

ORDINARY MEETING
OF
STRATEGY AND POLICY COMMITTEE
AGENDA

Time: 1:30 pm
Date: Wednesday, 17 February 2021
Venue: Ngake (16.09)
Level 16, Tahiwī
113 The Terrace
Wellington

MEMBERSHIP

Mayor Foster
Deputy Mayor Free
Councillor Calvert (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Condie
Councillor Day (Chair)
Councillor Fitzsimons
Councillor Foon
Councillor Matthews
Councillor O'Neill
Councillor Pannett
Councillor Paul
Councillor Rush
Councillor Sparrow
Councillor Woolf
Councillor Young

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Incorporated
Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust

AREA OF FOCUS

The role of the Strategy and Policy Committee is to set the broad vision and direction of the city, determine specific outcomes that need to be met to deliver on that vision, and set in place the strategies and policies, bylaws and regulations, and work programmes to achieve those goals.

In determining and shaping the strategies, policies, regulations, and work programme of the Council, the Committee takes a holistic approach to ensure there is strong alignment between the objectives and work programmes of the seven strategic areas covered in the Long-Term Plan (Governance, Environment, Economic Development, Cultural Wellbeing, Social and Recreation, Urban Development and Transport) with particular focus on the priority areas of Council.

The Strategy and Policy Committee works closely with the Annual Plan/Long-Term Plan Committee to achieve its objective.

To read the full delegations of this Committee, please visit wellington.govt.nz/meetings.

Quorum: 8 members

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1. Meeting Conduct

1.1 Karakia

The Chairperson will open the meeting with a karakia.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Whakataka te hau ki te uru, | Cease oh winds of the west |
| Whakataka te hau ki te tonga. | and of the south |
| Kia mākinakina ki uta, | Let the bracing breezes flow, |
| Kia mātaratara ki tai. | over the land and the sea. |
| E hī ake ana te atākura. | Let the red-tipped dawn come |
| He tio, he huka, he hauhū. | with a sharpened edge, a touch of frost, |
| Tihei Mauri Ora! | a promise of a glorious day |

At the appropriate time, the following karakia will be read to close the meeting.

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Unuhia, unuhia, unuhia ki te uru tapu nui | Draw on, draw on |
| Kia wātea, kia māmā, te ngākau, te tinana, | Draw on the supreme sacredness |
| te wairua | To clear, to free the heart, the body |
| I te ara takatū | and the spirit of mankind |
| Koia rā e Rongo, whakairia ake ki runga | Oh Rongo, above (symbol of peace) |
| Kia wātea, kia wātea | Let this all be done in unity |
| Āe rā, kua wātea! | |

1.2 Apologies

The Chairperson invites notice from members of apologies, including apologies for lateness and early departure from the meeting, where leave of absence has not previously been granted.

1.3 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2021 will be put to the Strategy and Policy Committee for confirmation.

1.5 Items not on the Agenda

The Chairperson will give notice of items not on the agenda as follows.

Matters Requiring Urgent Attention as Determined by Resolution of the Strategy and Policy Committee.

The Chairperson shall state to the meeting:

1. The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
2. The reason why discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

The item may be allowed onto the agenda by resolution of the Strategy and Policy Committee.

Minor Matters relating to the General Business of the Strategy and Policy Committee.

The Chairperson shall state to the meeting that the item will be discussed, but no resolution, decision, or recommendation may be made in respect of the item except to refer it to a subsequent meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee for further discussion.

1.6 Public Participation

A maximum of 60 minutes is set aside for public participation at the commencement of any meeting of the Council or committee that is open to the public. Under standing order 31.3, no request for public participation for this meeting will be accepted as this meeting has been scheduled for the purpose of oral hearings only.

2. General Business

DRAFT CEMETERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020 HEARINGS

Purpose

1. This report asks the Strategy and Policy Committee to recognise the speakers who will be speaking to their submissions regarding the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan 2020 consultation.

Recommendation/s

That the Strategy and Policy Committee:

1. Receive the information.
2. Hear the oral submitters and thank them for speaking to their submissions.

Background

2. The Strategy and Policy Committee approved the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan 2020 for public consultation on 22 October 2020.
3. Wellington City Council consulted on the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan 2020 between 6 November and 14 December 2020.
4. Submitters were asked if they would like to make an oral submission to Council.

Discussion

5. Oral submitters' written submissions have been attached.

Next Actions

6. Following the hearings, the analysis of submissions and accompanying report is due to come before the Strategy and Policy Committee in April 2021.

Attachment 1

Oral submissions – Draft Cemeteries Management Plan 2020

| | |
|------------|--|
| Author | Cyrus Frear, Senior Democracy Advisor |
| Authoriser | Jennifer Parker, Democracy Services Manager Stephen McArthur, Chief Strategy & Governance Officer |

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Engagement and Consultation

This report provides for a key stage of the consultation process – the opportunity for the public to speak to their written submissions.

Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no Treaty of Waitangi considerations arising from this report. Submitters may speak to matters that have Treaty of Waitangi implications.

Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report. Submitters may speak to matters that have financial implications.

Policy and legislative implications

There are no policy implications arising from this report. Submitters may speak to matters that have policy implications.

Risks / legal

There are no risk or legal implications arising from the oral hearing report. Submitters may speak on matters that have risk or legal implications.

Climate Change impact and considerations

There are no climate change implications arising from this report. Submitters may speak to matters that have climate change implications.

Communications Plan

Not applicable.

Health and Safety Impact considered

Participants are able to address the Committee either in person or via audiovisual link. Democracy Services staff have offered full assistance to submitters in case of any unfamiliarity with using the audiovisual technology.

Oral Submissions on the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan 2020

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Respondent No: 15 Janet MacDonald

[Redacted]

Email: [Redacted]

Responded At: Nov 08, 2020 11:24:22 am

Last Seen: Nov 07, 2020 22:17:13 pm

IP Address:

Q1. Have you visited a cemetery in the last two years? Yes

Q2. Which of the following cemeteries have you visited? (please tick all that apply) Karori Cemetery
Other cemetery in New Zealand (outside of Wellington region)

Q3. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Mākara Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q4. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Mākara Cemetery?

not answered

Q5. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Karori Cemetery? (please tick all that apply) Exercise (eg. ride your bike or go for a walk)
Go on a tour
Relax

Q6. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Karori Cemetery?

Well maintained. Very important part of Wellington's history.

Q7. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Tawa Cemetery (please tick all that apply)

Q8. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Tawa Cemetery?

not answered

Q9. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to a cemetery in New Zealand outside of the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply) Visit the grave of a loved one
Other (please specify)

Q10. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

Moving.

Q11. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to another cemetery in the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Q12. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q13. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at an overseas cemetery?

not answered

Q14. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to an overseas cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q15. If you haven't visited a cemetery in the last two years, would you do so for any of the following activities? (please tick all that apply)

Q16. Did you know that the right of interment (burial) in a cemetery plot is generally in perpetuity (for ever?) Yes

Q17. To what extent do you agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment?

I agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment Definitely disagree

Q18. If Wellington City Council were to offer the option of re-using graves, how long should be allowed before a potential second burial? Graves should not be re-used

Q19. Did you know that maintenance of graves and ash plots is the responsibility of the plot owner/family? Yes

Q20. It is costly to maintain and restore grave sites. Do you think the Council has a role in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain the plot? Yes

Q21. What do you think the Council's role should be in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain a plot? (Tick all that should apply) Basic safety work

Q22. What is your preference for how graves should look and be maintained? Somewhere in the middle

Q23. If families are unavailable, who else do you think could or should have a role in maintaining and restoring grave sites?

not answered

Q24. In our lawn cemetery areas, decorations and tributes are allowed only on the headstone and concrete base because the lawns need to be kept clear for access, maintenance and servicing. Some people like to place tributes and planting in the lawn area but they obstruct access and need to be removed and returned to the family where possible. If you have any ideas about how we can recognise people's desire to place tributes beyond the headstone area, while ensuring practical access and maintenance, please share them with us below.

not answered

Q25. The draft plan proposes to encourage the use of biodegradable decorations and tributes because plastic ones often blow around, causing litter and stream pollution. If you have any ideas about more environmentally-friendly options, please share them with us below.

Biodegradable is an excellent idea.

Q26. Karori and Tawa Cemeteries are places of significant historical importance, containing many old heritage features such as graves, monuments and buildings. If the Council had to prioritise work to protect the built heritage of the grave sites, how would you rank the following factors in order of importance? (1 being the most important and 5 the least important)

1. Tree removal where roots are causing damage
2. Maintaining a representative sample of graves from different eras and cultures
3. Maintaining graves from historically significant events (eg. Tangiwai disaster)
4. Maintaining graves of famous people
5. Other

Q27. In the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan we are proposing to limit cycling/biking to the paved roadways where vehicles are allowed under a speed limit of 10 km/hr, or on tracks marked for cycle use that connect to adjacent open spaces. Do you agree with this proposal?

Yes

Q28. To what extent do you consider the following appropriate in our cemeteries?

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Outdoor performances | Neutral |
| Public remembrance events | Highly appropriate |
| Heritage tours | Highly appropriate |
| Venue hire for weddings and special occasions | Neutral |
| Contemplation | Highly appropriate |
| Biking | Somewhat appropriate |
| Picnics | Somewhat appropriate |
| Horse riding (at Mākara Cemetery) | Neutral |

Q29. Is there anything you'd like to tell us about your answers above?

not answered

Q30. An online cemetery management system is currently being developed that will enable 24-hour online bookings and online access to cemetery records and digital mapping. We're also planning other improvements to the cemeteries section of the Council's website. As well as burial and cremation options and costs what kind of information would you be interested in finding online? (tick all that apply)

- Memorial options
- How to get to our cemeteries
- A virtual tour of the cemeteries
- Cemetery records
- Downloadable cemetery maps
- Heritage tours
- Guidance on how to maintain graves
- Volunteering opportunities

Q31. Thank you for your feedback. If you have anything else you would like to tell us about how we manage cemeteries at the moment, or what our cemeteries should look like in the future, please do so here.

I think the idea of reusing graves is abhorrent. I understand space is limited and will become even more so but there are many other ways of managing this such as encouraging cremation.

Q32. Would you like to make an oral submission to the Councillors? (Oral submissions will take place in February 2021 – date to be confirmed)

Yes



Respondent No: 6 **Julia Umaga**

Responded At: Nov 07, 2020 10:47:08 am

Last Seen: Nov 06, 2020 20:59:41 pm

Email: [REDACTED]

IP Address:

Q1. Have you visited a cemetery in the last two years? Yes

Q2. Which of the following cemeteries have you visited? (please tick all that apply)
Mākara Cemetery
Karori Cemetery
Other cemetery in New Zealand (outside of Wellington region)

Q3. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Mākara Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)
Visit the grave of a loved one

Q4. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Mākara Cemetery?

It is a beautiful Cemetery where I can spend time in peace with my beloved parents, aunties & uncles, cousins and friends.

Q5. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Karori Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)
Visit the grave of a loved one

Q6. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Karori Cemetery?

Its so historical and amazing. My brother is buried here and our mummy right to the age of 87 years old until she passed would visit him regularly a mothers love for her son is unconditional and forever.

Q7. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Tawa Cemetery (please tick all that apply)

Q8. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Tawa Cemetery?

not answered

Q9. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to a cemetery in New Zealand outside of the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)
Visit the grave of a loved one

Q10. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

It is wonderful to be able to have a place to visit our loved ones it is so important emotionally and mentally.

Q11. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to another cemetery in the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Q12. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q13. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at an overseas cemetery?

not answered

Q14. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to an overseas cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q15. If you haven't visited a cemetery in the last two years, would you do so for any of the following activities? (please tick all that apply)

Q16. Did you know that the right of interment (burial) in a cemetery plot is generally in perpetuity (for ever?) Yes

Q17. To what extent do you agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment?

I agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment Definitely disagree

Q18. If Wellington City Council were to offer the option of re-using graves, how long should be allowed before a potential second burial? Graves should not be re-used

Q19. Did you know that maintenance of graves and ash plots is the responsibility of the plot owner/family? Yes

Q20. It is costly to maintain and restore grave sites. Do you think the Council has a role in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain the plot? Yes

Q21. What do you think the Council's role should be in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain a plot? (Tick all that should apply) Removing damaging plant growth
Basic safety work
Repairing damage from vandalism or Council maintenance

Q22. What is your preference for how graves should look and be maintained? Other (please specify)

Q23. If families are unavailable, who else do you think could or should have a role in maintaining and restoring grave sites?

People are looking for jobs employ people to do it or have those on pd do it. We paid alot for plot fees as well as rates.

Q24. In our lawn cemetery areas, decorations and tributes are allowed only on the headstone and concrete base because the lawns need to be kept clear for access, maintenance and servicing. Some people like to place tributes and planting in the lawn area but they obstruct access and need to be removed and returned to the family where possible. If you have any ideas about how we can recognise people's desire to place tributes beyond the headstone area, while ensuring practical access and maintenance, please share them with us below.

You should have markings on the lawns actually lines that their tributes cannot pass this line also get Funeral Directors to remind the families that a month after the burial the decorations need to be behind the line. Or work on a credit scheme like insurance you keep your decorations behind the line you will get a 10% discount on your next plot.

Q25. The draft plan proposes to encourage the use of biodegradable decorations and tributes because plastic ones often blow around, causing litter and stream pollution. If you have any ideas about more environmentally-friendly options, please share them with us below.

You will probably need to employ staff to do this job and send flyers to the family members of the deceased to tell them that we will have staff monitoring the gravesites who will remove things not biodegradable.

Q26. Karori and Tawa Cemeteries are places of significant historical importance, containing many old heritage features such as graves, monuments and buildings. If the Council had to prioritise work to protect the built heritage of the grave sites, how would you rank the following factors in order of importance? (1 being the most important and 5 the least important)

1. Tree removal where roots are causing damage
2. Other
3. Maintaining a representative sample of graves from different eras and cultures
4. Maintaining graves from historically significant events (eg. Tangiwai disaster)
5. Maintaining graves of famous people

Q27. In the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan we are proposing to limit cycling/biking to the paved roadways where vehicles are allowed under a speed limit of 10 km/hr , or on tracks marked for cycle use that connect to adjacent open spaces. Do you agree with this proposal?

Yes

Q28. To what extent to you consider the following appropriate in our cemeteries?

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Outdoor performances | Highly inappropriate |
| Public remembrance events | Somewhat appropriate |
| Heritage tours | Somewhat appropriate |
| Venue hire for weddings and special occasions | Highly inappropriate |
| Contemplation | Neutral |
| Biking | Somewhat inappropriate |
| Picnics | Highly inappropriate |
| Horse riding (at Mākara Cemetery) | Somewhat appropriate |

Q29. Is there anything you'd like to tell us about your answers above?

Horsing they should pick up their horse poo like dog owners do. Biking as long as its not biking events, races that leaves a trail of mud and mess from spectators. Heritage Tours only for those who want to see historical headstones. Contemplation is up to an individual why I said neutral.

Q30. An online cemetery management system is currently being developed that will enable 24-hour online bookings and online access to cemetery records and digital mapping. We're also planning other improvements to the cemeteries section of the Council's website. As well as burial and cremation options and costs what kind of information would you be interested in finding online? (tick all that apply)

How to get to our cemeteries
A virtual tour of the cemeteries
Cemetery records
Volunteering opportunities
Guidance on how to maintain graves
Downloadable cemetery maps
Memorial options

Q31. Thank you for your feedback. If you have anything else you would like to tell us about how we manage cemeteries at the moment, or what our cemeteries should look like in the future, please do so here.

I am 100% against renting graves. We have lots of family members buried at Makara and a brother in Karori that our mother regularly visited her son for 87 years and we continue to this day. That was the only cemetery they knew in the 1960s. Although we never met our brother our mummy never forgot her son and always reminded us of him when she talked about him even 70 years after she still had a tear in her eye he died hours after he was born. We bury our loved ones so that we have a place to visit them, remember them, talk to them and thank them. For whatever reason people can't visit their loved ones that is not your decision to make they buried their loved ones for a reason! This goes against my spiritual, cultural and emotional beliefs and also would cause mental damage to family members who will mourn again. This is very taboo and sacred to remove loved ones. We paid for a final resting place for them not a rental property! I want to know who you consulted when your council thought of this ridiculous idea!

Q32. Would you like to make an oral submission to the Councillors? (Oral submissions will take place in February 2021 – date to be confirmed)

Yes



Respondent No: 7 Helen Karati

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Nov 07, 2020 11:29:09 am

Last Seen: Nov 06, 2020 22:15:42 pm

IP Address:

Q1. Have you visited a cemetery in the last two years?

Yes

Q2. Which of the following cemeteries have you visited? (please tick all that apply)

Mākara Cemetery

Other cemetery in the Wellington region

Other cemetery in New Zealand (outside of Wellington region)

Q3. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Mākara Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Visit the grave of a loved one

Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes

Q4. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Mākara Cemetery?

not answered

Q5. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Karori Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q6. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Karori Cemetery?

not answered

Q7. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Tawa Cemetery (please tick all that apply)

Q8. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Tawa Cemetery?

not answered

Q9. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to a cemetery in New Zealand outside of the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Visit the grave of a loved one

Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes

Q10. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q11. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to another cemetery in the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Visit the grave of a loved one

Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes

Q12. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q13. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at an overseas cemetery?

not answered

Q14. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to an overseas cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q15. If you haven't visited a cemetery in the last two years, would you do so for any of the following activities? (please tick all that apply)

Q16. Did you know that the right of interment (burial) in a cemetery plot is generally in perpetuity (for ever?) Yes

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I agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment Definitely disagree

Q18. If Wellington City Council were to offer the option of re-using graves, how long should be allowed before a potential second burial? Graves should not be re-used

Q19. Did you know that maintenance of graves and ash plots is the responsibility of the plot owner/family? Yes

Q20. It is costly to maintain and restore grave sites. Do you think the Council has a role in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain the plot? Yes

Q21. What do you think the Council's role should be in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain a plot? (Tick all that should apply)

- Restoration including repairing structures
- Cleaning structures so that inscriptions are legible
- Repairing damage from vandalism or Council maintenance
- Basic safety work
- Removing damaging plant growth

Q22. What is your preference for how graves should look and be maintained? Other (please specify)

Q23. If families are unavailable, who else do you think could or should have a role in maintaining and restoring grave sites?

not answered

Q24. In our lawn cemetery areas, decorations and tributes are allowed only on the headstone and concrete base because the lawns need to be kept clear for access, maintenance and servicing. Some people like to place tributes and planting in the lawn area but they obstruct access and need to be removed and returned to the family where possible. If you have any ideas about how we can recognise people's desire to place tributes beyond the headstone area, while ensuring practical access and maintenance, please share them with us below.

not answered

Q25. The draft plan proposes to encourage the use of biodegradable decorations and tributes because plastic ones often blow around, causing litter and stream pollution. If you have any ideas about more environmentally-friendly options, please share them with us below.

How are families updated on these changes and who have you engaged with to propose these changes. Such a western view!

Q26. Karori and Tawa Cemeteries are places of significant historical importance, containing many old heritage features such as graves, monuments and buildings. If the Council had to prioritise work to protect the built heritage of the grave sites, how would you rank the following factors in order of importance? (1 being the most important and 5 the least important)

1. Maintaining a representative sample of graves from different eras and cultures
2. Other
3. Maintaining graves from historically significant events (eg. Tangiwai disaster)

Q27. In the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan we are proposing to limit cycling/biking to the paved roadways where vehicles are allowed under a speed limit of 10 km/hr, or on tracks marked for cycle use that connect to adjacent open spaces. Do you agree with this proposal?

Yes

Q28. To what extent do you consider the following appropriate in our cemeteries?

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Outdoor performances | Highly inappropriate |
| Public remembrance events | Somewhat appropriate |
| Heritage tours | Highly inappropriate |
| Venue hire for weddings and special occasions | Highly inappropriate |
| Contemplation | Highly inappropriate |
| Biking | Highly inappropriate |
| Picnics | Somewhat appropriate |
| Horse riding (at Mākara Cemetery) | Highly inappropriate |

Q29. Is there anything you'd like to tell us about your answers above?

not answered

Q30. An online cemetery management system is currently being developed that will enable 24-hour online bookings and online access to cemetery records and digital mapping. We're also planning other improvements to the cemeteries section of the Council's website. As well as burial and cremation options and costs what kind of information would you be interested in finding online? (tick all that apply)

- Memorial options
- How to get to our cemeteries
- A virtual tour of the cemeteries
- Guidance on how to maintain graves

Q31. Thank you for your feedback. If you have anything else you would like to tell us about how we manage cemeteries at the moment, or what our cemeteries should look like in the future, please do so here.

Your draft plan is not informed by the voices of community! As a Pacific women born in Aotearoa this plan and what you are proposing goes against our values. How many people have you engaged with including Maori and Pacific? This is survey is also difficult for a lot of our communities to complete the language you have used is not simple! WCC again planning without community! A western view and approach!

Q32. Would you like to make an oral submission to the Councillors? (Oral submissions will take place in February 2021 – date to be confirmed)

Yes



Respondent No: 24 Mine Auelua

Responded At: Nov 09, 2020 00:55:43 am

Last Seen: Nov 08, 2020 11:21:49 am

Email: [REDACTED]

IP Address:

Q1. Have you visited a cemetery in the last two years?

Yes

Q2. Which of the following cemeteries have you visited? (please tick all that apply)

Mākara Cemetery
Other cemetery in New Zealand (outside of Wellington region)
Other cemetery in the Wellington region
Overseas cemetery
Karori Cemetery

Q3. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Mākara Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Visit the grave of a loved one
Arrange a funeral or burial
Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes

Q4. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Mākara Cemetery?

I have a lot of family and members of our Pacific community buried at Makara. It's a place of remembrance and time to reconnect with loved ones who have passed. It's also a place of healing especially when dealing with grief. It's a sacred place to which we honour our loved ones. I come from a community that thrives in a communal environment. Looking after the resting place of our loved ones is very important culturally and spiritually.

Q5. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Karori Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Arrange a funeral or burial

Q6. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Karori Cemetery?

Similar to previous comments.

Q7. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Tawa Cemetery (please tick all that apply)

Q8. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Tawa Cemetery?

not answered

Q9. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to a cemetery in New Zealand outside of the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes

Q10. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

In Auckland, the cemeteries are a lot larger and can accommodate multiple funerals on site. Makara given the location and the difficulty of access for buses it can be hard to transport large amounts of Pacific communities post funeral. We tend to have 200 plus people attend typical Pacific funerals. It would be great to have something similar to Whenua Tapu in the Wellington city region.

Q11. **What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to another cemetery in the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)**

Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes
Arrange a funeral or burial
Visit the grave of a loved one

Q12. **Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?**

Whenua Tapu is a great example and it's a beautiful place. The construct of the new upper section provides easy vehicle access for large funerals abd unveilings.

Q13. **Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at an overseas cemetery?**

This part of life is treated with upmost respect and is a culturally significant process. Reinter only happens at the request of the family and is normally to wash the remains and place then back in the original grave. This is sacred process guided by families.

Q14. **What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to an overseas cemetery? (please tick all that apply)**

Visit the grave of a loved one
Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes
Arrange a funeral or burial

Q15. **If you haven't visited a cemetery in the last two years, would you do so for any of the following activities? (please tick all that apply)**

Q16. **Did you know that the right of interment (burial) in a cemetery plot is generally in perpetuity (for ever?)**

Yes

Q17. **To what extent do you agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment?**

I agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment

Definitely disagree

Q18. **If Wellington City Council were to offer the option of re-using graves, how long should be allowed before a potential second burial?**

Other (please specify)

Q19. **Did you know that maintenance of graves and ash plots is the responsibility of the plot owner/family?**

Yes

Q20. **It is costly to maintain and restore grave sites. Do you think the Council has a role in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain the plot?**

Yes

Q21. **What do you think the Council's role should be in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain a plot? (Tick all that should apply)**

Repairing damage from vandalism or Council maintenance
Removing damaging plant growth
Basic safety work
Cleaning structures so that inscriptions are legible
Restoration including repairing structures

Q22. **What is your preference for how graves should look and be maintained?**

Somewhere in the middle

Q23. **If families are unavailable, who else do you think could or should have a role in maintaining and restoring grave sites?**

The Council only to the extent that is there was any damage to the headstone then that would fall on the family

Q24. **In our lawn cemetery areas, decorations and tributes are allowed only on the headstone and concrete base because the lawns need to be kept clear for access, maintenance and servicing. Some people like to place tributes and planting in the lawn area but they obstruct access and need to be removed and returned to the family where possible. If you have any ideas about how we can recognise people's desire to place tributes beyond the headstone area, while ensuring practical access and maintenance, please share them with us below.**

You need to understand that although death is inevitable the grieving process especially for ethnic groups can be prolonged over months and sometimes years. There should be some flexibility on what families can do beyond the headstone. I've seen people who have made a pebble tributes which covers the entire plot. This was a coping mechanism for them. So, in essence WCC need to evaluate the types of things people are doing on the graves and do an analysis of the common themes, which will provides some middle ground or balanced solutions .

Q25. **The draft plan proposes to encourage the use of biodegradable decorations and tributes because plastic ones often blow around, causing litter and stream pollution. If you have any ideas about more environmentally-friendly options, please share them with us below.**

Plastic should be discouraged. NZ is working towards a plastic free environment and that should be extended to our cemeteries as well. It may help if WCC were to identify vendors who would support this ideas and showcase their work to help with shifting from the plastic approach.

Q26. **Karori and Tawa Cemeteries are places of significant historical importance, containing many old heritage features such as graves, monuments and buildings. If the Council had to prioritise work to protect the built heritage of the grave sites, how would you rank the following factors in order of importance? (1 being the most important and 5 the least important)**

1. Maintaining graves from historically significant events (eg. Tangiwai disaster)
2. Maintaining a representative sample of graves from different eras and cultures
3. Tree removal where roots are causing damage
4. Maintaining graves of famous people

Q27. **In the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan we are proposing to limit cycling/biking to the paved roadways where vehicles are allowed under a speed limit of 10 km/hr , or on tracks marked for cycle use that connect to adjacent open spaces. Do you agree with this proposal?**

Yes

Q28. To what extent to you consider the following appropriate in our cemeteries?

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Outdoor performances | Highly inappropriate |
| Public remembrance events | Highly appropriate |
| Heritage tours | Neutral |
| Venue hire for weddings and special occasions | Highly inappropriate |
| Contemplation | Highly appropriate |
| Biking | Highly inappropriate |
| Picnics | Somewhat appropriate |
| Horse riding (at Mākara Cemetery) | Highly inappropriate |

Q29. Is there anything you'd like to tell us about your answers above?

not answered

| | |
|--|--|
| Q30. An online cemetery management system is currently being developed that will enable 24-hour online bookings and online access to cemetery records and digital mapping. We're also planning other improvements to the cemeteries section of the Council's website. As well as burial and cremation options and costs what kind of information would you be interested in finding online? (tick all that apply) | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Guidance on how to maintain graves |
|--|--|

Q31. Thank you for your feedback. If you have anything else you would like to tell us about how we manage cemeteries at the moment, or what our cemeteries should look like in the future, please do so here.

not answered

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Q32. Would you like to make an oral submission to the Councillors? (Oral submissions will take place in February 2021 – date to be confirmed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
|--|------------------------------|



Respondent No: 36 Hannah Buchanan

Responded At: Nov 22, 2020 17:49:21 pm

Last Seen: Nov 22, 2020 04:21:07 am

Email: [REDACTED]

IP Address:

Q1. Have you visited a cemetery in the last two years?

Yes

Q2. Which of the following cemeteries have you visited? (please tick all that apply)

Mākara Cemetery

Karori Cemetery

Other cemetery in the Wellington region

Q3. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Mākara Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Visit the grave of a loved one

Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes

Q4. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Mākara Cemetery?

He pai Ngā Iwi o Te Motu Urupā ki a Mākara Urupā. It is great to have the Urupā option within the Mākara Cemetery.

Q5. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Karori Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Visit the grave of a loved one

Q6. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Karori Cemetery?

not answered

Q7. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Tawa Cemetery (please tick all that apply)

Q8. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Tawa Cemetery?

not answered

Q9. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to a cemetery in New Zealand outside of the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Q10. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q11. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to another cemetery in the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Visit the grave of a loved one

Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes

Q12. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

This includes visits to Opau Urupā and the Bolton St Cemetery. Bolton St includes gravesites of a number of tūpuna from Te Aro Pā and other Papakainga in Te Whanganui-a-Tara from the early settler contact period.

Q13. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at an overseas cemetery?

not answered

Q14. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to an overseas cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q15. If you haven't visited a cemetery in the last two years, would you do so for any of the following activities? (please tick all that apply)

Q16. Did you know that the right of interment (burial) in a cemetery plot is generally in perpetuity (for ever?) Yes

Q17. To what extent do you agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment?

I agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment Definitely disagree

Q18. If Wellington City Council were to offer the option of re-using graves, how long should be allowed before a potential second burial? Graves should not be re-used

Q19. Did you know that maintenance of graves and ash plots is the responsibility of the plot owner/family? Yes

Q20. It is costly to maintain and restore grave sites. Do you think the Council has a role in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain the plot? Yes

Q21. What do you think the Council's role should be in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain a plot? (Tick all that should apply) Repairing damage from vandalism or Council maintenance
Basic safety work
Removing damaging plant growth

Q22. What is your preference for how graves should look and be maintained? Somewhere in the middle

Q23. If families are unavailable, who else do you think could or should have a role in maintaining and restoring grave sites?

Potentially volunteer groups - with some central coordination People involved in community service programmes through Te Ara Poutama Aotearoa

Q24. In our lawn cemetery areas, decorations and tributes are allowed only on the headstone and concrete base because the lawns need to be kept clear for access, maintenance and servicing. Some people like to place tributes and planting in the lawn area but they obstruct access and need to be removed and returned to the family where possible. If you have any ideas about how we can recognise people's desire to place tributes beyond the headstone area, while ensuring practical access and maintenance, please share them with us below.

not answered

Q25. The draft plan proposes to encourage the use of biodegradable decorations and tributes because plastic ones often blow around, causing litter and stream pollution. If you have any ideas about more environmentally-friendly options, please share them with us below.

Tautoko options that better protect Papatūānuku

Q26. Karori and Tawa Cemeteries are places of significant historical importance, containing many old heritage features such as graves, monuments and buildings. If the Council had to prioritise work to protect the built heritage of the grave sites, how would you rank the following factors in order of importance? (1 being the most important and 5 the least important)

1. Maintaining a representative sample of graves from different eras and cultures
2. Tree removal where roots are causing damage
3. Other
4. Maintaining graves from historically significant events (eg. Tangiwai disaster)
5. Maintaining graves of famous people

Q27. In the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan we are proposing to limit cycling/biking to the paved roadways where vehicles are allowed under a speed limit of 10 km/hr , or on tracks marked for cycle use that connect to adjacent open spaces. Do you agree with this proposal?

Yes

Q28. To what extent to you consider the following appropriate in our cemeteries?

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Outdoor performances | Highly inappropriate |
| Public remembrance events | Somewhat appropriate |
| Heritage tours | Neutral |
| Venue hire for weddings and special occasions | Highly inappropriate |
| Contemplation | Highly inappropriate |
| Biking | Highly inappropriate |
| Picnics | Highly inappropriate |
| Horse riding (at Mākara Cemetery) | Highly inappropriate |

Q29. Is there anything you'd like to tell us about your answers above?

not answered

Q30. An online cemetery management system is currently being developed that will enable 24-hour online bookings and online access to cemetery records and digital mapping. We're also planning other improvements to the cemeteries section of the Council's website. As well as burial and cremation options and costs what kind of information would you be interested in finding online? (tick all that apply)

Guidance on how to maintain graves

Q31. Thank you for your feedback. If you have anything else you would like to tell us about how we manage cemeteries at the moment, or what our cemeteries should look like in the future, please do so here.

He Mihi tēnei ki te Kaunihera o Te Whanganui-a-Tara, me te whakaaro nui ki te mahi tahi ki a mātou te mana whenua o te rohe nei, arā ko Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika. We mihi to the Council's role in partnership with us under the MOU to work together on Opau Urupā. We acknowledge this support as Te Tiriti Partnership in action - and can speak to this further at oral submission. In relation to the draft cemeteries management plan, our whakaaro at this point is largely focused on the developing work with Opau - although we note we have uri buried or interred at all of the cemeteries. We: - 1.2.2 tautoko the importance of this relationship `1.2.2.1 - we acknowledge the MOU and our mutual undertaking to work in partnership. We note that Opau Urupā will take pressure off the remaining cemeteries site, as we embed ongoing operations and maintenance, we anticipate a greater proportion of whānau will choose the Opau site rather than Mākara or other options 1.3.3 it is useful to have the map image with the sites highlighted Section 3 generally: you may want to consider adding to each of the sub-sections that there is an overarching objective also around 'ensuring ongoing planning for working in partnership with mana whenua, especially in relation to Opau Urupā' 3.2.2.1 - we tautoko the respecting diversity policy and the provision of Ngā Iwi o Te Motu Urupā at Mākara Cemetery 3.5.2.1 - we tautoko the content here including the action point at pg 34. We acknowledge the progress being made with WCC to give effect to the MOU re Opau Urupā. We also agree that we will need further kōrero around capacity and capability building in the partnership. 4.3.6 - proposed action - tautoko S6 Implementation: under 3.5.2.1 - we note there is funding allocated in current LTP - (2021-24), but not yet allocated for the following two LTP timeframes. We anticipate that WCC and Taranaki Whānui will have a reasonably good idea of annual costs to deliver on the partnership as we are actively working on this now. 6.1.5 - Under LTP 2025- 27 and 2028-31 - we wonder if 'giving effect to partnership with Mana Whenua' should be included as an additional bullet point under each? Tēnā koutou. Mā pango, mā whero, ka oti te whai.

Q32. Would you like to make an oral submission to the Councillors? (Oral submissions will take place in February 2021 – date to be confirmed)

Yes



Respondent No: 40 Esther Lemuelu

Responded At: Nov 30, 2020 13:00:00 pm

Last Seen: Nov 29, 2020 23:38:47 pm

Email: [REDACTED]

IP Address:

Q1. Have you visited a cemetery in the last two years?

Yes

Q2. Which of the following cemeteries have you visited? (please tick all that apply)

Other cemetery in the Wellington region

Karori Cemetery

Other cemetery in New Zealand (outside of Wellington region)

Mākara Cemetery

Q3. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Mākara Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Visit the grave of a loved one

Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes

Q4. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Mākara Cemetery?

not answered

Q5. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Karori Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes

Q6. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Karori Cemetery?

not answered

Q7. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Tawa Cemetery (please tick all that apply)

Q8. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Tawa Cemetery?

not answered

Q9. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to a cemetery in New Zealand outside of the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Visit the grave of a loved one

Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes

Q10. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q11. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to another cemetery in the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Visit the grave of a loved one

Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes

Q12. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q13. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at an overseas cemetery?

not answered

Q14. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to an overseas cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q15. If you haven't visited a cemetery in the last two years, would you do so for any of the following activities? (please tick all that apply)

Q16. Did you know that the right of interment (burial) in a cemetery plot is generally in perpetuity (for ever?) Yes

Q17. To what extent do you agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment?

I agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment Definitely disagree

Q18. If Wellington City Council were to offer the option of re-using graves, how long should be allowed before a potential second burial? Graves should not be re-used

Q19. Did you know that maintenance of graves and ash plots is the responsibility of the plot owner/family? Yes

Q20. It is costly to maintain and restore grave sites. Do you think the Council has a role in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain the plot? Yes

Q21. What do you think the Council's role should be in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain a plot? (Tick all that should apply)

- Removing damaging plant growth
- Basic safety work
- Repairing damage from vandalism or Council maintenance
- Cleaning structures so that inscriptions are legible

Q22. What is your preference for how graves should look and be maintained? Keeping gravestones looking clean and new

Q23. If families are unavailable, who else do you think could or should have a role in maintaining and restoring grave sites?

have a voluntary day for anyone who is interested.

Q24. In our lawn cemetery areas, decorations and tributes are allowed only on the headstone and concrete base because the lawns need to be kept clear for access, maintenance and servicing. Some people like to place tributes and planting in the lawn area but they obstruct access and need to be removed and returned to the family where possible. If you have any ideas about how we can recognise people's desire to place tributes beyond the headstone area, while ensuring practical access and maintenance, please share them with us below.

not answered

Q25. The draft plan proposes to encourage the use of biodegradable decorations and tributes because plastic ones often blow around, causing litter and stream pollution. If you have any ideas about more environmentally-friendly options, please share them with us below.

not answered

Q26. Karori and Tawa Cemeteries are places of significant historical importance, containing many old heritage features such as graves, monuments and buildings. If the Council had to prioritise work to protect the built heritage of the grave sites, how would you rank the following factors in order of importance? (1 being the most important and 5 the least important)

1. Tree removal where roots are causing damage
 2. Maintaining a representative sample of graves from different eras and cultures
 3. Maintaining graves from historically significant events (eg. Tangiwai disaster)
 4. Maintaining graves of famous people
 5. Other
-

Q27. In the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan we are proposing to limit cycling/biking to the paved roadways where vehicles are allowed under a speed limit of 10 km/hr , or on tracks marked for cycle use that connect to adjacent open spaces. Do you agree with this proposal?

Yes

Q28. To what extent do you consider the following appropriate in our cemeteries?

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Outdoor performances | Highly inappropriate |
| Public remembrance events | Highly appropriate |
| Heritage tours | Somewhat appropriate |
| Venue hire for weddings and special occasions | Highly inappropriate |
| Contemplation | Highly appropriate |
| Biking | Somewhat appropriate |
| Picnics | Somewhat appropriate |
| Horse riding (at Mākara Cemetery) | Somewhat appropriate |

Q29. Is there anything you'd like to tell us about your answers above?

not answered

Q30. An online cemetery management system is currently being developed that will enable 24-hour online bookings and online access to cemetery records and digital mapping. We're also planning other improvements to the cemeteries section of the Council's website. As well as burial and cremation options and costs what kind of information would you be interested in finding online? (tick all that apply)

- Memorial options
- How to get to our cemeteries
- Cemetery records
- Guidance on how to maintain graves
- A virtual tour of the cemeteries
- Downloadable cemetery maps
- Volunteering opportunities
- Heritage tours

Q31. Thank you for your feedback. If you have anything else you would like to tell us about how we manage cemeteries at the moment, or what our cemeteries should look like in the future, please do so here.

I am very disappointed this is even an option and sad just thinking about the families who would have to make that choice whilst grieving. You need to find another solution because this is not it.

Q32. Would you like to make an oral submission to the Councillors? (Oral submissions will take place in February 2021 – date to be confirmed)

Yes



Respondent No: 56 Anthony Bradshaw

Responded At: Dec 06, 2020 15:23:48 pm

Last Seen: Jan 20, 2021 21:05:52 pm

Email: [REDACTED]

IP Address:

Q1. Have you visited a cemetery in the last two years? Yes

Q2. Which of the following cemeteries have you visited? (please tick all that apply) Karori Cemetery

Q3. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Mākara Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q4. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Mākara Cemetery?

not answered

Q5. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Karori Cemetery? (please tick all that apply) Visit the grave of a loved one

Q6. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Karori Cemetery?

not answered

Q7. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Tawa Cemetery (please tick all that apply)

Q8. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Tawa Cemetery?

not answered

Q9. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to a cemetery in New Zealand outside of the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Q10. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q11. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to another cemetery in the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Q12. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q13. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at an overseas cemetery?

not answered

Q14. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to an overseas cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q15. If you haven't visited a cemetery in the last two years, would you do so for any of the following activities? (please tick all that apply)

Q16. Did you know that the right of interment (burial) in a cemetery plot is generally in perpetuity (for ever?) Yes

Q17. To what extent do you agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment?

I agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment Somewhat agree

Q18. If Wellington City Council were to offer the option of re-using graves, how long should be allowed before a potential second burial? 100 years

Q19. Did you know that maintenance of graves and ash plots is the responsibility of the plot owner/family? Yes

Q20. It is costly to maintain and restore grave sites. Do you think the Council has a role in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain the plot? Yes

Q21. What do you think the Council's role should be in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain a plot? (Tick all that should apply) Removing damaging plant growth

Q22. What is your preference for how graves should look and be maintained? Somewhere in the middle

Q23. If families are unavailable, who else do you think could or should have a role in maintaining and restoring grave sites?

WCC

Q24. In our lawn cemetery areas, decorations and tributes are allowed only on the headstone and concrete base because the lawns need to be kept clear for access, maintenance and servicing. Some people like to place tributes and planting in the lawn area but they obstruct access and need to be removed and returned to the family where possible. If you have any ideas about how we can recognise people's desire to place tributes beyond the headstone area, while ensuring practical access and maintenance, please share them with us below.

not answered

Q25. The draft plan proposes to encourage the use of biodegradable decorations and tributes because plastic ones often blow around, causing litter and stream pollution. If you have any ideas about more environmentally-friendly options, please share them with us below.

Tributes should only be flowers or natural materials that easily biodegrade

Q26. Karori and Tawa Cemeteries are places of significant historical importance, containing many old heritage features such as graves, monuments and buildings. If the Council had to prioritise work to protect the built heritage of the grave sites, how would you rank the following factors in order of importance? (1 being the most important and 5 the least important)

1. Tree removal where roots are causing damage
2. Maintaining graves from historically significant events (eg. Tangiwai disaster)
3. Other
4. Maintaining graves of famous people
5. Maintaining a representative sample of graves from different eras and cultures

Q27. In the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan we are proposing to limit cycling/biking to the paved roadways where vehicles are allowed under a speed limit of 10 km/hr, or on tracks marked for cycle use that connect to adjacent open spaces. Do you agree with this proposal?

No

Q28. To what extent do you consider the following appropriate in our cemeteries?

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Outdoor performances | Highly appropriate |
| Public remembrance events | Highly appropriate |
| Heritage tours | Highly appropriate |
| Venue hire for weddings and special occasions | Highly appropriate |
| Contemplation | Highly appropriate |
| Biking | Highly appropriate |
| Picnics | Highly appropriate |
| Horse riding (at Mākara Cemetery) | Highly appropriate |

Q29. Is there anything you'd like to tell us about your answers above?

Cemeteries should be considered an extension of the town belt in terms of their recreation use.

Q30. An online cemetery management system is currently being developed that will enable 24-hour online bookings and online access to cemetery records and digital mapping. We're also planning other improvements to the cemeteries section of the Council's website. As well as burial and cremation options and costs what kind of information would you be interested in finding online? (tick all that apply)

Cemetery records

Q31. Thank you for your feedback. If you have anything else you would like to tell us about how we manage cemeteries at the moment, or what our cemeteries should look like in the future, please do so here.

Not sure why biking should be considered an inappropriate activity. Cars use the roads in the cemetery. I frequently bike in the cemetery to visit our daughters grave.

Q32. Would you like to make an oral submission to the Councillors? (Oral submissions will take place in February 2021 – date to be confirmed)

Yes



Respondent No: 65 Florence Kelly

Responded At: Dec 08, 2020 11:50:33 am

Last Seen: Feb 08, 2021 19:05:33 pm

Email: [REDACTED]

IP Address:

Q1. Have you visited a cemetery in the last two years?

Yes

Q2. Which of the following cemeteries have you visited? (please tick all that apply)

Karori Cemetery

Other cemetery in the Wellington region

Other cemetery in New Zealand (outside of Wellington region)

Overseas cemetery

Q3. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Mākara Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q4. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Mākara Cemetery?

not answered

Q5. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Karori Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes

Arrange a funeral or burial

Exercise (eg. ride your bike or go for a walk)

Relax

Q6. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Karori Cemetery?

not answered

Q7. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Tawa Cemetery (please tick all that apply)

Q8. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Tawa Cemetery?

not answered

Q9. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to a cemetery in New Zealand outside of the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Visit the grave of a loved one

Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes

Q10. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q11. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to another cemetery in the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Exercise (eg. ride your bike or go for a walk)

Relax

Q12. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q13. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at an overseas cemetery?

not answered

Q14. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to an overseas cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Visit the grave of a loved one
Arrange a funeral or burial
Exercise (eg. ride your bike or go for a walk)
Research family or general historical records
Relax

Q15. If you haven't visited a cemetery in the last two years, would you do so for any of the following activities? (please tick all that apply)

Q16. Did you know that the right of interment (burial) in a cemetery plot is generally in perpetuity (for ever?)

Yes

Q17. To what extent do you agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment?

I agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment

Definitely disagree

Q18. If Wellington City Council were to offer the option of re-using graves, how long should be allowed before a potential second burial?

Graves should not be re-used

Q19. Did you know that maintenance of graves and ash plots is the responsibility of the plot owner/family?

Yes

Q20. It is costly to maintain and restore grave sites. Do you think the Council has a role in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain the plot?

Yes

Q21. What do you think the Council's role should be in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain a plot? (Tick all that should apply)

Removing damaging plant growth
Basic safety work
Repairing damage from vandalism or Council maintenance
Cleaning structures so that inscriptions are legible
Restoration including repairing structures

Q22. **What is your preference for how graves should look and be maintained?** Keeping gravestones looking clean and new

Q23. **If families are unavailable, who else do you think could or should have a role in maintaining and restoring grave sites?**

Volunteers, Council staff, friends

Q24. **In our lawn cemetery areas, decorations and tributes are allowed only on the headstone and concrete base because the lawns need to be kept clear for access, maintenance and servicing. Some people like to place tributes and planting in the lawn area but they obstruct access and need to be removed and returned to the family where possible. If you have any ideas about how we can recognise people's desire to place tributes beyond the headstone area, while ensuring practical access and maintenance, please share them with us below.**

Plant native species that don't need mowing.

Q25. **The draft plan proposes to encourage the use of biodegradable decorations and tributes because plastic ones often blow around, causing litter and stream pollution. If you have any ideas about more environmentally-friendly options, please share them with us below.**

Wooden or stone options could work. Items made from natural materials. Or perhaps they could be placed in a cupboard at the grave or otherwise secured to prevent them from blowing away.

Q26. **Karori and Tawa Cemeteries are places of significant historical importance, containing many old heritage features such as graves, monuments and buildings. If the Council had to prioritise work to protect the built heritage of the grave sites, how would you rank the following factors in order of importance? (1 being the most important and 5 the least important)** 1. Other

Q27. **In the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan we are proposing to limit cycling/biking to the paved roadways where vehicles are allowed under a speed limit of 10 km/hr , or on tracks marked for cycle use that connect to adjacent open spaces. Do you agree with this proposal?** No

Q28. **To what extent to you consider the following appropriate in our cemeteries?**

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Outdoor performances | Somewhat inappropriate |
| Public remembrance events | Highly appropriate |
| Heritage tours | Highly appropriate |
| Venue hire for weddings and special occasions | Highly appropriate |
| Contemplation | Highly appropriate |
| Biking | Somewhat appropriate |
| Horse riding (at Mākara Cemetery) | Somewhat appropriate |

Q29. Is there anything you'd like to tell us about your answers above?

Outdoor performances that are respectful e.g. choirs, contemplative music would be OK, but not loud outdoor performances that encourage rowdy behaviour. Cemeteries are areas for contemplation, pay respects, grieving, relaxing and being outdoors but not for partying. Weddings are OK, because people may wish to pay their respects to a loved one on their wedding day.

Q30. An online cemetery management system is currently being developed that will enable 24-hour online bookings and online access to cemetery records and digital mapping. We're also planning other improvements to the cemeteries section of the Council's website. As well as burial and cremation options and costs what kind of information would you be interested in finding online? (tick all that apply)

- Memorial options
 - How to get to our cemeteries
 - A virtual tour of the cemeteries
 - Cemetery records
 - Downloadable cemetery maps
 - Heritage tours
 - Volunteering opportunities
 - Guidance on how to maintain graves
-

Q31. Thank you for your feedback. If you have anything else you would like to tell us about how we manage cemeteries at the moment, or what our cemeteries should look like in the future, please do so here.

Cemeteries contain lizard populations which need to be considered when managing vegetation. It is illegal to knowingly disturb, harm or kill them. Also, there is insufficient parking on Rosehaugh Avenue & Seaforth terrace for funeral / sports-goers. And the intersection at Rosehaugh / Old Karori Road is dangerous.

Q32. Would you like to make an oral submission to the Councillors? (Oral submissions will take place in February 2021 – date to be confirmed)

Yes



Respondent No: 72
Sue Esterman for
Wellington Progressive
Jewish Congregation
Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Dec 09, 2020 13:27:49 pm
Last Seen: Dec 09, 2020 00:20:14 am
IP Address:

Q1. **Have you visited a cemetery in the last two years?** Yes

Q2. **Which of the following cemeteries have you visited? (please tick all that apply)** Mākara Cemetery
Karori Cemetery

Q3. **What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Mākara Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)** Arrange a funeral or burial
Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes

Q4. **Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Mākara Cemetery?**

Access to graves in some sections is difficult for people with any kind of mobility issues.

Q5. **What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Karori Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)** Other (please specify)

Q6. **Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Karori Cemetery?**

Cemetery is well maintained and attractive to visit.

Q7. **What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Tawa Cemetery (please tick all that apply)**

Q8. **Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Tawa Cemetery?**

not answered

Q9. **What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to a cemetery in New Zealand outside of the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)**

Q10. **Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?**

not answered

Q11. **What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to another cemetery in the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)**

Q12. **Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?**

not answered

Q13. **Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at an overseas cemetery?**

not answered

Q14. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to an overseas cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q15. If you haven't visited a cemetery in the last two years, would you do so for any of the following activities? (please tick all that apply)

Q16. Did you know that the right of interment (burial) in a cemetery plot is generally in perpetuity (for ever?) Yes

Q17. To what extent do you agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment?

I agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment Neither agree or disagree

Q18. If Wellington City Council were to offer the option of re-using graves, how long should be allowed before a potential second burial? 50 years

Q19. Did you know that maintenance of graves and ash plots is the responsibility of the plot owner/family? Yes

Q20. It is costly to maintain and restore grave sites. Do you think the Council has a role in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain the plot? Yes

Q21. What do you think the Council's role should be in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain a plot? (Tick all that should apply)

Basic safety work
Removing damaging plant growth
Repairing damage from vandalism or Council maintenance
Cleaning structures so that inscriptions are legible

Q22. What is your preference for how graves should look and be maintained? Somewhere in the middle

Q23. If families are unavailable, who else do you think could or should have a role in maintaining and restoring grave sites?

It might be possible for community groups which have separate areas in Makara Cemetery to arrange to assist in maintenance of such graves.

Q24. In our lawn cemetery areas, decorations and tributes are allowed only on the headstone and concrete base because the lawns need to be kept clear for access, maintenance and servicing. Some people like to place tributes and planting in the lawn area but they obstruct access and need to be removed and returned to the family where possible. If you have any ideas about how we can recognise people's desire to place tributes beyond the headstone area, while ensuring practical access and maintenance, please share them with us below.

not answered

Q25. The draft plan proposes to encourage the use of biodegradable decorations and tributes because plastic ones often blow around, causing litter and stream pollution. If you have any ideas about more environmentally-friendly options, please share them with us below.

not answered

Q26. Karori and Tawa Cemeteries are places of significant historical importance, containing many old heritage features such as graves, monuments and buildings. If the Council had to prioritise work to protect the built heritage of the grave sites, how would you rank the following factors in order of importance? (1 being the most important and 5 the least important)

1. Maintaining a representative sample of graves from different eras and cultures
 2. Tree removal where roots are causing damage
 3. Maintaining graves from historically significant events (eg. Tangiwai disaster)
 4. Maintaining graves of famous people
 5. Other
-

Q27. In the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan we are proposing to limit cycling/biking to the paved roadways where vehicles are allowed under a speed limit of 10 km/hr , or on tracks marked for cycle use that connect to adjacent open spaces. Do you agree with this proposal?

Yes

Q28. To what extent to you consider the following appropriate in our cemeteries?

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Outdoor performances | Somewhat inappropriate |
| Public remembrance events | Highly appropriate |
| Heritage tours | Somewhat appropriate |
| Venue hire for weddings and special occasions | Somewhat inappropriate |
| Contemplation | Highly appropriate |
| Biking | Neutral |
| Picnics | Somewhat inappropriate |
| Horse riding (at Mākara Cemetery) | Somewhat appropriate |

Q29. Is there anything you'd like to tell us about your answers above?

not answered

Q30. An online cemetery management system is currently being developed that will enable 24-hour online bookings and online access to cemetery records and digital mapping. We're also planning other improvements to the cemeteries section of the Council's website. As well as burial and cremation options and costs what kind of information would you be interested in finding online? (tick all that apply)

- Downloadable cemetery maps
- A virtual tour of the cemeteries
- Cemetery records
- Guidance on how to maintain graves

Q31. Thank you for your feedback. If you have anything else you would like to tell us about how we manage cemeteries at the moment, or what our cemeteries should look like in the future, please do so here.

not answered

Q32. Would you like to make an oral submission to the Councillors? (Oral submissions will take place in February 2021 – date to be confirmed)

Yes

Shona McCahon

From: BUS: Review Cemeteries
Sent: 15 December 2020 07:10
To: Sue Esterman; BUS: Review Cemeteries
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Cemetery management plan submission

Thanks Sue,

Will do as you ask and am happy to receive supplementary clarification if you wish to send.

Kind regards,
Shona McCahon

From: Sue Esterman [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 December 2020 18:31
To: BUS: Review Cemeteries <review-cemeteries@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Cemetery management plan submission

Hi Shona

Thanks for this.

I think incorporating the two is a good idea, and I will circulate my personal responses to the group so that we can see if there is anything there which might need clarification.

Kind regards

Sue

On Mon, 14 Dec 2020 at 17:45, BUS: Review Cemeteries <review-cemeteries@wcc.govt.nz> wrote:

Dear Sue,

Thank you for your submission.

Your comment about the difficulty of answering the online survey on behalf of a group is noted. I will treat your online survey response and your comments below as one submission if that is all right with you. However, do let

me know if you would rather that the survey response be treated as your own personal submission and the email below as a separate group submission from the congregation.

I note your request to make an oral submission. The timing for the oral hearings is likely to be during February and is currently being worked out. I will contact you again with the details.

With kind regards,

Shona McCahon

Reserves Planner | Parks, Sport & Recreation | Wellington City Council



From: Sue Esterman [redacted] >

Sent: 09 December 2020 13:38

To: [redacted] BUS: Review Cemeteries <review-cemeteries@wcc.govt.nz>

Cc: [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Subject: Cemetery management plan submission

Good afternoon

I have just completed the survey regarding Cemetery Management.

It was not possible to answer the questions other than as an individual.

Accordingly, please find below the views of the Wellington Jewish Community, Orthodox and Progressive, regarding the draft plan as it relates to Jewish practice, tradition and belief.

These points have been agreed to by those copied in to this email.

Section 3.1.2.2. use of gravesites

We understand that effective use of space is an issue, and in the future would be happy to discuss the options of more space-efficient burials if they proved to be in line with Jewish practice and traditions.

Section 3.2 Customer Service

3.2.2.1 Respecting diversity

Regarding the provision of information about Jewish burial customs and practices for visitors to Makara cemetery (presumably by use of a QR code or similar) the Jewish Community recognises that such information could be helpful and informative. We would expect that the Cemetery Management team would consult with both the Orthodox and the Progressive Jewish congregations regarding the information to be provided.

Section 3.2.2.2. Burial and cremation rights and options

The Wellington Jewish community wish to retain their current practice of purchasing plots in perpetuity. We would not be comfortable with reusing graves; we realise that this will be optional, but it is not an option we expect ever to take up .

3.2.2.3 Remembrance

Noting that the Management Plan allows for suitably appropriate seating in the cemetery, request that commemorative bench seats be installed at intervals, where practical, in the Jewish sections of Makara Cemetery

3.2.2.4 Gravesite maintenance

see comment at 3.2.2.2

3.4.2.2. Access and amenities

We note that with prior notice, temporary handrails and assistance by cemetery staff can be provided to help people who have difficulty accessing areas of the cemetery. We are pleased to see this, and at the same time acknowledge that the terrain of Makara cemetery makes it not feasible to provide permanent handrails in our sections.

I noted on the feedback form that I would like to make an oral submission. I did this so that if there is a need for further clarification from the Jewish community, we will be able to speak to such matters.

I have copied in the chairpersons of both Jewish congregations in Wellington, and other members who work in the area of managing burials in our sections of the Cemetery.

I hope that these points can be incorporated into the development of the Management plan as it proceeds.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this, or about my responses to the survey.

With kind regards

Sue Esterman

Funeral Celebrant, Wellington Progressive Jewish Congregation

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Sue Esterman

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Sue Esterman





Respondent No: 74 Yvonne Weeber

Responded At: Dec 10, 2020 15:24:38 pm

Last Seen: Dec 10, 2020 01:44:32 am

Email: [REDACTED]

IP Address:

Q1. Have you visited a cemetery in the last two years? Yes

Q2. Which of the following cemeteries have you visited? (please tick all that apply) Karori Cemetery
Other cemetery in New Zealand (outside of Wellington region)

Q3. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Mākara Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q4. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Mākara Cemetery?

not answered

Q5. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Karori Cemetery? (please tick all that apply) Visit the grave of a loved one
Research family or general historical records

Q6. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Karori Cemetery?

I went to visit a grave on my relatives. Its a large marble urn with names of past ancestors and my grandparents. My grandmother spent a lot of money back in the 1970s fixing up the grave. We got her husband (my grandfathers name) put on the grave and when my grandmother died her name was added. I would now like to add my parents name to the grave and potentially my aunts and their spouses. The urn needs lichen removed from it and also the concrete could do with a bit of repair and paint. But how do I get this done. You say that its up to the family to look after the graves but there is little information on how you can either do this yourself or get others to do it. It would also be really fantastic if you had a number for the grave (which I think you are doing).

Q7. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Tawa Cemetery (please tick all that apply)

Q8. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Tawa Cemetery?

not answered

Q9. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to a cemetery in New Zealand outside of the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply) Relax

Q10. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

I often walk through the Bolton Street graveyard. The issue for my family, especially my father, is that he knows family were buried here but their grave and records were lost with the motorway construction. I know how much grief this caused my father at the time.

Q11. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to another cemetery in the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Q12. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q13. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at an overseas cemetery?

not answered

Q14. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to an overseas cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q15. If you haven't visited a cemetery in the last two years, would you do so for any of the following activities? (please tick all that apply)

Q16. Did you know that the right of interment (burial) in a cemetery plot is generally in perpetuity (for ever?)

Yes

Q17. To what extent do you agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment?

I agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment

Definitely agree

Q18. If Wellington City Council were to offer the option of re-using graves, how long should be allowed before a potential second burial?

50 years

Q19. Did you know that maintenance of graves and ash plots is the responsibility of the plot owner/family?

Yes

Q20. It is costly to maintain and restore grave sites. Do you think the Council has a role in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain the plot?

Yes

Q21. What do you think the Council's role should be in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain a plot? (Tick all that should apply)

Removing damaging plant growth
Basic safety work
Repairing damage from vandalism or Council maintenance

Q22. What is your preference for how graves should look and be maintained?

Keeping gravestones looking clean and new

Q23. If families are unavailable, who else do you think could or should have a role in maintaining and restoring grave sites?

I think there is an issue of how you identify as the family who should undertake the maintenance. I would like to do this. How do I register my interest in a grave plot that is very old and the last person recorded on it was back in the 1980-1970s? You need a register of interest in old graves. Also the WCC permit for work of contractors suggests its all about 'new graves' not about maintenance and addition to old graves. I just want to clean up a grave site and add names. Also this work used to be done by the council rather than contractors. It also suggests that the family can't do their own maintenance on a plot. WCC needs a new form for the application to work in a cemetery that actually relates to maintenance and addition of new names on a grave site.

Q24. In our lawn cemetery areas, decorations and tributes are allowed only on the headstone and concrete base because the lawns need to be kept clear for access, maintenance and servicing. Some people like to place tributes and planting in the lawn area but they obstruct access and need to be removed and returned to the family where possible. If you have any ideas about how we can recognise people's desire to place tributes beyond the headstone area, while ensuring practical access and maintenance, please share them with us below.

not answered

Q25. The draft plan proposes to encourage the use of biodegradable decorations and tributes because plastic ones often blow around, causing litter and stream pollution. If you have any ideas about more environmentally-friendly options, please share them with us below.

not answered

Q26. Karori and Tawa Cemeteries are places of significant historical importance, containing many old heritage features such as graves, monuments and buildings. If the Council had to prioritise work to protect the built heritage of the grave sites, how would you rank the following factors in order of importance? (1 being the most important and 5 the least important)

1. Tree removal where roots are causing damage
2. Maintaining graves of famous people
3. Maintaining graves from historically significant events (eg. Tangiwai disaster)
4. Maintaining a representative sample of graves from different eras and cultures
5. Other

Q27. In the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan we are proposing to limit cycling/biking to the paved roadways where vehicles are allowed under a speed limit of 10 km/hr , or on tracks marked for cycle use that connect to adjacent open spaces. Do you agree with this proposal?

Yes

Q28. To what extent to you consider the following appropriate in our cemeteries?

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Outdoor performances | Highly inappropriate |
| Public remembrance events | Highly appropriate |
| Heritage tours | Highly appropriate |
| Venue hire for weddings and special occasions | Somewhat appropriate |
| Contemplation | Highly appropriate |
| Biking | Somewhat appropriate |
| Picnics | Highly appropriate |
| Horse riding (at Mākara Cemetery) | Somewhat appropriate |

Q29. Is there anything you'd like to tell us about your answers above?

I know the Karori Cemetery has a loop road which makes a good circuit for a running relay. I think non motorized events should be allowed in cemeteries like running races either around or through the cemetery.

Q30. An online cemetery management system is currently being developed that will enable 24-hour online bookings and online access to cemetery records and digital mapping. We're also planning other improvements to the cemeteries section of the Council's website. As well as burial and cremation options and costs what kind of information would you be interested in finding online? (tick all that apply)

- Guidance on how to maintain graves
- Volunteering opportunities
- Downloadable cemetery maps
- A virtual tour of the cemeteries
- Cemetery records
- Heritage tours

Q31. Thank you for your feedback. If you have anything else you would like to tell us about how we manage cemeteries at the moment, or what our cemeteries should look like in the future, please do so here.

As already commented on you need a way of a family recording their interest in an old grave at Karori Cemetery. This would help in contacting people when there is an issue with a grave and undertaking maintenance. Guidance on how to maintain graves so that family members can undertake minor works on the graves would be good. Information on how to actually add names to existing large graves that exist in Karori Cemetery would also be really useful. This would keep the family relationship with an old grave plot stronger. The landscape plan for Karori Cemetery needs consideration as there are large trees including eucalyptus that are inappropriate next to old grave sites. I support the use of improving the ecological value with appropriate native planting. I also support the northern land of Karori Cemetery being added to the Outer Green Belt.

Q32. Would you like to make an oral submission to the Councillors? (Oral submissions will take place in February 2021 – date to be confirmed)

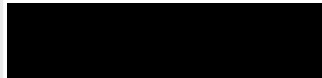
Yes



Respondent No: 76

Login: Friends of Karori Cemetery

Email:



Responded At: Dec 11, 2020 11:04:43 am

Last Seen: Dec 11, 2020 00:10:03 am

IP Address:

Q1. Have you visited a cemetery in the last two years?

Yes

Q2. Which of the following cemeteries have you visited? (please tick all that apply)

Karori Cemetery

Other cemetery in New Zealand (outside of Wellington region)

Other cemetery in the Wellington region

Q3. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Mākara Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q4. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Mākara Cemetery?

not answered

Q5. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Karori Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Go on a tour

Research family or general historical records

Other (please specify)

Q6. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Karori Cemetery?

Member of Friends of Karori Cemetery

Q7. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Tawa Cemetery (please tick all that apply)

Q8. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Tawa Cemetery?

not answered

Q9. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to a cemetery in New Zealand outside of the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Go on a tour

Other (please specify)

Q10. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q11. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to another cemetery in the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Other (please specify)

Go on a tour

Q12. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

Good wayfinding is important.

Q13. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at an overseas cemetery?

not answered

Q14. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to an overseas cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q15. If you haven't visited a cemetery in the last two years, would you do so for any of the following activities? (please tick all that apply)

Q16. Did you know that the right of interment (burial) in a cemetery plot is generally in perpetuity (for ever?) Yes

Q17. To what extent do you agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment?

I agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment Definitely agree

Q18. If Wellington City Council were to offer the option of re-using graves, how long should be allowed before a potential second burial? 50 years

Q19. Did you know that maintenance of graves and ash plots is the responsibility of the plot owner/family? Yes

Q20. It is costly to maintain and restore grave sites. Do you think the Council has a role in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain the plot? Yes

Q21. What do you think the Council's role should be in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain a plot? (Tick all that should apply)

- Removing damaging plant growth
- Basic safety work
- Repairing damage from vandalism or Council maintenance
- Cleaning structures so that inscriptions are legible

Q22. What is your preference for how graves should look and be maintained? Somewhere in the middle

Q23. If families are unavailable, who else do you think could or should have a role in maintaining and restoring grave sites?

Friends of Karori Cemetery, churches, special interest groups, corporate bodies e.g. Bell Gully for Henry Dillon Bell grave, Public Trust for TG McCarthy plot, government departments

Q24. In our lawn cemetery areas, decorations and tributes are allowed only on the headstone and concrete base because the lawns need to be kept clear for access, maintenance and servicing. Some people like to place tributes and planting in the lawn area but they obstruct access and need to be removed and returned to the family where possible. If you have any ideas about how we can recognise people's desire to place tributes beyond the headstone area, while ensuring practical access and maintenance, please share them with us below.

Provide suggestions as to alternatives to plastic & other artificial ornaments

Q25. The draft plan proposes to encourage the use of biodegradable decorations and tributes because plastic ones often blow around, causing litter and stream pollution. If you have any ideas about more environmentally-friendly options, please share them with us below.

refer Friends of Karori Cemetery

Q26. Karori and Tawa Cemeteries are places of significant historical importance, containing many old heritage features such as graves, monuments and buildings. If the Council had to prioritise work to protect the built heritage of the grave sites, how would you rank the following factors in order of importance? (1 being the most important and 5 the least important)

1. Tree removal where roots are causing damage
2. Maintaining graves from historically significant events (eg. Tangiwai disaster)
3. Maintaining graves of famous people
4. Maintaining a representative sample of graves from different eras and cultures

Q27. In the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan we are proposing to limit cycling/biking to the paved roadways where vehicles are allowed under a speed limit of 10 km/hr, or on tracks marked for cycle use that connect to adjacent open spaces. Do you agree with this proposal?

Yes

Q28. To what extent do you consider the following appropriate in our cemeteries?

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Outdoor performances | Somewhat inappropriate |
| Public remembrance events | Highly appropriate |
| Heritage tours | Highly appropriate |
| Venue hire for weddings and special occasions | Somewhat inappropriate |
| Contemplation | Highly appropriate |
| Biking | Neutral |
| Picnics | Neutral |
| Horse riding (at Mākara Cemetery) | Highly inappropriate |

Q29. Is there anything you'd like to tell us about your answers above?

not answered

Q30. An online cemetery management system is currently being developed that will enable 24-hour online bookings and online access to cemetery records and digital mapping. We're also planning other improvements to the cemeteries section of the Council's website. As well as burial and cremation options and costs what kind of information would you be interested in finding online? (tick all that apply)

- A virtual tour of the cemeteries
- Cemetery records
- How to get to our cemeteries
- Heritage tours
- Guidance on how to maintain graves
- Volunteering opportunities
- Downloadable cemetery maps

Q31. Thank you for your feedback. If you have anything else you would like to tell us about how we manage cemeteries at the moment, or what our cemeteries should look like in the future, please do so here.

not answered

Q32. Would you like to make an oral submission to the Councillors? (Oral submissions will take place in February 2021 – date to be confirmed)

Yes

FRIENDS *of* KARORI CEMETERY

Submission to WCC on November 2020 Draft WCC Cemeteries Management Plan

1. The Friends of Karori Cemetery is an incorporated charitable trust established in January 2020. The Friends evolved from the extensive community support for Barbara Mulligan's initiative in 2018 to commemorate the many hundreds of Wellington citizens who died in the 1918 influenza pandemic and who are buried in the Karori Cemetery.
2. The Friends support the preservation, protection and enhancement of the heritage, recreational and ecological aspects of the Karori Cemetery and seek to advise and assist the Wellington City Council (WCC) in its efforts to achieve this. We promote public interest in the Cemetery, and we support and undertake research into the history of the Cemetery and those buried in it. The Friends have signed an MOU with the WCC that mandates the Friends objectives and guides how the Friends and the WCC work together.
3. The Friends use the historic Cemetery Shelter as their base. We offer guided tours of the cemetery at \$10pp, we provide grave finding services, and we provide grave cleaning services. Since our establishment we have hosted approximately 350 people on guided tours and well over 100 who have sought grave finding assistance, and we expect to double these numbers during 2021.
4. The Karori Cemetery has always been used by Northern Suburb residents for recreation and for access to Otari-Wilton Bush and the Skyline Track. However the Friends observe an increasing interest in the Cemetery itself. There is no doubt that the increased availability of online genealogy search tools is leading to greater interest in creating family trees and searching out relatives graves, and we have been pleased to assist and supplement the efforts of Cemetery office staff in this regard by being able to offer weekend grave finding services.
5. The Friends seek the development of the Karori Cemetery into a heritage park – much like Bolton Cemetery has become. Major cemeteries around the world are all moving in this direction and using new technologies to assist visitors find their way and interpret what they see. Karori Cemetery management are exploring all of these opportunities. However there are few areas of Karori Cemetery that are currently manicured. Many pathways off the sealed road are unnamed, unkept, wet or unsafe for most of the year, and where unguided public access can be a challenge.
6. Additionally, as the draft plan notes, there has been minimal tree management in the Karori Cemetery for decades. Trees are destroying hundreds of graves, which we assert is highly disrespectful to both those buried and their descendants.
7. We have six suggestions to the WCC of ways to enhance the heritage and visitation quality of a Karori Cemetery visit. We have been able to discuss these with the team who have compiled the draft management plan, and they are all partly included in the plan, though with less urgency than we had hoped for. For the Friends, the issue is bringing these actions forward,

as in our view they would cost relatively little, so that they are part of the next year's work plans for cemetery management. The six suggestions are presented below with commentary in italics that relate them back to the proposed actions in the draft plan.

- a) **Wayfaring:** Locating burial sites for visitors is often not easy even when they have detailed plot information and supporting maps. Important roads, lanes and paths need to be given names so that Karori Cemetery maps can cross relate to plot data (and in the future GPS locations).
Clause 4.2.7 relates: The recommended actions set out on page 78 are in our view unsatisfactory, with deferral of any significant decisions and implementation pushed out to 2025. By almost any standard for large cemeteries in NZ or overseas wayfinding in Karori is an absolute nightmare. The digitization of Karori Cemetery records currently underway provides a pathway for better grave finding but this will always need to be supported by naming paths and tracks. The cost of this work, we suggest is minor. We strongly urge Councilors to direct that much more urgency be given to implementing a wayfinding programme – and the Friends would be only too happy to assist.
- b) **Access:** Many of the paths and walkways are substandard and are hazardous. In some parts of the cemetery the graves are totally inaccessible due to the overgrowth. Regular mowing and maintenance of all paths should be a priority. We stress this is not a criticism of cemetery staff, rather a reflection that Karori Cemetery staff numbers and inflation adjusted operational funding levels haven't changed much in decades, possibly many decades.
Clauses 4.2.5 and 4.2.7 relate: The recommendations set out on page 78 and 79 do not expressly deal with this issue. This is a significant problem for most cemetery visitors seeking to locate a relative's grave. The poor state of the tracks in Karori Cemetery beyond the sealed road can be contrasted with the relatively well manicured environment at the Bolton Street Cemetery, where access to nearly all grave plots is possible.
- c) **Conservation:** Many of the graves are in need of conservation work – either they are in danger of collapsing or being overtaken by trees and vegetation.
Clauses 4.2.2 and 4.2.5 relate: The recommendations here are for assessment not action. We regard this as unsatisfactory. There are many graves, and even some of relatively prominent Wellingtonians, that are being destroyed by trees that are often many metres high.
- d) **Restoration of the Shelter:** The Shelter is a Heritage NZ Category 1 building dating to 1893. The Friends plan to turn the Shelter into a proper visitor centre at our own cost, and we are working with cemetery management on this. We have also prepared detailed architectural plans for alterations and additions to the Shelter building to restore it to its as - built condition, and we have given these to the WCC. The cost of this work is still being assessed but we estimate it is not large, of the order of a few \$10,000's.
Clauses 4.2.6b: The recommendation here is to undertake the restoration which we wholly endorse.
- e) **Toilets:** In our experience the (only) toilet located at the main entrance to the cemetery is wholly insufficient for the needs of visitors. The Plan suggests a second toilet near the

Small Chapel. We recommend this toilet(s) be built at the Staff Amenities Block (in the centre of the Cemetery near the Shelter) and another be built in the area near the Peter Fraser Monument near the northern boundary.

Clause 4.2.6c relates: More toilets are essential.

- f) **Heritage values:** The heritage values of the Karori Cemetery need to be highlighted and promoted.

Although the Draft Plan speaks freely about the Karori Cemetery's significant heritage (for example Clause 1.3.2 and 1.3.4 and there are other references) there is no follow-through recognition in the recommended actions to proactively identify the heritage and to promote this.

8. In conclusion, the Friends assess that the heritage values of the Karori Cemetery are significant and not being properly presented or communicated. The Friends group can only do so much to address this issue. Further the increasing access to genealogy data bases and the increasing interest in family tree research is attracting significant new visitors who are not being properly catered for. The City has an opportunity at very little cost to undertake a number of coordinated actions to enhance the heritage values of the Karori Cemetery and to improve visitor experience. This especially includes both the quality and accessibility of the information available on the location of graves in the cemetery, and getting access to them. These modest investments will begin the transformation of the Karori Cemetery into a genuine heritage park and in turn attract many new visitors to explore this unique city asset. The Friends are willing to assist the WCC achieve this outcome.
9. The Friends would appreciate the opportunity to make an oral submission to Councillors.

11 December 2020

Richard Bentley CNZM Chairperson

Barbara Mulligan Deputy Chairperson

Friends of Karori Cemetery Inc



Respondent No: 78

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Dec 12, 2020 18:38:42 pm

Last Seen: Dec 12, 2020 05:16:29 am

IP Address:

Q1. Have you visited a cemetery in the last two years?

Yes

Q2. Which of the following cemeteries have you visited? (please tick all that apply)

Mākara Cemetery

Karori Cemetery

Q3. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Mākara Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Visit the grave of a loved one

Arrange a funeral or burial

Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes

Q4. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Mākara Cemetery?

We would like to have the opportunity to extend the Greek section beyond the Greek Chapel as we have nearly used all of the plots allocated to the Greek community also this land is fairly flat and is easier for our parishioners to access this area with less difficulty especially in winter. As you are aware this Greek area is very steep and gets very muddy during winter, Also we as a community at Easter we come and commemorate our loved ones who are buried here we are very grateful for the Chapel Saint Lazarus as this overlooks our loved ones graves so the area next to the Greek site would also be next to the Greek Chapel as well .A continuation of this would be beneficial for all.

Q5. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Karori Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Visit the grave of a loved one

Arrange a funeral or burial

Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes

Q6. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Karori Cemetery?

not answered

Q7. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Tawa Cemetery (please tick all that apply)

Q8. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Tawa Cemetery?

not answered

Q9. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to a cemetery in New Zealand outside of the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Q10. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q11. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to another cemetery in the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Q12. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q13. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at an overseas cemetery?

not answered

Q14. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to an overseas cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q15. If you haven't visited a cemetery in the last two years, would you do so for any of the following activities? (please tick all that apply)

Q16. Did you know that the right of interment (burial) in a cemetery plot is generally in perpetuity (for ever?) Yes

Q17. To what extent do you agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment?

I agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment Somewhat agree

Q18. If Wellington City Council were to offer the option of re-using graves, how long should be allowed before a potential second burial? 25 years

Q19. Did you know that maintenance of graves and ash plots is the responsibility of the plot owner/family? Yes

Q20. It is costly to maintain and restore grave sites. Do you think the Council has a role in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain the plot? No

Q21. What do you think the Council's role should be in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain a plot? (Tick all that should apply)

Q22. What is your preference for how graves should look and be maintained? Somewhere in the middle

Q23. If families are unavailable, who else do you think could or should have a role in maintaining and restoring grave sites?

Not sure but I think communities should be made aware of this and perhaps consultation is needed so they can help .

Q24. In our lawn cemetery areas, decorations and tributes are allowed only on the headstone and concrete base because the lawns need to be kept clear for access, maintenance and servicing. Some people like to place tributes and planting in the lawn area but they obstruct access and need to be removed and returned to the family where possible. If you have any ideas about how we can recognise people's desire to place tributes beyond the headstone area, while ensuring practical access and maintenance, please share them with us below.

I am very happy as they are, perhaps my only concern is that when the grass is cut the graves are cleaned afterwards.

Q25. The draft plan proposes to encourage the use of biodegradable decorations and tributes because plastic ones often blow around, causing litter and stream pollution. If you have any ideas about more environmentally-friendly options, please share them with us below.

I use silk flowers so they are biodegradable.

Q26. Karori and Tawa Cemeteries are places of significant historical importance, containing many old heritage features such as graves, monuments and buildings. If the Council had to prioritise work to protect the built heritage of the grave sites, how would you rank the following factors in order of importance? (1 being the most important and 5 the least important)

1. Maintaining a representative sample of graves from different eras and cultures
2. Maintaining graves from historically significant events (eg. Tangiwai disaster)
3. Maintaining graves of famous people
4. Tree removal where roots are causing damage

Q27. In the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan we are proposing to limit cycling/biking to the paved roadways where vehicles are allowed under a speed limit of 10 km/hr, or on tracks marked for cycle use that connect to adjacent open spaces. Do you agree with this proposal?

Yes

Q28. To what extent do you consider the following appropriate in our cemeteries?

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Outdoor performances | Neutral |
| Public remembrance events | Somewhat appropriate |
| Heritage tours | Neutral |
| Venue hire for weddings and special occasions | Somewhat inappropriate |
| Contemplation | Highly appropriate |
| Biking | Somewhat inappropriate |
| Picnics | Neutral |
| Horse riding (at Mākara Cemetery) | Neutral |

Q29. Is there anything you'd like to tell us about your answers above?

not answered

Q30. An online cemetery management system is currently being developed that will enable 24-hour online bookings and online access to cemetery records and digital mapping. We're also planning other improvements to the cemeteries section of the Council's website. As well as burial and cremation options and costs what kind of information would you be interested in finding online? (tick all that apply)

- Memorial options
- How to get to our cemeteries
- Cemetery records
- A virtual tour of the cemeteries
- Volunteering opportunities
- Guidance on how to maintain graves
- Heritage tours

Q31. Thank you for your feedback. If you have anything else you would like to tell us about how we manage cemeteries at the moment, or what our cemeteries should look like in the future, please do so here.

not answered

Q32. Would you like to make an oral submission to the Councillors? (Oral submissions will take place in February 2021 – date to be confirmed)

Yes

Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust

Submission from the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust on Wellington City Council's Review of the Management Plan for Karori Cemetery

11 December 2020

OVERALL IMPRESSION

We were surprised by the complexity of the legislation and management issues associated with cemeteries, and were impressed by the clarity of the thinking and writing in the review. The main change we would like to see in the plan is increased commitment to weed control as part of deferred vegetation maintenance.

We would like to discuss our submission with Council at the hearings in February.



WHO ARE WE?

The Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust is a public charitable trust that was set up in 2001. It operates under a trust deed and a MOU with WCC. Otari-Wilton's Bush is downstream of the Karori Cemetery, and shares a border with it. Tributaries of the Kaiwharawhara Stream flow through the cemetery before flowing into and through Otari. In a normal year, over 100 of the Trust's 300 members volunteer to support a range of activities at or near Otari-Wilton's Bush.

Trust members don't only invest time in supporting Otari; we also make direct financial contributions. The Trust contributed \$25,000 generated from cruise ship tours to the design and construction of the platform erected by Council to protect the roots of Otari's giant rimu from visitor impacts. Trust volunteers have also saved the Council thousands of dollars in staffing costs by providing visitor information services in Otari's visitor centre at weekends. This means Council does not have to assign Otari staff for duties at weekends. These contributions rarely receive any public acknowledgement leaving our members with the impression that Council sees the Trust as part of Council, and not as an independent organisation that wants to work in partnership.

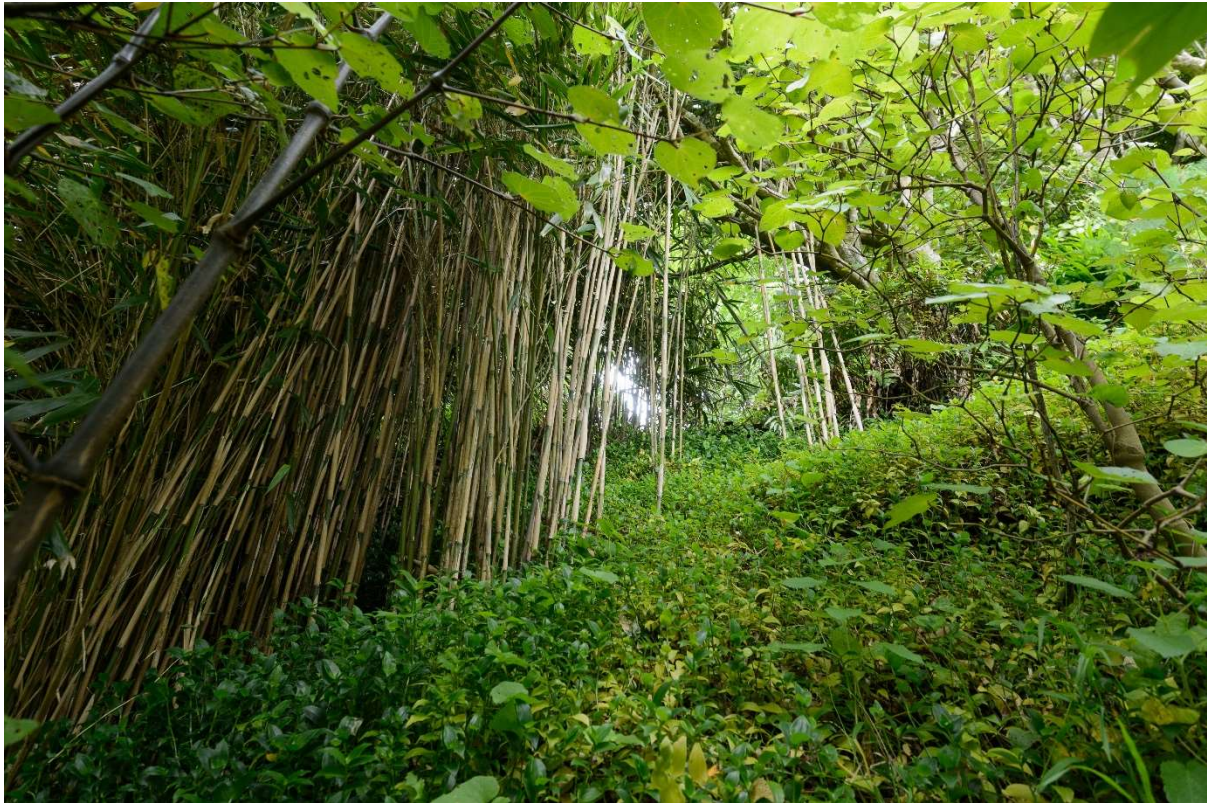
THE TRUST'S INVOLVEMENT WITH KARORI CEMETERY

Two of the Trust's project groups have been contributing to the management of indigenous biodiversity values at or near the Karori Cemetery for many years.

RAMBO: Trust volunteers operating under the name RAMBO (Rats and Mustelids Blitzing Otari) have been operating a trap network at Otari since 2007. RAMBO now has 72 traps over six trap lines within Otari-Wilton's Bush and along the Skyline through to Johnston's Hill Reserve and Karori Cemetery where the RAMBO trap lines meet up with traps looked after by the KATCH 22 group to the south. The traps are primarily targeting stoats and weasels but rats and hedgehogs are also caught. There are also problems with rabbits and feral cats.

We have sent a map showing trap locations to Shona McCahon as it may help fill some of the gaps in the trapping network mentioned on page 47 of the report. (*Community volunteers are involved in predator trapping on the adjacent Outer Green Belt but there is currently a gap in the trapping coverage above the cemetery.*) We've also provided three-years of data about the results of RAMBO trapping in the cemetery.

Restoration: The Trust's revegetation team has been working on the former tip face since 2008, starting at the bottom near where the Kaiwharawhara Stream emerges from the culvert underneath Ian Galloway Park, and working uphill. Most of the weeds on the tip face such as gorse, broom, fennel, and blackberry are thought to have originated with the fill that was used to create Ian Galloway Park in the 1970s. More recent weed arrivals in the area include Darwin's barberry, montbretia, tradescantia, bamboo and *Acanthus mollis* (bear's breeches). These may have come from illegal dumping of garden waste, (cars can drive to the rugby club rooms), or from birds dropping seeds in the area. The only way to eliminate blackberries is to dig them out by the roots as even spot-spraying with herbicides can damage the trees nearby that have already been planted. These new plantings will reduce erosion in the streams, improve water quality, establish new habitat, and prevent the downstream spread of pest plants. Some of the revegetation team are now in their 80's, but have been turning up for monthly working bees for many years. Recruiting new volunteers is always challenging. Our experience is that new volunteers enjoy planting, but can be reluctant to make an on-going commitment to weeding and releasing, particularly when hard physical work like digging out blackberries and their roots is required.



DEFERRED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT: THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ISSUE FOR THE TRUST

The draft cemetery review acknowledges that there are significant deferred vegetation maintenance issues throughout the cemetery but doesn't recognise that these include weed control. The emphasis is on damaging tree growth.

Page X says "While the lawn areas, rose gardens and some herbaceous borders are regularly maintained, there are significant deferred vegetation maintenance issues throughout the cemetery that relate mainly to damaging tree growth despite work that has been done to remove trees causing damage. Many of the problem trees were planted but there are also self-sown trees that have developed on or too close to graves and structures such as retaining walls. Some shrub planting is also problematic. For example, flaxes have been planted directly in front of graves, blocking visual and physical access and developing invasive root growth. Flax and cabbage trees produce volumes of strappy fallen leaves that must be cleared before mechanical maintenance, such as weed-eating, can happen."

Weeds from the cemetery may already be having a negative impact on the natural values of the forests and stream in Otari and that situation is likely to get worse. The longer the weeds at the cemetery are left in situ, the further they will spread, e.g., as birds eat berries and distribute seeds in their droppings, (e.g. Darwin's Barberry), or as seeds are blown about by the wind, e.g. old man's beard, sycamore, and as pieces of tradescantia break off and are washed downstream. Gardeners, weed managers and many of the city's volunteers will tell you that 'one year's seeding, results in seven years weeding'.

It seems that the cost of repairing graves may have resulted in damaging tree growth being regarded as a more urgent or more serious or a more expensive management problem than other types of deferred vegetation management. Only one damaged grave at Karori Cemetery was repaired with

the \$2,955 granted by New Zealand Defence Force Veterans' Affairs (Stuff, 5 November 2020). A less charitable explanation is that Council has to fund tree management because it requires personnel who can safely use chain saws, ropes, ladders and dangerous chemical sprays whereas much of the weeding at ground level can be done by volunteers who are well-trained and careful, as long as health and safety issues are addressed, e.g. working on steep slopes.

Recommendation: Please incorporate weed control as well as damaging tree growth in statements like those which follow. A simple solution would be to refer to 'deferred vegetation management' instead of 'damaging tree growth', and then describe some of the more obvious weed problems.

"The draft plan outlines the approach for the ongoing management at Karori including archaeological assessment, conservation planning and reducing damaging tree growth."

"Funding will need to be prioritised for the tree work needed to reduce ongoing damage to the graves and provide for site remediation/replanting as well as removal. The work should be incremental, via an annual tree work programme, so that the change happens gradually and can be monitored and adapted if need be. Adequate resourcing will be the key."

Funding

We were pleased that Council has recognised that 'considerable work will be required to get the existing situation under control and then maintain it into the future'.

It was, therefore, very disappointing to read that there would be no increases in operational funding for the next three years. *"Heritage restoration is proposed in the first three years of the plan and will focus on planning with no new funding allocated to doing any work on the ground or changing the way things are currently managed and maintained. New funding, if needed, will be considered in the next Long-Term Plan."*

We urge Council, when developing the next Long-Term Plan, to allocate new funding to deal with the backlog of deferred vegetation management at Karori Cemetery, focussing on infestations of the more invasive weeds, and on any new weeds and plant diseases that arrive as the climate changes.

Additional funding to enable parks staff/rangers to work alongside volunteers a few times each year would demonstrate that Council really does value their time and their efforts. The review says: *"The Council needs to invest time and resources into managing volunteer partnerships to foster a mutually beneficial relationship. Voluntary effort needs to be well managed to sustain people's enthusiasm over time, including taking into account what can realistically be managed in terms of time and capability. The Council can provide support with practical advice and resources and a collaborative way of working."*

We are aware of precedents; a ranger from Greater Wellington Regional Council usually participates in the working bees organised by the Wellington Botanical Society and Upper Hutt Branch of Forest and Bird twice each year to control weeds at Te Mārua, and then takes the weeds away.

In 2007, in a Bioblitz organised by the Trust, botanists recorded 153 weed species growing in the primary and regenerating forests at Otari. We don't know how many there are now, but we hope monitoring under the *Our Natural Capital* monitoring strategy will provide a richer description of changes and trends in the weeds at Otari.

Natural environment policies

We are satisfied with the policies in section 3.3.2.2 for the management of the natural environment (with the exception of weed management as mentioned above.

Natural environment policies

1. Identify and assess the areas of existing or potential ecological value in each cemetery and manage to protect and enhance that value, prioritised around:
 - i. Improving ecological connectivity with nearby natural areas and wildlife corridors
 - ii. Improving freshwater habitats and fish passage
 - iii. Enhancing species diversity.
2. Recognise the spiritual and cultural values that people associate with nature.
3. Manage exotic plants that have invasive weed characteristics but also heritage value in the cemeteries' context, by confining specimens to the immediate area of historical association and, where appropriate, preventing seed development.
4. Manage pest plants and animal pests in accordance with the Council's *Our Natural Capital* Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the Greater Wellington Regional Pest Management Plan, with particular attention to identified Significant Natural Areas within or adjoining the cemeteries.
5. Use eco-sourced plants when planting native trees and shrubs for forest restoration and commemorative tree planting purposes, including for natural burials.
6. Support, in consultation with mana whenua, research and community efforts to identify lizard populations, assess threats and identify habitat requirements at the cemeteries.
7. Continue to regularly clear and dispose of wind-blown rubbish, particularly plastics. Encourage cemetery visitors to use biodegradable tributes and decorations.
8. Implement best practice water-sensitive design in any future development, to protect freshwater values.

Other Actions

a) Investigate the potential for annual commemorative tree planting into new native tree groves or into existing areas of regenerating native vegetation in the cemeteries to enhance the biodiversity with long-lived 'heritage' species.

Where appropriate, develop and maintain tracks additional to the paths and access ways needed for cemetery use to provide complementary recreational opportunities, linked where possible with the Council's adjacent or nearby track network.

A balance is required between the need for onsite signage and the intention to keep the cemeteries as simple places of peace and calm. Too much signage and written interpretation can be upsetting for the recently bereaved, if it makes a cemetery feel more like a park.

Landscape Management Plan

We see benefits in developing the proposed landscape masterplan for the cemetery 'to pull together the various aspects of heritage conservation, tree management, natural environment management and visitor needs (such as wayfinding)'. It should also identify areas for amenity, cultural and commemorative plantings. We agree that done well, a masterplan will provide a clear integrated direction for the long-term management and decision-making as the cemetery becomes a Heritage Reserve/Heritage Park. It may also help identify what conservation plans are required.



OTHER COMMON INTERESTS OF OTARI AND THE CEMETERY/HERITAGE RESERVE

Tracks for walkers and runners

David Halliday of WCC has recently commissioned a report on the state of tracks within Otari-Wilton's Bush. As several of the proposed upgrades mention tracks connecting Karori Cemetery with Otari, we recommend some collaborative discussions about routes, track standards, timing of developments, access to toilets and way-finding signage to minimise damage to natural values and provide quality experiences for walkers and runners with different capabilities and interests.

Planning and maintenance work being planned by Otari for the track along the Kaiwharawhara from Ian Galloway Park to the Troup Lawn could be integrated with the development of new 50-metre track connecting the cemetery with Ian Galloway Park. (see p. 50)

We anticipate that signs or map boards will be needed where tracks cross the border between Karori Cemetery and Otari.

The development and installation of new signage may have to wait until the future name for the Heritage Reserve is determined, and the spelling of Otari-Wilton's Bush is resolved. (We have heard that Otari's 'O' may be given a macron.)

Mountain biking and cycling

Although mountain biking and cycling are prohibited in Otari-Wilton's Bush, incidents of non-compliance remain an on-going occurrence, especially the mountain-bikers who want to use tracks in Otari to travel between the city or Karori and the Skyline Track.

We support your aspiration to limit cycling and mountain-biking to sealed roads within the cemetery and one new shared use track from an upgraded Standen Street entrance to the Skyline Track. We are hopeful that this new track may reduce the temptation for mountain bikers to ride through Otari.

Fire Management

The thought of a wild fire starting near Otari, the cemetery, or nearby parts of the Outer Green Belt and then spreading across these forests fills us with horror. Who will fight it and help visitors evacuate if fire crews are busy protecting houses and business premises. The three actions in section 3.6.2.3 on page 36, however, are very vague. Perhaps fire management plans for different cross-boundary emergency situations could be developed with guidance from Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ). Perhaps training sessions for guides could address evacuation procedures for wildfires as well as earthquakes in case agencies don't fulfil their responsibilities.

Land administration

The Trust would appreciate an update on recent and proposed changes in land administration. For example, we had not previously heard of the Otari Significant Natural Area, and we were surprised that there was no reference to GWRC's system of Key Native Ecosystems which funds possum control in the Western Wellington Forests. Our understanding is that the presence of exotic vegetation in the cemetery would prevent possums at the cemetery being managed as part of an enlarged Western Wellington Forests.

We were also surprised to find no reference to the Botanic Gardens of Wellington Management Plan, which we understand trumps the Outer Green Belt Management Plan for decision-making about Otari. Page 43, however, indicates that if there is any policy conflict between the new Cemetery Plan and the Outer Green Belt Management Plan, (OGBMP), the OGBMP will take precedence. We have not considered the implications of this. It would be unfortunate if it complicated the decision-making about restrictions on mountain biking or the management of heritage structures.

Community partnership

We have had no contact with the recently established Friends of Karori Cemetery, but know from their website that their purpose is to *"advocate for and develop the heritage and ecological values of Karori Cemetery, and to assist with grave/plot restoration."* On a first read, we found a list of bullet points (3.5.2.3) which outline how the cemetery's managers intend to manage its volunteers. The list reads more like a list of duties from a manager's job description than a description of a partnership. It would be unfortunate if Council had started thinking about its community partner as little more than a source of unpaid employees.

From the review:

1. Encourage, support and provide opportunities for individuals and groups of all ages, and businesses, to help manage and maintain the physical environment, public use and general awareness of the cemeteries, and help monitor outcomes
2. Encourage and support volunteers and volunteer groups who have a mandate to undertake proposed work by:
 - i. Communicating regularly and having clear agreements (usually Memoranda of Agreement) that define responsibilities and set out the group's objectives, health and safety requirements, and how achievements will be measured

- ii. Working with volunteers to plan their activities realistically, taking into account the time needed for ongoing tasks such as maintaining planting
 - iii. Providing practical advice, training and, subject to Council resourcing, assistance with tools, materials and storage
 - iv. Promoting collaboration and sharing of skills and resources between different volunteer groups
 - v. Recognising and celebrating volunteers' efforts and achievements.
3. Maintain open communication with volunteers, volunteer groups and communities, to constructively exchange feedback, knowledge and new ideas about how best to work together to achieve goals.

Speaking generally, because we don't know the situation at the cemetery, we would encourage Council and the Friends to have more conversations about how to develop a partnership that will benefit both parties. As one example, the above list refers to 'constructively exchange feedback' and "set out how achievements will be measured'. Will these be applied in both directions?

In later readings, we found more information about the Friends in other sections. Statements on page 36 went some way to reducing our earlier concerns about the nature of the partnership. *The Council needs to invest time and resources into managing volunteer partnerships to foster a mutually beneficial relationship. Voluntary effort needs to be well managed to sustain people's enthusiasm over time, including taking into account what can realistically be managed in terms of time and capability.* Then on p. 52 we found some commitments which set out what Council will do for the Friends. *T*

he Council will enable the Friends to access the Shelter, help establish it as an information centre and use it as a base for its community activities, including tours. The Council will also provide the Friends with a tool shed for storage of equipment and heritage items awaiting restoration.

Interpretation of Heritage Values

We note your intention (p.32) to develop a high-level visitor experience plan for all the Council's cemeteries, with guiding principles for developing individual cemetery interpretation plans. We welcome your recognition of opportunities to consider how the interpretation will fit with and complement other Council interpretation plans (e.g. the neighbouring Otari-Wilton's Bush interpretation, ...). Page 50 shows that an interpretation strategy for Karori Cemetery is a second priority after a way-finding signage strategy. We were not aware that Council is developing an Interpretation Strategy to guide storytelling in the Council's public spaces.

LONGER TERM NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The Trust has identified two issues that are going to have implications for the management in the longer term of the unfenced natural areas shared by Otari-Wilton's Bush, the Karori Cemetery/Heritage Reserve, and sections of the upper Kaiwharawhara stream. We see potential benefits in a joint workshop to better define these issues, and to start to compile and research information on how to approach them.

Predator Free Wellington (PFW)

We've been aware for some time that PFW will reach the Otari Significant Natural Area as part of phase 4, Kaiwharawhara to Makara, but the timing appears to have changed. James Willcocks, PFW's Project Director, recently predicted that Wellington may become the world's first predator free capital city within the next 5 years, (not 10 years) because \$7.6 million of new funding from the

Government's Jobs for Nature programme would allow the creation of 42 full time jobs across Wellington. (<https://wellington.govt.nz/news-and-events/news-and-information/news/2020/0>)

Our expectation is that PFW activities in or adjacent to the Otari SNA will substantially reduce the populations of possums, rats and mustelids, and that this will result in increases in the populations of birds, both indigenous and exotic. Increasing bird populations are a concern because birds will distribute more weed seeds and berries throughout the SNA, where they may germinate and thrive, particularly in areas where ground cover is sparse following the action of herbivores and omnivores and the removal or spraying of weeds. How does Council or PFW propose to address this potential negative consequence of PFW?

Climate Change

Discussions about strategies for addressing climate change often focus on the consequences for human societies and infrastructure, and tree planting and restoration projects tend to be seen as part of the solution. We think the focus needs to be switched for long enough to list the ways that climate change is going to impact on natural values in the Otari SNA. An obvious example is that heavier rainfall in the tributaries of the Kaiwharawhara will increase erosion, sedimentation and the downstream distribution of weedy ground covers, e.g., selaginella and tradescantia. We may be slow to find recently arrived pest plants and plant diseases. Slow progress in managing kauri die-back up north may make protection of Otari's kauri from people an issue of national importance. We see this list as providing a sound and common basis for the review and update of *Our Natural Capital*, and the climate change sections of other Council strategies and management plans.

Some Final Bouquets

We wish you every success in implementing these three ideas.

- Offer as a commemorative option, the purchase and planting of a native tree into planting areas at the cemeteries.
- Trees can be planted in commemorative groves of native restoration planting or as enhancement species of long-lived tall tree species within naturally regenerating bush areas.
- Encourage the use of environmentally friendly tributes and decorations, to reduce rubbish and pollution, including encouraging local florists to use biodegradable fixings and wrappings in bouquets for cemetery use.

Photographic Acknowledgements

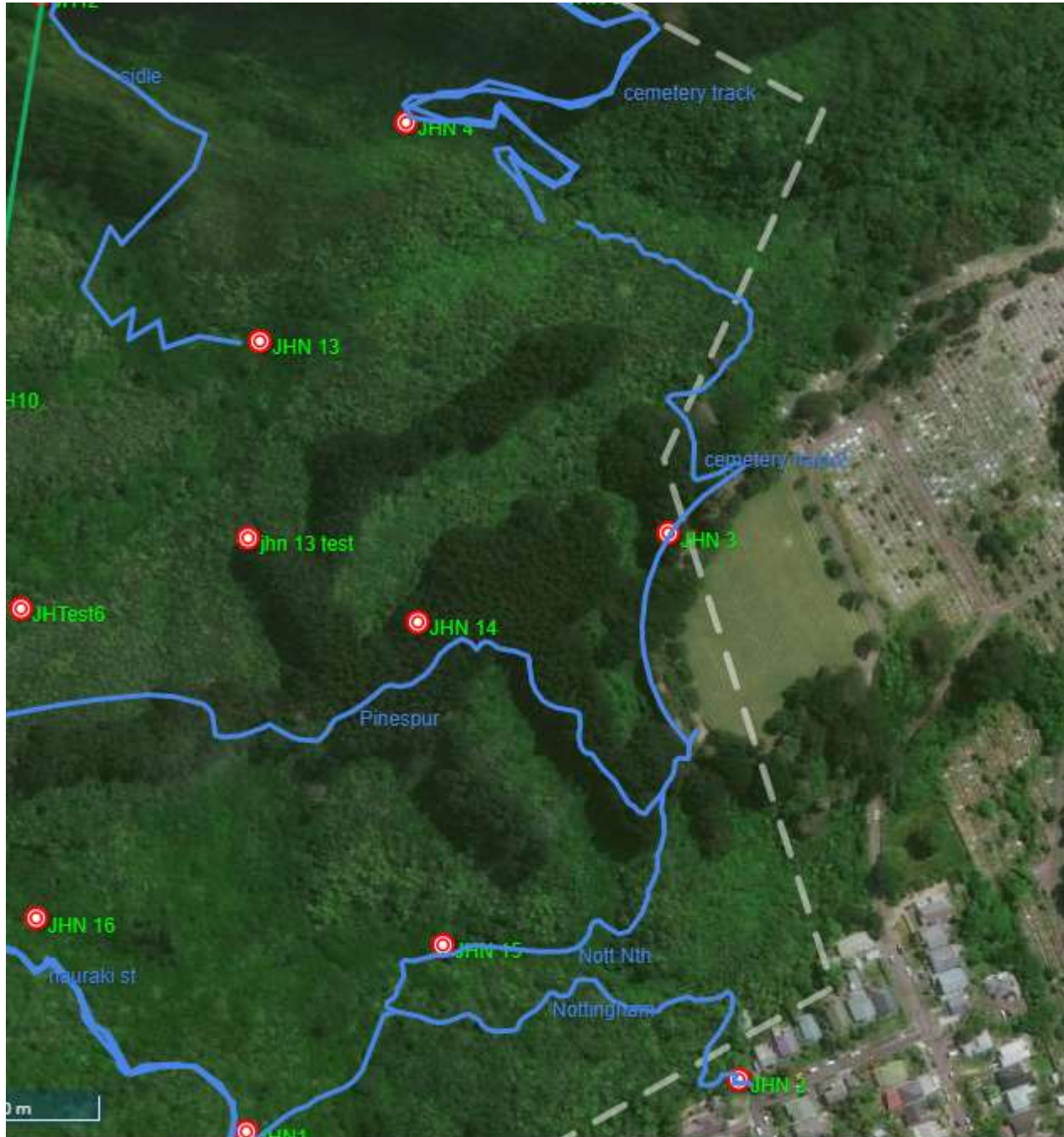
The weed photos in this submission were taken by Phil Parnell, the previous chair of the Board. The inspiration for taking them came from Ian Stockwell, a board member who walks in the cemetery several times each week.

Animal pest control maps sent by Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust to support submission on Draft Cemeteries Management Plan 2020

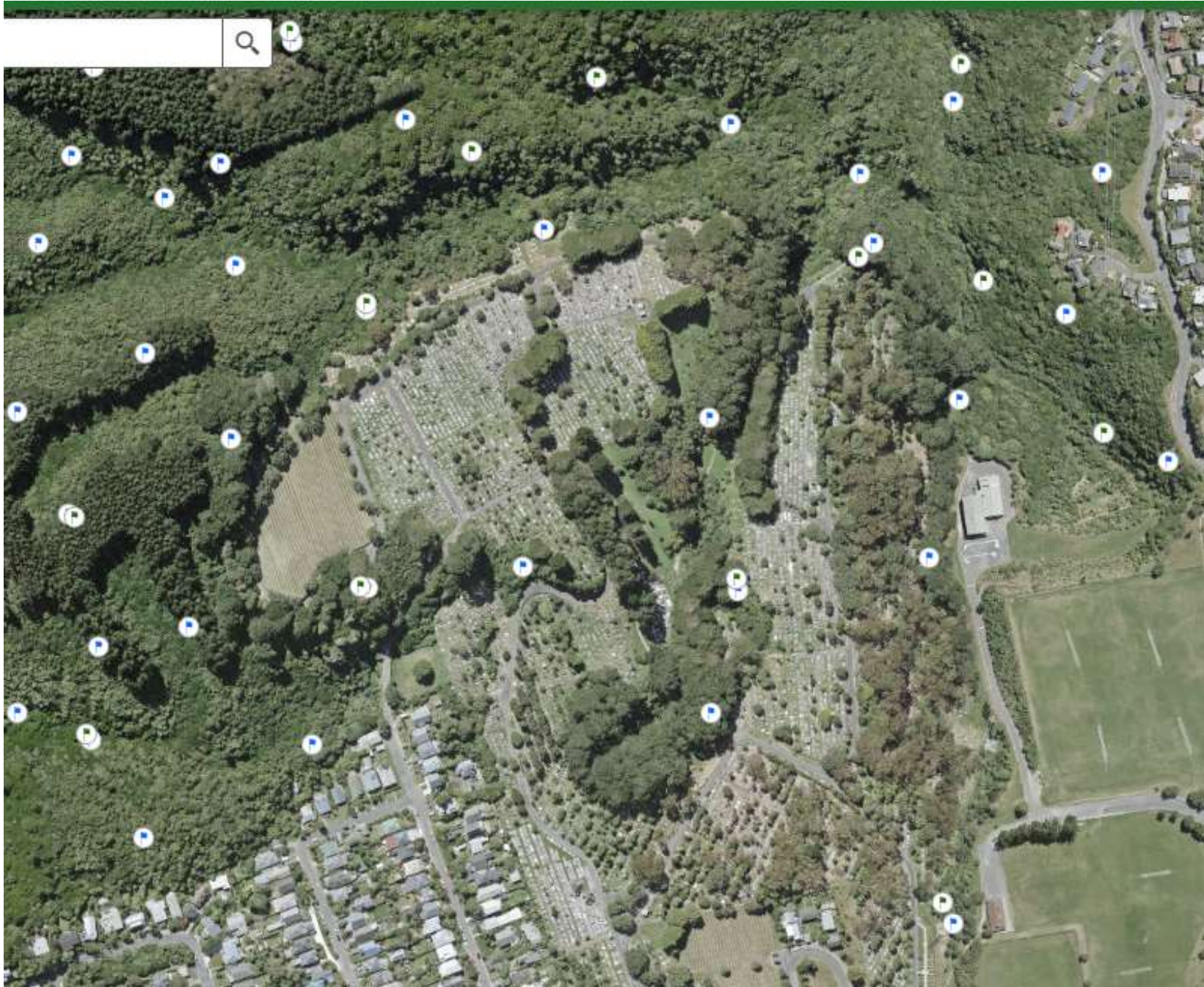
Otari/RAMBO Traps



Makara Peak/KATCH Traps



Regional Council Predator Control around Karori Cemetery. Blue flags bait stations Green flags mustelid traps – we have more traps than are shown here.



Otari Predator Free Update No 19 (December 2017)

Good afternoon everyone and I hope that you have had a great Christmas and have taken the opportunity to be with friends and family and maybe also get away from Wellington.

I also wish you all the best for 2018

Below are our catch results to date.

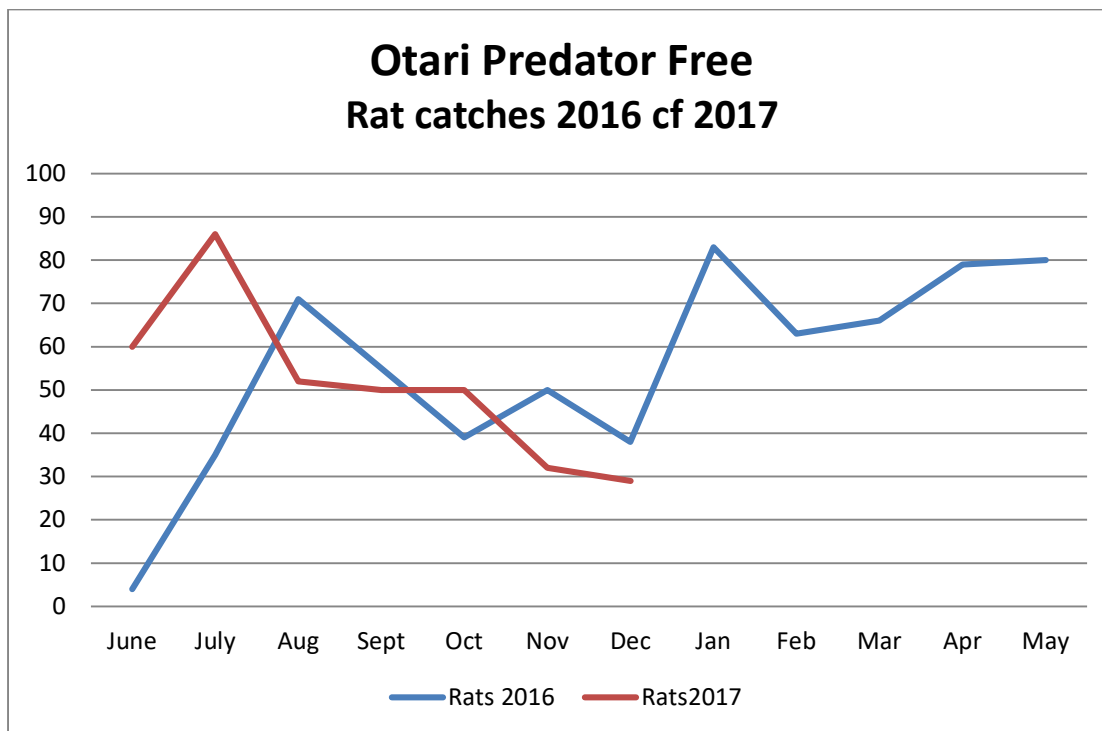
You will see that to fit this table all onto the page I am now only giving the last 12 months.

| | Dec | Jan-17 | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total since June 2016 |
|---------------------|-----|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| Rats | 38 | 83 | 63 | 66 | 79 | 80 | 60 | 86 | 52 | 50 | 50 | 32 | 29 | 1022 |
| Mice | 11 | 14 | 25 | 44 | 84 | 72 | 60 | 40 | 33 | 29 | 34 | 25 | 25 | 627 |
| Total No Households | 189 | 193 | 194 | 200 | 200 | 205 | 208 | 211 | 212 | 223 | 225 | 225 | 225 | |

It can be seen that we are now well over 1,000 rats caught since the program began in June 2016 and this must be making a difference. Certainly there seem to be more birds around.

While we are not specifically targeting mice, they are being caught in numbers mostly either as a by-catch in the rat trap or when people have put mouse traps in their trapping tunnels to reduce the amount of bait being taken by mice.

The chart below shows our rat catch by year, taken from when we started in June 2016.



As can be seen last year we had the same drop off in catches at this time of the year that we have experienced this year. Other groups around here have also noted a big drop-off in their December catches.

What will be interesting is whether in January we start to see an increase in rat catches – or whether we have knocked the population sufficiently hard that we do not get such a bounce.

As with the other groups around here at this time of the year we seem to be getting a lot of Norway rats and a lot of juvenile rats of both kinds. Also if people are still catching the very large rats they are not reporting them as such. Our hypothesis is that:

- The big old experienced rats have either died or been caught leaving a younger population
- At this time of the year we are starting to see this season's second generation of rats leaving their nests and starting to move around (and be caught).
- The Norway rats are being caught as they are moving around looking for a mate and/or a new home. Meanwhile the ship rats are spending less time on the ground as they have sufficient food in the trees so have less need to go on the ground where our traps are.

Time and research will show how true these guesses are.

Otari Predator Free News

1 New Traps

Last month I said that with NEXT Foundation no longer providing us with traps we need to organise our own supply. To this end Rodent Free Wadestown, Otari Predator Free and Predator Free Ngaio are working together. We no longer can get boxes from our previous supplier so are looking at alternatives. We have traps from Forest & Bird but still need the boxes. We are hoping to get the materials from a hardware store in the New Year once further funding is sorted. If you have any spare 150mm wide fence palings let us know. We collectively need 50 for our immediate waiting lists but would like a lot more so we can continue promoting this program.

The three groups will return to this in 2018 and for all those on the waiting list your trap will come and I apologise for the delay.

2 Broken Triggers on the Snap E trap

The little trigger that holds the setting bar down can break. If it does I will replace the trap – and I have at home now a number of traps with broken triggers. The importer offers a free trigger replacement so I have contacted them asking for a new triggers.

If you have a trap that cannot be set because the trigger is broken please let me know so that I can swap it for a working trap.

3 Another bait idea

Some people have had success with old feta cheese as a bait and have found that this works when peanut has not. I do not know how old feta cheese has to be to qualify as being 'old'.

What it does show that when it comes to bait anything goes.

Predator Free Miramar recently said *"With this hot weather, it seems catch numbers have dropped a little bit. Try some wetter baits, such as apple or other fruit, or even fish, like sardines. The rats will be looking for moisture, and you might just lure them in. But the key thing is, if your trap is set, baited, and you're keeping an eye on it - then it's still playing its part."* My comment here would be that with apple maybe add just a touch of cinnamon or aniseed as an additional lure. While the likes of sardines will attract rats there is a risk of cats trying to put a paw in so the rat trap needs to be as far back in the tunnel as possible. It may also pay to put a brick on the back screen as cats have been known to lift it.

4 Moving away

I have been contacted by people away and wanting to know what to do with their trap. As you will see from the above I am short of traps so will take them back so they can be recirculated. Some people have given them to either a neighbour or the person moving into their place which is fine except could I please have their email address so that they can go on my circulation list. Finally if you are moving to another suburb in Wellington please let me know which one so I can put you in contact with the local group there – there are now predator free groups in most suburbs.

5 Otari Predator Free Facebook

Some people have volunteered to help Sally set up an Otari Predator Free Facebook page and we will get onto this sometime later this or maybe after the holidays depending when people are available. Some of the material in this newsletter will be first put up on Facebook.

Bird Count

Our quarterly bird count was held in mid-December.

We had nine observations (and a number of apologies as the time was not suitable).

No fantails or kākārīki were seen and during the observation period and 3 kereru were seen at two locations, in Gloucester St and in Hereford St.

Fantails are definitely around as people have reported them outside the 5minute observation period and I have seen families of them in Otari-Wilton's Bush.

Both kaka and tui were also noted.

A Wellington City Council report has noted that bird numbers in Wellington are soaring with tui, kaka and kākārīki numbers increasing and no significant decrease detected in other species. This is put down both to Zealandia and to increases in predator control around the city.

<https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/news/2017/12/bird-numbers-soaring>

Recent Research

1 How Urban kaka are adapting to city life

Predator Free NZ recently published a summary of two pieces of recent research on urban kaka .

The first by Victoria University was whether young kaka learned faster than older kaka. They do.

The second was by Massey University and was looking at lead exposure within Wellington's free ranging kaka population. Lead is highly toxic and in urban areas there is a build-up of such heavy metals. They found that 43.2% of adults and 36.7% of nestlings with detectable blood lead concentrations. Although no acute clinical signs of toxicity were observed, lead exposure was associated with reduced body condition in adults. From looking at lead isotopes in the blood and in the environment the most likely source of this lead was from roof collected rainwater. Here is a link to these articles - <https://tinyurl.com/yb47eura>

2 Detecting Predators in the city – what works best?

Also from Predator Free NZ this is a summary of the work by Victoria University comparing different methods of detecting predators in an urban setting (bush and backyards). They compared infra red triggered cameras and tracking tunnels (ie plastic tunnels with ink pads to show what had been through).

“On average, cameras detected significantly more hedgehogs and rats than tracking tunnels, and their images could be used to identify rats to the species level in 50% of detections. Cameras also detected more possums but missed recording mice on some occasions where tracking tunnels detected them, and vice-versa.”

The camera’s also showed rats interacting with the tunnels (eg sitting on them) but not entering them. This was put down to an abundance of food and rats neophobic behaviour.

The main disadvantages of camera’s was the amount of time to identify what had been shot – they had hundreds of thousands of photo’s. New software should automate the identification process. Camera’s also cannot pick up exothermic animals such as lizards and insects that tracking tunnels detect the foot prints of.

<https://predatorfreenz.org/detecting-predators-city-works-best/>

3 Rat Bait Resistance

Rat control is heavily dependent upon the use of anti-coagulant rat baits and these have been used in NZ for decades. The question therefore is whether rats can develop resistance to the poisons currently in use.

This looks at this question - <https://predatorfreenz.org/rat-bait-resistance/> - and yes the potential does exist.

Note – in 2017 a Massey PhD student was also looking at this question and was live trapping rats around the reserves in Wellington. In Otari-Wilton’s Bush she could not capture enough for a good sample which was not good for her study but showed the control methods are effective.

4 Norway rats in urban and rural New Zealand

This Landcare Research put radio tracking devices on some Norway rats in Hamilton to see how far they move around to see how far apart control devices should be.

It starts with some interesting facts about Norway rats (eg I did not know they could dive for crabs and mussels). - <https://tinyurl.com/y8mrq3kt>

5 More on the damage done by hedgehogs

More Landcare research on the effect of hedgehogs on the native fauna - <https://tinyurl.com/y883g3q7>

The report’s conclusion – “Although more research is required, there is a risk that hedgehogs may be having a far greater impact on our native biodiversity than has been realised, given their likely abundance and their potential to eat large numbers of small native animals in a short time. What we do know is that managers need to re-think what they regard as by-catch, and target hedgehogs where they are suspected of preying on the eggs or nestlings of endangered shorebirds or on other native animals. Removing hedgehogs potentially has significant biodiversity benefits.”

6 Final cat tracking report has been released

I have mentioned this research before – but the final report has now been released. In addition to the 209 cats that were tracked by GPS Victoria University collected data on 2428 individual cats from people who filled out an online questionnaire. Some of the information from the report:

- 55% of the cats were allowed out both day and night and 27% allowed out only during the day. 5% were confined indoors
- Of the prey seen by owners 76% was rodents, 72% was birds, 58% insects, 37% lizards, 10% rabbits, 2% frogs and 7% “other”. The other included stoats, crayfish, eels, a chicken, dog toys from next door, half a peach, stolen clothing from neighbour’s yard, leaves, missing nerf gun pellets, the neighbour’s toast, socks, a huge goldfish, toilet paper rolls, and weasels. The report’s authors noted that “prey seen” is not the same as “prey caught” as cats may catch prey that is not seen by their owner. For example, one study of cat hunting behaviours used small video cameras on cats and

found that 23% of prey was taken back to the cat's home, whereas the other 77% of prey was not likely to be seen by the owner (it was left behind or consumed on site)

- The median home range (ie half the home ranges were larger and half smaller) was 1.3 hectares – just smaller than the Basin Reserve playing area which is 1.6 hectares. The average was skewed by some cats that had huge home ranges.
- Male cats had a statistically significant larger home range than females (and note 207 of the 209 cats had been desexed).
- The average number of roads crossed per day was 4.2 and the median was 3.4.

Here is a link to the report – <https://tinyurl.com/ycm4b29b>

Finally if your cat is called Charlie or Bella that was the most common name for male or female cats respectively. Some of the less common names included Rumblepurr, Kittysaurus Rex, Winston Purrchill, Richie Mclaw or Chairman Meow

Finally though it is not recent research – here is a Bob Brockie article on the history of importing stoats and weasels into New Zealand – <https://tinyurl.com/yd73rf8u>

Ten Years of RAMBO

Rats and Mustelids Blitzing Otari was set up in July 2007 and so has been going for ten years.

Below are the results from ten years of trapping in Otari-Wilton's Bush up to 31 Dec 2017.

| Rats | Mustelids | | | Hedgehogs | Rabbits |
|------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|---------|
| | Stoats | Weasels | Unidentified | | |
| 585 | 30 | 32 | 8 | 121 | 37 |

While these numbers may not seem high for a decade of trapping it needs to be kept in mind that the trapping program is to compliment the Regional Council bait station program so we are getting the ground based predators as well as those rats that are either recent invaders from non-controlled areas or who whatever reason have not sampled enough of the poison bait to die.

Most mustelids and hedgehogs are being caught along the trap lines around the boundary of Otari-Wilton's Bush, in particular along the Skyline. This is to be expected as its open country which provides a good habitat for them and so is where they would come from to move into Otari-Wilton's Bush. The rats are largely being caught close to the Kaiwharawhara Stream and on the ridges that run up to the Skyline. Finally the rabbits are not a target for our trapping program, for whatever reason they get into the traps which puts that trap out of action until it can be cleared and reset. All have been caught on or near the Skyline.

Otari-Wilton's Bush is one the regional designated as a "Key Native Ecosystems" so every six months the Regional Council conducts monitoring to check on the level of predator activity. Experts in the Department of Conservation say that if 5% or less of monitoring tunnels show rat activity then endangered birds can successfully breed. While in years gone by rat activity has been as high as 11% of tunnels showing rat activity, for the last few years it has been below 5% and recently has been as low as 2% and with no hedgehog or mustelid activity.

Note – as per an earlier piece in this newsletter not all rats etc will go into a tracking tunnel so these results really are indicative but over time can show a trend. Recently chew track cards have been laid in Otari-Wilton's Bush and very very few of them have been chewed so the indications are the predator population is very low.

This is why we do predator control

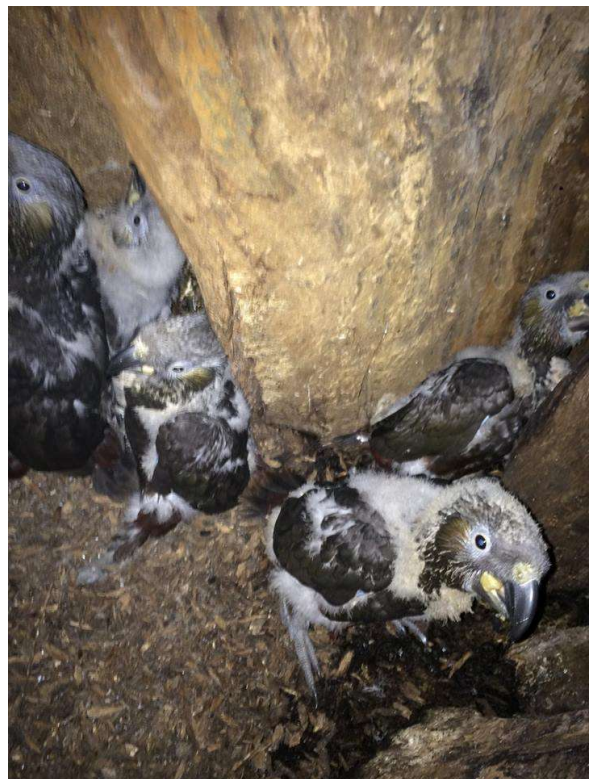
Both these photos were taken in Otari-Wilton’s Bush just before Christmas. Both nests were waist high and were just off a main trail. Both were quite close to houses. Its great they have survived this long as it shows the absence of rats and stoats at least in that part of Otari-Wilton’s Bush and there has no invasion of rats from the houses. Now they only have to survive cats and dogs off their leash.



Baby Blackbirds – just hatched.



Kaka on a nest



Fledgling kaka (photo by Kelvin Hastie)

Bird of the Month - Paradise Duck (pūtangitangi)

This month’s bird of the month is the Paradise Shelduck as I have seen a couple of families of them recently with their young.



The paradise shelduck is New Zealand's only shelduck, a worldwide group of large, often semi-terrestrial waterfowl that have goose-like features.

The female is the more conspicuous with her white head and chestnut-coloured body, while the males have a dark grey body and black head.

The paradise duck is one native species that has benefited from the European modification of the environment. These birds graze on grass and weeds so feed in open pastures, tussock, pond or lake edges or river flats. The open pasture was not so common in pre-European times but with the clearance of the bush and conversion to pasture these ducks have thrived. In urban areas they are often seen on sports grounds.

The paradise ducks are normally seen in pairs except during moulting season when they tend to flock. Most paradise duck start breeding when 2 years old and pairs remain together from year to year, returning to the same nesting area. If one bird dies, its mate occupies the same territory and re-mates again.

Usually the nest is placed on the ground hidden beneath a log or clumps of grass, but occasionally it is built in a tree 20metres above the ground. The nest is made of grass and lined with down plucked from the duck's own body. The ducklings have a brown and white down but when they fledge at around eight weeks they resemble adult males, except the females have whiter patches around the eyes and the base of the bill.

Quick Facts on Paradise Ducks (From DOC)

- Adults don't generally move about, but they do leave their territories and flock together each year to moult
- Moulting happens from December – February. Moulting birds were important food source for early Māori.
- Their average life expectancy is only 2.3 years although some individuals live much longer, with the oldest recorded bird living 23 years.
- Paradise shelducks feed on grass, clover, aquatic vegetation and crops of peas or grain.
- Because these ducks spend large amounts of time feeding on pastures, often in large groups, farmers consider them pests and occasional, legal culls take place.
- Generally however, hunting is controlled through bag limits and seasonal permits, which are set based on the birds' productivity and movements in each part of the country.

Regards

Jim

4 January 2018



2 December 2020

Cemeteries Management Plan Review
Wellington City Council

To Whom It May Concern

The New Zealand Society of Genealogists asked members for feedback on a TVNZ 21 October news item <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/wellingtons-proposed-grave-rental-programme-brings-questions-and-controversy> as we expected a number of our members who are highly experienced family historians would have opinions on the Wellington City Council proposals. At the time we asked for member opinions we had not seen the formal process outlined on the WCC website.

The issue certainly resonated with our members and we've received 70+ responses from Wellington and around the country – see attached.

Most are comments which express a range of opinions and experiences and are presented in order of our receiving them. We have only edited them lightly, having removed names but would be happy to ask the anonymous members to agree to their names being supplied if required.

Names are supplied on two submissions:

- Taumarunui Genealogy Interest Group
- Peter Burke who asks to make a verbal presentation.

NZSG would also be happy to present this submission in person on behalf of our members. You will note that several expressed their appreciation that we referred the issue to them for comment. Please also find attached an explanatory brochure about NZSG.

Yours sincerely

Mary Shadbolt

NZSG Board Chairperson on behalf of the NZSG Board of Directors

Wellington's proposed grave rental programme brings questions and controversy

Wellington City Council is proposing reusable grave sites to ease cemetery overcrowding.

Your playlist will load after this ad

The scheme would allow plots to be rented for a number of years before remains are dug up and either cremated or moved. Source: 1 NEWS

If approved, the scheme would allow plots to be rented for a limited number of years before remains are dug up and cremated, or moved elsewhere.

"The option would be for families to own a plot for a temporary period of time after which time the remains would be removed and the plot would be reused," Wellington City councillor Fleur Fitzsimons told 1 NEWS.

Burial space is getting tight in the capital. Karori cemetery, New Zealand's second biggest, is full, and Makara is expected to run out of room in the next 18 years.

Reusing plots is common in Europe but would be a first here.

"When [people] buy a little bit of real estate in a cemetery, they expect to have it forever," funeral director Steve Haddock says.

"They expect it's the final resting place of their loved ones, and I don't think they would be happy about buying it for a short amount of time and then knowing the person is going to be dug up and moved."

Reusing graves is inappropriate in some cultures, including Māori.

"When we lay someone to rest it's with the knowledge that whānau are comforted that's their final resting place," says Tyrone Raumati, a funeral home cultural adviser.

"If there is to be this change around reusable plots, then what happens after that?"

Details on how grave rental would work are still being decided, but it's agreed New Zealand needs to have the conversation.

"I think it's something we are going to have to do a deep dive into," Raumati says.

The council has other ideas for its cemeteries. It's proposing allowing QR codes on gravestones so you could be linked to a person's digital memorial.

The council also wants to ban videos on headstones, something that hasn't taken off here yet but is proving popular overseas.

The public can have its say on the proposal from next month, but a survey already shows people are very much split on this difficult subject.

New Zealand Society of Genealogists members' views on Wellington City Council Cemeteries Management Plan

Thanks for asking for members' views.

Along with other councils, the WCC has a history of reusing graves as, for example, with paupers' plots, so in many cemeteries this is already a well-established pragmatic solution to a practical problem of what to do with those who die but whose families cannot meet the cost of grave sites.

In researching and writing about some of those who died in the 1918 flu pandemic and are buried in Karori Cemetery, I learnt that in the 1960s the council, under pressure from ratepayers to reduce their rates burden and to maximise economic use of the cemetery, had embarked on removing the remains from plots that had not been paid for so they could be on sold. The remains from such graves were understood to have been buried between the rows of end to end headstones at the top of each plot. (Many of the sites that were not paid for did not have headstones or other named markers as might be expected.) But the council has been reusing plots in the past and the difference now is some public consultation.

Over time, this removal of remains to free up sites for reuse, did give rise to some confusion about why another named person seemed to occupy the site and it did make it harder for later generations to locate the family member they were looking for. However, good council records in the office on site helped this a lot and it should go without saying that if the current proposal to reuse sites goes ahead, an essential ingredient for genealogists will be for the council to maintain robust records about each site that is reused. Such records need to be accessible at low cost for research. And the online database will need work to clarify which sites have been reused and the names of those involved.

The proposal also raises whether reusable sites will need to be allocated according to which section a family wishes to purchase in, for example, the Church of England section, the Catholic section, or the Public section etc. You do not need to spend long in Karori cemetery to realise that the first in were best served and instead of the Public section having the flattest and best land for burial, that this went to the Anglicans even though New Zealand has never had an established church. Plot allocation in our time now needs to recognise that only small numbers of people have a religious affiliation and that the best most accessible plots should be available to the PUBLIC. There will need to be some careful thinking carried into the allocation policy to work out how to respect the history of the heritage site and at the same time, make a good share of the best flat grave sites available to the Public. I suggest that from a certain point, plot purchasers are made aware that they will have exclusive use of the plot only for a set period such as 20 years. The exact time period needs to be informed by knowledge of just how long it takes for bodies that have been treated with undertakers' preservation fluids to decompose.

With large numbers of people electing cremation, the numbers of burials must be reducing, despite population growth, so this too will help free up space for those who still wish to be buried.

I imagine mine will be a minority view, but I am relaxed about better use of the large heritage site that is Karori Cemetery, and the reuse of plots. I would be happy for some cultures to be have exemptions where reuse conflicts with cultural values. (That said, though, council records will show that the families of some of those who perished from the influenza in 1918 were granted permission decades later to remove remains to whānau urupa in other parts of the country.)

Land is finite and all generations need to become better at sharing our resources, if the world is to have a future.

Genealogical advocacy should go into protecting affordable access to records, the quality of the record keeping, and to sorting out how to give the public access to a good portion of the grave plots for reuse in areas currently occupied by religious denominations.

Comment 1 Page 1-2

I am against the proposals made by the Wellington City Council in relation to their plans for the Wellington cemeteries.

Comment 2 Page 2

I thought I would just offer two pence worth in your considerations of the proposal by Wellington City Council.

If this is a future plan and not retrospective in some ways I don't have a problem with the idea. However - having said that, I would be very concerned if records of those who are disinterred are not detailed. With this, I mean not just a name, but a record/plaque, whatever, that contains the information that was placed on the grave if any (I imagine the proposal would also have some impact on the erection of memorials).

For example, somewhere I know of where this has not happened - I have ancestors who were buried in Symonds Street and who were affected by the southern motorway construction through Auckland. While there is a memorial stone with a list of those whose graves were affected (and I would suggest not all were captured – there is some documentation in the Sir George Grey special collections that looks like there was an attempt to contact families), there is no detail on the stone. Fortunately it seems before the motorway, someone had captured the details of individual memorial stones in the cemetery – related to construction or not I do not know. If this had not happened I would not have had the information.

This is very wordy but I hope you understand what I am saying. There needs to be a record with details available that was determined by families for the memorial if any.

Both my parents requested cremation and they had no desire for any formalities. However I was very concerned to have some sort of memorial. I arranged plaques to be placed on the memorial wall in the small cemetery located in the area where they worked, raised their family and were part of the history and community. This was important to me and part of this was the need to ensure there was a record for the future. (And I hear Dad say - she always does what she wants!).

So for me, who does not live in Wellington, the proposal needs careful thought and construction before it can be sanctioned.

Hope this makes some sense.

Comment 3 Page 2

How disgusting!!

WCC have done this before when putting in part of the motorway several years ago.

My grandparents are John and Mary Catherine (nee Williams) COX and buried in the Karori Cemetery. She died Christmas day 1946 my last memory of her when aged five, and he died 13 January 1957. They have a grave with headstone near the memorial of Seddon. If my relatives are removed will Seddon be also?

Comment 4 Page 3

I am against reusing plots or paying rentals for so many years before the plot is recycled. It is a place for families to visit and also for later generations. I have been to many graveyards looking for ancestors.

Many Cemeteries become part of a social history and historical for the area. There are some lovely old headstones that one can appreciate even it not belonging to your family.

My husband, who is the sexton of our local cemetery says the expectations of a family is that a burial or ash plot is there forever.

Comment 5 Page 3

I think that this would be a dis service to all the people who have passed on. I think it is disrespectful. Particular of the RSA members and other folk who have made our nation what it is today, as they gave their lives for us, surely we can have respect for those whom fought and died on our behalf. Maybe in Wellington's case they should have looked further afield many years ago. This will be a big black mark against the council if they go ahead with this.

Comment 6 Page 3

Thank you for seeking feedback on the WCC gravesite proposal.

As a Wellington resident (and ratepayer), I have a number of concerns you might like to think about and incorporate into your submission to WCC.

1. Certainty for families of deceased - I think the families of the deceased should have some certainty as to where their loved ones are located. Not all family members engage in the funeral process, but some may wish to engage at a later time. They should have some certainty that the location of their deceased relative is where they were interred. The idea of the Council shifting bodies at a later stage does not sit well with me personally.

2. Rental of a plot for a period - The suggestion that a plot could be rented for a short period (e.g. 10 years) doesn't sit well. It seems too short for those who have a connection with the deceased. For example, if someone dies and is buried in mid-life (or a the case of the death of a young child), then the immediate family shouldn't have to deal with the dis-interment and re-interment of the body after a few years. The minimum period for the rental of a plot should be at least 25-30 years (i.e.one generation).

3. Later cremation - One of the suggestions is that the Council may disinter full body burials, cremate them, before reinterring the ashes. I think this is totally unacceptable for a number of reasons, including religious and cultural, and financial reasons:

- some families with strong religious beliefs and/or cultural practice might not agree with cremation
- and certainly that decision should not be made by Council staff
- there is also a financial aspect, as the Council will have to fund such a removal , the families should not be asked to pay for the removal and cremation of a body several years after burial. If the Council increases the burial fees for burial upfront, then there will be a disincentive to use alternative approaches
- if the Council doesn't address the costs upfront, then the ratepayers will be paying for this service in the future.

4. As noted above, not everyone will agree with cremation, but I think a first step should be to encourage cremation where it is an option, such as stronger financial incentives. This will reduce the space requirements.

5. Space issues - WCC claim they are running out of space for cemeteries. The current active cemetery at Makara is out of the city in a rural area. Although the WCC would need to purchase more land, that area is not highly productive, and the view of the local windfarm is peaceful.

6. Genealogical thoughts: I'm an amateur genealogist, so I will leave other members to provide input in this area; but I am guessing genealogists will want stability of records. All very well to update Council records (and WCC doesn't have a good record with online burial locations at Karori, although they tell me a new online database will be launched later this year; Makara is a very easy cemetery to match online records to grave locations), but many family tree records will become inaccurate if the location of burials are changed through relocation.

I trust my initial thoughts are helpful.

Comment 7 Page 3-4

In principle I am not in favour of renting a gravesite. I believe a person should have a permanent resting place. If space is an issue, maybe in the future there should be planning for cremations only. If Wellington City Council go ahead with this proposal other Councils could follow.

I have no concerns regarding the leasing of cemetery sites. I visited Germany and tried to track down my in laws family and naively went to the local cemetery. I was surprised there were no graves older than about 25 years. They have a leasing policy - on the termination of the lease the family is offered the opportunity of continuing for another 25 years on payment of the appropriate fee. From my understanding the family are offered the opportunity of cremation of the remains and retaining the headstone. If the family decide not to keep the site, or do not respond the grave lease and headstone are reused. This compared to Great Britain where I visited old cemeteries. Although grave sites were kept for ever many of the old headstones had deteriorated to such an extent they could not be read anyway

Although an inconvenience to me as a genealogist, I felt the German system was eminently suitable and avoided the case we have in NZ with ever increasing areas of cemeteries. I think of my own situation in Raetihi cemetery where my great grandfather is buried. I suspect that I may be the only descendant that has visited his grave, or in fact many of the similarly aged graves around him, for many years. I am at the age that this will not continue for much longer.

If this system is adopted it is essential that good, readily available records are kept of the burials and ideally photos retained of the original gravestone so descendants and genealogists are able to peruse these records in the future..

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Comment 8 Page 4

The proposal by the Wellington City council to introduce reusable grave sites is wrong. Our ancestors planned and paid for these sites and memorials in good faith to remember their people.

I personally have discovered ancestors in the Bolton St. and Karori Cemeteries, and added substantial facts to my family tree to enlighten my children and grandchildren.

We should respect the past and history and leave graves undisturbed and intact.

Peter Burke

Better planning should be in place for the future.

Comment 9 Page 5

Submission to the Wellington City Council on its proposal to create 'reusable graves'

My name is Peter Burke and I have worked in the media as a journalist for nearly 60 years.

I am also a writer having written a significant history book called *True to Ireland* which has been published in New Zealand and Ireland and sold world-wide. I am also working on two other history books. In my role as a part-time historian I have delivered papers on my work at universities in New Zealand, Australia and Ireland. I am a member of the Irish Studies Association of Australian and New Zealand (ISAANZ) a life member of the New Zealand Guild of Agricultural Journalists and the Science Communicators Association of New Zealand.

My father was Irish and on my mother's side, Irish is the dominant culture. I strongly identify with the cultural values of Ireland.

My father and brother, my grandparents and great grand-parents are buried at Karori Cemetery and I have other relations and friends buried at Makara.

Cemeteries fill two vital functions. The most obvious is that they provide a resting place for the departed and place where those left behind can grieve and remember their loved ones. For me a cemetery is sacred ground – a place where the dead can truly rest in peace. The grave is an individual chapel or church which myself and others with similar cultural and spiritual believe is 'holy ground' and should remain undisturbed in time.

The other function is that of an archaeological site where history through the simple grave stones provides invaluable data for historians and genealogists like myself. I have always valued cemeteries – they are in a sense out door libraries rich in information for the present and future generations. I could not have provided some of the rich data in *True to Ireland* if it wasn't for some of the information that myself and my researcher gleaned from grave yards in New Zealand and overseas. I personally witnessed the destruction of graves at the Bolton St Cemetery when graves were dug up and headstones scattered around like toys in a child's play pen. I was working in Broadcasting House in Bowen St at the time and saw what I regarded as the sacrilegious mishandling of this project.

I am therefore opposed to any proposal to tear up graves and headstones and curiously replace them with QR codes. To see history wrecked would be tragic for the city. Would it not be better to make cremation the preferred system of disposing of loved ones? I understand that some cultures may find this unacceptable and those views should be respected. Maybe family plots with just one site could be an option?

Please let our dead rest in peace so that future generations and historians can learn from the past. Put the 'do not disturb' signs at entrance to Karori and Makara and do not go ahead with this proposal.

I would like to attend a council meeting to speak to my submission.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit on this proposal

Comment 10 Pg 5 : Peter Burke

My fears, if the WCC go ahead with this there would be a massive loss of vital information re people buried there.

The destruction of the Bolton Street Cemetery to make way for an access tunnel into Wellington City was abominable.

Bodies dug up and put into a mass Grave plus many of the Headstones destroyed (with valuable information on them) by workmen who didn't care.

What will happen to our War Memorials and graves of those who fought for New Zealand and returned home to be buried.

A QR code which is proposed to record details is not a safe way to record as technologies change and become obsolete.

This also takes away the ability for people to search themselves and be able to stand in front of where their ancestor is buried.

If we allow this to happen in Wellington then who is next Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, Invercargill and then smaller townships?

In some places if someone is cremated and scattered a plaque is put on a wall of remembrance. There is a Twenty Five yearly charge for the Plaque and if not paid for is removed. (probably destroyed or melted down)

A huge lack of respect for the dead and a person's religious beliefs.

It never ceases to amaze me that those not doing or interested in Genealogy or History do not consider the importance of retaining information.

Where would we be without the ability to be able to look for our lost ones who came before.

With Respect

Comment 11 Pg 6

My family were horrified when we heard on TV about Wellington City Councils proposed grave rental plan to ease overcrowded cemeteries.

Many people, like myself, come to tracing their family history later in life. Part of the joy in this search is visiting places where family have lived, worked and died. I have visited many graves for the first time, mainly because I never knew where some family were buried or had just found the family connection. In many instances I have continued to visit and care for the graves.

I can only imagine how upset and betrayed I would feel, if after a long search to find an ancestor, I turn up at the cemetery only to find the plot has been reused and the remains of my family member moved to who knows where.

This is exactly the situation J K Rowling discovered after tracing her great grandfather to a cemetery in Maisons Lafitte, France. Louis Volant died in 1949 aged 72 and was buried in a single plot. In 1968 due to the cemetery being overcrowded his remains were exhumed and reinterred in a communal grave. Rowling's reaction can be viewed in episode 2 of series 8 of the TV programme "Who do you think you are?" that is still available to view on You Tube. Upon discovering this event Rowling said it was a "horrible shock" and that she was "very angry", sentiments that I could relate to.

Cemeteries are visited not only by family but also by historians, reporters and individuals interested in the local history and the people involved in creating that history.

I appreciate that cemeteries are becoming full and apart from allocating or purchasing land to create new cemeteries alternative options need to be looked at. Encouraging cremations is the obvious answer and where people wish to have a resting place for the ashes memorial walks or walls could be established. However in some cultures burial of bodies is the only option.

I ask that Wellington City Council scrap their proposed grave rental plan and look for alternative options to ease overcrowding of cemeteries that does not involve disturbing existing graves.

Comment 12 Pg 6-7

My thoughts on reusing cemetery plots after an undefined length of time.

When visiting the UK several years ago I was able to obtain an enormous amount of information about my ancestors from their head and foot stones, either in church yards or public cemeteries. Cemetery tourism is becoming popular, just look at the following the volunteers who are cleaning the headstones at the Wakapuaka Cemetery in Nelson have. More and more people are visiting the Wakapuaka Cemetery as it is like a park. Nelson is so proud of this cemetery and the work these volunteers are doing.

I am part of a team who hold cemetery tours every year and inform people about the early settlers who are buried there. These are very popular, one such event attracted over 60 people.

Many families reuse the old plots by placing/burying ashes at the foot of the family grave, this wouldn't be able to take place if the headstones were removed.

If the plots were reused then none of this would happen.

It is very sad and disrespectful seeing headstones used as pathways as I did in London.

Please consider this before ripping up our heritage.

Comment 13 Pg 7

My great-grandfather, James Campbell, and one of his daughters, were among those whose graves were removed to make way for the Wellington Motorway in 1969. Their grave stones were installed in the Karori Cemetery with wife and mother, Margaret McDonell. My grandfather Peter Malcolm Campbell, his daughter, and wife, Kathleen Moore, are also buried there. That is quite apart from other relatives on my mother's side who are also in the Karori Cemetery.

I am very much opposed to the removal of the graves of my ancestors and relatives as our family believed that they should be left undisturbed.

Comment 14 Pg 7

I was very disappointed to read of the proposal to remove bones and re-sell grave sites at the Wellington cemeteries and I willingly lend my support to the NZSG efforts to oppose this idea. I don't have any ancestors buried in Wellington but have had first-hand experience of plot reselling. My 2x great grandfather was buried in the church yard at Holy Rood in Stirling, Scotland in 1843. When I visited in 2003 I was unable to find his plot at the spot indicated on the map. I was told it had probably been sold after a certain number of years, as was the practice. No one was able to say what would have happened to his bones. My thought was that at least they don't do that in NZ!

Maori fight to be bitter end to stop desecration of their urupa. Why should it happen to the rest of us.

Thanks for picking up this matter

Comment 15 Pg 7

Personally I am NOT in favour of the idea. When we put someone to rest – that is where they should remain. That is where family and others can come to pay respects. That is where future generations can gather important family connections. That is why they purchased the plots in the first place.

Comment 16 Pg 8

When a family purchases a burial plot they pay for the plot, the interment, and ongoing maintenance of the area, though not maintenance of the headstone. The payment collected should be sufficient to cover the next 50 ?, 100 ?, 200? Years. Burial costs become prohibitive as the time period lengthens, but should the next generation of ratepayers be expected to pay for our ancestors' graves?

The proposals for change seek to reduce the charge on future ratepayers. There is no suggestion that existing graves will be disturbed, but it appears that different contracts are being explored for future burials.

This is the arrangement adopted by Adelaide Cemeteries:

1. The initial tenure period for a site is 50 or 99 years.
2. At any time the site owner can purchase an extension of their period
3. When the tenure expires vigorous attempts are made to contact the owner for instructions for further extension of tenure or closure of the rights.
4. After 2 years with no contact, ownership reverts to the Council and the site may be resold.
5. Unclaimed skeletal remains are carefully retrieved, placed in an ossuary box, and reinterred at a greater depth on the same site, after which the site can be reused.

This seems to be a fair and flexible system to me. Families can have their plot for as long as they want to pay for it, or they can terminate their lease whenever they prefer to.

I do not think NZSG should oppose all change to the management of our cemeteries. There is a potential impact for genealogists, but the solution lies in our own hands – to keep up the regular updating of our cemetery transcriptions. A recent update of Palmerston North's (original) Terrace End cemetery produced 80 new records.

For those who object on cultural grounds may I suggest the use of culturally appropriate burial grounds such as churchyards or urupa where maintenance may be provided by volunteers.

Here is a picture of my relative's plot in Mt Auburn cemetery, Boston, Massachusetts. Her will dated 1849 specified a legacy: "\$200 for the proprietors of Mount Auburn on condition they keep my lot No 530 neat and in good order." I think she got a good bargain judging from a recent photograph in which all the adjacent plots seem to have been cleared. There are no descendants in this line, but as with so many things – you get (or hope to get) what you pay for!



Comment 17 Pg 8

In principle I am not in favour of renting a gravesite. I believe a person should have a permanent resting place. If space is an issue, maybe in the future there should be planning for cremations only. If Wellington City Council go ahead with this proposal other Councils could follow.

Comment 18 Pg 9

Thank you for this opportunity to add my thoughts to the debate surrounding WCC's plan to rent out gravesites.

I, 100% oppose WCC's plan for the following reason and set of circumstances.

It was from watching a Who Do You Think You Are UK episode in 2014, featuring British athlete, Colin Jackson that first drew my attention to this possibility and to the negative aspects of this plan.

Colin, who was born in Wales of Jamaican parents, was filmed in Jamaica with his mother's long-lost relatives whom she left behind in 1955 making the United Kingdom her new home.

While Colin was in Jamaica renewing his roots, the family visited the cemetery where one of his direct ancestors was buried. When they arrived at the cemetery with the details of where the grave was, they discovered that the grave was occupied by someone else. It had been reused by another person or persons because Colin's family had not kept up the rental payment. As a consequence, the cemetery administrators removed Colin's ancestor's remains and placed them into a common grave with many others and the rights to the grave given to another family. It was evidently upsetting for his family to realize the significance of this action.

The sad fact is that people die and family threads are lost, had the extended family been made aware of the circumstances and administrators taken the time to trace family, then perhaps for Colin's family a happy ending may have been possible. But what are the possibilities of that? Very slim in my opinion.

When you lay a person to rest it should be just that.

Comment 19 Pg 9

I am in total agreement with graves being reused. It is so sad going round graveyards and seeing graves that are uncared for, tree roots pushing through them and general neglect. Why should we burden our children and grandchildren with the problems of upkeep. We will have flown away and should release our kin from the burden of our corpses.

Comment 20 Pg 9

My thought on this issue is if this happens it will result in destroying this country's history especially visible history going back to the very early days of Wellington

Comment 21 Pg 9

The overcrowding situation mentioned in the news is sad, but a sign that our country is growing at a rapid rate. While I do not agree with destroying the cemeteries our families used to bury their dead, I understand that we cannot continue.

Ideally I favour cremation, as the present day population is well-recorded, and I am sure future generations will have no trouble tracing our lives.

As a genealogist I have searched for headstones overseas, and on two occasions found the cemetery had been cleared to provide playing fields for school children!

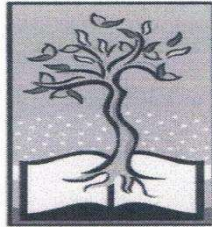
Others fortunately had a wealth of information to offer.

A solution must be found, but in the meantime, **please don't dig up my relatives.**

Comment 22 Pg 9 - 10

As I have family relatives & friends buried in Wellington cemeteries, & possible relatives in the future, I strongly object to the proposed changes that are being suggested.

Comment 23 Pg 10



TAUMARUNUI GENEALOGY INTEREST GROUP

CONVENER: Terri Taylor [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SECRETARY /TREASURER: Laurie Brown [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1st November 2020

SUBMISSION RE WELLINGTON PROPOSED GRAVE PROPOSALS

We as the above group wish to make submissions against the proposals pending fuller details of the proposal. It is long on proposal, but very short on detail, and lack of site to get more information.

1. What is the period that the Grave will be rented for. Will it be a yearly or one off payment
2. What will happen to burials on top of one another I.e. a couple who die years apart.
3. The proposal says grave will be exhumed and contents cremated. What will happen to the ashes, and how will that person be recorded as being buried in that cemetery. Is a wall or some sort of Memorial proposed, as at Woodside, Manukau Auckland.

How will Relatives be able to find information as to whether their beloved was ever buried there.

4. The proposed QR code of linking people to the Grave site. Is it to be used also as a means of determining the number of visits to the site so WCC can expedite the use of the Grave earlier than the rented period. This is of course dependent on relatives etc using the code. Will it be similar to the Covid-19 QR App

5. While aware of what is happening in some countries already, what about the cultural aspects of various ethnics who are or will be buried at the cemetery

6. We feel it is the thin edge of the wedge to set a precedent for other Councils to follow suit if and when it suits them.

7. The Group feels the allowing of Videos at grave sites rather pointless

We the below named NZSGI Members and on behalf of our Group wish this submission to be part of submissions put forward by NZSGI to Wellington City Council.

T Taylor #18032 Convenor
G L Brown #25018 Secretary/ Treasurer
G Cullen #17648 Group Member
J Gilbert #13652 Group Member

For and on Behalf of above NZSGI members and the Taumarunui Genealogy Interest Group Members.

Yours faithfully,

Laurie Brown

Signed G L Brown

Secretary, Taumarunui Genealogy Interest Group

Comment 24 Pg 10-11

In Western BOP we are not permitted to utilise our old family graves. I tried (in June 2019) to have my daughter buried on top of her grandmother (who died 2005) or grandfather (who died 1981). I was refused. This smacks of double standards - why is it that I wasn't able to bury my daughter with her grandparents, but they might now be dug up, cremated, and a stranger allowed to use their plot?

This is all about making money, and here is why:

If someone in my family was allowed to be buried with their grandparents, I would not want to pay the thousands of dollars for burial in a plot which my family already owns - I wouldn't mind paying (say) an opening fee, but certainly not the three or four thousands now required.

Cemetery management needs to listen to the people - my family has nine utilised plots here in the Old Te Puke cemetery, with only nine people in them. Two are double-depth, so will probably be re-used. We have seven very old plots which we would dearly love to re-use, but are not allowed to do so. The cemetery is full and no further plots are available.

None of us likes cremation, but obviously we must consider burying only ashes in the near future.

I see this as very bad management, and to hear this latest proposal from Wellington just adds to the certainty that some people in management are stupid.

Further, I have two very old graves of relatives in Karori. These folk died early in the 1900s. The very idea of disturbing them is disgusting, and whoever dreamed it up should be ashamed.

However, can the WCC explain to me why they are considering making money from selling off my relatives graves?

I am their oldest living relative, so what about letting me sell these back to the WCC?

Somewhere along the line people are forgetting that (and I have a receipt which says this) a grave is sold "in perpetuity".

What next will this mad world dream up to annoy the elderly?

Comment 25 Pg 11-12

As a long time Genealogist, am absolutely horrified, that they Wellington Council would even consider it. What happens to all the headstones? I am not familiar with Maori protocol, but don't think it is very cultural.

Comment 26 Pg 12

My understanding of NZ law is that you do not 'own' a gravesite; you only have a right to occupy. That right lapses after 60 years, but is renewed for a further 60 years if another body is buried in the same site. Technically you can remove the headstones then an reuse the plots. Not that anyone would do it as blatantly as that, but the following has happened ...

In Manukau the (Methodist?) cemetery had all the headstones removed and replaced with a single large memorial stone in a garden of memories. The rest of the cemetery is now the parking area for Rainbow's End. That is what I was told. I have no idea what happened to the headstones.

The headstones at St Mark's Anglican cemetery in Remuera were all moved to the side of the cemetery, along the fence line. The rest was grassed over.

Our own cemetery at the church of Our Lady, Star of the Sea at Howick, was running out of space. There was an 'empty' section that I would be fairly sure was once occupied by Fencible soldiers. The grave markers were likely to have been wooden and now rotted away. Back in those days they had better things to do than keep cemetery records; so there are none of those. So we turned it into an ashes area. Very popular.

And I have heard of cemeteries that have removed rubbishy old remains of graves and grassed over the plots.

Comment 27 Pg 12

I am very concerned about the Wellington City Council's proposal to reuse the existing graves at these cemeteries. It is unclear from the information presented thus far what will happen to the existing graves. What will happen to the headstones? After the poor handling of the demolition of Bolton Street Cemetery, involving the loss of many irreplaceable headstones, it is clear that there is a much greater need to retain and protect Karori and Makora Cemeteries.

The history of Wellington and some of New Zealand from the earliest days of the settlers cannot be replaced by mere transcriptions of the graves' historical headstones. Not only the Maori but also other nationalities and pakeha do not like the desecration of their graves. My own family history is well represented at Karori Cemetery and I am very wary as to what may become of it.

Comment 28 Pg 12

I don't like the idea very much.

I want to be on top of my Jim not some other lady????!!!!

Comment 29 Pg 13

I think the graves ought to be left as is. My mother was buried there in 1940 and I would rather she be left in peace.

Comment 30 Pg 13

I would hate for what WCC is possibly going to do. Such a lot of history will be lost. So many graves have been destroyed already in some cemeteries but a wonderful group in Nelson is refurbishing the graves at Wakapuaka cemetery with tremendous success and the cemetery has gone from a very neglected site to a lovely parklike setting now, thanks to all the volunteers.

Comment 31 Pg 13

Hello and thanks for the email.

Graves were purchased for ever in the past, no time as far as I am aware.

I am totally against their reuse.

Comment 32 Pg 13

When do we, as a country, have to put a stop this sort of crass application of neo-liberalism?

Furthermore, since when is it appropriate to fit cemeteries and our beloved ancestors into the worst form of economic & political ideology to enter our country. The WCC should publicly apologise for even considering such an invasion of our heritage.

Comment 33 Pg 13

I'm plain and simply against it.

Not only for cultural reasons but religious reasons as well.

For future historians like myself it would be devastating.

Comment 34 Pg 13

Leave them alone. They are our History, for future Genealogists

Comment 35 Pg 13

No I do not think the Wellington proposal is a good idea.

Your burial is meant to be your final resting place and when the family goes to a great deal of trouble doing a headstone etc

it is not a good feeling to know that this is only temporary and that someday someone else will take their place on your plot of land.

For genealogy purposes it is nice to know that future generations can at any time visit your final resting place and see you and your family's headstones.

It sounds to me like a money making venture by the council as they make money several times over on the same piece of land.

No, not for me.

Comment 36 Pg 13

I do not like the thought that my remains will be dug up and removed from a cemetery. A grave site should be a place for family to visit for all time. I personally still visit my ancestor's graves. It would be traumatizing for living relatives.

Graves in any part of NZ should not be disturbed.

Comment 37 Pg 13

I saw the item re the cemeteries and was saddened by it. I am a recent resident here, so I don't know the rules and regulations about the use of land generally. From what I see on the television there always seems to be disagreement between the authorities and local iwi. Disregarding that, I cannot understand why there always seems to be a problem about the use of land. New Zealand is very sparsely populated with the exception of Auckland and I cannot believe that a few hectares cannot be spared for new cemeteries. That is one of the smallest problems that the country is going to face in the near future. I have never seen a crematorium here but there must be some. Maybe they could invest in a vast incinerator to get rid of all the refuse they dump and use that land for new cemeteries. As long as they are kept away from the coast.

Comment 38 Pg 14

I did see this news item and immediately thought of my own family's gravesites in many different areas that were paid for in good faith and the belief that they were indeed that final resting place. I would hate to see them disturbed. Would there be recompense?

While this may be a proposal for a new way of managing burial sites, I can see the day when council eyes are directed to the many acres of what appear to be unvisited/untended graves. I guess there is some fine print where they have the power ...

In the past cemeteries have not been sacrosanct in the face of roads/motorways development.

Comment 39 Pg 14

I have no objection to grave sites being reused, provided that any gravestones are transcribed so all information on them is retained.

Comment 40 Pg 14

Some people will object to cremation because of their religious beliefs.

Family plots are already shared.

Supposed to be a final resting place and nice to have a peaceful green place in a city.

Comment 41 Pg 14

I find this completely abhorrent. No respect for those who have gone before.

Comment 42 Pg 14

I wish to add my thoughts to this submission, please.

As a genealogist, I find this proposal distressing. It is important to us all to be able to "find" our ancestors and to know where they rest.

In our travels overseas we encountered practices in graveyards which we did not like, and which denied us the chance to feel "at one" with our ancestors. In one circumstance, the headstones had been removed and against the church wall. It was then almost physically impossible to sort through them to find the one that was desired. It was also impossible to find the grave site.

In another churchyard the headstones had been removed and used as paving stones in pathways. We felt this was very disrespectful and denied us the chance to find our ancestors.

These examples were both in England After travelling all that way to find our ancestors we felt cheated.

In Hong Kong, where land is truly scarce, people are able to "rent" a burial plot for only 7 years. Then the bones must be removed and taken elsewhere. Mostly people take them home and store them in big stone jars. This certainly makes it easy to polish the bones annually! (A Chinese tradition)

While this practice is culturally acceptable to some Chinese people, it is not acceptable here. Our land is not in such short supply as in Hong Kong.

I am sure others will cover religious and spiritual objections so I will not attempt to do so.

I feel any practice that separates headstones and physical remains is very disrespectful and a desecration.

Comment 43 Pg 14-15

Having only just discovered many of my early family in the Karori Cemetery, I am absolutely horrified at Wellington City's proposal. Who owns the plots anyway Wellington City or us the family? Three of my family's first immigrants are buried there. Going and visiting their graves is like the Maori Tribes of N.Z. travelling to the place of their historic Waka's arrival in Aorearoa to honour those who made that first brave journey. In fact I have 23 ancestors buried at Karori. If this proposal does go ahead, would we, the family, be allowed to take our ancestors' remains and Headstones away and take them to a SAFE place?

Comment 44 Pg 15

Kia Ora NZSG Whanau,

I wish to add my voice to this worthy campaign.

The WCC proposal to reuse grave sites is absolutely repugnant, okay, WCC can burn-and-dump the occupants, but what will happen to any Headstones? WCC have already desecrated graves for Motorways <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=135xgN593g> and on this regard, I have already had WCC desecrate one of my family graves <https://boltoncemetery.org.nz/burial-list/detail/4666/> and now they want to profit again from re-selling plots in grave recycling – what a disgusting, insensitive proposal!



BOLTON STREET CEMETERY DESECRATION.

- All (ALL) New Graves should be dug to accommodate a minimum of three (3) family burials with second and third burial fees heavily reduced!
- WCC should remove their fees for ALL Cremations if they are genuinely concerned about land shortage for full burials and to encourage more Cremations!
- WCC can easily purchase more land North of the city... other cities have burial grounds outside their city limits! Hong Kong, Japan, New York have solutions without grave robbing!
 - Purchasing new land would allow for better land use and design layouts to accommodate more internments and ash walls.
- How will WCC manage sanitation and soil contamination with grave recycling?
- WCC could build UP in multi-story columbaria Vaults for Ashes at least!



- There are enough Hills in Wellington to Terrace Graves!



- Perhaps (just perhaps!!), if WCC are absolutely desperate, UNMARKED Graves 100 years and older could '*possibly*' have new internments (????) at a reduced price, provided a Headstone is erected and while leaving the current remains in place???? I have more than one family member buried with individuals unknown to us!



I have visited almost all the grave sites of my ancestors where possible, they may be gone, but they certainly are **not** forgotten! Shame on WCC.

Can you please keep us updated.

Cheers,

Comment 45 Pg 15-16

I don't object to the sites being reused as long as the original headstones are on display somewhere for the families to find/see. A couple of years ago my sisters and I came to Wellington to locate a few family members who were buried in the Bolton Street cemetery. One headstone had had to be moved to make way for the motorway. A photo of the stone in its original site was available through Archives (taken in the 1960s by the council I think). The exhumed bodies were reburied at Karori in a mass grave but the headstones were cleaned and resited around Bolton Street cemetery, there locations marked on a grid found in the onsite chapel and also in a leaflet available to take away. We were really impressed by how easy it was to locate our relative and how good the stone looked in comparison to many that had been neglected for years. Personally the bones hold no great interest, it's the information from the headstone that provided us with a strong emotional reaction and fulfilled another part of our search.

Comment 46 Pg 16-17

Am totally against it - look at Bolton Street Cemetery. Thank you for the opportunity to have a say.

Comment 47 Pg 17

I always thought cremation was a sad option. Perhaps cemeteries could be a bit more inventive with the space they have by allowing up to three people in one plot over time.

Woodland burials are another option, unmarked graves in areas allowed to revert to wilderness, with some combined acknowledgement of who was in an area.

Yes of course the genealogist in me actually enjoys prowling very old cemeteries. Even more so, finding my ancient rellies.

Thanks

Comment 48 Pg 17

I am absolutely appalled at WCC decision to even consider desecration of graves such as that proposed.

Cemeteries and graves are part of our historic past and should be treated with respect and humility.

Council could well do with sticking with their knitting (rubbish removal and provision of similar services) and not trying to rule the lives of people. They are bloody Communists and those in many of the graves being targeted, fought and died to save us from Communism.

Call for an uprising against these soulless, nameless, shameless bastards.

I did refrain from using the "F" word but I am certain someone will!

Comment 49 Pg 17

Dear NZSG,

I have read the article for the above also seen this in the news. As a number of my family are interned in the Karori Cemetery & Makara Cemetery so I am not happy of the thought of them being dug up and their plots being reused. Nor am I happy with the thought of the plots being rented then the remains dug up and cremated or removed for that plot to be used again.

Hopefully there will be enough backlash from the public for this not to be passed by the WCC.

Comment 50 Pg 17

Graves to be rented out and then after a number of years the occupants be dug up and either cremated or moved elsewhere - no.

First, if people had wanted to be cremated, they would have been rather than buried.

Second, moved elsewhere? If there is no room, where are they going to be moved to?

Instead the WCC should either encourage more cremations by making them a lot cheaper than burials or by allowing more bodies to be buried in the same grave.

There is also the cultural aspect of 'resting in peace'

Comment 51 Pg 17 - 18

Dear NZSG,

I was shocked to see the news item re Karori Cemetery proposing re-usable grave sites, the more so as I have family buried there, one in an unmarked grave.

My first reaction was how to ensure my family sites are safe.

Should I have my name listed as a contact? The cemetery would struggle to contact descendants otherwise. Will descendants be able to refuse the recycle option?

How will the recycled graves be chosen?

There will be many descendants who are not even aware at this time of family burials there. It would be sad to discover too late that the grave has gone.

I have experienced this time limit on graves in Germany and other countries where grave sites are no longer tended due to politics and it is quite heart-breaking. The historical family chain is broken.

On the other hand, what is to be done when we run out of room. Perhaps as in Italy where there are vertical walls in memorial halls.

Many thanks for lobbying for our heritage.

Kind regards

Comment 52 Pg 18

I am definitely not in favour of "renting" a cemetery plot for a certain length of time. Cemetery plots and headstones are a valuable source of information for genealogists and I have visited graves from the early 1800s in England. It would be such a shame if Wellington City Council proceeds with its plan to "rent" cemetery plots.

Comment 53 Pg 18

Hi, I do not agree with the reusing of burial plots.

My Mum wanted to be buried with my Dad, he was buried in the returned soldiers section at Kelvin Grove cemetery, Palmerston north, but because the rules when Dad died were that wives were not allowed to be buried with their husbands, no provision was made for burying at the extra depth required for an extra body. By the time Mum died those rules had been changed and wives are now allowed to be buried with their husbands.

Even though it was 33years later Mum was not able to be buried with Dad as the undertaker told me it was consecrated ground and remains, no matter how long they had been there were not to be disturbed.

I know renting a plot is common in Europe and after 10 years the remains are dug up, with a family member present, how harrowing is that?, so that the plot is able to be reused. We don't have the land problems here that they have, so it should not be necessary, money saving by the council I think with no regard for the families' emotional pain.

I wonder if they will, one day, say times up for all the soldiers who fought overseas and are buried in foreign lands.

People are becoming more and more a disposable commodity, how sad. Even an elephant herd returns to the death/burial site on a yearly basis to remember.

Comment 54 Pg 18-19

I'm not worried about the whereabouts of the bones. After 50 years or so there won't be much left anyway. What I'm more concerned about is the headstones. They are the important bits, genealogically speaking.

Comment 55 Pg 19

Plots for graves should not be disturbed or sold a second time.

We have relatives buried in the Karori Cemetery on 8th June 1897 and 22nd February 1924 and members of the family visit the cemetery when in Wellington.

Comment 56 Pg 19

I definitely disapprove of the plan to reuse graves. It is a big part of our culture and our memories of our loved ones to have the place to remember them kept sacred. Just this week we interred the ashes of a relative in the grave of her late husband. This gave closure. The husband had died many years earlier and had been a Serviceman. The wife had lived to 93. If rented graves were the option, his grave may have no longer been available and this would have caused much distress to all the family. Please register my distress at the idea that is being proposed.

Comment 57 Pg 19

I have just received an email requesting our comment on the WCC to reuse plots after a certain time.

This would be of a concern to me if this proposal was taken up by other councils.

In my case my Grandfather, who died in 1945, and is buried at Napier's Park Island Cemetery contains his burial, plus the cremated remains of my Grandmother, my Aunt and my mother. It is a large plot and is where I expect my ashes to be buried when the time comes. I also have two sisters and a brother who also have thoughts of going into the same plot. So what would happen to this family plot if this became common practice?

Comment 58 Pg 19

Thanks for the link to the One News item on reuse of grave sites. I agree that there are cultural sensitivities related to this proposal and genealogical issues also.

I would agree that the NZSG should make a submission, but I would also like to see some suggestion of how this issue can be addressed in the long term.

As we know, many graves are in very poor condition and neglected, leaving trustees of cemeteries the task of keeping areas tidy amongst disintegration. For genealogists the opportunity to physically visit a grave site is a privilege but as I have said, more often than not they are in bad condition. The idea that, then, nobody cares, is manifest in the eyes of many who would support the reuse of graves.

I would be supportive of the NZSG providing practical ideas towards this issue.

Comment 59 Pg 19

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

I can see some merit in the proposal but am concerned that those with family plots that have been used for more than 100 years (or possibly less) could be adversely affected. My family has a double plot in the cemetery that was purchased in the 1890's. Since the original burial, the remains (mostly ashes) of a further 7 family members have been interred in the same plot, the most recent being my late father in 2017. His ashes were the third generation of the family to be interred in the grave and when my time comes I wish my ashes to be interred in the same plot.

I clean the grave and place fresh flower on it at least twice a year so it is not neglected.

I strongly believe there needs to some clear guidelines around the re-use of plots so that families are not left wondering what became of their forebears.

Regards

Comment 60 Pg 19-20

For most genealogists, our ancestors are people, not numbers.

We feel an affinity with all of our ancestors, no matter how long ago, or how recently, they have passed.

To be able to visit their graves is important. These people are part of who we are. Digging them up so someone else can use their plot destroys history and breaks our genealogical link.

Comment 61 Pg 20

Graves and headstones have always been a critical place of connection for families and researchers in linking to the past. Apart from any cultural insensitivity in having existing graves removed and re-sited, such actions will also remove the opportunity for interested parties to visit an historical meeting place of kindred spirits.

Cemeteries are what they are, where they are, and are memorials to our ancestors.

Lest we forget!

They shall remain!

Comment 62 Pg 20

I was most distressed reading the news regarding the Wellington Councils plan for consideration of rental, re-using and eventual removal of remains in Wellington's cemeteries.

Thank you, our Genealogical Society Officers, for taking steps to protect our history. Family histories recorded on these headstones, the final resting places of our loved ones and citizens. They "tell" the stories not just to direct descendants but to historians, writers and those just simply interested in the past that made these towns and cities what they are today.

My family buried in what was the Bolton Street Cemetery in Wellington and the Symonds Street Cemetery in Auckland had their final resting places moved or covered over. The headstones "lost" only some family names were recorded on memory wall. This caused me, and still does, distress and heartache as when I discovered these major changes had been made.

I fully agree Wellington's final decisions will affect other cemeteries in New Zealand as time passes and this is of great concern.

I thank you most sincerely for your immediate reaction to this announcement, and must say, I am proud to be a member of such a Society as the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, as they care and preserve our history for the future generations.

Comment 63 Pg 20 - 21

A contentious subject alright. I agree in some cases it is a good idea. This is born out by the fact that my maternal family are buried at Karori. The buying of the plot and the first one buried was in 1926 which means that this family plot is way at the back of the cemetery. Many graves in this area (including our family one) are overgrown with weeds and trees, etc. I feel if the Council go ahead and have the grave sites available for only a limited time I would think they it would ensure that the area round the grave would be cleaned up each time there is a new burial. However, my stronger thoughts are that once a person is interred (or the ashes buried) they should be there

forever. Although families leave the area, there are often times when they return and would like to acknowledge their loved one(s) resting place(s). A problem, yes, with space for cemeteries but I am sure NZ has plenty of rural land that could become available for such purposes.

So to sum up, I am against the idea of plots being leased / rented for only a certain length of time.

Comment 64 Pg 21

I do NOT agree with the proposal to reuse the cemetery plots after however many years that is agreed on at the time of the original burial. How many times do they intend to 'reuse the plot? think it is quite disgusting really. They would be better to encourage people to be cremated. But then there are some people who are dead against that. My husband no way would be cremated and is buried so how would you cope with that if after so many years you are dug up and cremated?

What do you do with the very very old graves in the old cemeteries?

That is my decision.

Comment 65 Pg 21

Dear NZSG

I have reflected on the proposal to reuse grave sites and have the following thoughts.

One the one hand:

- I cannot see the point in having cemeteries at all if the graves are not permanent and our deceased loved ones are not allowed to Rest in Peace.
- What would be done to memorials if the remains are removed? I assume the memorials would be removed too, but where would they go and are they also irrelevant if this proposal goes ahead?
- Many people want to be buried next to their spouses or family. A bit tricky if they've already been moved.

On the other hand, we all know of cemeteries where the gravestones are untended and the memorials are illegible. There may no longer be families alive who could tend these plots; or the families have moved to other countries or regions and cannot afford or have no interest in maintaining a plot for somebody they may not know. These are the forgotten, and in the minds of the people who buried or knew them they have rested in peace. So if the state of their resting place indicates that they have been forgotten then perhaps their space should be used for someone else.

My conclusion is the deceased live on in the minds and memories of those who knew them. Once those minds and memories have gone, as evidenced by the grave site being neglected then the site should be offered to someone else to bury their loved one. Any legible memorials must be recorded and placed in other corners of the cemetery, in walls or boundary plantings.

Comment 66 Pg 21 - 22

Definitely against this idea. Cemeteries could have remembrance walls for cremated ashes that go up rather than use up land.

I am against the rental of burial plots. Once a person is buried that should be the end of it. There won't be closure if people think they are going to be moved.

Comment 67 Pg 22

My husband had a brother, grandmother, grandfather, aunts and uncles there and we would be disappointed if we could not visit them. Our grandmother was born in Wellington and the family lived in the Mt Cook and Newtown area. It would be a shame also if the earlier settlers' graves were destroyed altogether. The Karori and Bolton Street cemeteries could be improved with a bit of loving care like the public donating old or surplus plants for volunteers to beautify the whole area similar to what they have done in New Plymouth. This cemetery now features in the garden week and it is enjoyed by all who go there no matter what time of the year there is always something flowering. An asset to the community.

Comment 68 Pg 22

Re the WCC proposition:

I am very much against the idea. People often go to the cemetery to view the family graves and leave flowers etc, where recent generations are concerned. And everyone who is descended from pioneers to NZ likes to know where the pioneer families are, in their last resting places - we make trips there too. It is all part of who we are

If people's graves were reused, we would lose track of where our relatives are. It is not the right thing to do.

Headstones and monuments cost us a lot of money, and one would not like to go through a second set of costs a few years later.

With forebears in Trentham and Lower Hutt, I would not like to see their graves disturbed.

Comment 69 Pg 22

I believe 'reusable' graves are at odds with New Zealand's fundamental cultural norms, both pakeha and Māori. I respect that people have choice to bury or cremate their loved ones; however, the provision of 'temporary' graves opens up the risk that we do not provide for future generations' wishes to connect with their tupuna. A final resting place is just that – somewhere for the body (or ashes) to rest. Why did we build war memorials in every small town throughout New Zealand? Because we want to connect to and remember our loved ones. So I absolutely do not support the reuse of plots outside of the family. There is no shortage of land for burials and cremations, and it has taken almost two centuries to get to where we are now.

To those who point to uncared-for graves as a rationale for removing and/or re-using them, I say that reuse of plots and existing plots not being cared for are two distinct issues. We need to ensure that one is not used as the reason for the other, but instead deal with them separately.

Provide more assistance to the Friends of Karori Cemetery to care for plots; provide more useful advice on the WCC website about how to find and care for your ancestors' plots and headstones.

This is not at all well done by WCC currently.

We should treasure both the historic value of our cemeteries and how they enhance our wellbeing. Cemeteries such as Te Henui in New Plymouth are not only public sites full of history; they are also beautiful gardens cared for by council and volunteers alike. We should encourage people to visit and enjoy our cemeteries (and ensure they are safe to visit though good maintenance).

Cemeteries/urupā are important taonga for us now and for our descendants/uri. This is expressed through the whakataukī: *Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua* - I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on my past.

Comment 70 Pg 22-23

Magazine

The New Zealand Genealogist is published bi-monthly. It contains news from the Society, members' queries, informative "how to" and feature articles written by members.

The magazine brings together members researching the same or similar families by allowing members to list the names they are currently researching.

NZSG Website

www.genealogy.org.nz

- The website keeps members informed about the Society, its records and resources.
- There is a link to the FRC library catalogue where members can search for material online, or place a borrowing order.
- The website is open for all to view, but there is also a 'Members Only' section, with exclusive services, and updates from the NZSG council.
- Members are able to access their own "My Account" where they can pay for their annual subscription, change their address details and upload their Members Interests to the searchable database on the website.

Our Aims

- Promote the study of family history, genealogies and kindred subjects.
- Encourage accurate and scholarly research into histories of families.
- Encourage the preservation of records having a genealogical or historical value.
- Foster awareness of family links and knowledge and heritage.
- To advance the education of the New Zealand public in these studies.

Contact us

To join please complete the form on our website under JOIN or contact us at:

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Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NZSocGen>

Helping You with your Family History



Family Research Centre

The Family Research Centre (FRC) is located in Auckland. All members have access to an extensive family history library of books, microfiche, CDs and research assistance.

For members who are unable to visit the FRC in person volunteers will, upon request, search the resources held in the FRC.

The Library has subscriptions to:

- Ancestry.com
- Scotland's People
- FindMyPast.com
- The Genealogist
- Gale Newspaper Collection including The Times, Burney Collection, a selection from the British Library collection and some American newspapers available to search on-line.

There is an extensive collection of material for New Zealand, including:

- Birth, Marriage and Death indexes;
- Cemeteries
- Directories
- Electoral Rolls
- The New Zealand Gazette
– searchable electronic pages 1840s - 2004

As most New Zealanders emigrated from overseas, resources have been collected to assist members to research ancestral origins in other countries. Books may be borrowed by members using a postal borrowing system.

Nationwide Network

The Society operates a network of Branches throughout New Zealand. They bring together family historians both knowledgeable and novice, in a friendly atmosphere to provide opportunities for hands-on help and guidance.

Society Projects

Members of the Society are invited to participate in projects and activities designed to build and/or preserve records of genealogical interest. For details of project activity in your area, please contact the Society's office.

NZSG Publications

The Society publishes a variety of very useful resources in booklets, microfiche or CD ROM format to assist both its members and the public with their research.

Research Services

Members have exclusive access to the Society's research services, including:

- New Zealand Schools look-up service
- Research officers for research for Huguenot, North America, Isle of Man, Channel Islands and Shetland Islands

Overseas services include:

- Certificate purchasing services for English and Scottish Certificates of birth, marriage and death
- UK Probate Purchasing service from 1701-1943
- Cheque Purchasing Service allows members to purchase a Sterling or Australian dollar cheque from the Society.

Record Collections

Society members are encouraged to use and contribute to its growing records collections. For the cost of a stamped self-addressed envelope, members may request searches from these collections.

NZSG Pre-1856 New Zealand Marriage Records Collection contains over 20,000 entries which predate compulsory civil registration of New Zealand marriages. Sources include newspapers, church records, mission marriages, bible entries, diaries and book extracts.

NZSG Certificates Collection contains over 600,000 worldwide entries pertaining to births, deaths, marriages, wills, burials, census and war records. Members can contribute to this ever-growing substantial collection for the benefit of all members.

NZSG First Families Collection contains over 240,000 names relating to families living in New Zealand before 1901.

NZSG Pedigrees Collection contains over 100,000 worldwide names taken from family charts submitted by NZSG members.

Digital Archive for Family History

The Society operates a Digital Archive for Family History and encourages members to deposit their previously unpublished 'in progress' or completed family histories, including photographs and documents in .PDF narrative form for safe keeping in perpetuity. Archived material is stored on a secure computer and members have individual control over access to their material.



Respondent No: 79 Ella Flavell

Responded At: Feb 04, 2021 09:03:38 am

Last Seen: Feb 08, 2021 19:05:33 pm

Email: [REDACTED]

IP Address:

Q1. Have you visited a cemetery in the last two years?

Yes

Q2. Which of the following cemeteries have you visited? (please tick all that apply)

Karori Cemetery

Q3. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Mākara Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q4. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Mākara Cemetery?

not answered

Q5. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Karori Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Relax

Exercise (eg. ride your bike or go for a walk)

Q6. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Karori Cemetery?

not answered

Q7. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Tawa Cemetery (please tick all that apply)

Q8. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Tawa Cemetery?

not answered

Q9. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to a cemetery in New Zealand outside of the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Q10. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q11. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to another cemetery in the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Q12. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q13. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at an overseas cemetery?

not answered

Q14. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to an overseas cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q15. If you haven't visited a cemetery in the last two years, would you do so for any of the following activities? (please tick all that apply)

Q16. Did you know that the right of interment (burial) in a cemetery plot is generally in perpetuity (for ever?) Yes

Q17. To what extent do you agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment?

I agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment Definitely agree

Q18. If Wellington City Council were to offer the option of re-using graves, how long should be allowed before a potential second burial? 80 years

Q19. Did you know that maintenance of graves and ash plots is the responsibility of the plot owner/family? Yes

Q20. It is costly to maintain and restore grave sites. Do you think the Council has a role in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain the plot? Yes

Q21. What do you think the Council's role should be in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain a plot? (Tick all that should apply) Basic safety work
Repairing damage from vandalism or Council maintenance

Q22. What is your preference for how graves should look and be maintained? Somewhere in the middle

Q23. If families are unavailable, who else do you think could or should have a role in maintaining and restoring grave sites?

Maybe trusts or volunteer groups

Q24. In our lawn cemetery areas, decorations and tributes are allowed only on the headstone and concrete base because the lawns need to be kept clear for access, maintenance and servicing. Some people like to place tributes and planting in the lawn area but they obstruct access and need to be removed and returned to the family where possible. If you have any ideas about how we can recognise people's desire to place tributes beyond the headstone area, while ensuring practical access and maintenance, please share them with us below.

not answered

Q25. The draft plan proposes to encourage the use of biodegradable decorations and tributes because plastic ones often blow around, causing litter and stream pollution. If you have any ideas about more environmentally-friendly options, please share them with us below.

Like the idea in the draft plan!

Q26. Karori and Tawa Cemeteries are places of significant historical importance, containing many old heritage features such as graves, monuments and buildings. If the Council had to prioritise work to protect the built heritage of the grave sites, how would you rank the following factors in order of importance? (1 being the most important and 5 the least important)

1. Maintaining a representative sample of graves from different eras and cultures
2. Maintaining graves from historically significant events (eg. Tangiwai disaster)
3. Tree removal where roots are causing damage
4. Maintaining graves of famous people

Q27. In the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan we are proposing to limit cycling/biking to the paved roadways where vehicles are allowed under a speed limit of 10 km/hr, or on tracks marked for cycle use that connect to adjacent open spaces. Do you agree with this proposal?

Yes

Q28. To what extent do you consider the following appropriate in our cemeteries?

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Public remembrance events | Highly appropriate |
| Heritage tours | Highly appropriate |
| Venue hire for weddings and special occasions | Neutral |
| Contemplation | Highly appropriate |
| Biking | Somewhat appropriate |
| Horse riding (at Mākara Cemetery) | Somewhat appropriate |

Q29. Is there anything you'd like to tell us about your answers above?

As long as things are sensitive to the space they're in and respect tapu in the cemetery - than I reckon it is okay.

Q30. An online cemetery management system is currently being developed that will enable 24-hour online bookings and online access to cemetery records and digital mapping. We're also planning other improvements to the cemeteries section of the Council's website. As well as burial and cremation options and costs what kind of information would you be interested in finding online? (tick all that apply)

- Memorial options
- Cemetery records
- Volunteering opportunities
- Downloadable cemetery maps
- Guidance on how to maintain graves
- A virtual tour of the cemeteries
- Heritage tours

Q31. Thank you for your feedback. If you have anything else you would like to tell us about how we manage cemeteries at the moment, or what our cemeteries should look like in the future, please do so here.

Regarding question 19, 'How to get to our cemeteries', not sure if people would use this - would just use Google Maps or Apple Maps. Other sustainable options for future burials such as eco friendly coffins could be good to incentivise.
[Submission by E Flavell]

Q32. Would you like to make an oral submission to the Councillors? (Oral submissions will take place in February 2021 – date to be confirmed)

Yes



Respondent No: 82 Patricia Norton

Responded At: Feb 05, 2021 09:33:31 am

Last Seen: Feb 04, 2021 19:41:10 pm

Email: [REDACTED]

IP Address:

Q1. Have you visited a cemetery in the last two years? Yes

Q2. Which of the following cemeteries have you visited? (please tick all that apply) Karori Cemetery
Other cemetery in the Wellington region

Q3. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Mākara Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q4. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Mākara Cemetery?
not answered

Q5. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Karori Cemetery? (please tick all that apply) Other (please specify)

Q6. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Karori Cemetery?
not answered

Q7. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Tawa Cemetery (please tick all that apply)

Q8. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Tawa Cemetery?
not answered

Q9. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to a cemetery in New Zealand outside of the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Q10. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?
not answered

Q11. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to another cemetery in the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply) Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes

Q12. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?
not answered

Q13. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at an overseas cemetery?
not answered

Q14. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to an overseas cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q15. If you haven't visited a cemetery in the last two years, would you do so for any of the following activities? (please tick all that apply)

Q16. Did you know that the right of interment (burial) in a cemetery plot is generally in perpetuity (for ever?) Yes

Q17. To what extent do you agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment?

I agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment Somewhat agree

Q18. If Wellington City Council were to offer the option of re-using graves, how long should be allowed before a potential second burial? 100 years

Q19. Did you know that maintenance of graves and ash plots is the responsibility of the plot owner/family? No

Q20. It is costly to maintain and restore grave sites. Do you think the Council has a role in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain the plot? Yes

Q21. What do you think the Council's role should be in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain a plot? (Tick all that should apply) Removing damaging plant growth
Basic safety work

Q22. What is your preference for how graves should look and be maintained? Somewhere in the middle

Q23. If families are unavailable, who else do you think could or should have a role in maintaining and restoring grave sites?

not answered

Q24. In our lawn cemetery areas, decorations and tributes are allowed only on the headstone and concrete base because the lawns need to be kept clear for access, maintenance and servicing. Some people like to place tributes and planting in the lawn area but they obstruct access and need to be removed and returned to the family where possible. If you have any ideas about how we can recognise people's desire to place tributes beyond the headstone area, while ensuring practical access and maintenance, please share them with us below.

not answered

Q25. The draft plan proposes to encourage the use of biodegradable decorations and tributes because plastic ones often blow around, causing litter and stream pollution. If you have any ideas about more environmentally-friendly options, please share them with us below.

not answered

Q26. Karori and Tawa Cemeteries are places of significant historical importance, containing many old heritage features such as graves, monuments and buildings. If the Council had to prioritise work to protect the built heritage of the grave sites, how would you rank the following factors in order of importance? (1 being the most important and 5 the least important)

1. Maintaining graves from historically significant events (eg. Tangiwai disaster)
 2. Tree removal where roots are causing damage
 3. Maintaining a representative sample of graves from different eras and cultures
 4. Maintaining graves of famous people
-

Q27. In the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan we are proposing to limit cycling/biking to the paved roadways where vehicles are allowed under a speed limit of 10 km/hr, or on tracks marked for cycle use that connect to adjacent open spaces. Do you agree with this proposal?

Yes

Q28. To what extent do you consider the following appropriate in our cemeteries?

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Outdoor performances | Somewhat appropriate |
| Public remembrance events | Highly appropriate |
| Heritage tours | Highly appropriate |
| Venue hire for weddings and special occasions | Neutral |
| Contemplation | Highly appropriate |
| Biking | Neutral |
| Horse riding (at Mākara Cemetery) | Neutral |

Q29. Is there anything you'd like to tell us about your answers above?

not answered

Q30. An online cemetery management system is currently being developed that will enable 24-hour online bookings and online access to cemetery records and digital mapping. We're also planning other improvements to the cemeteries section of the Council's website. As well as burial and cremation options and costs what kind of information would you be interested in finding online? (tick all that apply)

Downloadable cemetery maps
Guidance on how to maintain graves

Q31. Thank you for your feedback. If you have anything else you would like to tell us about how we manage cemeteries at the moment, or what our cemeteries should look like in the future, please do so here.

There's no facility in this survey for me to acquire a copy of my responses. How am I supposed to remember them??? Will you send me a copy? Patricia Norton - Newtown

Q32. Would you like to make an oral submission to the Councillors? (Oral submissions will take place in February 2021 – date to be confirmed)

Yes



Respondent No: 83 Pamela Hancox

[Redacted]

Email: [Redacted]

Responded At: Feb 05, 2021 09:38:14 am

Last Seen: Feb 04, 2021 19:41:10 pm

IP Address:

Q1. Have you visited a cemetery in the last two years? Yes

Q2. Which of the following cemeteries have you visited? (please tick all that apply) Other cemetery in the Wellington region

Q3. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Mākara Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q4. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Mākara Cemetery?

not answered

Q5. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Karori Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q6. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Karori Cemetery?

not answered

Q7. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Tawa Cemetery (please tick all that apply)

Q8. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Tawa Cemetery?

not answered

Q9. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to a cemetery in New Zealand outside of the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Q10. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q11. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to another cemetery in the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply) Visit the grave of a loved one

Q12. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

Easy to find graves.

Q13. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at an overseas cemetery?

not answered

Q14. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to an overseas cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q15. If you haven't visited a cemetery in the last two years, would you do so for any of the following activities? (please tick all that apply)

Q16. Did you know that the right of interment (burial) in a cemetery plot is generally in perpetuity (for ever?) Yes

Q17. To what extent do you agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment?

I agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment Somewhat agree

Q18. If Wellington City Council were to offer the option of re-using graves, how long should be allowed before a potential second burial? 50 years

Q19. Did you know that maintenance of graves and ash plots is the responsibility of the plot owner/family? No

Q20. It is costly to maintain and restore grave sites. Do you think the Council has a role in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain the plot? Yes

Q21. What do you think the Council's role should be in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain a plot? (Tick all that should apply) Repairing damage from vandalism or Council maintenance
Removing damaging plant growth

Q22. What is your preference for how graves should look and be maintained? No preference

Q23. If families are unavailable, who else do you think could or should have a role in maintaining and restoring grave sites?

Do not know.

Q24. In our lawn cemetery areas, decorations and tributes are allowed only on the headstone and concrete base because the lawns need to be kept clear for access, maintenance and servicing. Some people like to place tributes and planting in the lawn area but they obstruct access and need to be removed and returned to the family where possible. If you have any ideas about how we can recognise people's desire to place tributes beyond the headstone area, while ensuring practical access and maintenance, please share them with us below.

None.

Q25. The draft plan proposes to encourage the use of biodegradable decorations and tributes because plastic ones often blow around, causing litter and stream pollution. If you have any ideas about more environmentally-friendly options, please share them with us below.

not answered

Q26. Karori and Tawa Cemeteries are places of significant historical importance, containing many old heritage features such as graves, monuments and buildings. If the Council had to prioritise work to protect the built heritage of the grave sites, how would you rank the following factors in order of importance? (1 being the most important and 5 the least important)

1. Tree removal where roots are causing damage
2. Maintaining graves of famous people
3. Maintaining graves from historically significant events (eg. Tangiwai disaster)
4. Maintaining a representative sample of graves from different eras and cultures

Q27. In the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan we are proposing to limit cycling/biking to the paved roadways where vehicles are allowed under a speed limit of 10 km/hr, or on tracks marked for cycle use that connect to adjacent open spaces. Do you agree with this proposal?

Yes

Q28. To what extent do you consider the following appropriate in our cemeteries?

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Outdoor performances | Somewhat appropriate |
| Public remembrance events | Somewhat appropriate |
| Heritage tours | Highly appropriate |
| Venue hire for weddings and special occasions | Highly inappropriate |
| Contemplation | Somewhat appropriate |
| Biking | Highly inappropriate |
| Horse riding (at Mākara Cemetery) | Highly inappropriate |

Q29. Is there anything you'd like to tell us about your answers above?

A cemetery is a sacred place. Should be quiet and attractive with plants etc.

Q30. An online cemetery management system is currently being developed that will enable 24-hour online bookings and online access to cemetery records and digital mapping. We're also planning other improvements to the cemeteries section of the Council's website. As well as burial and cremation options and costs what kind of information would you be interested in finding online? (tick all that apply)

Memorial options
Downloadable cemetery maps
Volunteering opportunities

Q31. Thank you for your feedback. If you have anything else you would like to tell us about how we manage cemeteries at the moment, or what our cemeteries should look like in the future, please do so here.

No. Good idea to ask our opinions. Pamela - Northland

Q32. Would you like to make an oral submission to the Councillors? (Oral submissions will take place in February 2021 – date to be confirmed)

Yes



Respondent No: 81 Anne Else

Responded At: Feb 05, 2021 09:28:41 am

Last Seen: Feb 04, 2021 19:41:10 pm

Email: [REDACTED]

IP Address:

Q1. Have you visited a cemetery in the last two years? Yes

Q2. Which of the following cemeteries have you visited? (please tick all that apply) Karori Cemetery
Other cemetery in the Wellington region

Q3. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Mākara Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q4. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Mākara Cemetery?

not answered

Q5. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Karori Cemetery? (please tick all that apply) Visit the grave of a loved one
Exercise (eg. ride your bike or go for a walk)

Q6. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Karori Cemetery?

not answered

Q7. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Tawa Cemetery (please tick all that apply)

Q8. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Tawa Cemetery?

not answered

Q9. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to a cemetery in New Zealand outside of the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Q10. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q11. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to another cemetery in the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply) Visit the grave of a loved one

Q12. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

My 18 yr old son died suddenly in 1987. We were able to choose a tree to be planted in the Botanic Gardens and placed his ashes beneath it during the planting. There is no plaque but we know he is there. The only other option back then was a 'name in stone book' at Karori. My husband's ashes were interred in 2011 in one of several new rose beds at Karori Cemetery (with room for me to join him later). We visit both locations at least 3 times a year. But his rose bed (with Ingrid Bergman roses) has unfortunately always been in a very poor state, the worst of all the beds, with very sickly, barely surviving roses. We are very distressed about this but do not know who to approach about what can be done to fix it.

Q13. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at an overseas cemetery?

not answered

Q14. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to an overseas cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q15. If you haven't visited a cemetery in the last two years, would you do so for any of the following activities? (please tick all that apply)

Q16. Did you know that the right of interment (burial) in a cemetery plot is generally in perpetuity (for ever?) Yes

Q17. To what extent do you agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment?

I agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment Somewhat agree

Q18. If Wellington City Council were to offer the option of re-using graves, how long should be allowed before a potential second burial? 50 years

Q19. Did you know that maintenance of graves and ash plots is the responsibility of the plot owner/family? Yes

Q20. It is costly to maintain and restore grave sites. Do you think the Council has a role in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain the plot? Yes

Q21. What do you think the Council's role should be in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain a plot? (Tick all that should apply) Removing damaging plant growth
Basic safety work
Repairing damage from vandalism or Council maintenance

Q22. What is your preference for how graves should look and be maintained? Somewhere in the middle

Q23. If families are unavailable, who else do you think could or should have a role in maintaining and restoring grave sites?

Council and Friends of the Cemetery

Q24. In our lawn cemetery areas, decorations and tributes are allowed only on the headstone and concrete base because the lawns need to be kept clear for access, maintenance and servicing. Some people like to place tributes and planting in the lawn area but they obstruct access and need to be removed and returned to the family where possible. If you have any ideas about how we can recognise people's desire to place tributes beyond the headstone area, while ensuring practical access and maintenance, please share them with us below.

What about plaques which edge rose beds and the ashes are interred in the lawn in front of each plaque? You don't seem to be thinking about this now very common type of grave. We use one of those long pointed plastic vases (supplied at the office), placed in the bed itself, for fresh flowers, but others stick to plastic. As long as their choice remains roughly in their space, behind the plaque, that's fine. But it would take only a tiny scrap of council gardeners' time to remove dead fresh flowers and compost them.

Q25. The draft plan proposes to encourage the use of biodegradable decorations and tributes because plastic ones often blow around, causing litter and stream pollution. If you have any ideas about more environmentally-friendly options, please share them with us below.

Yes, biodegradable is best, but very hard to find. What we really need in Wellington is the equivalent of Auckland's Eden Garden, where ashes can be interred beneath a new plant - families are offered a choice of several plants and locations., and a small name marker is installed. This is completely ecological and also creates a beautiful environment.

Q26. Karori and Tawa Cemeteries are places of significant historical importance, containing many old heritage features such as graves, monuments and buildings. If the Council had to prioritise work to protect the built heritage of the grave sites, how would you rank the following factors in order of importance? (1 being the most important and 5 the least important)

1. Tree removal where roots are causing damage
2. Maintaining graves of famous people
3. Maintaining graves from historically significant events (eg. Tangiwai disaster)
4. Maintaining a representative sample of graves from different eras and cultures

Q27. In the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan we are proposing to limit cycling/biking to the paved roadways where vehicles are allowed under a speed limit of 10 km/hr , or on tracks marked for cycle use that connect to adjacent open spaces. Do you agree with this proposal?

Yes

Q28. To what extent to you consider the following appropriate in our cemeteries?

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Outdoor performances | Neutral |
| Public remembrance events | Highly appropriate |
| Heritage tours | Highly appropriate |
| Venue hire for weddings and special occasions | Highly inappropriate |
| Contemplation | Highly appropriate |
| Biking | Somewhat appropriate |
| Horse riding (at Mākara Cemetery) | Somewhat appropriate |

Q29. Is there anything you'd like to tell us about your answers above?

The bikers/riders must understand that they should never endanger or annoy those visiting loved ones' sites of interment.

Q30. An online cemetery management system is currently being developed that will enable 24-hour online bookings and online access to cemetery records and digital mapping. We're also planning other improvements to the cemeteries section of the Council's website. As well as burial and cremation options and costs what kind of information would you be interested in finding online? (tick all that apply)

- Memorial options
- How to get to our cemeteries
- A virtual tour of the cemeteries
- Cemetery records
- Downloadable cemetery maps
- Volunteering opportunities
- Guidance on how to maintain graves
- Heritage tours

Q31. Thank you for your feedback. If you have anything else you would like to tell us about how we manage cemeteries at the moment, or what our cemeteries should look like in the future, please do so here.

(1) Re-use is much more appropriate for larger burial sites than for small ashes interment sites. (2) PLEASE don't focus on providing more conventional cemeteries, but instead work on developing an ecologically sound Wellington option similar to Auckland's beautiful Eden Garden (although preferably without the very high charges just for visiting that garden, which is privately run). Anne - Karori

Q32. Would you like to make an oral submission to the Councillors? (Oral submissions will take place in February 2021 – date to be confirmed)

Yes



Respondent No: 80 Paul Bruce

Responded At: Feb 05, 2021 09:12:23 am

Last Seen: Feb 04, 2021 19:41:10 pm

Email: [REDACTED]

IP Address:

Q1. Have you visited a cemetery in the last two years? Yes

Q2. Which of the following cemeteries have you visited? (please tick all that apply) Other cemetery in the Wellington region

Q3. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Mākara Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q4. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Mākara Cemetery?

not answered

Q5. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Karori Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q6. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Karori Cemetery?

not answered

Q7. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Tawa Cemetery (please tick all that apply)

Q8. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Tawa Cemetery?

not answered

Q9. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to a cemetery in New Zealand outside of the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Q10. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q11. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to another cemetery in the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply) Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes Exercise (eg. ride your bike or go for a walk)

Q12. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

Like the setting, peaceful

Q13. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at an overseas cemetery?

not answered

Q14. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to an overseas cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q15. If you haven't visited a cemetery in the last two years, would you do so for any of the following activities? (please tick all that apply)

Q16. Did you know that the right of interment (burial) in a cemetery plot is generally in perpetuity (for ever?) No

Q17. To what extent do you agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment?

I agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment Definitely agree

Q18. If Wellington City Council were to offer the option of re-using graves, how long should be allowed before a potential second burial? 25 years

Q19. Did you know that maintenance of graves and ash plots is the responsibility of the plot owner/family? No

Q20. It is costly to maintain and restore grave sites. Do you think the Council has a role in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain the plot? Yes

Q21. What do you think the Council's role should be in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain a plot? (Tick all that should apply)

Removing damaging plant growth
Basic safety work
Repairing damage from vandalism or Council maintenance

Q22. What is your preference for how graves should look and be maintained? Letting gravestones become aged and gradually overgrown

Q23. If families are unavailable, who else do you think could or should have a role in maintaining and restoring grave sites?

Don't know

Q24. In our lawn cemetery areas, decorations and tributes are allowed only on the headstone and concrete base because the lawns need to be kept clear for access, maintenance and servicing. Some people like to place tributes and planting in the lawn area but they obstruct access and need to be removed and returned to the family where possible. If you have any ideas about how we can recognise people's desire to place tributes beyond the headstone area, while ensuring practical access and maintenance, please share them with us below.

A list of people buried there, on a website, and/or laminated copies in protected spot

Q25. The draft plan proposes to encourage the use of biodegradable decorations and tributes because plastic ones often blow around, causing litter and stream pollution. If you have any ideas about more environmentally-friendly options, please share them with us below.

not answered

Q26. Karori and Tawa Cemeteries are places of significant historical importance, containing many old heritage features such as graves, monuments and buildings. If the Council had to prioritise work to protect the built heritage of the grave sites, how would you rank the following factors in order of importance? (1 being the most important and 5 the least important)

1.

Q27. In the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan we are proposing to limit cycling/biking to the paved roadways where vehicles are allowed under a speed limit of 10 km/hr, or on tracks marked for cycle use that connect to adjacent open spaces. Do you agree with this proposal?

Yes

Q28. To what extent do you consider the following appropriate in our cemeteries?

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Outdoor performances | Somewhat appropriate |
| Public remembrance events | Highly appropriate |
| Heritage tours | Neutral |
| Venue hire for weddings and special occasions | Somewhat inappropriate |
| Contemplation | Highly appropriate |
| Biking | Somewhat appropriate |
| Horse riding (at Mākara Cemetery) | Neutral |

Q29. Is there anything you'd like to tell us about your answers above?

not answered

Q30. An online cemetery management system is currently being developed that will enable 24-hour online bookings and online access to cemetery records and digital mapping. We're also planning other improvements to the cemeteries section of the Council's website. As well as burial and cremation options and costs what kind of information would you be interested in finding online? (tick all that apply)

- Memorial options
- How to get to our cemeteries
- A virtual tour of the cemeteries
- Cemetery records
- Downloadable cemetery maps
- Volunteering opportunities
- Heritage tours
- Guidance on how to maintain graves

Q31. Thank you for your feedback. If you have anything else you would like to tell us about how we manage cemeteries at the moment, or what our cemeteries should look like in the future, please do so here.

not answered

Q32. Would you like to make an oral submission to the Councillors? (Oral submissions will take place in February 2021 – date to be confirmed)

Yes



Respondent No: 37 Susan Bruce

[Redacted]

Email:

Responded At: Nov 25, 2020 14:59:17 pm

Last Seen: Nov 25, 2020 01:49:40 am

IP Address:

Q1. Have you visited a cemetery in the last two years?

Yes

Q2. Which of the following cemeteries have you visited? (please tick all that apply)

Mākara Cemetery

Q3. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Mākara Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Visit the grave of a loved one

Attend a funeral, burial or interment of ashes

Q4. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Mākara Cemetery?

I find Makara Cemetery a peaceful place of rest and tranquillity in the country side

Q5. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Karori Cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q6. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Karori Cemetery?

not answered

Q7. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to Tawa Cemetery (please tick all that apply)

Q8. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at Tawa Cemetery?

not answered

Q9. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to a cemetery in New Zealand outside of the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Q10. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q11. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to another cemetery in the Wellington region? (please tick all that apply)

Q12. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience?

not answered

Q13. Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experience at an overseas cemetery?

not answered

Q14. What was/were the reason(s) for your visit to an overseas cemetery? (please tick all that apply)

Q15. If you haven't visited a cemetery in the last two years, would you do so for any of the following activities? (please tick all that apply)

Q16. Did you know that the right of interment (burial) in a cemetery plot is generally in perpetuity (for ever?) Yes

Q17. To what extent do you agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment?

I agree with the idea of re-using cemetery plots where the owner opted for a limited right of interment Definitely disagree

Q18. If Wellington City Council were to offer the option of re-using graves, how long should be allowed before a potential second burial? Graves should not be re-used

Q19. Did you know that maintenance of graves and ash plots is the responsibility of the plot owner/family? Yes

Q20. It is costly to maintain and restore grave sites. Do you think the Council has a role in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain the plot? Yes

Q21. What do you think the Council's role should be in maintaining graves when we cannot trace family members or the family is unable to maintain a plot? (Tick all that should apply) Removing damaging plant growth

Q22. What is your preference for how graves should look and be maintained? Keeping gravestones looking clean and new

Q23. If families are unavailable, who else do you think could or should have a role in maintaining and restoring grave sites?

Volunteers

Q24. In our lawn cemetery areas, decorations and tributes are allowed only on the headstone and concrete base because the lawns need to be kept clear for access, maintenance and servicing. Some people like to place tributes and planting in the lawn area but they obstruct access and need to be removed and returned to the family where possible. If you have any ideas about how we can recognise people's desire to place tributes beyond the headstone area, while ensuring practical access and maintenance, please share them with us below.

Provide a way of fixing them so that the wind can't blow them away

Q25. The draft plan proposes to encourage the use of biodegradable decorations and tributes because plastic ones often blow around, causing litter and stream pollution. If you have any ideas about more environmentally-friendly options, please share them with us below.

volunteers can pick them up

Q26. Karori and Tawa Cemeteries are places of significant historical importance, containing many old heritage features such as graves, monuments and buildings. If the Council had to prioritise work to protect the built heritage of the grave sites, how would you rank the following factors in order of importance? (1 being the most important and 5 the least important)

1. Tree removal where roots are causing damage
2. Maintaining a representative sample of graves from different eras and cultures
3. Maintaining graves of famous people
4. Maintaining graves from historically significant events (eg. Tangiwai disaster)

Q27. In the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan we are proposing to limit cycling/biking to the paved roadways where vehicles are allowed under a speed limit of 10 km/hr, or on tracks marked for cycle use that connect to adjacent open spaces. Do you agree with this proposal?

Yes

Q28. To what extent do you consider the following appropriate in our cemeteries?

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Outdoor performances | Highly inappropriate |
| Public remembrance events | Highly inappropriate |
| Heritage tours | Highly inappropriate |
| Venue hire for weddings and special occasions | Highly inappropriate |
| Contemplation | Highly inappropriate |
| Biking | Highly inappropriate |
| Picnics | Highly inappropriate |
| Horse riding (at Mākara Cemetery) | Highly inappropriate |

Q29. Is there anything you'd like to tell us about your answers above?

All of the above activities are totally not appropriate because a cemetery is a place of rest.

Q30. An online cemetery management system is currently being developed that will enable 24-hour online bookings and online access to cemetery records and digital mapping. We're also planning other improvements to the cemeteries section of the Council's website. As well as burial and cremation options and costs what kind of information would you be interested in finding online? (tick all that apply)

- Downloadable cemetery maps
- Cemetery records
- How to get to our cemeteries

Q31. Thank you for your feedback. If you have anything else you would like to tell us about how we manage cemeteries at the moment, or what our cemeteries should look like in the future, please do so here.

Neat and tidy, mowed regularly

Q32. Would you like to make an oral submission to the Councillors? (Oral submissions will take place in February 2021 – date to be confirmed)

Yes