



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

Prepared in Partnership with Whanganui Iwi

Cultural Management Guidelines for the Burial of Koiwi/Human Remains at Aramoho Cemetery, Whanganui

Prepared 25 July 2016

Purpose of these Guidelines

These guidelines have been prepared by the Whanganui District Council and Whanganui Iwi for a culturally responsible mechanism that Council officers and the staff at the Aramoho Cemetery may use in the guidance and management of Koiwi bones at the Aramoho Cemetery, Whanganui.

Background

In the 1980s or 1990s the Whanganui Regional Museum Board voted not to receive any more Koiwi Bones. This started discussions over a long period of time on how to dispose of the bones, and eventually resulted in four plots at Aramoho Cemetery being set aside for this purpose.¹

The plots are for bones found in the District. If the bones are not claimed within a certain period, they will eventually be buried. There is a period of two years for people to claim the bones.²

Cleveland Funeral Home, Whanganui are currently looking after a number of bones until they are identified or buried. Cleveland Funeral Directors have paid for two plots and Whanganui Iwi have paid for two plots.

The historic oral agreement for the area is between Iwi, Cleveland Funeral Home and the Whanganui District Council. The Council shall look after the plots in perpetuity. It is anticipated that the opening of the plots for burial will be once a year after liaison with iwi and Cleveland Funeral Home as to the most appropriate time for this to occur.³

All rules and guidelines on the digging of graves and burial procedures will apply. If Iwi wish to erect a monument, then the monument and the type of material must be consistent with the Whanganui District Council Monument Policy.

Relationship Arrangements

In keeping with the Te Whakarauhitanga o Te Tangata Relationship Document between the Whanganui District Council and Te Runanga o Tupoho, the Council will work in partnership that supports respectful engagement on all issues.

In keeping with the Te Whakarauhitanga o Te Tangata Relationship Document between the Whanganui District Council and Te Runanga o Tamaupoko, the Council will work in partnership that supports respectful engagement on all issues.

¹ First sentence (Whanganui District Council email dated 26 May 2016 recorded conversation between Local Kaumatua John Maihi and Council officers)

² Second Sentence (Whanganui District Council email dated 26 May 2016 recorded conversation between Local Kaumatua John Maihi and Council officers)

³ Third sentence (WDC email 26 May 2016)

Ownership of the Plots

For the purpose of these guidelines the Koiwi plots belong to Whanganui Iwi but are maintained and situated at the Council owned cemetery at Aramoho. The burial area, for Council records, will be known as the *Koiwi Burial area Papaiti Lawn Extension 1 Aramoho Cemetery, Whanganui*.

Burial of Koiwi bones.

It is anticipated that Whanganui Iwi will liaise with the Whanganui District Council on any re-interment of Koiwi bones so the day to day cemetery operational matters do not interfere with any re-interment that may take place.

Cultural Considerations

All Koiwi are the responsibility of this agreement. The identification of Koiwi is by presentation in whatever form e.g. Maori, Pakeha or other. On all levels, tangata whenua are individually involved for managing the burials in the first instance.

To assist in this process, Whanganui Iwi have advised that the following considerations should be allowed for:

1.	The appropriate persons contacted being the Kaiwhakahaere of the Te Runanga o Tupoho
2.	Sufficient time to be provided for karakia (prayer) and tauparapara (incantations)
3.	Refraining from eating and carrying food and drink within proximity to works or activities associated with the remains
4.	Use of appropriate tools for exhuming remains i.e. not home gardening implements
5.	Use of appropriate containers and receptacles i.e. nothing currently or previously used for containing food
6.	Provision for a designated repository or an agreed storage facility i.e. not residences or places of work
7.	Provision of water on site for cleansing/tapu removal

Burial Plots

There are four burial plots set aside for the specific purpose of burying Koiwi bones at the Aramoho Cemetery.

Burial Costs

As at June 2016 the Council records at Aramoho Cemetery confirm that the four burial plots set aside at the Aramoho Cemetery have been paid in full.

In liaison with Whanganui iwi, the Whanganui District Council has agreed that it will take responsibility for the cost of opening of a grave and interment of bones. It is anticipated that this will occur once a year.

Standards for recording

The Council records the burial and cremation of human remains at the Aramoho Cemetery. For the purposes of these guidelines recording of Koiwi are recorded as Koiwi remains along with the burial plot location on the Council cemetery database and the copies held in the Aramoho Cemetery Office.

Supporting documents

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the Whanganui District Council Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw 2016, the New Zealand Historic Places Trust Archaeological Guidelines Series Koiwi Tangata Human Remains, 2010, and the Burial and Cremations Act 1964.

References

Archaeological Guidelines Series Koiwi Tangata Human Remains, www.heritage.org.nz/~/-/media/cb8e9f981453476f9aeb8a40e516f579.ashx

Glossary

Burial and grave – the term ‘grave’ relates to the hole dug in the ground for a body or coffin. The term ‘burial’ relates to the body and/or coffin placed in a grave

Koiwi – for these guidelines, it refers to human remains of Maori, Pakeha - other origin

Re-interment - reburial

Tangata Whenua – local tribal group

Tapu – sacred

Karakia - prayer

Tauparapara - incantations

*The guidelines may be updated by the
Whanganui District Council and Whanganui Iwi*

As and when required

25 July 2016

Copies may be found on the Whanganui District Council website www.whanganui.govt.nz