



Renewal of Vows / Second Weddings

Reaffirmation or Renewal of Vows Ceremonies and second wedding ceremonies are celebrated for many reasons.

Sometimes people choose this ceremony to celebrate a significant wedding anniversary (anything from 5 years to 50, or more!) or a landmark birthday, or perhaps you were married overseas and wish to share a ceremony with your friends and family. Often a couple wishes to re-enact their marriage ceremony with family and friends who were not able to attend the original wedding, if for example, the couple married overseas.

A Renewal of Vows can also be celebrated when a particularly difficult patch in a marriage has passed, and to rekindle the marriage commitment.

The Renewal of Vows is not only an expression of love for each other, but also a remembrance of times past and of a renewal of hopes for the future.

A Renewal of Vows could be to re-enact a couple's wedding day with their old friends and new friends, as well as family, and possibly their children, to share their life, their history and love story in their latter years.

And sometimes, just because it feels like a good thing to do!

Whatever the reason, I will work with you to create a unique ceremony you will cherish. You can include any part of your original ceremony that you wish, including special music, and, if possible even invite members of the original wedding party to be involved. I will provide you with a variety of readings and ideas to help inspire you, and you may ask those close to you to contribute also, by sharing their stories and memories, giving readings, or reciting poems they have written specially for the occasion.

Generally, for such a ceremony, we spend a little time reflecting on your history, revisiting important events along the way, e.g., the birth of children, relocation of your home, and other key milestones and events that have taken place over the years. If you wish to exchange gifts or eternity rings to mark the occasion, this can be incorporated into the ceremony. If appropriate, your children or grandchildren can take a special part in the celebration, too.

Renewing your vows is a wonderful way to look back over the years you've shared with each other, honouring and celebrating the good times and the challenges, and is a lovely way to give thanks to each other and to those nearest and dearest, as you make your vows and wishes for the years you've yet to share.

There are **no legal requirements** for a Renewal of Vows or second wedding ceremony, so no birth or marriage certificates are required. The ceremony is usually very personal it is the tale of a couple's love and their commitment to see each other through the rest of life's journey.

To mark the event a certificate is issued including details of this celebration. As with your original Certificate of Marriage, there is space for you and your witnesses signatures, and mine as celebrant.

I will also give you a booklet containing the ceremony as a keepsake.

If you are interested in holding a Reaffirmation/Renewal of Vows ceremony, simply contact me by phone or email and I will be happy to discuss your ideas and options with you.

Once you book the date, I will provide you with pages of :

Readings, sample vows to choose from, rings ,vows, renewal of vows sample scripts, songs for the ceremony, guidelines and ideas towards the script.

What may the ceremony contain?

A Re-Affirmation of Vows ceremony may perhaps contain any/all of the following;

- Pre-ceremony music
- Entrance music
- Introduction and welcome
- Acknowledgement of any absent friends or deceased relatives
- Acknowledgement of children from the marriage
- Poetry reading/extracts/songs/original pieces
- History highlights/recollections of couples (relatives/friends who attended the first ceremony)
- Renewal of vows
- Interactive symbols: eg re-dedication of rings , - giving of new rings/or gifts, exchanging of flowers etc
- Signing of Certificate/signing of witnesses
- Declaration and presentation of couple to guests
- Closing words of congratulations

What does my fee cover?

- Complete choice of personalized ceremony.
- A package of information containing sample ceremonies, readings/poetry, rituals, music/songs etc.
- Unlimited access to me regarding your ceremony.
- A rehearsal at your chosen venue. (if required)
- A commemorative copy of your ceremony.
- A certificate of Renewal of Vows .
- A guarantee that I will arrive 30 minutes before your ceremony is due to commence.
- A guarantee of total familiarity with your ceremony and also that my part will be read with total interest and sincerity.
- Use of a PA system.(including a music player) if required.

Here are the corresponding symbols and gifts for each Anniversary:

- 1st Wedding Anniversary -- paper
- 2nd Wedding Anniversary -- cotton
- 3rd Wedding Anniversary -- leather
- 4th Wedding Anniversary -- flowers or fruits
- 5th Wedding Anniversary -- wood
- 6th Wedding Anniversary -- sugar or candy
- 7th Wedding Anniversary -- wool
- 8th Wedding Anniversary -- bronze
- 9th Wedding Anniversary -- pottery
- 10th Wedding Anniversary -- tin
- 12th Wedding Anniversary -- linen or silk
- 13th Wedding Anniversary -- lace
- 14th Wedding Anniversary -- agate
- 15th Wedding Anniversary -- crystal
- 16th Wedding Anniversary -- silver hollowware, peridot
- 17th Wedding Anniversary -- furniture, watches
- 18th Wedding Anniversary -- porcelain, cat's-eye
- 19th Wedding Anniversary -- bronze, aquamarine
- 20th Wedding Anniversary -- china
- 21st Wedding Anniversary -- brass or nickel
- 22nd Wedding Anniversary -- copper
- 23rd Wedding Anniversary -- silver plate
- 24th Wedding Anniversary -- musical instruments
- 25th Wedding Anniversary -- silver
- 26th Wedding Anniversary -- original pictures
- 27th Wedding Anniversary -- sculpture
- 28th Wedding Anniversary -- orchids
- 29th Wedding Anniversary -- new furniture
- 30th Wedding Anniversary -- pearl
- 31st Wedding Anniversary -- timepieces
- 32nd Wedding Anniversary -- conveyances (including automobiles)
- 33rd Wedding Anniversary -- amethyst
- 34th Wedding Anniversary -- opal
- 35th Wedding Anniversary -- coral or jade
- 36th Wedding Anniversary -- bone china
- 37th Wedding Anniversary -- alabaster
- 38th Wedding Anniversary -- beryl and tourmaline
- 39th Wedding Anniversary -- lace
- 40th Wedding Anniversary -- ruby or garnet
- 41st Wedding Anniversary -- land
- 42nd Wedding Anniversary -- improved real estate
- 43rd Wedding Anniversary -- trips
- 44th Wedding Anniversary -- groceries
- 45th Wedding Anniversary -- sapphire
- 50th Wedding Anniversary -- gold
- 55th Wedding Anniversary -- emerald or turquoise
- 60th Wedding Anniversary -- diamond
- 65th Wedding Anniversary -- diamond
- 70th Wedding Anniversary -- platinum
- 75th Wedding Anniversary -- diamond

CHARGES

My fee is \$250.00; this includes assistance with preparation of the ceremony tailored to your requirements, delivery of the ceremony and certificate. This also includes use of my PA system should it be required based on the location and number of guests. A deposit of \$100.00 is required to confirm the booking and balance payable prior to the ceremony day.

WHAT NOW

Should all of this strike a chord with you and you would like to know the best way to start preparing a ceremony, then you are welcome to contact me. I can arrange a meeting with you to discuss your ceremony requirements. Further information can be found on my website www.nswcelebrant.net.au

Adrian Downey

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Member of the Australian Alliance of Quality Celebrants and Australian Marriage Celebrants Inc.

