

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: _____