

A group of celebrants who met each other via an active celebrant e-group came together several months ago to talk about their vision for celebrancy in the Twenty-First Century.

As we sat around a coffee table talking, we realised that what we really wanted to see was less divisiveness in the celebrant community, and more support for ALL forms of celebrancy. We wanted to see training and professional development opportunities for all celebrants, as well as advocacy for all celebrants. We wanted to see high standards of professional and ethical practice maintained and encouraged. We wanted every celebrant to have a voice in the celebrancy community, and feel wanted and included and not stuck out in the “wilderness”.

There was much talking — and laughing — as we began to put together our wish-list of things that would bring celebrancy into the Twenty-First Century. At the end of it all, we found ourselves standing on the threshold of something new and exciting. Something we felt we could do if we put our minds — and our hearts — to it. The end result was the quiet, but significant, birth of Australia’s newest peak celebrant body: The Professional Celebrants Association Incorporated.

I’m honoured to have been elected President of the Interim Steering Committee that is currently guiding the PCA through its formative stages.

If you are looking for a celebrant professional organisation that will encourage you in what you do, provide you with information and resources to inform and educate you, and support your development as a celebrant generally, I encourage you to consider joining us at the PCA.

The PCA is a modern, innovative celebrant association that offers considerable benefits for a low annual membership fee. Members will have access to a vibrant Online Community featuring focus groups for different areas of celebrancy, the opportunity to subscribe to a PCA E-group for general information exchange, access to celebrant resources for use in general ceremonies, an email referral system, and access to an Emergency Hotline and Celebrant Helpline system that we believe is unique to the Professional Celebrants Association. In line with our Twenty-First Century philosophy, the PCA is taking advantage of modern technology as much as possible to provide these benefits to our members, and this will help keep membership fees as low as possible.

Membership of the Association does bring responsibility, though, and it’s important that prospective members understand this. PCA members will be required to commit to supporting our Code of Professional and Ethical Conduct, which sets out the minimum standards for accountability and professional and ethical practice. Members will also be required to commit to undertaking professional development training on a continuing basis to develop their skills. Through this process, the PCA aims to certify members who meet specific professional development criteria — another innovation in celebrancy. In addition, at the time of joining, members must provide evidence of their celebrancy qualifications (or proof of enrolment if currently studying) or experience in lieu of qualifications.

Importantly, ALL celebrants are equal in our Association. Regardless of whether you are a student currently studying, someone waiting to be appointed as a CMC, a general celebrant, or a registered CMC/religious celebrant, you have the same level of membership as every other celebrant, and will be treated with respect and fairness. You also have the opportunity to participate fully in the PCA and even run for office if you wish. Everyone has a voice, and is encouraged to make themselves heard.

Annual membership of the PCA is just \$50, and there is a one-off, non-refundable application fee of \$25 payable in the first year. Membership runs from 1 July to 30 June, in line with the financial year. Because we have launched so close to the end of the calendar year, we are offering membership from now until 30 June at the pro-rata cost of \$25 plus the application fee of \$25 (total \$50).

I invite you to visit the PCA website and take a look at all that we offer celebrants in all areas of celebrancy. A copy of our inaugural newsletter, "Professional Celebrants in Practice" can also be downloaded to your computer for free.

I think you will be pleasantly surprised, and, hopefully, excited! I know I am.

If you happen to know anyone who could benefit from learning of the PCA's existence, either celebrants seeking a professional organisation to join, or those who may be seeking a celebrant to conduct their ceremony, please copy this message into a new email and send it to them.

Thank you for taking the time to read this announcement. I invite you all to consider joining the PCA today, and to come along to our formal launch in December.

Kristina M Romer
President
Interim Steering Committee
The Professional Celebrants Association Inc

Web: <http://professionalcelebrants.asn.au>