

## SYDNEYCOUNTRYCELEBRANT-Gail Brigden

Appointed in 1994 & a-finalist in **ABIA Awards** repeatedly for excellence by clients ,averaging 95% [www.sydneycountrycelebrant.com.au](http://www.sydneycountrycelebrant.com.au)

### “WHEN ONLY THE BEST WILL DO”

. **Important things are Value, Experience & Qualifications.** Price is meaningless. A good celebrant is worth their weight in gold and will still not cost more than about 2 or 3 percent of the total wedding cost

### testamomial

Graham and I would like to say a huge thank you for making our day so special. You really made us feel comfortable and at ease .It was a wonderful ceremony. So many people have commented on how lovely the ceremony was Thanks Again.

Graham and Renae **16.2.08**

Text message **1.11.08** Gail, we celebrated our first anniversary on Saturday, & wanted 2 say thanks again 4 your heartfelt ceremony, it is still very much in our hearts, love R & k

Firstly, I just wanted to thank you so much for doing such a fantastic job at our wedding on April 19,08. So many people commented on how relaxed, humorous, and lovely the ceremony was, and also many comments on how professional you were as a celebrant. So thank you so much. It was a truly amazing ceremony.  
Naomi

I was the Celebrant who performed all the Weddings (48 in total) in the television show, I Do, I Do.. Having performed well over 2000 weddings to date. my background as a Television and radio presenter, also knowledge of fashion as a former model, boutique owner and designer, can help you in your planning. I was wardrobe mistress for the TV show “Sons and Daughters” and the film - Love Boat. I dress to colour co-ordinate with the Bridal party.  
**I limit my weddings to only one or two pr day, and arrive half an hour early, so there is no stress . And I allow AT LEAST 2 hours between weddings.**

### What does the Celebrant do?

I will attend to all the legal paperwork, assist you to write a ceremony to suit your needs and solemnize your marriage. Anything you need for your ceremony, can be arranged for you. For couples from O/S **arrangements can be made re the venue, flowers, cars, cake etc as part of the service**

### What are the Legal requirements and what do we do next?

You will need to complete a Notice of Intended marriage (supplied by me by email with this brochure) Giving notice of at least one month and one day. This is good for 18 months after lodgment with the Celebrant. You will need to present **your birth certificates**, and for O/S people, a **current passport** (this can be done by fax), and signed by a consulate



or Medical Doctor or Lawyer .The **ACTUAL documents must be sighted prior to the ceremony** [http://www.familylawcourts.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/FLC/Home/Separation+and+Divorce/Proof+of+divorce/.](http://www.familylawcourts.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/FLC/Home/Separation+and+Divorce/Proof+of+divorce/),

Where there has been a previous marriage, either a **Decree Absolute of Divorce, or a Death Certificate** is required. You must be over the age of 18 years, and will need two witnesses over the age of 18 years. **A deposit will be needed at this time, of booking.**

A no obligation meeting can be made ,either at my home or yours or somewhere convenient [www.weddings4u.com.au](http://www.weddings4u.com.au)

### What is the cost!

As a bride, about to be a 'princess for the day' on one of the most important days (perhaps THE most important day) of your life, how important is the price you pay to achieve the ceremony of your dreams? And, as has been said on many other occasions, compared with other expenses of the day, the celebrant is usually the least expensive outlay regardless of whether it's one of the cheapies or one of the more expensive.

### The cost of your wedding takes into consideration the location, travel ,and time/date , and this can vary.

Re-Affirmations –same as weddings but no legalities- LEGALITIES can only be done once.

### Ring or email me for a definite costing Pensioner discounts

[Email -gailbrigden@hotmail.com](mailto:gailbrigden@hotmail.com)

Home ph. 02 43561254 Mobile 0414 615 233  
Fax 02 43561679

### What do we get for our fee?

Your final fee will include your initial & any subsequent visits, plus a rehearsal on final visit,(location rehearsal is extra) and completion of all legal work. The cost also covers telephone, mailing costs, the use of a cedar lectern, silver ring tray, or cushion, microphone, c.d. player & CD music selection, For info on live music see bottom of page. A **40 page Ceremony Guide** is included to assist you to make your choices or help you to **write your own ceremony**. Your selected Ceremony will be printed into a **memento booklet**, which also becomes your guest book. A candle Ceremony, or a tying of the love knot – is available and is not charged as an extra. **& I dress to suit your bridal party**

### What can we have for our Ceremony?

**It is your day! YOUR SAY.** Civil Ceremonies usually take about 20 minutes to complete, including the signing of certificates. This can be as you wish it to be You will be given a Ceremony Guide, which offers you selections to choose from and you can use this to write your own personal ceremony, with my assistance

### Venue Suggestions

Anywhere is suitable for your ceremony - Cityscape **SYDNEY**, your own home, gardens, beach, vineyards in **The HUNTER VALLEY** -,or at the **150 yr old Chapel at Yarramalong.**

[www.koindahwatersgolf.com.au](http://www.koindahwatersgolf.com.au)

**@ Wyong is NEW and has all the facilities**

The fee for Sydney and the Hunter are the same.  
Look at [www.curzonhall.com.au](http://www.curzonhall.com.au) for a unique function venue with over 100 yrs of heritage (see testimonial below. Also consider **Banjo Paterson-Gladesville**.  
. **Parks in SYDNEY** are a popular choice, however you would need to check with the local council re fees  
**Look at my website for details of venues..** In choosing an outdoor venue, an alternative indoor location should be arranged, in case of inclement weather. For a wedding late in the day, determine the sunset time, so as to ensure sufficient light for document signing and photography.

**Do we have to attend any pre-marital courses?**

This is your choice-the information regarding this should you wish to attend is available. Most couples who have taken advantage of this course, have gained a lot of insight and confidence in their marriage.1800 050 321

[www.familyrelationships.gov.au](http://www.familyrelationships.gov.au)

**How far ahead do I need to book the Celebrant?**

As soon as you have decided on a date. Most Celebrants are booked months in advance.

**call me as soon as possible, and please have a time option available.**

Thank you for using my services. I do hope I can help you  
*Regards Gail*

*GAIL BRIGDEN*  
**SYDNEY -COUNTRY  
CELEBRANT**

**SYDNEY COUNTRY**

**HUNTER VALLEY**

**A Ceremony Performed by a  
Professional**



**Finalist ABIA 1999-2003.2004**

**05,06,07**

**0414615233**

**Fax: 02 4356 1679**

[www.sydneycountrycelebrant.com.au](http://www.sydneycountrycelebrant.com.au)

[www.celebranthuntervalley.com.au](http://www.celebranthuntervalley.com.au)

[www.HunterValleyWeddingPlanner.com.au](http://www.HunterValleyWeddingPlanner.com.au)

email:[gailbrigden@hotmail.com](mailto:gailbrigden@hotmail.com)

You really are in a class of your own. Graham Evans  
Photography [0438 338 125](tel:0438338125)

**Gail Brigden is like a ray of sunshine! Always**

**immaculately presented, warm, presentable,**

prompt and puts even the most nervous couples,

at ease! She has been a preferred Civil Marriage

celebrant at **Curzon Hall** for more than 5 year

We could not recommend her highly enough;

she is a fabulous ambassador for the Australian

Federation of Civil Marriage Celebrants as she is

*all you could ask for in a Celebrant...and more!*

**Testimonial –Jacqui Czako –Events**

**Manager ,Curzon Hall 2004**

20/1/06

Hamish and I just wanted to say a big thank you for the wonderful job you did on Friday. So many of our guests have commented on how beautiful the ceremony was, and how they could hear so clearly everything that was going on. We appreciated your patience with us beforehand and professionalism and calm demeanour on the day.

Dear Gail

Wow! Thank you Gail that was the BEST wedding that Tony and I have ever been to. I know that your pre wedding weekend gift to us settled many concerns and then the actual writing of our vows made it all come together. Even though this was

our second time around it was still just as important as the first. Gail I loved the way that you dressed to suit the occasion. You obviously LOVE fashion and so do I and I noticed...and the photos tell it all. But that's not all.

When you delivered the ceremony, you picked up on the mood . You did not make a mockery of the situation. The mood was so right. You set the scene for a fun night..

I /We are willing to recommend YOU  
anytime Tony & Maggie

**from Lisa (actress -Brides of Christ)**

thank you so much for the truly magnificent job you performed at our wedding. Your dignity and grace was commented on by all, as was your gentle and calming manner! Oh, Gail –we just loved every minute of it. You helped make our day so special & something we will treasure forever

**Rozz- Chanel 9 Hostess**

Thank you for making our Wedding Day & ceremony so special.

Your warmth & humour combined with your professionalism and personality united to make the occasion truly magical

**Just writing to say thank you for making our day so wonderful. Thought you might like to see some photos. Everyone said how beautiful you looked and how gorgeous your shoes were! You couldn't have worn a more perfect colour. Hopefully we will see each other again some day soon Thanks again!**

**Love Chanelle.**

The Ceremony was beautiful and ran so smoothly thanks to you organisation and calmness. We really appreciated your guidance and advice leading up to the day as well, and it made the event so easy.

It was the most perfect day.

Jen 2007

**15 Top Tips for stress free garden weddings**

Book your Celebrant first! . Everything else can be booked a little later. If you find all the Saturday's at 3-00 are booked look at a lunch wedding or evening wedding or Friday or a Sunday wedding.

2. If you're looking at booking a busy celebrant check their dates they have vacancies first, and then look for the venue/garden so that you're not disappointed when you ring them.
3. Weddings with a celebrant can be booked as far ahead as 18 months before the actual wedding date ....remember the early bird gets the worm.
4. First impressions count for a lot in choosing a celebrant .Meeting with the celebrant earlier in the piece allows you to be fussy.
5. Choose a celebrant that you feel comfortable with and that you feel will reflect the type of ceremony you're looking for.
6. Good celebrants will have advice, lots of ceremony choices and will care as much about your day as the two of you do.
7. Word of mouth is the best referral .Ask friends, work colleagues and function co-ordinates .
8. When you choose a park or garden look for shade if the wedding is in the summer, easy parking for the guests, and toilet facilities.

**Tell guests to wear hats- Put this on your invitation**

9. On the invitations never put the exact start time of the wedding always put 15min earlier allowing guests to find the venue and then park ..**hats are good in the summer.** It is important that the guests are waiting for the bride and not vice versa

10. **Always have a wet weather alternative.** Clearly state on invitations for park/ garden wedding the wet weather alternative, and give a mobile number for them to ring if in doubt ..Leave a message on the message bank stating If the wedding has been moved to the wet weather venue....**Wet weather Weddings must start the same time as the original wedding was booked** for.....not 3-00 in the park if fine and 6-00 at the restaurant if wet.

.Don't forget to clear the times with your celebrant. If your function venue cannot allow an early arrival for the ceremony to be held there if it is wet, then source other options..

11. High Summer weddings think about dusk weddings it is much cooler

12. If time or daylight is a problem think about secretly meeting the photographer beforehand and having photos taken before the actual ceremony to allow you time to have the ceremony and relax with guests after ,so as not to stress about the fading light.

13. Be on the ball... Double check every service provider Florist ,photographer,, hair and make-up artist, hire cars at least 1mth before the wedding to make sure that they are very aware of the start time of the ceremony and that they will do everything in their power to work towards that time frame on the day.

14. Brides being late for a wedding are not only rude to the guests but to the celebrant Ask any minister/priest or celebrant and they will agree. There are always more than one couple getting married on your big day, garden weddings are so popular and most gardens require a booking and are booked by the hour.

15. Make sure that when booking the hire cars that you ask to be dropped off at the garden 15 minutes before the start time, allowing you the happy and relaxed wedding you dreamt about.(compiled by Coral Kortapel CMC ABIA awards winner)

**More- Testimonials -!**

Everyone commented on the lovely ceremony – and while everyone thinks their own ceremony is the best – ours **actually was** the best we had ever experienced in many years of attending

other people's weddings. **You are fantastic!**

Noami & Rob

I would just like to say a big thanks for your input/running of our wedding ceremony - we got many rave reviews and have been asked for your contact details , it was perfect - just as we had envisaged - so thanks again - also for organising us when we needed it and for being sincere in your words.....Gayle and Craig

**for a professional MC- call Peter Miller**

**www.weddingmc.com.au**

**>1800 888 062**

**>pete@weddingmc.com.au**

0414615233  
 Date.....  
 Date of Wedding.....  
 Time .....

**INTERNET BANKING  
 PAYMENT.....**

.....  
 Bank:.....**NATIONAL BANK**  
 451 Victoria Ave.,                      **CHATSWOOD**  
 a/c NAME: **H.G. & G.M. BRIDGEN**  
 BSB:                      082-164  
 a/c no                      51-623-9629  
 ...(name).....

Details of Your Wedding

GROOMS NAME  
 .....  
 ....

BRIDES NAME  
 .....  
 .....

DATE OF CEREMONY  
 .....

GUESTS ARRIVAL  
 TIME.....  
 ....

EXACT STARTING  
 TIME.....  
 ...

COLOUR  
 SCHEME.....

EXACT ADDRESS FOR  
 CEREMONY.....  
 .....  
 .....

NEAREST CROSS  
 STREET.....  
 .....

TELEPHONE  
 CONTACT.....  
 .....

**HOW OR WHERE** did you find me? (for  
 marketing purposes  
 only).....  
 .....

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**REMEMBER to lodge your NIM by fax or email  
 at least 1 month and 1 day prior  
 This is legally required – special permission must  
 be granted otherwise.**

**Advise Gail** if you require the SPECIAL certificate  
 of marriage from B.D.& M. cost **\$42.00 usually  
 extra Paid to Birth Death's & Marriages AFTER  
 your marriage.**

Please confirm your arrangements at least 7  
 days before the wedding

**Please make a booking to meet with me and**

- at least 1 month and 1 day prior to your wedding date to give your signed and witnessed Notice of Intent to Marry form, or we can sign and witness it together.
- you must provide evidence of date and place of birth:
  - if born in Australia you must provide your birth certificate or extract
  - if born overseas, birth certificate or passport from your Country of origin. If overseas passport or birth certificate cannot be provided, a statutory declaration giving reasons and giving birth date and birth place details must to be provided.
- **2 to 3 weeks prior to your wedding date – your ceremony choice (taken from my sample booklet or your own choice.)**
- **your final fee (a deposit retainer should have been paid on booking). Cash is best, to save Bank and government fees, however cheque or DIRECT DEPOSIT is acceptable if paid early enough, but not on day of ceremony.**
- **Remember to ask your guests for an earlier time, as it will take 15 minutes to have photos taken from the car and your entrance to the venue.**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- ❖ In the event of the Ceremony BEING DELAYED MORE THAN 30 MINUTES BEYOND THE BOOKED TIME, the Celebrant RESERVES THE RIGHT TO PROCEED TO THE NEXT COMMITMENT.

In the event of the Celebrant being ill or unable to officiate at your Ceremony, every endeavour will be made to find a replacement Celebrant.

**PLEASE NOTE: THE CEREMONY  
MUST START ON TIME**

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**FEES:**

- ❖ There is a deposit of \$200 due and payable at the time of the lodgment of the NOTICE OF INTENDED MARRIAGE.
- ❖ In the event of a cancellation the deposit **IS NOT REFUNDABLE**
- ❖ **The balance** of the fee is **DUE AND PAYABLE AT LEASE 1 MONTH PRIOR TO THE CEREMONY** .and is not refundable within 4 weeks prior to cancellation. (AS NO OTHER BOOKING CAN BE TAKEN)

**OBLIGATIONS OF THE CELEBRANT**

The Celebrant agrees to arrive at the venue half an hour before the designated time, and will remain long enough after the ceremony to make sure all legalities are covered.

Perform the services at the venue at the designated time, (not half an hour or hour later)

Complete all documents and register with the authorities within 24 hours online, then within 14 days by post, as required under the Marriage Act.

If you wish for the Celebrant to apply for the official certificate of Marriage from Birth Death's .& Marriages.

(which can only be applied for AFTER the Marriage) please let her know and supply cash or credit card details for the same.

This is an OPTION and is not included in the initial fee.

**INDEMNITY**

The couple is liable for- and indemnities the Celebrant against liability or loss arising from, and cost incurred with, the couple not being ready at the venue at the Designated Time.

Ample time is given between ceremonies to cover travel to and from ceremonies, so being late is not only RUDE to your guests, but stressful to the Celebrant.

A time factor of 5 or 10 minutes after the given time to the guest is appropriate, however, more than this is not acceptable.

If you have any concerns regarding my services, please feel free to call the

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DEPT.  
ROBERT GARRAN OFFICES  
NATIONAL CIRCUIT