

Donna Buang Section - Bushland Ashes

Frequently asked questions



How does the Bushland Ashes section differ from traditional Ashes Interments?

Bushland ashes plots are located in a secluded bushland setting and are larger than normal ashes interment plots.

What are the benefits of a bushland ashes plot?

Bushland ashes plots provide a dignified alternative to conventional lawns or rose garden style plots because they enhance the environment and provide a lasting legacy for your loved one. Bushland ashes plots reduce the environmental impact of the disposal of human remains. They also assist in the protection and re-establishment of locally indigenous flora and native ecosystems and provide protection for these ecosystems in perpetuity.

How many ashes interments can take place in each bushland ashes plot?

In order to allow the natural revegetation of the ashes plot and to preserve this into perpetuity, only one interment shall be permitted in each plot.

Do I need to use an ashes urn?

No. This cemetery follows the principles of internationally recognised 'green-burial' or 'natural earth' burial. You are not obliged to use an ashes urn, seen as wasteful to some. You may choose to have your ashes spread within the bushland ashes area.

If you choose to use an ashes urn, it would be preferable that it be made from natural organic materials such as plantation timber or woven wicker or recycled cardboard.

Why are normal ashes urns discouraged in the bushland ashes section?

Normal ashes urns are commonly made from chipboard (MDF) which is comprised of unknown timber and other synthetic organic compounds such as glues. These glues contain formaldehyde and other toxic volatile and environmentally persistent organic compounds. When the urn breaks down these compounds are released into the immediate environment. Some travel away with the natural water flow or seep to the soil surface and are released as gas. Other environmentally persistent organic compounds bind to the surrounding soils and remain toxic for decades.

Can I place floral tributes on the site of the ashes plot?

Yes, natural floral tributes can be placed on the plot provided that they contain no binding or wrapping which is not fully biodegradable. Flowers containing support wires, cables or supports or hydration bases or vases will be removed. Artificial flowers are not permitted and may be removed by the Trust.

Donna Buang Section - Bushland Ashes

Frequently asked questions



How will the plot be marked for future reference?

The installation of a memorial in the bushland ashes section is optional. You may choose to have a bronze plaque of a type approved by the trust fixed to a common timber structure located at the entrance to the Bushland Ashes section. If you choose to, you can have a bronze plaque of a type approved by the trust, fixed to a concrete block located on the site of the plot.

We take very accurate survey details of the grave boundary and the direction the grave faces. This will be recorded on a cemetery map. A copy of this map showing the location of the grave can be provided on request.

Why bushland ashes plots rather than conventional lawn or rose garden plots?

Cremation is a convenient method for conducting a funeral, but it is costly in respect of natural resources and the impact upon the environment. Cremation discharges large amounts of CO₂ and other toxic substances such as dioxins and heavy metals like mercury. Studies conducted by consultants engaged by the Centennial Park Authority (SA) also confirmed that cremation contributes an average of 160kg CO₂ to the atmosphere for each cremation. This study also revealed that in the life span of a conventional cemetery, burial in such was an even greater contributor of CO₂ due to repetitive maintenance.

You can help to limit or reduce the environmental impact of cremation by protecting the natural vegetation at the bushland ashes site in perpetuity.

Can I plant a tree upon the grave of my loved one?

No. We understand the desire of people to see life blossom from death and the desire to have a living monument of their life, however this is not healthy for the cemetery ecosystem. If each plot had a monument tree then the open forest vegetation pattern would alter drastically and result in the suppression of natural undergrowth grasses and adjoining monument trees. It is a part of the vegetation management plan for this site to ensure that the mature gum trees are not interfered with in any way. They form an integral part of the cemetery ecosystem, by supporting fauna such as possums and native birds.

What maintenance will be allowed?

The Trust will enhance the existing bushland setting by planting Indigenous vegetation near or on used plots from time to time, in accordance with the Trust's Vegetation Management Plan. No other planting will be permitted. The area will be maintained by the Trust in accordance with the Vegetation Management Plan. No other vegetation management will be permitted.

How do I arrange for interment in the bushland ashes section of the cemetery?

If you wish to purchase an ashes plot in preparation for your own or a loved one's burial, just call our office on 03 59672572 during normal work hours or 0408 310 179 outside office hours.