

DRAFT FOR FEEDBACK

Flower and tribute standards

We are committed to working closely with the community to understand their ideas and concerns regarding our proposed Flower and Tribute Standards. We aim to enhance our approach to sustainable flowers and tributes at our memorial parks and encourage you to share your thoughts [here](#) or visit www.metropolitanmemorialparks.com.au/contact-us/have-your-say.

At Metropolitan Memorial Parks (MMP) we recognise the importance of flowers and tributes in honouring and respecting our loved ones. We also recognise our role, as a Crown land manager, to maintain a beautiful and tranquil environment for the benefit of all visitors to our parks.

MMP serves diverse communities with differing practices and beliefs. This makes it challenging for us at times to meet specific needs and requests. To provide a fair, balanced and transparent approach to the parks' management, we have developed the following standard for the placement of flowers and tributes in our memorial parks. By adhering to this standard, you will assist us in providing a safe and aesthetically pleasing environment for everyone.

Our respect for nature

We welcome fresh flower tributes and provide temporary vase receptacles for your use within our lawn areas. Please do not place more than two vases per grave. With our focus on environmental sustainability, artificial tributes present a significant issue as they are not able to be recycled. However, fresh floral tributes will biodegrade over time. Please place flowers within the vases provided or, where appropriate, within the vases incorporated within memorials. Please do not pick flowers or plants from our grounds.

Wrapping and rubber bands present a significant litter issue and present a risk to the park's native wildlife. Please remove the wrapping and rubber bands before flowers are placed in the vases and dispose of them in the rubbish bins provided in the park. You can show respect to neighbouring memorials by only placing your flowers within your grave site. Please be mindful that tributes that encroach on neighbouring burial or memorial positions can cause distress to neighbouring families.

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Remember

- The safety and beauty of our memorial parks remain our priority.
- We may need to remove any item that does not follow these standards.
- Any items placed in the cemetery contrary to MMP's standard does not create a precedent or approval for the same items to be placed elsewhere.

Grounds staff may need to remove tributes that have withered and deteriorated to perform routine maintenance work. We recognise this is a highly sensitive and emotive aspect for our families and we will always try and remove the least amount of floral degradation where possible to try and keep memorials intact and or honour religious or cultural traditions where practicable.

However, the reality is that all tributes will wither over time, eventually needing removal. Due to safety and environmental concerns, we cannot permit permanent tributes such as plants, shrubs, statues, permanent wreaths, toys, flags, glass jars/bottles/containers ceramic pots, crosses or any other ornament. We will endeavour to retain non floral tributes removed by our staff for 21 days only (except for those posing a safety risk, which will be immediately disposed of).

Please contact the cemetery office to arrange collection within this period, otherwise, items will be disposed of. Note: Flowers may move from their original location due to weather conditions or maintenance requirements.

At MMP we're committed to working towards environmentally sustainable practices. To preserve our natural surroundings, we no longer permit plastic or silk flower tributes in open lawn and monumental areas.

Temporary white cross markers

At the time of burial, a white cross temporary marker bearing the deceased's name and date of death can be placed on the grave site. Please note that these markers are not designed to be permanent and will need to be removed either when a memorial is installed or within 12 months of the funeral service. If our grounds staff remove the marker, it will be stored for 21 days before being disposed of.

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Our respect for religious, cultural and spiritual practices

We respect religious and cultural practices where possible. We support the placement of temporary candili boxes in monumental areas only. Candles or oil burner flames must be protected and contained within the candili box. Unsafe flames will be extinguished. Temporary crosses are permitted in burial areas until a memorial is erected or becomes a safety issue. An MMP approved permit is required before work is undertaken to install a permanent structure e.g. timber or masonry monument. No temporary timber structures or loose pebbles/stones are allowed on graves unless incorporated into the monument.

Permanent tributes and specific requirements in cemetery sections

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| Lawn sections | Fresh flowers may be placed in receptacles on the plaque plinth. |
| Adult | Small ornaments or mementos are not supported. |
| Children's section | Small ornaments/mementos may be placed within the plinth area of the plot, but not on the grassed area of the plot. |
| Monumental areas | Fresh flowers may be placed in receptacles of the monument. |
| Internal spaces, chapels, columbarium | Fresh flowers are not permitted. |
| Mausoleums | A small photo of the deceased can be affixed to the crypt panel temporarily prior to inscription, this must be removed after inscription is finalised. All items, including fresh flowers, vases, receptacles, figurines, and candles are prohibited and will be removed without notice. |

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Contact

Please contact our Customer Service office if you are unsure if your tribute complies with our standard or if you require further clarification.

Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park

02 9661 5655
info.esmp@mmplm.com.au

Macquarie Park Cemetery and
Crematorium including Field of Mars,
Frenchs Forest, Gore Hill

1300 389 888
info.mpc@mmplm.com.au

Rookwood General Cemetery

02 8575 8100
info.rgc@mmplm.com.au

Sandgate Cemetery

02 4968 3602
info.sgc@mmplm.com.au

Woronora Memorial Park

02 9545 4677
info.wmp@mmplm.com.au

Thank you for your assistance in keeping our memorial parks safe and beautiful.