

Wedding Ceremony Examples

WEDDING ONE

Announcement of Arrival of the Bride

Welcome everyone. I am excited to let you know that Dionne and the girls will be arriving very shortly. I ask everyone to move forward and fill all of the seats please. I take this moment to remind you all to either switch your phones off or to silent. Dionne and Sharpie welcome you to take photos during the ceremony however please be mindful of the photographer and keep phones and cameras out of their way.

I invite you all now to be standing for the arrival of our beautiful bride.

Processional *'A Thousand Years'* Christina Perri

Welcome & Couple's Story

Everyone, please be seated.

A wedding is such a wonderful occasion filled with hopes, dreams and excitement. I am very happy to welcome you all here today to the wedding of Steven Peter Sharp and Dionne Lee Hawley. For anyone who doesn't know me my name is Sally Glasson. I have known Dionne for over 12 years and I am honoured to officiate today's ceremony.

Today we celebrate that these two people, after enduring their fair share of shit and disaster, managed to find the person they want to spend the rest of their lives with. It was over 11 years ago that Dionne and Sharpie first met however it was not until one fateful Wednesday evening in October 2014, when Sharpie needed some career advice and called on Dionne for dinner at Blackbird, that a spark occurred. Dionne and Sharpie will tell you that over the course of a fun weekend and some time spent together they discovered how compatible they were, how awesome life was together and that they fell in love. Jody, one of Dionne's bridesmaids, told me that the first time she met Sharpie was shortly after their dinner and she instantly knew he was the one for Dionne, in her words 'the chemistry between them took my breath away'.

And for anyone who has spent time together with Dionne and Sharpie this is a fairly accurate statement. They have clearly found 'the one' in each other and today is a wonderful opportunity for us all to celebrate their love and commitment to each other.

Dionne and Sharpie, I am sure that on behalf of everyone here I can say we are thrilled to be here to party with you and we all wish you the very best, knowing that you are fully deserving of the love and happiness you have found together.

Introductions, Thank You & Acknowledgements

Deciding to join together in marriage is the ultimate expression of love. Marriage is a commitment to life, the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other relationship can equal, a physical and emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime. Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships - a wife and a husband are each other's best friend, confidant, lover, teacher, listener, and critic. Within marriage happiness is fuller, memories are fresher and commitment is stronger. It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences, and new ways of expressing a love that is deeper than life.

Marriage is much more than your signatures on a legal contract. You are promising, in front of all these people you love, that you want to be with each other for the rest of your lives. You are also promising to be a family with your children – Archie, Harvey, Nate and Olive – the four stars of the bridal party.

You are also joining each other's broader families. Dionne's dad, John with his partner Bev, her sister Lisa and her partner Chris, Sharpie's parents Pete and Jude, his sisters and their partners Kate and Johnny and Julie and Mike, you are all joined today through this marriage.

I do get the feeling however that everyone is quite thrilled with this. At Dionne's hens party Kate declared 'Sharpies finally found a great match, with Dionne he has not made a bad choice – you are absolutely ducking wonderful' and 'if he loves you we love you'.

Also standing beside to support Dionne and Sharpie today are their fabulous bridal party: Johnny P, Sharpie's Scottish brother-in-law, and Mandy, Dionne's lovely friend from Select days; Dave, Sharpie's cousin and Lisa, Dionne's sister; Gibbo, Sharpie's school mate whom he has known for over 20 years, and Ru, a friend of Dionne's from school whom she has known for too many years to mention; and Marcus, AKA Dirty Uncle Barry and Jody Faz, AKA the third darl, both of whom can otherwise be described as their respective "better halves".

Unfortunately, there are some people dear to Dionne and Sharpie who are unable to be here. Dionne's mum, Sandra who has passed away is surely here in spirit and in Dionne's thoughts today and we know she would be loving today, also Sharpie's grandparents, grandma and poppa Maurie and Dorothy, Pete's parents, and Jude's parents, Frank and Mavis have passed and unfortunately cannot be here to celebrate today.

We would also like to acknowledge Dionne's lifelong friend, Michael, who fortunately is not dead, but was unable to get away from work commitments in London to fulfil his Brides-man duties.

Couple's Story cont.

I remember when Dionne first told me about Sharpie – the excitement and happiness in her voice – but most vividly I remember her saying, "when you know, you know" and Dionne knew she had found the one with Sharpie.

There is a quote from 'When Harry Met Sally' that says "when you realise you want to spend the rest of your life with somebody, you want the rest of your life to start as soon as possible". This is an apt quote for the whirlwind romance between Dionne and Sharpie that led from a night at Blackbird in October 2014, moving in together in February 2015 and creating their own family, and then one special night in August last year, Sharpie got down on one knee (his bad knee) in front of a live band and 500 people in the beer garden of the Brunswick Heads Hotel and proposed.

Asking

In marriage you not only say 'I love you today', but also 'I promise to love you for all of our tomorrows'.

Celebrant to Groom

So I ask you, are you Sharpie thrilled to be spending the rest of your life with Dionne by your side? Do you choose her today and promise that in a hundred lifetimes, in a hundred worlds, and in any version of reality you would find her and choose her?

Groom Replies: 'I Do'

Celebrant to Bride

So I ask you, are you Dionne thrilled to be spending the rest of your life with Sharpie by your side? Do you choose him today and promise that in a hundred lifetimes, in a hundred worlds, and in any version of reality you would find him and choose him?

Bride Replies: 'I Do'

Celebrant Authority (Monitum)

We have now reached the part of the ceremony where you will be asked to exchange vows and rings to formalise your marriage.

Before you do that I must state that I am duly authorised by law to solemnise marriages according to law.

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of everyone here, I am to remind you of the formal and binding promise of the relationship into which you are now about to enter.

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

Having read those legally required words, Dionne and Sharpie would like me to acknowledge that they believe any loving relationship deserves to be recognised as equal under the law. Marriage is between two people who care for one another and who maintain the will to openly develop their relationship as equals to create a place to raise a family and to feel alive and valued.

Please now exchange your promises to one another.

Wedding Vows & Exchange of Rings

Groom

Dionne, when your legs don't work like they used to,
And when I can't sweep you off your feet.
My heart will still be falling as hard for you as the day we met,
Because I continue to fall in love with you every single day.
I promise to encourage and inspire you, to laugh with you
And to always be there for you in the tough times.
I promise to be a loving, caring, and strong Step Dad for Archie, Harvey and Nate,
Helping them grow up to be great men.
This is all because I love you and you are my type of wonderful!

I ask everyone here to witness that I Sharpie take you Dionne to be my lawfully wedded wife.
I give you this ring as a symbol of our marriage and my deep connection and commitment to you and our family. Please wear it with pride and continue to smile when you look at it and reflect on this day.

Bride

Sharpie, when your legs don't work like they used to,
And when I can't sweep you off your feet.
My heart will still be falling as hard for you as the day we met,
Because I continue to fall in love with you every single day.
I promise to encourage and inspire you, to laugh with you
And to always be there for you in the tough times.
I promise to be a loving and caring Step Mum to Olive, helping her grow up to be a great woman.
This is all because I love you and you are my type of wonderful!

I ask everyone here to witness that I Dionne take you Sharpie to be my lawfully wedded husband. I give you this ring as a symbol of our marriage and my deep connection and commitment to you and our family. Please wear it with pride and continue to smile when you look at it and reflect on this day.

Declaration of Marriage

Dionne and Sharpie, you have stood before us, declared your love and made promises to one another and your children. It is now my great pleasure to announce you to be husband and wife. Sharpie, you may kiss your bride.

We will take a moment now to sign the register and certificates. Please all remain where you are and we will return quickly to conclude the ceremony and toast the newly weds.

Signing *'Signed Sealed Delivered'* Stevie Wonder

Presentation of Husband and Wife

Dionne and Sharpie, treasure every moment that you have and treasure it more because you shared it with someone special. There is no better time than right now to be happy.

Friends and family, it is my honour to present to you for the first time, and propose a toast to, Mr and Mrs Sharp.

Closing

As is tradition, Dionne and Sharpie will now walk down the aisle, they will be proceeded by Archie doing the worm – as taught by Sharpie, and followed by the bridal party. I invite everyone to turn and follow them for a group photo and then to congratulate the gorgeous couple.

Guests are then invited to head up to the veranda whilst family photos are being taken and the MCs for this evening, Kate and Ju-Ju, Sharpie’s wonderful sisters, will take care of us from there.

Dionne and Sharpie, I wish you both all the very best, congratulations.

Recessional *‘I Gotta Feeling’* (Black Eyed Peas)

WEDDING TWO

Announcement of Arrival of the Bride

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with much excitement that I let you know the arrival of our bride is imminent. I ask everyone to move forward and fill all of the seats please. I take this moment to remind you all to either switch your phones off or to silent.

A professional photographer and videographer have been engaged for the day so there will be plenty of footage of the ceremony, as such you are all invited to please put your phones and cameras away and enjoy being fully present for the ceremony with Karen and Adam.

Can everyone please ensure they have some of the natural confetti for at the end of the ceremony.

I invite you all now to be standing for the arrival of our beautiful bride.

Processional Bernard Fanning 'Watch Over Me'

Welcome

Please all be seated.

My name is Sally Glasson and I thrilled today to welcome you to the wedding of Karen and Adam, at this beautiful location where Adam proposed to Karen. Under the façade of their standard annual trip away in September, Adam bought Karen here in September last year, and after sending her off for pampering at the day spa, feeding her cheese, and pate and her favourite French champagne, Adam bent down on one knee, told Karen how lucky he thought they were and asked her to marry him.

Now that all sounds extremely romantic until laughing they both added that the trip to the day spa followed them almost being attacked by a red belly black snake, just down there along the creek bed, and that Adam had to judge his timing between Karen's mouthfuls of the delicious pate and cheese.

However, today we are here to celebrate that Karen said yes, and the couple who are easily referred to as soul mates, and at the very least are best friends, are today tying the knot.

Giving Away of the Bride

In times past it was custom for a woman to be 'given' from the protection of her father into that of her husband. This was the origin of the rite 'Giving away of the bride'. Today we honour this tradition and I ask, Who brings this woman to marry this man?

Marc: "I do"

Thank you

Introduction

It is one of life's richest surprises when the fateful meeting of two individuals leads them to proceed together along a common path. It is indeed one of life's finest experiences when a chance relationship grows into a permanent bond of love. This meeting and this love are what bring us together today.

Karen and Adam first met whilst they were both working for Suncorp over ten years ago. An encounter about a burn on Karen's foot, the result of cooking banana pancakes, developed into a friendship and after a night out, at The Beat nonetheless, a relationship followed. I'm led to believe that dancing on speakers, someone consuming more coronas than the other, and a very late night may have been involved – if you wish to enquire further I'm told that Larenda can fill in the blanks.

Then almost four years ago, after having been apart for a few years, at the urging of Hayley, Karen's best friend, the couple reunited. After a beautiful evening at the Gold Coast that turned into a morning on the beach talking whilst the sun rose, Adam and 'the Karen from before' as his family referred to her as, reconnected. Adam realised he had been in love with Karen all along, and the two realised they were meant to be together, and so here we are today. Celebrating the

commitment that Karen and Adam have really already made to each other and formalising publicly their commitment to each other for life.

I would like to invite Temeeka, Adam's sister, to share with us an excerpt from "The Bridge Across Forever" by Richard Back, that Karen and Adam have chosen as a reflection of their relationship.

Reading ~ Excerpt from 'The Bridge Across Forever' by Richard Back, read by Temeeka

A soul mate is someone who has locks that fit our keys,
And keys to fit our locks.
When we feel safe enough to open the locks, our truest selves step out and we can be completely and honestly who we are;
We can be loved for who we are and not for who we're pretending to be.
Each unveils the best part of the other.
No matter what else goes wrong around us, with that person we're safe in our own paradise.
Our soul mate is someone who shares our deepest longings, our sense of direction.
When we're two balloons, and together our direction is up, chances are we've found the right person.
Our soul mate is the one who makes life come to life.

Thank You & Acknowledgements

Karen and Adam are thrilled to have every one of you here today yet there are a few special mentions that I need to make.

Namely, Jake, Josh and Hannah - Karen and Adam are thrilled and very grateful to share this day with you. The support each of you has shown to them as a couple and the relationships you have each built with Karen mean the world to them. When I asked Karen and Adam about their memorable times to date they listed going up the Eiffel tower with Hannah, living with Jake and Josh, and spending time together amongst their most enjoyable. Having each of you stand beside them in their bridal party today is extremely important and a symbol of the wonderful family you all have.

Marc and Lydia, Dianne and Warwick, Coral and Paul, Tamara, Temeeka, Amanda & Mark, you have each supported Karen and Adam in their endeavours for love and happiness and it is wonderful that you are here to share today with them. We must also make note of Karen's Grandma, Hazel Bagnall, who is here today to celebrate this special occasion.

Unfortunately, a notable absence from today's ceremony is the couple's puppy Frankie. Frankie joined the family three years ago when Adam surprised Karen with her after they had been dating again for only six months. After first meeting Frankie on the weekend whilst looking in puppy shops, and Karen then basically crying about her for three days, Adam bought her the dog she, and I am told everyone else, has fallen completely in love with. Unfortunately, the snake bites weren't worth the risk so Frankie will miss out on the celebrations today.

Asking

Having enjoyed many times together: enjoying cheese and champagne; listening to music; travelling both within Australia and overseas; dining out at nice restaurants; laughing; sitting on the deck, drinking champagne and discussing the problems of the world with Tamara; playing games with the Aussie bar staff in Thailand; spending time at Toorbul with Temeeka, drinking champagne and eating cheese around the fire, after a lengthy journey to get there; today is the day that you publicly declare to one another, I am yours, you are mine.

You have described your wedding as the public celebration of a commitment you have already made to one another, the culmination of your long journey and a way of celebrating with and thanking those people who mean a lot to you and have been with you throughout. It is a statement to the world that you are here as a couple to stay, that you are proud to have each other, by your side, for the rest of your lives.

So I ask each of you,

Celebrant to Groom

Do you Adam, come freely and without reservation to take Karen as your wife? To commit to the woman you have described as passionate, loyal, fun, forthright and honest, for the rest of your life? To enjoy further travels with, have fun with, and support throughout all of the good and bad that life may bring?

Groom Replies: "I do"

Celebrant to Bride

Do you Karen, come freely and without reservation to take Adam, as your husband? To commit to the cheeky clown, fun, generous, thoughtful, kind, handsome smart arse who has unwavering patience, that you lovingly describe as the life of the party and amazing partner, for the rest of your life? To enjoy further travels with, have fun with, and support throughout all of the good and bad that life may bring?

Bride Replies: "I do"

Celebrant Authority (Monitum)

We have now reached the part of the ceremony where you will be asked to exchange vows and rings to formalise your union.

Before you do that I must state that I am duly authorised by law to solemnise marriages according to law.

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of everybody here, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter.

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

I invite you now to promise your vows to one another, please repeat after me:

Wedding Vows

Groom

I ask everybody here to witness that I Adam take you Karen to be my lawfully wedded wife.

I choose you as my wife. I love you. You are my best friend. I promise to encourage and inspire you, to laugh with you, and to comfort you in times of sorrow and struggle. I promise to love you in good times and in bad, when life seems easy and when it seems hard, when our love is simple, and when it is an effort. I will cherish and respect you through all the changes of our lives, forever giving thanks that we found each other.

Bride

I ask everybody here to witness that I Karen take you Adam to be my lawfully wedded husband.

I choose you as my husband. I love you. You are my best friend. I promise to encourage and inspire you, to laugh with you, and to comfort you in times of sorrow and struggle. I promise to love you in good times and in bad, when life seems easy and when it seems hard, when our love is simple, and when it is an effort. I will cherish and respect you through all the changes of our lives, forever giving thanks that we found each other.

Exchange of Rings

Wedding rings, whilst also providing more diamonds, are a physical symbol of your commitment. They are an outward sign of marriage and say to the world I have found my love and chosen my life mate. I am proud to be married.

I invite you now to exchange your rings.

Groom

I give you this ring as an eternal symbol of my love and commitment to you.

Bride

I give you this ring as an eternal symbol of my love and commitment to you.

Declaration of Marriage

It is now my great pleasure to announce you to be husband and wife. You may kiss your bride.

Ladies and gentlemen we will take a moment now to sign the register and certificates. Please remain here and we will return quickly to conclude the ceremony.

Signing Better Together – Jack Johnson

Presentation of Husband and Wife

Friends and family now that all of the legalities are complete, it is my honour to present to you for the first time the married couple.

I would now like to invite Hayley, Karen’s best friend and initiator of this couple’s union, to share with us a reading ‘An Uncommon Love’ by Terah Cox as a blessing of the marriage. Having had the first say in their joining together, it is fitting for her to have the last in their marriage ceremony.

Reading ~ ‘An Uncommon Love’ by Terah Cox, read by Hayley

May you have the love
only two can know,
may you go where only
two as one may go.
May the sun rise and set
in your bonded hearts,
and the moon never find you
too long apart.
May you cherish each other’s
dreams as your own,
and turn stumbling blocks
into stepping stones.
May you brave life’s mountains
and miles together,
may there be no storm
your love cannot weather.
May you be lovers and allies
and friends,
may your soul’s conversation never end.
May you capture on earth
what’s in heaven above,
may your hearts know the rapture
of an uncommon love.

Closing

Thank you Hayley.

As is tradition Karen and Adam will now walk down the aisle, followed by the bridal party. You are all encouraged to shower them with the natural confetti you have. I invite you all to follow them to congratulate the happy couple. Guests are then invited to proceed to the reception area up at the restaurant whilst family photos are taking place.

Karen and Adam, I wish you all the very best for your marriage and that you enjoy today and remember forever the vows you have made to one another today. Congratulations.

Recessional Avalanche City ‘Love Love Love’

WEDDING THREE

WELCOME

Welcome everyone. My name is Sally Glasson. I have known Joshua for as long as I can remember and I feel very privileged that Joshua and Kathleen have asked me to conduct the ceremony today.

Today we celebrate the joining of Joshua and Kathleen in marriage. Joshua and Kathleen have chosen each of us, those special and important to them, to be with them today to witness their declaration of love and commitment as they blend their lives, expand their family and embark upon a new adventure together.

Although today we celebrate a single event in Joshua and Kathleen's relationship, we acknowledge that marriage is a journey not a destination. The saying 'Life wasn't meant to be simple' may spring to mind when thinking about the journey that has brought Joshua and Kathleen here today but it is these decisions and actions that demonstrate to us the depth of commitment both Joshua and Kathleen have to this union. The promises they make today will guide them as they continue their lives together and form a new family, strengthened and enriched by the love they have for each other.

No ceremony can create your marriage; only you can do that – through love and patience; through dedication and perseverance; through talking and listening, helping and supporting and believing in each other; through tenderness and laughter; through learning to forgive, learning to appreciate your differences, and by learning to make the important things matter, and to let go of the rest. What this ceremony can do is to witness and affirm the choice you make to stand together as life-mates and partners.

Marriage is in itself a blessing. But doubly blessed is the couple who comes to the marriage altar with the approval and love of their families and friends.

Today it is very special for Joshua and Kathleen to have their children, Ben and Alicia, stand beside them and support them in their marriage to one another.

Joshua and Kathleen believe that they are very fortunate to have found each other, and today they simply want to celebrate having found someone very special and share with each of us the love and commitment they feel for one another.

READING

From "Gift from the Sea" by Anne Morrow Lindbergh

When you love someone, you do not love them all the time, in exactly the same way, from moment to moment. It is an impossibility. It is even a lie to pretend to. And yet this is exactly what most of us demand. We have so little faith in the ebb and flow of life, of love, of relationships. We leap at the flow of the tide and resist in terror its ebb. We are afraid it will never return. We insist on permanency, on duration, on continuity; when the only continuity possible, in life as in love, is in growth, in fluidity - in freedom, in the sense that the dancers are free, barely touching as they pass, but partners in the same pattern.

The only real security is not in owning or possessing, not in demanding or expecting, not in hoping, even. Security in a relationship lies neither in looking back to what was in nostalgia, nor forward to what it might be in dread or anticipation, but living in the present relationship and accepting it as it is now. Relationships must be like islands, one must accept them for what they are here and now, within their limits - islands, surrounded and interrupted by the sea, and continually visited and abandoned by the tides.

CELEBRANT AUTHORITY (MONITUM)

Joshua and Kathleen, I am duly authorised by law to solemnise marriages according to law. Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding promise of the relationship into which you are formalising. Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

PROMISES

Joshua, do you take Kathleen to be your lawful wedded wife,
will you love her, comfort her, and honour her,
and forsaking all others,
keep only unto her so long as you both shall live?

I do

Kathleen, do you take Joshua to be your lawful wedded husband,
will you love him, comfort him, and honour him,
and forsaking all others,
keep only unto him so long as you both shall live?

I do

VOWS

It is one of life's richest surprises when the fateful meeting of two individuals leads them to proceed together along a common path. It is indeed one of life's finest experiences when a chance relationship grows into a permanent bond of love.

I ask everyone here to witness that I Joshua take you Kathleen to be my lawfully wedded wife. In the presence of our family and friends, I offer you my solemn vow to be your faithful partner in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad, and in joy as well as in sorrow. I promise to love you unconditionally, to support you in your goals, to honour and respect you, to laugh with you and cry with you, and to cherish you for as long as we both shall live. Take this ring that has no beginning or end to signify the continuity of my love.

I ask everyone here to witness that I Kathleen take you Joshua to be my lawfully wedded husband. In the presence of our family and friends, I offer you my solemn vow to be your faithful partner in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad, and in joy as well as in sorrow. I promise to love you unconditionally, to support you in your goals, to honour and respect you, to laugh with you and cry with you, and to cherish you for as long as we both shall live.

BLESSING

Apache Wedding blessing - "Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter for the other. Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other. Now there will be no loneliness, for each of you will be the companion to each other. Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before you. May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead through all the years. May happiness be your companion and your days together be good and long upon the earth."

DECLARATION & PRESENTATION

Joshua and Kathleen you have pledged yourselves to each other and made declarations of marriage in front of family and friends. Joshua and Kathleen it is at this time, and with the greatest of pleasure, that I now declare you to be husband and wife.

Family, friends and loved ones, it is with great pleasure that I now introduce to you, for the first time as husband and wife, Mr and Mrs Joshua Smith.

WEDDING FOUR

~ Two hearts locked together forever ~

Announcement of Arrival of the Bride

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with much excitement that I let you know we are about to commence the ceremony. Please all welcome our groom, Neil Robert Corrs escorting Lynda Maly, mother-of-the-bride, and Chloe Corrs, mother-of-the-groom.

I ask everyone to move forward and fill all of the seats please. I take this moment to remind you all to either switch your phones off or to silent. The bride and groom welcome you to take photos during the ceremony however please be mindful of the photographer and keep phones and cameras out of their way and not in the aisle.

I invite you all now to be standing for the arrival of our beautiful bride.

Processional Start of Something Good
(Daughtry)

Welcome

Welcome everyone. My name is Sally Glasson and I am very happy and honoured to welcome you all here today to witness and celebrate the union of Heidi Jean Maly to Neil Robert Corrs in marriage. Through their time together, they have come to realise that their personal dreams, hopes, and goals are more attainable and more meaningful through the combined effort and mutual support provided in love, commitment, and family, and so they have decided to live together as husband and wife.

Neil and Heidi have chosen you, those special and important to them, to witness and celebrate the beginning of their life together. Family is very important to both Heidi and Neil and so today as we all support and celebrate the creation of this marriage, I ask Lynda and Russell, and Chloe and Bob, as representatives of their families and of the friends present, do you support this marriage and offer them your best wishes?

“We do”

Thank you. Everyone please be seated.

Introduction

Heidi and Neil, today you enter as individuals, but you will leave here as husband and wife, blending your lives, expanding your family ties, and embarking upon the grandest adventure of human interaction.

You have been blessed today to be joined by your family and friends. Of particular note are those who have travelled to show you their support - those from Yepoon, Adelaide, Canberra, Melbourne and Perth are thanked for making the effort to be here today. Heidi's Grandma Lil and Neil's Grandma Mary are unable to attend today but send their best wishes to both Heidi and Neil.

Unfortunately Neil's Nana Joan and Papa Lewis and Heidi's Granddad James have passed and are unable to be here but will surely be pleased for both Heidi and Neil on such a special occasion.

Heidi and Neil have asked some people very special to them to stand beside them today. Heidi's sister Renee, as maid of honour, and her wonderful friends Taylor, Courtney and Carleigh as bridesmaids, alongside Neil's brother James as best man, and as groomsmen his old room mate Ryan, his cousin Tom, and good mate from Canberra Danny.

We all support you in this union today but the story of your life together and the marriage you have is still yours to create.

Love in marriage is something beyond the warmth and glow, the excitement and romance of being deeply in love. It is caring as much about the welfare and happiness of your marriage partner as about your own. You will today promise to share your lives with another. Throughout your lives together you will share in moments of perfect joy, and you will share in moments that will require courage and strength. Your love will make burdens lighter because you divide them, make joys more intense because you share them. It will make you stronger so you can reach out and become involved with life in ways you dared not risk alone.

I now invite Marsha, Neil's sister, to share with us a reading chosen by Neil and Heidi to reflect the importance of love and the commitment they are each making today.

Reading ~ read by Marsha Mills

"On Your Wedding Day"

Author Unknown

"Today is a day you will always remember
The greatest in anyone's life
You'll start off the day just two people in love
And end it as Husband and Wife

It's a brand new beginning the start of a journey
With moments to cherish and treasure
And although there'll be times when you both disagree
These will surely be outweighed by pleasure

You'll have heard many words of advice in the past
When the secrets of marriage were spoken
But you know that the answers lie hidden inside
Where the bond of true love lies unbroken

So live happy forever as lovers and friends
It's the dawn of a new life for you
As you stand there together with love in your eyes
From the moment you whisper 'I do'

And with luck, all your hopes, and your dreams can be real
May success find it's way to your hearts
Tomorrow can bring you the greatest of joys
But today is the day it all starts."

Couple's Story

Thank you Marsha for those beautiful words. Heidi and Neil take with you the importance of those words forward into your marriage. Understanding, forgiveness, sharing, giving, respect, love and friendship - these key ingredients for a successful marriage you already have in the strong connection you two share.

It is fitting now that we take a moment to recap on the love story that has brought us to today.

It is one of life's richest surprises when the fateful meeting of two individuals leads them to proceed together along a common path. It is indeed one of life's finest experiences when a chance relationship grows into a permanent bond of love. Since Neil and Heidi met in August 2013 they haven't spent a weekend apart since.

During their first date at Portside, Heidi and Neil clicked and it felt right. Their relationship developed based on sharing many of the same interests and a mutual appreciation of the same music. They have enjoyed trips together to Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Bali, are both quite active, enjoy brunch on weekends and Saturday date nights, appreciate each other's

expensive taste and have become known as the 'selfie couple' even to the extent of providing a Photo Booth for their selfies and the selfies of their guests.

Six months after they met, Neil and Heidi moved in together, and in August 2014, in Byron Bay Neil proposed to Heidi. At the lighthouse, watching the sunrise, after a rude alarm at 4:30am making Heidi suspicious that something was up, Neil put a padlock in Heidi's hand that was engraved with 'will you marry me' and got down on one knee.

Padlock Fastening

Heidi and Neil are now going to continue this tradition by locking a padlock onto a frame to be kept in their house alongside a replica of their engagement lock.

A lock and key can symbolise so much – a heart that can only be unlocked with one key, the locking of a two lives together, and locking an enduring love in a lifelong commitment. For Heidi and Neil a lock without a key is a perfect example of commitment and binding love which represents what today means to them. Once a couple close a padlock together, just as the lock cannot be unlocked, nor can their love and commitment to one another.

Whilst Heidi and Neil secure their wedding lock I invite Victoria, Neil's sister, to read 'The Key to Love'.

Russell, please bring the frame up.

Reading ~ read by Victoria Corrs

"The Key to Love"

by Anon, 1st century China

"The key to love is understanding ...
The ability to comprehend not only the spoken word,
but those unspoken gestures,
the little things that say so much by themselves.

The key to love is forgiveness
to accept each others faults and pardon mistakes,
without forgetting, but with remembering
what you learn from them.

The key to love is sharing ...
Facing your good fortunes as well as the bad, together;
both conquering problems, forever searching for ways
to intensify your happiness.

The key to love is giving ...
with out thought of return,
but with the hope of just a simple smile,
and by giving in but never giving up.

The key to love is respect ...
realizing that you are two separate people, with different ideas;
that you don't belong to each other,
that you belong with each other, and share a mutual bond.

The key to love is inside us all ...
It takes time and patience to unlock all the ingredients
that will take you to its threshold;
it is the continual learning process that demands a lot of work ...
but the rewards are more than worth the effort ...
and that is the key to love."

Couple's Story cont.

Thank you Victoria.

One of the beautiful things about writing the ceremony for today was that there were so many significant aspects. Nothing was chosen simply because it was standard for a wedding. From the music, including 'Start of Something Good' the first song Heidi and Neil both knew and liked together, to the joining of padlocks representative of their engagement lock that was placed on the Byron lookout fence at the lighthouse, and the proposal being at the same location where the couple had officially started dating in September 2013 at sunset, every aspect of this wedding is personal and has a special meaning to both Heidi and Neil.

They are both very romantic and I am told people say Neil is Mr Perfect and Heidi is spoilt. On Valentines Day she was indulged with a hot air balloon and breakfast at a vineyard, a dozen roses sent to school and a monkey toy. Neil simply says he is a hopeless romantic who likes to show his affection.

Heidi and Neil are always looking for the next big adventure and they have dreams of buying a house together, starting a family, buying a jeep and travelling to America. Maybe one day they will even start a business together. Today though they start their biggest adventure together as they commit to one another in marriage. A life-long commitment of love, trust and honesty with your best friend and soul mate.

Celebrant Authority (Monitum)

Heidi & Neil, I am duly authorised by law to solemnise marriages according to law.

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of everyone here, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are binding.

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

So I ask each of you now,

Asking

Celebrant to Groom

Do you Neil Robert Corrs, take Heidi Jean Maly, to be your wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, from this day forward until death do you part?

Groom Replies: "I do"

Celebrant to Bride

Do you Heidi Jean Maly, take Neil Robert Corrs, to be your husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, from this day forward until death do you part?

Bride Replies: "I do"

Then I ask each of you to promise your vows to each other. Please face each other, hold hands and repeat after me:

Wedding Vows

Groom

I call upon everyone here to witness that I Neil take you Heidi to be my lawfully wedded wife.

Heidi, I am so lucky to be standing here today in front of all of our friends and family, celebrating our love and future together. On our first date, you captured my heart by being exactly who you are. The sweetest, most caring, compassionate, and loyal person I have ever known.

I love you with all that I am and promise to be your man, always. You are my best friend, my confidant, and my soul mate. I promise to always be faithful and to give you the same trust and respect you give me. I offer you everything I am and everything I will be, for now and the rest of our lives together.

Bride

I call upon everyone here to witness that I Heidi take you Neil to be my lawfully wedded husband.

From the moment we met, I knew you were my soul mate. I had to pinch myself because everything was just so right. We loved the same things, wanted the same for our future and even finished each other's sentences. You are the most selfless, kind and giving man I know and I feel privileged to spend the rest of my life calling you my husband.

I promise to always love you with all that I have, to support you completely and to always stand by your side. I promise to be the best wife possible and mother to our future family. I promise that from the day I met you to the day I die that you will always be my one and only.

Exchange of Rings

I now invite you to exchange your rings as a symbol of the promises you have made to each other today. Your rings are precious because you wear them with love. They symbolise your commitment in marriage. They remind you of who you are, where you've been, and where you're going. As you wear them through time, they will reflect not only who you are as individuals, but also who you are a couple.

Groom

"This ring is a token of my love. I marry you with this ring, with all that I have and all that I am. I give you this ring as a visible and constant symbol of my promise to be with you, for as long as I live."

Bride

"This ring is a token of my love. I marry you with this ring, with all that I have and all that I am. I give you this ring as a visible and constant symbol of my promise to be with you, for as long as I live."

Declaration of Marriage

Heidi and Neil you came here today intending to marry, you joined hands and made solemn vows and exchanged rings to remind you of those vows. You are now joined as partners in mutual love and respect. According to the powers vested in me and the highest power of the land and the sea, I am thrilled to pronounce you as husband and wife. You may now kiss your bride.

Friends and family we will now take a moment to sign the registry and certificates. I ask you all to remain where you are and we will return shortly to present the beautiful couple to you.

Signing XO (John Mayer) & Tenerife Sea (Ed Sheeran)

Presentation of Husband & Wife

Ladies and Gentlemen, family and friends, it is my pleasure to present, for the first time anywhere, Mr. and Mrs. Corrs.

Closing

Heidi and Neil true marriage begins well before the wedding day, and the efforts of marriage continue well beyond the ceremony's end. A brief moment in time and the stroke of the pen are all that is required to create the legal bond of marriage, but it takes a lifetime of love, commitment, and compromise to make marriage durable and everlasting. Today you have declared your commitment to each other before family and friends, your yesterdays were the path to this moment, and your journey to a future of togetherness becomes a little clearer with each new day.

Your story thus far has the significance of a lighthouse. A lighthouse represents a solid and stable foundation, provides direction and guidance and withholds the test of time. Let this be true of your marriage. As you experience each and every moment in life may you always be aware, with the very depth of your soul, that you are not alone. May you always trust in one another and may you always cherish one another as you do today, with complete commitment, one to the other. Along with your family and friends gathered here today I wish you both all the very best. Congratulations.

I invite all of you to follow the newly weds and bridal party down the aisle to the escarpment where you will have the opportunity to congratulate Heidi and Neil. Everyone is asked to remain in the area for Kristy to arrange you in a group photo.

Recessional Cool (Alesso)

WEDDING FIVE

Announcement of Arrival of the Bride

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with much excitement that I let you know the arrival of our bride is imminent. I ask everyone to move forward and fill all of the seats please. I take this moment to remind you all to either switch your phones off or to silent. The bride and groom welcome you to take photos during the ceremony however please be mindful of the photographer and videographer and keep phones and cameras out of their way.

I invite you all now to welcome the arrival of our beautiful bride.

Processional

Introduction & Giving of the Bride

Hello and welcome. My name is Sally Glasson and I am delighted to be here, with all of you today to celebrate and share in today's occasion.

Jaime and Chris - you're getting married!

Today you are stating publicly, the feelings and commitments you have held privately between you. Marriage is a symbol of the commitment of couple's to create a lifelong partnership based on love. Today it is a symbol of your commitment to love, trust, understand, respect, be faithful and loyal to each other. It is also a symbol of family. With Jason, you have already created a family and today you are publicly stating your commitment to this family unit.

Take a moment now to look around and acknowledge the friends and family who have taken the time to be here with you today and to share this with you. Marriage in itself is a blessing and doubly blessed is the couple that have the love and support of friends and family like you do today.

Thank you & Acknowledgements

Jaime and Chris have chosen each of you, those dear to them, to witness today's ceremony and thank each of you for being here. Special thanks to those who have travelled, including Betty from Port Macquarie, Mon and Tim from Mackay and Sizzle from New Zealand. Also it is nice to acknowledge grandparents on an occasion like today. Jaime's Grandmother Betty, Chris's Nana Beryl and Grandmother Peg and all here today

Today Tony Leers, Jaime's best mate from school is standing beside her as her 'brides best man' and Michael Brash, Mikey, Chris's mate for the past 8 or so years stands with him as his best man. Gorgeous Cheryl is our flower girl, Troy our ring bearer and Jason, Jaime and Chris's gorgeous little man our pageboy.

True marriage begins well before the wedding day, and the efforts of marriage continue well beyond the ceremony's end. A brief moment in time and the stroke of the pen are all that is required to create the legal bond of marriage, but it takes a lifetime of love, commitment, and compromise to make marriage durable and everlasting. Marriage has been described as living in love with your best friend. Marriage is the most intimate of all relationships. It is the ultimate commitment to love, share, trust and grow with another person.

Couple's Story

It is one of life's richest surprises when the fateful meeting of two individuals leads them to proceed together along a common path. It is indeed one of life's finest experiences when a chance relationship grows into a permanent bond of love. This meeting and this love are what bring us together today when Jaime and Chris met seven years ago whilst working at Carbitz. What is meant to be will be, and after getting to know each other and an attraction growing, Jaime and Chris became a couple in December 2008 and the relationship developed quickly. Circumstances outside of their control led to Jaime and Chris moving in together quite quickly however it was clearly meant to be and worked out beautifully.

Jaime and Chris tell me that as a couple they are yin and yang - they balance each other out and click perfectly as a couple. Jaime describes Chris as laid back, friendly, easy going, funny ... at times, and her rock, and Chris describes Jaime as down to earth, beautiful and honest.

Jaime, the organiser and doer of the couple had hoped that she would be engaged before 30. With her 30th birthday quickly approaching, this prompted the laid back Chris into action, however after a dinner celebration for Jaime's birthday turned into a late night looking after a sick Jason, and a breakfast with a planned romantic walk on the beach was turned down by Jaime, Chris ended up proposing in the car. In a nice twist of tradition Jaime's dad had actually proposed to her mum Kate in a car too.

Jaime and Chris, you have described marriage as meaning togetherness, compromise, faithfulness, love, understanding, respect, a link between two, becoming a family and being true to each other and of course love. Please consider these promises and commitments you are making today, to each other and as a family with Jason, as you listen to the words of the hands ceremony and get ready to make your promises to one another.

The Hands Ceremony – Author Unknown

Please face each other and take each other's hands, so that you may see the gift that they are to you. These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow and forever. These are the hands that will work alongside yours as together you build your future.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch will comfort you like no other. These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief temporarily comes to you. These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes, tears of sorrow and tears of joy.

These are the hands that tenderly hold your children, the hands that will join your family as one. These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it, support and encouragement to pursue your dreams, and comfort through difficult times.

And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

Celebrant Authority (Monitum)

We have now reached the part of the ceremony where you will be asked to promise vows to one another. Before that I must state that I am duly authorised by law to solemnise marriages according to law.

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of everyone here, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter.

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

So I ask each of you ...

Asking

Celebrant to Groom

Do you Chris, choose Jaime, as your partner in life and one true love, promising to share in all that life offers, to support in all endeavours, promising to love and cherish, through joy and sorrow and whatever challenges you may face, throughout your life together?

Groom Replies: I do

Celebrant to Bride

Do you Jaime, choose Chris, as your partner in life and one true love, promising to share in all that life offers, to support in all endeavours, promising to love and cherish, through joy and sorrow and whatever challenges you may face, throughout your life together?

Bride Replies: I do

Then please state your vows. Repeat after me:

Wedding Vows

Groom

I ask everyone here to witness that I Chris take you Jaime to be my lawfully wedded wife.

I will cherish our union and love you more each day than I did the day before. I will trust you and respect you, laugh with you and cry with you, loving you faithfully through good times and bad, regardless of the obstacles we may face together. I give you my hand, my heart, and my love, from this day forward for as long as we both shall live.

Bride

I ask everyone here to witness that I Jaime take you Chris to be my lawfully wedded husband.

I will cherish our union and love you more each day than I did the day before. I will trust you and respect you, laugh with you and cry with you, loving you faithfully through good times and bad, regardless of the obstacles we may face together. I give you my hand, my heart, and my love, from this day forward for as long as we both shall live.

Exchange of Rings

Groom

This ring is a token of my love. I marry you with this ring, with all that I have and all that I am.

Bride

This ring is a token of my love. I marry you with this ring, with all that I have and all that I am.

Declaration of Marriage

I am now pleased to declare you to be husband and wife. Chris, you may kiss your bride.

Congratulations Jaime and Chris. I wish you all the very best for your marriage. Family and friends we will take a moment now to sign the registry and certificates and once that is done I invite you to come and congratulate the newly weds.

WEDDING SIX ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcement of the imminent arrival of the Bride, request guests to turn their phones off or to silent.

ENTRY PROCESSION

WELCOME

Good afternoon everyone. My name is Sally Glasson and I am very happy to welcome you all to the wedding of Maria Lynette Cann and Thomas John Smith. Tom and Maria want to thank each of you for attending today to celebrate with them as they confirm their commitment to each other and publicly take the step of formalising their family as one through marriage.

CELEBRANT AUTHORITY (MONITUM)

I am duly authorised by law to solemnise marriages according to law.

Tom and Maria, before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of everybody here, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are sealing.

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

THE GIVING AWAY

Who brings Maria to be married today?

'I do'

Thank you Paul.

INTRODUCTION

Special thanks goes to the wedding party today. With Tom we have his best friend John Black as Best Man, joined by Tom's mate Ben Schmidt and brother-in-law Mitchell Moore as groomsmen. Maria's best-friend, Matilda Jones who played a large role in the meeting of Maria and Tom, stands today as Maria's maid of honour joined by Rory James and Tom's sister Brielle Hume as bridesmaids. Pamela Smith, Tom's daughter is doing the honour of flower girl along with their beautiful daughter Charlie.

Today we celebrate this union by the ocean which has particular importance to both Maria and Tom and speaks to their relationship with each other. I would like to invite Matilda to share with us all a reading that Maria has chosen to reflect this meaning to them.

READING

'As the tides ebb and flow, so do the fortunes of life. Footprints in the sand are washed away, driftwood moves on its endless quest for a peaceful harbour. Only a deep and abiding love can withstand the tides of change in two lives.

The life of the spirit and emotions moves in cycles. To be in a relationship does not guarantee an eternal summer. To make a sincere and honest commitment does not promise an end to all struggles.

What a good relationship does offer, much like this ocean, is the opportunity for renewal. It recognises the abiding, shared hope that after every fall and winter, spring and summer will come again.'

INTRODUCTION cont.

Maria and Tom, you are now taking into your care and keeping the happiness of the one person in the world whom you love the best. You are adding to your life not only the affection of each other, but also the companionship and blessing of a deep trust as well. You are agreeing to share strength, responsibilities and love.

The love you have for each other is enduring and profound. Today your family, friends and loved ones are here to witness this love and the vows you will make to each other,

as you join yourselves together for life as husband and wife. As the surface of the sea is sometimes calm and often storm tossed, so also is marriage.

Maria and Tom, at the end of this ceremony, legally you will be husband and wife, but you still must decide each and every day that stretches before you, that you want to be married. Honour this decision daily.

COUPLE'S STORY

Today's celebration story started in March 2003 when Maria and Tom met whilst working together at Suncorp. Matilda, Maria's maid of honour and best friend, had actually got Maria to work there in the first place - playing a pivotal role in this couple getting together.

In a very traditional manner with a modern social media twist, after they met, Tom showed an interest in Maria and the couple chatted both at work and on Facebook. Tom then asked Maria to go for a day together at the coast and they have been inseparable ever since, moving in together three months later in August.

One year later Tom and Maria went to Vanuatu together. One evening Tom suggested a walk across the bay. As they were walking along the sand Tom got down on one knee and asked Maria to spend the rest of her life with him.

I would like to invite Maria's mother Pearl to share a reading with us entitled 'Somewhere' by Linda Hartnett which is very fitting to the love story we celebrate today.

READING

"Somewhere" by Linda Harnett

Oh, to be lying,
On a beach,
Somewhere,
With sand in my toes,
And the wind,
In my hair.
And only the sound,
Of the seagulls,
On high,
On a beach,
Somewhere,
Under sunny blue sky.
The gentle caress,
Of the waves,
On the shore,
And you close,
Beside me,
Could I ask for more?
A soft sandy beach,
That goes on,
Forever,
You, me,
And a beach,
So happy together.

Thank you Pearl, the poem is a lovely reflection of what has been significant in Maria and Tom's life and the hopes they hold for their future together.

THE ASKING

And that is largely what today is about. It is more than a celebration of the love which lives in Tom and Maria's hearts today. Today is also about Maria and Tom being joined together by their hopes, dreams and promises of what will be and proclaiming their intentions for that which tomorrow shall hold.

Maria and Tom shortly I am going to ask you to make promises and vows that shall guide you together in your common future. But first I ask:
Do you promise to love, respect, assist and look after each other for the rest of your lives? 'We do'

I invite you now to make your vows to one another.

VOWS

I call upon everyone here to witness that I Maria Lynette Cann take you Thomas John Smith to be my lawfully wedded husband.

I pledge to you that my love and my loyalty will weather the storms of life. I will always seek counsel when I make life decisions, and will respect your needs and concerns. No matter what course we set, we will do it together.

I call upon everyone here to witness that I Thomas John Smith take you Maria Lynette Cann to be my lawfully wedded wife.

I pledge to you that my love and my loyalty will weather the storms of life. I will always seek counsel when I make life decisions, and will respect your needs and concerns. No matter what course we set, we will do it together.

RING EXCHANGE

Maria and Tom I now invite you to exchange rings as a symbol of the unbroken circle of love you share.

Maria, place the ring on Tom's finger and repeat after me: I give this ring as my gift to you. Wear it and think of me and know that I love you.

Tom, place the ring on Maria's finger and repeat after me: I give this ring as my gift to you. Wear it and think of me and know that I love you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CHILDREN

Pamela, Tom's daughter, was with Maria and Tom on their first date and has been an important part of their lives. In 2006 Charlie arrived, adding to their family. Today it is important to Maria and Tom that they acknowledge the importance of their children.

In joining in marriage today Tom and Maria formalise the creation of a whole new family. To make their commitment to that new family complete, they wish to include their children, Pamela and Charlie and recognise them as an integral part of this marriage.

Do you, Maria and Tom, promise to support your family, love your children, encourage them, and support them through successes and growing pains, as long as you shall all be together?
'We do'.

SAND CEREMONY

Maria and Tom you have committed yourselves to one another and to Pamela and Charlie as a family. Your lives are no longer separate but one family.

To symbolise this joining, we ask that you each pour some sand into this vase. Life's moments are as grains of sands, forever moving and shifting with the winds of time. Today, Tom and Maria, you are making your eternal commitment to one another, blending the sands of your lives together. You are also making an eternal commitment to Pamela and Charlie, blending your family together. The separate vessels of sand you hold represents each of your lives up to this moment. From this moment on, as with the sands you now blend together, you are one; a family created. As your pour please repeat after me:

'As these grains of sand merge together as one, I merge my life with yours. As these grains of sand are joined together, so are our hearts. Please take my love throughout the sands of time, now and forever.'

Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage and your family be integrated as one.

DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

Tom and Maria you have given yourselves to each other and have shown your affection and trust by the giving and receiving of rings, along with the sun, the moon, and the sea, I now have the pleasure of announcing you as husband and wife.

Tom, you may kiss your wife!

SIGNING OF MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

PRESENTATION & BLESSING

Friends and Family it is my great honour to present to you for the first time, Mr and Mrs Smith.
(Applause)

Tom and Maria, as you stand beside the ocean tide, may your love always be as constant as these never-ending waves that pour near your feet, flowing endlessly from the depths of the sea. Your love came softly upon each others heart, just as the foam comes softly upon the sand, and just as there will never be a morning without the ocean's flow, so there will never be a day without love for each other. Your love will be as dependable as the tide; as these waters nourish the earth and sustain life, may your constant devotion nourish and sustain you until the end of time.

May the sun bring you new energy by day; May the moon softly restore you by night; May the rain wash away your worries; And may you live the days of your lives in peace, love, and happiness.

WEDDING SEVEN

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ARRIVAL OF THE BRIDE

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with much excitement that I let you know the arrival of our bride is imminent. I take this moment to remind you all to either switch your phones off or to silent. The bride and groom welcome you to take lots of photos during the ceremony however please be mindful of the photographer and keep phones and cameras out of their way.

I invite you all now to be standing for the arrival of our beautiful bride.

PROCESSIONAL

WELCOME & GIVING OF THE BRIDE

Dear friends and family, my name is Sally Glasson and I am very pleased and honoured to welcome you all here today to the wedding of Laura and Tony.

In times past it was custom for a woman to be 'given' from the protection of her father into that of her husband. This was the origin of the rite 'Giving away of the bride'. Times have changed and today we mark this as the occasion when the families show their joy and support of the marriage. This tradition is even more special today, as the two families providing their support and love to Laura and Tony have known each other for almost a decade.

I would now like to call on Rebecca and Max, Laura's parents, and Yvonne and Steve, Tony's parents to fulfil this custom.

Do you support Tony and Laura in this marriage? "We Do".

Thank you. I know it means a lot to both Laura and Tony to have your support today.

INTRODUCTION

Over the past ten years that Tony and Laura have been together, their love and understanding of each other has grown and matured. Tony and Laura have had an exciting adventure together since meeting at school in Bundaberg, where they lived around the corner from each other.

Their journey has seen them move to Rockhampton when they were just 18. Even at this young age Laura and Tony knew they wanted to be together and didn't want a long distance relationship, so Laura followed Tony for him to attend university. After five years in Rockhampton the couple moved to Brisbane in 2012, buying a unit together in December 2013 and in June 2014 Tony asked Laura to marry him. Tony and Laura have now decided to live their lives together as husband and wife, and today we gather to witness and celebrate their union as husband and wife.

I would like to take a moment now to welcome and acknowledge some key people in attendance today. I start with our bridal party. The two gorgeous flower girls today are Tony's niece Alice, and Pia daughter of Laura's high school friend and maid of honour, Anna. Peta and Claire join Anna as bridesmaids. Tony's school friend Ashton is standing with him as Best Man, joined by Greg, a good friend of Tony's from university and Mike, Laura's brother, as groomsmen.

I would also like to acknowledge Tony's grandparents, Eric and Esme from Yvonne's side and grandma Mary from Steve's side. It is always lovely when multiple generations of a family can celebrate a marriage together.

COUPLE'S STORY

Everything about this union has meaning and is special. When Tony chose to propose at Marcoola, they were staying at Laura's grandparents house where they spent their first New Years together in 2004/05 and many weekends since moving to Brisbane. Tony proposed to Laura on the beach at sunset with cheese and champagne after providing an excuse about getting his camera out to take some photos but actually digging the ring out of the camera bag.

It is always lovely to be involved in a wedding that has so much meaning and love both between the couple and also with their family and friends.

When asked what was important to them about getting married they both replied having their family and friends present to witness the commitment they are making. Marriage, to Tony and Laura, means confirming that they have someone they can trust and rely on for the rest of their lives, and in each other they have found that. As a couple who has been together for such a long Tonye and living together for quite a while, Tony and Laura have already made a commitment to be with each other. Today however they affirm that decision publicly, make it official and share the experience with all of you.

I now invite Judy, Tony's Aunty, to present the Hand Ceremony. Many cultures have different ways of blessing the hands of the Bride and Groom and it is often believed that the hands are a connection to the heart and blessing the hands brings a couple closer to one another.

HANDS CEREMONY

Tony and Laura, you are holding each other's hands. Please consider this and the gift they are to each of you throughout this reading.

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow and forever. These are the hands that will work alongside yours as together you build your future.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch will comfort you like no other. These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief temporarily comes to you. These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes, tears of sorrow and tears of joy.

These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children, the hands that will join your family as one. These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it, support and encouragement to pursue your dreams, and comfort through difficult times.

And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

May these hands be blessed this day. May they always hold each other. May they have the strength to hang on during the storms of stress and the dark of disillusionment. May they remain tender and gentle as they nurture each other in their wondrous love. May they build a relationship founded in love, and rich in caring. May these hands be healer, protector, shelter, and guide for each other.

CELEBRANT AUTHORITY (MONITUM)

Tony and Laura we have come to the point of your ceremony where you're going to say your vows to one another. But before you do that, I ask you to remember that a wedding is more than a celebration of the love you have for each other today. It is a proclamation of promises and intentions for the future. A couple who wed are joined not only by the mutual affection and love they share, but also by their hopes, dreams and by their promises of what will be. I am going to ask you to exchange these promises shortly.

Firstly I must state that I am duly authorised by law to solemnise marriages according to law.

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of everyone here, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter.

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

THE ASKING

Celebrant to Groom

Do you Tony, take Laura to be your lawfully wedded wife, promising to love and cherish her, through joy and sorrow, sickness and health, and whatever challenges you may face, for as long as you both shall live?

Groom Replies: "I Do"

Celebrant to Bride

Do you Laura, take Tony to be your lawfully wedded husband, promising to love and cherish him, through joy and sorrow, sickness and health, and whatever challenges you may face, for as long as you both shall live?

Bride Replies: "I Do"

Then I ask you now to make your vows to one another. Repeat after me:

WEDDING VOWS

Groom

I call upon the people here present to witness that I Tony take you Laura to be my lawfully wedded wife.

I give you my promise without reservation, from this day forward you shall not walk alone. May my heart be your shelter and my arms be your home. I will encourage you to achieve all of your goals, laugh with you and cry with you, grow with you in mind and spirit, always be open and honest with you, and cherish you for as long as we both shall live.

Bride

I call upon the people here present to witness that I Laura take you Tony to be my lawfully wedded husband.

I give you my promise without reservation, from this day forward you shall not walk alone. May my heart be your shelter and my arms be your home. I will encourage you to achieve all of your goals, laugh with you and cry with you, grow with you in mind and spirit, always be open and honest with you, and cherish you for as long as we both shall live.

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

A wedding ring is a treasured and valued possession. It is a circle that has no beginning and no end. It demonstrates a continuing bond and symbolises equality and an infinite commitment, which are the foundation stones of married life.

The symbol of a wedding ring signifies togetherness, purity, and unending love. May it be the sign of your future life together.

Aaron may we please have the rings.

Groom

I give you this ring to wear with love and joy. As it has no end, neither shall my love for you. I choose you to be my wife this day and forevermore.

Bride

I give you this ring to wear with love and joy. As it has no end, neither shall my love for you. I choose you to be my husband this day and forevermore.

DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE & BLESSING

Tony and Laura, you have declared before all of us that you will live together in marriage. You have made special promises to each other. You have symbolized it by joining hands, taking vows and exchanging rings. It is now my great pleasure to pronounce you husband and wife. Tony you may kiss your bride.

Tony and Laura, remember to treat yourselves and each other with respect, take responsibility for making the other feel safe, and give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves. When frustration, difficulty and fear assail your relationship, as they threaten all relationships at some time or another, remember to focus on what is right between you, not just the part that seems wrong. In this way, you can survive the times when clouds drift across the face of the sun in your lives, remembering that, just because you may lose sight of it for a moment, does not mean the sun has gone away.

May you have happiness, and may you find it making one another happy. May you have love, and may you find it loving one another. Wherever the wind may carry you, may you always find each other's side.

SIGNING OF THE REGISTRY & MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES

PRESENTATION

Ladies and gentlemen, friends, family, and loved ones, I am very happy to introduce to you for the first time, Mr and Mrs Smith.

WEDDING EIGHT

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ARRIVAL OF THE BRIDE

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with much excitement that I let you know the arrival of our bride is imminent. I take this moment to remind you all to switch your phones off or to silent. A professional photographer has been engaged for the day so Sarah and Michael request that you all please sit back, enjoy the ceremony and let the photographer be the one to take photos. I invite you all now to be upstanding for the arrival of our beautiful bride.

Processional All of Me 'John Legend'

Welcome

Welcome family and friends to the wedding of Sarah Jane West and Michael John Marr. My name is Sally Glasson and I am honoured to officiate today's ceremony.

On behalf of Michael and Sarah I would like to thank each of you for being here today to witness their marriage, show appreciation to those who have travelled a distance to attend, including Michael's family from New Zealand and friends from Bundaberg and Rockhampton. We also take a moment to acknowledge those who unfortunately cannot be with us today to celebrate this joyous occasion but who we know would support and delight in today's union.

Giving of the Bride

Sarah and Michael, today you are surrounded by your friends and family, all of whom have gathered here to witness your marriage and change in status from single individuals to a married couple. Traditionally, that change is indicated by passing the brides hand from her family to her husband-to-be. So I ask now,

'Who presents this woman to be married to this man?'

Father of the Bride: "I do"

Couple's Story

When Sarah and Michael met at the age of 16, they could not have known that a chance meeting at a party at Michael's house would one day lead to today, however the couple have been together ever since they started dating at the age of 17 and they both say that they can't remember when they knew they would stay together, they just knew.

In 2013 they bought a unit and moved in together, after having lived just down the street from each other for the duration of their courtship, and in March 2013 during a holiday in Melbourne, Michael proposed, after taking three attempts to get the courage up. Down on one knee in the hotel room Michael gave Sarah such a surprise that her initial response was 'are you serious'.

Describing each other as very kind, loving, generous, and fun it is easy to see that these two are meant to be together when you meet them. They enjoy doing things together, spending time with each other and being in each others company, and by continuing to strengthen this bond Sarah and Michael will enjoy a strong marriage as they build a family together.

I would now like to invite Michael's brother Chris to share with everyone a poem called Togetherness that Michael and Sarah have chosen to reflect the love they hold for one another.

Reading ~ Togetherness (Author Unknown)

Love is a feeling of beautiful warmth
One person can bring to your heart,
A feeling of loneliness deep down inside
Whenever you must be apart.
Love is a feeling of gladness that comes
From the sight of that one happy smile,
A feeling of comfort you have when you know
There's someone there all the while.
Love is a feeling of such special caring,
A feeling of magic and fun,
A feeling of wonderful closeness you share
with only that one certain one.

Meaning of Marriage

Michael and Sarah, as you join yourselves in marriage, there is a vast and unknown future stretching out before you. The possibilities and potentials of your married life are great.

Deciding to join together in marriage is the ultimate expression of love. Marriage is a commitment to life; it offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other relationship can equal, a physical and emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime. Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships - a wife and a husband are each other's best friend, confidant, lover, teacher, listener, and critic.

Sarah and Michael I invite you now to consider the choices you are making today and consider each other as the Hands Ceremony is conducted.

Hands Ceremony ~ (Author Unknown)

Please face each other and take each other's hands, so that you may see the gift that they are to you. These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow and forever. These are the hands that will work alongside yours as together you build your future.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch will comfort you like no other. These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief temporarily comes to you. These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes, tears of sorrow and tears of joy.

These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children, the hands that will join your family as one. These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it, support and encouragement to pursue your dreams, and comfort through difficult times.

And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

Celebrant Authority (Monitum)

This wedding ceremony is the public recognition of a commitment that Sarah and Michael have already made privately in their hearts. But it's also their commitment to all of you who know and love them. By inviting you to bear witness to their commitment and vows today, they have chosen to take you with them on the first step of their journey into marriage.

Sarah and Michael, I am duly authorised by law to solemnise marriages according to law.

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of everyone here, I am to remind you of the formal and binding promise of the relationship into which you are now about to enter.

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

Asking

Celebrant to Groom

Do you Michael John Marr, take Sarah Jane West, to be your lawfully wedded wife, promising to love and cherish her, through joy and sorrow, sickness and health, and whatever challenges you may face, for as long as you both shall live?

Groom Replies: "I do"

Celebrant to Bride

Do you Sarah Jane West, take Michael John Marr, to be your lawfully wedded husband, promising to love and cherish him, through joy and sorrow, sickness and health, and whatever challenges you may face, for as long as you both shall live?

Bride Replies: "I do"

Wedding Vows

We've come to the point of your ceremony where you're going to say your vows to one another. But before you do that, I ask you to remember that love – which is rooted in faith, trust, and acceptance - will be the foundation of an abiding and deepening relationship.

No other ties are more tender, no other vows more sacred than those you now assume. If you are able to keep the vows you take here today, not because of any religious or civic law, but out of a desire to love and be loved by another person, fully and without limitation, then your life will have joy and the home you establish will be a place in which you both will find the direction of your growth, your freedom, and your responsibility.

Groom

I ask everyone here to witness, that I Michael take you Sarah, to be my lawfully wedded wife.

My partner in life, and my one true love. I will cherish our union and love you more each day than I did the day before. I will trust you and respect you, laugh with you and cry with you, loving you faithfully through good times and bad, regardless of the obstacles we may face together. I give you my hand, my heart, and my love, from this day forward for as long as we both shall live.

Bride

I ask everyone here to witness, that I Sarah take you Michael, to be my lawfully wedded husband.

My partner in life, and my one true love. I will cherish our union and love you more each day than I did the day before. I will trust you and respect you, laugh with you and cry with you, loving you faithfully through good times and bad, regardless of the obstacles we may face together. I give you my hand, my heart, and my love, from this day forward for as long as we both shall live.

Exchange of Rings

Groom

Sarah, I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and faithfulness. As I place it on your finger, I commit my heart and soul to you. I ask you to wear this ring as a reminder of the vows we have spoken today, our wedding day.

Bride

Michael, I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and faithfulness. As I place it on your finger, I commit my heart and soul to you. I ask you to wear this ring as a reminder of the vows we have spoken today, our wedding day.

Blessing

Sarah and Michael, you have pledged yourself to one another, exchanged vows in front of your family and friends and given each other rings as a symbol of your everlasting commitment to one another.

May you always need one another, not to fill an emptiness, but to help each other know your fullness. May you want one another, but not out of lack. May you embrace one another, but not encircle one another. May you succeed in all-important ways with each other, and not fail in the little graces. May you have happiness, and may you find it in making one another happy. May you have love, and may you find it in loving one another.

Declaration of Marriage

It is with great pleasure that I now pronounce you husband and wife. Michael you may kiss your bride.

Signing Thinking Out Loud ‘Ed Sheeran’

Presentation of Husband & Wife

Family and friends I have the honour of presenting to you for the first time, as husband and wife, Mr and Mrs Marr.

Sarah and Michael along with the bridal party will be doing the traditional walk down the aisle at which stage I invite you to follow the bridal party and congratulate the newly weds. We ask that you do stay in this area, as Helen will be organising you all for a group photo.

Recessional ‘You’re the One that I Want’ (Grease)

WEDDING NINE

Welcome

Welcome everyone to the wedding of Kellie Linae McDonald and Stephen John Daly. My name is Sally Glasson and it is my great privilege to officiate today's ceremony. We are here today, not to witness the beginning of a partnership and what will be, but rather what already is in existence between Kellie and Steve. We do not create this marriage today, because we cannot. We can and do however celebrate with Kellie and Steve the wondrous and joyful occurrence that has already taken place in their lives, and the commitment that they affirm here today publicly in front of you, their family and friends, for their future together.

The marriage of Kellie and Stephen is more than just the union of two people in love. It's also the joining of two families, of two sets of friends and of two patterns of life. Traditionally it has been custom for a father to give away a bride. These days however we like to acknowledge the significant role that family and friends play in supporting a marriage.

So I ask all of you present, will you bless Stephen and Kellie in their marriage, celebrating with them in their times of joy and bolstering them and their marriage in times of hardship?

All reply: 'We Will'

Thank you, you may be seated.

Thank you & Acknowledgements

Friends and family are very important to both Kellie and Steve. Kellie told me that what she loves most about Steve is his kind heart, loyalty, consideration and generosity toward his family and friends. By being here today, each of you are asked to reciprocate this and continue to support Steve and Kellie's union, nourishing their love for one another and supporting them as they grow as a married couple.

Today Steve and Kellie wish me to thank family and friends who have made the effort to travel from around the globe to be here and support them today - from the UK, Asia, Europe, Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia.

Kellie is delighted to have one of her closest friends from the UK who now lives in Thailand, Alex Hunn standing with her as bridesmaid alongside Emily McDonald, her sister-in-law, who with her brother Shane has been a wonderful support to this couple since they returned to Australia. Edd Green and Mike Dargue who both attended university with Steve are standing as his groomsmen.

Though this relationship was formed out of the love Kellie and Steve have found in each other, their marriage will ultimately be blessed by the support of their families and friends.

Steve and Kellie, you have chosen today to enter into marriage, formalising your commitment to one another and celebrating your relationship in front of family and friends. Today you came as individuals but you will leave here as husband and wife, blending your lives, expanding your family ties, and embarking upon the grandest adventure of human interaction.

Celebrant Authority (Monitum) & Asking

Before you do that I must state that I am legally registered to solemnise marriage according to the law.

Kellie and Stephen, before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of everyone here, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter.

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

Each of you has described marriage as 'making the choice every day to be the best partner you can to each other, making each other's lives more enjoyable; being together forever - listening, communicating and loving each other through both the good times and bad'.

So keeping that in mind, Stephen and Kellie, I ask each of you, do you come here freely, and without reservation, to enter a marriage as companions living together as one?

"We do"

Couple's Story

Steve and Kellie, the story of your life together is still yours to write. All those present have played a part in the story so far and are eager to be a part of the story not yet told. But lets take a moment to reflect on your story to date.

Kellie and Steve met five years ago today, to the day, in London, where Steve had been living for a number of years, in a bar in Clapham. Steve was out with his colleagues Ed and Landon, both of whom have both travelled a long way to be here today, and Kellie was travelling with a good friend Amy, in the UK to work and see some of Europe.

After dating for six months, Kellie and Steve moved in together and Kellie arranged to extend her visa to spend some time with Steve.

Then in February 2013, after nearly three years together, and making the decision to move to Australia, Kellie had to make the difficult decision to return first on her own, leaving Steve behind to join her at a later date yet unknown. After leaving each other at the airport with teary goodbyes, not knowing how long it would be before Steve found a job in Australia and they saw each other again, Steve actually came to Australia two weeks later for an interview.

Steve and Kellie ended up spending four months apart until May 2013 when Steve landed a job in Brisbane and they were reunited in Australia.

Steve says that Kellie's strength, guidance and kindness is addictive so in June 2014 during a trip back to the UK, Steve decided to ask Kellie to marry him. Steve popped the big question in a very romantic re-enactment of their first date. In Battersea Park on the same bench they had previously eaten red velvet cupcakes from the Hummingbird Cafe, Steve had placed a plastic ring on top of one of the cupcakes.

I would like to invite Rachel Smoker to share a reading titled 'No Matter What' by Debi Gliori. Rachel is one of Steve and Kellie's good friend's from the UK who played a pivotal role in this couple getting together as she helped Steve plan their first date, which the proposal was subsequently based on.

Reading ~ 'No Matter What' by Debi Gliori ~ Rachel Smoker

Small was feeling grim and dark.
Playing toss and fling and squash,
Yell and scream and bang and crash
Break and snap and bash and batter...
"Good grief" said Large.
"What is the matter?"

Small said,
"I'm a grim and grumpy
Little small
And nobody
Loves me at all"
"Oh Small" said Large. "Grumpy or not,
I'll always love you no matter what."

Small said, "If I was a grizzly bear,
Would you still love me,
Would you care?"
"Of course" said Large,
"bear or not,
I'll always love you
No matter what."

Small said "But if I turned into a bug,
Would you still love me and give me a hug?"

"Of course" said Large,
"Bug or not,
I'll always love you no matter what"

"No matter what?" said Small and smiled
"what if I was a crocodile?"
Large said, "I'd hug you close and tight,
And tuck you up in bed each night."

"Does love wear out" said Small,
"does it break or bend?
Can you fix it, stick it,
Does it mend?"
"Oh help" said Large, "I'm not that clever,
I just know I'll love you for ever."
Small said, "but what about
when your dead and gone
would you still love me then,
does love go on?"

Large held Small snug
as they looked out at the night,
at the moon in the dark,
and the stars shining bright.
"Small, look at the stars
How they shine and glow,
But some of those stars died
A long time ago
Still they shine in the evening skies
Love, like starlight, never dies."

Couple's Story cont.

Kellie and Steve have now been in Brisbane for nearly two years and have created a life together here. Whilst in the UK Steve had an established group of friends and a life that Kellie became a part of, in Brisbane they have started a fresh together. This has been a great experience for Kellie and Steve, making a new circle of friends that are joint friends whom are all here to help celebrate today.

Kellie and Steve tell me that whilst it is a different experience it has been really lovely and their lives are more together now than they were before. They are loving life in Queensland going to the beach, something Steve didn't have the opportunity to do in the UK, going out and having fun together, and showing family and friends around Queensland when they come to visit.

Steve and Kellie, it is very clear from speaking with both of you that you adore each other and love many qualities about the other, and not just the 'perfect' ones. This foundation of knowing and understanding and accepting each other is an important one for a successful marriage.

Kellie says Steve compliment's her in all the best ways - his reliability, sensibility with money, and consideration of consequences are a nice and opposite balance to her; and Steve says their differences compliment each other and Kellie balances him out in all the right areas to make him a better person. Steve admires Kellie's beauty and intelligence, appreciates her unhealthy obsession with pugs, her competitive nature and ability to make any problem seem insignificant.

Kellie loves Steve's silly side and laughing with him and Steve says when with Kellie he is always having fun and loves her ability to make people laugh. Overall they each claim they make each other a better person.

I would like to invite Shane McDonald, Kellie's brother, to share with us the reading, 'The Art of Marriage' by Wilfred A Peterson. This reading emphasizes the important aspects of marriage to Kellie and Steve.

Reading ~ 'The Art of Marriage' by Wilfred A Peterson ~ Shane McDonald

A good marriage must be created.
In the marriage, the little things are the big things.
It is never being too old to hold hands.
It is remembering to say, "I love you" at least once a day.
It is never going to sleep angry.

It is at no time taking the other for granted; the courtship should not end with the honeymoon, it should continue through all the years.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.

It is standing together facing the world.

It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.

It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy.

It is speaking words of appreciation, and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is not expecting the husband to wear a halo or the wife to have the wings of an angel.

It is not looking for perfection in each other.

It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humour.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.

It is finding room for the things of the Spirit.

It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is mutual, and the obligation is reciprocal.

It is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner.

This is The Art of Marriage.

Promises and Vows

This wedding ceremony is the public recognition of a commitment that Kellie and Steve have already made to one another, but it is also their commitment to all of you who know and love them. Without the love and support from each of you, Kellie and Steve would not be here today to pledge this commitment. By inviting you to bear witness to their vows this day, they have chosen to thank you for your support thus far and take you with them on the first step of their journey into marriage.

Steve & Kellie, do you come here today, in the presence of these witnesses, with love in your heart, to share the responsibility for growth and enrichment of your lives together and to give each other all the loving support to become the people you are destined to be?

“We do”

The meaning of marriage begins in the giving of words. We cannot join ourselves to one another without giving our word. Kellie and Stephen I invite you now to vow promises to one another.

Groom

I ask everyone here to witness that I Stephen John Daly take you Kellie Linae McDonald to be my lawfully wedded wife.

I promise to share my life with you, without reservation.

Since we met, everyday has been full of laughter, love and adventure. I promise to care for you, laugh with you and listen to you. I'll pour the bubbles when celebrating the successes and I'll serve up the ice cream after the tears. Every day I will wake up excited for our next adventure, knowing that being with you makes every second of my life infinitely better. I love you

Bride

I ask everyone here to witness that I Kellie Linae McDonald take you Stephen John Daly to be my lawfully wedded husband.

I promise to share my life with you, without reservation.

You are my best friend, playmate, confidant, and the love of my life. I promise to care for you, laugh with you, listen to you, encourage and inspire you. I choose you, and can't wait to spend today, and all of my tomorrows, with you. I love you.

Exchange of Rings

Wedding rings are made precious by our wearing them. Your rings say that even in your uniqueness you have chosen to be bound together. Let these rings also be a sign that love has substance as well as soul, a present as well as a past, and that, despite its occasional sorrows, love is a circle of happiness, wonder, and delight. May these rings remind you always of the vows you have taken here today.

Groom

Steve, please place the ring on Kellie's finger and repeat after me:

'I give this ring as my gift to you. Wear it and think of me and know that I love you.'

Bride

Kellie please place the ring on Steve's finger and repeat after me:

'I give this ring as my gift to you. Wear it and think of me and know that I love you.'

Declaration of Marriage

Steve and Kellie, I wish to share with you these words:

Your wedding day is one that seems to fly.

It's a day filled with emotion, friends, rings and dances.

Many people remember how fleeting their own wedding day was.

So I want you to take a few seconds to look onto each other's eyes.

Think about the happiness that you're feeling in this place, in this moment.

Really let that feeling register in your heart and your mind.

Now, I want you to think about your life together in twenty years. Where are you?

What are you doing?

We all know that your visions of the future are not identical, but always complementary.

John Lennon once said, "a dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together, that is reality."

That reality starts now.

You have pronounced your intentions in front of your family and friends, exchanged rings and given to each other a symbol of your love and commitment. Kellie and Steve, It is my great pleasure to announce you as husband and wife. Steve you may kiss your bride.

Family and friends we will now take a moment to sign the marriage certificates and registry.

Signing of the Registry and Certificates

'Marry You' by Bruno Mars & 'Firework' by Katy Perry

Blessing

Kellie and Steve, your life as husband and wife commences today. True marriage is the union of your hearts, the love you give to one another each day and strength you find supporting one another no matter what you face, facing it together.

May you always be able to talk things over, to confide in each other, to laugh with each other, to enjoy life together, to thank each other for what you bring to the others life, and to always feel loved and lucky to have one another. May you be blessed with a lifetime of happiness.

Presentation & Closing

Friends and Family I am honoured to present to you for the first time, Mr and Mrs Daly.

Recessional 'Clocks' by Cold Play

WEDDING TEN

Announcement of Arrival of the Bride

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with much excitement that I let you know the arrival of our bride is imminent. I ask everyone to move forward and fill all of the seats please. I take this moment to remind you all to either switch your phones off or to silent. I also want to check that everyone has a copy of the order of service.

I invite you all now to be standing for the arrival of our beautiful bride & enjoy Samantha's cousin Tori singing A Thousand Years, a song chosen by Samantha and Brian as it describes their life and relationship perfectly.

Welcome & Giving of the Bride

Good morning everyone, my name is Sally Glasson and today I am delighted to welcome you all to one of the happiest of ceremonies we get to celebrate, the change of status of this beautiful couple from single individuals to a married couple. Traditionally, this change is indicated by passing the brides hand from her family to her husband-to-be. So today I ask, who brings this bride to be married today? Paul: "I do, (*to Brian*) tag you're it"

Thank you Paul. Everyone please be seated.

As you are all aware family is an integral and important part of Samantha and Brian's lives and today they are thrilled to share this occasion with each of you. Today's occasion was arranged to ensure that each of you, those most important to Samantha and Brian, were able to attend and help them celebrate as they declare their love and intentions to live together as husband and wife.

Unfortunately some key and important family members are unable to be here to share today with Samantha and Brian. Samantha's Grandmother, Glenis, whom Samantha was very close to and told Samantha it was her dream to see her get married, sadly has passed as has Brian's grandparents Albert and Penelope.

Today though, Samantha and Brian are honoured to have each of you witness their marriage, in particular Jasmine and Michelle standing with Samantha as her maid of honour and bridesmaid, and with Brian as Best Man Josh, and Hugo and Lyle, Samantha's brothers, as groomsmen.

It also means a lot to Samantha that her father Paul travelled from Melbourne to be here today to walk his 'pretty' down the aisle.

Couple's Story

Today's love story started 7 years and four months ago when Samantha and Brian met. I am told that as both Samantha and Brian are very close to all of you, you probably know their story quite well. You all are probably also aware that Samantha and Brian share a common interest of gaming.

So today I have tried to incorporate their love of gaming into telling their love story. In my search for gaming love stories to compare Samantha and Brian's story to I have found that games that actually tell a great love story are rare and difficult to find - similar to finding The One.

Most of what can be found involves either the romance of a damsel in distress or the bromance of space marines bonding over a pile of bullet-riddled alien corpses. Neither of which strikes me as a comparison to Samantha and Brian. But occasionally a game creates such a special link between two characters that their romance lingers with us, and that is comparable - a rare, significant, world-altering love that changes and defines your world, charting a new future.

Samantha and Brian's story starts out similar to that of Yuna and Tidus from Final Fantasy. Teenage lovebirds who spent a lot of time becoming friends before taking things to the next

level. Meeting in high school after Samantha moved to Brisbane from Victoria, Brian had a crush on Samantha from the start but had to be content with friendship for five years.

Like Alicia and Welkin from Valkyrie Chronicles, Samantha and Brian's relationship grew slowly but surely with each learning to rely on each other. In late 2013 Brian came to the rescue when Samantha needed to return to Brisbane shortly after moving to Perth. Then in December 2014 whilst Samantha was in the emergency room, nothing new there, Brian finally asked her out.

Then on 19th April 2014, six years to the the day after they met, Brian proposed in a very 'Samantha and Brian' fashion, whilst watching a movie and playing a game saying 'hey babe want to marry me'.

I would now like to invite Tracy to share a reading from Corinthians that Brian and Samantha have chosen to express their feelings of love and grace on this wonderful day.

Reading ~ 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, read by Tracy

Love is patient, love is kind.

It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered,

It keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails

Couple's Story cont.

Thank you Tracy. The reading does sum up the relationship between Samantha and Brian quite beautifully. They know everything about each other and accept and love each other unconditionally.

Like Gerald and Triss from the Witcher series they know each others strengths and weaknesses, are always there for one another, and have a banter between themselves that is key to their relationship.

Today Samantha and Brian are taking the public step to formalise their relationship through marriage with hopes for buying their first home together and adding to their family with a dog and children. Today is the start of a new adventure that Samantha says she decided upon simply because she loves Brian and Brian says so that Samantha is his.

Whilst in movies and games we often see tragedy and despair at the end of love stories as this makes the romance easily memorable we should never overlook or underestimate the power of a true love story. Like that of Samantha and Brian they can provide some fantastic endings and are a joy to watch.

And so it is my pleasure today to officiate this marriage and ask ...

Asking

Celebrant to Groom

Do you Brian take Samantha to be your partner in life and sharing your path, equal in love, a mirror for your true self, promising to honour and cherish, through good times and bad, until death do you part?

Groom Replies: I do

Celebrant to Bride

Do you Samantha take Brian to be your partner in life and sharing your path, equal in love, a mirror for your true self, promising to honour and cherish, through good times and bad, until death do you part?

Bride Replies: I do

Celebrant Authority (Monitum)

My name is Sally Glasson and I am duly authorised by law to solemnise marriages according to law.

Samantha and Brian, before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of everyone here, I am to remind you of the formal and binding promise of the relationship which you are now sealing.

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

I now invite you both to exchange your vows to one another.

Wedding Vows

Groom

I call upon everyone here to witness that I Brian take thee Samantha to be my lawfully wedded wife.

You are my world. I promise to stand by you no matter what, just as you have done for me. From My Little Pony to Pandas, from Tattooed Zombie to Kitten D'Amour and from Keanu Reeves to Orlando Bloom, I promise to be with you no matter what, and I promise to love you for the person you are, even when you don't.
I love you Angel, Today, tomorrow and forever.

Bride

I call upon everyone here to witness that I Samantha take thee Brian to be my lawfully wedded husband.

I always knew that one day I would find the man I would marry, but what I didn't know is that I would be lucky enough that he would be my closest friend and shoulder to cry on for so many year before hand. But, after those few year and a clumsy moment that landed us in the emergency room, I finally saw sense. I can now promise you, with all my heart, that I will be as loyal as Yoshi, love you with the passion Mario loves Peach, cherish you like Ash does Pikachu and frustrate you just as much as you frustrate me. You are my Ashes of Al'ar. I love you Buggy, Today, tomorrow and forever.

Exchange of Rings

Can Jana and Tracy please bring the rings forward.

For thousands of years, lovers have exchanged rings as a token of their vows. These rings are a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver for each is the giver and each is the receiver. May these rings always remind you of the vows you have taken.

May we please have Samantha's ring?

I give you this ring as a sign of my loving commitment, now and for always.

May we please have Brian's ring?

I give you this ring as a sign of my loving commitment, now and for always.

Declaration of Marriage

Today, you have received the blessing of your family and friends, made vows, and exchanged rings.

Now only one step remains, I am honoured to declare you husband and wife. You may kiss the bride.

We will now take a moment to sign the certificate and registry. Please all remain seated/ where you are and we will return very shortly to conclude the ceremony.

Signing Like I Can (Sam Smith)

Presentation of Mr and Mrs

Friends and family it is with great pleasure that I now present to you, for the very first time, Mr and Mrs Brian and Samantha Cox.

Blessing

Not every great love story is about how people fall in love or end up together. Some of the best are about the devotion that keeps a relationship strong long after the honeymoon. Samantha and Brian we have heard your beautiful love story today and witnessed you take the next step together. Your friends and family, through witnessing today and being part of your union and celebration promise to support your marriage through the years however the two of you alone can make your marriage. Married life may not always be perfect but we wish you joy, happiness, acceptance and forever lasting love together. Continue to cherish each other and the attributes you love in each other today - your shared sense of humour and sarcasm, your patience and tolerance, your forgiving natures and energy. May you continue to make one another happy and have a successful long-lasting marriage.

WEDDING ELEVEN

WELCOME

Welcome to the wedding of John Warington and Gladys Harris. Today we celebrate a very special union. John and Gladys have lived in marriage for over 40 years raising their daughter Louise, through good times and bad enduring the trials of life and enjoying successes and joys. Today Gladys and John you have decided to formalise your union, becoming husband and wife through law.

CELEBRANT AUTHORITY (MONITUM)

My name is Sally Glasson and I am duly authorised by law to solemnise marriages according to law.

Gladys and John, before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter.

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

THE ASKING

I ask each of you now, have you come here freely today and without reservation, to enter into marriage? "We Have"

Do you promise to continue to love, respect, assist and look after each other for the rest of your lives? We do

Are you prepared to continue to live in harmony and jointly strive for the welfare of your family? We are

COUPLE'S STORY

Even though they can't be with us today, we know that Gladys and John have the love and support of their daughter Louise and their friends from the retirement village. Over the past 40 years Gladys and John have built a lovely life together and have many friends and loved ones who both are cherished and cherish them, wishing them all the best as a married couple.

Today's love story started in 1943 when Gladys and John first met and fell in love in their home town of Sydney. At the tender age of 20 and 21, Gladys and John knew they had met their soul mates. Unfortunately due to the times being as they were, approval for a marriage between Roman Catholic and Anglican was not always forthcoming and John was separated from Gladys due to the war.

Upon his return John sought out Gladys but she had unfortunately moved on to Coffs Harbour and married. A chance meeting 15 years later brought John and Gladys back together again and despite individual circumstances being as they were the couple knew this was their chance at true love and that they were destined to be together.

In 1960 Gladys and John moved to Brisbane and built a life together. One year later in 1961 their happiness was completed when Louise was born and they formed a family. Gladys and John did a remarkable job raising Louise with love and tenderness and have lived a very happy family life. Today they formalise this family through legally joining as husband and wife.

VOWS

John and Gladys, I am now going to ask you to promise your vows to one another. Whilst these reflect the love and commitment you have had for each other for so long, they are a promise for the future and with that promise you can each be secure and confident in for all of your time together.

I call upon the persons here present to witness that I Gladys Harris, take thee John Warington to be my lawfully wedded husband.

On this special day, I give to you in the presence of God and these witnesses my pledge to stay by your side, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, for richer or poorer, to love and to cherish, until we part. This is my solemn vow.

I call upon the people here present to witness that I John Warington, take thee Gladys Harris to be my lawfully wedded wife.

On this special day, I give to you in the presence of God and these witnesses my pledge to stay by your side, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, for richer or poorer, to love and to cherish, until we part. This is my solemn vow.

BLESSING

Please pray with me: " Dear heavenly Father, our hearts are filled with great happiness on John and Gladys's wedding day, as they come before You pledging their hearts and lives to one another. Grant that they may be ever true and loving, living together in such a way as to never bring shame or heartbreak into their marriage. Temper their hearts with kindness and understanding, rid them of all pretence of jealousy. Help them to remember to be each other's sweetheart, helpmate, friend and guide, so that together they may meet the cares and problems of life more bravely.

Bless this union we pray, and walk beside Gladys and John throughout all their lives together. We ask these things in Jesus name, AMEN.

DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

John and Gladys you have pledged yourselves to each other and made declarations of marriage. It is at this time, and with the greatest of pleasure, that I now declare you to be husband and wife. Congratulations. John you may kiss your bride.

SIGNING

We will now sign the wedding certificates and register and then enjoy joining you for lunch to celebrate your union.

WEDDING TWELVE

Announcement of Arrival of the Bride

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with much excitement that I let you know the arrival of our bride is imminent. I ask everyone to move forward and fill all of the seats please. I take this moment to remind you all to either switch your phones off or to silent. The bride and groom welcome you to take photos during the ceremony however please be mindful of the photographer and keep phones and cameras out of his way.

I invite you all now to be standing for the arrival of our beautiful bride.

Welcome

Good afternoon everyone, please be seated. My name is Sally Glasson and I am thrilled to welcome you here today to the wedding of Allison Smythe and Jonathon Lawn. Today's ceremony has been tailored to suit Jonathon and Allison and as such is a celebration of love, friendship, happiness, and laughter. There will be no solemn undertakings nor long stories of their 'journey' to date.

And like each aspect of this ceremony that they have had part in designing, Allison and Jonathon have specifically chosen each of you, those special and important to them, to witness and celebrate with them today as they begin their married life together.

Friends and family are important to both Jonathon and Allison and as you look around the gathering today that is reflected. Family members have travelled from within Australia and as far as England to support this union today and it means a lot to both Allison and Jonathon to have you all here.

Couple's Story

True marriage begins well before the wedding day, and the efforts of marriage continue well beyond the ceremony's end. A brief moment in time and the stroke of the pen are all that is required to create the legal bond of marriage, but it takes a lifetime of love, commitment, and compromise to make marriage durable and everlasting.

Jonathon and Allison met in 2010 at a function in Brisbane. Jonathon was working at the function and Allison was there to drink the free champagne. The couple moved in together only 3 weeks after they started dating and even when Allison moved to Toowoomba for three months the couple made sure they saw each other every weekend. In 2012 the couple moved to the Sunshine Coast and in November 2013, on a 4-day cruise, Jonathon proposed on the first night on the top deck, under the stars.

When asked when did each of them know the other was the one, Jonathon tells me that after a few dates Allison clearly thought he was amazing and that was it - although he also admits it also could have been something to do with the all expenses paid holiday to Hobart he won. But in all seriousness if you spend any time around these two you see how in sync they are, how much fun they have together and the love between them is obvious. Since meeting they haven't spent much time apart and it is clear that they simply love being in each others company.

As a couple they enjoy watching movies, spending time together, laughing and being silly, and sharing inside jokes. They laughed together throughout every meeting I had with them and their fun is infectious.

Allison and Jonathon, love in marriage is something beyond the warmth and glow, the excitement and romance of being deeply in love. It is caring as much about the welfare

and happiness of your marriage partner as about your own. You each told me that today is about formalising a commitment and promise to love, support, trust, look after and be there for each other as you spend the rest of your lives together. Today is the start of a future filled with fun, buying a house together, having babies, and being successful in your careers. Keeping this in mind I ask each of you:

Asking/ Promises

Celebrant to Groom

Do you Jonathon Lawn, promise to love Allison Smythe? To respect her, share your life and your dreams, to build with her a home that is a place of love, happiness, commitment and growth? *Groom Replies:* "I do"

Do you promise to be a companion to her in all of her successes and failures, her happiness and sadness, to always give her your unwavering support and above all else, the freedom to be herself? *Groom Replies:* "I do"

Celebrant to Bride

Do you Allison Smythe, promise to love Jonathon Lawn? To respect him, share your life and your dreams, to build with him a home that is a place of love, happiness, commitment and growth? *Bride Replies:* "I do"

Do you promise to be a companion to him in all of his successes and failures, his happiness and sadness, to always give him your unwavering support and above all else, the freedom to be himself? *Bride Replies:* "I do"

Celebrant Authority (Monitum)

Before you exchange vows I must state that I am legally registered to solemnise marriage according to the law.

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of everyone here, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are sealing.

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

I invite you now to promise your vows to one another:

Wedding Vows

Groom

I ask everyone here to witness that I Jonathon take you Allison to be my wedded wife. Today I give myself to you in marriage. I promise to encourage and inspire you, to laugh with you, and to comfort you in times of sorrow and struggle. I promise to love you in good times and in bad, when life seems easy and when it seems hard, when our love is simple, and when it is an effort. I promise to cherish you, and to always hold you in highest regard. These things I give to you today, and all the days of our life.

Bride

I ask everyone here to witness that I Allison take you Jonathon to be my wedded husband. My partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our union and love you more each day than I did the day before. I will trust you and respect you, laugh with you and cry with you, loving you faithfully through good times and bad, regardless of the obstacles we may face together. I give you my hand, my heart, and my love, from this day forward for as long as we both shall live.

Exchange of Rings

Groom

I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and faithfulness. As I place it on your finger, I commit my heart and soul to you. I ask you to wear this ring as a reminder of the vows we have spoken today, our wedding day.

Bride

I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and faithfulness. As I place it on your finger, I commit my heart and soul to you. I ask you to wear this ring as a reminder of the vows we have spoken today, our wedding day.

Declaration of Marriage

Allison and Jonathon, you have stood in front of your friends and family and declared your love for one another, you have promised each other vows and exchanged rings as a physical symbol of those promises. It is now my great pleasure to pronounce you husband and wife. Jonathon you may kiss your bride.

We will take a moment to sign the register and certificates. Please remain where you are and we will return shortly to conclude the ceremony.

Signing

Blessing

Congratulations Allison and Jonathon. True marriage is more than joining the bonds of marriage of two persons, it is the union of two hearts in love. It lives on the love you give each other and never grows old. May you always be able to talk things over and support each other, being there to look out for one another. May you be able to confide in and trust each other. May you enjoy laughter, fun and life together. May you be blessed with a lifetime of happiness and a home of warmth and understanding.

Presentation of Allison and Jonathon Lawn

Friends and family, now all legalities are complete, I present to you, for the very first time, Allison and Jonathon Lawn.

Closing

Allison and Jonathon will now complete the traditional walk down the aisle. I invite you all to follow the bridal party to congratulate the newly weds, mingle, have fun and hang around for a group photo.

WEDDING THIRTEEN

Announcement of Arrival of the Bride

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with much excitement that I let you know the arrival of our bride is imminent. I ask everyone to move forward and fill all of the seats please. I take this moment to remind you all to either switch your phones off or to silent. The bride and groom have engaged a professional photographer and many photos will be shared with you but during the ceremony we invite you to be present so please keep your phones and cameras away.

I invite you all now to be standing for the arrival of our beautiful bride.

Processional ~ Vivaldi Four Seasons

Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

Welcome everyone, please be seated. My name is Sally Glasson and I am very pleased to welcome you all to the wedding of Noel and Christina.

Christina and Noel have chosen this location as it is very special to them both individually and as a couple. Noel is a life member of the Alexandra Headlands Surf Lifesaving Club and his family association with the club goes back to when his dad Norm was a member in the 40s. Alex is also the place that Christina and Noel met each other in 2008. So we take a moment to recognize the significance of this location to both Noel and Christina and also to show our respect and acknowledge the Gubbi Gubbi tribe who are the traditional custodians of this land. I would like to pay respect to the elders both past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people present. As we join this afternoon in this beautiful celebration of marriage, may we honour those who were here before us.

It is also fitting that we acknowledge some other people present today that are dear and special to Christina and Noel. Each of you has been chosen to be present here because you are important to this couple and have played a significant role in their lives. Marriage is in itself a blessing. But doubly blessed is the couple who comes to the marriage altar with the approval and love of their families and friends. Christina and Noel have chosen each of you to share today with them, to celebrate their love and bear witness to their public commitment to live with one another as husband and wife.

Today Noel and Christina are uniting their individual pasts together in marriage but also they are uniting two families together. Noel's daughter Claire, who is unfortunately overseas with her partner Cooper and unable to be here today, and daughters Chelsea and Ellen who walked down with Christina along with Christina's children Ben and Sabina, are just as much a part of the commitment being made today.

Over the years you have all got to know each other, sharing meals, hanging out and spending time together and you have successfully melded into a family. A family is not made by blood alone, but by love, respect and commitment as well. Indeed a family made by choice can be as strong or even stronger than that of blood. Today is the formalisation of the family that Noel and Christina are choosing and today they make a public commitment to each of their children as well as to each other.

Christina and Noel are blessed to have the rest of their families here today also.

To everyone who has travelled to be here today, from Sydney, Northern New South Wales, Melbourne, Hervey Bay and Brisbane, I extend the warmest of thanks.

It is one of life's richest surprises when the fateful meeting of two individuals leads them to proceed together along a common path. It is indeed one of life's finest experiences when a chance relationship grows into a permanent bond of love. This meeting and this love are what bring us together today.

Couple's Story

Noel and Christina met for the first time at Alex surf club whilst on patrol. Noel was a new patrol captain at the time and very focused on the patrol, or at least that's his claim as to why he didn't remember Christina from their first meeting, whereas Christina had very much noticed Noel and was even a little flustered when speaking to him. Despite being slightly ruffled, Christina's role as dietician won over and she raised with Noel the issue of the healthiness of the patrol food.

They bumped into each other again at Mooloolaba surf club and Noel was asking people to a cocktail party at his place. Christina mentioned to her friend she would like to go and was talked into texting Noel that she would like to attend whilst he was camping on straddie with Chelsea. Her friend Lisa had bet Christina she would get a quick response and sure enough within five minutes Noel texted back.

On the night of the party Christina had Sabina's dance concert so she turned up to the party late. Christina made a good impression this time, asking for a cold beer, having a chat and leaving shortly after but left Noel feeling flustered this time thinking he had blown it.

The next time they met was almost as successful, at Lisa's party, where Noel called Christina by the wrong name.

But despite these false starts, Noel got to take Christina on a date and impressed her with a night at the French restaurant at Flaxton.

By Christmas the pair had been on a few dates and Noel got to meet Christina's mum, Gaye. Noel was helping out his mate Marty delivering seafood and Christina had a delivery scheduled. In walked Noel with a box of fish and prawns that he had also filled with frangipanis. Gaye took a look at the box, commented 'oh that's a pretty special delivery' and perhaps was on to them that they knew each other.

The couple continued to date for a few years and then moved in together in Christina's unit until they bought a house together at Alex four years ago.

Since then they have continued to enjoy the beach together, with Noel teaching Christina the finer points of board paddling and surf lifesaving, trips overseas to San Francisco, Barcelona and Paris, and lots of surf lifesaving competitions including going to world championships together.

Noel describes Christina as very driven and someone who wants to make the most of life and enjoy it to its fullest. He remembers one of the first things they ever did together was board riding at Point Cartwright and despite having to be rescued by Noel, Christina bravely had a go even though she had never been in big surf before.

Christina admires Noel's strength of character and loves his romantic side. She says he is a very caring, loving person with a good sense of humour despite the corny dad jokes that Ben loves.

I would now like to invite Sabina, Ben and Chelsea to read 'A Family'.

Reading ~ 'A Family', Author Unknown ~ read by Sabina Carey, Ben Carey and Chelsea Grimshaw

A family is a place where you can cry and laugh,
and be silly, or sad, or cross, where you can ask for help,
and tease and yell at each other, and know that you will always be loved. -
A family is made up of people who care about you when you are sad,
who love you all the time, no matter what, and who share your good times.
They don't expect you to be perfect,
but just want you to try to be the best you can be.
A family is a safe place like a circle,

where we learn to like ourselves,
where we learn about making good choices,
where we learn to think about things before we do them-
where we learn to be honest, and to have table manners,
and respect for other people,
where we are special, where we share ideas,
where we listen to them and they listen to us,
where we learn the rules of life to prepare ourselves for the world.
The world is a place where anything can happen.
If we grow up in a loving family... like our family
we are ready for the world.

Couple's Story cont.

I mentioned earlier that the couple enjoyed a few overseas trips including one to Paris. It was on this trip that Christina thought a proposal might happen however Noel wasn't quite organised. They had discussed marriage before the trip and the lack of proposal in one of the world's most romantic locations left Noel copping it for little while. Instead Noel opted for a proposal at a location that has meant a lot to the couple – Alex. Noel says it was picture perfect, sitting in the sun at the beach before work having a coffee, and he just got carried away in the moment and asked Christina to marry him. Whilst it was beautiful and Christina obviously said yes she then had to rush off to work and let Noel know perhaps it wasn't the best moment for a proposal, something he has had time to reflect on since.

For Christina and Noel today is about formalising the relationship they have, publicly committing to one another the bond they already have and showing their kids and family and friends that they are in it for the long haul. Christina says that it means a lot to her to do this in front of everyone and it is a very significant step for her. Noel said that whilst he has already made the commitment to Christina today he is letting the world know that he is proud of his relationship with Christina and he is committing in a more traditional way. For better or worse, in sickness and in health, whilst realising that nothing is perfect, making the choice to be together.

I now invite Ellen to share with us a reading, The Art of a Good Marriage based on that of Wilfred Arlan Peterson.

Reading ~ 'The Art of a Good Marriage' adapted from Wilfred Arian Peterson ~ read by Ellen

The little things are the big things.
It is never being too old to hold hands.
It is remembering to say "I love you" at least once a day. It is never going to sleep angry.
It is never taking the other for granted;
the courtship should not end with the honeymoon, it should continue through all the years.
It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives. It is standing together facing the world
It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.
It is doing things for each other,
not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy.
It is speaking words of appreciation
and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.
It is not looking for perfection in each other. It is cultivating flexibility, patience,
understanding and a sense of humour.
It is having the capacity to forgive.
It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can experience growth.
It is a common search for the good and the beautiful in each other and the world.
It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is mutual
and the obligation is reciprocal.

It is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner.

Celebrant Authority (Monitum)

We have now reached the part of the ceremony where you will be asked to exchange vows and rings to formalise your union.

Before you do that I must state that I am duly authorised by law to solemnise marriages according to law.

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of everybody here, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter.

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

Wedding Vows

Groom

I ask everybody here to witness that I Noel take you Christina to be my lawfully wedded wife.

Christina, I give you my hand, my heart and my love from this day forward.

Today means the world to me and in joining my life to yours I openly give to you my trust and deepening respect. I love and adore you.

I pledge to you to be your loving friend and partner in marriage; to talk and to listen, communicate honestly; to appreciate and cherish your uniqueness; and to support, comfort, and strengthen you when sharing all the joys and sorrows of our future lives together.

Bride

I ask everybody here to witness that I Christina take you Noel to be my lawfully wedded husband.

Noel, I will trust and respect you, laugh and cry with you, love you through good times and bad, regardless of the obstacles we may face together, when life seems easy and when it seems hard, when our love is simple, and when it is an effort (even when it's a really big effort!). I will be open and honest with you, encourage you, continue to share many adventures with you and have fun with you. You challenge and inspire me every single day. You are truly a beautiful man. I will cherish our time together now and into the future as your partner and friend.

Exchange of Rings

Groom

I Noel give you Christina this ring as an eternal symbol of my love and commitment to you.

Bride

I Christina give you Noel this ring as an eternal symbol of my love and commitment to you.

Family Unity Ritual

Christina and Noel, you have declared your love for each other. In your decision to spend the rest of your lives together you have accepted the responsibilities of parenthood towards each other's children. You have established a home where each child finds love, security and acceptance. As part of your love for each other, I now ask you to make your promises to them.

Sabina, Ben, Chelsea, Ellen and Claire - We promise always to treat you with love and respect. We promise to foster our relationship with you and always to be there for you in any way we can. We promise always to listen to you, and cherish and guide you.

Christina and Noel, you have chosen a symbol of family unity and celebration today. A new boat is traditionally christened by smashing a champagne bottle on it for good luck and safe travels. Champagne is also traditionally a celebration within our society. Today as a family

you are making your own tradition by christening this new marriage and celebrating the union of you all as a family.

Blessing

Christina and Noel, may you always comfort one another, cherish each other and relish in the individual aspects that make each of you who you are and make who you are as a couple so special and unique.

Christina may you continue to see the care, love, integrity and values in Noel that have attracted you to him and held you together as a couple so far. Noel may you continue to see the strength and courage in Christina, her sensitive nature and drive continuing to be an attraction and admiration for you.

As a family with your children may you be able to cry and laugh, be silly, sad or cross, share trust and respect, always talk openly and freely and know that you will always be loved by each other and those in your family.

Declaration of Marriage

It is now my great pleasure to announce you to be husband and wife. Noel, you may kiss your bride.

Ladies and gentlemen we will take a moment now to sign the register and certificates. Please remain here and we will return quickly to conclude the ceremony.

Signing ~ 'Love is the air' (John Paul Young)

Presentation of Husband and Wife

Friends and family now that all of the legalities are complete, it is my honour to present to you for the first time, the newly weds Noel and Christina.

Closing

I wish you all the very best for your marriage and that you enjoy today and remember forever the vows you have made to one another today. Congratulations

Noel and Christina will now, as is tradition, walk down the aisle as husband and wife. I ask everyone to remain where they are and turn to face the couple so that a group photo can be taken with the water behind you all. Shortly following the photo we will have a toast to the newly weds which will be given by Greg.