

Good afternoon everyone. My name is Meg Marshall and it gives me great pleasure to be here as today's celebrant at the beautiful Inglewood Estate. Today we have come together to witness the joining of two lives, specifically of Bride and Groom, known to many of us as G and B. For them, out of the routine of ordinary life, the extraordinary has happened. They met each other, fell in love and are finalising it with their wedding today. Romance is fun, but true love is something far more. It is their desire to love each other for life and that is what we are celebrating here today.

They are delighted that you, their closest family and friends can be here today to celebrate, witness, honour, dance, laugh, sing, eat, and be glad because these two have found each other.

Bride and Groom met 3 years ago through that time honoured tradition of online dating. They told me that they were each attracted to the lack of clichés and cheesiness on each other's profile. Both were looking for something outside of the ordinary: someone quirky and kind, smart yet silly, and they consider themselves to be incredibly lucky to have found that in another.

Now we pass to matron of honour, who will share a reading with us.

Based on "A Lovely Love Story" by Edward Monkton

Once upon a time, there was a Handsome Dinosaur. He loved to travel and have adventures. He had crossed the world many times in his voyages, but he had never met a dinosaur, or indeed any other creature, that made his heart truly content.

Caught in the same moment, but travelling across different lands and separate paths, was the Lovely Other Dinosaur. She, too, was searching for adventure in far off places, but she knew now that it was time to come home.

And so the Handsome Dinosaur met the Lovely Other Dinosaur.

"I like this Handsome Dinosaur," thought the Lovely Other Dinosaur. "He is handsome and he is tender and he is funny. He is also quite clever, though I will not tell him this for now."

"I like this Lovely Other Dinosaur," thought the Dinosaur. "She is beautiful and she is different and she smells so nice. She is also a free spirit which is a quality I much admire in a dinosaur."

"But he can be so peculiar at times," thought the Lovely Other Dinosaur. "He is also overly fond of cricket and football. Are all Handsome Dinosaurs so overly fond of cricket and football?"

"But her mind skips from here to there so quickly," thought the Dinosaur. "She is also uncommonly keen on shopping and craft. Are all Lovely Other Dinosaurs so uncommonly keen on shopping and craft?"

"I will forgive his peculiarities and his concern for sporting things," thought the Lovely Other Dinosaur.

"For they are part of what makes him a richly charactered individual."

"I will forgive her skipping mind and her fondness for shopping and craft," thought the Handsome Dinosaur. "For she fills our life with beautiful thoughts and wonderful surprises. Besides, I am not unkeen on shopping either."

Now the Handsome Dinosaur and the Lovely Other Dinosaur are old. Look at them. Together they stand on the hill telling each other stories and feeling the warmth of the sun on their backs.

And that, my friends, is how it is with love. Let us all be Handsome Dinosaurs and Lovely Other Dinosaurs together. For the sun is warm. And the world is a beautiful place

So there it is. While Bride and Groom don't always share their hobbies (she will never truly understand cricket, and he will never take up craft) they share many things. Whether it's about their joint enthusiasm for daggy music and dancing badly in the kitchen, their love of animals (particularly the cat), the joy they share in walking and wilderness, their passion for travel or for

social justice, in the end it comes down to love, laughter and kindness, which are, after all, the most important things to share. They are happy to have found a home with each other.

Their wish for today was for a personal and simple ceremony, so with that in mind let's start the formalities.

I am duly authorised by law to solemnize marriages 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 about to enter.

Marriage according to law in Australia is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others voluntarily entered into for life.

Bride and Groom you are now taking into your care and keeping the happiness of the one person in all the world you love best. You are adding to your lives and you are agreeing to share strength, responsibilities, and love.

At the end of this ceremony you will legally be husband and wife and you must keep the promises you will make close to your heart every single day, for it is a very important thing in life to love and be loved.

Groom, do you take Bride to be your wife. Do you promise to share your life with her, support her dreams, laugh and cry with her, be her friend, and to love her with all that you are and all you will become?

Groom: I do

Bride, do you take Groom to be your husband. Do you promise to share your life with him, support his dreams, laugh and cry with him, be his friend, and to love him with all that you are and all you will become?

Bride: I do

Thank you

Groom please repeat after me:

I, Groom, call upon the persons here present to witness that I take you Bride to be my lawful wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward

Bride please repeat after me:

I, Bride, call upon the persons here present to witness that I take you Groom to be my lawful wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward

Ringbearer, can you please step forward with the rings.

Groom please repeat after me:

Bride, with this ring I wed you and promise my love always

Bride please repeat after me:

Groom, with this ring I wed you and promise my love always

It now gives me great pleasure to announce by the power vested in me by the Commonwealth of Australia, that you are husband and wife. Groom you may kiss your beautiful bride!

The Kiss

In order to make this lovely union official, there are a few documents that we need to sign – we will be back with you as soon as possible.

Document Signing

As I present you with your marriage certificate, I wish you every happiness together and thank you for allowing me to part of such a special day.

Now that the formalities are over, Bride and Groom can breathe easier and more importantly have their photos taken. They ask that everyone join them out the front of the chapel for a group photo. Drinks will then be served in the restaurant from 6pm.

Please join me in congratulating the newly married couple, Groom and Bride!!!!