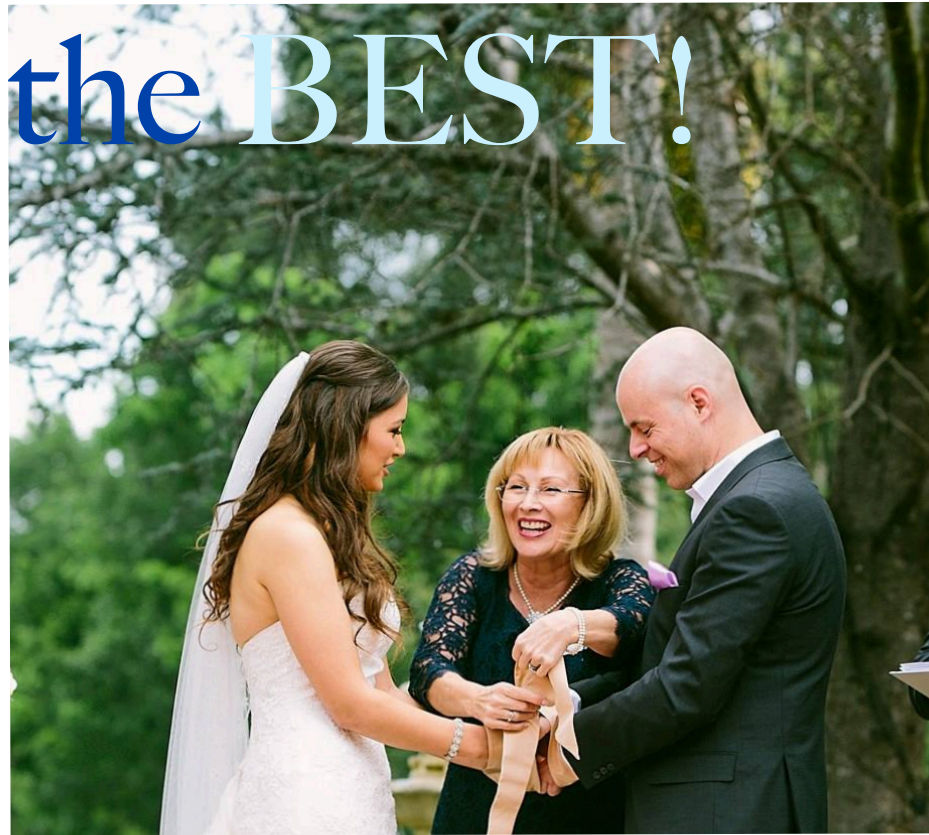

My Wedding Ceremony was the BEST!



LIZ TAYLOR
CIVIL CELEBRANT

About Liz...



Liz Taylor is a full time professional Civil Celebrant based in Balgowlah in Sydney's Northern Beaches.

She became a Celebrant in 2011 and not only found this to be a rewarding career move but also has found that the majority of couples who engage her services have very little knowledge of what is and can be involved in one of the most important and significant days of their lives. In particular, the Ceremony that is going to join those 2 people in marriage .

This little book will hopefully change how you look at your Ceremony and give you some insight on how to work with your Celebrant to make it the Ceremony everyone talks about and better still - remembers!

Liz has enjoyed a 30 year career as an Entertainer, singer, actor, MC and Producer and with all that experience behind her she will help you produce a beautiful and meaningful Ceremony that you will really want to celebrate with an 'after party' - okay, Reception, but you get where she's coming from.

Enjoy Liz's insights and here's how to find her:

www.liztaylorcelebrant.com

Ph: 0411 422 681

Email: liz@liztaylorcelebrant.com

Facebook: Liz Taylor Civil Celebrant

We're getting Married!

First there was the proposal.

Then the word yes!!!

Now what???

This is Jackie & Cem's end result.
A beautiful couple, happily married and
we had the best journey.
Here's how to get to this picture...



Where do we start?

GET YOUR PRIORITIES IN ORDER

1. Set the date
2. Find and book the Venue
3. Find and book your Celebrant



A little plug.....

www.liztaylorcelebrant.com

1. SET THE DATE

Well let's face it. You can't do anything until you know when you want to marry.

The time of year is so important, especially if you wish to have your ceremony outdoors as so many do in Australia. Is it a typically rainy time of year? Or is everyone going to collapse from heatstroke?

2. FIND AND BOOK THE VENUE

There are thousands of couples marrying every year and in my experience it is a seasonal event. So if you want your Ceremony to be outside and at a popular wedding venue then book well in advance. For both Ceremony and Reception.

Consider the distance and also transport for guests if your Ceremony is not in the same location as your reception.

Consider your guests. Will your Venue accommodate the 200 guests you are inviting? And is there cover from blazing sun or possible showers?

3. FIND AND BOOK YOUR CELEBRANT

You'd think that as a Celebrant I'd put this at the top of the list but seriously, how can you book me if you don't know when and where you are having your Ceremony? There are plenty of websites and directories and associations to look at. I am a member and Vice President of the Australian Marriage Celebrants Incorporated which requires its members to keep their knowledge and skills up to date with ongoing training and provision of latest changes and information.

Meet your Celebrant, don't just ask for a quote. You are probably going to know her or him for at least a year and work together on the most important day of your life so far.

Ring them up and speak to them, get a feel for them. Do you feel at ease and comfortable? Are they going to work with you?

I personally like to meet couples over a coffee and just get to know them a little and for them to get to know me. I will provide an information pack to take home and usually within half an hour we can tell if we want to proceed. It's obligation free and hey, I even shout the coffee.

At that meeting I get to know details which help me provide better personal service for you. Where your Ceremony is, why you chose it, how many guests, will there be live musicians, photographers and videographers? How large the Bridal Party will be? Are parents to be involved in the Ceremony? Are children involved in the Ceremony?

Personal details like your age, is this your 1st marriage? Do you have children? Cultural backgrounds? And languages, yes languages... sometimes an interpreter or translator needs to be considered. And of course your personality as individuals and as a couple.

This information helps me to begin the process of creating your ceremony. Knowing what and who I am working with is a must. Then and only then can I calculate what it is you really want.

Truth is you probably know what you don't want, but are not really sure about what you could have.

I guess we spend so much time thinking about the components that we don't really put much thought into the actual 20-45 minutes that will be your wedding.

Of course it can be as simple and straightforward as you wish. Some couples are at a different stage of their lives and don't want to do the whole production, bridal party and all the trimmings. Some folks are very private and want it to be a small understated affair.

I have performed Ceremonies in hotel rooms or garden settings with just the couple and 2 witnesses and these have been as special and unique as those with full bridal party and 300 guests.

By sitting down and talking about what you don't want is as important as finding out what you do want. Your Celebrant can only be guided by you so do let them in, and when you impart this information we can then guide you in putting it all together. That's our job.

Speaking of which. It's not only our job, but our Profession and for me it is a passion. I don't know any Celebrant who doesn't love what they do. We take great pride in our work and like your florist, photographer, dressmaker, tailor, cars, jeweller and the creator of your cake we are specialists in our chosen fields.

You've come to the right place.

Now, about that Ceremony....

THIS IS THE MOMENT...

The Ceremony

Date - check

Venue - check

Celebrant - check

Dresses - check

Suits - check

Flowers - check

Rings - check

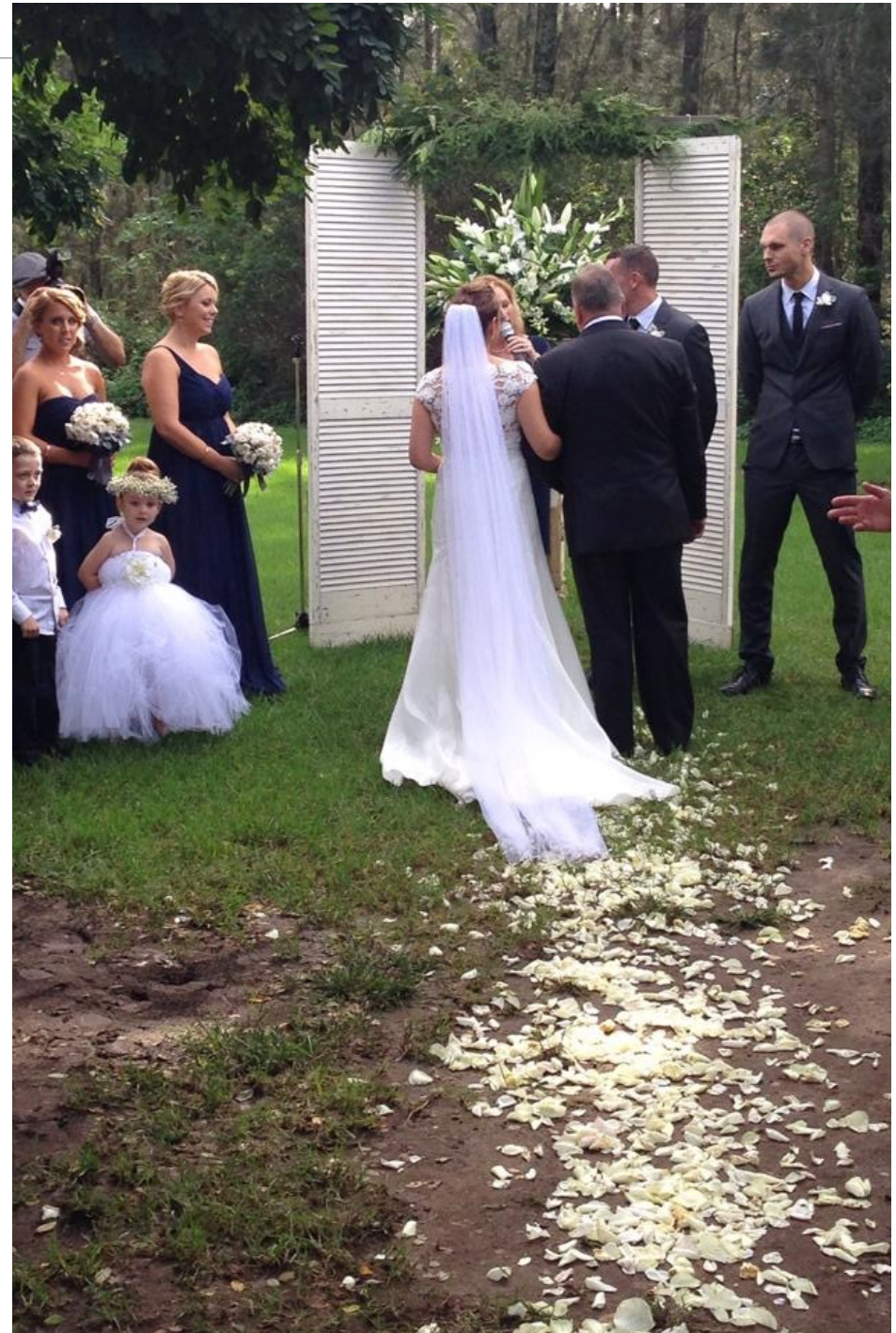
Photographer - check

Invitations - check

Kate & Todd's venue had been hit hard with wet weather in the lead up but I have to say it was one of the most emotional and heartfelt Ceremonies ever. We forgot about the mud as soon as the music started and she made her entrance. From that moment it was all about them marrying each other.

I received so many wonderful compliments from themselves and their guests and actually married a couple who attended this wedding the next year.

It's about making it special and memorable so nothing else matters.



The Script

Okay, it's like this....

For too long I have attended weddings where the Ceremony is perceived as the 20 - 45 minutes we have to sit through so we can get to the party. True?

So you've have spent an absolute fortune on dresses, suits, flowers, photographers, hair, make up, cars, arches, chairs, venue, even a red carpet with petals on it and of course the rings to have it all forgotten because we want to get to the chicken or the beef and the red or white wine and the dancing? Really?

Not on my watch!

This is what we've put this all together for! What we've spent a deposit for a house on! It's our wedding! We are getting married!

From making your entrance in a glorious gown or fabulous suit or outfit with someone very significant escorting you to the one you love who is waiting (sometimes very nervously) to make this commitment to you for the rest of their lives.

When you agreed to marry each other, you meant forever. And you knew exactly what that meant. He or she is the one!

This should be something so special, so memorable that you want to revisit it again and again, just like the moment of the proposal. A moment in your lives that is now turning that proposal into a commitment and joining two people who are deeply in love in the union of marriage. It's a new beginning and a life changing event. Let us make it exactly that....an event.

Let the reception be the 'after party' to the main event and let's make the Ceremony the 'headline show'. Let's create YOUR 'show'.

Think about music, entrances, creating a beautiful setting.

Think about other components like asking someone to do a reading or read a poem or something they may have written. Look at different rituals or 'ceremonies within the ceremony' Unity Ceremonies are very popular like candles, sand ceremonies and wine ceremonies.

Research vows. Make yours personal and heartfelt. It can simply be a declaration of your love or more traditional "I promise to...." And.... they don't have to match! Keep them secret from each other.

How do you want to be introduced? Mr & Mrs? Mr & Mr? Mrs & Mrs? First names and surname?

This is just an outline of components to a ceremony. Of course there are lots more wonderful things to consider to make your Ceremony (or show) very much 'you'.

Because of my name I have a little catchphrase where I "Taylor your Ceremony to you". Personalising and adding little things that will make your guests smile and think "that is so them!" I like to think outside the square and make suggestions that will add a personal touch and feel to your Ceremony.

I also like to make it fun!

Oh I am so over stiff and formal weddings! Yes, there are those who want that but there are also Celebrants and Ministers abound who will happily provide that. This is why it's important to meet and get to know your chosen Celebrant a little, before proceeding.

To me a wedding is a thrilling and happy occasion. It's romantic, it's a love story about Princes and Princesses (of any age!) planning to live happily ever after and making this the best day of their lives and sharing it with those they love.

When I announce you as officially married I want this to be the most joyous occasion that deserves a party in it's honour!

So pick up the phone, give me a bell and let me buy you a coffee? 0411 422 681 Talk soon :)

The Legal Stuff

Yup, it has to be done.

Part of my job as your Celebrant is to ensure everything is done correctly and that your marriage is legal and binding and to make sure it is registered.

So here's some basic info on what needs to be done before you get married, during your Ceremony and after your Ceremony. All of the following is legally required. It doesn't cover every scenario but it gives you an outline of what needs to be covered by all parties (Celebrant, yourselves & witnesses).

Firstly you need to fill in a Notice of Intended Marriage (NOIM or NIM) and lodge it with your Celebrant a minimum of one month from the date of your marriage. It is valid for 18 months. Bring original Birth Certificates and if divorced the original Decree Nisi or Certificate of Divorce. If widowed, I need to sight your deceased spouse's Death Certificate, again the original, not copies.

As you get nearer to the date of your Marriage you will be asked to sign a Statutory Declaration of no impediment to your marriage i.e. you are both over 18, you are free to marry, you are not in an illegal relationship and you are consenting to the marriage.

During the Ceremony there are legal components that have to be said and heard clearly. The wording cannot be changed. And yes, your full names as per the NOIM need to be said at least once during the Ceremony. Your witnesses need to be over 18 and I will need their full names. One each to witness your signatures. You will sign the Commemorative Certificate, the big red Register and the Marriage Certificate that goes to Births Deaths and Marriages (BDM) after registering your Marriage online.

After the Ceremony I send the NOIM and the Marriage Certificate you signed, as well as the Stat Dec to BDM.

Once your marriage is registered you can then either apply for your official Marriage Certificate yourselves which you will need when you go to change things such as passports, driver's licences and Bank accounts to your married name. Or I can order this online when registering your Marriage. It usually arrives within the working week this way.

Note: The Commemorative certificate is not accepted for these purposes. It has to be the BDM issued Marriage Certificate which by the way I can apply for on your behalf when I register your marriage. There is a fee involved.

This is a very basic outline and there are often different circumstances and scenarios that need other processes. We can cross those paths along the way.

Note from Liz

THANK YOU.

Yes, thank you for reading my little book. I do hope it has helped create a picture in your mind and that you see your future Wedding Ceremony in a new and exciting light. Let's make it wonderful and memorable together.

Here's my details plus a few notes just to finish up with.

Website: www.liztaylorcelebrant.com

Email: liz@liztaylorcelebrant.com

Phone: 0411 422 681

Mail: PO Box 1627, Neutral Bay NSW 2089

Gimme a bell, I'll shout you a coffee :)

As you would appreciate there are many more ways to put your Wedding Ceremony together and lots of rituals and readings and customs that can be incorporated and of course we can talk about that when we meet.

Along with that are the different scenarios for couples. Some don't live in Australia and paperwork has to be done by correspondence and often the use of a translator is needed. Again I can certainly guide you through the processes required.

Finding Certificates can be a headache but in order for me to get the information absolutely correct that I will be sending to Births Deaths & Marriages you are asked to make every possible effort in finding those Certificates or obtaining Certified Copies (not photocopies or scans). Yes I can use your Passport for proof of date and place of birth but it doesn't give me all the info that is required. We can work together, it doesn't have to be painful if we give ourselves time to get these things done.

So now it's down to you. I would love to help you put it all together, make it happen and for you to say those magical words:

My Wedding Ceremony was The BEST!