



Memento & Tribute Policy



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Drafted by	Paul Anderson	Approved by Trust on	16 Nov 2022
Responsible person	Anna Hession	Scheduled review date	16 Nov 2023



1. Principles

1.1 The following four principles have been established by the Yackandandah Cemetery Trust to support its approach to governing mementos and tributes. These overarching principles guide the policy, and help define items that are approved for placement as a graveside memento, floral and ornamental tribute.

1. The Trust will prioritise the importance of maintaining an environment that is attractive, tidy and safe for all visitors, contractors, and volunteers.
2. The Trust will recognise the importance of graveside mementos, floral and ornamental tributes, and the need for families to offer and maintain fitting tributes to their lost loved ones.
3. The Trust will acknowledge the significant cultural, historical, and environmental values held by the cemetery and the need for staff to maintain the cemetery grounds to a high standard.
4. The Trust will appreciate the diverse nature of families that visit, and the difficulty in defining policy that meets individual needs, and therefore will seek to provide fair guidelines that apply uniformly to everyone.



2. Purpose

- 2.1 The Trust is committed to ensuring a high standard of presentation is maintained at the Yackandandah Cemetery. The purpose of this policy is to assist with ensuring that the cemeteries appearance meets community expectations and is safe for all visitors, contractors, and trustees.
- 2.2 The Trust understands the importance to individuals in memorialising a grave with flowers and ornaments for sentimental, cultural or religious reasons; and is obliged to ensure that such memorialisation is respectful and safe for all.

3. Definitions

- 3.1 This section contains terms that we have used throughout the document. These terms have a particular meanings set out below when used in this document. It is important to read these terms and understand their meaning as this will help understand the document.
- 3.2 **Approved Container** means a container suitable for retaining livings plants and Floral Tributes. Approved Containers must be no larger than 200mm in diameter and 300mm in height, and made from non-destructible material, such as concrete, fibreglass, stainless steel, or High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) plastic.
- 3.3 **Bunded** means an embankment or wall of brick, stone, concrete or other approved impervious material, which forms the perimeter and floor of a tombstone.
- 3.4 **Flammable Tribute** means candles or incense sticks.



- 3.5 **Floral Tribute** means flowers cut from living plants, or made using artificial flowers. These are to be free from rubber bands, plastic wrapping, and wetbrick.
- 3.6 **Forbidden Tribute and Memento** means all food and perishable items (other than floral displays), balloons, shells, trellis, glass objects of any kind, alcohol or tobacco products, statues not part of an approved Memorial monument, oil burners, sparklers, lanterns, open flames or fireboxes, decorative fencing (other than pre-existing, historic cast-iron fencing), seating, stones/pebbles not contained within a Bunded tombstone, or items that are deemed by the Trust to be offensive, derogative, or sexual in nature.
- 3.7 **Memento Tribute** means any toys, trinkets, keepsakes, coins, jewellery, books, painted motifs, and framed photographs not affixed to a Memorial.
- 3.8 **Memorial** means a natural stone monument with an affixed plaque, placed in a Place of Interment of one or more deceased person/s. Each Memorial is to be approved by the Yackandandah Cemetery Trust.
- 3.9 **Ornamental Tribute** means flags, lights, windmills, wind chimes, and sculptures no higher than 300mm.
- 3.10 **Perishable Container** means any vase, container, or planter box made from wood, glass, styrofoam, or breakable materials (including porcelain, terracotta and hardened clay). Including iron cases, tin cans, jars, and jugs.
- 3.11 **Place of Interment** means the place within the Yackandandah Cemetery where Human Remains (actual remains or the cremated remains) are interred and includes graves or plot which serves as a receptacle for the deceased.
- 3.12 **Trust, or we or us** means the Yackandandah Cemetery Trust.



- 3.13 **Vegetation Tribute** means living plants (including succulents, approved perennial and annual plants) that have been retained within an Approved Container.

4. Policy

- 4.1 This section provides memento and tribute policy guidelines that apply to all sections of the Yackandandah Cemetery.
- 4.2 Where permitted, Floral Tributes, Memento Tributes, and Ornamental Tributes must not extend beyond the boundary of the memorial, vault or gravesite. This means such items need to be contained within the boundaries of the Place of Interment and not encroach in any way upon neighbouring sites or other public spaces.
- 4.3 Where permitted, Flammable Tributes may only be lit and hot when under constant adult supervision, and must never be lit on days of total fire ban, or days declared by the relevant authorities as Extreme or Catastrophic risk.
- 4.4 'Perishable Containers' and 'Forbidden Tribute and Mementos' must not be placed anywhere on the cemetery grounds or at a Place of Interment. These items present various risks and can create a hazard for visitors and staff.
- 4.5 Decorative borders, kerbing, tiles, bricks, rocks, bark, mulch, stones, and pebbles must not be placed around the perimeter of Place of Interment or as infill for a Place of Interment that is not Bunded. These items impede mowing and ground maintenance by Cemetery staff, create tripping and projectile hazards.
- 4.6 Memento Tributes, and Ornamental Tributes must not be affixed to surrounding trees, plants and shrubs or placed within garden beds and walking paths. These items pose a safety risk, impede access and may be considered unsightly by others. These items will be removed upon detection.
- 4.7 Some sections of the cemetery are tribute free. In line with the wishes of those who have chosen to be laid to rest in these areas, the placement of



Memento Tributes, and Ornamental Tributes at the Place of Interment is not permitted. This applies to our natural burial areas of the Nature Section.

- 4.8 During scheduled maintenance Floral Tributes, Vegetation Tributes, and Ornamental Tributes that have withered, deteriorated, or been damaged will be collected and disposed of without notice. We encourage families to remove precious items, including Memento Tributes before they deteriorate.
- 4.9 The use of pieces of wire, iron or steel to secure Memento Tributes and Ornamental Tributes in place is prohibited.

5. Area Specific Guidelines

- 5.1 This section provides policy guidelines that help define the different rules for mementos and tributes throughout the different sections of the Yackandandah Cemetery grounds. It is important to understand the different rules that apply depending on the location of the Place of Interment.

Monumental Section.

- 5.2 The Monumental Section of the cemetery permits Floral Tributes, Vegetation Tributes, Memento Tributes, Flammable Tributes, and Ornamental Tributes. Floral Tributes and Vegetation Tributes must be contained within an Approved Container.
- 5.3 All Tributes must be positioned within a Bunded Place of Interment or affixed directly on the tombstone, or adjacent to the Memorial.

Lawn Section

- 5.4 The Lawn Section permits Floral Tributes and Flammable Tributes. Due to the limited size of the Memorial Section, Floral Tributes must remain within the inbuilt Containers/Vases.
- 5.5 Floral Tributes are not permitted to be placed on the lawn section except for the 30 days immediately following interment.
- 5.6 Vegetation, Memento, and Ornamental Tributes are not permitted at any time.



Nature Section.

- 5.7 The Nature Section does not permit any tributes. Fresh and dried flowers that are free from rubber bands, tie wire, and non-compostable wrapping may be placed on the Place of Interment.
- 5.8 Living Plants from the Approved Plants List may be planted directly into the designated garden immediately surrounding the Monument.
- 5.9 For further information on the unique characteristics of the Nature Section, please refer to the Nature Section Policy.

Rose Garden

- 5.10 The Rose Garden accepts Floral Tributes and Flammable Tributes. Floral Tributes must be contained within an Approved Container.
- 5.11 The Rose Garden also permits one rose plant to be placed where cremated human remains are interred. Creeping, climbing, or wandering roses plant variants are prohibited.
- 5.12 The Yackandandah Garden Club is to be consulted regarding the condition/replacement of any unhealthy or unsuitable roses.

Cemetery Gardens, Trees, and Shrubs

- 5.13 Picking of flowers and plants from the cemetery grounds is prohibited.
- 5.14 Planting of trees, shrubs, bulbs, or plants or seeds of any nature on the Cemetery Grounds is prohibited (Excludes the Nature Section and associated Policy).

6. Responsibilities

- 6.1 The Cemeteries & Crematoria Regulations – 2015 provides Cemetery Trusts with the power to remove any items that have been listed as prohibited within this policy.



- 6.2 The Trust therefore reserves the right to remove any Memento, Floral, Flammable, or Ornamental Tribute if it contravenes this policy or when the item's condition has deteriorated, or becomes unsafe.
- 6.3 The Trust may also remove any item not suitably contained that may pose a safety risk to maintenance staff, general public, or Trust members.
- 6.4 The Trust will only hold any (intact) Memento Tributes it has removed, and only for a period of 2 weeks for retrieval. If not collected within that timeframe, the item(s) will be disposed of.
- 6.5 The Trust is not responsible or liable for any damage to or theft of any items left on the Cemetery grounds.