



Association of
Independent
Funeral
Professionals

NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Can you believe how fast the middle of the year has arrived?

The Association's new board members have hit the ground running. They are a true demonstration of what it takes to make an organisation like our run well!

We're getting our Newsletters out – you're welcome to get profiled, advertise or contribute an article! Email Jacqui Chaplin, Comms Director for more information on how to be an active part of the AIFP.

Our conference planning is going great guns and we're getting people together!

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ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT FUNERAL PROFESSIONALS

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We're looking for connections to build our membership base across the allied professional areas such as: graphic designers, videographers, florists, caterers, venues, performers, lawyers (wills and estate planning), death doulas and those who are perhaps working for the bigger players and want a connected community of funeral professionals.

So if you know someone who fits the bill or might be looking to build a niche offering in the independent funeral space please let them know about the AIFP... forward this newsletter and the [website](#)

There is room a plenty for people interested in building relationships and providing excellence in funeral care.

And if you haven't been a member of the Association to date and are planning on coming to this year's conference – get on board early... for this year only the non-member conference ticket includes your first year's AIFP membership as part of the package!

[Application forms for Funeral Directors and Allied Professionals can be found here.](#)

Please connect with us through the [AIFP Facebook](#) and our [website](#) for updates.

If you feel that the Association of Independent Funeral Professionals might be the type of professional association that you would like to be a member of, feel free to give us a call on +61 (0)419584 424 so we can discuss what you do and how we can support you.

We welcome your inquiry and encourage your contact and look forward to speaking with you soon.

President

Carly Dalton

Member Profile

Jacqui Chaplin

Jacqui Chaplin is the AIFP Communication Director. She has been in this role since the Annual General Meeting this year and was the Events Director for the last year and prior to that was the Association's Secretary for a year.

Jacqui is a dedicated funeral professional – a celebrant, exclusively, joining the funeral industry in March of 2016. Her commitment and compassion mean a commemoration of a loved one's life that will leave families and friends feeling that little bit better... on what can only be considered to be some of the most difficult days in life.

Jacqui can celebrate humanistic, secular ceremonies as comfortably as she can Catholic ceremonies outside the church environment. She is always directed by the combined wishes of the funeral director and your families. She is equally able to offer a broad range of traditional and modern or alternative ceremonies. Jacqui can assist with everything, as directed by the funeral arranger from creating order of service booklets or cards, blessings, readings, poems and music.



We all see the world differently. Jacqui honours and respects those differences in the way she approaches and supports families in creating a ceremony and commemoration that best suits their loved one and allows for others to share their experiences as part of the ongoing grieving process.

Compassionate, supportive, warm and flexible Jacqui brings a level of detailed organisation and preparedness to every funeral to ensure that families' lives are just a little bit easier during your end-of-life experiences.

Jacqui delights in leading memorial, funeral and thanksgiving services in conjunction with many Australian owned and independent, family run funeral directors, always learning about the ways they like to provide care and service to their families.

Before joining the industry, Jacqui has had an eclectic career. She has worked in the public and private sectors as well as in Not For Profits. She throws herself whole-heartedly in to the things that are important to her in life. Over the years her interests have ventured through adrenalin surging activities – bungee jumping, rock climbing, rappelling, flying loop the loop in an open cockpit biplane, through art and creativity – having had multiple art exhibitions including an exhibition at Daylesford's renown Convent Gallery through to mental health advocacy – including producing and presenting a weekly radio program called “*But I Feel Good – Talking About Pink Elephants (positive resilience strategies) and Black Dogs (depression and other mental illnesses)*”; having a book on the same topic published out of Europe and presenting regularly to corporate and community groups about Mind Health and Resilience Strategies. Never one to shy away from some of the more difficult conversations about life, the universe and everything Jacqui finds herself equally passionate about death care and death education. Being with families as they navigate their grief and find ways to celebrate a loved one's life has demonstrated our community's need to be better placed to talk about and handle death as it occurs in life... for everyone of us... later rather than sooner – hopefully.

Jacqui believes in the collaborative power of the independent funeral industry and sees so much potential for the way we can all work together to provide a wide range of services for families who are in the midst of their experiences of the death of a loved one.

Articles

Don't Go Like Your Hero Did...

In less than 500 words Jacqui Chaplin invites you to think for yourself and think about others when making end-of life choices. This article was originally published in October 2019 in her blog on www.funeralmatters.com.au

I've just read a post called [How Celebrity Funerals Influence the Traditional Funeral](#). It explores the various influences that celebrities have had on the style of a leave-taking service or on a particular element – like the choice of a wicker casket. But it was the closing piece of that post that inspired the title of this post: **Don't Go Like Your Hero Did...**

The final celebrity that the post mentions is David Bowie. You may or may not know that Bowie left specific instructions that he was to have a direct cremation. It was said that he wanted to slip away without fuss. The post finishes with a question: “What better way to show a lifelong commitment to a musical or celebrity hero of yours than to go out in the same way?”

Let it be noted that funerals, memorials, thanksgiving services or whatever you want to call a leave taking ceremony is not held for the dead – they are held for the living. When you instruct people not to have a funeral for you, you are denying them an opportunity to express their grief and loss, to be thankful for the presence you were in their life as well as to be able to pay tribute, honour or celebrate the life that you lived.

You might have heard that David Bowie's family did hold a private service and they also recognised the importance that memorial opportunities, although unofficial, would play for so many people around the globe. Similarly, I know of families who discovered, only upon the death of a family member, that instructions had been left in their will that there would be no funeral.

There may be many reasons why people think a funeral is not important or appropriate. Finances. Opportunists. Excessive shows of emotion. Thinking they are not worth the fuss or attention. Funerals can be large, theatrical, grand, public and expensive... Or they can be small, low-key, simple, private and economical or some combination.

So if you have a preference, have a conversation. Let those who will be responsible for taking care of the arrangements when you die know what you would like. Keep in mind the people who live on after your death, more often than not, benefit from the opportunity to express their feelings about your death, to share stories about their experiences of knowing you and to celebrate the presence you were in their lives.

Having the conversation can be challenging for both parties. But there is [so much potential to improve our ability to have these conversations](#). You might like to read more about the opposite side of the “no funeral for me” coin – [what happens when people plan every element of their leave-taking service](#).

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2019 AIFP Conference Key Note Speaker

This year the AIFP Conference is all about passion and purpose... how harnessing passion and purpose can reinvigorate you, your practice and provide even better services for those you connect with in your role as an independent funeral professional. So what better way to kick off the day than to think about and get motivated by [Trav Bell - The Bucket List Guy!](#)

Contribute to the AIFP Newsletter

If you would like to write an article for the Newsletter please email your ideas or article to Carly Dalton, President president@aifp.org.au for consideration. There are so many people doing such great things in death education and death care that we are sure there are many articles just waiting to be written and shared. They might be articles you publish through your work in the industry or articles that you would recommend as great reading... or it might be books or podcasts that you think are worth sharing.

Annual Fees

Annual Fees are due July 1, 2019.

A reminder that all memberships to the Association will now be individual memberships at a flat rate per person of \$150 per annum, payable each year on July 1st.

Association Treasurer, Linda Cook, will be forwarding renewal invoices during June. We look forward to your continued participation in the Association.

Events

Networking

There are so many fabulous people working directly and as allied partners in the independent funeral professional space. To that end, we'd like to invite you to save the dates for some upcoming Networking Opportunities. To start with we are focussed on working out what suits you best and what can reasonably be achieved with the people who are currently involved in making the AIFP happen. With a few more hands on deck we could be doing lots more to bring the association to life. So we're making the most of social media to advertise and collect RSVPs for our forthcoming networking opportunities. If you are on social media please use the events posted to let us know whether you will or will not be able to join us at any given event.

Wednesday May 29th 2019 6.30-8pm

The Front Bar at the Rosstown Hotel, Murrumbreena.

Please put this in your diary today and whether you want to chat over a drink or go on to have dinner with someone you've got chatting to is up to you! But we'd love to see you there and hear about what's going on in your world and what the Association – perhaps with your help – could be doing better or differently!!

The 2019 Annual AIFP Conference

Join us at Rydges on Swanston, 701 Swanston Street, Carlton, Victoria.

Make sure you've put the date in your calendar. **Saturday 10th August 2019**

8am is when Registration and the Exhibition Hall open

9am Conference Day Commences

5pm Charity Networking Pre-Dinner Drinks

7pm Dinner and Dancing

[Book Your Tickets Now!](#)

Coal Face Conversations

On our Facebook page in March we recently shared a great article about those working in the funeral industry in Ottawa Canada and what they were doing to take care of themselves. So, for those of us at the coal face of death care in Melbourne we took the opportunity to meet with empathetic ears of those who walk the same path... the Association would kicked off with an informal meeting at our Hub – The Rosstown Hotel, Carnegie.

It was a great night of conversation, shared stories and support!

Stay in Touch

Follow the AIFP on Facebook or make sure you are on our email list to receive our newsletters and upcoming news and other relevant updates. <https://www.facebook.com/AIFP.org.au/>

You can also visit our website www.aifp.org.au and sign up for the Newsletter there!