



Fact Sheet

Caring for our Cemetery – Grave care & Maintenance

Caring for 'Loved Ones' Graves

While the care and maintenance of individual gravesites is officially a responsibility of the Holder of the Right of Interment or the family, the Bellbrae Cemetery Trust strives to ensure all graves and the cemetery surrounds are respectively and well maintained. The Trust also cares for the overall ground and facilities.

Following a Burial

- Following the graveside service the grave will be backfilled and mounded.
- Available floral tributes will be placed on the grave.
- Over the next few days or sometime weeks the soil will settle and subside. At this point, we will look to add additional fill.
- Once the grave has settled a further layer of loam is applied. If in a lawn section the area will be seeded.
- As part of regular maintenance some areas will require further loam.

A subsiding grave can be distressing to some people but be assured it is part of the normal process and the grave will not be neglected.

Establishing a memorial or headstone.

It is advisable to wait between 3 to 6 months before establishing a formal memorial. This will minimise issues that could arise from subsidence. Always discuss this aspect with your selected stonemason.

Always contact the Trust before commencing any memorial work, as an application and fee will need to be approved and processed

Soil and Drainage in the Cemetery grounds

- The soil at Bellbrae is a heavy clay known as marl. This also impacts grave settlement as well as drainage.
- It is not uncommon to see surface water as it works its water down the slopes and pathways. In winter this may even pool as the soil becomes waterlogged. Always be careful to avoid slips and falls.

Damage and Vandalism

Sadly, from time to time we do have report of damage in the cemetery. Items of memorabilia or special meaning may go missing so if they are placed by or on a grave it is at the families risk.

For more serious damage e.g. a headstone is vandalised, the Cemetery is insured.

Care Program

Most Fridays you will find a member of the Trust doing a walk through to collect rubbish, glass and dead flowers. Stop and say hello!!

Keep in touch

Please ensure your contact details are kept up to date – that way if we notice anything of concern we can contact you. Our email is bellbraect@gamil.com.