

Contributions:

1. Interment of ashes and garden maintenance: \$400
 2. Memorial Book entry and management: \$200
- Total \$600

Cheques should be made payable to “ABC – Memorial Garden”.

Please note that as volunteers generously give of their time to maintain the garden, any assistance by families at Working Bees or by financial donations to employ a casual gardener, would be greatly appreciated.



ASHBURTON BAPTIST CHURCH/WELLSPRING

MEMORIAL GARDEN

For More Information Contact:

Ashburton Baptist Church Office

8 Y Street
P O Box 300
Ashburton 3147

Ph: 9885 8210
Fax 9885 0881
info@ashburtonbaptist.org.au

The interment of ashes

The church views cremation as an acceleration of the natural process of decomposition, the Biblical concept of ‘earth to earth’. There is thus no difference in principle between the interment of a body or its ashes.

As Christians we believe that our physical body is only the temporary dwelling of the soul. After death we have a spiritual body. Thus, while we treat a human body or its ashes with due respect, they are not seen as a continuation of the human person we have known and loved. That person is living a new life now in a new dimension.

This means that we do not treat either a body in a grave or ashes in the ground as a ‘relic’ or a shrine to be revered in some way. The interment of ashes provides a place of remembrance for those we love.

The nature of the Memorial Garden

An area of the Ashburton Baptist Church - WellSpring Garden has been set aside as a Memorial Garden of remembrance and personal reflection. It is not consecrated or holy ground in any sense. Rather, family and friends are invited into the wider Communion of Saints where loved ones are represented by both memories and the placement of their ashes in the garden.

In the garden, mortal remains are returned to the earth, as in burial, without the possibility of recovery. The ashes are poured into a prepared hole or scattered in a designated area. The location of the ashes in the garden is not marked; rather, the garden is the site of the interment.

Records

The church office will maintain an alphabetical record of all persons whose ashes are interred, including the name and contact information of a family representative should future communication be required.

A Memorial Book, with entries recorded chronologically by month, is displayed in a locked glass cabinet in the church foyer. Each entry includes a photograph of the person with a brief description about their life. A copy of each entry is kept in a drawer under the glass cabinet.

Memorial Garden policy

The placement of ashes in the Memorial Garden is available for families who have had some association with the Ashburton Baptist Church or its ministries and are approved by the Management Committee.

A document outlining the policy and procedures for the use of the Memorial Garden has been established. It should be read and signed by a representative of the deceased prior to interment.

Please remember that the Memorial Garden is owned by the Ashburton Baptist Church and is shared with those who use it for personal reflection and other WellSpring activities. The Memorial Garden is not a separate consecrated garden

Arrangements for an interment

- Discuss your intentions to inter the ashes of your loved one with one of the Pastors.
- If you wish to proceed, complete an “Application for Interment of Ashes” form. After acknowledgement by the Management Committee, a mutually suitable date can be arranged for the interment.
- One of the Pastors or a member of the Management Committee can help with arrangements for the interment service.
- A special urn for the ashes is available if necessary. During the service the ashes are poured directly into a prepared hole. Therefore they cannot be retrieved at a later time.
- In some cases the family may choose to scatter the ashes in an area of the garden set aside.