



METROPOLITAN
CEMETERIES BOARD



FLOWER & ORNAMENT POLICY

Keeping our cemeteries safe & tidy



KEEPING OUR CEMETERIES SAFE AND TIDY IS A BIG TASK AND ONE THAT WE CAN'T DO WITHOUT YOUR ASSISTANCE.

The Metropolitan Cemeteries Board's (MCB) *Flower and Ornament policy* was first introduced in 1986 and following a significant community consultation exercise, was revised in 2011.

The consultation process involved input from those who had recently experienced the loss of a loved one, community groups and, more broadly, people living within metropolitan Perth.

The policy provides the guidelines for the placement of flowers and tributes within the grounds. Whilst it is appreciated that due to the diverse nature of families in Western Australia, it is very difficult to create a policy that meets every single need or desire, the goal has been to provide fair guidelines that apply uniformly to everyone.



The policy is designed to ensure that all families can visit the cemeteries and reflect in an environment that is safe and tidy. It aims to provide guidelines that give families the ability to grieve in a way that they see fit but also enables the MCB to meet its caretaker role in the management of the cemetery grounds.

As a general rule, the MCB welcomes the limited placement of fresh or artificial tributes at burial and memorial sites.

We do not allow for the placement of glass or ceramic vases or receptacles, ornaments, flags, photo frames, candles, toys or wind chimes in standard burial or memorial areas. These items can be a safety hazard for visitors and staff alike.

Tributes should be placed within the receptacles (i.e. vases) that are provided at all sites or, where appropriate, within the vases built into traditional burial plot monumental work.



Receptacles are available at collection points throughout the grounds at Pinnaroo, Karrakatta and Fremantle. A supply of receptacles is available near the entries at Midland, Guildford and Rockingham.

There are specific guidelines that apply to each cemetery. Please refer to the site specific information to ascertain the exact guidelines that apply to the cemetery or memorial park that you regularly visit.

We ask that you take the time to review this document in its entirety and thank you in advance for considering the policy when next visiting.

FRESH OR DRIED FLOWERS ARE PREFERRED

We welcome all floral tributes but respectfully request that visitors consider the placement of fresh or dried floral tributes within the cemeteries. A fresh tribute doesn't need to be an expensive formal floral arrangement; it can be something as simple as a flower taken from the home garden.

Increasing in recent years, the volume of artificial tributes brought to the cemeteries by families has seen an increase in the quantity of material that needs to eventually be disposed of.

Artificial tributes are generally not able to be recycled and, as such, present an environmental issue. Fresh tributes will, over time, biodegrade.

Whilst we ask that you consider fresh tributes, we advise that the picking of flowers and plants throughout the grounds is prohibited.



PLEASE DON'T LITTER

There are bins located throughout all of the cemeteries.

When visiting we ask your assistance in removing withered or weathered tributes and placing them within the rubbish bins.

Please remove wrapping and rubber bands from floral arrangements before they are left as a tribute.

Wrapping left on floral arrangements is a significant litter issue and, at sites with waterways as landscaping features, can block pumps. Wrappings and rubber bands may also affect the wildlife that inhabit some of the cemeteries.



TRIBUTE FREE AREAS

Whilst the majority of families are comfortable with the placement of fresh or artificial tributes, there are a number of people to whom the natural environment, in its entirety, is a preferred tribute to a loved one departed.

So as to meet the needs of all groups, tribute free areas have been reserved within Fremantle, Rockingham and Pinnaroo. The Rockingham and Fremantle areas are in the form of natural burial grounds whilst Pinnaroo offers a tribute free area for cremation memorials.

Tribute free areas are clearly signposted and, in line with the wishes of those who have chosen burial or memorial positions within these areas, the placement of tributes is not permitted.

RESPECT YOUR NEIGHBOUR

To ensure that items do not encroach on the memorial or burial locations of neighbouring families, the different cemeteries and memorial parks have a defined limit on the number of tribute receptacles (i.e. vases) that can be placed at each burial or memorial site.

The limit on receptacles is designed to allow families to express their grief but also ensures that other families do not feel marginalised or impinged upon by the placement of excessive items upon neighbouring locations.

The placement of an excessive number of tributes has, on countless occasions, caused considerable distress to other families within the same burial or memorial area. Tributes that encroach on neighbouring burial or memorial positions will be removed.



REMOVAL OF TRIBUTES

Whilst the policy guidelines vary for each cemetery, MCB staff are required, as part of their regular duties, to remove tributes so as to perform routine maintenance and to ensure the grounds are maintained to a standard that enables the entire community to visit cemeteries which are safe and tidy.

Although a highly emotive task and one that MCB staff gain no satisfaction from performing, the practical reality is that all tributes will wither and weather. All tributes will, at some point, need to be removed. It is an unfortunate task but one that needs to be performed.

Items removed by MCB staff may be retrieved from the collection bays at each site.

The MCB reserves the right to dispose of items four weeks after being removed.



CONTACT US

We have tried to make the policy as fair as possible whilst ensuring it meets the needs of our diverse community.

If you need to contact us to discuss the policy or to request clarification on any of the guidelines, please contact Client Services at the appropriate cemetery via telephone 1300 793 109. Alternatively, email enquiries can be sent to: mcb@mcb.wa.gov.au with 'Flower Policy Enquiry' within the subject line. Postal enquiries can be directed to:

Metropolitan Cemeteries Board,
PO Box 53 Claremont WA 6910.



INDIVIDUAL CEMETERY GUIDELINES:

Please refer to the following guidelines for the *specific ornamentation guidelines* for each cemetery site.

MAUSOLEUMS – KARRAKATTA, MIDLAND, GUILDFORD & FREMANTLE



GENERAL

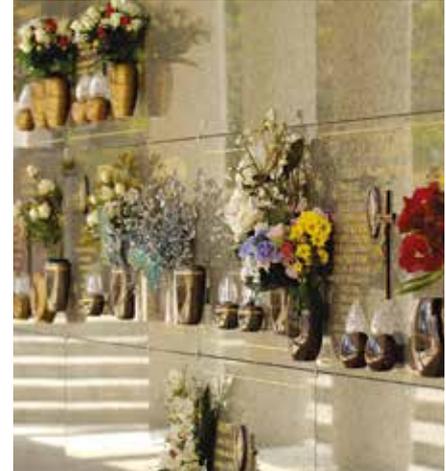
Vases, receptacles or figurines are not permitted on the ground in the mausoleums and will be removed without notice.

One small picture of the deceased and one artificial flower can be affixed to the crypt shutter prior to the inscription being finalised. Once the crypt facing is completed, these items are no longer permissible.

Care should be taken when using adhesive tape or re-usable adhesives (e.g. blu-tack) as these may mark the granite if excessive quantities are used or left on the crypt shutter for extended periods. Families using these adhesives need to do so with the knowledge that it may permanently mark the granite.

Artificial flowers may be placed in the vase on the granite facing of the crypt.

Fresh flowers are permitted in your crypt vase at the time of the funeral. These will be removed after five days or when withered.



Fresh flowers are permitted in all mausoleum areas at the time of the funeral, Christmas, Easter, All Souls Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day or the deceased's birthday or anniversary. These will be removed by Board staff after five days or when withered.

For hygiene and safety reasons, fresh flowers are not permitted in the vases at any other times.

KARRAKATTA

BURIAL AREAS

Floral tributes or any other ornaments are not permitted on the ground in lawn sections or outside the perimeter of kerbed graves. Floral tributes from funerals held the preceding week are the exception.

In burial areas, offering boxes may only be placed on top of monuments and may not encroach onto pathways as this creates a tripping hazard. Those families wishing to utilise an offering box are encouraged to have it built into the monumental work.

Families are not permitted to install paving or extend footpaths around the perimeter of graves as these may create a tripping hazard for visitors.



MEMORIAL AREAS

So as to not encroach on neighbouring memorials, a maximum of two receptacles can be placed at memorial sites.

A maximum of four receptacles may be placed under memorial seats and trees.

Niche walls, with their flat surface, are unable to facilitate the placement of tributes.

MCB staff remove withered and weathered tributes on a regular basis.

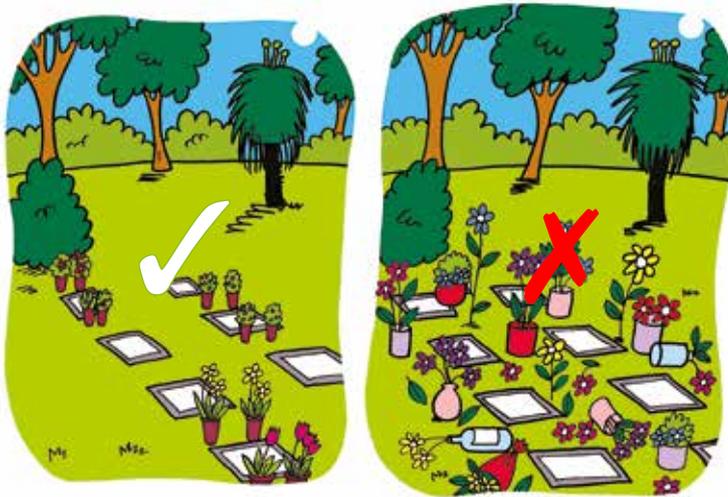


PINNAROO

BURIAL AREAS

A maximum of four receptacles per burial site is permitted. These receptacles should be in the form of the plastic tubes that are provided by the MCB.

Whilst receptacles can be arranged around the plaque/s commemorating the burials in any order desired, they should not be located any further than 12 cms from the actual burial plaque/s. This ensures that neighbouring areas are not encroached upon.



MOWING OF BURIAL AREAS

The nature of the flat lying plaques at Pinnaroo means that all tributes need to be removed so as to enable mowing and surface maintenance.

The mowing and maintenance schedule at Pinnaroo operates on a seasonal basis, however the MCB reserves the right to adjust schedules for operational reasons should the need arise.

Autumn – Winter (March-August) – burial areas are mowed monthly

Spring – Summer (September – February) – burial areas are mowed fortnightly

All tributes need to be removed so as to facilitate mowing. Tributes will be placed upon the collection logs located within the burial courts. Tributes will be cleared according to the seasonal mowing schedule. Clearing will take place on the last day of the working week – normally a Friday. A schedule of clearance dates is updated annually and is available from our Pinnaroo offices or can be downloaded from the Pinnaroo section of our website (www.mcb.wa.gov.au)

PINNAROO

MEMORIAL AREAS – TRADITIONAL

So as to not encroach on neighbouring memorials, a maximum of two receptacles can be placed at memorial sites.

A maximum of four receptacles may be placed under memorial seats and trees. Due to the bush land nature of Pinnaroo, families are not permitted to propagate their own plants.

Niche walls, with their flat surface, are unable to facilitate the placement of tributes.

MCB staff remove withered and weathered tributes on a regular basis.



ZAMIA COURT FAMILY BURIAL & MEMORIAL AREA

The family area at Pinnaroo has been specifically designed to allow for the placement of a wider range of flowers and tributes. This area has its own policy provisions.

Flowers and tributes in the form of toys, windmills, figurines etc are permitted within the defined area around the burial plaques and can be placed at the rear or, where possible, in front of memorial plaques.

Tributes must not exceed 300mm in height.

MAGPIE LOOP NATURAL MEMORIAL AREA

Maggie Loop provides a choice for families wishing to have a memorial in a tribute free area. Fresh floral tributes are permitted at the time of ashes placement only. Tributes left at any other time will be removed.

Those opting to establish a memorial within this natural area have done so with the intent that the natural environment, in its entirety, is a tribute to those departed.



FREMANTLE

TRADITIONAL BURIAL AREAS

Floral tributes or any other ornaments are not permitted on the ground in lawn sections or outside the perimeter of graves. Floral tributes from funerals held the preceding week are the exception.

In burial areas, offerings boxes may only be placed on top of monuments and may not encroach onto pathways as this creates a tripping hazard. Those families wishing to utilise an offering box are encouraged to have it built into the monumental work.

Families are not permitted to install paving or extend footpaths around the perimeter of graves as these may create a tripping hazard or visitors.



NATURAL BURIAL & MEMORIAL AREA

Fresh floral tributes are permitted at the time of interment or ashes placement only. Tributes left at any other time will be removed.

Those opting to establish a burial or memorial within these natural areas have done so with the intent that the natural environment, in its entirety, is a tribute to those departed.

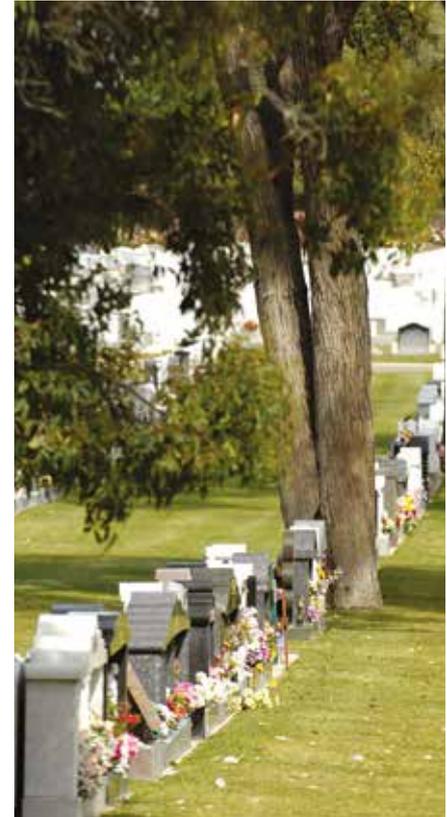
MEMORIAL AREAS

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ROCKINGHAM REGIONAL MEMORIAL PARK

TRADITIONAL BURIAL AREAS

Floral tributes or any other ornament are not permitted on the ground in lawn sections or outside the perimeter of kerbed graves. Floral tributes from funerals held the preceding week are the exception.

In monumental burial areas, offering boxes may only be placed on top of monuments and may not encroach onto pathways as this creates a tripping hazard. Those families wishing to utilise an offering box are encouraged to have it built into the monumental work.

Families are not permitted to install paving or extend footpaths around the perimeter of graves as these may create a tripping hazard or visitors.

NATURAL BURIAL & MEMORIAL AREA

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Those opting to establish a burial or memorial within these natural areas have done so with the intent that the natural environment, in its entirety, is a tribute to those departed.



MEMORIAL AREAS

So as to not encroach on neighbouring memorials, a maximum of two receptacles can be placed at memorial sites.

A maximum of four receptacles may be placed under memorial seats and trees. As the gardens at Rockingham comprise an assortment of Australian native species, visitors are asked to not plant traditional annual style plants under memorial seats.

Niche walls, with their flat surface, are unable to facilitate the placement of tributes.

MCB staff remove withered and weathered tributes on a regular basis.



MIDLAND & GUILDFORD CEMETERIES

BURIAL AREAS

Floral tributes or any other ornament are not permitted on the ground in lawn sections or outside the perimeter of kerbed graves. Floral tributes from funerals held the preceding week are the exception.

In monumental burial areas, offering boxes may only be placed on top of monuments and may not encroach onto pathways as this creates a tripping hazard. Those families wishing to utilise an offering box are encouraged to have it built into the monumental work.

Families are not permitted to install paving or extend footpaths around the perimeter of graves as these may create a tripping hazard or visitors.



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