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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Anna Flanagan Appointed New President of Celebrants Aotearoa

Celebrants Aotearoa is proud to announce the appointment of Christchurch-based celebrant Anna Flanagan as its new national President.

Flanagan, an experienced and highly respected celebrant, has been an active member of Celebrants Aotearoa for five years, contributing her time, knowledge, and passion to supporting fellow celebrants and advancing the profession across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Her appointment marks an exciting new chapter for the organisation, which represents celebrants nationwide across a diverse range of ceremonies, including weddings, funerals, vow renewals, baby namings, civil unions, and other life events.

“I am honoured to take on the role of President and to continue building on the strong foundations laid by our past leadership,” says Flanagan. “Celebrants play such an important role in our communities - creating meaningful, personalised ceremonies that mark life’s most significant moments. I’m committed to ensuring our members feel valued, supported, and equipped to thrive.”

As President, Flanagan will lead the national executive, work closely with regional branches, and represent Celebrants Aotearoa in discussions with key industry partners and stakeholders. She will also champion ongoing education, diversity, and innovation within the celebrant community.

Outgoing President Rachel Clarke has warmly welcomed Flanagan into the role, noting her leadership skills, industry knowledge, and collaborative approach. “Anna brings a fresh perspective, a genuine care for our members, and a deep understanding of what it means to be a celebrant in today’s world.”

“She is dedicated to raising the profile of celebrants in New Zealand and advocating for the high standards our profession is known for. We’re excited for the future under her leadership,” Clarke says.

Clarke's legacy includes extending the excellent relationship with key stakeholders including the Registrar-General Russell Burnard at Births, Deaths and Marriages, the Funeral Directors' Association, and other relevant organisations.

Her passion for people and supporting other celebrants saw her travel the country post-COVID. She provided advice and a sounding board for celebrants so they could improve their practice and be successful.

Her eye for detail has meant that she has seen opportunities to streamline processes too.

Clarke has served on the National Executive for six years. Her first three-year term included two years as Vice-President, then subsequently three years as President.

About Celebrants Aotearoa

Celebrants Aotearoa is the only national professional association for celebrants in New Zealand. The organisation provides networking, education, resources, and advocacy to support its members in delivering high-quality, meaningful ceremonies.

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For media enquiries, please contact:

Kineta Knight Booker

Communications Manager – Celebrants Aotearoa

comms@celebrantsaotearoa.co.nz, 0274 546 382, celebrantsaotearoa.co.nz