

Cemeteries

The Waimakariri District Council looks after six cemeteries where full burial and ash interments are available.

Purchasing a final resting place

Burial plots can be reserved on payment of a plot purchase fee. This can be paid at the Council Service Centre that administers the cemetery you are interested in. A deed or certificate of purchase will be issued once this is done. Keep it in a safe place and let your family and solicitor know of the purchase.

The Council will buy back reserved plots that are no longer required for half of the current purchase fee. Double depth burials are available in Oxford and in the RSA section at Rangiora and Kaiapoi.

Shingle at Rangiora, fine silt at Kaiapoi and rocky, stony ground at Birch Hill make it difficult to open graves a second time, so only single depth plots may be purchased in the public section of these cemeteries.

Burial plots can also be purchased through a funeral director. All interments in Waimakariri District Council cemeteries are for perpetuity.

No burial or ashes interments may take place in Council cemeteries without a warrant to inter being issued by the Council.

Burials

All graves, including those intended for ashes, must be prepared by the Council's contractor. This ensures burials occur in the appropriate place and are accurately recorded.

Burials may take place on weekdays before 3.30pm and before 12 noon on Saturdays. In summer (daylight saving), weekday burial times can be extended to 4pm.

Graves are topped up after burials and the ground left to settle.



Slumping can occur in wet weather and it can be difficult in the winter to carry out maintenance in grassy areas without causing more damage to the soft ground.

Headstone and other memorials

You may choose the headstone or memorial you feel provides a fitting tribute to your loved one. It will need to meet the Council's criteria. ONE marker may be erected on each plot.

The family will generally make arrangements for a headstone through a monumental mason who will liaise with the Council to confirm plot location and seek the necessary permits.

Graves measure 4 feet across (approx 122cm). The size and nature of plots for ashes varies. Our Customer Service staff can provide more details.

The Council has determined a maximum size for memorials. This information is also available from Customer Services.

Remember to keep cemetery deeds in a safe place and let your family know of the purchase.

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Remember to leave a space for flowers. You may place a wooden cross or temporary marker on the grave while a permanent memorial is being crafted. Speak with your Funeral Director about this.

All markers must be placed on the grave, not in lawn areas, where they may be disturbed by the mower. The Council will remove any temporary markers that remain once the headstone is in place.

Tributes

You are welcome to leave cut flowers at the graveside, though you should be conscious the wind may disturb large arrangements.

Objects of value are left at the cemetery at your own risk.

We ask that you do not leave glass jars, bottles, and other delicate objects. They can be accidentally broken in the wind or deliberately damaged by vandals who also tend to target solar-powered lights left at the cemetery.

Tributes should be kept clear of the grassed areas and out of the path of the mowers. The Council's contractor will remove any live plantings, such as roses or shrubs from the lawn area.

Recording

Cemetery records are available to view on the Council's website.

Please contact Customer Services staff for assistance or to make corrections to historic records. You need to contact the appropriate parish to obtain records of burials at Church cemeteries in the district.

Cemetery locations

Rangiora Lawn Cemetery

Cnr East Belt and Coldstream Road

Kaiapoi Public Cemetery

Adderley Terrace, Kaiapoi

Kaiapoi Anglican Cemetery*

Cnr Parnham Lane and Vickery Street

Oxford Public Cemetery

Main Road (eastern entrance to town)

Cust Mairaki Cemetery

398 Earlys Road, Cust

Birch Hill Cemetery

130 Garry River Road, Glentui

Administered by:

Rangiora Service Centre

Ruataniwha Kaiapoi
Civic Centre

Oxford Service Centre
and Library

**The Kaiapoi Anglican Cemetery is now only open for ashes burials and second interments in reserved plots.*

Find out more at waimakariri.govt.nz, or contact Customer Services on 0800 965 468.