

## Conditions of Natural Burial

Natural burials have specific requirements and interment arrangements can only be made through a [Certified Funeral Directors – Natural Burials](#)

The following Conditions of Natural Burial will apply to any interment that occurs within the natural burial site of Ōtaki Cemetery.

### **Conditions for Natural Burials**

1. The Council Sexton must be contacted at least eight working hours prior to any burial taking place. This is a normal requirement for all burials and takes into account other funerals happening in the cemetery.
2. A cemetery plan for natural burial plot locations will be available from the Kapiti Coast District Council Sexton.
3. Medical Certificate
  - This document will be provided by the Funeral Director or person responsible for conducting the funeral.
4. Cemetery Fees/ Payment
  - Fees for natural burials can be obtained either from the Council Sexton or a Funeral Director
  - All of Council's costs are invoiced by the Council
5. Conditions of Burial/Plot Sales
  - Sustainably grown timber caskets are preferred.
  - Caskets made of customwood glued together with non toxic PVA glue are acceptable.
  - Handles can be made of natural materials or natural rope.
  - Casket lining must be of biodegradable material e.g. Cotton.
6. Materials that cannot be used are as follows:
  - Any types of plastics or metal fittings (exclusive of nails or screws).
  - Treated timber varnish, toxic glues or plastic sheeting inside the casket.
  - Non biodegradable material inside or outside the casket.
7. Acceptable Shrouds
  - Woollen shrouds with a solid base are acceptable. The solid base which assists in lowering into the ground can be of natural timber and contained within the shroud.
  - Contents of shrouds must be fastened to a solid base to prevent movement to one side.
  - Shroud preparation and burial procedures involving shrouds must comply with Council Bylaw requirements.
8. Unacceptable Casket/ Coffin/ Shroud
  - Cardboard caskets
  - Caskets with varnish, plastic fittings etc.
  - Caskets leaking fluids.
  - Caskets having an obnoxious smell

9. Acceptable Clothing and Casket Items
  - The deceased should be dressed in natural fibre clothing, with no undue additional synthetic substances.
10. Chemicals
  - Natural burials are “natural” and therefore, chemicals and embalming fluids etc. are not permitted.
11. Communicable Diseases
  - If the deceased died from or with a communicable disease then they must be transferred to the gravesite and buried in a leak proof eco-casket.
12. Natural Burial Location Authorisation
  - Natural Burials can only take place in Council approved cemeteries and in pre-determined natural burial lots allocated within the cemetery.
  - All burial plots will be allocated by the Council and will be in sequence.
  - Plots will be recorded using GIS technology.
  - Plots cannot be reserved.
  - Secondary interment is not permitted.
  - Due to health and safety regulations, the digging of the graves will only be undertaken by Council staff.
  - Bodies are buried 1m below the surface to the top of the coffin or shroud.
  - The sides of a grave must be shored with timber when a body is buried in a shroud.
  - Families are able to help close the grave.
13. Families will be made aware of memorial restrictions
  - A native tree is planted in lieu of a headstone. A list of tree or shrub options will be provided by the Council.
  - The cost and maintenance of any shrub or tree is included in the plot purchase price.
  - No memorials or additional plantings are permitted on burial plots.
  - Council will replace dead or damaged memorial trees at the families request and for an additional charge.

## Agreement for Natural Burial

The following form part of the agreement:

1. The Conditions of Natural Burial as outlined above and forming a part of this Natural Burial document;
2. Kapiti Coast District Council Natural Burial Policy 2008;
3. Kapiti Coast District Council Cemeteries Bylaw 2010;
4. Burial and Cremations Act 1964;
5. Resource Management Act 1991 and District Plan provisions; and
6. Health (Burial) Regulation 1946 and Cremations Regulations 1973.

## Approved Plant List

Lemonwood *Pittosporum eugenioides*

Ngaio *Myoporum laetum*

Mahoe *Melicytus ramiflorus*

Five Finger *Pseudopanax arboreus*

Kanuka *Kunzea ericoides*

Red Matipo *Myrsine australis*

Karamu *Coprosma robusta*

This plant list will be subject to change from time to time. The plants available on the current list are initial sub-canopy plants.

Please contact cemeteries team to arrange a time at the point of planting to help plant the selected plant for this particular grave (normally June/July each year as this is the best time for planting).

## Authorisation

I authorise this Funeral Director to accept terms and conditions on my behalf.

Exclusive Right Holder/ Next of kin:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Director:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_