

**Anne and Andrews Wedding Ceremony,  
Saturday Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Reef Lodge, Rangiputa**

**Announcement of Arrival of the Bride**

**Welcome**

Welcome everyone. I am excited to let you know that the ceremony is about to begin, can everyone please bring their glasses (make sure they are topped up) and please be seated.

A wedding is such a wonderful occasion, filled with hopes, dreams and excitement. I am incredibly happy to welcome you all here today to the wedding of **Anne Elizabeth Carroll and Andrew James Livingstone MacColl**.

My name is **Maggie Dalziel**, and I am honoured to officiate this beautiful couple's ceremony. Today we celebrate that these two people having been on quite different paths in life, miraculously found the person they have chosen to spend the rest of their lives with.

**Please be upstanding for the arrival of our bridal party**

MUSIC Processional - **Con te partirò**, performed by Andrea Bocelli

- Dominic, Gabriel, Theodore; then
- George, Eva, Max; then
- Jacqui, Sienna, Grace, Kirsty; then
- Bridget & Hamish; then
- Anne & Andrew

**Introductions, Thank You & Acknowledgements**

**PLEASE BE SEATED**

Deciding to join in marriage is the ultimate expression of love. Marriage is a commitment to life, the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and for growth that no other relationship can equal, a physical and emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime.

Marriage is much more than your signatures on a legal contract. You are promising, in front of all these people you love, that you want to be with each other for the rest of your lives.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

**We are now going to listen** to an extract from 'The Velveteen Rabbit' by Margery Williams, narrated by Samuel West

"What is REAL?" asked the Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender, before Nanna came to tidy the room. "Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?"

“Real isn’t how you are made,” said the Skin Horse. “It’s a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real.”

“Does it hurt?” asked the Rabbit.

“Sometimes,” said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. “When you are Real you don’t mind being hurt.”

“Does it happen all at once, like being wound up,” he asked, “or bit by bit?”

“It doesn’t happen all at once,” said the Skin Horse. “You become. It takes a long time. That’s why it doesn’t happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in your joints and very shabby. But these things don’t matter at all, because once you are Real you can’t be ugly, except to people who don’t understand.”

## **2<sup>ND</sup> Reading**

**I would like to invite Andrew’s son Hamish to read 1 *Corinthians* 13: 1-13**

“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor, and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Reading**

**I now invite Anne’s sister Bridget to read an extract from ‘*A Farewell to Arms*’ by Ernest Hemingway**

“At night, there was the feeling that we had come home, feeling no longer alone, waking in the night to find the other one there, and not gone away; all other things were unreal. We slept when we were tired and if we woke the other one woke too so one was not alone. Often a man wishes to be alone and a woman wishes to be alone too and if they love each other they are jealous of that in each other, but I can truly say we never felt that. We could feel alone when we were together, alone against the others. We were never lonely and never afraid when we were together.”

**Thank you Hamish and Bridget. What a beautiful start to this very special ceremony.**

## Andrew & Anne's story –

It was almost 3 and a half years ago that Anne & Andrew would first meet, it was July 17, 2017, the location was the emergency department of Kaitia hospital where Andrew works and where Anne's late father Michael was treated.

Anne had just flown in from the UK and vividly recalls the moment she noticed Andrew at the hospital. He looked up from his computer and there was an immediate attraction and sense that she had always known him, however, at the same time she also thought "well that feels a little bit weird because he's not very tall **and** he has white hair".

Andrew also remembers the 'moment' they first met, he shook Anne's hand and immediately thought you're rather sexy and obviously very intelligent. Then Anne's stepmother Annette said, 'she's just arrived from England and hasn't had a shower yet!' Andrew smiled to himself and said, "Lucky for me I have very little sense of smell."

Situations like this are never easy to share, however, Anne reminds me of that she feels that meeting Andrew on this day was her father's parting gift to her. She also acknowledges that her father would never have believed she would ever actually return to New Zealand or get married for that matter. Anne's gift to her dad is that she is back home and happy to be closer to Annette for him.

Anne and Andrew had formed a close bond; however, Anne would return to the UK at the end of August, nothing was certain, their future was not clear.

Was this relationship strong enough to last the 18,000km or the 14 months apart? Anne and Andrew made it work, they had 10 official dates before Anne finally decided to come home permanently to New Zealand to be with Andrew, these dates would cross the world from the UK, Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon, Hong Kong, and many more exciting places, however Anne has no doubt that **her favourite place** is at home with Andrew on the deck at the end of the day, looking out over the water.

When I asked both Anne & Andrew what they genuinely loved about each other, Andrew shared that it is Anne's love of her family and friends. Her determination. Her organisational skills - all herbs and spices will be alphabetically arranged, he also loved how, unlike Melania and Mr Trump, Anne actually likes to hold his hand and always has his back.

Anne loves how Andrew brings her a cup of tea to her bedside every morning, how hard he works, and how good he is at what he does. "Recently a big Maori guy who had seen her with Andrew came over to speak with her, he said "Is that your partner? When Anne said yes, this guy told her. *"He's a good man, when I was in hospital, I watched him and he's a quiet soldier that just gets on with it without needing the glory, but he's really really good"*.

## Friends and family, we all see how committed Anne and Andrew are to each other, and when asked what does Marriage mean to you?

**Anne** obviously thought about this answer and shared that "Legally and socially there really is no reason to get married these days. I have had a wonderful, colourful life, and have never wanted to get married. And that's actually why *I want* to marry Andrew, as a statement to the world that this is different, *he* is different.

**Andrew**, well he just said, Marriage means having a wife, forevermore

## Anne's surprise to Andrew

Most couples plan their ceremony together, and usually there are no surprises, however, on this occasion, Anne has arranged a small surprise for Andrew, as a gift to him and to all of you here today.

This Ed Sheeran song '**How Would You Feel**' had a very special meaning for Anne & Andrew from their early days and remains one of '**their songs**'; I would now like to invite Anne's brother, Shane, and cousin, Jamie, to perform it.

### The Asking

In marriage you not only say 'I love you today', but also 'I promise to love you for all of our tomorrows'.

**Maggie:** Will you, Andrew, take Anne to be your wife?

**Andrew:** I will

**Maggie:** Will you, Anne, take Andrew to be husband?

**Anne:** I will

### The Blessing - all guests

Ladies and gentlemen, boys, and girls, will you all please stand. A marriage needs the support of a community. Will you, as this couple's friends and family, promise to support them in their marriage, love them, and encourage their love for each other?"

The guests respond with "**We will.**"

### Reading 4 –

**I now invite Anne's Aunty Mum Helen** to read *Blessing for A Marriage* by James Billet Freeman

"May your marriage bring you  
all the exquisite excitements a marriage should bring,  
and may life grant you also patience,  
tolerance, and understanding.  
May you always need one another –  
not so much to fill your emptiness  
as to help you to know your fullness.  
A mountain needs a valley to be complete;  
the valley does not make the mountain less,  
but more; and the valley is more a valley  
because it has a mountain towering over it.  
So let it be with you and you.  
May you need one another, but not out of weakness.  
May you want one another, but not out of lack.  
May you entice one another, but not compel one another.  
May you embrace one another, but not encircle one another.  
May you succeed in all important ways with one another,  
and not fail in the little graces.  
May you look for things to praise,  
often say, "I love you!"  
and take no notice of small faults.  
If you have quarrels that push you apart,  
may both of you hope to have good sense enough  
to take the first step back.

May you enter into the mystery  
 which is the awareness of one another's presence –  
 no more physical than spiritual,  
 warm and near when you are side by side,  
 and warm and near when you are in separate rooms  
 or even distant cities.  
 May you have happiness,  
 and may you find it making one another happy.  
 May you have love,  
 and may you find it loving one another."

### **The Vows**

I invite you now to promise your **VOWS** to one another. Please respond by declaring **I do**.

**Maggie:** Andrew, do you take Anne to be your wife? Do you promise to love and be loved, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, for richer for poorer, for better for worse; to always seek out the best in her, and to continue to build a life of love, laughter, commitment and growth?

Andrew: I do

**Maggie:** Anne, do you take Andrew to be your husband? Do you promise to love and be loved, in sickness and in health, for richer for poorer, for better for worse; to always seek out the best in him, and to continue to build a life of love, laughter, commitment and growth?

Anne: I do

### **Exchange of Rings**

It is now time to exchange rings, however, I do want to share that the only thing Andrew and Anne had settled on when I first met them was that they ***did not actually want rings***, which as you can imagine was going to make **THIS MOMENT** a little awkward! So, these rings have been borrowed today from family members who have enjoyed enduring love and marriage, therefore along with their loan of rings comes the blessing and wish that Anne & Andrew may enjoy the same.

Please can those family members now bring forward the rings we will use for this part of the ceremony.

**Andrew:** please repeat after me

"I give you this ring today

As a symbol of our love, trust, and marriage.

I promise to care for you above all others,

To give you my love, friendship and support.

And to respect and cherish you throughout our life together."

**Anne:** please repeat after me

"I give you this ring today

As a symbol of our love, trust and marriage.

I promise to care for you above all others,

To give you my love, friendship and support.

And to respect and cherish you throughout our life together."

### **Declaration of Marriage**

Anne & Andrew you have stood before us, declared your love, and made promises to one another in front of your closest friends and family. By the power of your love and commitment, and the power vested in me, I now pronounce you husband and wife! You may kiss.

Ladies and gentlemen, Anne and Andrew invite Margaret & Edwin to sign the Marriage register

Please enjoy some drinks and we will return quickly to conclude the ceremony and toast the newlyweds.

**Signing** ..... **SONG:** 'All of Me' by John Legend

### **Presentation of The Bride and Groom**

"Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my absolute privilege to present to you the bride and groom.

Anne and Andrew, - treasure every moment that you have and treasure it more because you shared it with someone so special. There is no better time than right now to be happy.

Friends and family, I invite you all to raise your glasses and toast to Anne & Andrew. Please now come forward and congratulate the happy couple.

**The End** – SONG – 'Haste to the Wedding' performed by The Corrs

"The Beginning"