

Shane Rowlands

Writer and facilitator

This book is an act of generosity and leadership. Good leadership is connected with expanding the possibilities for people, enlarging our view of ourselves, of others and the world. For me, reading *A Celebrant's Notebook* expanded the possibilities of how to live well, whole-heartedly and broken-hearted, as a partner, daughter, sister, aunt, friend and member of many communities.

As an experienced practitioner sharing her wisdom, Anna Heriot maintains her sense of apprenticeship to the form of civil celebrancy. She is a humble, witty, poetic and insightful catalyst of culture. She is also a passionate advocate for creating ceremony with community to honour the depth and full nature of the season-changing events of our lives.

This book is not a now-to; it does not present formulas. Rather Anna offers vignettes of wedding ceremonies, funerals and memorials, as well as other ceremonies of life transition that she has co-created with her clients. In so doing, *A Celebrant's Notebook* enlarges the possibilities and the richness of gathering together as a community in times of joy and grieving.