



*A*RRANGING A FUNERAL

3



Planning a meaningful funeral

When you are grieving the loss of a loved one, the responsibility of planning their funeral can be overwhelming. Take heart, for you are not alone. We at Burstows are here to help you, every step of the way.

This chapter will guide you through the process of planning your loved one's funeral. When you are ready, allow us to help you with the final details. Together, we can create a beautiful tribute to your loved one.



Before you meet with your funeral director

We encourage you to read this chapter with your family so that each of you may share your thoughts and ideas for the funeral. By inviting everyone, including children, to help plan or take part in the service, you show them that their feelings matter.

This is a time to be understanding of each other's needs. You are each experiencing grief and loss in your own way—be gentle with each other. Accept each other's feelings and use this opportunity to share them.

You may face the challenge of balancing your loved one's dying wishes with your own needs as mourners. Know that it is okay to put the needs of your family first. Seek to fulfil the essence of your loved one's wishes, rather than the specific details.

Allow yourself time

You may feel that you need to put the funeral behind you as quickly as possible. If so, we encourage you to rethink that approach. Sometimes, families see the funeral as a painful experience and simply want it to be over. It helps to understand that the loss of our loved one has caused our pain; the funeral can and should be the instigator of our healing. In deciding on a day and time for the ceremony, be sure you have allowed enough time to consider and carry out all your preferred options.

Considerations that may require additional time

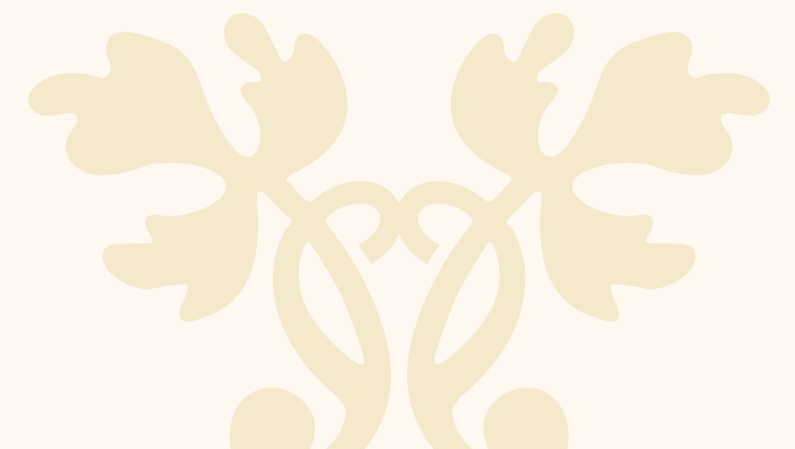
- relatives needing to travel
- opportunities to view your loved one
- preparing service sheets
- preparing memory displays
- compiling a photo story
- preparing the eulogy.

Information required by law

When a death occurs, there is a legal obligation to register the death with the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in that state. The Registrar asks for information as part of the process of registering the death.

Information to assemble before meeting to discuss arrangements:

- date of birth and birthplace of the deceased
- marriage details - where, when and to whom
- children(s) names and ages
- parents' full names and occupations.





Burial or cremation

The wishes of the deceased are followed, if they are known. A cremation cannot take place if there are written instructions to the contrary.

Cremation is sometimes chosen as a lower-cost option, especially in metropolitan areas, where cemetery fees are very high. In regional areas, cemetery fees tend to be less expensive, so cost is not usually the main reason families choose cremation.

Cremation is a respectful, dignified process that feels right for many of today's families. If you would like to know more about this process, your funeral director will explain it for you.

What to do with the ashes

There is no necessity in law to inter the ashes or keep them in an urn. You may wish to:

- create a memorial for your loved one in a specially designed garden or wall of remembrance
- create your own memorial at home or on a property
- have the ashes scattered at a location of significance.

This is a decision that doesn't need to be made straight away. Your funeral director will give you a range of options when you're ready to discuss this. That may be some weeks after the funeral ceremony.

If the ashes are to be placed in a columbarium wall, the niche size will need to be confirmed.

Cemetery options

If you are arranging a burial, you may already know the cemetery that is to be used. Your family member may have even pre-purchased the cemetery plot.

Feel free to drive through the cemeteries in your area. You will see the different choices within them, such as:

- lawn areas where the plaque is recessed into the lawn
- historic headstone sections
- headstone lawn areas, where a more traditional headstone is erected on a concrete strip or within a garden area.

Your funeral director will have information on all cemetery options and can arrange a time for you to meet with the cemetery official, if you wish to select a particular location within it.

Pre-purchasing additional cemetery plots

It can be difficult at this time of sadness to discuss future family deaths. However, if it's important that other family members be buried alongside your loved one, you may need to consider pre-purchasing adjoining plots now.

Choosing an appropriate venue

If you or the person who has died attended a church or other place of worship, this may be the natural choice for the funeral ceremony. This is particularly appropriate when a family wishes to arrange a ceremony of traditional religious significance, such as a funeral mass.

Possible venues are only limited by your imagination and can include:

- the funeral director’s chapel
- a cremation chapel
- the graveside
- a garden setting
- a rural property
- a private residence
- a school assembly hall
- parkland.

If you choose a venue other than a church building, a member of the clergy, or, if you prefer, a celebrant, can be arranged to officiate at the ceremony.

Some points to consider when choosing the venue for the funeral ceremony:

- How many people will be accommodated? Is the facility large enough or perhaps too large?
- Is there adequate seating?
- Do you require special facilities, for example, video projection, room for musicians, on-site catering?
- Will the service be conducted completely in one location or move in cortege to the cemetery or crematorium?
- Is the venue easy to find?
- Is there adequate parking?
- Are there time restrictions in using the facility?



TS BURSTOW CHAPEL



ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL



HUMERIDGE

Funeral service formats

You can choose from a variety of funeral service formats. There is no one ‘right’ way to hold a funeral. A funeral should simply ‘fit’ the person who died and the family and friends who survive that person. To help you in your planning, here are the most often asked-for formats for a funeral:

- A service held in a church or chapel, followed by a full cortege to the place of burial or cremation where the committal will take place.
- A service held in a church or chapel, followed by a private cortege to a place of burial or cremation, where only the family is present to witness the committal.
- A service and committal in a church or chapel, with no cortege. The funeral directors remove the coffin or casket from

the church during the singing of the final hymn.

- A service and committal in a crematorium chapel or funeral director’s chapel.
- A service and committal at the graveside.
- A memorial or thanksgiving service. No coffin or casket is present at the church or chapel. A memorial or thanksgiving service usually follows a private graveside or crematorium committal.
- The service choice may be either public or private.

Who will officiate or lead the ceremony?

If you or a loved one has an association with a church fellowship, your clergy will be the obvious choice. You may have not attended a church for many years

but would still appreciate a clergy person to officiate at the ceremony. Your funeral director can easily arrange this. You may prefer a celebrant to lead the ceremony. This, too, can easily be arranged by your funeral director.

You or the person who has died may already know the clergy or celebrant. However, this is often not the case and it will be important for the clergy or celebrant and your family to meet and discuss the life of the person who died, the ceremony and your wants and needs.



The eulogy: a loving tribute

The eulogy is a speech in celebration of your loved one, a very personal account of the way they have touched your life and others. Writing and delivering the eulogy is a special task, for the eulogy helps survivors say goodbye and can begin the healing process for all.

Anyone can deliver a eulogy—a family member, friend or clergyperson—and it is best delivered by one who has known and loved the deceased. The eulogy may even be shared, with a number of people contributing words of remembrance and poetry.

Here are some hints that will help you create a eulogy worthy of your loved one.

Hints for writing and delivering the eulogy

At this time, when they are so important, the eulogy brings memories to the surface to be re-lived. In preserving and sharing these memories, you create a gift for others and yourself. Embrace this task you’ve been given. It means the world to those who share your grief.

Preparing to write

Before you begin to write, here is a simple strategy that will help you prepare. Know that you are not alone in your task; you have the support of family and friends.

Writing the eulogy

In writing the eulogy, it helps to break it down into three parts: introduction, body and conclusion. With your opening words, introduce your listeners to the ideas you intend to elaborate on. For example, ‘Today, we unite to honour and remember our loved one, who touched us all with her kindness and generosity’. The body of the eulogy is where you share the stories that demonstrate the qualities named in your introduction.

Be sure to keep your theme in mind as you write and use linking sentences between each story so the eulogy flows. Use the conclusion to summarise the ideas raised in your speech and to reiterate what your loved one has meant to you.

Hints for writing

- Write as though you are talking to a friend, for that is what you will be doing—talking to a loving, supportive group.
- Compose your speech on a computer if possible so that you can edit along the way.
- Don’t be afraid to use humour where appropriate. Remember, the eulogy is a celebration of the life of your loved one.
- You may want to use a special quote to open or close your speech. Look to poetry, songs and historical speeches for inspiration.
- Once you have completed your first draft, ask a trusted friend or family member to read it over and suggest any changes.
- When you are happy with your speech, type or write it out in large print with space between the lines so it is easy to read.

1 BEGIN WITH THE PERSON’S HISTORY

Note the significant events of the person’s life in chronological order: childhood, education, jobs, marriage, children, places lived and so on.

2 GATHER YOUR STORIES

Jot down the stories that you remember—the ones that capture your loved one’s character. Ask family and friends for their stories as well.

These questions may help get you started:

- How did you first meet and become close?
- What did you love and admire about the person?
- What did they do that made you smile?
- What will you miss most?

Even the simplest stories are worthwhile. Remembering someone’s laugh or their love of sweets, for example, can be as moving as recalling their kindness and generosity. Be sure to include stories that at least some of your listeners will remember.

3 LOOK AT PHOTOS

Going through photo albums may remind you of important qualities and memories of the person who died.



4 FIND A THEME

By now you may see certain themes emerging. For example, your collection of stories may reveal the person's deep love of animals, the strays she brought home as a child, her dreams of becoming a vet and the joy she experienced at opening her own practice. Writing your eulogy to a theme will help it flow and is ideal for illustrating the character of your loved one.

- *Dreamt of being a vet*
- *Brought home strays as a child*

5 ARRANGE YOUR NOTES

Now you have a chronology, stories and a theme, you can put your notes in point form. We suggest arranging your material on cards, with a different story or idea on each card. Once you have placed the cards in order, you can begin to write your speech.



Delivering the eulogy

Public speaking can be frightening. You need to be brave. Know that your listeners are supportive and loving. Know that it's okay to make mistakes. No one expects you to be a great speaker and certainly not at this difficult time. It is your words, and the sentiment behind them, that matter the most.

*When the
time comes,
be yourself.*

Hints for speaking

- Before the day, practise in front of a mirror, imagining your listeners before you.
- If you fear that you might break down, arrange for a backup speaker to be on hand with a copy of your speech. Simply knowing they are there may get you through.
- When the time comes, be yourself. Imagine you are talking to a good friend.
- Speak clearly and project your voice so everyone can hear you.
- If you feel yourself becoming choked up with emotion, pause and take a deep breath to collect your thoughts. Your listeners will understand.

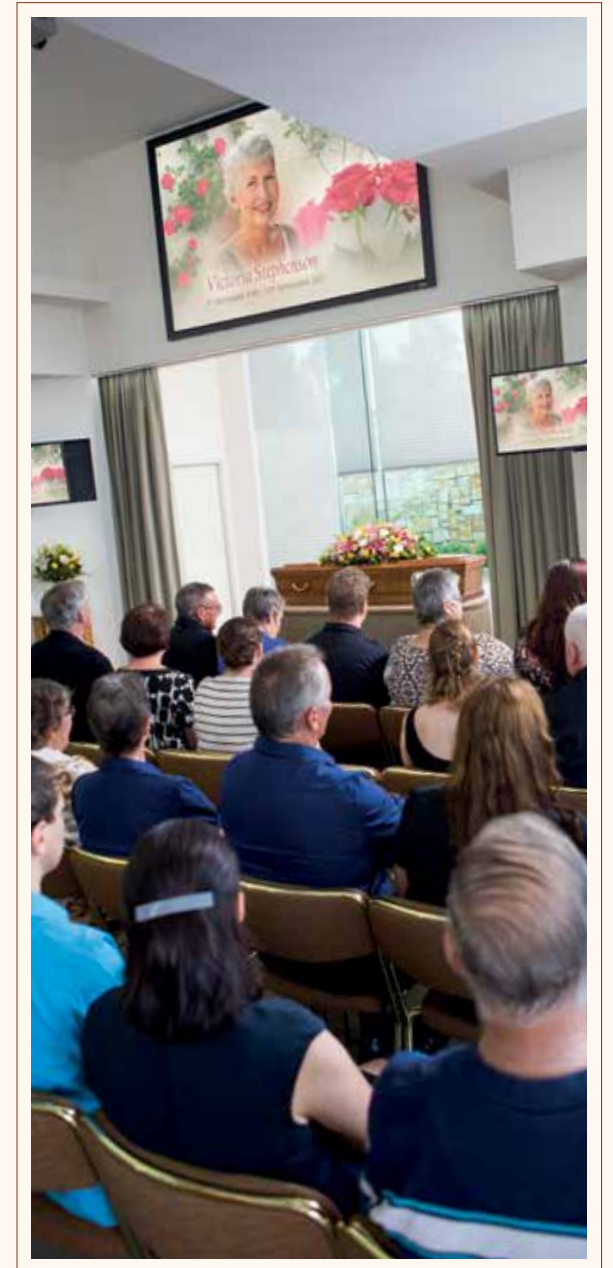
Creating a meaningful funeral service

You can create a funeral that reflects the unique and special qualities of your loved one. The secret is to add personal touches. Here are some suggestions:

- Add your personal touch to the funeral notice in the paper. You may wish to mention your loved one's most memorable qualities or include a few lines from a meaningful poem.
- Provide a memory book for guests to sign at the gathering. This is a lovely way for mourners to share their memories and feelings. It will become a cherished memento of your loved one.
- Place your loved one's favourite things close by. These will have special meaning to all who share your loss.
- Light a candle. The flame of a candle represents the spirit. For some, it also represents life's continuation beyond death.
- Give guests an order of service, including the eulogy. Personalise it with special memories, photos or lines from a poem.
- Project photo images of the person's life during the ceremony.
- Select flowers that were meaningful to the person who died. Perhaps you can think of something more appropriate than flowers to be displayed on the coffin or casket.
- Don't be afraid to use humour, where appropriate. Remember, the eulogy is a celebration of the life of your loved one.

Place your loved one's favourite things close by. These will have special meaning to all who share your loss.

- Create a memory display at the viewing, ceremony or gathering. Encourage family and friends to contribute their favourite photos. This is a wonderful opportunity to share special memories.
- Fill the room with your loved one's favourite music—music that is special to the whole family. You may choose to use pre-recorded music or bring in musicians to honour your loved one.
- Include poetry or scripture that may have special significance for you or the person who has died. Involve organisations that the person was involved in, for example, the RSL, Rotary or Masonic Lodge. Some of these organisations have their own short ceremony that can be included, or you may invite them to form a guard of honour or help as pallbearers.
- Choose a meaningful funeral cortege or procession. This is the procession from the service venue to the cemetery or crematorium. The procession is a symbol of public honouring of the death. It is usually led by the hearse containing the coffin or casket. You may ask that the procession pass a significant place, for example, the family home or place of business.
- Escort the cortege with significant vehicle(s).
- Place a flower or cast petals into the grave at the completion of the committal.
- Release balloons, doves or butterflies at the graveside.



Writing the funeral notice

There are two ways to approach writing the funeral notice. Both approaches are equally correct—just consider what is right for you and the person who has died.

- 1 You can provide the ‘who, what, where, when’—that is, only the necessary facts.
- 2 You can provide an historical statement, a notice that many will cut out from the paper and keep. In addition to the who, what, where, when, this type of notice generally includes dates of birth and death, all immediate family names and may be worded in a way that reflects something of the essence of the person and the relationship others had with them.

On the following pages you will see examples of funeral notices and meaningful phrases. Your funeral director is also available to help you write a notice. Based on your preferences a death notice can also be placed on your family’s behalf.



**JEAN
ANNABELLE
SMITH**

Late of Toowoomba and formerly of Tara, passed away at the St Andrew’s Hospital, Toowoomba on the 7th February 2012, aged 78 years.

Loving wife to Bob. Loving Mother and Mother-in-law of Ben and Elaine, Susan and Mick, Sian and Mitch, John and Mavis, Bevan and Anna, Bob and Joan, Rick and Joanne, Arianne and Peter, Kev and Jane, James and Kari and Terry and Fay.

Nanna to 31 Grandchildren and 2 Great-Grandchildren. Sister and Sister-in-law to Bob (dec’d) and Jean, Anna and Tom, Julie and Tommy (dec’d), Lorna and Phil, Zane and Lannah (both dec’d), Peter (dec’d) and Liza, Mick and Pippa, and Mike and Rowena. And Auntie to many much loved Nieces and Nephews.

Relatives and Friends are respectfully invited to attend Jean’s funeral, to be held at the TS Burstow Chapel, 1020 Ruthven Street (south) Toowoomba. Service commencing at 10.00am Tuesday 14th February 2012, followed by interment at the Garden of Remembrance. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Heart Foundation, gift envelopes available at the chapel.

“Peacefully in God’s Care”

Ph 4636 9600

BURSTOWS
Since 1900

JONES, Robert James

Late of Toowoomba, passed away peacefully on 18th January 2012, aged 80 years.

Loved Brother and Brother-in-law of Matthew and Kelly; Peter and Beryl. A loved Uncle of their respective families.

Relatives and Friends are respectfully invited to attend Robert’s funeral, to be held at the TS Burstow Chapel, 1020 Ruthven Street (south), Toowoomba, Service commencing at 12:30 pm Monday 23rd January 2012. Service complete at the Chapel.

Ph 4636 9600

BURSTOWS
Since 1900



**NATHAN
WILLIAMS**

Late of Clifton, and formerly “Green Acres” Laidley, passed away peacefully on 14th February 2012.

Beloved Husband of Joelle. Dearly Loved Father and Father-in-law of John (dec’d); Max and Freya; Bob and Terri; Mitch and Lannah. A loving Grandfather to their families.

Relatives and Friends are respectfully invited to attend Nathan’s funeral, to be held at St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, John Street, Clifton Service commencing at 10:30am Monday 20th February 2012, followed by interment at the Clifton Cemetery.

“At Peace”

Ph 4636 9600

BURSTOWS
Since 1900

Finding the right words

The following phrases, verses and poems may help you prepare the funeral notice, service sheet or bookmark:

1. Rest in peace

2. Always remembered

3. Remembered with love

4. At rest

5. Peace at last

6. A patient sufferer at rest

7. Requiescat in pace

8. Forever in our hearts

9. Peace after suffering

10. The pain of our loss shows us what he’s given us

11. The long day closes

12. Goodbye my darling

13. So mote it be

14. Lest we forget

15. Cherished memories

16. Love does not end

17. Real love does not die

18. In God’s care

19. Safe in the arms of Jesus

20. God has you in his keeping.
We have you in our hearts.

21. I go and prepare a place for you

22. In heavenly love abiding

23. The busy world hushed,
the fever of life is over

24. Beyond the sunset, eternal joy

25. May the light of God surround
you, the love of God enfold you

26. Gone too soon

27. Peace, perfect peace

28. So dearly loved, so sadly missed

29. Death is only a horizon

30. Laughter will follow tears

31. Thanks for the memories

32. Will be sadly missed

33. Till we meet again

34. We’ll meet again

35. We have so many happy
memories—you will be forever
in our hearts

36. Your memory is my greatest
treasure, to have to hold in my
heart forever

37. Death is the golden key that
opens the place of eternity

38. A special person, a special
face, a special someone we
cannot replace

39. After the night is done the sun
will shine again

40. There is no endless joy and yet
no endless sorrow

41. I’ll still walk beside you in the
land of dreams

42. Fly away from this night, go
now, find the light

You Can Shed Tears

You can shed tears that I am gone
Or you can smile because I have lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that I’ll come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all I’ve left.

Your heart can be empty because you can’t see me
Or you can be full of the love we shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember me and only that I have gone
Or you can cherish my memory and let it live on.

You can cry and close your mind,
Be empty and turn your back,

Or you can do what I’d want:
Smile, open your eyes, love and go on.



Preparing an order of service

43. A laugh, a grin, a joke or two,
that's the way we'll remember you
44. Cross over to the other
shore where there's peace
for evermore
45. You were beautiful and we have
loved you more dearly than the
spoken word can tell
46. One of nature's true gentlemen,
the world is a sadder place
without him
47. In peace you are resting and
locked in my heart, memories
I'll treasure while we are apart
48. The face we love is missing, the
voice we love is still
49. To live in the hearts of those we
love is not to die
50. Words are few, thoughts are
so deep, memories of you we will
always keep (or, memories of
you are ours to keep)
- a photo image
51. He was always unselfish,
helpful, and kind, what
beautiful memories he
left behind
- a meaningful poem or passage
 - a message to those attending
52. Weep not that she has gone but
smile that she has been
- a message to those attending
53. To the world you were but one,
to us you were our world
- the eulogy
54. This day will be remembered
and quietly kept, no words are
needed, we will never forget
- However, allow yourself time to
share
55. A tender thought that brings a
tear, a silent wish that you were
here. No longer in our lives to
share but in our hearts you'll
always be there.
56. Your memory we will always
treasure, in our hearts you will
stay forever
57. A fleeting moment to
remember forever
58. Silent thought of time together
hold memories that will
last forever
59. Sweet is the sleep that ended the
pain, we would not wake you to
suffer again
60. In our hearts you will always
stay, loved and remembered,
every day
61. Love knows not its depth until
the hour of separation
62. Deep in our hearts memories
are kept of a friend we will
never forget
63. My heart aches with sadness,
my secret tears flow, for what it
means to lose you no one will
ever know

Cancer is Limited

Cancer is so limited...
It cannot cripple love,
It cannot shatter hope,
It cannot eat away peace,
It cannot destroy confidence,
It cannot kill friendship,
It cannot shut out memories,
It cannot silence courage,
It cannot invade the soul,
It cannot reduce eternal life,
It cannot quench the spirit,
It cannot lessen the power
of the resurrection.



God's Garden

God looked around his garden
And he found an empty place.
And then he looked down upon the earth,
And saw your tired face.

He put his arms around you,
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful,
He always takes the best.

He knew that you were suffering,
He knew you were in pain,
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.

He saw the road was getting rough,
And the hills were hard to climb,
So he closed your weary eyelids,
And whispered "Peace be thine."

It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you didn't go alone,
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.



64. If I could have a lifetime wish,
a wish that would come true, I
would want to wish with all my
heart for yesterday and you

65. Let me not beg for the stilling
of my pain but for the heart to
conquer it

66. It's not what we write, it's
not what we say, it's how we
remember you in our own
special way

67. Life's race well run, life's work
well done, life's victory won,
now cometh rest

68. Death will not part us or
distance divide, forever and
always you will be by my side

69. Every leaf in the forest lays
down its life in its season as
beautifully as it began

70. Rest peacefully in some place
green, some place nice, some
place that's called paradise

71. I am very happy to have found
you. I will always find you in
the beauty of life.

72. Tired and weary you made no
fuss, you tried so hard to stay
with us, you suffered so much
and told so few, you didn't
deserve what you went through

73. May the winds of love blow
softly and whisper for you
to hear, that we will love and
remember you and forever keep
you near

74. Her little soul touched us all,
and while she could not stay,
her spirit changed each one of
us before it sailed away

75. Like the rolling tide life goes on.
Our heartaches, our joys are
all intertwined.

76. A grandma is a special gift
and one you think will stay.
You never dream the day will
come when she will go away.
For those who have a grandma,
cherish her while you may,
because I would give the world
to have her here today.

77. His pleasures were simple, his
needs were few, if his family was
happy he was too



The Final Flight

Don't grieve for me; for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard his call;
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way.
I've found that peace at the end of the day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah, yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savoured much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief;
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, he set me free.



After Glow

I'd like the memory of me
To be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an after glow
Of smiles when life is done.

I'd like to leave an echo
Whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times
And bright and sunny days.

I'd like the tears of those who grieve,
To dry before the sun,
Of happy memories that I leave
When life is done.

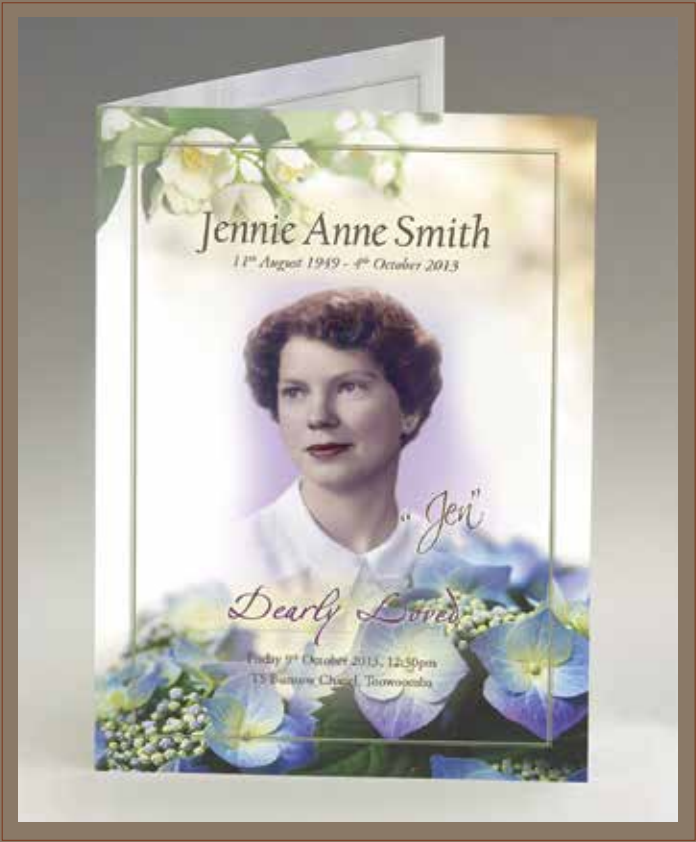


Preparing an order of service

The order of service can be very simple or more involved. Feel free to include any of the following:

- a photo image
- songs or hymns to be sung
- anecdotes
- a meaningful poem or passage of scripture
- a message to those attending
- the outline of the ceremony
- the eulogy.

Your funeral director can arrange prompt preparation of the service sheet. However, allow yourself time to gather the information and then proofread the draft before it is printed.



Choosing clothing and arranging times to view your loved one

The choice of clothing is yours. Choose clothing that reflects the tastes and personality of the person who died. Where clothing is not supplied, the funeral director will provide an appropriate shroud.

The viewing

The viewing is a time for family to support one another in their grief. The body is present in an open coffin or casket, allowing you and others who loved the person who has died to acknowledge the reality of the death and to say goodbye.

The decision to view is an individual one. Mourners should not be prevented from viewing, nor should they be forced to do so.

You may consider giving close friends the opportunity to be involved in the viewing.

If possible, try not to leave the viewing till the day of the funeral. Allow enough days between the death and the day of the service to benefit from the viewing.

Don't forget the children

Often children are excluded from aspects of a funeral because parents want to protect them. 'The funeral is painful', they reason, 'so I will protect the children from its pain.'

Yes, pain is expressed at funerals but children also have a need to participate.

You can help by explaining what will happen before, during and after the ceremony. Explain the reason for participating in a viewing. Give as many details as the child seems interested in hearing, but be honest. Do not tell fairytales or suggest 'grandma is just sleeping'. You may suggest that the children draw a picture or write a note to be placed in the coffin at the viewing.





Choosing the coffin or casket

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A COFFIN AND A CASKET?

The difference is basically one of design. Coffins are tapered at the head and foot and are wide at the shoulders. Caskets are rectangular in shape and are usually constructed of better quality timbers and feature higher standards of workmanship. Many people regard the coffin or casket as an important tribute to the deceased and they are therefore selected with care. However, to spend so much that it would mean financial difficulties for those left behind would be misguided.

PERSONALISING THE COFFIN OR CASKET

If you wish, you may personalise the coffin. Here are ideas others have used:

- use folk art, decoupage or colour
- apply significant stickers or adornments
- choose a special fabric interior
- invite friends to sign the coffin at the ceremony.

Your funeral director can show you photographs of a range of coffins and caskets. However, we recommend that you also make a visit to see the items at the funeral home.

THE REMEMBRANCE BOOK

A beautiful remembrance book will be prepared as a permanent record of the day.

ASHES URNS

Urns are available in a range of materials and designs, including bronze, ceramic and timber.

BRONZE ORNAMENTATION

Standard ornamentation on caskets is plastic; however, a range of solid bronze mementos is available. These mementos can be removed after the ceremony and kept by the family as a keepsake.

MEMORIAL JEWELLERY

A collection of unique jewellery is available as a keepsake, designed to hold a precious memento of your loved one. The range includes items such as necklaces, keepsake beads and key rings which can hold cremation ashes, dried flower petals or a lock of hair. This lovely memorial or keepsake jewellery is individually crafted and meets the highest standards to hold your memento safely, discreetly and close to your heart. Some design options can also be engraved.





Choosing a venue for refreshments after the funeral

Most funerals are followed by a gathering of friends and family. This is an important time, where the formalities of the ceremony are over and your family and friends are more relaxed and can share fellowship and reflect. Funerals are often times of reunion and you will gain much by hearing the stories and tales that will continue as new and old acquaintances reflect on the life that has been honoured.

This gathering may be held at home, or in a church hall or at a specialised catering facility. Your funeral director can arrange all your catering needs. Alternatively, friends may have that well in hand.

The Pioneers Room, located on the grounds of the TS Burstow Funeral Home and Chapel, is a private venue to meet in after the funeral. The Pioneers Room is a friendly and uplifting environment.

Full catering facilities are available. Beautiful food, beautifully presented and served by people who understand your needs at this time.

A range of menus are available at a price per head. The pricing allows for a smorgasbord of the many items selected. To comply with health regulations, food cannot be packaged and taken away.

Transport and parking on the day of the funeral

Your funeral director can arrange transport for you. Their driver will call for you, take you to the funeral and return you home at its completion. In addition to convenience, this service is offered as a safety precaution, for those who believe their driving skills may be affected by their grief.

You may prefer to use your own vehicles, in which case your funeral director should advise you of your parking options on the day of the ceremony. When in cortege (in procession), please travel with low beam headlights on.





Convenient ways to settle the funeral expenses

Your funeral director is responsible for ensuring the smooth running of the funeral service.

An important aspect of this responsibility is arranging payments on your behalf for the purchase of all goods and services associated with the funeral. These services might typically include cemetery plots, cremation fees, floral tributes, funeral notices, catering services, clergy and musician fees.

By arranging for all expenses to be itemised on one account, billing is kept as convenient as possible. Our own services will be detailed on the same invoice. Finance options can be discussed if required.

Payment can be made by cash, cheque or credit card. If the person who has died held a bank account with sufficient funds to cover funeral expenses, the funeral director's account can be presented to the bank for direct payment.

Although during a time of sadness it may seem awkward to talk about costs, open and honest discussion is necessary during the planning stages of the funeral. It is important to balance emotional decisions with practical common sense. When your funeral director addresses the issue of funeral expenses during the planning stage of the funeral, they are acting in your best interests.

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