

# The Importance Of A Memorial Ceremony

A MEMORIAL CEREMONY CAN BE THE PERFECT WAY TO FAREWELL A LOVED ONE.

during our lifetime, so many of our close friends and relatives pass on. When we think about a death, it is the memories of that person which comes back in our hearts and in our minds. And often times the most striking memory is his or her Memorial Ceremony.

In simplest terms, the Memorial Ceremony is a commemorative service of a loved one held for the family members, and friends in the honour of the deceased.

We have so many traditions in our lives. We gather to celebrate the marriage of friends or birthdays, christenings, and other significant events. Why would we allow the death of a loved one to pass without a Memorial Ceremony?

## THE COURAGE FOR THE JOURNEY

A Memorial Ceremony emphasises and acknowledges the life and the importance of a loved one. It tells us where they've been; they bind us together; they give us courage for the journey.

It is believed that every life has value and makes a contribution to the world, be it big or small. A Memorial Ceremony allows for loved ones to come and remember the deceased and to share their emotions and feeling with others who are present there.

## THE PURPOSE

A Memorial Ceremony has several purposes. Most importantly, we come together to grieve in the presence of a caring community, and for the time of the Memorial Ceremony we have permission to give ourselves to the experience of loss.

We also gather together to celebrate the life that is now gone from us, to recollect and to remember, as in "to make whole again." The Memorial Ceremony is a way of paying respect

to the person who has passed away, one who has lived perhaps not a perfect life, but like the rest of us, a life full of hope, possibility and achievement. The Memorial Ceremony will bring a sense of closure to the void that one feels at these times. The purpose is transformational. We come to the Memorial Ceremony in one state, and we leave in another.

## THE QUESTION OF MEANING

The ceremony, then, exists for the living, not for the deceased. As we think upon the life of the deceased — its beginning, its course and its ending — we are each led to think of our own lives, and to contemplate questions of mortality and meaning.

At a ceremony, those attending will experience a "time apart": there may be soft lighting, candles, incense burning, or flowers. Music is often an important part of the ceremony, because it offers a ready avenue for the feelings. The same is true of poetry.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMOUR

And stories should be told about the loved one, for that is how we remember and how we are able to continue. Often humour plays an important role because it is the flip side of grief. We laugh and we cry. We acknowledge that we are a part of the stream of life, and we assert our common humanity. We carry on.

It is said, "Death ends a life, not a relationship." We can think of no truer words.

A Memorial Ceremony is an ideal place to acknowledge the stories, memories, and moments that you shared with a friend or a loved one. It is a time to recognise that death may have taken away a person's physical presence, but they will continue to live on in our memories and stories. The physical may be gone, but the relationship remains.

A Memorial Ceremony is a time to celebrate a person and the relationship that you continue to

have. It is saying goodbye to an old relationship, and learning to say hello to a new relationship.

## IT'S TIME WE HAD A TALK

To us at TR Brownjohn Memorial Home, that is the true importance of a Memorial Ceremony, remembering a life well lived and keeping that life alive through memories, stories, and the saying of their name. For death, can only take away the physical; and life remains forever in the sharing of the stories and memories of our loved ones. Yes, we have the power to keep our loved ones alive through our memories and our voice, and, that is an awesome power, indeed.

As Thomas Brownjohn, Proprietor of TR Brownjohn Memorial Home says, "It's time we had a talk."

To set up an appointment, please call Thomas Brownjohn on 02 4782 2613.

