

# Interments & graveside services

Lychgate Funerals supporting families

## Times for Interment Services

Most Wellington cemeteries are staffed Monday to Friday, between the hours of 8am and 4pm, though standard hours for interment vary. If necessary, your funeral director can make special arrangements for services to be held on weekends, during public holidays or outside of these hours, but additional cemetery charges will be incurred due to after-hours service fees.

## Graveside or Interment Services

An interment service is usually held at the burial plot itself. Some interment services are conducted immediately after the funeral service, for the purpose of the final committal and interment. Alternatively, the family may decide to combine both the funeral service and interment at the graveside. Sometimes family make provision for a memorial service to be held at the funeral home or another venue, following the interment.

## Attendance

Invitations to attend an interment service can be extended to the wider public (usually through newspaper notices) or you may elect to make it a private service, limited to the immediate family and invited close friends.

## Memorial and Unveiling Services

When a funeral service has taken place in another region, families may decide to hold an additional chapel or graveside memorial service in Wellington. Sometimes families wish to mark the unveiling of a memorial or the anniversary of a death with a second special service. Again, these can be private family occasions or they may be open for all friends and family to attend. The involvement of a minister or celebrant to lead the service is also an option.

Our funeral directors will do all they can to guide you through this important time and to ensure that all of your family's needs are catered for.



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## Interment

'Interment' refers to laying a deceased person's remains in their final resting place. There is no 'rule' prescribing how an interment should best be done; instead, each family may select a way that meets their needs and allows for their beliefs and individuality to be expressed.

## Celebrants

Many families choose to mark the interment of a loved one with a service, led by either a secular celebrant or a minister of religion. In contrast, some families may prefer a small gathering of immediate family and close friends without the participation of a celebrant or minister.

## Family Involvement

The extent of a family's involvement in an interment service is entirely up to them. Should they prefer, families can request the funeral director to inter their loved one's remains without family members present. For some, returning at a later date to the burial plot for a time of remembrance may be more appropriate to their needs.

Interment Service Having ascertained what you require, our funeral directors will do all they can to ensure that your needs are catered for. They can arrange burial plot purchases, chapel and interment bookings and help you find a suitable celebrant. Our funeral directors will attend the interment, meet family members and guide them to the correct burial plot.

## Wellington Cemeteries

The cemeteries of Greater Wellington vary significantly, as do the range of memorials, plots, and service options they provide.

Most cemeteries have restrictions on types or sizes of monuments and the placing of flowers or other memorabilia on graves. Your funeral director will be able to help you select the cemetery and options most appropriate for your needs. The most frequently used cemeteries are:

**Karori Cemetery** - 76 Old Karori Road, Karori, Wellington. *The only plots available for new interments are cremation ashes plots, children's monumental plots and pre-purchased family plots.*

**Makara Cemetery** - Makara Road, Makara/Karori, Wellington. *Makara Cemetery is Wellington's principal cemetery and includes a wide range of different sections and plots.*

**Akatarawa Cemetery** - Akatarawa Road, Akatarawa Valley, Upper Hutt. *As Upper Hutt's principal cemetery, Akatarawa Cemetery includes a wide range of different sections and plots. Upon payment of an Out of District fee, those living outside Upper Hutt City may also be buried at Akatarawa Cemetery. Porirua Cemetery - Kenepuru Drive, Porirua City. Porirua Cemetery is open only for second interments and pre-purchased family plots.*

**Whenua Tapu Cemetery** - Airlie Road, Pukerua Bay, Porirua. *Serving Porirua City, Whenua Tapu Cemetery also offers a broad selection of sections and plots. Having paid an Out of District fee, those from outside Porirua can also arrange interments here.*

**Taita Lawn Cemetery** - Rimu Street, Naenae, Lower Hutt. *Taita Lawn Cemetery is the principal cemetery for those within the Lower Hutt City boundaries. There is a wide variety of plots and sections available for purchase and, for an additional fee, 'Out of District' interments can also be arranged.*

## Choosing a burial plot

When selecting a suitable burial plot, one should be aware of the range of options available in most cemeteries. There is usually provision made for the purchase of either single or double depth plots, the latter of which allow for second interments at a later date. In addition to areas with plots available for the general public, some cemeteries allocate sections for those of specific religious or ethnic groups. It is also common for there to be areas that are designated for either headstone or plaque memorials. Cemeteries charge fees for the plot, the interment service, the concrete berm that the headstone is erected on, and for maintenance in perpetuity.

## Additional Plot Purchases

A few cemeteries permit arrangements to be made for family to be placed together in adjoining plots, following the interment of the first family member but this is the exception, rather than the rule.

## Infant Plots and Burials

Most cemeteries provide sections specifically for infants and children.

## Out of District Fees

If the deceased has not been a resident living within the local rate-paying boundaries, out-of-district fees are charged for plot purchases in all cemeteries in the greater-Wellington area.

## Memorials and Plaques

There are many options to consider when selecting a memorial and your funeral director will be able to help you navigate this process. All of Wellington's cemeteries allow for the installation of headstones and plaques, but there are usually restrictions regarding the size, location, design and maintenance of memorials. These restrictions need to be taken into consideration before purchasing a burial plot.

## Returned Service Personnel Sections

All New Zealand War Veterans are entitled to a free burial plot and a subsidised memorial plaque in the Veterans' Sections of Wellington's cemeteries, however, there is a charge for the interment. This entitlement is also extended to some military-related service personnel.

