Fees

Fees are set by Council each year and out-of-district charges may apply. Please talk to you funeral director or call us to obtain current fees.

You can also visit:
www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/Burials

Casket prices and funeral services will vary. Talk to your funeral director about the options.

What's included

The Kāpiti Coast District Council fees include:

- Plot fee
- Natural burial interment
- Ongoing maintenance of the natural burial area
- Supply of a native tree, bark mulch, and wooden marker.

Find out more about natural burial

www.naturalburialskapiti.co.nz
www.ecofunerals.co.nz
www.ecofuneral.co.nz
www.ecoprep.co.nz

Contact us

If you have any questions talk to our Customer Engagement Team:

Phone: 0800 486 486

Email: kapiti.council@kapiticoast.govt.nz

Ōtaki Cemetery

Natural Burial

Information guide for those interested in Kāpiti Coast District Council's natural burial service, located within Ōtaki Cemetery

kapiticoast.govt.nz/Burials

Kāpiti Coast
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Me Huri Whakamuri, Ka Titiro Whakamua

Natural burial concept

In a natural burial, we don't introduce anything into the burial area that would interfere with or pollute the natural environmental processes.

The body is returned to the earth more quickly than traditional burial methods for the benefit of the environment, the will of the deceased, and their family.

The burial area serves as a living memorial to those buried there, a home for native flora and fauna, and a special place for family and friends to visit.

How it works

Plots

Plots are dug in the active soil layer and are filled with aerobic, organically active soil. They are specifically placed according to the design of the bush restoration programme, so it isn't possible to pre-purchase a plot or choose the location.

The interment depth will vary according to soil conditions. Plots will be partly refilled with compost to enhance natural decomposition.

Burial

To reduce the amount of artificial and toxic chemicals released into the ground, and to speed up natural decomposition processes, the deceased are not embalmed. They are buried in a shroud or casket of untreated sustainable wood. Caskets can be ordered through your funeral director and must be approved by Council.

Please note interring artificial artifacts with the deceased is not permitted as it is at odds with the goals of a natural cemetery.

Trees and markers

After burial, Council will supply an untreated wooden marker post. The marker isn't designed to be permanent, but the plot GPS co-ordinates and details of the person buried are kept in Council's records.

A native tree, chosen from a list of approved plants, is then planted and the body's nutrients are gradually absorbed by the surrounding soil and plants. To improve the survival chances of trees, there will be no planting in summer.

Over time, other plants will also be added, gradually restoring the area to native bush.

Permanent memorials are not permitted

The concept of natural burial is to create as natural an environment as possible with the least impact on the surrounding area. Permanent and artificial memorials are not appropriate for the natural burial area and will be removed by the sexton.