

Planning Your Memorial

This is a guideline to planning a memorial.

As you follow through this guideline we will direct you to the appropriate page within our website. We have also provided you with a space to write your own thoughts and notes on each section, this will help you have a clearer idea in mind when you visit us.

***If you have any questions at all please feel free to contact any of our staff.
Nicky on 06 858-8082 ~ Angie on 06 835-7755 ~ Mal on 06 876-4545***

Type of Memorial - Costs

page ~ [Our Headstones](#)

The selection of the right headstone for your family member is reasonably complex and may involve some issues that will be beyond your control. This guideline will help you to make many decisions but in most cases you will need to visit one of our showrooms and discuss your ideas with our staff before you settle on your final selection.

Burial – Most **public** cemeteries are lawn cemeteries where the headstone is placed on an existing concrete beam at the head of the grave. Cemetery by-laws dictate the base and headstone dimensions, particularly the height of the headstone. As a guide the most common size for an up-right lawn headstone is 600x450mm x 75 mm thick on a base measuring 915mm long x 450mm deep x 100mm high. There is a by-law guide to memorial size etc but each controlling Council has its own specifications. Granite is the preferred and in some cases the only headstone material permitted. A permit is required before any memorial is erected in a public cemetery.

Private cemeteries are not governed by the same rules as apply above and therefore you are able to put in any size memorial and base that you choose.

Cremation - Most cemeteries have at least two and up to five different areas for ashes interment. Each of these areas has specified memorial types. These vary from small plaques (180x125mm) on existing walls or concrete beams to upright headstones (400x325mm) on a matching granite base. Please check where ashes are to be interred before selecting a memorial.

My Notes:

Which cemetery is this memorial to be placed in _____

I know the by-law guideline for this cemetery: Yes No
My choice of memorial is a Headstone or Plaque

My Budget is approximately _____

Type of Granite

page ~ [\[Granite\]](#)

Granite - is a very hard natural rock, which is sourced throughout the world. Granite can be polished to a highly reflective, mirror gloss finish, which is very resistant to weathering or lichen growth.

Colours - a range of colours is listed and some examples are displayed but you really have to see for yourself the natural beauty of the stone.

Finish – The face of the memorial is always polished to facilitate the inscription. The top and sides of the stone may be polished or rock. The all polished stone gives a uniform finish to the whole stone but most importantly provides no rough areas for lichen to start growing.

My Notes:

The type of Granite I wish to have is _____

with a type of finish. _____

Style and Shape of Headstone

page ~ [Shapes]

Shape - a selection of basic and designer shapes is included for you to consider. Generally the more shaping, the more expensive the stone. If you want to invent your own design this is welcomed but time and cost may be limiting factors. The profile shape of a stone should also be considered, upright headstones are either plates or desks. A **desk** from side on is about twice as thick at the bottom as at the top while a **plate** is the same thickness top to bottom.

My Notes:

The shape I like is _____

Style Of Base and Ornaments

page ~ [Accessories]

Bases - Headstones are nearly always mounted on a base, which lifts the stone above the ground level concrete foundation and provides a mowing strip for protection from the lawn mowers. Bases may be granite which either matches or contrasts the headstone, or white plaster over concrete. Most of our stock is sold as sets with matching granite bases. Bases are also the area where vases are placed.

Ornaments – There are several different types of ornaments to enhance the headstone or plaque. There are four types of vases in several colour options. We also stock a number of statues and ceramic flowers that you might like to mount onto the base.

Photographs - Black and White or colour photos can be added to the memorial. We are able to offer a wonderful service for photoceramic, which can be restored, retouched, added to, deleted from etc. They are permanent and offer a personal touch to the memorial

My Notes:

I would like vases **Yes No** Number of vases

I would like a photo placed on the memorial **Yes No**

The Inscription Layout of the Headstone

page ~ [Our Headstones]

Layout – The basic layout of the memorial is completely up to you, but there are a number of factors that you will have to take into consideration, such as the shape of the stone and the additional information to be added at a later date (such as a spouse). Details that usually appear on a memorial are: Family Name, Date of Birth, Date of Death, and relationship to family member (e.g.: "mother of") an inscription and an epitaphs.

My Notes:

The details that I wish I appear on the memorial are as follows.

The Heading and Epitaph

page ~ [Headings/Epitaphs]

Heading – Headings usually appear as an introduction at the top of the memorial. Example can be found on the Headings page.

Epitaphs – Epitaphs if wanted, appear at the bottom of the memorial. Example can be found on the Epitaphs page.

Lettering - The inscription is permanently sand blasted into the granite and may be incised (letter blasted) or embossed (background blasted). The **colouring** of the lettering is not so permanent and will need renovating from time to time. **White** and **silver** are high quality paints which should last 5-10 years while **Gold** is 24 carat gold leaf which should not need attention for 10-15 years.

Fonts – There are a HUGE amount of fonts available. However, not all fonts are suitable for blasting onto granite, and not all are suitable in all sizes. With this in mind, we find it is easier for you to give us a description of the style of memorial that you have in mind for your loved one. For example, Mum liked 'Pretty things' or, was 'traditional' or 'didn't like a fuss' or liked things neat and tidy' or 'was modern and funky'. All of these ideas will help when it comes to doing the layout for your chosen memorial.

My Notes:

The Heading that I want is:

The Epitaph that I want is:

The Lettering colour that I want is:

Style Ideas:

Installation of the Memorial

Monumental Services are able to install or arrange installation your monument in any location within New Zealand. Alternatively we can supply the completed memorial to you or it can be collected from our workshop.

Questions

If you have any questions about a headstone, or comments about our website, please don't hesitate to contact any of our friendly team, they are more than happy to help you.