celebrant work.

Australian Marriage Celebrants (AMC) celebrants are not just experienced professionals who can provide valuable assistance to each other and to couples in creating and planning the perfect marriage ceremony but mentor upcoming and new Celebrants.

Members have diverse expertise and collaborate to create and bring ideas to life. AMC has valuable resources, educational materials, and a strong community network to encourage and enhance Celebrant knowledge and professionalism.

The monthly education sessions are free to members and are exceptional, but there is also support via dedicated Facebook pages, newsletters and of course via Regional Coordinators.



Twice this week, I have reached out to knowledgeable and knowing people and they have both gone above and beyond to assist.

I have an upcoming Wedding in an area Lou knows well. He not only provided me with answers, but sent links to information and phoned to help further. He was very helpful with his great knowledge of the area, issues with tides and I was able to pass all this information to my couple.

A selfless and appreciated gesture with my deep gratitude to you, Lou.

The second assistance this week.

I have just held a Marriage in the ACT and I reached out to the wonderful Eileen Dunstone, after trying to research how to register my Couple.

Eileen from the ACT talked me through the process and explained the next steps to expect. I really appreciated her taking my call and explaining everything so very well.

**Leanne McKay**

When I was ill, or couldn't travel, AMC members stepped up immediately to help out. Ceremonies went ahead without issue. I have been able to refer about 6 ceremonies to others in the past 8 months and it has been reciprocated.

I had a call late at night when a Celebrant travelled hours from home but on arrival found something had accidentally been left behind. I was able to provide phone support to guide the Celebrant to a local supplier and the ceremony continued without problem.

If I ever have a problem with equipment or a ceremony I know I can get help and I know that I have been able to assist others. We work together.

What a great community of Celebrants we have!

**Lou Szymkow**

# AMC COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

## AMC Committee Functions

It is the duty of all Committee Members to carry out their functions for the benefit of AMC with due care and diligence and without conflict/s of interest, perceived or otherwise.

Subject to the Act, the Regulation, this Constitution, the Objects, Code of Conduct, AMC Policies and procedures and any resolution passed by AMC in general meeting, the volunteer committee:

- a) is to control and manage the affairs of AMC and
- b) actively maintain an AMC conflicts of interest register and
- c) may exercise all the functions other than a function that is required by this Constitution to be exercised by an AMC general meeting and
- d) ensures that no Executive or Committee Member or Celebrant Member transacts any business on behalf of AMC that has not been delegated in writing by the Committee and
- e) has power to do all things that are necessary for the proper management of AMC affairs and
- f) must ensure that all AMC Policies are reviewed and transparent to Members in accordance with the **AMC Policies and Procedures Policy** and
- g) shall ensure that any confidential Association matters are handled with diplomacy and in line with **Committee Confidentiality and associated policies**
- h) shall meet a minimum of four (4) times each year, or more often if required and
- i) must transact its business by the circulation of agendas and business papers to all Committee Members with due notice.

## Composition of the Committee

The AMC **Committee** comprises of:

- a President,
- Vice President,
- Secretary,
- Treasurer and
- at least 3-7 other Celebrant Members.

## Roles of Committee Members

### ⇒ **President**

The role of the President is to:

- a) manage and chair AMC Committee and general meetings (except AGM elections), prioritise agenda items; set time limits, lead the meeting through the agenda; note any motions and amendments (with the Secretary); and put these to vote as required.

b) ensure with other Committee Members, that the Constitution, Act, Regulations, Objects, Code of Conduct, policies and procedures and any other funding and/or agreements that the AMC has agreed to, are met and upheld.

c) be a Member of sub-committees as required and

d) act as the AMC spokesperson or appoint an approved nominee/s to act as spokesperson/s.

### ⇒ **Secretary**

The role of the Secretary, or nominated delegate, is to ensure that all records of Association business including the Constitution, correspondence, agendas and minutes of all Committee meetings, AGMs, Special General and General Meetings and sub-committees are accurately recorded, properly actioned, filed electronically and managed as a permanent record.

Minutes must be kept in written or electronic form and made available to Celebrant Members in accordance with Clause 35.

### ⇒ **Vice-President**

The role of the Vice-President is to assist the President and other Committee Members as required. The Vice-President is to preside as chairperson at each Committee or General Meeting in the absence of the President.

### ⇒ **Treasurer**

The role of the Treasurer is to ensure that:

- a) all monies received are promptly paid into an AMC account and appropriate receipts issued.
- b) all payments are made via any legal means available and authorised by two signatories who have been approved by the Committee and endorsed on records of the Association's financial institution/s.
- c) that any major or unusual expenditure shall be authorised in advance by the Committee and in accordance with the **AMC Financial Controls Policy** and
- d) ensure that correct records and accounts are kept and updated.

### ⇒ **General Committee members**

As mentioned at the start of this article, it is the duty of all Committee Members to carry out their functions for the benefit of AMC with due care and diligence and without conflict/s of interest, perceived or otherwise.

General Committee members are invaluable creating ideas, representing member views, passing motions, acting upon resolutions, taking part in sub-committees, assisting & advising the executive and furthering the interests of the AMC at all times.

# Our Amazing AMC Regional Coordinators



Sally Ann Thomas

Fiona Clowes

Lesley Thorne

Annette Boyle



Michaela Macdonald

Carolyn Clarke

Marion Way

Lou Szymkow

CENTRAL COAST NSW

SYDNEY SOUTH WEST NSW

ALBURY / RIVERINA | NSW / VIC

SOUTH COAST NSW



Craig Moran

Phil Timbrell

Liz Taylor

Simone Lewis-Cocks

SYDNEY SOUTH / SHIRE NSW

SYDNEY WEST / BLUE MOUNTAINS NSW

SYDNEY NORTHERN BEACHES NSW

SYDNEY HILLS DISTRICT NSW



Ash Reynolds

Ilana McCorquodale

Ross Wellings

Lyndal Johnston

SYDNEY INNER WEST NSW

SYDNEY EAST NSW

SYDNEY NORTH NSW

NEWCASTLE / UPPER HUNTER NSW



Leanne McKay

Teresa Farhart

Bridget Smith

Paul Munro

ILLAWARRA NSW

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS NSW

MID NORTH COAST NSW

PERTH WA



Donna Susan Sharp

Tracey Bradbery

Eileen Dunstone

Kate Hingston

REGIONAL WEST NSW

TAMWORTH / NEW ENGLAND NSW

CANBERRA ACT

MELBOURNE VIC



Georgina Bickley

Erin Conway

Frances Driessen

ADELAIDE SA

DARWIN NT

HOBART TAS



## Melissa Sheehy

SNOWY MOUNTAINS NSW

These people are our Amazing AMC (Australian Marriage Celebrants) Regional Coordinators. They are professionals who provide support, guidance, and coordination for celebrants within specific regions across Australia as they selflessly devote their time and energy to helping other Celebrants, and bettering the AMC.

Melissa Sheehy recently moved from the South Coast to the Snowy Mountains and gladly took up the newly created position of Snowy Mountains Coordinator.

**We all wish her immense success.**

As we look across the images, we see some incredible talent. There are former and perhaps future committee members and maybe even a new President among them.

Their phone numbers and contact details are on the webpage and so you might consider giving them a call to offer your encouragement and support in their efforts or perhaps seek their advice on your own nomination for the new committee to be elected at the AGM on 18th March 2025 but remember if you want to nominate someone for the committee, you need to seek their permission first.

To learn how to **nominate** for the committee and what responsibilities are involved, you can attend one or both of the special information sessions on zoom as follows:

- **7:30pm EST, Thurs 6th March 2025**
- **7:00pm EST, Mon 10th March 2025**

Click on this link to **nominate** yourself or another to the new AMC committee.



# Letters to the Editor



Once again I have to let you know how much I truly appreciate your Newsletters. It is always like catching up with a friend and covering a wide range of topics,

The article by Sharon is an important one and I would like to see this “history” passed on to all new celebrants as they have no idea how things have evolved over the years “for better and for worse” . We do have to keep moving forward and raising the bar for our profession.

I also know how much time and effort you (& Joy) have dedicated to AMC and even though I am currently not in a position to take on any new roles I remain totally supportive of AMC and celebrancy. Thank you for your dedication and hard work.

Warmly

Di McDonald

Enjoy reading your wonderful newsletter so well invigorated with the volume of news items. My admiration to you as I know from experience the time and effort required to produce such a quality newsletter

Barry H Young

Many thanks Lou for another great newsletter. Really enjoyed the articles from Sharon Swinbourne and also the Police Prayer. There are several variations of the prayer I've heard over the years - each very special.

Melissa Sheehy

The articles from Sharon and Barbara are reminders of how much celebrancy and technology have changed!

Kind regards

Joy Allen

## AMC Membership benefits:

- Both Professional indemnity & Public Liability Insurance
- CAL Copyright Protection
- Full profile page on the AMC website
- Website Business Promotion
- Celebrant Support Forums
- Social media pages to promote our members
- Free monthly online education sessions for members
- Access to regional coordinators Australia-wide
- Resources, guidelines, templates, and other materials
- Networking and Community
- Advocacy and Representation
- Professional Recognition
- Representation to the Coalition of Celebrant Associations (CoCA)
- Representation to the Attorney General via MLCS Meeting
- **A new Industry Awards system coming soon!**



AUSTRALIAN  
**MARRIAGE**  
CELEBRANTS

## *A Love Poem*

By Lou Szymkow 14/2/2000

Though the years have gone by, it must seem  
but a second  
since you had that first kiss and your love began  
to beckon,  
His smile attracted you,  
Her beauty inspired you,

Just a glance warmed your heart,  
and the mere thought of each other  
kept you swooning even when apart,

You still yearn for a sweet caress,  
a gentle kiss of finesse  
those tender lips to thine,  
your souls forever entwined  
heart and soul and mind,

and when the world is full of plight  
there is still a gentle kiss goodnight,  
and all those worries turn to solutions  
and you know,  
all will be all right.



The wonderful Barbara Bell is a regularly contributor to this newsletter. Full of life and laughter, she has retired from Celebrancy but with so many years of experience, she has happily and generously shares some of her knowledge, wisdom and a story or two. In this issue, we read about her effort to gain authorisation and of an unexpected event at a wedding.

## THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY, (REALLY?)

Becoming a Marriage celebrant is *sooooo*----- exciting. (well, it was for me anyway).

In later years when I was training applicants to become marriage celebrants, when they complained of having to wait for an appointment, I would tell them that I waited 20 years before I was appointed. They thought I was exaggerating. I would assure them that I was telling the truth. In the early days it seemed to me to be a case of not what you knew but who you knew. Of course, that is a statement that has never been confirmed and may be just what I surmised.

In the earliest days of celebrancy applicants would be appointed to an area that the government decided could support a celebrant. A lady in the very next suburb to me was given the appointment rather than me. I was disappointed but determined to follow the path to becoming a celebrant. I applied many times over the 20-year lapse until at last I obtained my appointment. Perhaps they got sick of reading my repetitive applications. Nevertheless, I achieved the vaulted position with exuberance. I thought I would be assisting couples as a community service. However, when I also was informed that I would be paid the high sum of \$35 from the Attorney Generals Celebrant's department in charge of celebrancy I was really impressed. How things have changed.

When the legal approval comes we gear up to give our all to the brides and grooms. Now you have been appointed, every wedding you conduct will be perfect and lovely with no mishaps at all. I don't think that many new appointees in past years, and perhaps even today, thought conducting a wedding was such a legal procedure. The glamour role came first then the legalities came second. Some people applied because they thought it would be a position that would financially sustain them when they retired. Some thought it would be a profitable sideline.

The glamour side supported that all brides were going to

be amenable and sweet but long-term celebrants have come across some brides who were very unpleasant and this showed up in the reaction of the guests as well. The belief that all weddings would be great experiences and happy occasions was at times very unrealistic. Most are, but some do not meet our expectations.

At one of my weddings in Camellia Gardens, a popular wedding site, I turned into the road leading to the venue and was being followed by a police car with its siren blasting everyone in the area.



I wondered what I had done to incur their service. But it wasn't me they were after. When I pulled up in the car park, I saw a man sitting on the low metal fence leading into the wedding garden. He was apparently naked. Further investigation revealed that he was indeed almost naked, and his only clothing garb was his colourful underpants.

When I reached the wedding party, I mentioned that there



was a man outside on the railing, only to be informed that he was the intended best man to the groom. He had arrived at the venue drunk and was dressed in a hired suit for the wedding. Because the suit was hired, the groom and his other friends undressed him so that the suit would not be damaged in any way. This sight of a near naked man in his underpants had caused someone, I never found out who complained to the police who were coming to arrest him. I am not sure if any of the guests knew what was going on, but I just continued on my way to conduct the ceremony. After it had finished and congratulations were given, everyone began to go to their cars parked in the parking lot and there was no sign of the man, nor of the police.

**Motto; expect the unexpected.**

# WEDDINGS OF THE PAST

You could easily think that this photo is of a European aristocracy but the photo, now found at the National Library of Australia Trove, Australian Pictures, was actually taken in August 1897 at the Cameron and Taylor Family Wedding, at St. Anne's Church, Ryde & Meadowbank, NSW.

Cameras of the day did not have the high speed shutters and instant digital recording of today. The photographic process probably included the camera operator coating a glass plate with light sensitive silver salts and egg white solution. The plate was installed into a the camera body and the shutter was left open for a short period of time while the image was imbedded by light, onto the plate.

That meant that not only was the photograph expensive but that the subjects had to remain absolutely still for an extended period and so people did not smile, but instead kept stern face while motionless.

[Photographic Processes](#) | [Development Services](#)



Back row L - R: Donald Allan Cameron, William Francis Digges La Touche (child), Mrs. Katherine La Touche, William Robert Digges La Touche, S.I. Fyson, Mrs. Ernest Macartney De Burgh (Constance Mary nee Yeo), and Mr. Blair  
 Front row L - R: Margaret Fyson, Mildred Fyson, Dr. John Alexander Cameron, Elizabeth Taylor (Mrs J.A. Cameron), and Katie Cameron.

Back row L - R: Donald Allan Cameron, William Francis Digges La Touche (child), Mrs. Katherine La Touche, William Robert Digges La Touche, S.I. Fyson, Mrs. Ernest Macartney De Burgh (Constance Mary nee Yeo), and Mr. Blair  
 Front row L - R: Margaret Fyson, Mildred Fyson, Dr. John Alexander Cameron, Elizabeth Taylor (Mrs J.A. Cameron), and Katie Cameron.



## "A Couple In Semi Drag Wedding Attire";

Budapest, Hungary. Circa 1920.

This photo is of a lesbian couple from Hungary. At the time, a relationship between two men was illegal, but nothing in legislation talked about women. People held the notion that women did not engage in such acts and deliberately avoided speaking about the matter. Being gay was decriminalized only in 1961 in Hungary, so these women were probably some of the few who were brave enough to marry.

Their choice of fashion is nothing we've seen before. They challenged gender norms before it was acceptable. We wonder if they would choose to wear these half dress half suit outfits if they got married today. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/news/11-fascinating-photos-from-history/ss-BB1oieDD?ocid=IE11FREDHP>



*Stanislaw Szymkow* and *Maria Marmulewicz* met in a repatriation camp in Germany. As a teenager, Maria had been taken by Nazi soldiers with all of the teenagers from her Polish village and put into forced labour in Germany. Once liberated at the end of World War II, the workers were housed in segregated repatriation camps and the couple met through the fence that divided them. They married in the Catholic Church in Ettlingen, Germany and later repatriated to Australia seeking a better life as they escaped the devastated post-war Europe.



## NSW ReportCyber Referral Team

If you require urgent assistance, contact Triple Zero (000)

For crisis support, contact Lifeline (13 11 14) Beyondblue (1300 224 636)

Kids Helpline (1800 55 1800) eSafety (1800 880 176) iDcare (1300 432 273)



**As Celebrants, we often purchase goods online, from PA batteries to stationery or gifts and decorations, and some Celebrants also sell items online to boost income. There are laws to protect the consumer but we always have to be cautious. The following advice comes from the NSWReportCyber Referral Team.**

### Shopping online

Online businesses selling goods and services must:

- ensure products and services meet Australian safety regulations
- not mislead you or hide costs and other details from you
- compete fairly to ensure a variety of choices on quality and price
- give you automatic guarantees with the right to ask for a repair, replacement, refund, cancellation or compensation as appropriate if there is a problem
- have the right to sell you a product—it mustn't be stolen and must belong to the business or individual and not come with any outstanding debts.

### Shopping online with an overseas business

If you buy from an online seller based overseas, you should be aware that you may experience practical difficulties in obtaining a remedy from them.

If your seller is based overseas and writing to them doesn't resolve your problem, try asking the [consumer protection agency](#) in their country if it can help.

<https://www.ftc.gov/policy/international/competition-consumer-protection-authorities-worldwide>

Scamwatch website provides tips on how to spot [online shopping scams](#).

Also, you should be aware of your rights when [buying](#)

[parallel imports](#) online (i.e. products that you buy from a seller who does not have specific permission from the manufacturer to sell those products in the Australian marketplace).

### Protecting your online shopping rights

These tips will help protect your rights when shopping online.

1. Only consider buying from online sellers in Australia or overseas that:
  - ◇ have a good reputation
  - ◇ display clear processes for solving problems and giving replacements and refunds
  - ◇ display clear systems for protecting the security and privacy of your personal and financial details
  - ◇ display their business registration number, phone and fax numbers and physical address.
2. Before buying, check terms and conditions carefully so you know what you're paying for and that there are no hidden costs or restrictions.
3. Before you start, ensure your computer, tablet or phone is secure by installing or updating security and anti-virus software.
4. Shop around. Ask questions and ask for pictures so you know what you are getting. Compare prices on different sites.
5. Before paying:
  - ◇ beware of sellers asking for your bank PIN or password. Never buy from these sellers. Report them to the ACCC.
  - ◇ check that the site is secure. It should have a padlock symbol and an address starting with https://
  - ◇ ensure that you can check the progress of your order online
  - ◇ consider using a third-party escrow agent to pay for valuable items as they'll hold the payment in trust until you receive and accept the item.
6. Keep copies of all documents, including electronic records of auction bids, item descriptions, emails and receipts in case there is a problem later.
7. If there is a problem, email the seller outlining the issue and how you want it resolved.

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### NSW ReportCyber Referral Team

If you require urgent assistance, contact Triple Zero (000)  
For crisis support, contact Lifeline (13 11 14) Beyondblue (1300 224 636)  
Kids Helpline (1800 55 1800) eSafety (1800 880 176) iDcare (1300 432 273)

8. If you paid by credit card and you did not receive the product or service, contact your bank and ask them to reverse an unauthorised charge.

Breaches of contract and debt recovery between businesses and private parties may be a matter for the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission ACCC. Please visit the website to obtain more information.

<https://www.accc.gov.au/consumers/complaints-problems>

The following are the national official sites for Australian civil consumer protection:

#### New South Wales:

<https://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/>

#### Australian Capital Territory:

<https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au>

#### Northern Territory:

<https://consumeraffairs.nt.gov.au/>

#### Queensland:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/law/fair-trading>

#### South Australia:

<https://www.cbs.sa.gov.au/>

#### Tasmania:

<https://www.cbos.tas.gov.au/>

#### Victoria:

<https://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/>

#### Western Australia:

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/consumer-protection>



## CYBER SECURITY BEST PRACTICES

Cyber threats are on the rise. To protect your business from hackers, scammers and online attackers, enrol in the free [Introduction to Cyber Security](#) course from [IAT Digital](#) and [TAFE NSW](#).

There are many other digital courses you might also find useful:

- [Introduction to Cloud Computing](#)
- [Introduction to Data Analytics](#)
- [Introduction to SQL](#)
- [Introduction to Linux](#)



### Include \$ymbol\$ and Num6er5 in all your passwords

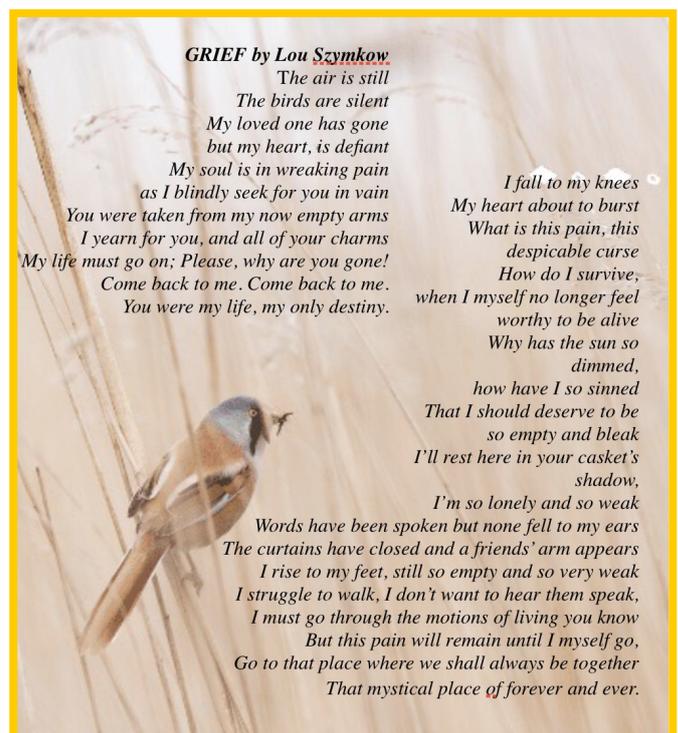
Make it harder for hackers to crack your passwords. Replace some letters with symbols, make others capitals, and add some numbers.

Unexpected characters instantly make a password stronger.



### Protect your business intellectual property

The logo, brand name, design or invention you created to help your business stand out is called your **Intellectual Property (IP)**. To make sure no one else can claim ownership of your IP, you can register a trade mark, patent or some other legal protection. Use **IP Australia's** free [Choosing the right IP tool](#) to quickly identify what type of protection your unique creations need.





# More Police Prayers

In the last edition, you read a Police Prayer contributed by Barry H Young. Here are a few more that might be of interest.

## Police Ode

By West Australia Police Senior Sergeant Des Noonan & West Australian Police Chaplain, Reverend Barry May, in 1995

As the sun surely sets,  
dawn will see it arise.  
For service above self,  
demands it's own prize.  
You have fought the good fight,  
life's race has been run,  
and peace, your reward,  
for eternity begun.  
And we that are left,  
shall never forget,  
rest in peace friend and colleague,  
for sun has now set.  
We will remember, We will remember,  
hasten the dawn.

## The Police Prayer (Nation Police Museum)

By Author unknown

God of all people, we know it is from you that we have learned what goodness and justice are. You have given us the task of maintaining law and order in our community. We seek the strength to meet the many challenges encountered in this endeavour. Give us the courage and the resolution to do our duty at all times, and such a respect and love for justice that neither promise nor threat will ever make us depart from it. Help us with your guidance to be the Guardian and the Friend of the whole community; a friend to children, an example to youth, a counsellor and adviser to all citizens. Grant us the skill, and the wisdom, to make us always stronger in protecting and supporting the community. Guide us in knowing when to enforce and when to relax the letter of the law. Help us to be a personal example of the honesty, the goodness, and the justice which it is our duty to maintain, and grant that our actions will inspire in our community confidence in its police officers. We make our prayer to you, confident of your love and your compassion.  
Amen

## The Final Inspection

By Author Unknown

The policeman stood and faced his God,  
Which must always come to pass.  
He hoped his shoes were shining.  
Just as brightly as his brass.  
"Step forward now, policeman.  
How shall I deal with you?  
Have you always turned the other cheek?  
To My church have you been true?"  
The policeman squared his shoulders and said,  
"No, Lord, I guess I ain't,  
Because those of us who carry badges  
can't always be a saint.  
I've had to work most Sundays,  
and at times my talk was rough,  
and sometimes I've been violent,  
Because the streets are awfully tough.  
But I never took a penny,  
That wasn't mine to keep....  
Though I worked a lot of overtime  
When the bills got just too steep.  
And I never passed a cry for help,  
Though at times I shook with fear.  
And sometimes, God forgive me,  
I've wept unmanly tears.  
I know I don't deserve a place  
Among the people here.  
They never wanted me around  
Except to calm their fear.  
If you've a place for me here,  
Lord, It needn't be so grand.  
I never expected or had too much,  
But if you don't.....I'll understand.  
There was silence all around the throne  
Where the saints had often trod.  
As the policeman waited quietly,  
For the judgment of his God.  
"Step forward now, policeman,  
You've borne your burdens well.  
Come walk a beat on Heaven's streets,  
You've done your time in hell.



# EXPANSION OF MARRIAGE SERVICES BY THE NSW REGISTRY OF BIRTHS DEATHS & MARRIAGES

## Article by SHARON SWINBOURNE

Sharon is a well known Civil Marriage Celebrant and former Assistant Registrar, in the Registration Services of NSW BDM. As such, she offers her unique insiders' knowledge of BDM history and processes.



The NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages (BDM) have been conducting in-house marriage services for many years. In 2014, they began to expand their marriage services by using external venues. This has now progressed further, and BDM now have permanent full time positions for marriage celebrants. Many civil celebrants have raised concerns about this expansion, and do not know the history of how it came about. I worked at NSW BDM for 16 years, and as the Assistant Registrar, Registration Services, I was involved in the first phase of this expansion.

### ⇒ Registry Celebrants

All BDM staff were able to perform marriages for friends and relatives outside the Registry but could not charge for their services. Around 2005, the then Registrar tightened this practice, so that only those who performed marriages as part of their normal duties could perform external marriage services. This included staff on the weekend roster, and some senior managers. A submission to the Registrar was required seeking written permission to perform the ceremony and specifying no payment of any type would be accepted. Failure to abide by these requirements would result in disciplinary action, particularly if it was proven that a staff member took any payment for a service.

Early in 2014 the Crown Solicitor's Office advised Registry marriage officers should be paid overtime when performing marriages outside normal business hours and at outside venues for friends and family. As most of the Registry's income was being poured into the implementation of LifeLink, there was no justification for funding unnecessary overtime. A decision was made to no longer allow staff to perform these types of marriage ceremonies. I do not know if the current Registrar revoked this decision

and what the policies are at this time.

### ⇒ Service NSW, closure of regional offices and redundancies

When the lease for BDM Wollongong was due to expire, another location was



being sought. At the same time, Service NSW were setting up a branch in Wollongong. The costs involved in the relocation of BDM Wollongong could not be justified, especially when Service NSW

would be taking over much of the operations. Also, the government were about to offer redundancies to general scale and Clerk Grade 1/2 staff. The Registrar had no option but to close Wollongong because he



**His statistics on redundancy were so compelling, I had to read them over and over again.**

couldn't justify the expenditure of a relocation to the Director- General and the Minister. Wollongong staff were offered redundancies and those who chose not to take one were relocated to the Sydney office. Public Service Association (PSA) were not in favour of the closure, and concerns were raised about the lack of Registry marriage services in the area. In order to secure agreement from the PSA, the Registrar undertook to ensure Registry marriages would still be available in the Wollongong area at various venues. Remaining staff who lived in the Wollongong area but who were relocated to the Sydney office would be given first option to perform a weekend wedding at one of these venues. A temporary position was created to undertake the project of sourcing suitable venues in the area where Registry marriages could be performed. Three venues were found – the Old Wollongong Court House and two other big hotels (I cannot remember which ones).

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### ⇒ Expansion of marriage services

At this time, an edict came from the then NSW government that all cost centres were (again) to increase their revenue and minimise expenditure. NSW BDM was and still is a self-funding organisation. The Registry does not receive any funding from the government but must generate its own revenue by selling certificates and performing marriages. In fact, the government receives a dividend from the Registry each year which it calculates based on the previous year's income. BDM operates with the balance after the dividend is paid. Also, the government viewed BDM a good source of revenue so encouraged as much expansion as possible.

There were two ways to increase revenue – increase certificate prices or perform more marriages. Certificate prices increase each year in line with the CPI. Any proposal to increase over the CPI would never be approved by Cabinet. So that left marriage services.

The Registrar was being pressured to report back to the Minister how BDM were going to increase revenue, so he viewed the expansion of marriage services as a good option. The expansion in Wollongong had already proven that BDM could successfully perform marriages outside the Registry, so there was no reason the same couldn't happen in Sydney.

Eventually the Sydney office entered into an arrangement with Sydney Living Museums to perform marriages at Elizabeth Farm at Parramatta, Elizabeth Bay House and Vacluse House. Registry officers would perform these marriages both during the week and on the weekend.

Keith Lammond was contracted to train the Registry marriage staff so that they were at the same standard as civil celebrants. The training was still continuing after I retired, although Keith did advise later not many of the staff went on to complete the course and gain their Cert IV qualification. As far as I know, these staff were the only ones offered this

training. Greg Curry left BDM shortly after this time, and as far as I know any further training was provided internally.

When I retired from BDM in May 2014, the Newcastle office was closing and the arrangement with Sydney Living Museums was continuing to gain popularity. Performing ceremonies at venues at Wollongong was also proving successful.

### ⇒ Further expansion in 2021

The decision to further expand marriage services by NSW BDM comes as no surprise because the more revenue BDM generates, the better the dividend to



the government. It is therefore unlikely that any NSW government would support BDM discontinuing this part of their business. The positions of marriage celebrants recently created are full time public service salaried positions. I don't have any other information on what the duties of the position entails.

### ⇒ Legislative problems

Logic would dictate if BDM wish to provide marriage services outside Registry premises and operating hours, their celebrants should be obliged to meet the same requirements regarding registration, qualifications, ongoing training and accountability as marriage celebrants. After all, they are providing the same service as civil celebrants.

The problem lies within the *Marriage Act (Cwth) 1961*. S39 (3 dot points) of the Act provides that state and territory officers are authorised to perform marriages within Australia. However, requirements are very different for civil marriage celebrants. These are outlined in S39C-39J (7 pages of requirements). There is a huge gap in the obligations of civil celebrants and those of state and territory celebrants, even though they are undertaking the same service. The costs are irrelevant – they are still performing marriages under the *Marriage Act (Cwth) 1961*

### ⇒ Roles of Associations

Associations have the opportunity to at least raise the issue with the Attorney-General's Department. An example of questions that could be submitted are below:

- Are NSW BDM Marriage Celebrants required to attain a Cert IV in Celebrancy? If not, why not?
- Are NSW BDM Marriage Celebrants required to undertake the same amount and standards of ongoing professional development as civil celebrants? If not, why not?

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- Is NSW BDM required to pay a registration fee of \$240 per annum for each marriage celebrant? If not, why not?
- If a NSW BDM Marriage Celebrant breaches the Marriage Act in any way, who are they accountable to, and can they potentially be deregistered as can happen to civil celebrants?
- Why does the *Marriage Act (Cwth)* 1961 not have the same requirements State and Territory celebrants as civil celebrants in terms of qualifications, ongoing professional development, registration and disciplinary matters, even though both are providing the same service to the public?

### ⇒ Concerns

Civil Marriage Celebrants have raised concerns in a few forums about this expansion by BDM. While it is true NSW BDM is competing with Commonwealth civil celebrants, they are still not offering the same quality of service. BDM celebrants have no relationship with the couple and there are still limitations in time, script and music. It is still a "registry" wedding, just at a different venue. These facts could be used in marketing strategies by civil celebrants. Changes to legislation is difficult, especially at Commonwealth level, but we can only try.

### ⇒ Conclusion

Over the years the focus of NSW BDM (and perhaps other BDM's) has shifted quite significantly. While core business of registering life events and producing accompanying certificates is still undertaken, many other avenues have opened up. Recording of existence of Wills, offering commemorative certificates, certificates in recognition of a loss of a baby, family history searching – to name a few.

Expansion of marriages is another avenue for the government to make money. The impact this has on civil marriage celebrants could be significant and as a profession, we are right to be concerned. Celebrants may have to accept this is not going to change, but they are still entitled to voice their concerns. And so they should.

Sharon Swinbourne  
Civil Marriage Celebrant and Funeral Celebrant.

## Sample complaint Letter

I am a civil marriage celebrant.

The NSW BDM latest newsletter states the Registry is excited about new structure and the efficiencies it will bring. 10 weeks to process a certificate amendment is disgraceful. Up to 10 days to respond to an email enquiry is not acceptable, especially when couples are waiting for certificates. Generally, NSW BDM has regressed significantly over the past 12 months. Processing times have increased, delays have increased; there is no direct line for anyone to ask a question; customers can't come to the Registry to apply for certificates or ask questions. Yes, we now have Service NSW but the staff there cannot possibly be expected to know the answers to every situation that may arise. I know many people who have been provided with incorrect information.

NSW BDM used to be one of the most customer friendly government organisations. It is so disappointing to see the organisation swallowed up into a department called "customer service" when the standards have declined so significantly. Of course, this is no fault of the staff but the governing body.

Sharon Swinbourne

### BDM COMPLAINTS ON THE RISE

There have been an increasing number of complaints about the NSW BDM since the transition to Service NSW. Major complaints includes the discontinuance of the Celebrant Help Line, lengthy delays in responding to email queries, extraordinary delays in processing corrections, BDM directly competing with Celebrants at venues, and a lack of training in BDM matters for Service NSW staff.

Some Celebrants have taken to writing complaints to their local members.

Phil Timbrell did just that when he discovered it would take 10 weeks for a simple correction to be made and at first it appeared that the corrected certificate was posted more quickly than 10 weeks however upon arrival, it was found that the replacement certificate had not been corrected at all. Recently a Shortening of Time was applied for but it took too long with the result that a party was deceased before approval could be obtained.

An error was made in data entry but was recognised by the Celebrant immediately following submission and a correction was requested by email however the email was not read for three days and by that time the OMC was posted with the error. It will now take 10 weeks to correct and the certificate has to be posted back.

Further examples are being gathered and submission are being organised but consider writing your own letter of complaint to your local member.

# MIPRO 12 VOLT SLA BATTERIES AND CHARGE

article by Lou Szymkon, edited by Phil Timbrell



Many PAs, including some Mipros, run on Sealed Lead Acid (SLA) batteries. Though heavier and usually larger than Lithium batteries, they are durable, reliable and significantly cheaper than Lithium Ion batteries.

My spare batteries were over a year old on the garage shelf and when I finally installed

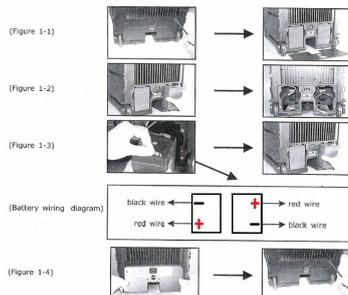
them into a Mipro708 but they were not holding the charge and so I went to buy replacements and found that Sealed Lead Acid (SLA) Battery pricing varied dramatically. Online, Mipro advertised 12V/5ah batteries at \$154 each and you of course you need two for a Mipro 707, 708 and 808. Battery World usually sells them at around \$120 per battery and so I tried my local Jaycar franchise where they had gone up from \$28 to \$42 however the Jaycar Australia webpage still had them listed at \$28. I happened to be heading to Sydney and so dropped into a Jaycar store and picked up a pair of 12V/5amphour batteries at only \$28 each.

Amps by the way are the unit of measure for the rate at which electrons, or an electrical current, flows through a circuit. A battery's power potential is measured by its amp-hours (Ah). The higher the Ah, the more charge the battery can store and thus provide a longer life between charges. My Ryobi 18V tools run more consistently on a 5amphour batteries than a 2.5 amphour battery.

To calculate an individual battery's capacity in terms of Ah, multiply amps with hours of discharge – for example 5A x 20h = 100Ah and so the 12V/5amp should last quite a while. Some webpages suggest some batteries might have a life of up to 10 years but we tend to replace batteries every 2-3 years.

When installing the new batteries, I was confused by the Mipro instruction sheet. It is essential that the read the small print and not just follow the diagram.

Mipro sealed 12 V, 4.5 AH lead-acid rechargeable



The red cable on the left connects to the red-positive terminal and the black cable on the right, connects to the black-negative terminal on the right. Batteries must be connected in series to increase voltage output from 12 to 24V, hence the white cable with a red connector at the right end, is a 'loop' connecting the negative terminal on the left with the positive terminal on the right.

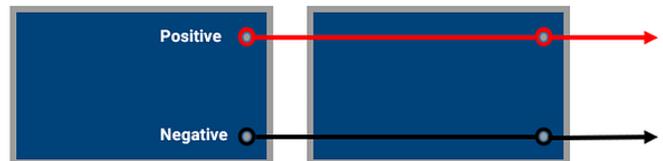
I remember that the Mipro 708 requires 24Volts to operate and that Mipro strongly advises users to only allow Mipro to replace batteries because connecting

the batteries incorrectly could damage your PA. A Mipro salesman said that Celebrants sometimes connect the battery wires incorrectly but this is what the Mipro Information sheet shows which appears to contradict the small print at the base of the instructions:



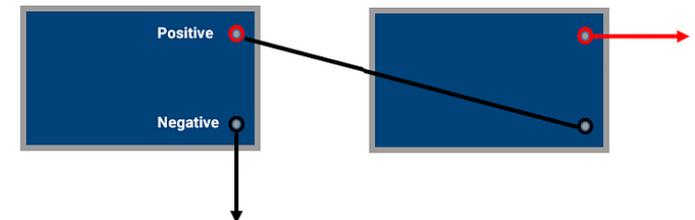
Looking at that Diagram, you would easily think that this is the battery configuration:

### CONNECTING BATTERIES IN PARALLEL



However that would give you only 12 Volts whereas your Mipro 707/708 requires 24 Volts and so the following configuration is how you get 24 Volts out of 2 X 12 volt batteries:

### CONNECTING BATTERIES IN SERIES



What the Mipro black and white diagram (I coloured it) doesn't show you is that to get the 24 Volts needed, the white coloured wire running internally from one battery to the other, has a black tip at one end and a red tip at the other. That is however mentioned only in the small print: at the bottom of the instruction sheet



I also picked up a 12V battery tester online to test my 'spares' that were not holding a charge given that the shelf life without recharging should have been a bit more than just 12 months. The battery tester revealed that one of the 'spare' batteries was no longer holding

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### MIPRO 12 VOLT SLA BATTERIES AND CHARGE

a full charge but the other was fine which means I could have gotten away with buying only one battery and so I now have that as a spare.

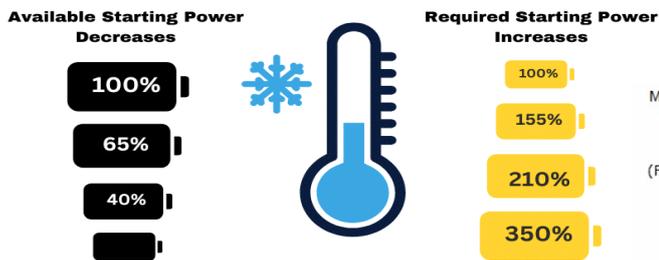
The battery tester incidentally required me to enter the CCA for the battery and I had no idea what a CCA was and it turns out that for Australia it is not especially relevant because Cold Cranking Amps (CCA) is more about how a heavy duty battery performs under colder climates as it measures a battery's ability to deliver a very large current, particularly when the battery is cold.. So maybe relevant to car batteries in areas where your car battery might very cold but not our PAs.



These charts helps explain the CCA rating scale:

#### Battery CCA Meaning Explained

When temperatures drop:



Power Supplied	Temperature	Power Required
100% (0% Drop)	27°C	Normal Power
65% (35% Drop)	0°C	150% More Power
40% (60% Drop)	-18°C	210% More Power

CCA tells you how many amps a 12-volt battery may support for 30 seconds at -17.8 degrees Celsius before the voltage drops to at least 7.2 volts per cell. CCA ratings are important in other colder countries, and it is usually displayed on the battery label to range from 100-850 or higher. The higher the rating number, the more power the battery delivers in colder temperatures. I though could not see a CCA on my PA batteries but this is because PA batteries are not designed to be used to deliver very high currents, as would be needed to start a car.

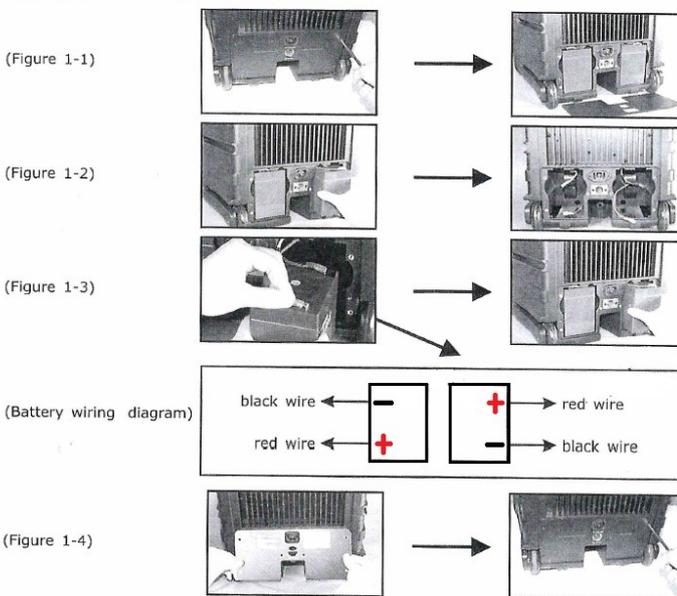
Generally, the higher the CCA rating, the longer the battery will last but, for high-heat climates like Australia, you don't need as much CCA unless you are in the mountains in winter I which case it might be relevant to starting your car.

Over the life of a battery, discharge-recharge reactions can happen thousands of times and each cycle wears out the internal plates a bit, and over time the lead deteriorates. As your battery loses capacity, the life of your battery decreases.

#### What all this tells us is that:

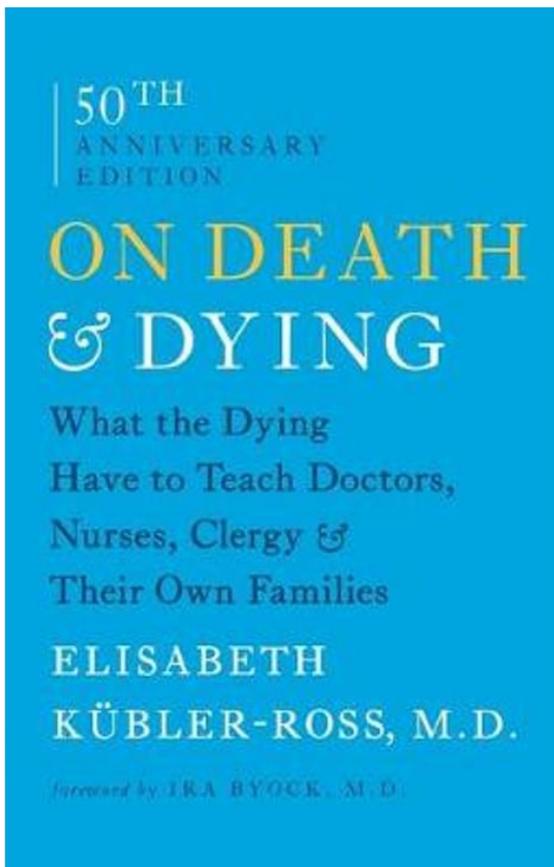
- Shop around for your batteries and you might pay considerably less (\$100 or more) for the exact same battery.
- Changing batteries yourself is not difficult. All you need is a Phillips head screw driver.
- Both batteries may not have the same life span and so both may not need to be replaced when PA power is low.
- keep your PA out of extreme temperatures and keep the batteries charged, and you will extend the life of your batteries.

Mipro sealed 12 V, 4.5 AH lead-acid rechargeable



The red cable on the left connects to the red/positive terminal and the black cable on the right, connects to the black/negative terminal on the right. Batteries must be connected in 'series' to increase voltage output from 12 to 24V, hence the white cable with a red connector at the right end, is a 'loop' connecting the negative terminal on the left with the positive terminal on the right.

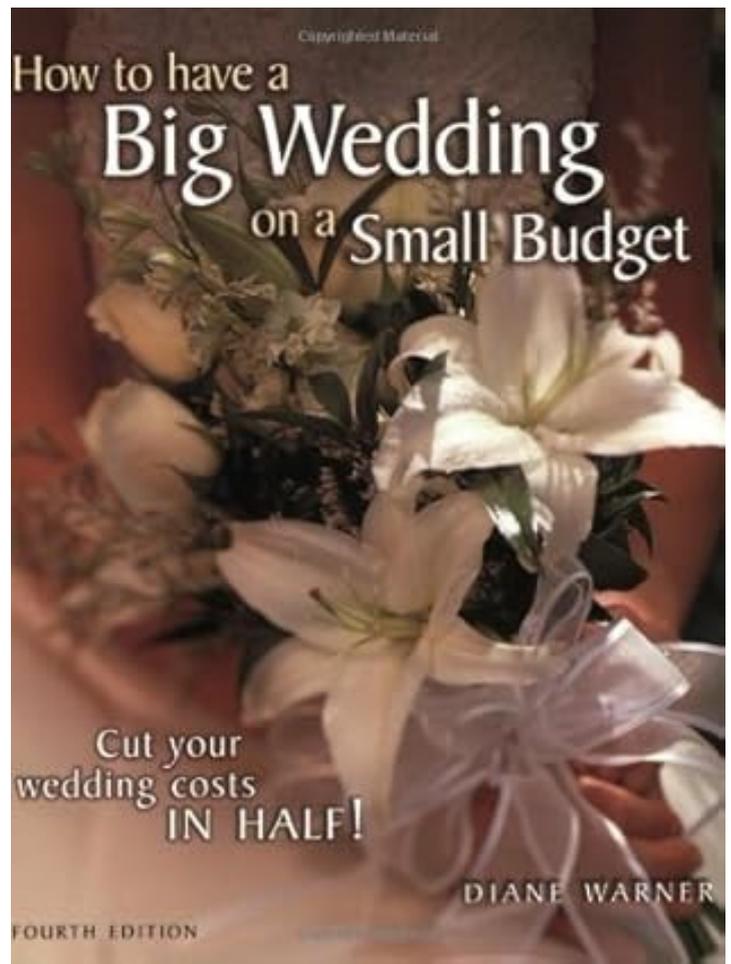




**This is essential reading for anyone involved in palliative care, and of course, the funeral industry, which includes Funeral Celebrants.**

It has now been 60 years since its original publication, but it is still an important text. It was a groundbreaking revelation of the five stages of grief and still regarded as one of the most important psychological studies of the late twentieth century. In this remarkable book, Dr. Kübler-Ross first explored the now-famous five stages of death: denial and isolation, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Through sample interviews and conversations, she gives readers a better understanding of how imminent death affects the patient, the professionals who serve that patient, and the patient's family, bringing hope to all who are involved.

It helps Celebrant understand grief and as Life Magazine described it *“A profound lesson for the living”*.

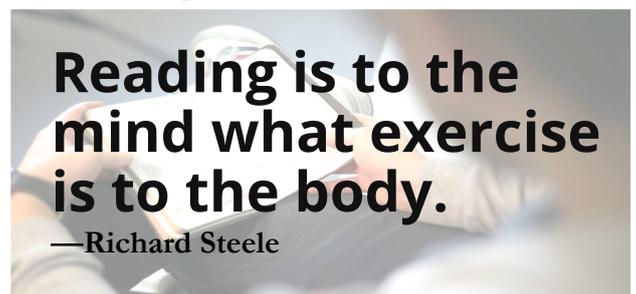


First published in 1990, I picked up a copy at an op-shop of 2002 publication. Though dated it still has some valid information as it covers all the trimmings, lovely decorations, wedding, and suggestions for as many as 300 guests for a buffet dinner. The pricing in the book is American and of course, being published in 2002, is well out of date, but still the ideas are interesting.

This book is loaded with money-saving tricks and organizing tips, as well as lots of encouragement, all designed to help you determine the budget for your wedding and to then stick to it.

There are creative, innovative ideas that will not only save you money, but make planning a wedding less stressful. There are even actual case histories of four weddings. You will find the 2002 wedding trends & tips interesting.

From a Celebrants' perspective, any knowledge about weddings is valuable.



# COORDINATOR COMMENTS



**WOW! What an exhausting few months.**

**February was the busiest month for ceremonies I have had for some time but I am actually referring to the AMC and so You will have to forgive me for including so much about the AMC in the last two**

newsletters. Remember that I originally created this newsletter just to keep NSW South Coast AMC members motivated and informed however it has grown and now there are subscribers all over Australia and even some overseas.

**It is always a pleasure reading the feedback and having subscribers contributing articles, that are of such great interest to all.**

**Working together and cheering for each other, helps improve Celebrancy.**

**Thank you for your ongoing readership and support.**

The reason for so much activity in regard to the AMC followed on from a failed attempt by some, to takeover of the AMC back in August 2024. That resulted in concerned and loyal AMC members, including myself, stepping up to defend and secure the AMC assets and our association as a whole.

Many people expressed support for action but what became evident was that there was far more work to be done than was originally evident or anticipated, to improve and revitalise the AMC.

Sadly it was found that successive committees had not acted with all due diligence and care and so there was a lot of work catchup work to be done.

The great news is that so much incredible effort over the subsequent months has resulted in incredible accomplishment to the point that the **NEW committee** to be elected at the **AGM on 18th March 2025** will have a clean slate to begin new growth and development for the benefit and future of AMC members.

AMC is now stronger, more secure and better placed than it has been for years.

**This is very exciting!!**

**For complete success though, we need a new committee.**

I thank the many people who have expressed their support for me to nominate as President but I have repeatedly explained that I am already the AMC Public Officer and so will not be nominating, though will be offering my ongoing support to the new committee and new President.

**So, I excitedly look forward to others nominating for all positions.**

**Who will you nominate as the new:**

- ◇ **President,**
- ◇ **Vice-President,**
- ◇ **Treasurer,**
- ◇ **Secretary, and**
- ◇ **General Committee members.**

**Click on this link to [nominate](#) yourself or another to the new committee.**

To learn more about how to [nominate](#) for the committee and what responsibilities are involved, you can attend one or both of the special information sessions on zoom as follows:

- **[7:30pm EST, Thurs 6th March 2025](#)**
- **[7:00pm EST, Mon 10th March 2025](#)**

I hope to see you at the information sessions, and at the AGM.

**I will be driving up to Sydney for the AGM and so hope to meet you there in person.**

Let's get this done and see what incredibly exciting things the new Committee can achieve.

**Together we can do this.  
Let's get it done!**

Nominations must be accurately submitted by  
**10:00am, on Friday 14th March 2025**



**NEXT MONTH: The NEW AMC Committee!**