



Bushland Cemetery

Lismore
Memorial
Gardens

Natural Burials

“A better way to leave the world”



NATURAL BURIALS

A better way to leave the world

Instead of standard headstones, roses, manicured lawns of a conventual cemetery, the Lismore Bushland Cemetery is an eco-friendly burial option for those wishing to have minimal impact as they depart this life.

The cemetery contains remnant and regenerative tall open and moist sclerophyll forest types, typical of the environment found near the western escarpment of the Alstonville plateau.

Koalas frequent these trees often and little bent-wing bats have been seen chasing insects upon night fall. This area is a significant habitat for koalas and cemetery management is committed to ensuring this habitat is maintained and improved through the staged introduction of new trees to replace those that are maturing.

With a natural burial, the body is returned to nature in a biodegradable coffin and materials made from natural fibres to allow remains to return to the earth to decompose naturally. To further ensure a pure basis for new organic life, the use of preparatory chemicals is strictly prohibited as is the placement of artificial tributes or commemorative items.

A person can choose to have their graves remain unmarked or marked with a simple rock and plaque. Each grave is mapped and surveyed, ensuring the ability to locate graves for both current and future generations.

DO I NEED TO USE A COFFIN AND WHAT TYPE IS PREFERRED?

Yes

Although the cemetery follows the principles of internationally recognised 'green-burial' or 'natural earth' burial which aims to facilitate the option of not using a coffin by default, those conducting the funeral are obliged by NSW health regulations to use a coffin for transport of the deceased. If your cultural beliefs require such, the deceased, wrapped in a biodegradable shroud, may be removed from the coffin and laid upon the earth floor of the grave, but the coffin must be dismantled and buried beside the body. Burial in a shroud only will require authority from the NSW Department of Health.

When choosing a coffin, we prefer it is made from natural organic materials such as plantation timber or woven wicker. Recycled timber or cardboard coffins are also highly recommended. Your funeral director or celebrant may assist in this decision and source the desired coffin for you. Our office does not provide coffins, however, we can recommend suppliers who can provide suitable coffins.

Coffins made from chipboard (MDF) which is comprised of unknown timbers and other synthetic organic compounds such as glues and resins are not recommended. The glues, sealants and polish may contain formaldehyde or other toxic volatile and environmentally persistent organic compounds. These are not suitable for the Bushland Cemetery.

HOW WILL THE GRAVE BE MARKED FOR FUTURE REFERENCE?

This cemetery uses no traditional or formal headstones.

In fact, there is no obligation to use a headstone at all. The recommended grave marker is a monument stone. Upon this rock a memorial plaque may be fitted or the rock may be inscribed by a local monumental mason.

You may select your monument stone from a stock of suitable stones at the cemetery site, or you may wish to provide your own due to significance to the deceased. Our staff will install the stone in alignment with the grave and the plaque will be fitted soon after.

We take very accurate survey details of the grave boundary and the direction the grave faces. This will be recorded on the cemetery map. A copy of this map and GPS coordinates of the grave can be provided on request.

WHERE CAN THE FUNERAL SERVICE BE HELD?

Funeral services can be held anywhere within the grounds of the Bushland Cemetery, the Chapel or within the outdoor service area of the crematorium known as Gummifera Gardens.

This name originates from the latin species name *Corymbia gummifera* (Red Bloodwood) of the trees growing within this area and within the bushland cemetery. If it is raining you may use the crematorium chapel for the service. This needs to be pre-booked and a service charge applies.

If you choose to hold your service at the graveside, our staff will mow a section of the surrounding grasses to ensure the safety of bereaved attendees. We can also provide marquee covers and seating.

PLANNING A NATURAL BURIAL?

Natural burials are a unique concept and are, more often than not, selected by individuals making their own funeral arrangements in advance.

For those pre-planning, it is advisable to discuss your preferences with your immediate family and determine how they feel about the natural burial concept. If you choose a natural burial, the traditional coffin is replaced with an environmentally sustainable alternate. In addition, there is an option to choose no memorial or a simple rock and plaque.

While these factors are often important for those making their own arrangements, the reality for family members who attend the funeral and visit the cemetery at a later time, can be disconcerting. Natural burials are designed to have minimal impact on the local environment.



CONTACTS

For more information or bookings please visit our Corporate Centre at 43 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah between 8.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday, or phone 02 6625 0500.

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