

## *The Marriage of Bill & Lyn*



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. Professional photographers have been engaged for the day so Lyn and Bill 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 bride.

Music to play:

Good Afternoon everyone, my name is Adrian Downey, I am the celebrant for Lyn and Bill's marriage ceremony. I would like to welcome you all here on this special day.

We have come here today to witness the marriage of Lyn and Bill.

They have come gladly to this moment. They have already shared much of their lives together and know that they get along well together. It has not been enough. And today they choose to make a deeper commitment to each other - a legal and binding contract. It is their way of telling each other that their experience together has been so good, that they want it to continue for the rest of their lives.

They have loved each other before this ceremony. They believe they will love each other more because of it.

## **Monitum of Marriage**

Before I join you Lyn and Bill in marriage I am required to state that I am duly authorised by Law to solemnize marriage 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 nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

## **The Asking**

### **Adrian to Bill**

Bill, do you take Lyn, to be your lawfully, wedded wife? Do you promise to love her, comfort her, honour and keep her, in sickness and in health., so long as you both shall live?

**Bill:** I Do.

## **Adrian to Lyn**

Lyn, do you take Bill, to be your lawfully, wedded husband? Do you promise to love him, comfort him, honour and keep him, in sickness and in health, so long as you both shall live?

**Lyn:** I Do

## **Vows**

### **Adrian to Bill**

[Repeat after me]

I ask the people here present to witness that I Bill take you Lyn to be my lawful wedded Wife.

### **Adrian to Lyn**

[Repeat after me]

I ask the people here present to witness that I Lyn take you Bill to be my lawful wedded Husband.

Lyn and Bill have prepared some vows that they wish to share with each other. I now invite Bill to share his vows with Lyn.

### **Bill to Lyn**

I now invite Lyn to share her vows with Bill.

### **Lyn to Bill**

## **Rings**

You are symbolising your marriage by the exchange of rings, may I please have the rings?

### **Ring Blessing**

The wedding ring is a symbol of the promises of love and devotion you have made to each other today. In years to come, it will remind you of this day, when you became one in hope, one in believing in life, and one in sharing the years ahead of you.

*Bill, please place Lyn's ring on her finger*

*Lyn, please place Bill's ring on his finger*

### **Handfasting Ceremony**

The couple will be celebrating today with an ancient handfasting ritual. I ask that Lyn and Bill please join their hands, left hand to left hand, and right hand to right hand, forming the symbol for infinity.

I now ask Lyn's mum Carol and Bill's mum Lisa to come forward and bind their hands together.

Tying these cords means that the couple is no longer two separate entities but joined as one, bound together in mutual love.

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 fills your mind.

These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow, and as in today, tears of joy. These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children, the hands that will help you to hold your family as one.

These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it. 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.

### **Declaration of Marriage**

We have this afternoon been privileged to hear Lyn and Bill make special promises to each other, we have heard them make vows to each other and we have witnessed the giving and receiving of rings.

And so as duly authorised it is my great honour and privilege to declare them Husband and Wife.

Bill, you may kiss your Bride.

### **The Signing of the Register**

I now invite Lyn, Bill along with their witnesses to join me as we sign the register and the certificate.

Music to play:

### **The Presentation**

Family and friends, it gives me great pleasure to now present the certificate of marriage to Bill and Lyn. Please join me in congratulating and welcoming as I now present for the first time as husband and wife;

Mr and Mrs .....

*Adrian Downey*

Music to play:

NSW Celebrant