

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Wyong Shire Council Cemeteries

Where are the Cemeteries Located?

There are five Cemeteries managed by Wyong Shire Council; Noraville, Jilliby, Yarramalong, Ronkana and St Barnabas. See Cemetery Locations Information Sheet.

What Application Forms are there?:

- Right of Burial (plot purchase) - This is to purchase a plot.
- Right to Niche (niche purchase in Memorial Niche Wall or Memorial Niche Garden at Noraville)
- Burial Permit and/or Re-opening
- Transfer of Right of Burial or Right to Niche
- Monumental Works

Fees apply for all. (See current Cemetery Fees Sheet)

What is a Right of Burial? A Right of Burial is an exclusive right of entitlement to a burial place which is granted by Council to a person or persons. This is not the land, only gives the right to bury in this land.

What is a Right to a Niche? A Right to a Niche is an exclusive right of entitlement to a niche in the Noraville Cemetery Memorial Wall or Memorial Garden which is granted by Council to a person or persons. See Memorial Niche Gardens and Memorial Niche Wall Information Sheet. This is not a purchase of the land, simply the right to place ashes in that spot.

How do people obtain a document confirming their ownership? A Right of Burial or Right to Niche letter is sent out to the owner(s) of the plot or niche once payment is made and the application processed.

How do I select and purchase a plot or niche? A plot can be selected and purchased by contacting Wyong Shire Council's Cemeteries Officer on 4350 5108.

What is the Process for a Right to a Niche Application? After a Niche has been selected, a Right to Niche application form is to be filled out and payment made to Customer Service. Your application will then be processed. See Memorial Niche Garden and Memorial Niche Wall Information Sheet.

Please note that Council does not hold ashes within its offices.

Can a Right of Burial or Right to Niche be transferred? The Right of Burial or Right to Niche may be transferred to another person or back to Council. Council will record any transfer upon satisfactory completion of an application and payment of the applicable fee. Council will only pay back the initial fee paid for the plot/niche to the customer.

What is a Burial Permit? A Burial Permit is required prior to any burial in Wyong Shire Council Cemeteries. An application form must be completed and signed by the Right of Burial Owner (Grantee) and lodged with Council with payment, at least 24 hours prior to the funeral/burial. The same application is used for the interment of ashes or coffin. If the burial is a second interment there is also a re-opening fee charged.

Grave digger: There are three grave diggers currently operating in Wyong Council cemeteries ; See Cemetery Contact Details for gravediggers and stone masons.

How many people can be buried in the plot? It depends on the depth of the first burial and the natural ground conditions. The Regulations of the Public Health Act (NSW 1991) specify the depth to which a casket must be covered by soil. The depth measurement is from the natural soil level to the top of the casket. **The minimum cover is 900mm.** To allow for variations in size of caskets, a double depth grave must be excavated to a depth of 2.1m. This will allow for a subsequent interment. A grave excavated to double depth should normally accommodate two full sized coffins and 4 sets of ashes. Some grave sites may be restricted due to natural landforms, etc. A grave designated for ashes only should accommodate 6-8 sets of ashes. Graves are generally dug according to the wishes of the family in conjunction with the funeral director.

What type of monument (headstone) is permitted? A Monumental Works Permit must be applied for and issued prior to any Monumental (headstone) works in Wyong Shire Council Cemeteries. With the appropriate authorisation, the stone mason who will be undertaking the works may apply for the permit. A fee applies.

All work shall be in accordance with Australian Standard AS 4204m Monuments and Headstones in Cemeteries. All materials shall be of a permanent nature.

Timber, bricks and mortar, ferrous metals etc are not considered permanent nor appropriate for monuments over exclusive Rights of Burial.

In the lawn sections of the Noraville and Jilliby Cemeteries, the scope of the work will be limited to the provision and fixing of a plaque and approved headstone to the concrete lawn beam at the site of the grave. No ornaments, crosses, statues, icons, vases or other items may be placed, permanently or temporarily, onto the lawns. The planting of flora at the grave site or anywhere else within a lawn cemetery is not permitted.

Concrete kerbs and surrounds are not permitted in any general lawn section of Council's Cemeteries. This is only permitted in the older denominational sections of Council's cemeteries.

See information sheet, Requirements to Carry Out Monumental Works.

Grave Subsidence: When will Council level a grave site? Graves normally subside after the burial. Within 28 days after a service, the grave is checked for subsidence and topped up if necessary using clean fill. It is then checked each week for a period of six weeks. Heavy rain can cause immediate subsidence, whereas in dry weather it can take up to three months. The grave site is levelled after 28 days and top-dressed and turfed where required.

Exhumations: (To dig up a buried body) Exhumations can only take place once written consent has been obtained from the Director-General of the Department of Health (NSW), and an Order of Exhumation has been issued by Council. The exhumation is to be supervised by an Environmental Health Officer, according to the standards set out in the LGA Code of Practice. This does not apply if an exhumation is ordered by a Court.

Burials on private property: Burials are permitted on private property in certain circumstances, eg large rural properties. Permission must be obtained from the Department of Health as well as from Council.



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