

Schedule of Fees

The basic fee for a commitment ceremony is \$300. For a wedding it is \$450, and covers:

- Signing of all required documents and certificates, and lodging of relevant documents with BDM
- Presentation Certificate of Marriage
- Four meetings (may be on-line)
- Explanation of legalities
- Provision of up-to-date relationship support information
- Resources for readings and music
- Design of a personalised ceremony in ongoing consultation with the couple
- Delivery of personalised ceremony
- Use of PA equipment
- Rehearsal

There are additional costs for travel over 200km and travel expenses such as air fares, accommodation, meals and taxi fares. Also for costume hire, additional ceremonies such as a name-giving, and unusual activities such as rockclimbing or ballooning.



Roxanne is a registered pagan marriage celebrant who brings a creative and flexible approach to all rituals, believing they can be adapted to incorporate the beliefs and heritage of the individual people involved, as well as the experience of the Australian environment. While Roxanne's own heritage is Celtic and Romany, her life-long interest in spirituality has given her an eclectic experience of paganism. She has a post-grad Certificate in Civil Ceremonies through Monash university and has been anointed as a pagan priest. Added to her background in the health and welfare fields, and her experience in the writing industry, this means Roxanne is well-equipped with the skills, knowledge and experience to help you develop a ceremony that is everything you want it to be.



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Your Handfasting

*Congratulations!
You have found each other and are ready to make the commitment of a lifetime, to declare your love before family and friends. Your handfasting marks the beginning of a whole new phase of your relationship. It's an important day, a sacred day, and the ceremony can be designed to reflect who you are and what you believe and all that you hope for your future together.*



Your Ceremony

Some people prefer a ceremony that is very simple while others like to include many layers of symbolism. It's a very personal choice.

Whatever is right for you. Consider:

Where would you like your handfasting to be held?

Options include a private home, the backyard, public parks and gardens, national parks and wildlife reserves, community halls, reception centres, temples, wineries, in hot air balloons or on a boat out to sea.

A wedding can be held anywhere in Australia providing it has the space for the bride and groom, the celebrant, and two adult witnesses.

What readings would you like?

Poetry can say things that we find hard to express. Do you have any favorite poems or readings that speak to you, or which you have heard and liked?

Could someone write a poem for you? Any meditations or reflections you would like included?

Or the celebrant can help you choose from her own collection of readings.



What music would you like to be played?

Music is usually played as people gather at the start, as the couple approach the circle (either together or singly), during the signing of certificates, and at the end. But it can be played at any time you choose.

Do you have favorite music? Are there songs with special meaning for you? Would you like somebody singing rather than recorded music? Is there somebody in your family or among your friends who can contribute their own music?

Who would you like to be involved?

There are many different roles people can take in a handfasting. These include attendants, and there are special roles for the parents, and for any children of the couple, but there is also room for others to decorate the venue and prepare the altar, drive cars, welcome guests, hand out booklets, conduct the smudging, cast the circle, make the invocations, read poems, write poems, manage the music, lead dancing and movement, bring gifts, bring forward symbols, collect items, light candles, keep a track of the rings as they are passed around for blessing, bestow the blessings, open the circle.

A hundred jobs for a hundred guests!

Are there symbolic ceremonies you would like included?

These are likely to include the exchange of rings but might also include honouring the traditional people and the spirits of place, smudging, circlecasting, invocations to the elements and the deities, candle-lighting, handfasting, flowers, wishing stones, tree planting, giving of gifts, breaking of the glass, jumping the broom or any of a range of cultural customs.

If you ascribe to a particular tradition such as Wiccan, Faerie, Celtic or Asatru, then this can be incorporated.

Or you might like a theme such as medieval, theatrical, or using a favorite story, or even a movie such as Shrek or Star Trek.

The Exchange of Vows.

This is the most important part of the ceremony, where you tell each other how you feel and make your promises.

Wedding vows must fulfil the requirements of Australian law, and your celebrant will explain this further, but within those guidelines you can incorporate whatever words best express what you want to say.

You can write the vows yourselves, use other words for inspiration, or draw from the celebrant's resource file.

You might like to use the same words as each other, or different ones. You might choose a poem and take the verses in turn.

You can read the vows from cards that you hold, or memorise them (and provide the celebrant with a copy so she can prompt you when needed), or follow the celebrant's lead.

It's entirely up to you!

Choosing your Celebrant

Celebrants come in all shapes and sizes. There are different levels of training and experience, and each one has their own distinctive personality and style. It's important to find the right celebrant for you, the one that you feel comfortable with and who understands what you are wanting in your ceremony.

So, shop around, meet as many as possible and ask questions. For a list of all authorized celebrants, go to the Attorney-General's website at

www.ag.gov.au/mclisting

