



BUNINYONG

Cemetery



Information Booklet

The Buninyong Cemetery is managed by a Board of Trustees which has the responsibility of operating, maintaining and developing the cemetery and of setting rules and policies for its use.

All initial contact concerning the cemetery should be made with the

Trust Secretary

PO Box 528 Buninyong 3357

0415 929 571



History and character of the Buninyong Cemetery

Buninyong was first settled in 1838. From that time, burials took place in what is known as the 'Old Burial Ground' in the centre of the village.

The present cemetery was surveyed in 1849 with the survey map showing it to be divided into four denominational sections. It is situated on the Midland Highway about 3 km west of the village centre. It is the second registered cemetery in Victoria with the earliest recorded burial being in 1852.

With Buninyong's population reaching some 10,000 people at the height of the local gold rushes of the 1850s and 1860s there were about 100 burials each year – many of them resulting from the unhygienic conditions on the goldfields – women dying in childbirth, rampant childhood diseases and from mining accidents. The cemetery had a permanent Sexton from that period until 1968.

For the following twenty or so years, the Cemetery became overgrown and neglected, until, in 1991 the Buninyong Shire Council began a restoration program with construction of new roads, reshaping the creek bed, destroying noxious weeds and undertaking regular mowing program.



The legacy of this program can be seen today in the beautifully maintained and historic cemetery, straddling the creek and small lakes, with its mature plantings of deciduous and other trees, its gracious monumental section, and the rolling grassed areas of the newer lawn section of the cemetery.

With so much local history associated with the cemetery, the Buninyong Cemetery Trust, while providing for contemporary needs and approaches to interment, and, as far as possible for the wishes of its clients, accepts its clear role in preserving the heritage values and character of the cemetery.

The Trust's policies and rules are designed to maintain the cemetery's sense of history, its general uniformity in its design and memorials, and its overall character and dignity for all those who use or visit the cemetery.

Persons wishing to use the services of the Buninyong Cemetery must clearly understand and accept Trust rules including matters such as plaques and other forms of identification of the deceased, acceptable ornaments or other forms of memorial decoration, and of planting conditions and restrictions.

Reserving a plot in the Buninyong Cemetery

The Buninyong Cemetery is divided into three principal sections – the Monumental section (in turn mostly divided into denominational areas), the Lawn Section, and the Memorial Rose Garden area.

Making a reservation for a grave or other site involves a person purchasing what is referred to as a Right of Interment. As all public cemeteries in Victoria are located on Crown Land, this 'Right' does not mean that the land associated with the site is purchased, (nor 'belongs' to the purchaser), but rather gives the right to determine who will be buried in that grave or site.

A maximum of three 'rights' may be purchased by any individual, or family or other group. Payment in full for a reserved plot or plots must be made at the time of reservation.

Subject to approval by the Trust, this Right may be bequeathed or transferred to another party, or be surrendered (subject to fees and maintenance costs).

Information about available burial sites should be obtained from the Secretary, who may arrange to meet with you at the Cemetery.

There are essentially three distinct areas available

- **Memorial Section (denominational or non-denominational)**
- **Lawn Section (non-denominational)**
- **Memorial Rose Gardens**

Charges for a 'right of interment' vary according to the chosen area. Present fees for the various sections of the cemetery are detailed in the insert.

In purchasing a Right of Interment, a person agrees to the rules and policies of the Trust.

Refer also to the website www.buninyongcemetery.com.au



General Plan

Buninyong Cemetery





Some questions answered

How do I find out which burial plots/sites are still available?

The Secretary to the Trust holds an up-to-date copy of the Register which indicates which grave-sites are occupied, which have been purchased for a future burial, and which remain vacant at present. Contact details are on the front cover of this booklet.

How many 'Rights of Interment' can be purchased, and what payments are required?

Payment in full for a 'right' at the current rate must be made at the time of reserving a plot. A maximum of three plots may be reserved.

Can someone be buried in the grave of another family member?

Generally, yes. It is not uncommon for two persons to be buried in the one grave. Should this be the intention of the holder of 'the right of interment', notice must be given to the Secretary at the time of the initial burial.

For how long do the burial rights for a grave or site continue at the Buninyong Cemetery?

Unlike the situation which obtains in some (usually larger) cemeteries, currently at Buninyong Cemetery all burials are for perpetuity. Should a situation arise where this is changed, it will not apply retrospectively to existing gravesites that are either occupied or reserved.

Who is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of a grave or other site?

In the case of graves in the Lawn Section, the Cemetery Trust is responsible for ongoing maintenance of this area. In the memorial section, maintenance and ensuring the safety of graves and memorials is the responsibility of the holder of the Right of Interment or other authorised person or family.

What are the options available to those whose loved ones have been cremated?

The Trust Secretary is happy to provide more detailed advice on the four options available. In summary, these are

- interment of ashes in the Memorial Rose Garden section
- interment of ashes in a grave (a body must already be interred there or intended to be buried there)
- interment in a coffin prior to burial
- scattering of ashes in a designated area of the cemetery

What kind of plaques can be placed on burial sites in the Lawn or Rose Garden sections?

In the lawn section, only metallic bronze or black granite plaques can be used. In the Rose Garden, bronze plaques only are permitted. For details of required sizes and options for ordering plaques contact the Secretary.

What ornaments, mementoes or decorations can be placed on a grave or burial site?

For reasons of safety, general appearance, and the Trust's charter to preserve the heritage, character, dignity and serenity of the Cemetery, there are very specific restrictions on what can be placed on a grave site.

For example, no glass, metal objects that can rust, solar or other forms of lighting, objects with a height greater than 30cm, plantings which exceed a width of 40 cm and a height of 30cm, or other items that are considered by the Trust to be intrusive, inappropriate, likely to cause offence, or otherwise having an undesirable impact on the amenity of the cemetery or of a specific area, will be permitted.

The Trust has the power to remove any non-conforming objects.

What can be planted in the earth or scoria at the head of a grave in the lawn section?

The scoria area at the head of the grave is very limited and is shared between graves located on each side of the concrete plinths. In general, only planting of small plants or shrubs is permitted (such as a low-growing bush rose). These must be maintained/pruned within the dimensions of approximately 40cm in width and 30cm in height.

Under no circumstances are trees or other plants with spreading root systems, tall plants such as standard roses, or tall stakes or guards or other items over 30 cm in height, permitted. Again, the Trust has the power to remove non-conforming items.

Can I take my pet into the cemetery to visit a grave site?

A dog on a leash is permitted, provided that it is under control and does not cause upset to other cemetery users.

Is there water available at the cemetery to fill a container for flowers or to water a plant?

Water is available from the tank located at the rear of the shelter building adjacent to the Lawn section. No glass is permitted as a flower container.

How is the Cemetery administered and funded?

An honorary Board of Trust Members has been appointed, for a five year term, by the Victorian State Government's Minister for Health to control, manage and administer the Buninyong Cemetery.

This Trust is a not-for-profit community organisation operated without Government funding, with its operations being funded predominantly through the sale of gravesites and other charges associated with burials and funerals

What are the opening hours of the cemetery?

The Buninyong Cemetery is an "open" cemetery which means that access can be had at all times by relatives and visitors.



Plaques on Graves or Memorial Rose Garden Sites

All forms of identification or memorial for a deceased person interred in the Buninyong Cemetery must accord in style, size, colour and material with other approved forms of identification in the particular section of the cemetery. The following specifications shall apply to plaques or other forms of identification.

Lawn Section

Plaques are located on the concrete plinth at the head of the gravesite, and shall be

- **constructed either of metallic bronze or of black stone (granite)**
- **be of a width of 381mm and depth of 216mm**

Usually, such plaques contain up to six lines of text, and may also contain a cross (no extra charge) or photograph or other emblem (at additional cost).

The Secretary can provide details of costs, or quotes can be obtained from a memorial mason.

Memorial Rose Garden (Ashes) Section

There are currently four small memorial gardens for the placement of ashes of the deceased. Plaques shall be

- **constructed of metallic bronze**
- **have maximum dimensions of 178mm x 178 mm**

Where plaques commemorating two persons are to be affixed together at the one location on the plinth or bluestone pitcher, the dimensions of each plaque shall be 178mm deep, with a width of 102mm.

Further advice on plaques can be obtained from the Trust Secretary.

Ordering of plaques can be done through the Secretary or through direct contact with a stonemason or foundry.

Monumental Section

There are detailed rules concerning the design and/or construction of monuments in this section, and of permits required.

Reference must be made to the Rules of the Buninyong Cemetery and a discussion held with, and approval received from the Trust Secretary before any commitment or decision in this regard is made.