

## Transcript of the story of My Wedding Wish by Lynette Maguire, CEO

I've been a celebrant for 13 years and, it's a strange thing actually, I don't even know why I am a celebrant. Other little kids probably always dreamt of being an actress or being a singer or something, I always thought about marrying people.

My Wedding Wish actually started, had its genesis back in 2007. I was super busy; I was actually studying my undergrad at that stage so I had a couple of psych assignments to do as well. I start pumping out this psych assignment and the phone rang, and the gentleman on the other end said "Hello, you're a celebrant" "Yes I am" and he said "My son is dying and his dying wish is to marry his fiancé". I said "Of course I'd love to help, I can be there on Thursday" and he said his son was not going to live til Thursday. I got over there at about one o'clock in the afternoon and he was lying on the palliative care bed and his fiancée was lying on the bed with him and she was stroking his face and telling him how much she loved him, it was heartbreaking actually. I phoned a florist that I knew and photographer. I pulled a little mini wedding together, just a little elopement package, and I married them that afternoon at five o'clock and he died on that Thursday.

It always just percolated to me; he's not the only person whose dying wish is to get married. So, I jumped on the secret wedding suppliers' Facebook Group on the Sunshine Coast and said "Listen, I've got this idea, who wants to help - who's in"? Within maybe 10 minutes I had a \$25,000 to \$35,000 wedding organised, and so, My Wedding Wish was born.

Donna has end stage breast cancer, a friend of Donna's actually applied for her, she's actually the author of a book called Why My Mummy and she called it that because she has a young son who, when they were driving to school one day, the son said to her "Mummy, of all the mummies in the world this can happen to, how come it happened to my mummy?"

It's just grown. In 2016 we became a national charity; in 2017 we're rolling out across Australia. I foresee in the future that we will end up in other countries, so I want to be in New Zealand by 2020 and probably Europe after that.