

DYING *To Know Day*

August 8

“
**We’re not here to whisper about death.
We’re here to yell about life.**”

Now in its 13th year, Dying to Know Day on August 8 is Australia’s annual day of action dedicated to encouraging conversations and community actions around death, dying, grief and loss, and end-of-life planning.

According to legal and financial publications, approximately 50 percent of Australian adults do not have a will, meaning a significant number of people are not prepared for what happens to their assets and loved ones after they pass away.

A similar percentage of people have not thought about whether they will be buried or cremated, or how they would like their families and ancestors to remember them after they die.

The Dying to Know campaign was originally created in response to nation-wide apathy around end-of-life planning, to encourage and empower all adult Australians to be strong self-advocates for their personal preparations.

This year’s Dying to Know campaign theme is Nobody Knows – The Secret I’m Glad I Shared. It’s about keeping your loved ones in the loop during your end-of-life planning. Having your last wishes written down and placed with other personal papers, or lodged with a solicitor, is always the first step in the process. The next step is sharing this information with your loved ones or the executor of your will.

Finalising your last wishes covers so much more than legal and financial preparations; it also considers other plans you should ideally put in place well before you die. It could be selecting the outfit you’d like to be buried in, choosing the kind of flowers you’d like for your funeral, or ensuring your beloved team logo will find a place on your headstone or plaque. It could also be undertaking pre-emptive decluttering to reduce the burden on your family, or collecting stories for family history records.

It doesn’t matter where you start with your planning, as long as you finish it, then share it with your loved ones.

If you are interested in accessing resources to help you commence your end-of-life planning journey visit www.proveda.com.au/community-programs/dying-to-know/.



Phelan Funerals continue to serve the people of the Central Goldfields and surrounding districts with the same professionalism and compassion which has carried through six generations and will continue into the future. Phelans offer pre-paid and pre-arranged funerals that provide you with the peace of mind knowing that the celebration of your life is in safe hands.

Work: 5461 1979 **Jono:** 0437 099 624 **Kaylene (Avoca):** 0409 003 367
Jubilee Chapel: 63 Inkerman Street, Maryborough, VIC 3465

Cemetery trusts in the Central Goldfields Shire

In the Central Goldfields Shire, there are nine cemetery trusts responsible for the care of the historic cemeteries located in the region.

As independent entities, these trusts make decisions in relation to the provision of their services (including burials and ash placements), employment of staff (if applicable), and expenditure of funds.

Below is a list of current contact details for the trusts operating in our shire.

AMHERST CEMETERY TRUST

Contact: Alan Knight | P: 0448 442 707 | E: agknight608@gmail.com

BEALIBA CEMETERY TRUST

Contact: Kate McClelland | P: 0408 324 089 | E: hornehill@gmail.com

BUNG BONG/WAREEK CEMETERY TRUST

Contact: Alan Steed | P: 0418 510 026 | E: rachellesteed@hotmail.com

CARISBROOK CEMETERY TRUST

Contact: Sonia Wright | P: 0419 892 257 | E: Secretary-at-CCT@outlook.com

DUNOLLY CEMETERY TRUST

Contact: Barry Taylor | P: 0409 148 305 | E: btaylor63@bigpond.com

MAJORCA CEMETERY TRUST

Contact: Patricia Rainbow | E: majorcacemeterytrust@gmail.com

MARYBOROUGH CEMETERY TRUST

Contact: Debra Russell | P: 0457 906 375 | E: maryboroughcemetery@ gmail.com

MOLIAGUL CEMETERY TRUST

Contact: Shayne Carless | P: 0438 697 231 | E: carless_farm@hotmail.com

TIMOR/BOWENVALE CEMETERY TRUST

Contact: Glen Ipsen | P: 5461 3822

Moliagul Cemetery



Dunolly Cemetery



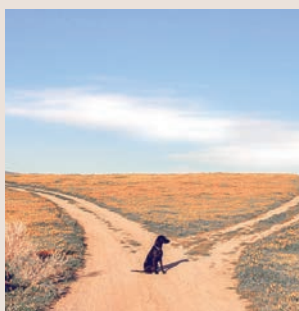
Looking after all your legal needs



Conveyancing



Wills & Powers
Of Attorney



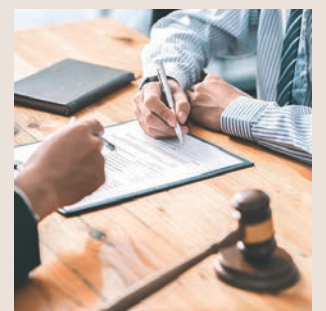
Family Law



Deceased Estates



Criminal Law



Commercial Law

By focusing on expertise and integrity – which are paramount considerations in our service delivery – we ensure our clients receive a high-quality service that they can trust.

We welcome your enquiry to discuss how we can assist.

113 High Street, Maryborough

☎ 5461-1177 ✉ admin@noonanslawyers.com.au

Floral tributes created with care

Flowers at a funeral serve as a traditional way to express condolences, honour the deceased, and provide comfort to the bereaved. They can express grief, sorrow, and remembrance.

Local florist Liv Parker is passionate about creating flower arrangements that reflect the personality of those being celebrated. While her creations for weddings, birthdays and

other celebrations add to the joy of the occasion, Liv explained that personal connection is extremely important when providing tributes for a funeral service.

"Just as no two people are the same, the floral tributes I produce reflect the individual," Liv said.

"I will sit with the family and talk – sometimes for up to two hours – because they want to share their memories. It's important when people are going through the grieving process; to talk about what their family member loved can be a positive experience.

"If they tell me their mum's favourite flower was a pink rose, I will know to add pink roses. If their dad liked natives, I will create a native display."

“ It's important to ensure the flowers reflect the life of the loved one being honoured. ”

Liv encourages families to contact her as soon as they know the date of the funeral, as creating a bespoke tribute requires time and effort. Rather than simply ordering flowers to be delivered, Liv travels to markets to personally choose the flowers that will make up the arrangements. This means she is confident the flowers are the best quality and represent the family's wishes.

The type of service chosen will determine what happens to the flowers after the funeral. With burials, flowers are usually left on the



grave site after the committal. If a person is cremated, the family and loved ones will take the flowers home. Some families may opt to donate the flowers to the local hospital, nursing home or hospice.

Liv is passionate about her work, and knows her contribution to commemorating someone's life can be an important part of the grieving process for many families.

"I am dealing with people at a very personal time in their life," Liv said.

"To be asked by a family to be part of their loved one's funeral is so much more than a 'job', it is an honour and means a lot to me."



Sourcing the very best quality products for all of your floral needs

- ✿ Special occasion flowers
- ✿ Sympathy flowers
- ✿ Funeral wreaths, vases and casket arrangements
- ✿ Custom flower requests
- ✿ Farm fresh and market flowers available

THE
NEW
LEAF
BOUTIQUE

Questions and ordering -
contact Olivia on
0428 386 760

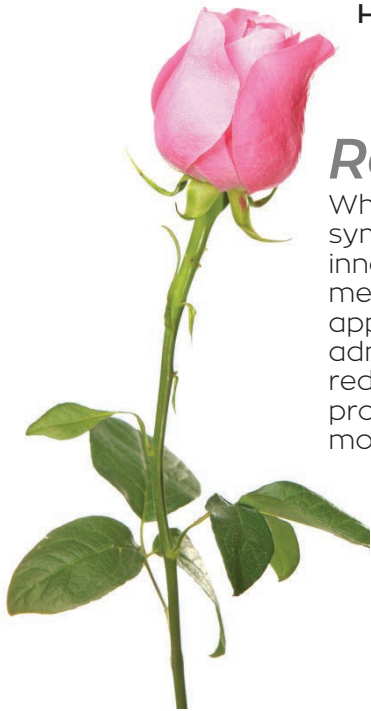
Servicing Central Goldfields,
Ballarat, and Bendigo regions.



Funeral flowers

While white flowers have long symbolised sympathy and remembrance at funerals, today families are more willing to embrace a wider variety of blooms to express grief and honour the lives of their loved ones.

Here are a few examples of flowers and the meanings they carry when used for funerals.



Roses

White roses are a symbol of purity and innocence; pink roses mean gratitude, appreciation and admiration, while deep red roses express profound love and mourning.



Carnations

generally symbolise devotion, distinction, and familial love; white carnations symbolise purity and innocence, pink carnations are an expression of motherly love, while red carnations express deep affection and admiration.



Lillies

convey a sense of sympathy and are frequently used in funeral arrangements to represent the the soul's return to purity.

Gerberas

These bright blooms can offer a message of hope and peace during times of loss and bring a splash of colour to funeral tributes..



Natives

Native flowers symbolise the uniqueness of the local landscape, and often represent resilience and inner strength.



Geo Ferries, W.T. Jones & Creswick MEMORIALS

For all your monumental and masonry requirements call us today

- New Monuments
- Lawn Headstones
- Bronze Plaques
- Memorial Maintenance, Repair and Restoration
- Additional Lettering



PETER STEWART
PH: 5460-5522 M: 0417 568 211
fjcmemorials.com.au



MB LAW

Barristers & Solicitors

A local legal practitioner with over 20 years of legal experience and a wealth of local knowledge, carrying on the practice of Patricia Coutts, established for over 60 years.

- Conveyancing
- Wills, Powers of Attorney
- Family Law
- Criminal Law
- General Litigation
- Estate Planning and Probate
- Legal aid available in certain matters

**FIRST HALF HOUR APPOINTMENT
FREE OF CHARGE**

Principal: Margret Bownds BA (Hon) LLB
137 High Street, Maryborough; PO Box 146, Maryborough

Ph: 5461-1122 Mobile: 0418 311 591

Email: mblawfirm@bigpond.com

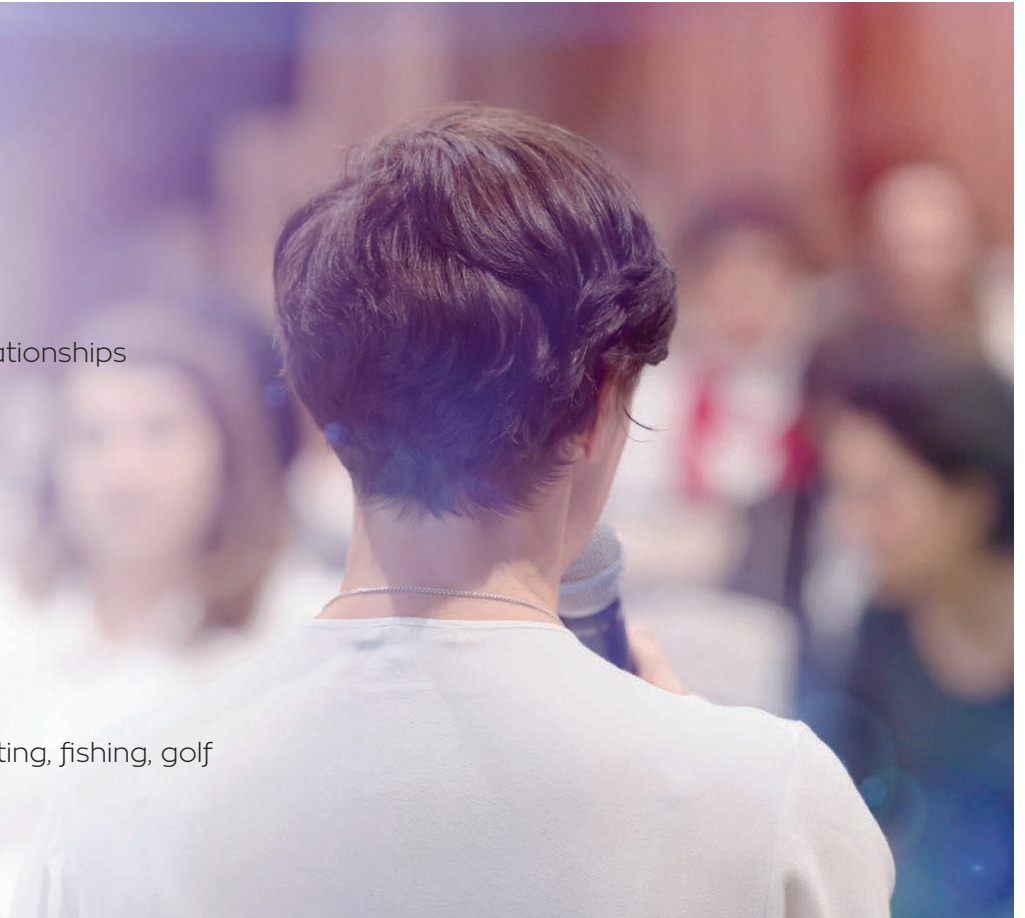
Writing a eulogy

Writing a eulogy for yourself can be a kind and thoughtful way to look back on your life, your values, and what's been important to you. It's a way to share your story, express your feelings, and leave something meaningful behind for others.

While most eulogies follow a formula, feel free to infuse it with your own personality and character. Aim to make it about three to five minutes long when spoken, and – most importantly – store it with your other personal papers and don't forget to tell your family that you already have it prepared.

Information to include:

- When and where you were born
- Nicknames or any other names you have been known by
- Information about your childhood:
 - Parents - where they met and married
 - Brothers and sisters
 - Early childhood - interests and stories
 - Schools you attended, awards achieved
 - Some interesting stories about childhood days
- Information about your family:
 - Details of marriage, divorces, children, or other significant relationships
 - Details of grandchildren/great grandchildren
 - Stories to treasure from family
- Academic or trade qualifications
- Details of any war or military service
- Career highlights
- Details of any club memberships and positions held
- Details of sporting achievements
- Any other personal achievements you would like to note
- Personal stories:
 - Details of historical significance
 - Details of hobbies or interests
 - Details of favourite activities, such as dancing, sport, prospecting, fishing, golf
 - Community involvement, such as volunteering roles
 - Likes, dislikes and personal preferences
- Any stories significant to family, friends, or others.
- Quotes from favourite songs or poems, excerpts from stories.



HERRING
& MCMILLAN
LAWYERS &
ACCOUNTANTS

WILLS & POWERS OF ATTORNEY

Last Will and Testament of

If the worst happens, are your
affairs in order?

We can advise and assist in all aspects of

- Wills
- Powers of Attorney
- Probate
- Survivorship
- Estate Taxation
- Estate Disputes
- Estate Planning

We finalise every aspect of estates
including the final tax return

194 High Street, Maryborough
P: 5461-1344
www.herringmcmillan.com.au

Tying up loose ends

Following a loss, important administrative tasks
need to be completed.

This guide provides an overview of the organisations and
businesses you may need to notify about the passing of a
loved one. Please be aware that you might be asked to provide
documents such as a copy of the death certificate or the will.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Solicitor and/or Public Trustee | Chemist, dentist, and
other therapists |
| Australian Tax Office | Medicare |
| Financial institutions and
loan companies | Health benefits fund |
| Superannuation company | Ambulance service |
| Insurance companies | Clubs, organisations,
associations and
volunteer groups |
| Department of Social Services | Church or religious
organisations |
| Department of Veterans Affairs | Home help and associated
services such as cleaner
and gardeners |
| Electoral office | Home delivery services -
e.g. groceries, bottle gas |
| Doctor, specialist or hospital | Post office for mail delivery |
| Local government for rates
and car registration. | |
| Employer/former employer | |
| Professional associations | |
| Utilities companies | |



A conversation worth having

Have you ever thought about what truly matters to you at the end of life – where you'd like to be, who you'd want around you, or what care you would and wouldn't accept?

These might not be everyday topics, but they are among the most important conversations we can have. And when we avoid them, we leave our loved ones guessing in moments that should be filled with compassion and clarity.

This Dying to Know Day, Maryborough District Health Service (MDHS) is encouraging our community to reflect, talk, and plan because this year's theme says it best: "Nobody knows unless you tell them."

Ann Maree is a nurse on the palliative care team at MDHS. The team supports people living with serious illness not just in their final days, but often months or even years beforehand. Ann Maree has seen first-hand the importance of such conversations.

"It's not about focusing on dying. It's about living well, right to the end on your own terms, with your choices respected," Anne Marie said.

"When we open up about death and dying, we're really opening up about life—our values, our hopes and the kind of care we want to

receive," Anne Maree said.

"Talking about these things doesn't mean giving up. In fact, it helps people feel more in control, more supported and more connected to those they love.

"We've seen time and again that when people talk early and honestly about their wishes, it brings peace of mind not only to them, but to everyone involved in their care."

Palliative care focuses on:

- relieving pain and managing symptoms
- supporting emotional, spiritual and cultural needs
- guiding decisions and advance care planning
- providing ongoing support to families and carers.

It's person-centred, respectful and deeply compassionate care, designed to help people live as comfortably and meaningfully as possible.

Advance care planning ensures that your voice is heard, even if you're unable to speak for yourself one day.

Start by asking yourself:

- What does living well mean to me?
- Are there treatments I wouldn't want?

- Who do I trust to make decisions on my behalf?

Once you've thought about these questions, have a conversation with your family, doctor or trusted support person. You don't need to have all the answers, just start talking.

To formally document your preferences, we recommend completing an Advance Care Directive (ACD) with your GP. This legal document outlines your values and treatment preferences and allows you to appoint a substitute decision-maker.

Bethany Parker is a registered nurse at MDHS. She said people are often surprised that talking openly about what matters to them is comforting and empowering.

"This Dying to Know Day, we invite everyone in our community to start the conversation at home, with your doctor or with someone you trust," Bethany said.

"When you share your wishes, you give those around you the ability to support you with confidence and love. You give yourself the gift of being truly heard."

Visit Advance Care Planning Australia's website or call 1300 208 582 to learn more or download forms.

Voluntary Assisted Dying

In Victoria, voluntary assisted dying (VAD) is one of several end-of-life care options. It is available only to people who meet all the conditions, in the late stages of advanced disease. It provides a legal and carefully regulated way to end life at a time chosen by the individual.

A person's decision to ask for voluntary assisted dying must be:

- voluntary
- enduring
- fully informed

To access VAD, a person must:

Have an advanced disease that will cause their death and that is:

- likely to cause death within six months (or within 12 months for neurodegenerative conditions such as motor neurone disease)
- causing the person suffering that is unacceptable to them.

Additionally,

- they must have the ability to make and communicate a decision about voluntary assisted dying throughout the formal request process.
- must be 18 years or older, and have lived in Victoria for at least 12 months, be an Australian citizen or resident.

The process is thorough and respectful, requiring three separate requests and assessments by trained medical professionals.

More information is available at health.vic.gov.au

Have you thought about end-of-life planning?

What is advance care planning?

With an advance care directive (ACD), individuals can guarantee that family and professionals know their healthcare preferences.

This will guide healthcare when an individual is no longer able to make or communicate decisions.

Contact your GP about making an ACD.

What is palliative care?

Palliative care focuses on quality of life and aims to provide relief from physical and psychological distress.

Our team supports individual needs, promoting comfort and dignity.

Contact MDHS or speak with your GP for more information on palliative services.



The benefits of Swedish Death Cleaning

Have you ever been tasked with clearing someone's house after they have passed away? Were you left with any guidance as to what to give to family members, what to donate to charities, or what to throw away? Did you find anything you wish you hadn't?

Alternatively... are you the child of a hoarder, and already starting to panic about the prospect of sorting through your parent's vast collections of *stuff*... after their death?

Few people like to talk about death, even though we really should. Having conversations with loved ones in advance about their final wishes makes the process of fulfilling those requests significantly less stressful for those entrusted with this task after a death has occurred.

The idea of 'Swedish Death Cleaning' has emerged as a way to ease the burden on families and friends by encouraging people — especially those reaching the end of middle age — to declutter and organise their possessions in advance.

It's not about throwing everything out in an indiscriminate cleaning frenzy; rather, it's a considered evaluation of all your possessions, and about passing items deemed surplus or no longer of use on to those who may need or appreciate them more. If done correctly, the process not only makes things easier for loved ones later on, but also gives you the chance to revisit memories attached to items accumulated during your lifetime.

The Swedish term for death cleaning is *döstädning*, made up of 'dö' (death) and 'städning' (cleaning).

The process is similar to Marie Kondo's concept of decluttering and only keeping items that "spark joy", but with added appreciation for the transience of mortal existence. It can be undertaken at any age or life stage but it is recommended it be done sooner rather than later, before others are required to do it for you.

Swedish Death Cleaning gained global attention after the publishing of Margareta Magnusson's book, *The Gentle Art of Swedish*



Death Cleaning: How to Make Your Loved Ones' Lives Easier and Your Own Life More Pleasant.

A kind and practical guide based on personal experiences and anecdotes, the book has since been translated into 31 languages, and was adapted for a 2023 TV show — *The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning*, produced by Amy Poehler — which aired on SBS in Australia last year.

While not everyone may be ready to confront a lifetime of collecting, some have happily embraced the concept, using it as a way to push back against the overburdened and materialistic world we inhabit.

If you think you're ready to commence your own Swedish Death Cleaning journey, here's three tips from Magnusson's book to help you make progress:

- 1 Don't start with the smaller things.**
Photos, letters or personal papers are guaranteed to evoke nostalgia and memories, and distract you from your decluttering efforts, so always box them up and leave them for last.
- 2 Sort the larger possessions you wish to discard into categories—such as clothing, linen, homewares, sports or hobby items—then sort the easiest category first.**
Starting with items that you have the least amount of attachment to will give you a sense of achievement and stop you from feeling overwhelmed as you move through each category.
- 3 Take the chance to discreetly deal with personal items or secrets.**
Do you have anything in your possession you absolutely do not want anyone else to see, such as diaries, photos, or personal papers? Make time to deal with these items now, before someone else does!

GIVEAWAY

To help start your Swedish Death Cleaning journey, we have a copy of *The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning* to give away to a lucky reader.

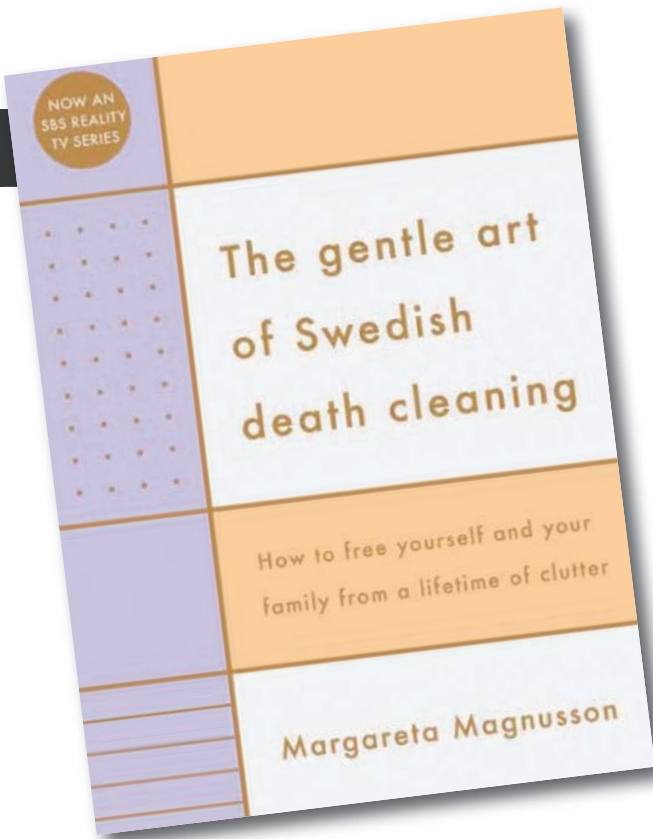
To win this prize, fill in your details below, and drop your entry in the box at The Maryborough Advertiser, mail it to us at 94 Napier Street, Maryborough, or photograph/scan and email it to advertising@maryaddy.com.au.

The winner of this prize will be drawn on Friday 15 August and will be announced on our Social Scene page.

Full name:.....

Phone number:.....

Home town:.....



Three useful end-of-life planning resources

Want to start your end-of-life planning, or mapping out your final wishes, but don't know how or where to begin?
Ready to start collecting family stories, but struggling to make a start?
Check out these handy resources to help change your thoughts into actions.

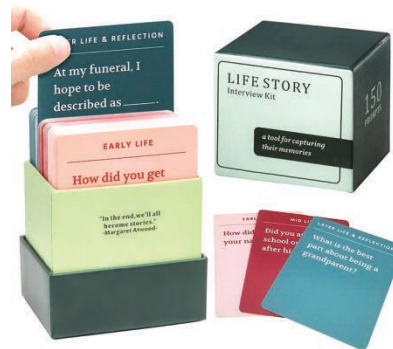


The E•O•L (End of Life) Deck

In 2018, US-based Hospice and Emergency Medicine social worker Lisa Pahl, LCSW and author Lori LoCicero teamed up to launch *The Death Deck*, a game about death that has been described as “surprisingly fun” and “lively”.

Their next offering is the E•O•L Deck, which helps uncover the end-of-life preferences of your loved one and increase the possibility of you being able to honour their last wishes when the time comes. If your loved one is reluctant to discuss this topic, it is suggested you start with questions related to their life and legacy, and then gradually move on to the trickier questions.

Learn more at endstagematters.com/product/1685/



Life Story Interview Kit 150 Family Conversation Cards

The Life Story Interview Kit 150 Family Conversation Cards is one of a number of similarly-themed card sets available for prompting multi-generational discussions. While it is not specifically pitched at those contemplating end-of-life planning, it encourages families to put down their phones and engage in meaningful conversations, providing important perspective in relation to a person's preferences and values.

Split into three, colour-coded stages—Early Life, Mid Life, and Later Life & Reflection—the cards offer 150 questions designed to help create a deeper understanding and appreciation for other members of the family.

It is perfect for every situation, from one-on-one conversations to lively family reunion settings.

Card sets can be found at various online outlets..

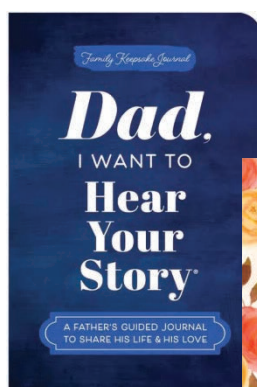
Hear Your Story® series

Bestselling American author Jeffrey Mason created the popular *Hear Your Story®* series of guided journals to help individuals share their life stories, chronicle their memories, and create a legacy for their families and future ancestors.

The journals, currently available for parents and grandparents, offer fun and delightful ways to discover everything from childhood memories to the profound turning points in their lives. These journals will inspire a walk down memory lane, prompting your subjects to remember things they may not have thought about for years.

Due to their popularity, the journals have been revised and updated in recent years. They are available in hardback or paperback, and in a size that makes them easy to use and carry.

Learn more at penguin.com.au/authors/jeffrey-mason



Easing Stress at the end of Life's Journey



One Last Request is a useful booklet to store important personal information in one place.

Make it easier for loved ones to navigate necessary arrangements such as:

- The company the house and car insurances are with
- Utility companies they used
- Animal care
- Other accounts they had - and so much more.



Print and Digital available

Stages of use



Buy



Download/Delivery



Fill out



Discover



Distribute

onelastrrequest.com.au

PO Box 244, Maryborough, Vic 3465. P: 0447 043 006 E: info@onelastrrequest.com.au Hours: 9 am - 5.30 pm

Your life — and your death — your way

A celebrant's perspective

As an experienced local funeral celebrant, Noelle Mason understands that death, though often cloaked in sorrow, is also the quiet companion to life. It brings with it a pause, a moment for reflection, and an invitation to recognise the ending – as well as honour the life that was lived.

In the midst of grief, Noelle's role is to hold space for those left behind, and to help them find meaning, comfort, and even peace, in saying goodbye.

Noelle shares with us some of her experiences and observations during her years as a celebrant, with the hope they may spark important conversations and inspire you to start thinking about your own personal planning for the final years of your life.

Personalising your planning

When someone passes away, many people choose the traditional route of contacting a funeral home for support and arrangements. However, this is not a legal requirement, and there are other options available that may better reflect an individual's wishes or values.

"I'm interested in increasing awareness of what people can or cannot have," Noelle said. "For example, you do not have to have a funeral in a chapel – you can make your own arrangements. You can have it at the Town Hall, in the park, in front of the grandstand or even at home."

For those who would like to customise their last rites, there are many choices to consider in relation to the venue, activities, who will be present, and whether there will be a graveside committal service or a ritual around ash placement.

Noelle encourages families to be more involved with their loved one's final farewell by placing objects of meaning on or around the coffins.

Whether you desire a traditional funeral with religious rites or prefer a personalised memorial service held at a beach with the scattering of ashes accompanied by music and shared stories, it is still important to plan it in advance — and let your family know you want this — to make it easier for them to carry out your wishes.

Making a will is essential

It's surprising—and concerning—that even today, only around half of Australians have a will in place, despite its importance for ensuring their wishes are respected.

"We still need more people to have their wills made," Noelle said. "Eighteen-year-olds need a will – and drivers [of vehicles of any kind] certainly do."

"Couples who are unmarried and have children definitely need a will so their assets aren't absorbed in a whole lot of legal process."

When making a will, Noelle recommends being very clear and accurate with directions, particularly those around finances.

"These days, people contest wills all the time because it's M-O-N-E-Y. And that causes a lot of disruption, heartache, anger."

Noelle said it is important to have conversations with your loved ones about last wishes, including any plans you may make in your will that may affect others. She also mentioned that the first will you ever make may not be your last.

"You can change your will as often as you like, as long as it's done officially and legally."



Celebrant Noelle Mason.

So much stuff!

Over a lifetime, we gather many possessions but, unlike Egyptian pharaohs or Viking warlords, we can't take them all with us after death – and it's not always fair or possible to pass them all on to our children or friends. So, what do we do with a house full of everyday items like kitchenware, furniture, or clothes?

Noelle says that again, it comes down to having conversations with your family in advance, writing down what was decided, and then including it with end-of-life planning documentation.

"Do they want to have a clearing sale? Do they want to have an auction? What do they want done with their effects?", Noelle said.

"Something many people don't think about is that you can arrange for either the Scout shop or the local op shop come in and take what they need or want. The remaining furniture and items are auctioned or go to a clearing sale, and the proceeds of that can go into the estate."

Practical things to remember

An unattended home can be a magnet for thieves, so make sure you take security precautions during the time directly after someone's death.

"You need to maintain the estate and make it look as if you are caring for it," Noelle said. "Sometimes probate can take 90 to 120 days—or longer, if a coronial inquest is required."

"Consider changing or reinforcing the locks while you are deciding what to do with the house. Install sensor lights or lights on timers and advise the neighbours."

"Don't turn the power off straight away; leave it on, so you can continue to vacuum and clean the home."

"If there are cars, you can't really move them but maybe just run them every so often, and keep them garaged."

Continuity of care for the bereaved

Noelle states that one of the most important things for people to do after someone has died is to continue to support those left behind. She says it can take three to five years for people to genuinely overcome the grief of the loss of their loved one.

"Make sure you think about them; you think you're going to spend ten minutes on the phone with them but spend 45 minutes. Call in for a cuppa, take a packet of biscuits; carry on exactly the same process as before because one moment that person is surrounded by flowers and cards and people, and then suddenly – nothing. And that's the hard bit for them to bear."

"Keeping the contact going is really important, along with taking the time to listen. It changes the shape of their day, and gets them through stuff you and I had no idea they're going through."

Noelle says that having grandchildren pop in can make a big difference, too. "It's the kind of continuity people need, just to remind them, unfortunately — and sadly — that life goes on."

Celebrate life at every opportunity

The reality of death, as an ending, can gently remind us to cherish each day and live as though each one might be our last. This is why Noelle says it is important to celebrate at every opportunity.

"Celebrate your life while you're alive. Make the most of it so that you're giving everyone the opportunity to speak to you or share your stories whilst you're still here."

"Birthdays and anniversaries need to be celebrated. Births of grandchildren need to be celebrated."

"It gives everyone the opportunity of each person speaking to and appreciating that person in their life while they're still alive."

Yes, it will happen to you – one day

It's a fact of life that everyone dies — but the planning you do now will help eliminate much of the stress for your family, and ensure everything goes according to your wishes.

"Many people think about death as if, 'Oh no, it's ever going to happen to me,'" Noelle said.

"However, if more are prepared for it, they get the chance to manage the situation much more effectively."

Noelle Mason
CIVIL CELEBRANT

Transition on your terms

*I am here to help ensure your loved one is honoured respectfully.
I will work with you to ease the burden and pay tribute in
the best way that I can.*

- Independent Funeral Celebrant, inclusive of uniquely prepared ceremonies
- Spiritual/Celtic Ceremonies

0429 555 521 e: noelle@noellemason.com.au



YOUR
Final Checklist



Any and all of these decisions are yours to make. We encourage you to choose one or two options to start with.

Your Documents

- Have you written a will? Without a will, any nearest family members will make decisions.
- Have you nominated your enduring power of attorney?
- Who will be your enduring guardian?
- Prepare a legal will online
- Locate a lawyer for the 3 documents above.
- Consider an advance care health directive.
- Have you heard of an emotional will?
- Have you registered your organ and tissue donation wishes and told your family?
- Have you recorded your passwords for all your online accounts and social media profile?

Your Family & Friends

- Have you discussed your end-of-life plans with family and friends?
- Who will receive special family items such as photos and treasured heirlooms?
- Who will become guardian of your pets?
- Would you prefer to die at home?
- Did you know that you can leave cash, property and other gifts to a charity?
- Where do you keep your important documents? If you have an executor of your will and substitute decision-makers, they should know where you keep them and have a copy.

Your Send-Off

- What type of funeral do you want? Do you want to be buried, cremated or something else entirely?
- Have you considered "Do it Yourself" funerals?
- What do you want to be written on your headstone/plaque memorial?
- Who would you like to write and perform your eulogy?
- Do you want to donate to a charity in lieu of flowers or in lieu of anything else?

Everything Else

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐




Darryl Wagstaff
FUNERALS

Care and Compassion

Arranging a funeral can be a difficult time.

At Darryl Wagstaff Funerals, we have caring and compassionate funeral directors, who understand how difficult it is when you have lost a loved one.

We will be able to assist you and your family through the options available.

- 
- **Assistance with funeral planning**
 - **Pre-arranged funerals**
 - **Pre-paid funerals**
 - **Livestream service**

*Contact us for a
professional and caring
funeral that reflects
your wishes*

wagstafffunerals.com.au

30 Derby Road, Maryborough, Vic 3465
PO Box 469, Maryborough, Vic 3465



(03) 5460-4989
darryl@wagstafffunerals.com.au