

Cemetery- Frequently Asked Questions

DISCLAIMER

Important information concerning the interpretations of legislation and other policies is contained in this page. It is recommended that the Disclaimer be read in conjunction with the information provided.

The cemeteries in Tasmania are subject to the State legislation: Burial and Cremation Act 2002. This Act makes provision for the establishment and management of crematoria and cemeteries, to provide for, and regulate, the handling and storage of human remains, to amend certain Acts and to repeal the Cremation Act 1934. In addition, each council is enabled under the Local Government Act 1993 to make a by-law with respect to cemeteries. A cemeteries by-law enables a council to regulate and control the management of cemeteries on land owned by, or under the control of, the council.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Immediate use of cemeteries:

1. Where are the cemeteries located in this municipal area?
2. What are their operating hours?
3. How do I buy a cemetery plot?
4. How do I obtain a permit for burial?
5. Where can I place ashes?
6. What is an exhumation?
7. How do I obtain a permit for exhumation?
8. Are you requiring help after someone has died?
9. Is there assistance available when a patient has been taken off the island for medical treatment and dies at a treatment facility which is not on Flinders Island?

Research and other uses:

10. How do I find out where someone is buried?
11. Who do I contact for records of burials for genealogical and historical purposes?

1. Where are the cemeteries located in this municipal area?

Flinders Council maintains cemeteries at Whitemark, Lady Barron, Settlement Point.

2. What are their operating hours?

Cemeteries in the Flinders municipal area do not have strict operating hours.

3. How do I buy a cemetery plot?

On Flinders Island cemetery plots may be purchased in advance or reserved by contacting the Funeral Director at the council office on (03) 6359 5001. It is possible for up to two interments to be made in a single plot (dependent upon depth of initial interment), which effectively accommodates the need for reservations that can eventually be used by other members of the family of the person first interred.

4. How do I obtain a permit for burial?

Permits are obtained through funeral directors.

5. Where can I place ashes?

If cremation is chosen over burial, there are choices in where the ashes are then placed. Popular options are:

- scattering in a garden or some other preferred spot
- preservation in a decorative urn and kept at home
- taken to a cemetery for burial in a small plot or placement in a columbarium.

Ashes are not classified as "human remains" in the Burial and Cremation Act 2002. Therefore there are no stated restrictions with regard to their disposal. However, as with burials, should you wish to inter ashes in a cemetery, please contact Flinders Council.

6. What is an exhumation?

Exhumation is the act of digging up a body for the purpose of reburial or for medical investigation. If for the purpose of a medical investigation, the Chief Magistrate will order an exhumation under the Coroners Act 1995.

7. How do I obtain a permit for exhumation?

If you wish to exhume the body of a relative for cremation or reburial in another location you will need authorisation from the Director of Public Health.

8. Are you needing help after someone has died?

Whether a death is anticipated or unexpected, it forces us to deal with complex emotions and decisions during a difficult time. If you need help in this area Centrelink has a helpful online publication entitled 'Are you needing help after someone has died?' which may be of assistance. The Australian Funeral Directors Association also has information which can provide support at this time.

9. Is there assistance available when a patient has been taken off the island for medical treatment and dies at a treatment facility which is not on Flinders Island?

Under the Department of Health and Human Services Patient Travel Assistance Scheme Policy and Guidelines 2008 section 9 'Assistance available when a patient from the Furneaux Group of Islands dies at a treatment facility off the Islands', PTAS will meet the costs of repatriation of the body to a maximum of \$1500.00. In all instances itemised accounts must be submitted and the level of reimbursement will be calculated on the most economically appropriate options. If the patient was traveling with an escort, the escort can continue to claim the accommodation allowance for the minimum time required to make the necessary funeral arrangements, and also claim travel allowance for the return journey.

10. How do I find out where someone is buried?

Contact can be made with the relevant Cemetery Officer on (03) 6359 5001.

11. Who do I contact for records of burials for genealogical and historical purposes?

The State Library of Tasmania has microfiche copies of the Tombstone and Memorial Inscriptions of Tasmania (TAMIOT), an index containing over 110,000 entries from 788 locations within Tasmania. To find out which branches house the index see the library's web site. The Tasmanian Family History Society also maintains various cemetery records, including TAMIOT, as well as having many other publications to assist with historical research.
