



COVER PIC: 'Honeymooning' by Todd Hardingham

Inside this issue:

- Todd Hardingham's Photography Tips
- Your 'A' Number (OPD)
- Poetry Corner
- Feedback
- Rituals & Customs Around the World
- Welcome to Country & Our history
- Claiming home-office expenses (Tax)
- Words are Important
- Ticking off—Attack of the Nymphs
- Scamming Celebrants
- Coordinator Comments
- Word Puzzle
- And more :)

Todd Hardingham, NSW South Coast local, has been in the wedding photography industry for over a decade. Between work, surfing & gardening, he has generously offered a few tips and suggestions for Celebrants.

@todddhardinghamweddings
[Hello@todddhardinghamweddings.com](mailto>Hello@todddhardinghamweddings.com)



A Photographer's Thoughts On Better Photos, Better Flow & A Better Wedding Experience,

By Todd Hardingham

After photographing weddings for over 10 years, one thing has become very clear to me. The absolute best ceremonies happen when all the vendors work together to authentically create the best day for the couple and their guests.

(Continued on page 2)

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.

An update from your AMC South Coast Coordinator, Lou Szymkow

All content is created for information & entertainment only and so is not legal advice, and not necessarily the views of the editor or a Celebrancy association. 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. All care is taken to honour copyright but if an error is made, let us know for correction.



(Continued from page 1)

When there's good communication between us, the whole day flows better. The couple feel more relaxed, the guests stay engaged, and most importantly...we create space for those real moments to happen naturally.

I've worked with some truly incredible celebrants over the years. I've found that the best ones are the ones who bring warmth, humour, confidence and a calming presence to the ceremony without making it feel like a performance.

Celebrants often have more influence over the flow of the day than almost anyone else, so I thought I'd put together a few thoughts from the perspective of a wedding photographer who works with them all the time. Not hard rules. Just little things that make a massive difference.

Communication Before The Ceremony

One of the most underrated things a celebrant can do is simply touch base with the photographer before the ceremony begins. If it is possible, prior to the wedding is a great time to get in touch so we can put faces to names. If not, on the day is fine. A quick: *"Hey mate, anything you need from me during the ceremony?"* instantly puts everyone on the same page.

Most photographers aren't expecting a detailed production meeting. We're usually running around photographing guests arriving, finalising details, capturing emotional family moments and trying to change lenses while holding two cameras and a muesli bar at the same time. But a quick conversation helps enormously. Things that are helpful for us photographers to know:

- Are there any surprise moments planned?
- Are the couple doing private vows beforehand?
- Are there cultural or religious elements we should be aware of?
- Will the couple step aside to sign?

- Where is the signing table going to be placed?
- Is there anything important happening off-script?
- Do you need anything from the photographer?
- Sometimes celebrants ask if photographers want a copy of the ceremony script. It can definitely help, especially if there are surprise readings, emotional stories or special moments planned.

Where Celebrants Should Stand

This is probably the most talked-about topic between photographers and positioning matters more than people realise. The most common photography tip celebrants hear is:

- "Step out of the way for the kiss"
- Which is absolutely true.
- But it also applies to:
 - The ring exchange,
 - Personal vows,
 - Reactions from parents,
 - The signing table.

The ceremony isn't really about us. It's about creating space for the couple's connection to be the focus. Less walking in and out of the ceremony is always better and one way to do this is to have a microphone for yourself and one for the couple to share.

The best place a celebrant can stand is slightly off to the side within sight for everyone but just out of sight from the photographers wide shots. Usually around halfway toward the seats at the front, or just outside the bridal party depending how many people are involved.

(Continued on page 3)





(Continued from page 2)

Common Celebrant Positives

From my experience, the celebrants that couples remember forever are rarely the ones with the fanciest words. They're usually the ones who make everyone feel relaxed.

Some of the best celebrants I've worked with all share similar qualities:

- Calm energy
- Reading the room
- Help couples and guests feel present
- Have a team mentality

Common Mistakes (That Are Easily Fixed)

Every wedding vendor has habits they don't realise they're doing, Photographers included.

There are a few recurring things that can unintentionally affect the visual side of ceremonies.

- Remaining in the centre of the ceremony for the entire duration. It takes attention away from the couple
- Long drawn out sections of speech that may not be relevant to the couple.
- Forgetting the house keeping introduction
- Microphone or projection issues such as speaking too loud or too softly
- Bad sound connection with feedback
- Mismatched timing or pauses between speeches and music

How Celebrants Can Get Photos Afterwards

This is another common question. Generally speaking, photographers own the copyright to the images they create. That is the standard across the photography industry. Most wedding photographers are more than happy to share images with vendors when:

- the couple has approved sharing,
- proper credit is given,
- the images aren't altered heavily

The easiest approach is to simply send the photographer a friendly message after the wedding.

For example:

"Hey mate, I loved working with you on Saturday. If the couple are happy with it, I'd love a few ceremony images for socials and website use. Happy to tag you or cross promote how you like"

Most photographers are totally happy to help. Especially when vendors tag and credit properly.

Editing style is a huge part of a photographer's work and brand identity and that is why it is important that images aren't heavily filtered or re-edited after delivery. It is a breach of copyright.

Different Styles Of Wedding Photography

Not every photographer approaches weddings the same way. And that's actually a really good thing.

Some photographers lean heavily into:

- editorial fashion-inspired imagery,
- dramatic flash photography,
- highly posed portraits, or cinematic glamour shots.

Others, like myself, tend to focus more on:

- natural interaction,
- candid moments,
- documentary storytelling,
- movement,
- warmth,
- nostalgia, and
- emotional honesty.

Neither approach is right or wrong. It simply depends on the couple.

Understanding different photography styles helps celebrants guide couples toward vendors that genuinely suit their personalities.

A relaxed barefoot beach couple may not want ultra-

(Continued on page 4)





(Continued from page 3)

formal luxury editorial posing. Similarly, couples planning a black-tie city wedding might want something more polished and fashion-forward.

The best weddings happen when all the vendors align naturally with the couple's vibe.

The Things Couples Rarely See

Wedding photography is genuinely one of the most rewarding jobs in the world, but it can also be physically and mentally demanding. Most photographers are carrying heavy gear for 8–12 hours while constantly problem-solving in real time. A few common challenges photographers quietly navigate:

- * **Very Long Days:** A wedding day often starts during prep in the morning and finishes deep into the dance floor chaos at night. By the end of a 10 hour wedding, most photographers have walked kilometres carrying kilos of cameras.
- * **No Meal Time:** This one is surprisingly common. Sometimes photographers simply forget to eat. Other times meals arrive long after guests have finished. And occasionally vendors accidentally get forgotten altogether. A fed photographer is a functioning photographer.
- * **Phones Everywhere:** Some couples choose to have phone-free (*unplugged*) weddings so that everyone can be in the moment. Other ceremonies have guests leaning into aisles with iPads, phones held over shoulders during vows and uncles stepping into the aisle mid-kiss for the money shot. It happens more than you'd think. Which is why celebrants play such an important role in helping create a respectful atmosphere during ceremonies.

Funny & Unexpected Wedding Moments

After years of weddings, you start seeing some wonderfully chaotic things.

I've photographed:

- ☺ veils blowing into faces mid-vows,
- ☺ ties dipped into a fireball and sucked dry,
- ☺ dogs stealing ceremony attention,
- ☺ microphones cutting out,
- ☺ grooms crying before the bride even arrives,
- ☺ a bride bucked off a horse (she was fine!)

One wedding had a sudden hailstorm hit halfway through portraits and we sprinted 500 metres back to the venue. Somehow, those imperfect moments often become the most memorable parts of the day. Because weddings aren't really about perfection, they're about people. They are about real people laughing too hard, forgetting words, crying unexpectedly, and holding hands nervously. The best photographers and celebrants understand that our real job isn't to control the day, it's to help people feel comfortable enough to actually experience it.

Final Thoughts

At the end of the day, celebrants and photographers are both storytellers. We just tell the story differently. Celebrants shape the emotional atmosphere in real time. Photographers preserve those moments so couples can relive them forever. When we both work together, weddings feel effortless and honestly, couples notice that energy immediately.

To all the celebrants out there helping create meaningful, relaxed and genuinely personal ceremonies... Thank you. You make a photographer's job a whole lot easier.



A CELEBRANT'S 'A' NUMBER

There are four types of authorised marriage celebrants:

- 1) Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrants
- 2) Commonwealth-registered religious marriage celebrants
- 3) Ministers of religion who are from a recognised denomination
- 4) State and territory officers

Whilst it does not appear to be a legal requirement under the *Marriage Act 1961* or Marriage Regulations 2017, each Celebrant is assigned a unique celebrant identification number, for the purpose of solemnising and registering marriages in Australia.

That number is also used by Celebrants when ordering marriage stationery and an order cannot be submitted to CanPrint without one.

- Commonwealth-registered celebrants are issued with a registration number beginning with the prefix 'A' presumably for 'authorisation'
- State and Territory Officers are registered under the prefix 'RA'.
- Various state BDMS may have their own numbering systems, although their registration numbers are generally prefixed with the letter representative of that state or territory.

You will notice that whilst a data base of marriage celebrants appears on the AG website, registration numbers are not publicised and that the Marriage Law Celebrant Section within the Attorney General's office continues to recommend that registration numbers should not be made public, so as to minimise the risk of their misuse.



The Utopia We Shall Bring

By Pravin Gupta



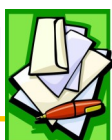
The lovely breeze from the highest in the world,
Is flowing into our homes today,
It bears the scent of a million blooms,
To the valley of eternity, it shows us the way.

Where all will be bound with the bond of love,
Where your needs will be mine to share,
Where humanity will be the religion of all,
Where for each other we shall always care.

We all shall walk to a better morrow,
Where all pain and sufferings we shall end,
Where the children grow holding hands,
And messages of love to all they shall send.

Where the light of knowledge will win over dark,
Bringing health, wealth, and happiness for all,
Where the firmament and earth shall meet yonder,
Let to that dawn may the cuckoo call.

Letters to the Editor



Hello Lou

Thank you, Lou, for your latest Newsletter. I truly admire the effort and interest you establish in the work. I don't know how you do all the info as it is always plentiful.

Barbara Bell

Thanks heaps, looks great.

Kindest,
Liesbeth Long

Hi Lou

Wonderful edition of an accumulation of current and past topics - It must take you hours putting such together. The way you give of your heart, mind and capacity in its being puts gold to shame- well done Barry Young O A M.

Hey Lou,

Thanking you once again for the enormous effort you go to with the newsletters.

I absolutely love the Royal Wedding photos and the valuable information contained within the articles.

Well done once again and deep gratitude

Leanne McKay

Dearest Lou,

I hope enough people tell you how amazingly wonderful you are.

The newsletters you put together must take lots of time and effort as they are super informative. I really enjoy reading them.

I want to thank you for doing something that supports other celebrants so greatly.

I am finding more and more that supporting one another feels very rewarding.

We really are a great community.

Thanks again. Dena D'Antone



The History is Important

Wedding traditions from around the world have evolved through perhaps hundreds or even thousands of years of developing history, with cultural, superstitions, and/or religious influences and nuances. Some have a very specific purpose such as initiated good luck or conversely to keep away evil spirits and bad luck.

Thorough research & sensitivity are always essential because without them, an innocent action could prove disrespectful to the culture in which it has its origins. A fundamental step is consulting the couple and their families about culture, heritage, and customs to gain a greater insight, remembering always that customs may vary from town to town, family to family, just as language and accents vary.

A simple example is the posture held during prayer in different countries and cultures within the same religious body e.g. in most western countries Catholics will kneel and place their palms together at about chest height but in some countries the palms are together at face height or above the head, or hands are held out from the body with palms upturned and open at chest or shoulder height. The differences may be considered subtle to some but very important to others.



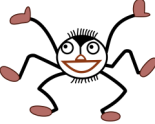


Another example is the 7 steps practiced in Hindu marriage ceremonies. In some circles the 7 steps are a simple custom but in more devout sectors, the steps are a deeply meaningful and devoutly religious ritual that should only be performed when guided by the equivalent of a priest reciting very holy scriptures or prayers in the process. So a nonpracticing Hindu would not be offended by their use in custom but a devout Hindi may be deeply offended by the appropriation of a holy ritual.

The same goes for readings. Corinthians 13 is perhaps the most commonly used biblical reading for weddings around the world and has been used for centuries. It appears on Pinterest without biblical reference, but to a devout Catholic, reading from the Holy Bible is prayer and so totally inappropriate for use by an atheist. There are of course numerous versions and some, using old language, could perhaps upset more progressive Catholics while a modern interpretations might infuriate a fundamentalist.

There are some other perhaps lesser known traditions such as the Celtic tradition, highlighted in a rhyme:

**Monday for wealth,
Tuesday for health,
Wednesday the best day of all,
Thursday for losses,
Friday for crosses, and
Saturday no luck at all.**

Other tradition or superstitions from around the world include:

- Throwing grains such as rice over the couple is to promote fertility but Czechs throw Peas rather than rice. Confetti largely replaced grains but is hard to clean up and so grains have made a comeback but it has to be either cooked rice or a grain that birds can safely eat to reduce cleanup. 
- In Denmark, brides and grooms traditionally cross-dressed to confuse evil spirits. 
- Egyptian women pinch the bride for good luck on her wedding day.
- English believe a spider found in a wedding dress means good luck. 
- Finnish brides, accompanied by an older married man to promote longevity of marriage, go door-to-door to collect gifts in a pillowcase.
- In Greek culture, to sweeten the union, the Bride tucks a sugar cube into your glove. 
- In Holland, a pine tree is planted outside the newlyweds' home as a symbol of fertility and luck.
- According to Hindu tradition, rain on your wedding day is considered good luck while in western culture, the rain represents a fresh and new beginning. 
- Irish ring bells to ward off evil spirit. And brides often carry bells in their bouquet.

(Continued on page 7)





(Continued from page 6)

- In Italy, many newlyweds smash a vase or glass at their wedding, and according to tradition, the number of pieces the glassware breaks into will symbolize how many years the couple will be happily married.

- In Kenya, as the newly married Bride and Groom leave the village, the father of the Bride spits on his daughter's head and chest, so as not to jinx their good fortune!



- Middle Eastern brides paint henna on their hands and feet to protect themselves from the evil eye.



- Moroccan women take a milk bath to purify themselves before their wedding ceremony.



- In South Africa, the parents of both bride and groom traditionally carried fire from their own hearths to light a new fire in the newlyweds' hearth.



- A Swedish bride puts a silver coin from her father and a gold coin from her mother in each shoe to ensure that she will never do without.



- In the USA's Southern folklore you should bury a bottle of bourbon upside down at the wedding site one month before to prevent rain and then you dig it up after the ceremony to enjoy.



- Horseshoes are thought to bring good luck.. Many brides wear horseshoe-shaped jewellery or include a horseshoe as part of their bridal bouquet.



OLDER OR BROADER TRADITIONS

- Referred to as '*Tapping the Shoe*' the Bride's father would hand over one of her shoes to the Groom, who then tapped her on the head with it to symbolise his role as her new master.

- Ancient Romans studied pig entrails to determine the luckiest time to marry.



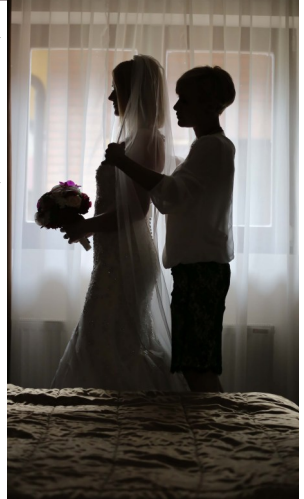
- The groom carries the bride across the threshold to protect her from evil spirits.



- If the younger of two sisters marries first, the older sister must dance barefoot at the younger sister's wedding if she is to find a husband.



- It is customary in some African tribes, for one of the mothers, or perhaps an elder, to accompany the newly married couple to their bed chamber on the wedding night, to 'educate' them on how and what to do.



- www.brides.com/gallery/wedding-traditions-around-the-world

- <https://makeoversaust.com.au/tips-for-brides/20-weird-and-wonderful-worldly-wedding-traditions>



BEN & JERRY'S HAS A GRAVEYARD WHERE THEY BURY ALL OF THE DISCONTINUED FLAVORS. VISITORS CAN FIND THE ICE CREAM CEMETERY IN THE BACKYARD OF THE COMPANY'S FACTORY IN WATERBURY, VERMONT, WHICH OVER 350,000 PEOPLE VISIT YEARLY.



Welcome to Country & Acknowledgement of Country

(Continued from page 8)

angrily tore up the treaty as the official objection was that Batman had attempted to negotiate directly with the Aboriginal people, whom British colonists did not recognise as having any claim to any lands in Australia. For some 65,000 years, over 660 different peoples lived within the lands that we now know as Australia. Like Europe, with numerous different languages, and cultures, there were borders or boundaries established. When a tribal member from one region, wished to enter or cross another, there were meetings that set permissions and interactions. Then just over 200 years ago English claimed the 'vacant' lands that were to become the Commonwealth of Australia. History has shown that the treatment by the English, of the Indigenous people has been horrific. On the occasions in recent history that there had been heinous mass shootings (*Hobart & Bondi*) news reports continually told us that these were the only massacres ever to occur on Australian soil and so we don't hear at all of the many massacres that occurred in the 1820-1850's, when there was an era of planned extermination, with groups of soldiers, Police and settlers going on killings rides, slaughtering any indigenous people they encountered. *The Killing Times* are documented and a blatant example is that, in what is now Tasmania, in February 1830, a bounty was introduced of £5 for every 'captured' Aboriginal adult and £2 for each child. They were hunted and shot. We also don't hear of the massacre in 1928 when Constable William George Murray led several punitive expeditions resulting in up to 200 Aboriginal people being killed in what is known as the Coniston massacre for which Constable Murray was later acquitted, or of the 1970's massacre in the Northern Territory when a Police officer shot women and children who had been resting by a billabong and later admitted to 'a bit of target practice'. There are many other documented massacres but lets now look at the NSW Aborigines Protection Act which subsumed previous legislation, including the 1867 law prohibiting alcohol being sold to Aboriginal people. It also provided for Aboriginal people of 'mixed blood' to be issued with 'certificates of exemption', releasing them from the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act and its regulations. These certificates, commonly known as 'dog tags', came at a price as individuals were forced to relinquish family connections. People were not allowed to visit their own families and were gaoled if caught doing so. Many of those who travelled to Sydney needed an exemption certificate to allow them to work. When they wanted to return home for family business like funerals, they had to get written permission from the manager of the station or mission to do so. The welfare board saw the increase in the number of certificates issued as proof of the success of its assimilation policy. The White Australia Policy from the 1900s didn't just exclude immigration, but included the 'relocation & assimilation' of indigenous people and abducting children, in what became known as the *Stolen Generation*, and as later outlined in the *Bringing them Home report*, commissioned by the Keating Labor Government, boys were sent to orphanages to eliminate their language, culture and identity, and to be trained as stockman for remote areas while girls

were trained as housemaids in the theory that separating them prevented 'breeding', that no white woman would mate with a black man and whilst white men would mate with the Aboriginal girls, within 12 generations, the 'aboriginality' would be bred out of the descendants of the females and ensure extinction of the original inhabitants of the lands. The children were given English names and punished if they spoke their own language. A key recommendation of the report was the need for an official acknowledgement of and apology for the forcible removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children but when the *Bringing them Home report*, was delivered, then Prime Minister John Howard, denied the existence of a *White Australia Policy*. Whilst some people choose to ignore history and so do not recognise the documented horrors of the past, we have to find a way to move forward. On 13th of February 2008, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd offered a formal Apology on behalf of our nation to Australia's Indigenous Peoples, particularly the Stolen Generations. It is clear that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have experienced a long history of exclusion from Australian history books, the Australian flag, the Australian anthem and for many years, Australian democracy in that Indigenous people. were given the vote in Adelaide in 1897 but it was subsequently removed in 1901 & 1902, and when compulsory voting was introduced in NSW in 1929, Aboriginal people were still excluded under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* and their vote was not restored until the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1962 though Queensland still denied the vote to Indigenous



people in state elections until 1965.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have served in large numbers in every conflict since Australia's Federation in 1901, but after they fought overseas in the Boer War, WW1 & WWII but some were not allowed to return to Australia or to 'country' because they couldn't prove citizenship.

- A number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people served in the Boer War (1899-1902)
- Over 1000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people served in World War I (1914-1918) and around 70 fought at Gallipoli
- At least 3000 Aboriginal and 850 Torres Strait Islander people served in World War II (1939-1945)
- In both World Wars, Aboriginal and Torres Strait

(Continued on page 10)



Welcome to Country & Acknowledgement of Country

(Continued from page 9)

Islander people had the highest participation rates in the military as a proportion of their population in Australia

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have participated in all military conflicts since the World Wars, including in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan and in peacekeeping operations including in Somalia and East Timor
- In 2011 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 1.7% of the Australian Army.

After returning from war, having fought for their country and experienced equal treatment during their service, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people found the same and in some cases, worse discrimination, colonisation and injustice as when they'd left. Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service people were not acknowledged and respected as veterans and did not have their contributions recognised. One example of this happened after the Boer War, when Aboriginal men who had participated were denied entry back home due to the immigration restrictions of the White Australia Policy. After the World Wars, Aboriginal veterans received little public recognition or support. They were even denied access to schemes that provided returning soldiers with land and job opportunities. For example, the *Soldier Settlement Scheme* aimed to give land and work to returning soldiers and involved splitting up large rural estates into smaller farming blocks, and leasing them to returned service-people. However Aboriginal soldiers were denied access to this scheme. In some cases Aboriginal land was divided under this scheme and then was granted to non-Aboriginal soldiers. Communities are still fighting to have this redressed. Other experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service people included having their income and pensions quarantined and having military funerals, participation in ANZAC marches and access to Returned and Service League (RSL) clubs denied. Children were still being removed from Aboriginal homes while their fathers fought in the wars.

The term *Country* has a particular meaning to many Indigenous peoples, encompassing an interdependent relationship between an individual or a people and their ancestral or traditional lands and seas.

The connection to land involves culture, spirituality, language, law/lore, kin relationships and identity. When other Indigenous people travelled onto another's tribal land, a ceremony was performed to show that the travellers were not a threat, but were welcome, enabling an exchange of culture or goods. A smoking ceremony was often included with leaves from one region being burnt in another. It was a ritual that was a welcome to tribal land (country) of which an Indigenous people have been a part for around 65,000. The nation of Australia, only around 200 years old, did not yet exist and the terms *Welcome to Country* and *Acknowledgement of Country* were not yet used to identify the rituals. Note that they are NOT a welcome to the nation or country

of Australia which has an entirely different connotation.

The modern *Welcome to Country* and *Acknowledgement of Country* however does recognise the unique position of Aboriginal/Indigenous people in Australian culture and history, and show respect for Aboriginal people.

Both protocols precede an activity but it is important to note that only an Elder from the locality can offer a *Welcome to Country*' but others may offer an *Acknowledgement of Country*. There is no legal requirement for this but it is respectful to offer an acknowledgment.

The map on an earlier page may help you in identifying the 'country', or follow this link :[aboriginal map of Australia](#) More information can be obtained from [Aboriginal Land Councils](#).

The map is vitally important as it identifies the many different cultures and tribal groups that existed, many of which have disappeared along with their languages and culture, hence many people of Indigenous heritage themselves are struggling to understand their own history which makes the *Welcome to Country* and *Acknowledgement of Country* all the more important.

A common misperception is that the *Welcome to Country* was first created and first occurred in the 1970s, at either the 1973 Aquarius Festival with a *Welcome* performed by Uncle Lyle Roberts Jr. or a 1978 *Welcome* by Richard Walley to a group of Maori performers.

The 1973 Aquarius Festival held in Nimbin, New South Wales, by the Australian Union of Students (AUS) has been documented as Australia's first publicly observed *Welcome to Country*, although it was not called this at the time. Organisers of the alternative lifestyle festival, considered Australia's "Woodstock", were challenged by Indigenous activist Gary Foley to seek permission from traditional owners to hold the festival on their land. The ceremony was conducted by Uncle Lyle Roberts and song man Uncle Dickee Donnelly.^{[2][10]}

The second recorded *Welcome to Country* occurred in 1976, when entertainers [Richard Walley](#), [Nyungar](#) man & an Aboriginal Australian performer, and [Ernie Dingo](#) developed a ceremony to welcome a group of Māori artists who were participating in the Perth International Arts Festival. The Māori performers, uncomfortable performing and demonstrating their own culture, without having been acknowledged or welcomed by the people of the land,^[12] insisted on being welcomed by the Indigenous peoples of the region, but in the absence of the existence of an Indigenous *Welcome to Australia*, organisers asked Ernie Dingo and Richard Walley to create a welcome. Richard Walley extended a welcome on behalf of the Noongar people, and it was intended to mirror the visitors' own traditions, while incorporating elements of Aboriginal culture.^[11] In his welcome, Richard Walley said:

I asked the good spirits of my ancestors and the good spirits of the ancestors of the land to watch over us and keep our guests safe while they're in our Country. And then I talked to the spirits of their ancestors, saying that we're looking after them here and we will send them back

(Continued on page 11)





Welcome to Country & Acknowledgement of Country

(Continued from page 10)

to their Country.

Arts administrator Rhoda Roberts, and daughter of Uncle Frank Roberts from the 1973 Aquarius Festival, coined the term *Welcome to Country* in the 1980s and helped develop both welcomes and acknowledgements to country by beginning each show she was involved with a Welcome. Since 2008, a Welcome to Country has been incorporated into the ceremonial opening of the Parliament of Australia, occurring after each federal election.

Acknowledgements of Country are a more recent development, associated with the Keating government of the 1990s, the reconciliation movement and the creation of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation (CAR) with Yawuru man Pat Dodson as chair. After the Mabo case, in which the High Court overturned the historical fiction of Australia being *terra nullius* and native title was recognised in Australia. According to Yorta Yorta and Dja Dja Wurrung man Tiriki Onus, head of the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development at the University of Melbourne, it was after Mabo that Acknowledgement of Country grew among "grassroots communities concerned with issues of reconciliation". Wiradjuri woman Linda Burney, a member of CAR in those days, has said that there was no formal strategy to bring the Acknowledgement of Country into Australian life, but it just grew organically and became accepted as part of many types of gatherings.

It was seen as a good way to engage people with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culture and that the wider Australian community feels that its important to have a good relationship with Australia's Indigenous peoples. An *Acknowledgement of Country* is particularly respectful when a recognised owner is not available to perform the welcome, or the traditional owners are not known

As Celebrants, we can of course write our own version of an *Acknowledgement* but there are samples below, some with slight variations, beginning with a poem by Jonathan Hill, an indigenous poet living in New South Wales.

Acknowledgement of Country' by Jonathan Hill

Today we stand in footsteps millennia old.
May we acknowledge the traditional owners
whose cultures and customs have nurtured,
and continue to nurture, this land,
since men and women
awoke from the great dream.

We honour the presence of these ancestors
who reside in the imagination of this land
and whose irrepressible spirituality
flows through all creation.

Samples As A Guide:

1. Before we begin proceedings, I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today (*Include the name of the People and their Nation here*). I would like to pay my respects to the Elders past, present and future and pay my respects to all Aboriginal People here today, wherever you may come from.
2. I would like to acknowledge the _____ people, who are the traditional custodians of this land. I would

also like to pay my respects to Elders past and present of the nation, and I extend that respect to other indigenous people who are present.

3. I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay my respects to the Elders past and present.
4. I would like to acknowledge that we meet on Aboriginal land, the land of the (*Include the name of the People and their Nation here*). I pay respect to their Elders past and present.

Shoalhaven & South Coast

1. I would like to acknowledge that the Djuwin (Yuin) people who were the original custodians of the land on which we meet today, We pay our respects to elders past and present, and acknowledge the Aboriginal people for their custodianship of this land... or
2. Before we begin proceedings, I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, the Djuwin (Yuin) people. I would like to pay my respects to the Elders past, present and future and pay my respects to all Aboriginal People here today, wherever you may come from...or
3. I begin by acknowledging that we meet today on the unceded lands of the, Djuwin (Yuin) people who have a deep spiritual connection with their country, and I acknowledge others across whose lands we have travelled to be here today. I pay my respects to the Elders past, present and future for their wisdom and knowledge, and I offer my respect to all Aboriginal People here today, from wherever you have travelled
4. I'd like to begin by acknowledging that we meet today on the unceded lands of the, Djuwin (Yuin) people and acknowledge others across whose lands we have travelled. I pay my respects to the Elders past, present and future for their wisdom and knowledge, and I offer my respect to all Aboriginal People here today, wherever you may come from.

Blue Mountains & south-eastern New South Wales, including Camden, Goulburn and the Southern Highlands:

1. I would like to acknowledge that the Gundagara people who were the original custodians of the land on which we meet today. We pay our respects to elders past and present, and acknowledge the aboriginal people for their custodianship of this land...or
2. Before we begin proceedings, I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, the Gundagara, I would like to pay my respects to the Elders past, present and future and pay my respects to all Aboriginal People here today, wherever you may come from.

Nepean and Blacktown areas

1. I would like to acknowledge that the Darug people who were the original custodians of the land on which we meet today. We pay our respects to elders past and present, and acknowledge the aboriginal people for their custodianship of this land... or
2. Before we begin proceedings, I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, the Darug people. I would like to pay my respects to the Elders past, present and



Welcome to Country & Acknowledgement of Country



(Continued from page 11)

future and pay my respects to all Aboriginal People here today, wherever you may come from.

Just as a final point, you might like to read my coordinator's comments on the last page as it includes a personal encounter with a remarkable man, an intended groom, who related his own story to this writer.

- <https://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/spirituality/welcome-to-country-acknowledgement-of-country/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Welcome_to_Country
- [Land Council - NSW Aboriginal Land Council](#)
- <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/reconciliation/acknowledgement-of-country-and-welcome-to-country/>
- [Mabo v Queensland \(No 2\) - Wikipedia](#)
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_War
- <https://humanrights.gov.au/bringing-them-home/>
- <https://www.sydneymarani.com.au/sites/government-policy-in-relation-to-aboriginal-people/>
- [Timeline of major crimes in Australia - Wikipedia](#)
- [Coniston massacre - Wikipedia](#)
- [Facebook slavery reel](#)
- [Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples – Parliament of Australia](#)
- <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/national-sorry-day-2020/>
- [Poisoning](#)
- [Batman's Treaty - Wikipedia](#)
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aboriginal_Australians
- <https://researchcentre.army.gov.au/library/australian-army-journal-aaj/volume-10-number-3-culture-edition/serving-their-country-short-history-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-service-australian-army>

APOLOGY TO AUSTRALIA'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Wednesday, 13 February 2008

Mr RUDD (Griffith—Prime Minister) (9.00 am)—I move:

“

That today we honour the Indigenous peoples of this land, the oldest continuing cultures in human history.

We reflect on their past mistreatment.

We reflect in particular on the mistreatment of those who were Stolen Generations—this blemished chapter in our nation's history.

The time has now come for the nation to turn a new page in Australia's history by righting the wrongs of the past and so moving forward with confidence to the future.

We apologise for the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians.

We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country.

For the pain, suffering and hurt of these Stolen Generations, their descendants and for their families left behind, we say sorry.

To the mothers and the fathers, the brothers and the sisters, for the breaking up of families and communities, we say sorry.

And for the indignity and degradation thus inflicted on a proud people and a proud culture, we say sorry.

”

National Apology, Parliament of Australia

- [Rejected by the country they fought for: New push to give Indigenous soldiers recognition | SBS The Point](#)
- <https://www.aic.gov.au/statistics/deaths-custody-australia>
- [National Reconciliation Week - Reconciliation Australia](#)
- [National Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week 2026](#)
- <https://www.unaa.org.au/2020/06/13/was-there-slavery-in-australia-yes-it-shouldnt-even-be-up-for-debate/>



Common Statements	A Better Phrase or Question
I don't know	Can I look that up for clarity and get back to you?
That's not my problem	That falls outside my area of responsibility but could I help you research it?
Hurry up	I am sorry to mention that time is limited.
I can't do that date	I am so sorry but is there a possibility that you might be flexible on the date/time as I already have a booking that conflicts.
You're wrong	Could we please review the details because I have a different interpretation?
I don't understand you	Could you please clarify what you mean?
Leave me alone	I'm sorry, but I need to focus on another task right now?



Who can claim home office expenses?



Alternatively, the ATO allows a (revised) [fixed rate method](#) as an option from 1 July 2022. The fixed rate method is a lot simpler and allows

you to claim 67 cents per hour you work from home for included expenses like:

- data and internet
- mobile and home phone usage
- electricity and gas
- computer consumables (e.g. printer ink), and
- stationery.

If you choose to apply the fixed rate method, you can't then claim a separate deduction for any expenses covered by that method (no double-counting!). If you choose this method you can still claim a separate deduction for things described above not covered by those included expenses such as:

- the decline in value of home office equipment,
- repairs and maintenance of that equipment, and
- cleaning costs (in the case of a dedicated home office).

You can visit the [ATO website](#) to learn more about both methods for working from home expenses.

- [Eligibility to claim](#)
- [Additional running expenses](#)
- [Choosing a method to calculate your claim](#)
- [Prior year work from home methods](#)
- [Expenses you can't claim](#)

Keep your receipts for tax time

Keep a record of your expenses, as the ATO may ask you to prove your work-related claims. Receipts are also handy if you're sorting out your Home & Contents Insurance for the first time, as they provide a good estimate of the value you need to cover.

You can store your receipts and records digitally. Consider keeping photos or scans on a cloud-based storage service.

TIP: The ATO's preferred choice of communications is via "MyGov". If the ATO is attempting to contact you, it will likely be in relation to something already sent to your MyGov account by the ATO. DO NOT CLICK ON LINKS IN EMAILS

Ref:

- [Working from home expenses | Australian Taxation Office \(ato.gov.au\)](#)

Your eligibility to claim depends on many variables. Exploring the [Australian Tax Office \(ATO\) Home Office expenses](#) can help you determine what applies to you.

You may be eligible if:

- your primary work function is conducted at home
- you work remotely some of the time, or
- you worked from home for a portion of the tax year.

If you're a business owner, the ATO has different taxation and deduction rules. [Learn more about business insurance and tax deductibility.](#)

To claim working from home expenses, you must:

- be working from home to fulfil your employment duties, not just carrying out minimal tasks, such as occasionally checking emails or taking calls
- incur additional running expenses as a result of working from home
- have records that show you incur these expenses.

To calculate your deduction for working from home expenses, you must use one of the methods set out below.

Where you incur running expenses for both private and work purposes, you need to apportion your deduction. You can only claim the work-related portion as a deduction.

What work from home expenses may be deductible?

If you're working from home, many common operating costs may be tax deductible. These can include:

- electricity expenses associated with working
- phone and internet expenses
- computer and stationery consumables, and
- home office equipment, including computers, printers, office furniture and furnishings.

For home office equipment and furniture, you may be able to claim either:

- the total cost of items up to \$300, or
- the decline in value for items over \$300.

You can only claim the portion of expenses paid that directly relates to earning your income. You'll need to calculate how many hours are spent working relative to the item's cost.

For example, you can divide your electricity bill between household (private) usage and work. The ATO provides formulas to support this. If you're using a tax agent or accountant, they'll be able to help with these calculations so you can claim correctly.

VOCABULARY

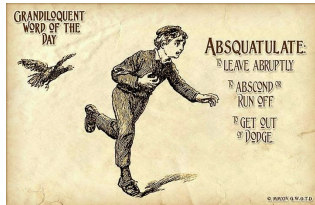
Words Are Important!

Expand your vocabulary

Writing for The Expert Editor, [Lachlan Brown](#) wrote on 4th May 2026, that “If you know the meaning of these 10 uncommon words, you’re smarter than most adults”, but let’s take his ten words and up the ante (raise the stakes) as we look at those and a few more.

Absquatulate

Absquatulate (ab-skwoch-uh-layt) is a verb meaning “to leave abruptly.”



Aporia

The expression of a simulated or real doubt, as about where to begin or what to do or say. A moment of puzzlement, when your assumptions collapse, and you have to rethink



Apophenia

The tendency to see patterns that are not really there, such as spotting faces in clouds.



Borborygmus

Borborygmus (bor-buh-rig-muhs) is a noun that means “a rumbling or gurgling noise made by gas and fluid moving in the intestines.”



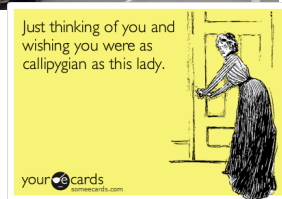
Cabotage

Cabotage (kab-uh-tahzh) noun, meaning “the transport of goods between two places in the same country.” It’s mostly used in maritime or aviation contexts, but can refer to ground transport



Callipygian

Callipygian (kal-uh-pij-ee-uhn) is an adjective that means “having well-shaped or beautiful buttocks.”



Defenestration

Defenestration (dee-fen-uh-stray-shun) noun, meaning “the act of throwing someone out of a window.” Metaphorically, it can also mean “the act of removing someone from a position of power.”



Eudaimonia

A Greek word literally translating to the state or condition of good spirit, and which is commonly translated as happiness or welfare. Aristotle used eudaimonia to



mean a flourishing life, a deeper and steadier form of happiness built on virtue, purpose, and good habits.

Equanimity

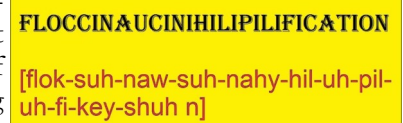
Equanimity is a state of psychological stability and composure which is undisturbed by the experience of or exposure



to emotions, pain, or other phenomena that may otherwise cause a loss of mental balance. The virtue and value of equanimity is extolled and advocated by a number of major religions and ancient philosophies as a calm balance, especially under stress. In Buddhist practice, it is the steady middle that lets you love deeply without clinging and act decisively without reacting.

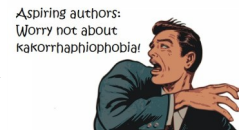
Floccinaucinihilipilification

Floccinaucinihilipilification (flok-suh-now-suh-nee-hil-uh-pil-uh-fi-kay-shun) is a noun that means “the act of regarding something to be useless or worthless.” e.g.: His floccinaucinihilipilification of my ideas made me feel unappreciated.



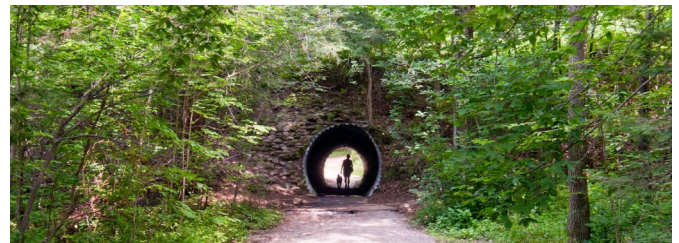
Kakorrhaphiophobia

Kakorrhaphiophobia (ka-kor-uh-fee-uh-foh-bee-uh) a noun meaning “a fear of failure.”



Liminal

Relating to the point (or threshold) beyond which a sensation becomes too faint to be experienced



Palimpsest

A **palimpsest** (/ˈpælɪmpst/) is a manuscript page, from which the text has been scraped or washed off in preparation for reuse in the form of another document. Parchment was made of lamb, calf, or goat skin and was expensive and not readily available, so, in the interest of economy, a page was often re-used by scraping off the previous writing. In colloquial usage, the term palimpsest is also used in architecture, archaeology and geomorphology to denote an object made or worked upon for one purpose and later reused for another; for example, a monumental brass on which the blank reverse side has been re-engraved



(Continued on page 15)

VOCABULARY

Words Are Important!

(Continued from page 14)

Petrichor

Petrichor is that earthy scent that arises when rain falls on dry soil.

Saudade

Derived from the Latin word for solitude, it is a Portuguese word for a bittersweet longing, a tender ache for something or someone you miss, even if it is not coming back. It is an emotional state of melancholic or profoundly nostalgic longing for a beloved yet absent someone or something.

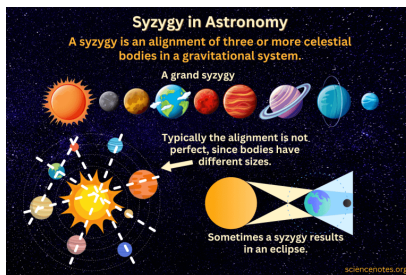
Sonder

The empathy or awareness that everyone has their own intricate inner world. The feeling one has on realising that every other individual one sees has a life as full and real as one's own, in which they are the central character and others, including oneself, have secondary or insignificant roles.



Syzygy

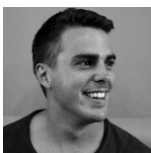
A Greek word meaning 'yoked together'. Astronomers use **syzygy** for perfect alignment, such as the sun, moon, and earth during an eclipse.



Xenization

The act of traveling as a stranger or foreigner.

*



Lachlan Brown suggests that the next time an unfamiliar word catches your eye, do not skip past it. Look it up.

Try it out. Maybe we can reshape how you see the world, one precise thought at a time.

- <https://experteditor.com.au/blog/if-you-know-the-meaning-of-these-10-uncommon-words-youre-smarter-than-most-adults/>
- <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/sonder>
- <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/liminal?q=Liminal>
- <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/aporia?q=Aporia>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eudaimonia>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudade>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syzygy>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petrichor>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palimpsest>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equanimity>
- <https://quillbot.com/blog/word-finder/weird-words/>
- [100 Rare Words With Beautiful Meanings](#)

THE SIDE HUSTLE

Perhaps it is because most of our TV shows and movies come from the USA, or that the spelling and grammar AI's use Americanisms, that we are so influenced by Americanisms. I like country music but find it particularly annoying that Australian country music performers often sing with an annoying American country twang.

As more and more people misuse, mispronounce or misspell words, the words themselves fall into the common vernacular, and gradually, the definition that is contrary to its origin appears in dictionaries and may even be a re-creation of a word. So much is the influence, that few recognise the correct English spelling of 'Gaol', using instead the American spelling of 'Jail'. Language changes. The Master of Ceremonies is another example. It was abbreviated to MC and now you will find, largely because of American Rap music, that **emcee**, appears in some dictionaries, with some possibly not even knowing what a Master of Ceremonies actually is. The one that is most annoying to this author, is that some Celebrants and, particularly a certain RTO, bewilderingly describe Celebrancy as a 'side hustle', which has come to be defined by Americans as "work performed for income supplementary to one's primary job". Interestingly, it was also Americans who earlier had referred to prostitution as a 'hustle' and so the American definition is definitely not consistent with the word's origin but let's look at the current correct definition of 'hustle', found in dictionaries, which can be used as a noun or a verb:

hustle/ 'hʌsəl/, noun

- 1) A state of busy activity.
- 2) A propensity to work hard and get things done; ability to hustle.
- 3) (preceded by definite article) A type of disco dance, commonly danced to the Van McCoy song *The Hustle*.
- 4) An activity, such as prostitution or reselling stolen items, that a prisoner uses to earn money in prison.

hustle/ 'hʌsəl/, verb

- 1) To push someone roughly, to crowd, to jostle.
- 2) To rush or hurry. e.g. "I'll have to hustle to get there on time."
- 3) To bundle; to stow something quickly.
- 4) To con or deceive; especially financially. e.g. "The guy tried to hustle me into buying into a bogus real estate deal."
 - To play deliberately badly at a game or sport in an attempt to encourage players to challenge.
 - To obtain by illicit or forceful action.
 - To sell sex; to work as a pimp.
 - To be a prostitute, to exchange use of one's body for sexual purposes for money.
 - To dance the hustle, a disco dance.
 - To work.
 - To put a lot of effort into one's work.

I'm certain that we all put a lot of effort into our work but the noble profession of Celebrancy is definitely not an effort to con or to deceive, especially financially, it is not prostitution, and it is not reselling stolen items that a prisoner uses to earn money in prison.

TICKING SAFETY

Attack of the Nymphs



Ticks are parasitic arachnids (related to spiders), with 8 legs, that feed on blood from animals and humans. Being common on the South Coast, they can be uninvited guests at any ceremony, especially if there is bush or long grass nearby. The picture above has a nymph at the left through to an engorged adult at the right. Lately, there have been numerous reports throughout April & May of a proliferation of Nymph ticks and so if you have seen someone with small itchy bumps on their skin that may resemble chicken pox, hives or measles, it may well be that they are a victim of an attack of Nymph ticks. Ironically as this article was being written, the writer suffered a single, tiny Nymph tick bite that caused redness, itching and local swelling to about the diameter of a 20 cent piece which remained for a couple of hours even after the tick had been removed. It was not immediately recognised as a tick bite because the Nymph tick was so tiny, it appeared to be just a tiny black speck and could only be marginally identified with magnification and then removal.

There are over 70 different types of ticks in Australia with only 17 that will feed on human blood and these are especially common along the east coast of Australia including the Shoalhaven and Eurobodalla regions. Ticks bite and feed on animal and human blood. By burrowing into your skin and scalp, where they can stay attached for up to 5 days. Whilst tick bites are usually harmless, some people are allergic to them, and it's also possible for ticks to pass on infections and they can bite any part of your body. Most commonly it is exposed skin areas but one resident suffered a tick bite to his eye. Whilst an adult tick might be solitary, and so readily detected, Nymph ticks are baby ticks about the size of a poppy seed and are so tiny that they can easily be mistaken for dark specks on the skin, but they can be as toxic and dangerous as an adult tick partly because they are so tiny, that they are easy to miss. Nymphs can group and though swarm is not a word commonly used in regard to ticks, a victim might have numerous bites on any exposed part of the body. They get into clothing such as fuzzy jumpers and when the jumper is removed, the ticks are agitated and find their host. The bites are usually painless, and in some cases, may

not itch at first, but if they do itch, the itching can be severe though it can be alleviated with a cold shower and the liberal application of calamine lotion. Numerous Nymph tick victims in the Shoalhaven have experienced multiple bites to the point that they looked as if they had hives. One victim reported that while she had over 50 bites on both arms and her torso. When seeking help. She discovered that both her doctor, and her pharmacist had each suffered similar attacks. As Nymph ticks are so tiny, they can easily feed on you for a few days before being detected, whereas adult ticks commonly have a more obvious presence and can grow considerably in size when engorged with their host's blood. If undetected they may be present for 5 days and healing of wounds may take 2 weeks. For most, it is an aggravating nuisance with little or no long term issues, but for some it can be serious.

Tick saliva is a venom with substances that are:

- anaesthetics (numbing)
- anticoagulants (make blood clotting more difficult)
- vasodilators (widen your blood vessels)
- anti-inflammatory (reduce redness, swelling and pain)
- immunosuppressant (lowers or stops your immune system from working properly)

(Continued on page 17)

Ticks

healthdirect

Adult tick before feeding	 4mm long	Adult tick after feeding	 10mm long	
✓ Key facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tick bites are usually harmless, but can sometimes cause an allergic reaction. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You should not squeeze, agitate or forcibly remove ticks. 	
! What to do after visiting a known tick area	 Heat clothing in drier	 Search body for ticks	 Check children	 Check pets
! How to kill ticks	 Freeze the tick with an ether-containing spray, and wait for it to drop off.		 ✗ Do not try to remove ticks with tweezers.	

!

Do not remove the tick - kill it with ether-containing spray.

If you are allergic to ticks or have mammalian meat allergy seek medical help.

If you or someone near you has trouble breathing or collapses after a tick bite, **call triple zero (000) and ask for an ambulance.**

If you have access to an adrenaline autoinjector, administer it, and continue to follow the steps of an ASCIA action plan, if one is available.

© Healthdirect Australia Limited - last reviewed 2025

[Download this guide as a PDF](#)

(Continued from page 16)

Tick bites are usually harmless, but can be aggravatingly itchy but allergic reactions can range from a mild reaction to anaphylaxis (a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction).

One of the more serious side effects of tick bites can be the mammalian meat allergy (alpha-gal syndrome).

Alpha-gal is a sugar naturally present in all mammals except for primates, which of course includes humans. When a tick bites another mammal and then bites a human, the alpha-gal sugar is passed on via the tick's saliva, causing the victim to suffer an allergy to mammalian meat (and sometimes dairy as well).

If you have mammalian meat allergy, you will need to avoid eating *all mammalian* meats, including:

- * Beef
- * Kangaroo,
- * Goat
- * Lamb & mutton
- * Pork
- * Horse
- * Venison

You will also need to avoid eating *anything* containing gelatine, which can be found in food products and in some medicines.

If a tick has been attached to you for at least 24 hours, it can pass on infections, causing other illnesses or infections, including those by the Rickettsia bacteria; including:

- Australian spotted fever
- Flinders Island spotted fever
- Queensland tick typhus
- Q-fever
- Debilitating Symptom Complexes Attributed to Ticks (DSCATT) /Lyme disease

In Australia, **tick paralysis** is mostly seen in animals, but humans can also be affected. This is rare as the tick must be attached for 4 to 5 days to inject enough toxin.

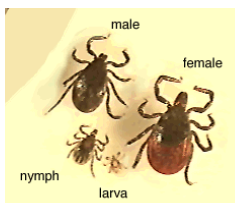
Symptoms of tick paralysis may start a few days after being bitten and include:

- headaches
- blurred vision
- weakness
- poor balance

REMOVAL TIPS

Do not try to remove a tick using:

- Tweezers (can squeeze the venom into the wound)
- methylated spirits
- kerosene
- petroleum jelly
- nail polish
- oil
- alcohol
- a lighted match
- Watch this video from the National Allergy Council on: [how to safely remove a tick](#).

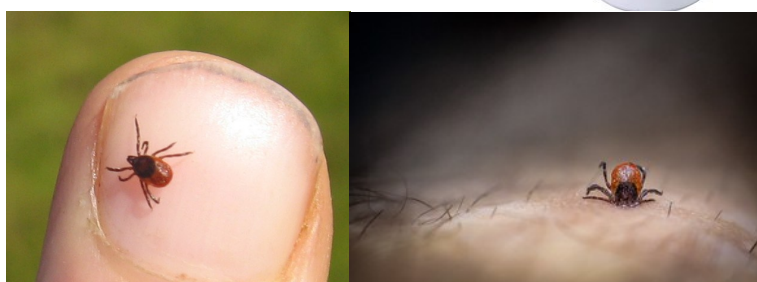


INJURY PREVENTION TIPS

- Use an insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin or lemon eucalyptus.
- Use an insecticide that contains permethrin on your clothes when gardening or in tick areas.
- You can be vaccinated against Q-fever.
- Keep your skin covered in areas where there might be ticks.
- Wear light-coloured clothing to make it easier to see ticks.
- Wear a long-sleeved shirt & tuck it in.
- Tuck your trousers into your socks
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat.
- Avoid bush and long grass, especially after rain.
- Brush your clothes and check your skin for ticks before going indoors.
- Check children
- Check pets—your vet can give an injection for long term immunity and there are also gels available at pet stores.
- Place your clothes in a hot dryer for 20 minutes to kill ticks still on your clothes.
- Wash sheets regularly
- Vacuum your mattress with a power headed vacuum to remove ticks, mites, and shedded skin.
- Freeze the tick with an ether-containing spray, and wait for it to drop off.
- The quick removal of a tick may lower your chance of becoming allergic to them and may also lower your chance of getting a tick-borne infection or tick paralysis.
- Keep a tick removal spray in your emergency kit
- Do not squeeze, agitate or forcibly remove ticks as this can cause the tick to burrow further in to release more toxins
- If you have a tick, you should kill it as soon as possible by freezing it with an ether-containing product.
- Other tick removal tools are available at pharmacies but they are not as effective as freezing.
- If you're allergic to tick bites, you should get medical attention urgently after a tick bite.

Resources and support

- For advice on tick bites, call the [Poisons Information Hotline](#) on 13 11 26.
- Visit the [Tiara](#) website for information about tick-induced allergies, research and awareness.
- Emergency response plans for severe allergic reactions can be found at [ASCIA Action Plans for anaphylaxis](#).
- You can also call the [healthdirect helpline](#) on **1800 022 222** (known as NURSE-ON-CALL in Victoria). A registered nurse is available to speak with you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/tick-bites>
- <https://allergyfacts.org.au/allergy/mammalian-meat/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/alpha-gal-syndrome/about/index.html>
- <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8974695/>
- <https://allergyfacts.org.au/allergy/mammalian-meat>



BRUSHING SCAM

You might have noticed an increasing number of people in your community posting on social media that a package has been delivered to their address, but they don't know the person to whom it was addressed. A real package but fake sale. Initially, if it was addressed to yourself, you might think it is a gift, perhaps from a client but sadly it is a brushing scam.

In the brushing scam, a Celebrant, or anyone for that matter, finds an unsolicited package delivered to their doorstep:

- addressed to either themselves or to an unknown party at the same address.
- There may be no return address.
- The sender is a business you've never heard of
- The package might be an item that was not ordered, or
- If a purchase was made, the item delivered bears no resemblance to a purchased item.

It is usually a small and light package, making postage cheap, and the contents might be an inexpensive brush (*hence the scam's name*), or kitchen gadget, tech accessories, cheap fashion item, plush toy, pillow, soap, socks, or any other small, lightweight, 'cheap' item that is inexpensive to ship, especially from overseas.

This scam which hinges on the fact that a product has to be '*purchased and shipped*' to verify a sale, and so the seller fraudulently inflates their online sales numbers to create a 'best-seller' status, which can only be achieved through large volumes of sales. The faster they achieve this criterion, the more successful they'll appear and the more products they can sell

Here's how it works:

- Personal information is taken from social media or through a data breach.
- Multiple, or even hundreds of accounts, are opened using the victim's stolen data (identity theft).
- using the fake profiles, fake sales are generated
- The items are then shipped to your real address, which enables them to verify the purchase on the platform they are using (Amazon, eBay, FB Marketplace, AliExpress etc.)
- A misleading online appearance suggests that the scammers' storefront is popular.
- The package might have a QR code taking the victim to a cloned website that releases a computer virus.
- The fake profiles are utilised to create positive reviews.
- The sales figures and reviews give the scammer a 'best-seller status', enabling them to either scam more people or make genuine sales.

If you receive an unsolicited parcel:

- Do NOT use the QR code on the package
- Don't use the item, but report it to the marketplace it was sent from e.g. [report the package to Amazon](#) using its 'Report Unwanted Package' form, report brushing scams to [eBay](#) and [AliExpress](#) using their websites.
- Check if your email has been compromised on the [HaveIbeenpwned](#) website.
- Keep your firewall UpToDate to block viruses.
 - <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365-life-hacks/privacy-and-safety/what-is-a-brushing-scram>
 - <https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/what-are-brushing-scams-almrt8v9zvXI>
 - <https://www.ifcu.com/about/who-we-are/the-ifcu-blog/detail.html?cId=95813&title=beware-of-brushing-scram>

SCAM

WARNING

VIDEO MEETING SCAM

Celebrants in the USA are reporting a new scam involving fake zoom and google meet requests from seemingly genuine 'couples'.



The 'officiants' (Celebrants) are receiving seemingly genuine requests to meet with a couple via zoom or google and are then sent a genuine looking link for the meeting but unfortunately the link is actually malware. i.e. a hacking virus.

As it is difficult to distinguish between the genuine and fake contact, the current suggested solution is to ensure you use your own video link or any of the many free video call apps e.g. FB Messenger, WhatsApp etc, and not trust a link from a stranger.

Overview of the Zoom Scam

A fake Zoom meeting website is silently pushing surveillance software onto Windows machines. The Celebrant receives a message from a 'couple' complete with a wedding date & venue details so its certainly looks genuine. The couple want to meet and a google or Zoom link URL arrives inviting a start to the meeting however the Celebrant is taken to a convincing imitation of a Zoom video call. Moments later, an automatic "Update Available" countdown automatically downloads a malicious installer, allowing attackers to gain full access to your device and personal information.

How the Scam Works

- **Fake Invitations:** Scammers send emails that appear to be legitimate Zoom meeting invitations.
- **Urgency Tactics:** The emails creates a sense of urgency, prompting you to act quickly.
- **Malicious Links:** The link takes you to a fake login page requesting your password or the malware commences download/installation immediately..

Common Signs of the Scam

- **Unfamiliar Sender:** The email may come from an address that does not belong to Zoom or Google.
- **Poor Language:** Many phishing emails contain grammatical errors or awkward phrasing.
- **Suspicious Links:** Hovering over the link reveals a URL that does not match Zoom's official domain.

Protection Tips-How to Stay Safe

- **Verify the Sender:** Always check the email address and ensure it is from a legitimate source.
- **Do Not Click Links:** Avoid clicking on links in unsolicited emails.
- **Block Suspicious Emails:** If you receive a suspicious invitation, block it, mark it as spam, or report it to your email provider.
 - <https://threatcop.com/blog/google-meet-scams-random-codes-virus-warning/>
 - <https://www.techrepublic.com/article/news-lazarus-bluenoroff-fake-video-call-malware/>

COORDINATOR COMMENTS



The more we learn, the more we learn how little we know. I try not to overwhelm readers with too much in each edition and have once again moved a few articles to later editions, but nonetheless, here we are again with yet another huge edition and I hope you don't find it too overwhelming as all of it is topical.

Special thanks to Todd Hardingham for his great article on working with photographers which I hope you will find helpful.

A very current and real problem for us coastal Celebrants right now are the ticks, especially the nymphs, as I have lost count of the number of reports and have even had to remove some myself.

Speaking of health & safety, Covid is still around and so please keep up those precautions.

Last month, I added a word puzzle and have another this month however have received no comments or feedback on the first puzzle and so I'm guessing they are not of great interest. Hence this month's puzzle may be the last. This month's article on current scams hopefully will help protect the reader against fraud and, as it is almost tax time the article on working from home, is a great reminder and what you can claim.

Articles on rituals from around the world are always very popular and help us all to ensure diversity as well as ensuring cultural awareness & understanding. Next month I hope to include very specific information on Japanese or Greek brides or perhaps Buddhist rituals if I can cull my research to article size rather than a booklet or thesis.

As for lengthy articles, following on from my comments in last month's edition about booing at ANZAC services, I wanted to include information about the Acknowledgment of Country, especially as National Reconciliation Week (NRW) runs from 27 May to 3 June. I tried to cull and limit that article but each point required explanation and example to ensure context and so it could easily have become a full blown report on it own, by addressing matters such as a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for small business and Celebrancy however I decided to leave additional aspects for another edition after I have completed yet more ongoing research and consulted an elder or two to ensure cultural respect. The current article in this edition is long but the information is very important and so I hope you read it in entirety. As I wrote it, I could not help but think of one of the saddest moments of my life. I was sitting opposite a groom who related his family story to me of being taken as an infant from NSW to WA where he was given a new name and forbidden to speak his own language; he eventually did not recognise his own mother after she had walked across the entire country in search of him, only to

face a locked gate, and while she screamed daily for him from that gate, he was forced to return to classes at the orphanage being told that she was "just some crazy old woman" and he was forbidden from going near her or the gate.

Though he was preparing to marry, and had already purchased a home with his bride to be, when he went back to WA in search of his birth certificate, he found the orphanage had closed but he finally discovered a maternal aunt nearby who told him of how his mother had died heartbroken, outside that gate, still desperately trying to reach her son and that the woman who was to be his bride was actually his biological sister who had also been taken as a child but placed into an orphanage in NSW under another new name, and this revealed that his father-in-law to be, was actually his own biological father. It is impossible to fathom the level of confusion and trauma that would have created but he then had to go back to NSW, to his bride/sister to explain what he had discovered, informing her that not only could they not marry, but how their mother had died, and then having to also tell all to his newly found father.

In disbelief, they understandably did undergo DNA tests and the familial status of each was confirmed.

How can anyone process a discovery like that?

How can any of us truly understand the impact of that on the couple who were suddenly turned brother & sister, and of course the impact of all of this on the father and entire family.

We can do better as a society and must always strive to!

Word Search

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

solemnisation widow termination widower
 rings register venue authority wife visa
 vows prescribed veil single wedded
 sibling sign wed bestman witness