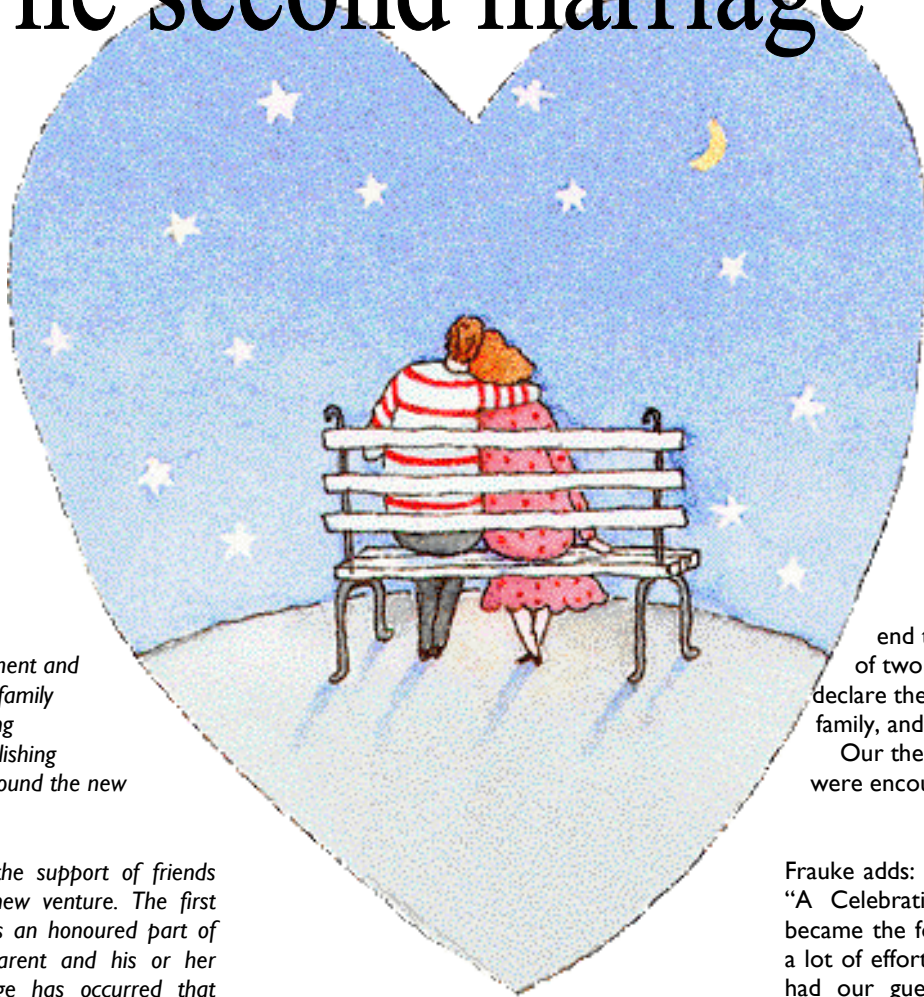


# The second marriage

## The second marriage



*'For many step families a formal acknowledgement and celebration of the new family step is a way of building togetherness and establishing personal boundaries around the new couple relationship.*

*The couple asks for the support of friends and family for their new venture. The first family system becomes an honoured part of the history of that parent and his or her children. But a change has occurred that involves letting go of that adult relationship ,while nurturing the co-parenting role. The grief and unfinished business that is often part of forming new relationships in the wake of the hurt of separations can leave the new step parents in a state of limbo, confusion and insecurity. For many the wedding becomes a line in the sand and a solid base from which trust and healing will grow. I am grateful to Frauke and Donald for sharing their experiences and inspiring us to consider different and new options in celebrating Stepfamily life..*

**Many people put off getting married a second time despite really wanting to because of the financial cost. We spoke to a couple that just did it on the cheap and still had a wonderful experience. (Don Rowlands)**

Donald Pettitt and Frauke John got married in December 2006 after a two year romance. Neither had been married before but Donald has a six year old daughter from a previous long-term relationship. They were clear that they wanted to be married.

end the event is a celebration of two people's wish to publicly declare their relationship to friends, family, and the broader community. Our theme was HIPPIY, so guests were encouraged to come in flower power clothing."

Frauke adds: "We called our wedding "A Celebration of Love" and that became the focus of the day. We put a lot of effort into our ceremony and had our guests laughing and crying with us.

It was a very beautiful event and many of our friends told us it was the most moving wedding they had been to. The fact that every single guest contributed in one way or another made it very special for us."

### Donald & Frauke Pettit

Donald described the wedding as follows:

"100 of our friends attended our wedding in a rented hall by the beach. The cost of \$4000 included the fee for the celebrant, our second hand outfits, the rings and the hire of the hall, furniture, cutlery, crockery and tablecloths as well as some back up drinks. We asked our guests to bring a plate, something to drink and flowers for decoration purposes instead of presents. One friend offered to MC the event and another friend took the photos at a very reasonable price. Frauke bartered with the DJ who also offered to video the event. We had a team of friends lined up who helped with the decorating of the hall and another team who helped with the clean up.

Neither of us wanted all the tinsel.

Just the spirit. People can often focus too much on the trappings of wedding celebrations and forget the true spirit of the event. In the

