

Memorialisation is a permanent symbol and recognition of the life of a loved one. Memorialisation is ideally located in an environment that affords tranquillity, security, beauty and privacy. Cemeteries and Crematoriums as well as Churches and other community sites provide an accessible and convenient location for present and future generations to visit, reflect and learn.

It can be a disservice to the community, families and future generations if cremated remains are left at a funeral home, in storage at the cemetery or scattered in remote or public places without a memorial. Memories fade over time and it is easy to lose track or forget where a loved one's remains are. Memorials kept at home by immediate family members may also be a problem as they are not accessible to wider group of family and friends and in time might be lost forever.

Permanent memorials, in a public place where anyone can visit at any time without imposition to others and without interruptions to themselves are the best option for all. Cemeteries offer a park-like setting for a wide variety of memorialisation options. Memorials are respectfully maintained along with the gardens and lawns thus providing a fitting setting where the lives of loved ones can be forever recorded and celebrated.

Northern Beaches Council offers a number of options for the placement of cremated ash remains in a burial site, wall niche or garden memorial. Please contact Council on 1300 434 434 or send an email to cemeteries@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au to make an appointment to visit the cemetery. Alternatively, if you would like to visit in your own time, a plan detailing available positions can be sent to interested parties.

PURCHASE OF A POSITION IN OUR MEMORIAL GARDENS OR WALLS

A wall or garden memorial niche may be purchased for immediate placement of cremation remains or pre-need for the future. Purchases are limited to two niches per person. There are generally two applicable fees:

1. the cost of purchasing the Interment Rights for the site, and
2. the cost to place the ash remains, which includes the supply of a cast bronze plaque and its attachment to either the wall or to the various types of memorials in the gardens. Ashes placements in a burial site DO NOT include a plaque or any other memorial.

PLACEMENT OF ASH REMAINS IN A WALL NICHE OR MEMORIAL GARDEN

If you are purchasing for an immediate placement (i.e. not for pre-need), once you have selected a position you will need to complete an application for placement of ash remains form. This includes a memorial plaque order form (unless for a burial site placement). An account will be issued upon completion of the relevant paperwork and must be settled prior to placement.

When your completed form is received, a draft memorial plaque layout will be generated using supplier software and will be emailed to you for approval or alteration. Once a final version has been approved, the order is placed and will then take approximately 4 weeks to arrive back with Council.

You will be notified when the plaque arrives and will then need to make arrangements to deliver the cremation remains to the cemetery or to make a booking to bring them on the day for placement as desired. In some cases your funeral director may be able to pick up the remains from the Crematorium and deliver them to us with your authorisation. Note that the crematorium will place the ash remains in a plastic container that is quite suitable for placement in the memorial gardens. It is not necessary to purchase expensive urns or jars although you are welcome to transfer ashes to a different but similar sized container if you wish.

Plaques range in size from 110mm x 110mm for a memorial panel (no ashes) to 178mm x 102mm for a garden memorial to 185mm x 185mm for the Pittwater Memorial Wall and Gum Tree Grove Gardens. Photos, vases, emblems and perpetual flowers are available as decorative elements and are attached to the plaque. Vases can also be attached directly to the wall (additional fees apply). Plaques at Manly Cemetery also vary between 184mm x 152mm to 338 x 152mm.

Size of ashes containers

For placement in the SO Reynolds wall at Mona Vale Cemetery, a smaller container is used and there may be some residual remains that will be either scattered at the cemetery or placed back into the original container to be returned to you, as per your instructions on the application form. The residual ashes will be available to pick up from the cemetery or can be sent by registered post to a nominated address. For garden memorials, the container provided by the crematorium is used. For the Pittwater Memorial Wall Niches, a cylindrical container is required and our staff will be happy to transfer the ashes from existing container prior to placement.

Note that two garden niche positions must be purchased in order to use the double sized plinth. The ashes are buried approximately 50cm under the ground (in the container supplied) and the memorial plinth is placed on the surface over them.

It is possible to make a weekday booking to be present when the ashes are placed in the gardens at an additional cost. Bookings must be made at least a week before, and may be scheduled between 7.00 am and 3.00 pm Monday to Friday. Council's contracted Monumental Mason looks after placement in the walls at Mona Vale Cemetery and attendance in this case is by appointment with the Mason. Placement in the wall at Manly Cemetery is done by Council staff.

PLACEMENT OF ASH REMAINS IN A GRAVE

The instructions for placement of ashes in a burial site are similar to those for the wall or garden memorial. Generally up to 6 ashes containers may be placed in each grave, depending on the type of monument and whether access to the grave is blocked by adjoining monuments.

The fee for the placement of the ash remains includes the excavation of the grave site and registration on Council's Cemetery Register. It is possible to make a weekday booking to be present when the ashes are placed in the burial site at an additional cost. Bookings must be made at least a week beforehand, and may be scheduled between 7.00 am and 3.00 pm Monday to Friday. Unlike the wall or garden niches, the fee does not include the supply of any monumental work or memorial plaque.

Excavation in graves with monuments is usually under the head or foot of the monument to avoid extra costs incurred by breaking through the concrete infill or lifting the lid on top. The first container of ashes is usually placed at the head (or back) of the grave if accessible (i.e. where the headstone would be). Access may also be gained via the sides of the monument or foot (front) of the monument. Where there is no other access option, ashes can be placed through the top of the monument but if a ledger slab or concrete infill lid needs to be raised an additional fee will apply.

Our fees and charges and application forms are available under the "Services" section of Council's website: cemeteries@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au