

Boroondara General Cemetery

Cemetery Floral Tribute Policy

The management and Trust of Boroondara General Cemetery have approved these guidelines for the consideration and consultation of families visiting our cemetery and for the health and safety of the public and Trust staff. The Trust acknowledges the significant cultural, historical and environmental values held by the cemetery and the need for families to offer and maintain fitting tributes to their lost loved ones.

Boroondara Cemetery Trust reserves the right to develop and alter these guidelines at any time.

These General Guidelines apply to all areas in the cemetery:

- Items, such as flowers, vases, pictures, potted plants or other ornaments adorning graves or memorial sites for memorialisation shall not extend beyond the boundary of the memorial, vault or gravesite. This means such items need to be contained within the boundaries of the site and not encroach in any way upon neighbouring sites.
- Items that are, at the discretion of the Trust, considered offensive, derogatory or not in keeping with the recognised aesthetic values of the cemetery, including in some areas the heritage values, are not permitted. At the discretion of the Trust such items will be removed.
- Any works, such as construction, maintenance, installation or rectification of memorials, requires written approval from the Trust prior to commencement.
- A maximum of two (2) Trust-approved flower containers are allowed for each memorial, vault or gravesite. Under no circumstances are glass or ceramic vases, jars or vessels allowed. These items break easily and create a hazard for staff and the public.
- Floral tributes, fresh, dried or artificial, will be removed and disposed of at the discretion of the Trust. During routine maintenance Trust staff shall remove such items as they consider to have expired or deteriorated.





Boroondara General Cemetery

Rose, azalea, lawn and tree cremated memorials:

- No structures, borders, trinkets, or any other ornaments are to be placed in or on the gardens, paths/roadways.
- Flowers and any other items placed to adorn memorial positions are only permitted inside the boundary of each specific memorial garden site. Floral tributes shall only be placed in Trust approved containers no glass or ceramic containers of any type.
- Concrete beams must remain in their natural state. Under no circumstances are concrete beams to be painted, decorated or coloured.
- No planting, other than Trust approved, is permitted in any of the memorial gardens and any such plantings will be removed by the Trust staff.

Lawn Graves:

- No structures, borders, trinkets, or any other ornaments are to be placed in or on the gardens, paths/roadways.
- A maximum of two (2) Trust approved spike flower containers are allowed in the lawn at the edge of the concrete beam.
- Concrete beams must remain in their natural state. Under no circumstances are concrete beams to be painted, decorated or coloured.
- No maintenance to the lawn/grassed area is to be performed without the written permission of the Trust.
- No planting, other than Trust approved, is permitted in any of the memorial gardens and any such plantings will be removed by the Trust.
- No memorial work of any kind is permitted without written approval from the Trust.

Monumental graves:

- No monumental work of any kind is permitted without written approval from the Trust.
- No structures or borders are allowed without written approval from the Trust.
- Temporary markers, such as wooden crosses and plaques, are permitted as a temporary memorial only for a period not exceeding 12 months from interment.
- No items are to be placed outside the dimensions of the grave/monument. Any items placed or protruding into the path/roadways will be removed at the discretion of the Trust.





Boroondara General Cemetery

Mausoleum:

- No natural flowers are permitted in the mausoleum and will be promptly removed by the Trust.
- The use of ladders by the public to gain access to higher level crypts is not permitted at any time. Long-handle vase removers are located throughout the mausoleum.
- No items, other than plaques and embellishments approved by the Trust, are permitted on the crypt shutters. Bluetack and other coloured removable putties are not permitted. Only non-marking removable flexible tape, such as Magic Tape, is permitted.
- No items are to be placed on the floor, sills and other horizontal surfaces inside the mausoleum. Any such items will be promptly removed by the Trust.

Fresh or dried flowers are preferred:

- The Trust welcomes and encourages floral tributes and in consideration of all cemetery visitors and the environment suggests visitors consider the placement of fresh or dried floral tributes rather than artificial flowers, such as plastic.
- A fresh tribute need not be a formal floral arrangement, rather it might be as genuine and simple as a flower brought from a home garden.
- The Trust recognises that some cemetery families wish to place long-lasting floral tributes and this has resulted in a significant increase in the use of artificial flowers and plants. Time and climate means such tributes eventually need to be removed by Trust staff, especially after high winds or rain when they blow away from grave or memorial sites.
- Plastic and other artificial tributes present a significant impact on the Trust's resources and add to the growing volume of plastic waste in our community. Fresh tributes will, over time, biodegrade and the Trust actively diverts most of the green waste generated onsite to compost facilities.
- The Trust respectfully reminds all cemetery visitors that the picking, cutting or removing of plants, flowers and other tributes within the cemetery, whether for use elsewhere as a tribute or to take away, is strictly prohibited.





Boroondara General Cemetery

Removal of tributes:

- Trust staff work hard to ensure the cemetery grounds are maintained to a respectful, safe and presentable standard. As part of their duties staff may be required to temporarily or permanently remove tributes. This task can be highly emotive and one that Trust staff feel little satisfaction in doing, however our experience is that all tributes will need removal and/or replacement at some time.
- Items removed by Trust staff will be at, at their discretion, disposed of or retained at the main administration building for collection. The Trust reserves the right to dispose of items two weeks after being removed.

Approved by the Trust: 26 September 2017

