

# SWAN HILL CEMETERY TRUST DECORATIONS POLICY

## OVERVIEW

The purpose of this policy is to maintain Swan Hill Memorial Park as an attractive, clean and tidy facility in a hazard free environment.

## THE OBJECTIVE

**Swan Hill Cemetery Trust** is focused on maintaining the safety of all visitors to Swan Hill Memorial Park. The policy maintains respect and dignity for self and others and are focused on maintaining the aesthetics of Swan Hill Memorial Park.

## GENERAL DECORATION GUIDELINES APPLICABLE TO ALL AREAS

- Artificial flowers are permitted whilst they remain in good condition;
- Swan Hill Cemetery Trust approved temporary markers (i.e. interim markers placed at the gravesite for a short-term period to recognise the grave site of the deceased prior to creating a permanent memorial) are permitted. No other temporary markers are permitted;
- Concrete beams (i.e. a concrete strip that marks the plot row and number in which a headstone or plaque is placed) must remain in their natural state. Under no circumstances are concrete beams to be painted, decorated in any way or coloured in
- Memorialisation items are not to extend beyond the boundary of the gravesite or impede in any way upon neighbouring sites; In lawn areas all memorialisation items must be located on the concrete beam and not protrude onto or into the lawn area
- Any item that may be considered offensive, derogatory or not in keeping with the cemetery aesthetics are not permitted under any circumstances and will be removed by Swan Hill Cemetery Trust at its sole discretion;
- Approved ornaments and containers that form part of a monument, headstone and base are permitted. They must be fixed to the monument.

## RESTRICTED ITEMS FOR ALL AREAS

- Metal spikes or any sharp items;
- Items hanging from trees, shrubs or other plants;

- Any other item that will or has deteriorated (i.e. teddy bears, plastic ornaments);
- Any alcoholic beverages and/or containers (full or empty)
- Glass items of any description. Including jars, bottles and vases.

## **RESTRICTED ITEMS FOR LAWN GRAVES AND CREMATION MEMORIALS**

- Decoration, other fencing or lighting around lawn graves or cremation memorials;
- Edging, curbing, special stones and bark; encroaching onto the lawn area.
- Anything placed or planted in the ground around the grave/memorial;
- Any protrusion at all on neighbouring graves.

## **RESTRICTED ITEMS FOR MONUMENTAL GRAVES**

- Fragile or breakable fences;
- Anything placed or planted on paths, thoroughfares, roads or inside/outside the monument boundary.

## **INFANT LAWN AREA ONLY**

- Memorialisation, tributes and ornaments are to be strictly placed within the concrete edgings and not to extend beyond the boundary of the grave or impede in any way upon neighbouring sites;
- All memorialisation items must be located on the concrete beam and not protrude onto or into the lawned area; and
- Strictly no glass or ceramic objects, including jars, bottles and vases.

## **ITEMS NOT ABIDING WITH THIS POLICY**

- Cemetery Trust members and its staff have an obligation to remove items from gravesites that do not comply with this policy
- Consumable items such as alcohol, and glass jars will be disposed of by the trust.

- Items at the discretion of Trust member's and its staff, that are considered "of value" such a glass vases and other non-complying items will be stored in the trust office for a period of 3 months

**|| AS PASSED PER MEETING 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018**