

Celebrants Cheering for Each Other

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An update from your AMC South Coast Coordinator, Lou Szymkow

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To achieve success, we will continue to grow and do what we can to help each other grow. We are Celebrants Cheering for Each Other & Celebrating each other's success.



AUSTRALIAN
MARRIAGE
CELEBRANTS

Another fantastic issue filled with information, education, ideas and interesting articles, specifically to assist and to inspire Celebrants in their understanding of obligations, history, business, marketing, ceremony, content and of course, fun. There is much in this issue about the NOIM and data entry to help with OPD. There will also be more on OPD next month.



COVER PIC: A wonderful wedding under the fig tree at Milton

Inside this issue:

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Can documents be signed electronically?



When a Celebrant recently asked the question online, "Can documents be signed electronically?", there was an inconsistency in responses as some Celebrants unfortunately provided incorrect or outdated advice, writing that the signature on the NOIM, must be a 'wet signature', meaning that the NOIM must be printed and signed by hand with an ink pen while others added that it had to be witnessed in person with the Celebrant in the physical presence of the persons signing and so not remotely.

Generally, marriage documents, can be signed electronically, and the NOIM can be witnessed remotely utilising an Audio, Visual, Link (AVL).

(Continued on page 2)

Can documents be signed electronically?

In other words, the Celebrant witnessing the signing of the NOIM, must be able to see and hear the signatories to enable verification.

The Commonwealth *Electronic Transaction Act 1999* (ETA) applies to the Marriage Act, subject to any specific Marriage Act requirements for hard copies of documents to be used. For example, the Marriage Act requires the Form 15 ceremonial certificate to be physically 'handed' to the marrying parties immediately following solemnisation of a marriage. As such, a physical copy of the Form 15 would be necessary to comply with Marriage Act requirements, and so an electronic signature isn't possible for that.

Electronic signatures are a visible representation of a person's usual signature that is equivalent to a hand-written signature.

An electronic signature may be typed, scanned or digitised. Like a hand-written signature, an electronic signature represents that:

- (1) the person signing has identified themselves,
- (2) the person to whom the signature is given has consented to the receive it in an electronic form, and
- (3) it is reliable in the circumstances. Subject to requirements of the BDM, an electronic signature could include a mark on a document, a PIN or a declaration (in the form of a tick box) where these three requirements have been met.

Marriage documents including the Notice, official certificates of marriage (civil and religious) and Declaration of No Legal Impediment to Marriage (DONLIM) may be signed electronically, however the DONLIM must be in person and so not via AVL. This means that the documents themselves can be soft copies (electronic) and so a person can sign on screen as long as it is witnessed. This is particularly valuable if a person should have an inability to signing conventionally e.g. has a disabled hand.

Where parties to a marriage sign these marriage documents with a hand-written or electronic signature, both parties are required to 'sign' in the presence of an authorised celebrant or authorised witness but for the NOIM, that presence includes viewing & communicating via an audio/video link (AVL).

In accordance with the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*, a Commonwealth declaration must be signed 'in pen' (wet signature), which requires an original paper copy. NSW JPs have more options with NSW Stat Decs which can be signed remotely, but let's not get sidetracked.

The Certificate of Faithful Performance by an Interpreter form is made up of two parts:

- i) a statutory declaration (*signed prior to the solemnisation of a marriage*) and
- ii) 'Certificate of Faithful Performance by Interpreter' (signed following the solemnisation of a marriage),

The AG advice is that only the Certificate of Faithful Performance by an Interpreter can be signed electronically.



Types of electronic signatures that can be used

The ETA does not require a specific method to make an electronic signature, as long as the method:

- i) **identifies the signer**, and
- ii) **indicates their intention** to approve whatever they have communicated.

The method used must be connected to an electronic communication. It must also be either as reliable as appropriate in the circumstances, or proven to be accurate.

- **Identity** could be shown by a typed name, a personal mark, a personal email, or use of an online ID verification method.
- **Intention** could be shown by a clear agreement, signing on the dotted line, or something extra in the context of a response.

This means that, depending on the circumstances, an electronic signature could be:

- drawn onto a screen or uploaded from a picture, before being sent electronically
- made by emailing a signature, or a statement of acceptance
- done by clicking an 'I accept' box on an online form before submitting
- made and sent through a digital signing platform.

Where the Notice of Intended Marriage (NOIM) is submitted electronically to a marriage celebrant, this becomes the original whether or not it is printed by the celebrant, and so the paper copy of the Notice is not required to be 'produced' prior to the solemnisation of the marriage.

The celebrant must immediately note the date of receipt on the Notice on the NOIM (items 17&18 on page 4 of the NOIM).

Can I sight evidence of identity electronically including by video conferencing?

Yes. The Marriage Act does not prescribe how a celebrant is to satisfy themselves that the parties signing the NOIM are who they say they are. An authorised celebrant must not solemnise a marriage unless the celebrant is satisfied as to the identity of both parties to the marriage. If an authorised celebrant is satisfied as to a party's identity using video conferencing media, then this is consistent with the Marriage Act.

This might be achieved by a video conferencing call whereby the party presents a drivers licence to the celebrant by holding it up to the camera during the video conferencing call.

A celebrant should however, ensure that evidence provided to establish date and place of birth can be reconciled to the identity of a party prior to the solemnisation of the marriage. For example, if a party produces their birth certificate by email to the celebrant as evidence of their date & place of birth, the celebrant needs to reconcile that evidence against photographic or other identity documents to confirm their identity.

(Continued from page 2)

REMOTE WITNESSING

As of 12th June 2024 the Notice of Intended Marriage (NOIM) can be witnessed remotely.


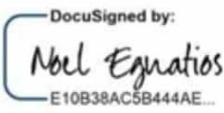


The Marriage Act was amended to permanently provide couples with the option to have their Notice of Intended Marriage (NOIM) witnessed in person, or remotely by means of a facility that enables audio and visual communication between persons in different places, however the requirements for authorised witnesses and location-dependence, remains unchanged.

- If the couple is in Australia then the person remotely witnessing the NOIM (which can include an authorised celebrant) must also be in Australia.
- If the couple is outside Australia, the authorised witness (which cannot be a celebrant) must also be outside Australia.

To be clear, you cannot witness a NOIM online for a person or couple outside Australia.

Authorised witnesses are listed in the “Signatures of parties and witnesses” section of the Notice of Intended Marriage.

Examples of electronic signatures

 <p>(Signature using a touch pad device)</p>	 <p>(Signature + Membership ID)</p>
 <p>(Signature using a mouse)</p>	 <p>(Signature (image))</p>

SIMPLE STEPS TO LODGING A NOIM REMOTELY

This simple system can only be used if the marrying party and the Celebrant are both in Australia. Note that the NOIM can be lodged with the signature of just one party if the other is overseas. Signing and lodging from outside of Australia will be explained separately.

- 1/ Have the couple complete the NOIM & let you know when they are ready.
 - (a) You could even ask them to email it to you for checking
- 2/ Instigate an Audo Video Link (AVL).
 - (a) There are numerous apps that suit e.g. FB Messenger, Zoom, WhatsApp, Facetime etc..
- 3/ They show you their ID docs.
 - (a) Have them hold the photo ID beside their faces for confirmation.
 - (b) You can screen shot the IDs for later verification and/or
 - (c) Have them scan the ID docs to you.
- 4/ They show you the completed NOIM
- 5/ They sign the NOIM with you observing that signing
 - (a) this is easy if they have printed the NOIM as they can simply tilt their camera to the NOIM while it is being signed.
 - (b) If signing electronically, use either a split screen or they can use a second device to enable viewing of the signing on the first screen
- 6/ They scan the signed NOIM to you
- 7/ As soon as the NOIM is received, you sign as the witness (can also be electronically)
- 8/ You record the receipt & date of lodgement at items 17& 18 on page 4 of the NOIM.

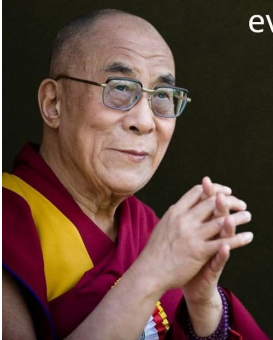
- <https://www.ag.gov.au/legal-system/electronic-signatures-documents-and-transactions/electronic-signatures#digital-signatures>



The most underrated act of kindness is letting people be.

Let them mispronounce a word, talk too much about a show they love, or get excited about something you don't understand.

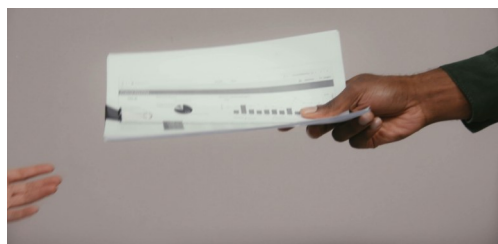
Everyone's got something that lights them up. Let them shine, even if it's not your thing.



fb|Buddha's Teaching

There are four very important words in life: love, honesty, truth, respect. Without these in your life, you have nothing.

NOIM LODGEMENT



A NOIM, or NOM is of course the acronym for a *Notice Of Intended Marriage* which

must be lodged by *handing the completed form to a Celebrant*, one to 18 months prior to the wedding.

So just to reiterate and be clear, Section 42 of the *Marriage Act 1961 (Cth)* requires the parties to an intended marriage, to give the authorised celebrant at least one month's written notice prior to the solemnisation of the marriage and this is done by the couple submitting the signed and witnessed Notice Of Intended Marriage (NOIM) to the authorised celebrant (Lodged) no earlier than 18 months before, and no later than one month before, the date of the marriage.

The form of the NOIM has been approved by the Attorney-General and must contain the parties' particulars as required in the approved form, and only the current form can be used. These can be downloaded from the AG or BDM websites.

It was clear from a past NSW BDM newsletter that some Celebrants were not fully understanding what 'lodgement' means and so not understanding when the notice period begins. There has in the past also been confusion about the date that the marriage can be solemnised after lodgement but we will cover that separately.

The NOIM must of course be signed and witnessed and only then, submitted to the authorised celebrant, although the Celebrant can of course be a witness.

That submission is the 'Lodgement' and commencement of the notice period. It occurs no earlier than 18 months before, and no later than one month before, the scheduled date of the marriage.

That doesn't mean a couple cannot book a Celebrant well in advance of that time frame as it just means the *Notice* must be 'lodged' (*handed to the Celebrant*) within that time period regardless of when the booking is made. If a wedding is to occur after the expiry of the first lodgement, a new NOIM must be signed and it is strongly advised to overlap the two NOIMs by a month so that there is no gap between notice periods.

Section 42(3) of the *Marriage Act 1961* and Section 4.4 of the '*Guidelines on the Marriage Act 1961 for authorised celebrants*' does allow for a NOIM to be accepted by when there is only one witnessed signature if it is not practical for the second party to sign at the same time. The celebrant may witness the second party sign the NOIM, prior to the solemnisation however, celebrants are advised to use caution when accepting a NOIM with only one party's signature and should establish that the party who has not yet signed, is in agreement.



The NOIM is correctly 'lodged' when the couple hand a signed and witnessed NOIM to a Celebrant following which, the Celebrant must immediately record the date of receipt on the NOIM.

Therefore, the date that is entered on the NOIM as the '*date notice is received*' by the Celebrant can logically ONLY be on or after the date that the parties to the marriage have signed the NOIM.

Note that signatures cannot be postdated - That would be fraud and could result in prosecution.

The data can be entered into the NSW BDM's Lifelink system (or comparable interstate system) at any time in preparation for registration of the marriage, or to generate the marriage documents.

The following some are real examples of lodgement errors and so note that these actions do **NOT** constitute a lodgement of a NOIM and could result in the solemnisation being declared invalid. It is an offense to perform a solemnisation of marriage that may be invalid.

- ◇ A budget Celebrancy businesses was wrongly advertising '*same day lodgement*' meaning that they upload data to the BDM on the same day it is received. They were obviously confusing data entry with lodgement. Entering Data into a Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages is NOT a lodgement.
- ◇ At least one member of the clergy has postdated a NOIMs, insisting wrongly that the date the couple called to make a booking was the beginning of the notice period. Postdating the NOIM is fraud.
- ◇ Completing the NOIM questions online is data entry and NOT lodgement.
- ◇ Entering data into a questionnaire is NOT a lodgement
- ◇ Sending an unsigned & unwitnessed NOIM to a Celebrant is NOT a Lodgement - the NOIM, *must* be signed and properly witnessed.
- ◇ Meeting with a couple and not signing/witnessing a NOIM is NOT a lodgement.
- ◇ Submitting a signed but unwitnessed form is NOT a Lodgement
- ◇ Having the completed NOIM witnessed by a person not on the 'acceptable witness list' (*e.g. a pharmacist or parents*), is NOT a Lodgement
- ◇ booking the celebrant or a venue
- ◇ paying a fee.
- ◇ Sending invitations
- ◇ Making a post on social media
- ◇ Making an Engagement announcement

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Where the NOIM is lodged with less than the required notice time a 'Shortening Of Time' may be applied for, subject to strict conditions which have been covered in an earlier newsletter.

A Notice expires after 18 months, and a marriage may not be solemnised if the NOIM was received more than 18 months before the date of the proposed marriage. If the NOIM is scheduled to expire prior to the marriage taking place, best practice is to prepare a new NOIM, which is signed, witnessed and lodged, usually, one month before the expiry of the first NOIM so that the minimum one-month notice of the new NOIM, overlaps the expiring NOIM which ensures there is no break in the notice period. A frequent question is "who can witness a NOIM?"

You will find the answer in the Act, Guidelines and on the NOIM itself.

After the Marriage ceremony has taken place, the Celebrant must then sign the NOIM on page 5, to attest to the marriage having been solemnised and then the Celebrant must submit it, along with the Declaration of No Legal Impediment to Marriage (DONLIM) and an Official Certificate of Marriage (OCM), to the relevant state Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages within 14 days, for the registration of the marriage. In NSW, the BDM Marriage Certificate can be ordered at the same time.

There is no fee for submission but fees apply for the ordering of BDM Marriage Certificates.

What is a Notary Public?

A Public Notary in Australia is a public officer, authorised to witness documents, administer oaths, and perform a range of administrative functions, including certifying documents, commonly for use overseas.

Unlike a Justice of the Peace (JP), the services of a Notary Public are recognised internationally, making them essential for legal transactions that cross borders. In Australia, Notaries are usually a qualified senior solicitor, appointed for life by a State or Territory Supreme Court. In other countries, they may not be solicitors but are still require registration and are recognised internationally under treaty. The Public Notary MUST use an official stamp to verify their authority.



WHO CAN WITNESS A NOIM IN, OR OUTSIDE, OF AUSTRALIA

Authorised signatories are listed in the Marriage Act, the Guidelines to the Marriage Act and on the Notice of Intended Marriage (NOIM).

Remember that if you accept a NOIM that has not been incorrectly witnessed, the NOIM is 'invalid' and if you then solemnise that marriage, serious consequences can result as the correct notice has not been given and it is an offense to perform a solemnisation of marriage that may be invalid.

Persons who are authorised to witness the NOIM within Australian borders are:

- ◆ an authorised celebrant,
- ◆ a justice of the peace,
- ◆ a barrister or solicitor,
- ◆ a medical practitioner, or
- ◆ a member of the Australian Federal Police or the police force of a State or Territory.

Persons who are authorised to witness the NOIM if a party signs outside of Australia, are:

- ◆ an Australian Consular Officer,
- ◆ an Australian Diplomatic Officer,
- ◆ a notary public,
- ◆ an employee of the Commonwealth authorised under paragraph 3(c) of the Consular Fees Act 1955 (For the definitions of Australian Consular Officer and Australian Diplomatic Officer, see section 2 of the Consular Fees Act 1955), or
- ◆ an employee of the Australian Trade Commission authorised under paragraph 3(d) of the Consular Fees Act 1955.

Parties outside of Australian can be directed to the nearest Australian Embassy or they can simply check local directories for a Notary Public who will charge a fee.

As soon as the NOIM is signed, it should be scanned to the Celebrant as it is NOT lodged until the signed & witnessed form is in the hands of the Celebrant.

Note that whilst a Celebrant can receive a NOIM via email whilst overseas, the Celebrant can NOT act as a witness while outside of Australia.



KEEPING DOCUMENTS SAFE



The [Autum 2025 MLCS Newsletter](#) reminded us that it is essential that couples feel their ceremony is in safe hands, which includes the safety of their personal information. Under the Code of Practice in Schedule 2 of the Marriage Regulations 2017, celebrants are required to respect the privacy and confidentiality of the parties, including by:

- i) arranging for appropriate facilities to interview parties
- ii) dealing appropriately with personal documents and personal information
- iii) maintaining appropriate facilities for the secure storage of records, and
- iv) ensuring the return of all personal documents belonging to the parties as soon as practicable (*unless it is necessary to keep the documents for the ceremony*).

Whether on paper or electronically, information must be protected and stored securely in a locked filing cabinet or on a computer with a strong password. Don't forget to take reasonable measures to ensure personal conversations with the couple relating to the solemnisation remain private and are not overheard by third parties.

Not remaining aware of electronic, physical, and spatial considerations can increase the risk of personal client information becoming compromised by a third party.

For more information about best security practices for small businesses, please visit:

- ◇ the [Small Business Cyber Security Guide](#),
- ◇ Protect your customers' information at Business.gov.au and
- ◇ [ID match](#).

Be certain to only collect the identity information you need

You should always be careful when collecting an individual's identity information. When collecting identity information, you must do so only if it is reasonably necessary and directly related to your business.

- ◇ Identity information must be collected directly from the customer and not from third parties.
- ◇ You must only collect identity information in a lawful and fair way.
- ◇ The more identity information a business holds, the greater the target it will be for identity theft, scammers and cyber incidents.



The Separation

by Pravin Gupta

Someone who yesterday held my hand,
Today has become a memory,
But I still feel her fingers touching my palm,
And chiding me softly when I worry.

A smile I still see deep with my eyes,
Which says that all is same, just smile with me,
Keep my pillow just as before on our bed,
I shall not snore and a good boy I shall be.

I know that you will cajole me to sing our song,
And join me to show how the tune goes,
And when your mellifluous voice soothes my ears,
Just as before I shall kiss your delicate toes.

There is no distance that separates you from me,
Physical touch is not what matters slightest to me,
Like the wind that you feel but can not see,
Your dreams and thoughts shall always find me.

LOVE BEYOND EXPECTATION

©by Pravin Gupta

Love is not a barter,
Love is not exchange,
What value was your heart,
You do not think again.

You do not think how fair,
Was the trade that you did,
What you got in return,
Is value for what you bid.

Did you think of only joy,
Or also of the pain,
Did it take you long,
So simple to understand.

You love from the heart,
What's mind to judge then,
Mind will never know,
Heart has fallen when.

Enjoy it to the hilt,
Be it pain or exhilaration,
It happens rare in life,
It calls for celebration.



ROYAL WEDDINGS



Royal Families of the World

In electing to write on Royal Weddings, this writer was somewhat surprised at how many royal families there are and hence just how many royal wedding have occurred.

Throughout history, we have heard of 'Royals' described as Bluebloods. The concept likely originated in medieval Spain as '*sangre azul*', and is attributed to the rich, powerful families of Castile, who, as part of their 'pure Gothic' descent, would claim never to have intermarried with another race by drawing attention to their pale skin, which made the blueness of their veins visible. This inbreeding among European royal households to '*keep royal blood pure*' resulted in various genetic disorders but the term remains, and royals in other parts of the world, including Tonga, also adopted the 'marry a relative' concept which could be described as a mode of ethnic cleansing.

The Windsors in the United Kingdom are well known to Australia because the King of England is also the King of Australia, but there are many others. There are monarchies in Africa and Asia, including Japan's former Emperor Emeritus Akihito, who broke 2,600 years of tradition in 1959 by marrying his beloved, a 'commoner' named Michiko Shōda and more recently, his granddaughter Princess Mako followed his example and gave up her royal status completely so she could marry the man she loved. The King of Bhutan also famously married a 'commoner'.

Monaco has the Grimaldis, but let's look at the lists beginning with ten current Royal Families in Europe:

- 1) The House of Saxe-Coburg and Gothas - Belgium (King Philippe)
- 2) The House of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg - Denmark (King Frederik X)
- 3) The House of Liechtenstein - Liechtenstein (Prince Hans-Adam II)
- 4) The House of Luxembourg-Nassau - Luxembourg (Grand Duke Henri)
- 5) The House of Grimaldi - Monaco (Prince Albert II)
- 6) The House of Orange-Nassau - Netherlands (King Willem-Alexander)
- 7) The House of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg - Norway - (King Harald V)
- 8) The House of Borbón-Anjou - Spain (King Felipe VI)
- 9) The House of Bernadotte - Sweden (King Carl XVI Gustaf)
- 10) The House of Windsor - United Kingdom (King Charles III)

Apart from the United Kingdom, King Charles III is

the monarch of fifteen Commonwealth realms, including Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu.

Absolute monarchs remain in power in Brunei, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

The United Arab Emirates, and Qatar are classified as mixed, meaning there are representative bodies of some kind, but the monarch retains most of his powers.

Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia and Morocco are constitutional monarchies, but their monarchs still retain more substantial powers than in European equivalents.

Constitutional monarchies are in place in Bhutan, Cambodia, and Japan.

Thailand changed from traditional absolute monarchy into a constitutional one in 1932, while Bhutan changed in 2008.

Cambodia had its own monarchy after independence from the French Colonial Empire, which was deposed after the Khmer Rouge came into power. The monarchy was subsequently restored in the peace agreement of 1993.

Lesotho and Tonga are constitutional monarchies, while Eswatini is an absolute monarchy.

The Pope, who is elected by Cardinals is the absolute monarch of Vatican City by virtue of his position as head of the Roman Catholic Church and Bishop of Rome.

A [non-sovereign monarchy](#) or subnational monarchy is one in which the head of the monarchical polity are subject to a sovereign state which includes sovereign monarchies of Malaysia, Yogyakarta Sultanate in Indonesia, emirates of the United Arab Emirates, the Sultanate of Sulu, Afro-Bolivian monarchy, Order of Malta, Traditional Chieftaincies of Nigeria, and Kingdoms of Uganda.^[2]

Given the number of monarchies, it is not surprising that there have been around 59 Royal Weddings listed in the last 500 years but 47 of those have occurred since the 1960s.

Let's look at a few of the weddings.

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/georgian/why-people-noble-called-blue-blooded/>

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-with-royal-families#title>

More about Royal Wedding on the next page....



ROYAL WEDDING FASHION

The love story and wedding of Queen Victoria's & Prince Albert is like no other and Queen Victoria's wedding dress on 10th February 1840, popularized the tradition of the white dress in Western culture, when she broke with the royal custom of using gold or silver fabrics, and so establishing a new standard for bridal fashion. However Philippa of England was the first documented princess to wear white in 1406, then Mary Queen of Scots, in 1558 wore a white wedding dress for her marriage to the Dauphin of France, Francis.



Interestingly, the same inspiration cannot be attributed to garments worn by the males in royal weddings in that although the designs may have influenced contemporary garments, the designs did not influence men's fashion for centuries as Queen Victoria's did. According to Anna Viotto, the main features of Victoria's wedding dress were:

- Fabric: Made of luxurious white silk satin (specifically Spitalfields silk).
- Honiton Lace: The most prominent element was a deep flounce of Honiton lace, a type of lace handmade in Devon, England.
- Cut: It featured a fitted bodice, a voluminous skirt, and a long train.
- Accessories: Instead of a traditional crown, Victoria wore a garland of orange blossoms and a lace veil. She also wore a sapphire brooch given to her by Albert.



More about Royal Wedding on the next page....



It is surprising just how many Royals there still are across the world and over to next few pages, we will get a glimpse of a just a few.



Frederik, Crown Prince of Denmark, & Australian, Mary Donaldson,

married on 14th May 2004 in the [Copenhagen Cathedral](#).

Frederik and Mary became officially engaged on 8th October 2003. Frederik presented Mary with an engagement ring featuring an [emerald cut diamond](#) and two emerald cut [ruby baguettes](#).^[3] Mary converted from [Presbyterianism](#) to the [Lutheran Church of Denmark](#). The media portrayed Frederik's and Mary's relationship as a modern "fairytale" romance between a prince and a commoner.^[4]

Mary's sisters Jane Stephens and Patricia Bailey, and her friend Amber Petty served as [bridesmaids](#), while Frederik's brother [Prince Joachim of Denmark](#) was the best man. Mary's nieces Erin and Kate Stephens and Madisson Woods were flower girls, and Frederik's nephew [Prince Nikolai of Denmark](#) and first cousin once removed [Count Richard von Pfeil und Klein-Ellguth](#) were pageboys.

Mary's dress was created by Danish fashion designer Uffe Frank with a veil first used by [Crown Princess Margareta of Sweden](#), and then by her daughter [Queen Ingrid of Denmark](#). The veil, made from [Irish lace](#), was later worn by Ingrid's daughters [Margrethe](#), [Benedikte](#) and [Anne-Marie](#) as well as her granddaughters, [Alexia](#) and [Alexandra](#). ([Nathalie](#) would since wear it at her wedding in 2010). This makes Mary the first and only person not born into a royal family to wear the veil. Mary's wedding tiara was a gift from Queen Margrethe and [Prince Henrik](#).^[7]

The bride's bouquet contained white roses, creme [lathyrus](#), rhododendron, azalea, green [gloriosa](#), [Australian eucalyptus](#), and, in keeping with a Swedish royal tradition brought into the Danish royal family by the Swedish-born [Queen Ingrid](#), a sprig of [myrtle](#).

Upon her marriage, Mary became [Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess of Denmark](#). With Frederik's accession to the Danish throne in 2024,

ROYAL WEDDING FASHION



On 29th April 2008, Frederik and Mary were also created the Count and the Countess of Monpezat.^[10] Mary automatically became the [queen consort](#) of Denmark. She was also honoured with the [Order of the Elephant](#), and her father [John Donaldson](#) with the grand cross of the [Order of the Dannebrog](#). In accordance with the statutes of the [Danish Royal Orders](#), both of them were granted a personal [coat of arms](#).^[9]

Frederik X (Frederik André Henrik Christian, has reigned as [King of Denmark](#), since the [abdication](#) of his mother, [Margrethe II](#), in January 2024. Mary became the first Australian-born queen consort of any country They have four children: [Christian](#), [Isabella](#), [Vincent](#), and [Josephine](#).

[King Frederik X & Queen Mary](#) made an official visit to Australia, in March 2026. You can find more about them on the TV series 'Suddenly Royal' on Prime.

- [Frederik X - Wikipedia](#)
- [Wedding of Frederik, Crown Prince of Denmark, and Mary Donaldson - Wikipedia](#)
- [Church of Our Lady, Copenhagen - Wikipedia](#)



EDWARD & MRS SIMPSON

ROYAL WEDDINGS

King Edward VIII, abdicated from the throne of the United Kingdom after just a year, so that he could marry Wallis Simpson. In a radio broadcast, he said, *"I have found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility, and to discharge my duties as King as I would wish to do, without the help and support of the woman I love."*^[1]

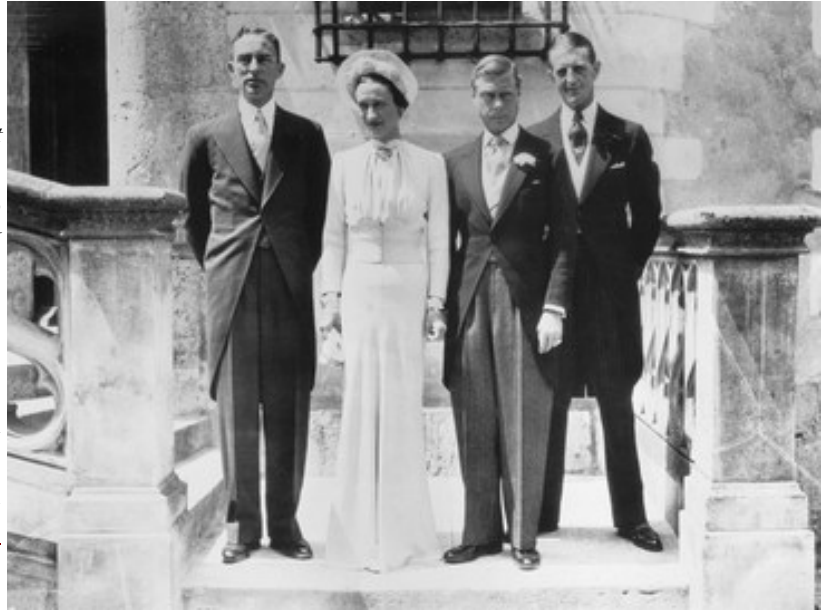
The wedding took place on Thursday 3rd June 1937 at Château de Candé in France, lent to them by French millionaire Charles Bedaux. The bride was a twice-divorced American socialite whose relationship with the groom, formerly King Edward VIII, caused a constitutional crisis which led to his abdication in December 1936.^[1]

Wallis wore a "Wallis blue" Mainbocher wedding dress, which was a soft blue silk crepe gown by Mainbocher, overlaid with a buttoned corset-style bodice, a hat of the same colour and completed her look with a diamond and sapphire brooch.

Edward presented her with an engagement ring that consisted of an emerald mount in yellow gold set with diamonds, and the sentence "We are ours now" was engraved on it.^[2] While the Church of

England refused to sanction the wedding, Robert Anderson Jardine, Vicar of St Paul's, Darlington, offered to perform the service, an offer that was accepted by the couple.^[10] It was an intimate ceremony joined by fewer than 20 guests – members of the British Royal Family were forbidden from attending. Guests included Randolph Churchill, Baron Eugène Daniel von Rothschild, and the best man, Major Fruity Metcalfe.^[10] The marriage produced no children.

Edward was created Duke of Windsor by his brother King George VI prior to the marriage. However, letters patent, issued by the new king and unanimously supported by the Dominion governments, prevented Wallis, now Duchess of Windsor, from sharing her husband's style of "Royal Highness". The King's firm view that the



Duchess should not be given a royal title was shared by his mother, Queen Mary, and his wife, Queen Elizabeth.^[11]

Their lives were filled with controversy, not just because of the abdication but because they were linked to Nazi Germany, even meeting with Hitler, resulting in an effective banishment amidst accusations of treason.

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wedding_of_Prince_Edward_and_Wallis_Simpson
- <https://www.vogue.com.au/brides/trends/inside-the-duke-of-windsor-and-wallis-simpsons-1937-wedding/image-gallery/ac21e80be7c26a5764630ab09ae4c9dc>
- https://www.vanityfair.com/style/story/the-disturbing-history-of-royal-infatuation-with-hitler?srsltid=AfmBOoq51t_EBNyxaeTFnR_l8smeMZ6eBVDwhw1gdio91_LHoYNOUN
- https://www.amazon.com/Traitor-King-Scandalous-Duchess-Windsor/dp/B0B47W5K42/ref=sr_1_1?crid=BXCQVRLH7HYU&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.oETkjqKNGCj1d1DsHgLrgdK7rT15V4-wasTh97J7TNjGjHj071QN20LucGBJIEps.8ANpraRPB2lyRaiFnm3QUFOYujkjl7MxiV_kvcf8HA&dib_tag=se&keywords=Traitor+King%3A+The+Scandalous+Exile+of+the+Duke+%26+Duchess+of+Windsor&qid=1733950244&prefix=traitor+king+the+scandalous+exile+of+the+duke+%26+duchess+of+windsor+%2Caps%2C172&sr



ROYAL WEDDING FASHION



Crown Prince Pavlos & Marie-Chantal Miller

They are known as Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Pavlos and Crown Princess Marie-Chantal of Greece despite the fact that Greece hasn't been a monarchy since 1974. On 1st July 1995 at St. Sophia's Cathedral, London, three years after having met on a blind date, Marie-Chantal



Miller, the middle daughter and heiress of the self-made duty-free billionaire Robert Miller, married Pavlos, Crown Prince of Greece, who was the son of the former King of Greece, King Constantine II and Queen Anne-Marie, a Danish royal princess. The ceremony was attended by multiple kings, queens and senior royals. The princess revealed in an [interview with Vanity Fair](#), that "It was love at first sight." His extended family includes the reigning monarchs of Spain and Denmark. Since their marriage, they've had five children.

Upon her marriage, Marie-Chantal acquired by right under Danish dynastic law the style *Her Highness* and title Princess of Denmark.^[16] By contrast, the style *Her Royal Highness* Crown Princess of Greece derives from her husband's position within the former [Greek royal family](#) and is used by social and dynastic courtesy only, as Greek royal titles have held no legal recognition since the abolition of the [monarchy in 1974](#).^[17]

- <https://www.vogue.com/article/memorable-royal-weddings-william-kate-princess-diana-grace-kelly>
- Greece's Royal Couple | Vanity Fair
- Marie-Chantal, Crown Princess of Greece - Wikipedia

Crown Princess Victoria & Daniel Westling



Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, heiress apparent to the Swedish throne, married her former personal trainer, Daniel Westling, on 19th June 2010 at the Stockholm Cathedral. In marrying

Crown Princess Victoria, he officially also became Prince of Sweden and Duke of Västergötland. Since their marriage, they have had two children. You can find more about them on the TV series 'Suddenly Royal' on Prime.

- <https://www.vogue.com/article/memorable-royal-weddings-william-kate-princess-diana-grace-kelly>
- Bing Videos



ROYAL WEDDING FASHION



Hereditary Grand Duke, Prince Guillaume of Luxembourg, and Belgian Countess Stéphanie de Lannoy, married a civil ceremony at the Town Hall, on 19 October 2012 followed by their religious wedding 20th October 2012 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Luxembourg, [Notre-Dame Cathedral](#).^[9]

De Lannoy was granted Luxembourg citizenship and became the Hereditary Grand Duchess of Luxembourg on the day of her marriage to Prince Guillaume.

The bride wore a dress designed by [Elie Saab](#) and the Lannoy family diamond tiara. Wedding attendants included the groom's sister [Princess Alexandra of Luxembourg](#) and nephew Prince Gabriel, and the bride's nieces and nephew: Antonia and Madeleine Hamilton, Caroline and Louise de Lannoy, and Isaure and Lancelot de le Court.^[10]



- [Stéphanie, Grand Duchess of Luxembourg - Wikipedia](#)
- <https://www.vogue.com/article/memorable-royal-weddings-william-kate-princess-diana-grace-kelly>



King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck & Jetsun Pema

‘Commoner’, bride Jetsun Pema, (aged 21), married Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan (aged 31), on 13th October 2011 at Punakha Dzong, a monastic fortress in the Himalayan nation.

When their engagement was announced, the king stated: *“Many will have their own idea of what a Queen should be like—that she should be uniquely beautiful, intelligent, and graceful. I think with experience and time, one can grow into a dynamic person in any walk of life with the right effort. For the queen, what is most important is that at all times, as an individual, she must be a good human being, and as queen, she must be unwavering in her commitment to serve the people and country. As my queen, I have found such a person and her name is Jetsun Pema. While she is young, she is warm and kind in heart and character. These qualities, together with the wisdom that will come with age and experience, will make her a great servant to the nation.”*

In October 2024, the King & Queen visited Australia, accompanied by their children Prince Jigme Namgyel and Prince Ugyen, and Princess Sonam Yangden. The trip to the cities of Sydney, Canberra, and Perth aimed to further strengthen the diplomatic ties between Australia and Bhutan. Notably, Perth is home to the largest Bhutanese population in the southern hemisphere.

- <https://www.vogue.com/article/memorable-royal-weddings-william-kate-princess-diana-grace-kelly>
- [King Jigme Khesar and Queen Jetsun Pema Visit Australia](#)
- Photo: Getty Images



ROYAL WEDDING FASHION



A little more than twenty years after WWII, the idea that, Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands, the future queen, marrying a German diplomat, Claus von Amsberg, deeply divided the country and so while their ceremony took place on 10th March 1966, Amsterdam was jammed with protests, slogans and even a smoke bomb when.

Her dress was designed by Caroline Bergé-Farwick for the Dutch maison Maison Linette, and followed a classic and regal line with a boat neckline, long sleeves, and a wide skirt flared in white silk satin. She wore the Veil of Württemberg, and the Württemberg Tiara of Pearls, one of the most important jewels in the Dutch royal collection.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beatrix_of_the_Netherlands



Grace Kelly & Prince Rainier III

Famed American actress Grace Kelly retired from acting when she married Prince Rainier III, the sovereign of Monaco. The wedding took place on 18 and 19 April 1956 at the Throne Room of the Prince's



Palace of Monaco and at the Saint Nicholas Cathedral. Sadly in 1982, Kelly suffered a stroke while driving, resulting in a car crash that ended her life at just 52.



More Royal Wedding on the next page....

Tongan Crown Prince Tupouto'a 'Ulukalala, & Sinaitakala Tu'imatamoana 'i Fanakavakilangi Fakafanua,

Crown Prince Tupouto'a 'Ulukalala, first in line to the Tongan throne, and his bride, who is his *'double second cousin'* & 26th in line to the throne, Sinaitakala Tu'imatamoana 'i Fanakavakilangi Fakafanua, Centenary Church of the [Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga](#) in [Nuku'alofa](#) on 12 July 2012.^[1] at a ceremony attended by 2500 people.

Earlier in the week, a Ma'utohi ceremony was held to mark the issuance of their marriage license^[1] and was followed by a reception, held at Fakafanua's home.^[1]

The wedding marked the first marriage of a Tongan Crown Prince in sixty-five years.^[2] However, the union caused some controversy among Tongans, as the bride and groom are double second cousins.^[3] in that his wife's father and mother are both first cousins of his father (the King). The king's mother and sister both refused to attend the wedding. Marrying cousins is an accepted practice among Tongan nobility. It is seen as a way of keeping the royal bloodlines strong, however the wedding between the cousins was openly criticised by members of Tongan political and royal circles.^[3] A leader of New Zealand's Tongan community noted that there is no word for cousin in the Tongan language; cousins are considered and called "brother" or "sister", which reinforces the controversy among ordinary Tongans.^[8]

Lord Vaea, an uncle of the Crown Prince, defended the marriage saying, "It's a new beginning for the royal household. They are both in their 20s, we are looking at that to preserve that constitutional monarchy within Tonga."^[5] A New Zealand geneticist noted that there is "only a slight risk" of genetic disorders for the offspring of cousins who marry.^[9]

In addition to the controversy over royal genetics, the wedding took place amid economic and political uncertainty.^[4] Tonga was projected to have the slowest economic growth in the Pacific Islands region during 2012.^[4] The royal family agreed to pay for the costs of the wedding; past weddings had been covered by the Tongan government.^[4] The government of Tonga may also face a potential vote of no confidence in the week following the wedding, adding to the country's political and economic woes.^[4]

The wedding ceremony also marked the end of Tonga's one-hundred-day mourning period following



the death in March of King [George Tupou V](#) who was the [King of Tonga](#) from 2006 until his death in 2012, and the ascension of [Tupou VI](#) to the throne.^[1] marking the death of George Tupou V. **Tupou VI** (born 'Aho'eitu 'Unuaki'otonga Tuku'aho; 12 July 1959) is [King of Tonga](#). He served as [Prime Minister of Tonga](#) from 2000 to 2006 during the reign of his father King [Tāufa'āhau Tupou IV](#).

A reception at a marquee lit by fairy lights for 4000 people was held near the Victorian-era Royal Palace, where traditional dancing continued into the night.

A week-long program of wedding-related events will conclude on the Sunday with a royal luncheon in Nuku'alofa.

- https://www.reddit.com/r/interestingasfuck/comments/1p394sp/in_2012_the_crown_prince_tupouto%CA%BBa_%CA%BBulukalala_of/
- <https://www.news.com.au/world/tongas-prince-tupoutoa-ulukalala-marries-his-cousin/news-story/12dbcd638ea815e3f628e5e89340ddd>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wedding_of_Crown_Prince_Tupouto%CA%BBa_%CA%BBulukalala_and_Sinaitakala_Fakafanua



Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages

THE UNKNOWN PARENT & LIFELINK ENTRIES

The question of the ‘unknown parent’ entries on Lifelink has risen again recently. Celebrnat, Melissa Sheehy looked into this further with the NSW BDM last year and reported back with this explanation.

Although a Birth Certificate may have a blank space for an unknown parental name, Marriage Certificates are yet to catch up. There are a variety of reasons that a parental name may not be known or disclosed and questions arise as to the best and most considerate manner of data entry for those circumstances.

Remember that what you enter into Lifelink, is what appears on the BDM Marriage Certificate.

If a parental name is unknown or not provided, such as on a Passport, when we, as the Celebrant prepare documents, and later submit data to Lifelink, we are able to enter the word ‘unknown’ in place of a first names but of course surnames have to be in caps and so entered as ‘UNKNOWN’.

The result however on the BDM Marriage Certificate may not be desirable to couples but o other option is currently offered.

When there is No parental name on the evidential Birth Certificate, or on a Passport, the data can be entered as follows:

First name	SURNAME	Country of birth	Certificate
Unknown	UNKNOWN	Unknown	Unknown UNKNOWN
Not Stated	NOT STATED	Not Stated	Not Stated NOT STATED

NSW BDM, page to assist Celebrants.


[Marriage celebrants | NSW Government](#)

The webpage offers Guidance for NSW marriage celebrants on:

- registering marriages,
- using eRegistry,
- applying for marriage certificates,
- correcting marriage records, and
- accessing support resources.

The links follow:

- ⇒ [Marriage celebrants | NSW Government](#)
- ⇒ [How to register a marriage solemnised in NSW](#)
- ⇒ [Interstate celebrants registering a marriage in NSW](#)
- ⇒ [Checklist for marriage documents](#)
- ⇒ [Common questions about marriage registrations](#)
- ⇒ [Common questions about eRegistry](#)
- ⇒ [eRegistry video tutorials](#)
- ⇒ [Contact information](#)



The NSW BDM has warned of the existence of an Unauthorised third-party eRegistry website. Be cautious of third-party websites offering to process marriage certificate applications. NSW BDM has reported that it is aware of an unauthorised website using the name 'eRegistry', which is not affiliated with the NSW BDM and may charge additional fees. The official NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages eRegistry platform for marriage celebrants can only be accessed through: <https://eregistry.bdm.nsw.gov.au>.

Technical Support



For support on how to use eRegistry, the BDM has easy-to-follow [tutorial videos](#).

If you need further assistance for access and/or have technical difficulties, Celebrants can email:

eregistry-support@customerservice.nsw.gov.au.

The NSW BDM Registry has advised that it cannot provide marriage celebrants with advice on the application of the Marriage Act 1961. This includes providing legal advice or confirming the validity of marriage documents. For information on your responsibilities as a Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrant, please visit the [Attorney General's department](#).



An incredible amount of valuable information can be found on the AG's website and in the Celebrant's Self-Service Portal (MarCel). This newsletter page provides numerous links and short cuts to much of that information.



These links will take you to the current and past MLCS Newsletters:

- ◇ [Newsletter – Marriage Celebrant Matters: Autumn 2025 Edition \[PDF 1.39 MB\]](#)
- ◇ [Newsletter – Marriage Celebrant Matters: 50th Anniversary Edition \[PDF 1.43 MB\]](#)
- ◇ [Newsletter – Autumn 2023 edition \[PDF 551.83 KB\]](#)
- ◇ [Newsletter – Autumn 2023 edition \[DOCX 4.29 MB\]](#)
- ◇ [Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2019/20 edition \[PDF 188.93 KB\]](#)
- ◇ [Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2019/20 edition \[DOCX 202.75 KB\]](#)
- ◇ [Newsletter – Autumn 2019 edition \[PDF 436.35 KB\]](#)
- ◇ [Newsletter – Winter 2018 edition \[PDF 225.09 KB\]](#)
- ◇ [Newsletter – Winter 2018 edition \[DOCX 52.55 KB\]](#)
- ◇ [Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2017/18 edition \[PDF 1.26 MB\]](#)
- ◇ [Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2017/18 edition \[DOCX 52.88 KB\]](#)
- ◇ [Newsletter – Autumn/Winter 2017 edition \[PDF 418.45 KB\]](#)
- ◇ [Newsletter – Autumn/Winter 2017 edition \[DOCX 42.33 KB\]](#)

Translated copies of the obligations & consequences of marriage

Arabic	Indonesian	Russian
Bengali (Bengla)	Italian	Serbian
Chinese simplified	Japanese	Sinhalese
Chinese traditional	Khmer	Spanish
Croatian	Korean	Tagalog
Dari	Macedonian	Thai
Dinka	Nepali	Turkish
French	Persian (Farsi)	Ukrainian
Greek	Portuguese	Urdu
Hindi	Punjabi	Vietnamese

To review your responsibilities as a Commonwealth registered marriage celebrant, go to: [Your responsibilities as a Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrant](#). You can also download forms and resources for your work as an authorised marriage celebrant. Access fact sheets, forms and celebrant newsletters at [Download resources](#)

- ◇ [Notice of Intended Marriage form](#) – Marrying couples and approved marriage celebrants
- ◇ [Happily ever...before and after brochure](#) – To be given to couples who have lodged a notice of intended marriage form with an approved marriage celebrant. *Translated versions of this document are available.*
- ◇ [Declaration of no legal impediment to marriage form](#) – Marrying couples and approved marriage celebrants *Under section 50(3) of the Marriage Act 1961, this form shall be printed on the reverse of 1 of the official certificates of marriage.*
- ◇ [Official certificate of marriage form](#) – Approved marriage celebrants *Under section 50(3) of the Marriage Act 1961, 1 of the official certificates of marriage shall be on the reverse side of the paper with the declaration of no legal impediment to marriage.*
- ◇ [Record of use of Form 15 Marriage Certificates](#) – Approved marriage celebrants *Under Paragraph 73(5) of the Marriage Regulations 2017, an authorised marriage celebrant must keep a record for each Form 15 marriage certificate they use.*
- ◇ [Combined Declaration of no legal impediment to marriage and Official certificate of marriage](#) – Approved marriage celebrants
- ◇ [Certificate of faithful performance by interpreter form](#) – Interpreter for a marriage ceremony
- ◇ Visit [CanPrint Communications](#) or [email them](#) for more information.
- ◇ [Notice of intention to remove name of person from the register](#) – Registries of Births, Deaths and Marriage

Using the self-service portal

Our [self-service portal](#) makes it easy to manage your registration online. In the portal, you can:

- ⇒ [update your contact details](#)
- ⇒ [Updating your details – Fact sheet – Minimum and maximum details displayed on the register](#)
- ⇒ view your invoices and receipts
- ⇒ [apply to not pay the registration charge for 1 year](#)
- ⇒ [apply to not complete OPD for 1 year](#)
- ⇒ update your OPD activities
- ⇒ [resign as a marriage celebrant](#)
- ⇒ If you have problems accessing or using the portal, [email MLCS](#).



With Michelle Pfeiffer and Kurt Russell, leading this television series, *The Madison*, created by Taylor Sheridan for Paramount+, and dedicated to the memory of Robert Redford, it had to be special, and it lives up to that expectation. The promo will tell you that this is an emotional (*bring tissues*) story of a city family

that relocates to the remote Madison River valley of southwest Montana, USA, following a major life-changing tragedy that both shocks and permanently changes that wealthy family. While trying to avoid too many spoilers, the first season of this series is about grief and for that reason alone it is an important viewing for Celebrants. It centres upon the impact of the sudden death of a loved one but in very brief scenes, incidentally demonstrates the real shock of having to attend a morgue for identifications, the reaction to well meaning platitudes even if sincerely delivered, the pointless offensiveness of insincerity, the various stages of grief, and the trauma of simply entering an empty family home. We see how grief is unique to the individual whether a child or an adult who has a child's maturity and the utter devastating loneliness of grief. We are reminded that each person in a family, sees life differently and how we are all moulded by our surroundings. For Celebrants conducting funerals, this is an insight into the rollercoaster of emotions and experiences that our clients may be going through when they call us to honour a life lost and why choices are made on how to honour a loved one. It shows that the same words can be and are used at different funerals with importance, how the lack of a guided funeral can leave an emptiness that exacerbates grief, and that a funeral filled only with business acquaintances (seat warmers) has a meaningless emptiness.

Oh, and it is another "Have your tissues at the ready".

- [The Madison \(TV series\) - Wikipedia](#)
- [The Madison - Watch on Paramount+ Australia](#)
- [The Madison \(TV Series 2026-\) - IMDb](#)
- [Watch The Madison The Madison - Paramount+ Australia](#)



Just who plays the tunes at your ceremony and what instrument do they play? If it is the Piano, this is a must see as it unearths everyday pianists from all over Australia. Our ABC comes through yet again with another amazing, quality program. Through the celebration of the street piano, regular Australians, each with a unique and inspiring backgrounds, are invited to play the piano at busy, very public, locations around the country before being given the opportunity of a lifetime. The first season was beautifully hosted by Amanda Keller, Andrea Lam, and Harry Connick Jr.

The recently released Season 2, is again hosted by Amanda Keller, again joined by the very talented Andrea Lam, and this time, also the incredible Guy Sebastian.

Both seasons are excellent viewing but season 2 is overwhelmingly so. Have your tissues at the ready.

The Piano airs on Sundays at 7:30pm on ABC TV but all episodes are available to stream on ABC iView.

- [The Piano : ABC iview](#)
- [The Piano Series 2 : ABC iview](#)



DALLY'S LATEST BOOK



Every Celebrant knows of or has benefitted from the work of pioneer Celebrant Dally Messenger III, though he is also well known to fans of Rugby League, as the grandson of HH Dally Messenger after whom the *Dally M* awards are named.

Our Dally, the Celebrant is a teacher, pioneer civil celebrant, and author of many Celebrancy articles, books and courses but he also annually presents the Dally M Awards, and has now authored a new book on his equally famous grandfather.

Dally Messenger III was educated at St Bernard's College, Katoomba, and Marist Brothers, Parramatta.

He left school at 15 and worked at ANZ Bank before studying for the priesthood in 1959. Ordained in 1966, he left the priesthood disillusioned less than two years later.

He taught at Haileybury College (1969–1975) and worked in journalism and radio. He led international tours and was founding editor of Dance Australia magazine.

He was the first ever to apply to become a Civil Marriage Celebrant under the provisions of the new Commonwealth Marriage Act of Australia (1961), but his application was refused by then Attorney General Sir Garfield Barwick. Later, on 27th February 1974, having heard of the earlier refusal, the new Attorney General, Lionel Murphy, finally appointed Dally Messenger III as a Civil Celebrant. In the over 51 years since, Dally has championed Civil and Funeral Celebrancy and has travelled to educate Celebrants in the United Kingdom and USA and so is without doubt and very obviously a pioneer civil celebrant, active in the movement for over 51 years. In 2024, he was once again nominated for an OAM for services to Celebrancy but we are yet to hear of the progress of that nomination. A key to developing professional funeral celebrancy and celebrant education, he founded the International College of Celebrancy and created numerous specialist courses.

His published books include:

- Ceremonies and Celebrations (2008 edition),
- The Master 2008,
- Murphy's Law and the Pursuit of Happiness (2002).

Dally's latest book though, is not about Celebrancy at all but will certainly be of incredible interest to all rugby league fans, and it is published just in time for Christmas, so he would dearly love you to buy it!!

This book is the H.H. Dally Messenger' story

Dally's grandfather, [Herbert Henry "Dally" Messenger](#), was an all-round sporting genius and the original Australian rugby league superstar who led Eastern Suburbs to their first glorious premiership, led the first rugby league game onto the Sydney Cricket Ground and Captained the First Kangaroos. Harry Sunderland, a towering, entrepreneurial figure of the game once wrote: *"Without Messenger's magical appeal...there would be no league."*

Dally Messenger

The Beginning of Rugby League

Dally Messenger



The story of "The Master", his rise in Rugby Union, and his pre-eminence in the newly formed Australian Rugby League.

Dally Messenger III

His outstanding and thrilling achievements on the field of play are the stuff of legend. The **Dally M Awards**, named in his honour in 1998, are the official annual player awards for the National Rugby League competition. As well as honouring the player of the year, the [Dally M Medal](#), awards are also given to the premier player in each position, the best coach, the best captain, representative player of the year and the most outstanding rookie of the season.

At 335-page, it is easy-to-read book is full of interest and all the important facts. it is \$35 AUD + \$8 p&p (\$22 USD) and will be delivered to you within 4 to 5 days whether you are in Australia, the USA, New Zealand or Great Britain.

www.books.by/books-from-dally-and-friends

[Books from Dally and friends on Books.by](http://www.books.by/books-from-dally-and-friends)

WARNING

DEVIANT



Since before 2020, there have been numerous reports, particularly by **female celebrants**, of an obsessive deviant making frequent and

often harassing phone calls, up to 18 per day, at all hours of the day & night, greatly distressing many female Celebrants. In September 2022, it was reported that after his number (Robert [0452 504 893](tel:0452504893)) had been blocked, he called as "Dale" using [0466 043 434](tel:0466043434) at 11:11pm and allegedly told a woman that *"I have your son"*. He demanded \$35,000 in return for the boy, adding *"I want to have sexual relations with your son, he's a gorgeous boy"*. Presumably, Australian Federal Police (AFP) in Adelaide acted quickly on that report as the victim advised that the offender was already known to the AFP when she immediately reported the incident. Some have reported that they had received 10 or more missed calls from an unknown number before he finally calls on one of the two mobile numbers. He is clearly very persistent.

After a lull, (*he told one person that he had been overseas for two years*) it seems that he is back as in late April, using the names 'Robert', Michael, Tony, Tony Guido, or David, he has phoned Celebrants, from [0452 504 893](tel:0452504893) (or a blocked number), and using the name 'Dale', when he called from [0466 043 434](tel:0466043434). Women who received calls from both numbers reported that they recognised his distinctive voice immediately and that he used the same pretext. When victims have refused to cooperate, he has sometimes become abusive. This is a list of his tactics, and claims that might help you recognise the offender:

- Sounds drunk or 'high' and his voice is muffled.
- Typically repeats the victims' words.
- Falsely claims to know the Celebrant from past ceremonies and may even mention random names.
- Has claimed to have previously been a Celebrant.
- Sometimes pretends to be seeking availability for a Ceremony of his own.
- Told one Celebrant, he would fly her to Europe
- Has said that he lives in Melbourne but travels interstate, including Brisbane, or internationally.
- Has claimed that he works in events and promotions, and will promote the Celebrant for the *"low price of \$100 for each couple that makes a booking"*.
- Often says he is in the fashion industry and commonly offers *"free clothing samples"*, before asking

about clothing size and what lingerie is worn, or if the Celebrant would wear lingerie for the planned (*obviously non-existent*) ceremony..

Numerous Celebrants, mostly female, have already complained to both state and federal Police, and to Telstra and other Telcos, and as mentioned, he is apparently known to the AFP, but the advice from an AFP contact is to report to state Police who will escalate to the AFP. The editor has also reported this history to the e-Safety Commissioner, ref: CRM:0260000002633

In April 2026, the deviant was mostly calling female Celebrants and/or females who advertised as being psychics, in South Australia and in Western Australia but then in other states as has already occurred in 2026.

Reporting calls to Police could result in criminal charges against the abusive person:

- Record the date and time of any calls
- report the call to Police with the above history making certain to get a Police Report Number.
- Share the police report number with other Celebrants so that they can quote it when making their own report so as to ensure a full history can be gathered to aid in a prosecution.

Call Triple Zero (000) if in danger. If it's not an emergency, contact your [local police station](#) or Police Assistance Line (131 444) instead.

Alternatively, you might choose to simply block the numbers [0452 504 893](tel:0452504893) and [0466 043 434](tel:0466043434).

Depending on the type of phone you have, you can block the numbers in your phone settings to prevent being contacted. Generally, once blocked, any calls or text messages from the blocked phone number will not come through. However, blocking is going to be different on each phone, for example, the device may block incoming calls but not text messages or the blocked person may still be able to leave a voicemail but you won't get a notification. If you're not sure how to block on your phone, web-search *"how to block a number on [make and model of your phone]"* and if possible, test blocking to see how it works on your phone.

You can also report the matter to your Telco. Another means of legal redress can be civil action, such as a protection order requested by you and granted by a magistrate or judge to restrict the abusive person from coming near you or calling you.

KEEP ALERT-KEEP SAFE- REPORT INCIDENTS TO POLICE

COORDINATOR COMMENTS



Once again we have had an interesting month with some good and some not so good.

One incredible part of being a Celebrant is the close connection to community. Isn't it wonderful when you go for a morning walk or are just out somewhere and someone you don't recognise says hello to

express their joy at being in attendance at one of your ceremonies. The down side to that is that it can also occur at the most inopportune times such as a medical appointment but that's just being human.

In April, we of course commemorated Anzac Day and there is nothing quite as poignant as the mist rolling at your feet as hundreds stand in commemorative silence at a Dawn Service. It can be overwhelming for many and is truly a powerful way to remember and honour those who were lost in battle. For us Celebrants, we can also learn from the persons who lead the service (*if it's not ourselves*) as we observe the manner, dignity, solemnity, timing, stance, sense of ceremony, and method of delivery.

Sadly, some incidents on Anzac Day 2026 will hopefully be forgotten when some disgustingly disrespectful, ignorant, racist, Neo-Nazis, bewilderingly booed, marring the sacred occasion. It was flabbergasting and was only outweighed by the cheers and applause that followed with the Neo-Nazi's then quietly leaving without further incident.

We are Australian and Nazism is about as un-Australian as it comes. Having mentioned that, you may be aware that the National War Memorial is now recognising the many wars fought on Australian soil in defence of First Nation's people and while that is occurring, I am delighted that I now have couples who insist on an 'Acknowledgment of Country' (*meaning any of the 600 or so regions which is very different to a welcome to Australia*) at their ceremonies and some are genuinely surprised at my even mentioning that it is not compulsory though is polite and respectful. Some are shocked that it is optional and question why anyone would not include it. It is nice to know that whilst we have reactionaries, we also have so many considerate progressives.

I hope you have again enjoyed this newsletter and please let me know if you enjoy the added word search puzzle so that I know whether to include puzzles in future editions.

Finally, words are so important to us all. They are our bread and butter and so exercising our word skills is as important as exercising our bodies. Reading is so important for the brain but I have been listening to the audiobooks of *The War of the Worlds* and *The Time Machine*, both so beautifully and descriptively written by H.G. Wells. The language, from a different era is so concise and descriptive, that each word evokes an image, each sentence an environment, each paragraph, a sense of presence as if the reader/listener, was on the same journey. The beauty of audio books is that each is read by accomplished actors & performers, so they don't just read the novel, but bring it to life while you learn how the old words were correctly pronounced and used (e.g. eatable, not edible) just 100 years ago. I had forgotten just how much I enjoy quality audiobooks and am certain that my language skills will be improved.

While social media and AI diminish social communication skills and spelling, we must always strive to improve our communications and word skills as they are absolutely essential to our work as Celebrants.



WORD SEARCH

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

**BESTMAN BIRTHPLACE BRIDE CONSENT EVIDENCE FEMALE
GUIDELINES INTENDED INVALID MALE MARITAL NONBINARY GROOM
REGISTER SINGLE TERMINATION VOWS WED WIDOW PASSPORT**