

FUNERAL CELEBRANTS AND WHAT THEY DO

In 1973 a great Australian legislator, Senator Lionel Murphy, established Marriage Celebrants. Persons were appointed to give their clients **the ceremony the client wanted** - and never to impose on anyone any element of a ceremony the client did not ask for or approve. Funeral Celebrants evolved as a natural consequence of this program.

It became very clear to the first Funeral Celebrants what those who had lost a loved one wanted. This was, and still is, a carefully composed **personal ceremony** - words and music which pay proper and adequate tribute to the person who has died. They discovered that to do justice to this task, hours must be spent in **preparation**.

How It Works

The essential information needed is mainly gained in an unhurried **interview** with the family.

Once informed, the celebrant must then go about the **creative writing of the eulogy**, carefully selecting the most appropriate quotes of literature, and, usually in cooperation with the funeral director, making provision for selections of music which have been specially chosen by the family. Even with a great deal of preparation, no ceremony is delivered by our members unless every detail of the eulogy is **carefully checked** with the family to ensure that it is accurate.

Then, with compassion, sincerity and care (the normal result of such careful preparation), the celebrant **officiates** at the funeral ceremony, usually at the **funeral parlour**,

crematorium or cemetery.

After the funeral, the celebrant presents to the family a complete **copy of the ceremony** as presented.

OUR MEMBERS

The funeral celebrants in our Federation have usually been drawn to this work by a strong realisation that this is a task which needs to be done - and done well. Many have experienced grief themselves and have felt that the funerals they had attended were not always satisfactory or helpful.

All are convinced that at the end of a person's life the tribute we pay deserves to be the best that human skill can present.

Nothing can take away the shock of death, but a genuine, well prepared tribute eases the pain. The recollection of a personal ceremony is a constant consolation.

We welcome enquiries about our work. Clients may contact any celebrant listed in this brochure or ring the national office of this Federation. Different celebrants suit different people. We want our clients to have the celebrant and the ceremony which is most appropriate for their needs.

RELIGION

The starting point for all celebrant funerals is **secular**, i.e. non-religious. The more important principle is that the words said express and celebrate the life of the person who has died, and, if that person had beliefs and ideals, this will be reflected in the ceremony.

It is quite common for celebrant funerals to contain times of silence, the Lord's Prayer, the 23rd Psalm and similar, **if, and only if**, the family of the person who has died specifically requests it.

FEES

Funeral Celebrants are not supported by any religious or other organisation. They are in the same position as your funeral director. They are independent professionals in a caring profession with all the overheads and expenses of any business person. Celebrants are unstinting in their time with a bereaved family when they prepare for a ceremony. It is work involving care and skill: often done out-of-hours. It is time consuming and emotionally draining.

The current guideline fee is \$220. (1997). This fee covers most funerals.

Anyone familiar with trade or professional rates will realise that this fee is barely adequate for the hours of work involved. (There is nothing to stop any client paying the funeral celebrant what they consider an adequate fee!)

If clients require extra services (more than one interview, organising extra speakers, STD and ISD calls to members of the family interstate or overseas, extra copies of the ceremony etc.), the celebrant will invoice the client for the difference between the collected fee and the extra time and expenses involved. This, of course, will only occur after mutual discussion and agreement.

State funerals, "leading personality", and other demanding funerals, which involve days of work and preparation, are charged at an hourly rate.

Enquiries regarding these funerals, fees in general, or any other matter, should be directed to our national office - Ph: (03) 9428 9926.



1997

A ceremony by a
professional

**FUNERAL
CELEBRANT**

- ◆ Carefully prepared
 - ◆ Totally personal
 - ◆ Composed with you
 - ◆ Checked by you
- unique, special
and appropriate*

**The Australian Federations
of Civil Celebrants Inc**
4/168 Lennox St, Richmond Vic 3121
Ph: 03 9428 9926 Fax: 03 9428 9956
E-Mail: afcc@websurf.net.au

Your local Federation member celebrant is:

Daily Messenger
National President

Australian Federation of Civil Celebrants Inc. — FUNERAL CELEBRANTS — 1997

National Office, 4/168 Lennox St, Richmond 3121 Ph: 03 9428 9926, Fax /Answer Machine: 03 9428 9956

NEW SOUTH WALES (and ACT)

Lorna Antoniadi (Woolahra) 0293261202 0412042280
Yvonne Ballard (Sydney) 024181626 (Erima) 043655306
Nan Bennett (Blakehurst) 02 9546 5401

June Bevan (Maitland) 049 335 863

Lorraine Comadira (Byron Bay) 066853805 014665887

Lesley Day (Eden) 064 961 201

Joyce Edmonds (Morisset) 049732768 014 616 787

Ken Messenger (Hornsby) 9482 2754

Pam Roberts (Hornsby Hgts) 9476 2409 018 284 878

Raymond Snape (Flynn - ACT) 06 2585178 062582127

Quang Van Truong (Fairfield) 0297242795 0418210507

Michael Yi (Cherrybrook) 02 484 7805 018 468 522

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

*Richard Harrington (Mt Barker) 08 3887459 019695411

*Phillip Seeley - Seeley (Kadina) 08 88211307

Liesl Vanderwerp (Unley) 08 373 5542

*Jennifer Watkins West Coast (Pt Lincoln) 086 842001

*Ralph Watkins West Coast (Port Lincoln) 086 842001

MELBOURNE SUBURBS

Pam Adams (The Basin) 9761 0600 015 565 736

Ray Allinson (Glen Waverley) 0500 562123 014926437

Max Ashby (Belgrave) 9754 3335

Rick Barclay (Croydon) 9723 4952

Len Bourke (Sunbury) 9744 7265 016 372 671

*Janette Brown (Blind Bight) 03 5998 7802 018171278

*Nick Charles Gateway (Chelsea) 97760299 018371345

Loretta Cormack (Altona) 9398 5469

*Graham Crawford Ravens (Ringwood Est) 98708454

Jane Day (Beaumaris) 9583 4912

Dawn Dickson (Cranbourne) 03 5995 6358 015558544

Cavell Ferrier (Thornbury) 9484 0769 019 941 928

Joan Fox (Ascot Vale) 9376 7911 0419 551 373

Daily Messenger is available for funerals at \$85.00 per hour, i.e. State and "leading personality" funerals, funerals which require extra interviews etc. Invoice sent direct to client if required.

Ph: (03) 9429 9461 (03) 9428 9926 016 634 185

Bronwen Gallimore (Thomastn) 94655812 015827633

Gavan Grosser (Frankston) 018 392 831 9783 7028

Jim Groves (Seaford) 9786 1767 018 399 266

Peter Harris (Croydon) 9723 3996 018 386 172

Andrew Henley (Ferntree Gully) 9758 2296 015049920

John Hose (Brunswick) 9383 5702 018 372 652

Kathy Hurley (Glen Iris) 9889 3030 019 425 542

Sylvia Johnston (Belgrave) 9754 2722 0412 110 933

Rosemary Kerlin (Albert Park) 96902569 015329977

Lyn Knorr (Williamstown) 9397 6630 015 557 298

Ted Logan (Footscray) 9687 6743 015 535 849

Graeme Macartney (Reservoir) 0419 003 373

Brian McInerney (Emerald) 03 5968 3497 0411565606

Tina McInerney (Emerald) 03 5968 3497 014 405 407

Jurgen Malina (Healesville) 03 5962 5855

Marjorie Messenger (East Melbourne) 9429 9461

Jennifer Miller (Fitzroy) 9489 9969

Lynette Mitchell (Bundoora) 9467 7685 015 529 417

Bill Newton (Bayswater) 9729 0320 018 369 187

Jim Noonan (Essendon) 9379 3824 016 372 766

Andrea O'Donoghue (Parkville) 93471571 016634404

Jack Onley (Mulgrave) 9560 4472

Joanne Osborne (Eltham) 9439 6101 015 807 338

Max Perry (Vermont South) 9887 1169 015 311 683

Leanne Pinder (Mentone) 9585 2688 015 804 101

Colin Portway (Frankston) 9787 5461 015 538 860

Beverley Prosser (Knoxfield) 9763 1200 015 673 892

*Geoff Rowcroft Tobins (Tecoma) 97548555 018317192

Roger Sanders (Mt Martha) 03 5974 4333 0419 744333

Gwenneth Sharp (Hurstbridge) 9718 2385

Heather Sharp (Northcote) 9481 4656 016 379 052

Beryl Shaw (Cockatoo) 03 5968 0255

Beverley Silvius (Healesville) 03 5962 3561 018174514

Rob Smith (Essendon) 9379 1213 0419 508 868

Di Storey (Peninsula) 9428 9926

Ron Thomas (Moooloolbark) 9725 7466 9328 1893

Alan Watkins (Seaford) 9782 6054 015 814454

Michael Wimborne (Melton) 9746 0589 01412 849 389

Ken Woodburn (Rowville) 9753 4310 0418544897

Ted Worthington (Lower Plenty) 9431 2525 0418377710

VICTORIAN COUNTRY

Patricia Anderson (Ballarat) 03 5334 6404 018587410

Anne Barclay (Ocean Grove) 03 5255 2770 019432381

Geoff Baker (Wangaratta) 03 5727 0272 03 5721 6166

Helen Booth (Phillip Island) 03 5952 1775

*Jill Brindley Hossack (Albury/Wodonga) 060 413 855

Graham Code (Erica) 03 5165 6205 015 862 846

*Helen Dunstan (Robinvale) 0350264173 0418147211

David Edwards (Terang) 03 5592 1808

Nigel Edwards (Rosebud) 03 5986 4113 019 387 002

Sunny Farrant (Lake Tyers Beach) 03 5156 5682

*Bob Garlick (Wangaratta) 03 5721 5060 019 163 431

Trevor Gunthorpe (Ballarat) 03 5332 2574

Bob Hails (Phillip Is./Sth Gippsland) 0412034117 94359645

Rosemary Hearn (Drouin/Gippsland) 03 5625 1580

Bunny Hinchcliff (Warrnabool) 0355620092 018528651

Jill Mellor (Warragul/Gippsland) 03 5623 2642

John Moore (Geelong) 03 5264 1044 0412 048 602

Beryl Morter (Bittern) 03 5983 9046 0419 597 224

Susan Nichols (Merbein) 03 5025 3429 015 043 292

Betty O'Keefe (Wangaratta) 03 5721 3635

Robert Osborne (Maryborough) 0354612709 019189981

Shirley Penny (Mildura) 03 5023 2628

Jennafer Perri (Echuca) 03 5482 5602 018 506 241

George Ralph (Kinglelake/Whitesea) 03 57865211 019141437

Velta Raine (Tallangatta/Albury/Wodonga) 03 6071 2286

Ron Roberts (Ararat) 03 5352 3437

Ken Robson (Ararat) 03 5352 1403

QUEENSLAND

Gem Delaney (Stanthorpe) 076 811 467 019 479 456

Don Grant (Southport) 07 5529 9987 018 740 744

Ett Ison (Nambour) 0754 411 914 015 764 913

Charmain McPhie (Brisbane) 07 3289 2619

Steve Rowan (Brisbane) 07 3397 4204

Derek Potter (Eumundi) 074 428 764 074 411 366

Ray Valdeiter (Townsville) 077 790 405 018 987 449

TASMANIA

Max Howard (Lindisfarne) 03 6243 6169 015 794 013

Winifred Jacobson (Devonport) 0364242487 041951414

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Bill Bell (Ashfield/Guildford) 015 192 810 279 2729

Lucy Brooks (Melville) 09 330 7101 015 421 936

Elza Briegel (York) 096 411 230

Gloria Clayton (Adross) 09 316 2655 018 904 504

Kerry Everett (Kalgoorlie) 090 213 215 090 886 957

Linda Gould (High Wycombe) 09 454 8348

Jill Lawson (Wembley Down) 09 446 2866

Catherine Wood (Pingelly) 098 871102 015 981 264

*Celebrant is connected with a funeral director.

Our members are available for
**Weddings, Renewal of Vows,
Namegivings** and a whole range of other
ceremonies. Enquiries: **03 9428 9926**