



**WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review 2023

Submissions Received

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID 10
reference 962032118234322
First name Teresa
Last name Pfeffer
Organisation
Role

Speaking

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria?

Strongly agree

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in?

Strongly agree

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable?

Agree

Reasons

See Cemetery letter (attached)

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries?

Disagree

Reasons

See Cemetery letter for additional reasons (attached)

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules?

Agree

Reasons

See Cemetery letter (attached)

Attachments

Cemetery letter.doc

Further comments

See Cemetery letter (attached)

Submission method

Online

I understand that people mourn for their loved ones in different ways .

For the Council to allow the absolute rubbish put on or around Headstones is beyond my comprehension and that includes FULL bottles of Beer and Wine. My Sister and Brother in Law were buried in the new area three and four years ago. I visit the Cemetery almost every week. There have been many times that young children are seen on their bikes riding in the Cemetery grounds while there has been bottles of liquor at some of the Headstones for the taking. Why is this OK ??

There should be more control over what is left at the Cemetery!

My Mother is in the old Catholic area, buried in 1978, that whole area is so different to what is happening in the new areas simply because it has been allowed to happen with visually no regulations or control.

I submit that there should be more control over what is allowed at the Headstones. Some people's memories soon become rubbish with neglect and Alcohol of any type should not be able to be left or consumed in the Cemetery. All alcohol should be banned from this sacred place.

Our Cemetery is becoming a talking point and joke to relatives from both within New Zealand and Overseas.

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID 12
reference 755031449234724
First name Lorna
Last name Sutherland
Organisation
Role

Speaking

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria?

Agree

Comments

Environmental sustainability is frequently mentioned, but there are at least two opportunities for these principles to be implemented that are ignored. Please see page 5 of this form for further comment.

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in?

Neither agree nor disagree

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable?

Neither agree nor disagree

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries?

Agree

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules?

Agree

Reasons

The need for simplification

Attachments

Attachment 1 - Closeup of Recent Natural Burial Grave.jpeg
Attachment 2 - Recent Natural Burial Grave Backfilled with Papa.jpeg
Attachment 3 - 240919 Letter to Hamish & Kym Fell copy 2_001.pdf
Attachment 4 - Reply from Brian Nicholson 4 Oct 2019_001.pdf
Attachment 5 - 101019 Council Reply copy 2_001.pdf
Attachment 6 - 161019Thank you letter to Hamish, Mr. Fell & Bryan Nicholson_001.doc
Attachment 7 - 181019 Bryan Nicholson's (2nd) Reply_001.jpeg

Further comments

Missing from the review:

With regard to environmental sustainability, presently artificial flowers are permitted as decorations for graves. These quickly degrade into pieces of plastic and polyester debris, which the wind scatters. In 2019 I was told by Gary Gleeson, the Cemetery Manager at the time, that Council paid \$600.00 per week to clean this up. A bitter irony is that prevailing winds are from the west and blow much of it into the Natural Burials part of the Cemetery and through the fence that borders the property. I suspect that a significant amount of it ends up in the stream that flows just beyond that fence. I am told that a plastic free cemetery was proposed to the public and rejected but the present situation is neither environmentally nor economically sustainable and should be addressed.

Comments and general feedback:

I have two concerns about the Natural Burial part of the cemetery.

When my husband died in 2018 he wanted a natural burial but was buried in a grave that was twice as deep as it should have been. This caused, and continues to cause, significant distress for me. I did considerable research to try to ascertain the fate of his remains and communicated with the then Mayor, CEO and COO about this issue.

I have attached the relevant correspondence to clarify my concerns. The response to my letter was to suggest that during this review the appropriate Council Officers consider a change of wording for policy to allow "a minimum of 750mm [depth for graves] and that each site will be determined on a case by case base, with other factors to be taken into consideration." Please read these attachments.

I also have a concern that has arisen since Mr. Gleeson's retirement. Recent graves in the Natural Burial area appear to be being filled with papa. There is no sign of the compost and top soil mentioned on the WDC website under Natural Burial Policy (0.3.0 Burial Sites point 5. 3.5). I attach images of the graves that cause this consternation.

Submission method

Delivered

Attachment 1 – Sub 012 - Sutherland - Closeup of Recent Natural Burial Grave



Attachment 2 – Sub 012 - Sutherland - Recent Natural Burial Grave Backfilled With Papa



2 Alexa Place
Whanganui 4500

24 September, 2019

Mayor Hamish McDouall & Mr. Kym Fell
Whanganui District Council
101 Guyton Street
Whanganui 4500

Good morning Hamish and Mr. Fell

First, I would like to let you know that this is not a 'crabby-ratepayer-with-a-grievance' letter. My late husband, Ian and I lived in quite a few places over the years and Whanganui was, and continues to be for me, the best of the bunch. Also, the present administration of the city is unsurpassed by any we experienced during our time here.

I do have one question about Council policy though, and try as I might, I have been unable to find an answer, so I am appealing to you even though the policy in question was formed before either of you were in your present positions. First a bit of background.

Ian and I both wanted natural burials, so we were greatly pleased and relieved when the Council announced in 2013 that this service would be available in Whanganui. We consulted a Funeral Director and made our post mortem wishes clear and thought we had things sorted.

Shortly before Ian died last year he remarked that he liked the idea of his molecules gently disbursing back into the big picture. When he died all seemed to be going smoothly until the moment when my best beloved's body, wrapped in a cotton shroud and lying on a willow tray was lowered into a grave that was too deep (I thought).

I find myself unable to visit his grave. I keep thinking about seeing his body in a hole that was twice as deep as it should have been. (The international expectation for a natural burial is a grave that is 750mm deep and has a 2.5 x 2.5 metre footprint*. Ian's was 1.5 metres deep and had a considerably smaller footprint.) I feel I have somehow let him down.

This ate away at me for some time so I asked a friend and former colleague of Ian's, pathologist Dr. Andrew Packer, how much the difference in grave depth would matter. Andrew mainly works in histology these days so he

* Source: <http://www.naturalburials.co.nz>

referred me to Dr Kate Smith, a Forensic Pathologist, but he also said a forensic soil scientist might have a better idea of what was happening. Dr. Smith who is based in Palmerston North, said that soil chemistry was not really something she felt confident about, so I called the Institute for Environmental Science and Research and they gave me the name of Dr. Angela Clark, a Lecturer of Forensic Biology at Otago University.

Both Drs. Smith and Clark assured me that Ian's body would decompose, albeit much more slowly than if he had been buried in a shallower grave. Neither was able to give me any idea of how long decomposition would take or if Ian would ever become tree food – which is what we had in mind originally. Dr. Clark said it would depend on the soil and what tree was planted and suggested I consult a botanist.

So I found an excellent one, right here in Whanganui. His name is Ian Moore and it turned out he had recently been consulted by the WDC about drainage problems in Aramoho Cemetery because of his knowledge and experience of geology and soils. Luckily, he also has formidable knowledge of trees (he was made a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Forestry in August 2016.)

After careful thought Mr. Moore suggested several species of Kowhai – specifically *Sophora godleyi*; *Sophora molloyi*; *Sophora molloyi* 'Dragon's Gold', or *Sophora prostrata*. Mr. Moore suggested these trees because they have substantial root systems that grow down rather than spread near the surface. He mentioned taking a soil sample to be certain, but he is an extremely busy person and this hasn't been done.

I realise that Council reserves the right to select the species of trees to be planted in the natural burials section of the cemetery, but I would be most grateful if one of Mr. Moore's suggestions could be planted near Ian's grave when the time to plant comes.

If cost is an issue, I am happy to pay for the right Kowhai.

Finally, the question:

On the Council website the Wanganui District Council Natural Burial Policy 2013 lists as an objective for natural burials:

“GOAL 2 Objective

To reduce the impact of burial and cremations on the environment

There is no embalming of the body; rapid biodegradable non-pollutant caskets are used.

Bodies are buried in the active soil layers, rather than the conventional 1.5m depth.

The shallower depth helps to facilitate the breakdown of the body. This enables natural

processes to take place, returning the body's nutrients to the ecosystem rapidly. “

but a bit further on under the Wanganui District Council Natural Burial Conditions 2013 section it says

“3.0 Burial Sites

0.3.1 **Burial sites are 1.5 metres in depth** and 2.2 metres in length. These sites are ideal to protect the wilderness and diversity and allow Council plenty of room to determine the correct placement of the grave between existing landscape features. “

Why did the Council decide to ignore international best practice and its own stated goal for the depth of graves for natural burials?

I have my own theory of how this came about, but I would really value information from you on how the council came to decide that it would be better for the bodies of people who made the natural burial choice to be buried at a depth that could lead to their remains polluting our water ways rather than providing nutrition for trees.

Thank you for reading this rather long letter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Lorna Sutherland



4 October 2019

this arrived
17/10/19

Ref: 394409

Lorna Sutherland
2 Alex Place
Whanganui 4500

Dear Lorna

RE: Natural Burials

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 24 September 2019, referred to me by Whanganui District Council Mayor Hamish McDouall and Chief Executive, Kym Fell.

Thank you for the information you provided and for bringing this matter to our attention. I am discussing this with the appropriate Council Officers and I will be in touch with you accordingly.

Yours sincerely

Bryan Nicholson
Chief Operating Officer



WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

10 October 2019

Lorna Sutherland
2 Alexa Place
Whanganui 4500

Dear Lorna,

Thank you for your letter dated 24 September 2019, addressed to the Mayor and Chief Executive. This was referred to me to look into the matter and to respond.

Firstly, I would like to pass on my condolences for the passing of your husband Ian late last year and I am sorry that your experience with the natural burial left you feeling dissatisfied. I hope that my reply will alleviate some of this concern.

In terms of Council's Natural Burial Policy 2013 and the corresponding Natural Burial Conditions 2013, Goal 2 Objective of the Policy, I agree that it doesn't appear to align with '3.0 Burial Sites', in relation to the depth of burial sites. I sort feedback from staff in relation to this matter and was provided with the following:

The extra depth (1.5m) allows for the depth of a coffin and ensures that there is adequate cover. A 1.5m grave depth will generally have about 1.0m of cover, also due to the pumice substrate which is very light and inert, council brings in compost and soil to provide a better cover and more active soil layer.

However in saying this I have asked the team during the policy review to explore the option of changing the wording to a minimum of 750mm and that each site will be determined on a case by case base, with other factors to be taken into consideration.

In regards to the planting of the tree, the initial plant is more of a shrub which is there to provide something for the family at the time. The shrubs are not intended to be there long term. The natural burial plots are in groups of 4. When the four sites are full, and the ground has sunk, a tree is then planted which is intended to be there more long term and help to create a forested feel. To plant the tree, the shrubs may need to be removed. Kowhai is one of the trees that is on the list but we will generally want to mix up the trees planted. However I have spoken with the Chief Executive about your preference for a Kowhai tree and we will be instructing staff to ensure that a suitable Kowhai species is planted in this particular plot.

Once again thank you for raising these matters with us and I hope that this letter alleviates some of your concerns. If there is anything else you require then please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely,

Bryan Nicholson
Chief Operating Officer

2 Alexa Place
Whanganui 4500

16 October, 2019

Whanganui District Council
101 Guyton Street
Whanganui 4500

Dear Mayor McDouall, Mr. Fell and Mr. Nicholson

Thank you so very much for taking the time to look into, and act on the matters I raised in my letter of 24 September (first the depth of graves in the natural burials section of the cemetery and second the species of tree that will eventually be planted near my husband's grave).

I am considerably relieved and reassured by Mr. Nicholson's letter of 10 October 2019.

I am relieved that when a tree is planted near my husband's grave it will be a Kowhai. Ian had a particularly sunny disposition and it is nice to imagine that eventually a few of his body's molecules could enhance the yellow blossoms of a Kowhai full of drunken Tuis.

I am reassured that the next time the Council's Natural Burial Policy is reviewed the possibility of changing the wording to allow a shallower depth for graves if, when all factors are considered, this is deemed appropriate will be explored.

If possible, I would like to speak to the Mayor and Councillors on this matter when it next comes before them. I think allowing shallower graves in appropriate circumstances would (a) enhance the speed of decomposition and deliver the resulting nutrients to the most bio-active layers of the soil, thereby making them accessible to plant roots and (b) mean an operational cost reduction for the city, because less compost/humus would be required to fill shallower graves.

If it isn't possible for me to address the Council directly for any reason, could this, and my letter of 24 September 2019 please be included in the information available to all who participate in the decision-making process.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Lorna Sutherland



WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

18 October 2019

Ref: 1127326

Lorna Sutherland
2 Alexa Place
Whanganui 4500

Dear Lorna

RE: Natural Burials

Thank you for your further letter dated 16 October 2019, your feedback has been noted by the Whanganui District Council Policy team and will be incorporated into the Council's Natural Burial Policy review.

The review of the Natural Burial Policy will take place at the same time as the Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw review, which is expected to start in early 2021. There will be a formal consultation process including submissions and hearings, with submitters having the opportunity to speak to the hearings committee. Your name has been noted as an interested party.

If you have any further concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Bryan Nicholson
Chief Operating Officer

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID 20
reference 417041433235414
First name Gregory
Last name Robinson
Organisation
Role

Speaking

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria?

Strongly agree

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in?

Agree

Reasons

Having been affiliated to the sea a large chunk of my life and being a part of local iwi , I fully understand peoples physical, emotional and spiritual connections to water and their need to be safely contained by water and so therefore I would agree a well thought water feature for ashes a great idea,

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable?

Agree

Reasons

There is an expectation graves be maintained and indeed council charge a fee for this and so if families are unable to affordably do this there should be no barriers to other entities prepared to participate .

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries?

Agree

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules?

Agree

Further comments

i) I think it unreasonable a person cannot remain a visitor to a cemetery after the legal hours of darkness. This clause should be ammended or removed completely.

ii) It is unreasonable to blanket ban alcohol. The ban should better be on certain behaviors rather than to say a bottle of wine cant be left as an embellishment on a new grave.

iii)The half day Saturday, the Sunday and public holiday disincentives need to be removed. We have as a society moved away from christianity and so there is no justification not to treat each day the same as any other workday.

Submission method

Online

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID 1
reference 478022010235228
First name Jodie
Last name Clareburt
Organisation
Role

Not Speaking

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria?

Strongly agree

Comments

who would do all of the above if the council did not do this.

Council workers do a fantastic job of keeping the cemetery clean and tidy and is a pleasure to visit

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in?

Agree

Reasons

As it is not accepted to scatter ashes in the Awa i feel it would be a good idea to have a water feature for this . Provided the ashes once scattered do not sit at the bottom of whatever you create and they are able to disperse

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable?

Agree

Reasons

I feel that graves being cleaned will show a sign of respect and they have not been forgotten

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries?

Disagree

Reasons

As i live down the road from the cemetery I disagree that alcohol should be allowed. There have been many occasions where there has been some disruption after a funeral and drinking is taking place. They then get into their cars and do burnouts through the cemetery and then out onto the road. It is disruptive to many including myself as I have a special needs child and it is very frightening for him

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules?

Agree

Further comments

I request that a gate be installed and close the cemetery at night as mentioned above the people who go through there at night doing burnouts is ridiculous. Damage of headstones and burial sites is high risk.

Submission method Online

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID 2
reference 467022118234728
First name Dylan
Last name Peterson
Organisation
Role

Not Speaking

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria?

Agree

Comments

Council need to be better ensure the cemetery is used and kept for all of wanganui. Keeping the grounds secure from vandals is paramount and ensuring that groups of people don't hinder others that are mourning their own

Other

Sensibility as a group. Don't waste money on numerous studies - do some something now to make it better for later!

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in?

Agree

Reasons

The river is our cultural link for those that have lived in Wanganui and the prohibition of scattering loved ones in the Wanganui river creates a significant issue for those that wish to have this happen .

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable?

Neither agree nor disagree

Reasons

Depends on the extent and nature of cleaning

Respect is a given for a cemetery however there needs to be again some restraint issued before wasting money accordingly

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries?

Agree

Reasons

People greive on different ways, each to their own as long as behaviour doesn't hinder others of grieving in their own way

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules?

Neither agree nor disagree

Reasons

Obviously theres thought on changing rules and guidelines on behaviour to be taken around the cemetery, however there needs to be action accordingly that benefits the majority.

Submission method

Online

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID	3	Not Speaking
reference	435032146234201	
First name	Jenny	
Last name	Jones	
Organisation		
Role		

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria?	Strongly agree
Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in?	Agree
Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable?	Agree
Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries?	Neither agree nor disagree
Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules?	Agree
Submission method	Online

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID	4	Not Speaking
reference	877031417235802	
First name	Lance	
Last name	Patterson	
Organisation		
Role		

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria? Neither agree nor disagree

Comments

A very poor scheduled response, as you can not separate the five responses.

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in? Strongly disagree

Reasons

The water from the proposed water feature will eventually go down the drain and through tidal movements into the river. This is such a waste of money, and no justification for it.

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable? Agree

Reasons

The council workers are there every day and once they have the cemetery tidy then there will be less and less time to keep it maintained.

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries? Disagree

Reasons

It is not the place for drinking alcohol. Think about the others that visit the cemetery. Drinking alcohol at such a place is a disruptive behaviour.

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules? Disagree

Reasons

Why fix that which is not broken. Another waste of resource time for the Council.

Submission method Online

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID	5	Not Speaking
reference	096031537235107	
First name	Karen	
Last name	Alexander	
Organisation		
Role		

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria? Strongly agree

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in? Strongly agree

Reasons

I have want to have my ashes scattered but I understand how difficult that can be .When my in-laws had their ashes scattered it took a lot of organising to be able to do that in the correct way. The way we did that in the end was take them far out to sea.

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable? Agree

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries? Neither agree nor disagree

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules? Agree

Submission method Online

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID 6
reference 344031505234711
First name David
Last name Alexander
Organisation
Role

Not Speaking

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria?

Strongly agree

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in?

Strongly agree

Reasons

My parents, before their deaths, had requested that their ashes be scattered together and had nominated where they preferred. This was not in Whanganui. In the area they wanted we talked to the local council but there was no where at the cemetery or elsewhere we could scatter. We wanted to do it correctly and respectfully and at a public area. We did not consider we could scatter on the beach etc in the area as that is not respectful to iwi. We contacted iwi and was advised they and Council had been negotiating for years but nothing agreed but it seemed that going out to sea from the beach for many kms was acceptable and that is what we did. My wife and I want to be scattered in Whanganui and would have the same issue here that we had with my parents elsewhere so there needs to be resolution.

I understand that the proposal is a fountain at the cemetery but it would be essential to ensure that the fountain does not end up putting the ashes into the awa. My preference is just be able to scatter them on the grass in that area but if that can't be then a fountain is a good idea.

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable?

Agree

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries?

Agree

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules?

Agree

Submission method Online

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID 7
reference 808031639232713
First name S
Last name Skill
Organisation
Role

Not Speaking

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria?

Strongly agree

Comments

These seem to be quite uncontroversial with regards to the purpose of a cemetery...

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in?

Agree

Reasons

I was unaware of cultural barriers about scattering ashes into the awa (I mean, I genuinely did not know since I'm not that familiar with local customs yet). This seems like a good alternative.

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable?

Agree

Reasons

There seems to be little point to having a headstone if it and the plot are overgrown with weeds.

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries?

Agree

Reasons

I could see that toasting the departed with a fine dram would be nice, and banning consumption of alcohol would put paid to that.

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules?

Agree

Reasons

I would also like to see natural burials be made available (<https://www.naturalburials.co.nz/natural-burial-facts/what-is-a-natural-burial/>). At the moment, the nearest natural burial cemetery is in Karori. I would like to have a natural burial as it directly returns the nutrients of the body into the ground and allows new life (trees and plants) to grow from them. And I'd like to be buried here in Whanganui than somewhere else.

Submission method

Online

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID 8
reference 037031630232921
First name Maia
Last name Rogers
Organisation
Role

Not Speaking

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria?

Agree

Comments

The principles are good, but your proposals don't align to them.

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in?

Neither agree nor disagree

Reasons

I do appreciate that some people will be like the option of being scattered into a water feature at the cemetery and am supportive of creating this for them. However your proposal is incredibly disrespectful to those of us with different cultural and religious needs. While it wouldn't be right to scatter ashes into the Awa as it is a recognised person, there need to be natural bodies of water such as streams and lakes where we can scatter the ashes of loved ones and be scattered ourselves when our time comes.

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable?

Agree

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries?

Disagree

Reasons

No one drinks in moderation at the cemetery. Most people do not drink there at all, but those who do behave like idiots without fail. There is no good that comes of allowing this.

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules?

Neither agree nor disagree

Reasons

I don't think anyone actually cares about the structure of your documents - we care about the effect.

It is truly odd that you ask a question about this but don't have one about the very big issue of the number of people in a plot. You clearly haven't given any thought to the structure of families these days and how this might impact on people who don't have an even number of people in their family. My sister passed in childbirth with her twins. If that happened here, which one of them should have been buried alone - Mum? One of the twins? If me and my two little kids die in a car crash which one of us has to be buried alone? This is not just cultural insensitivity of the highest order, but it is also discrimination on the basis of family status. I am appalled that Council would put out something so blatantly discriminatory.

Further comments

Why haven't standing graves been considered? This might be a better use of land and actually align with your principles.

Submission method

Online

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID 9
reference 807030924235422
First name Kayla
Last name Young
Organisation
Role

Not Speaking

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria?

Strongly agree

Comments

No

Other

No

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in?

Neither agree nor disagree

Reasons

I believe in my perspective, that the community is not necessarily asking to scatter in water persay. But water in a specific place, somewhere that means something to that person. While I think a fountain of some type would be nice. I think having allocated areas round whanganui where people can do this would be better. For example at the beach or the nearby streams. Even if specific fountains were built in those areas. I agree the awa is not a place that should be chosen, nor either of the lakes.

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable?

Agree

Reasons

I am an active member on Find a Grave and actively help relatives from overseas, find their loved ones. I have cleaned some stones so they can be read. As they request photos of the gravesite. Or the information on the stone.

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries?

Agree

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules?

Neither agree nor disagree

Reasons

I'm not overally convinced these changes are absolutely necessary. And they are borderline dictation, without meaning to be I'm sure.

Further comments

No

Submission method

Email

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID 11
reference 526031608235223
First name Peter
Last name Malloy
Organisation
Role

Not Speaking

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria?

Strongly agree

Comments

Honouring our past and accessibility is very important

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in?

Agree

Reasons

My complete family have ashes spread as fols ,father,Karori flower garden, Mother with her family graves Aramoho ,sister Sea,south beach,Brother ,Auck Massey water estuary.

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable?

Agree

Reasons

Graves are always in need of timely cleaning and to make it easier to access has huge merit

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries?

Agree

Reasons

Respect is absent from much of society .I believe disruptive behaviour such as racing,skidding cars must be prohibited.

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules?

Agree

Reasons

Times change but Respect ,Safety and cultural standards must be managed.

Further comments

Maintenance and cleaning of Wanganui cemeteries must be kept at the highest standard at all times.

Submission method

Online

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID	13	Not Speaking
reference	827041655234505	
First name	Ann	
Last name	Blackwell	
Organisation		
Role		

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria? Disagree

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in? Disagree

Reasons

People should be allowed to scatter ashes where they want

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable? Agree

Reasons

They should be maintained and kept neat at all times by council if family don't. I am not a grave side visitor so I would never clean one if I had one

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries? Disagree

Reasons

Alcohol should not be consumed in a cemetery

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules? Agree

Submission method Online

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID	14	Not Speaking
reference	228040930235206	
First name	Mel	
Last name	Foster	
Organisation	New Zealand Master Monumental Masons Association	
Role	Executive Officer	

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria? Strongly agree

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in? Neither agree nor disagree

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable? Agree

Reasons

While NZMMMA commends the enthusiasm of volunteer groups involved in cleaning and restoring memorial monuments , we have concerns that in some cases lack of knowledge or expertise in technique can cause further damage. The Association is happy to offer their expert advice and guidance when required both to Council and volunteer groups and look forward to developing some good communication channels towards this.

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries? Agree

Reasons

Disruptive behaviour resulting from excessive alcohol could result in damage to other memorial monuments and adornments. We agree alcohol should be consumed in a controlled and respectful way .

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules? Agree

Further comments

The Whanganui District Council Headstone and Monument Policy 2015 needs to ensure compliance with the updated standards NZS 4242:2018 in particular around the new installation requirements and materials to be used.

We would encourage the Council to consult with NZMMMA when developing new areas in the cemetery to avoid impractical rules or long-term problems.

We recommend that only a suitably qualified monumental mason , who complies with the council's Health and Safety approval requirements, and preferably a member of the New Zealand Master Monumental Masons Association , may undertake work associated with a monument.

We request consistent monitoring and enforcement of standards by Council staff for headstones and adornments , and encourage Whanganui District Council to engage NZMMMA as part of the audit process .

We request that Council ensures information to consumers on the options available at the cemetery are current and comprehensive.

NZ Master Monumental Masons Association members are happy to be involved in on-going discussions and would like to have further input into final policy prior to adoption.

Submission method Online

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID	15	Not Speaking
reference	440041137232906	
First name	Malcolm	
Last name	Affleck	
Organisation		
Role		

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria? Agree

Comments

no

Other

no

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in? Disagree

Reasons

Cost when you already have a rose garden

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable? Agree

Reasons

Presentation of the cemetery - Kept tidy and clean

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries? Neither agree nor disagree

Reasons

everyone to their own

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules? Agree

Reasons

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Further comments

no

Submission method Online

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID	16	Not Speaking
reference	480041837233310	
First name	Justine	
Last name	Burgess	
Organisation		
Role		

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria? Agree

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in? Agree

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable? Agree

Reasons

Improves the look of the graveyards making them a pleasant place to visit. It can be distressing to be surrounded by unkept plots

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries? Agree

Reasons

A difficult one. My initial reaction was to ban alcohol, yet I agree that for some families raising a glass would help then

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules?

Submission method Online

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID	17	Not Speaking
reference	444041044231311	
First name	Brian	
Last name	Milham	
Organisation		
Role		

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria? Strongly agree

Comments

N/ANo

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in? Strongly agree

Reasons

Have seen people in past scattering ashes into the waves out at both Castlecliff and Kai-iwi Beaches . This is against many Cultural beliefs

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable? Agree

Reasons

Unkept graves is not a good sign and detracts from the rest of well kept sections of cemetery

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries? Agree

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules? Agree

Reasons

These rules should be upgrade on a regular basis and be made available for all to see.

Further comments

no

Submission method Online

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID	18
reference	044041733234912
First name	Tony
Last name	Anderson
Organisation	Anderson Memorials
Role	Director

Not Speaking

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria?

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in?

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable?

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries?

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules?

Attachments

Monument specifications.pdf

Monument specifications.pdf

Further comments

We want the Monument Specifications and plot sizes adjusted to what is currently already in the cemetery . EG Plot sizes have changed. Please don't use photo's of headstones supplied to public as I haven't arranged consent to use publicly.

We also want more signage (Cemetery rules, permit outlined)

We think it would also be good to have a camera setup somewhere as driving / skidding at funerals is getting very dangerous at times.

Submission method

Online

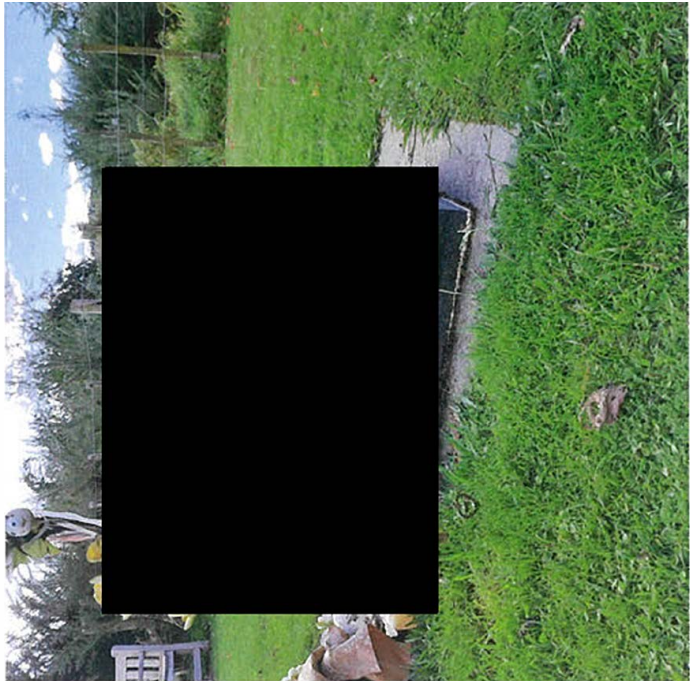
Appendix 2 - Monument Specifications

In areas of cemeteries laid out as lawn cemeteries the following maximum dimensions shall apply:

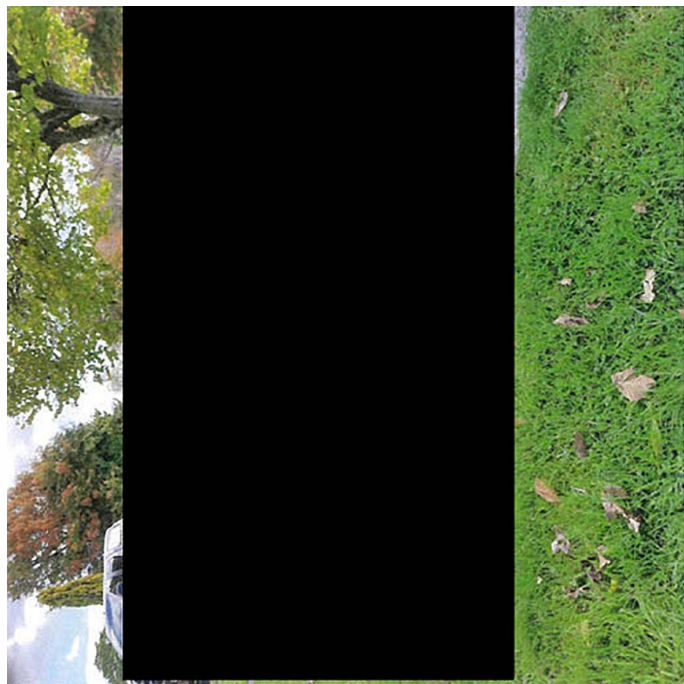
Cemetery Area	Specifications
New Lawn Area	1000mm x 600mm aside
Bases - Single	820mm x 450mm x 100 to 130mm
Bases single	900mm
For two piece monuments where 820mm is not sufficient width.	
Double	1820mm x 450mm x 100 to 130mm
Monument	760mm wide and not higher than 1300mm
Single	860
Double	1760mm wide and not higher than 1300mm
Children's Lawn Beam	900mm x 600mm aside
Bases - Single	750mm x 450mm x 100 to 130mm
Monument Single	700mm x not higher than 650mm 700
RSA Lawn -	480mm x 220mm high x 450mm deep back to back
All bases are poured as doubles back to back finished in white plaster	
Concrete beam	900mm x 600mm aside concrete
Bronze plaques	225mm x 375mm (do vary)
Cremation Lawn Beams	600mm x 380mm aside
Bases - single	600mm x 230mm x 100mm
Double	1200mm x 230mm x 100mm
Monument single	up to * 500 mm wide x 600 mm high x 75mm thick
Monument double	900mm wide x 500mm high x 75mm thick
Rose block Small	250mm wide x 200mm high
Large	300mm wide x 250mm high
Bases standard	500mm x 200mm x 75mm high
Memorial Wall	220mm wide x 220mm high



Taller cremation Headstones (2)



Taller cremation Headstones (3)



Taller cremation Headstones (4)



Taller cremation Headstones (1)

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID	19	Not Speaking
reference	564041255233913	
First name	Nicole	
Last name	Moana	
Organisation		
Role		

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria? Strongly agree

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in? Neither agree nor disagree

Reasons

I wouldn't do this personally but a lot of other people might like to. There should be an option for this and if people want to then there is one there for convenience

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable? Agree

Reasons

As long as several efforts/ attempts have been made to contact the owner

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries? Disagree

Reasons

I don't think a cemetery is the place to drink alcohol at all. Better to ban it and prevent anything happening.

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules? Neither agree nor disagree

Submission method Online

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID 21
reference 791042329230415
First name Lisa
Last name Eyre
Organisation
Role

Not Speaking

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria?

Agree

Comments

No

Other

No

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in?

Disagree

Reasons

I support the Council exploring ways to accommodate our community's varied religious and cultural practices but do not understand how a water feature at the cemetery would meet the need to scatter ashes in water or overcome the cultural barriers (presumably tikanga) mentioned. The ashes will eventually need to go somewhere - into the wastewater system or on land. Either option requires a significant cultural and/or religious compromise and introduces physical pollutants to our environment. Due to the chemical composition of ashes they would need to be interred (compromising or even nullifying the need to scatter in water?) or sent to landfill (surely unpalatable to most). As a member of the community I would like reassurance these issues have been resolved with community stakeholders (particularly local iwi) before budget is allocated to the water feature.

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable?

Agree

Reasons

I agree the council should have the authority for this approval, however the process to verify that volunteer groups have attempted to locate family members needs review. My family members' gravestones have been altered by a community group without contact or approval from easily contactable (via the White Pages) close relatives.

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries?

Disagree

Reasons

The Council has implemented liquor bans throughout the Whanganui CBD and park areas to minimise the antisocial behaviour that comes from having drunk people in public spaces. We don't want drunk people leaving broken glass where children play, so there's liquor restrictions at Kowhai Park. I think it's non-controversial to believe that most of the community does not want drunk people being disruptive around mourning families/those seeking quiet or glass smashed around headstones.

I can appreciate the Council hesitating to be seen to manage how people grieve/memorialise, but when those practices negatively impact others (and impacts most of the priority principles identified by the advisory group) the Council needs to set a community standard. Some people will still drink at the cemetery regardless of a liquor ban, but having a liquor in place may curb some of the behaviour and signal how the majority of the community wants to respect and honour our past.

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules?

Agree

Further comments

The review cites Dangerous driving but does not cite the issue of people doing burnouts at the cemetery. The tyre marks make the cemetery look terrible and I find it very disrespectful. I am not sure how it can be regulated/addressed but think it should be highlighted as an issue.

Submission method

Online

Cemeteries and Crematoria Review

ID	22	Not Speaking
reference	626041437233917	
First name	Dale	
Last name	Whitaker	
Organisation		
Role		

KEY ISSUES

Question 1: Do you support the 5 principles for managing cemeteries & crematoria? Agree

Other

I think that Vehicles - para 2: 2.1 - 2.3 remain and 3 remain.
General Clauses - 3.3: dogs should be allowed

Question 2: Do you support a water feature to scatter ashes in? Disagree

Reasons

Where will the water go? Iwi against it going into the river!

Question 3: Do you agree with allowing maintenance when an owner is unreasonable? Agree

Question 4: Do you agree with allowing alcohol consumption in cemeteries? Agree

Question 5: Do you agree with updating the structure of our rules? Agree

Submission method Delivered