

We understand the burial of a loved one or the process of reserving a burial plot can be an emotional time.



This information is designed to assist you when arranging a burial in one of the 20 cemeteries Waikato District Council operates across the district. Our staff are available to answer your questions and help to ensure the burial for your loved one meets your needs, and complies with Council's requirements.

All administration services for our cemeteries are managed at our offices in Ngaruawahia, Huntly, Raglan and Tuakau. All contact with the cemetery contractors is made by Council staff.

Waikato District Council cemeteries are open for visiting 24 hours a day, all year round. Each cemetery has a tap on site should you wish to wash your hands.

Further information regarding cemeteries, and copies of this brochure can be accessed on the Council website
www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz

We make every effort to treat your loved ones and family with dignity and respect during and after your bereavement so if you have any issues or concerns please feel free to discuss them with us.

Information For Families

He Paanui aawhina mo, te Whaanau

**Waikato District Council Cemeteries
Nga Urupaa o te Kaunihera o Waikato**



Waikato District Council Cemeteries

Ngaa Urupaa o te Kaunihera o Waikato



BURIALS

Graves can only be dug by Council's contractor. If you wish to be present when the grave is being dug, please make arrangements with our Customer Delivery staff.

We ask that you arrive as close to the stated burial time as possible. When making arrangements for the service, please be aware a late arrival fee will apply if your arrival is in excess of one hour of the scheduled time.

Burial hours are Monday to Friday, 10.00am-3.30pm, Saturday 10.30am-2.30pm. Muslim burials by arrangement – please phone 0800 492 452

Family members are welcome to backfill the grave following a burial. Council contractors must remain on site to oversee this process, due to health and safety regulations.

Full burial fees still apply in these circumstances.

We understand families may wish to hold an unveiling service 12 months after the burial. A permit is required from Council before installing a memorial headstone, restrictions apply. The person installing your headstone must have Waikato District Council approval.

MEMORIAL SPECIFICATIONS

Only one headstone memorial is permitted on each plot. If a statue or similar item is attached to the monument and the combination exceeds the allowed dimensions, the monument will be considered non-compliant and you will be asked to remove it.

Memorials must meet NZS 4242 Headstone and Cemetery Monuments Standard and Cemetery and Crematorium Bylaw. Further information is available in the Cemetery Headstone and Memorial specifications information sheet.

FLOWERS, WREATHS AND ADORNMENTS

To minimise maintenance costs, Council's policy is to level the grave within 28 days of the burial. Please be aware, Council does not notify family before this work occurs. This can sometimes come as a shock to visitors and we encourage you to advise family members so they are prepared.

Flowers can be placed on grave mounds for 28 days. The ground will then be levelled and grass sown in. Council will remove any flowers, wreaths and objects remaining on the mound at this time. Any objects placed after this period must be kept within the concrete berm.

ASH INTERMENTS

Ash interments must also be arranged through Council. Ashes can be interred in an ash berm or a grave plot. An ash berm is a thin concrete strip that you can fix a small plaque to and the ashes are interred in front of this strip.

We also offer rose planted octagonal berms designated for the burial of ashes. Ashes are interred outside of the octagonal area.

All planting at the cemeteries and maintenance of plots is the responsibility of Council's maintenance contractor. Family members are not permitted to plant trees, shrubs or flowers in any of the cemeteries.

The ongoing maintenance, upkeep and repair of the memorial or headstone is the responsibility of a relative or designated representative.

EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL

This is the purchase of exclusive right of burial in a particular plot; it does not give the 'plot owner' ownership of the land.

A record of the plot purchase is recorded on a certificate for exclusive right of burial. You can purchase an exclusive right of burial for a plot close to that used for the burial of a recently deceased.

You can pre-purchase an adjacent plot to accommodate a future burial. All plots are designed to accommodate two caskets.

An owner of a plot may, with the consent of an authorised officer from Waikato District Council, transfer ownership rights to another family member however an administration fee may apply. Council cannot refund the cost of purchasing additional plots if they are no longer required.

PURCHASING A CEMETERY PLOT AND ORGANISING A BURIAL

This can be arranged by your funeral director. If you prefer not to go through a funeral director you can discuss the matter with a Waikato District Council representative.

Council staff can assist in locating graves in Council-owned cemeteries, or indicate the location of a pre-purchased plot. Maps are used to accurately identify the location of all plots. Additional fees may apply for this service.