

WEDDING OF CHLOE & TONY



WELCOME

Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to officially welcome you to the wedding ceremony of Miss Chloe Francis and Mr Tony Thomas.

I'm going to be your celebrant for the next 10 - 15 minutes. We're going to share some stories and we're going to have some chuckles.

Best of all, we're going to officially wed these two wonderful people in this gorgeous venue on this beautiful Summer afternoon.

Now, you might be wondering; aren't I Tony and Chloe's friend? When did I become a Celebrant? Well, I'm not actually a Celebrant. All of the legal obligations and requirements will be completed by Paul, who is a legal celebrant and is present at today's ceremony.

Before we begin Chloe and Tony would like to recognise the traditional owners of these lands – the Wurundjeri people.

The bride and groom would also like to thank everyone who has come along today, it means the world you could be here for them.

I must make note of a couple of apologies who couldn't be here. Tony and Vic's pets Bobo and Barney, Unfortunately both had prior engagements. They do, however, send their warmest regards.

I hope you all enjoy the ceremony and have a wonderful night tonight, too.

INTRODUCTION

Ladies and gentlemen, put simply, Chloe Francis is one of the loveliest people you could meet. And, as you can see today, she is also very beautiful.

She also possesses a genuine warmth and welcoming vibe that's evident to anyone who meets her.

Her giving nature is exemplified by her social work. It is also demonstrated – occasionally to the annoyance of her partner Tony – by her willingness to use their home as a sanctuary for lost and bewildered animals.

At last count, their home currently houses three rabbits, nine chickens, two horses and a panda.

When you first meet Tony Thomas one key word springs to mind – handsome. Tony is no doubt a handsome fellow, but look beyond his good looks and you'll find many wonderful attributes.

He is caring, humorous and personable. He's the type of guy who can talk to anyone.

Now, Tony and Vic met at a time before online dating. They met at a place where young love often blossoms – a place called Warrandyte IGA.

The year was 2006.

Vic worked the deli. Tony was a duty manager.

Tony liked to think he managed Chloe, and would often tell her off for non-business related calls that didn't create a profit for the business he was managing.

Vic, being the intelligent woman that she is, quickly clued onto what he was up to.

You see, Tony cared very little for the profit of IGA. He was more interested in the affections of Ken Francis's wonderful daughter.

He eventually succeeded, and their first date occurred in a place called the Living Room in Templestowe. Vic, not a noted drinker, had two glasses of champagne for Dutch courage.

The champagne worked - their first date was a smashing success. But it wasn't until their second date where the real magic happened.

It began with a romantic walk along the banks of the Yarra River. Things were going great, until Tony accidentally tripped over Vic's dog Louie and fell flat on his face.

Vic must have wondered what she had gotten herself into.

It only got worse when they arrived back at Vic's home. Tony, who seems to have none of Brian Thomas's athletic abilities, managed to get himself electrocuted on a nearby fence.

He was then later attacked by the pet rooster.

I know this is slightly unusual, but I think we should pause to publicly acknowledge Caroline and Ken Francis for not kicking him out of their daughter's life there and then.

Since then their relationship blossomed. They've travelled overseas to a number of beautiful Asian countries, and have made many a trip to the lovely surrounds of Strathbogie.

They have also purchased a gorgeous home in Blackburn North.

During this time Chloe and Tony have become known as the double date specialists. Say you're seeing someone and you want to impress them. You don't take them to the movies or to mini golf. You take them to go see Tony and Vic.

Many couples owe their relationship to Vic and Tony. Some of which are even in this very room.

And it makes sense. Vic and Tony are the type of people you want to call your friends. They are a rare commodity in today's world. They've taken their time. They've built something special.

But it's more than what they've built, it's about the people they are. And the values they hold. They are genuine, kind-hearted people.

You think of Vic and you think of a person with a beautiful spirit and a kind, giving nature.

You think of Tony and you think of a knockabout guy with a big heart.

Individually they're terrific. Together they're pretty much perfect.

The relationship between Chloe and Tony developed naturally and evolved to the partnership that has seen them be inseparable for the past decade.

I don't need to stand here and lecture you about love or what it means to be in an amazing relationship. These words are redundant when such an awesome example is standing right in front of you.

We are all proud to call them our friends. Some are even lucky enough to call them family.

Regardless of which one you are, it is a pleasure and honour to be in their presence and to share in their special day.

CELEBRANT AUTHORITY

With that in mind, and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the state, I would now like to present Paul (or the relevant legal celebrant) who will now provide the celebrant's authority.

"I am duly authorised by law to solemnise 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 now about to enter.

"Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life."

THE ASKING

With this now presented, Chloe, will you take Tony to be your husband, to honour and cherish him, in times good and bad, for the rest of your life?

Vic: I will

Tony, I now ask: Will you take Chloe to be your wife, to honour and cherish her, in times good and bad, for the rest of your life?

Tony: I will

VOWS

Ladies and gentlemen, we have come to a very special part of the ceremony – the vows.

Before Chloe and Tony announce their own personalised vows, Chloe I will get you first to repeat after me:

'I call

upon the persons here present

to witness that I, Chloe Francis

take thee, Tony Thomas

to be my lawful wedded husband'.

Tony, if you can now also please repeat after me:

'I call

upon the persons here present

to witness that I, Tony Thomas

take thee, Chloe Francis

to be my lawful wedded wife'.

Vic and Tony would now like to say some vows they prepared earlier.

Chloe and Tony would now like to say some vows they prepared earlier.

Chloe if you may:

<give cue card vows to Chloe>

Tony, it's now your turn:

<give cue card vows to Tony>

Thank-you both – that was wonderful.

EXCHANGE OF THE RINGS

Ladies and gentlemen, it is now time for the exchange of rings. Could Mr Fred Rogers please step forward and present the rings.

Chloe, if you'd like to go first.

<Chloe puts ring on Tony's finger>.

And now Tony, it's your turn.

<Tony puts ring on Chloe's finger>.

THE CELEBRANT'S BLESSING

Vic and Tony, you mean so much to everyone in this room. You're a darn wonderful couple of human beings and on behalf of everyone in this room we wish you, Bobo and Barney nothing but the best.

Tonight is going to be a night to savour and we can't wait to get the party started.

DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

Ladies and gentlemen, Chloe and Tony - it is with tremendous pleasure that I pronounce you wife and husband!

<Tony and Vic kiss>

Ladies and gentlemen we will now to resign to sign the wedding documents. Please remain in your current seats and positions while we do this.

If I can please call Elliot Francis and Lib Thomas to the front.

<Documents are signed (Paul – or relevant Celebrant – to assist)>

Ladies and gentlemen, if I may have your attention, please put your hands together for the first time in living history, Mr and Mrs Chloe and Tony Thomas!