

# Marg Matheson

**Independent & Civil Union Celebrant**

**Central Otago**

*Offering fulfilment to a lifetime together....*

## **FAQ's**

### **How do I get a marriage licence and what is the cost?**

- Couples can apply for their marriage licence (Notice of Intended Marriage Form) and order the marriage certificate online at the same time. <http://marriages.services.govt.nz>
  - Complete your marriage license application and order your marriage certificate (this can be done up to 3 months before your wedding day).
  - Pay the marriage license and certificate fees.
  - Visit a registry office to make a statutory declaration to confirm that the details that you have provided on your application form are correct.
  - Get your marriage licence and 2 copies of the Copy of Particulars (via email)
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- Those under 17 years of age require parents' permission.
  - Those who have previously been married must provide their divorce papers.
  - The marriage licence is valid for three months from the date of issue.
  - A marriage licence costs **NZ\$150** payable on application to the Registrar.
  - The marriage certificate costs **\$33** to get one sent to you.

Find out more about the process and legal requirements of obtaining a marriage licence – [Applying for a marriage licence](#).

### **How long does the process of obtaining a marriage licence take?**

It normally takes three working days to obtain your marriage licence.

### **Do we have to apply for the marriage licence in person?**

One of the marriage parties must sign the application in person before the Registrar of Marriages.

**What does a Marriage Celebrant do?**

As a Marriage Celebrant, I can help guide you through the process of getting married, provide advice on obtaining a marriage licence, support in planning your ceremony and helping write your vows. I will also be the person who conducts the wedding ceremony and officially performs the marriage. I am a registered Independent Celebrant and Civil Union Celebrant, so you can be sure that I will conduct your wedding with the utmost professionalism.

**How long does a normal wedding service take?**

When I meet with you, we can discuss your precise requirements. There is no right or wrong answer for how long a wedding service usually takes, but for most people it is between 15 and 20 minutes.

**Will our marriage licence be valid internationally?**

All Commonwealth countries are required to accept a New Zealand Marriage Certificate as a valid legal document. Other nations require an additional 'authentication certificate' which may be obtained on application to the Authentication Department in Wellington (after the marriage).

**Should we write our own vows and do we have to memorise them?**

This is your choice entirely. I will provide a selection of vows which you may choose to use, or you may prefer to write your own. You do not have to memorise the vows.

**Who else must be present at the ceremony along with the celebrant?**

The wedding ceremony must be witnessed by two people. I can provide these witnesses on request.

**Can we get married wherever we choose?**

On your marriage licence application you must specify no more than two venues (usually a first choice plus a back-up option in case of bad weather) and the wedding ceremony must be conducted at one of these places.

**Can you recommend locations in Central Otago for our wedding ceremony?**

Central Otago offers many excellent locations for the perfect wedding ceremony. I am very happy to discuss your requirements and help you find the right venue.

**Are there other things to do in the area?**

Yes, the Central Otago region offers lots of great activities for you and your wedding guests to enjoy. From cycling on the Otago Central Rail Trail or a riverside walk to a Clutha River boat cruise or wine tasting at local vineyards, there are many things to do. And at the end of the day, you can relax with a soak in your private outdoor spa at The Log House.

**Can we have a rehearsal of the ceremony?**

A rehearsal is not essential, but I do recommend it. The rehearsal is usually arranged for the day prior to the service.

**Will you (the Celebrant) attend our wedding reception?**

This is not usually part of the arrangement, but I would be delighted to join you and your guests for a celebratory drink after the wedding ceremony.

**What does the fee cover?**

The fee covers a consultation with me during which we will discuss your ceremony and I will provide examples of wedding vows and readings, as well as advice on applying for your marriage licence. The cost also covers the development of your wedding ceremony, a rehearsal and the wedding day ceremony itself.

[Contact me](#) for a quote.

**When is booking confirmation required?**

Confirmation of your booking is required within two weeks of scheduling a tentative booking.

**How can I contact you?**

You can phone me on +64 3 448 6949 or email me at <mailto:marg@margwillmarryu.co.nz>

**Still haven't found the answer you need?**

[Email me](#) to talk about your wedding plans.