

Natural Burial Areas

These are where people can be buried and have a tree planted on the grave. The idea is to create a natural peaceful environment. The Nelson area has at least one such area now and more are being considered.

How much will it cost?

While you have an opportunity, explore options available and the associated costs. Funeral costs do vary. We recommend that families discuss funeral options and look around until you find the option that suits you.

Other considerations:

Organ donation: some people wish to donate their organs to help others - consult with your GP.

*Atawhaitia, Manaakitia Mō
Ake Tonu ~ To Care Always*

NELSON TASMAN HOSPICE

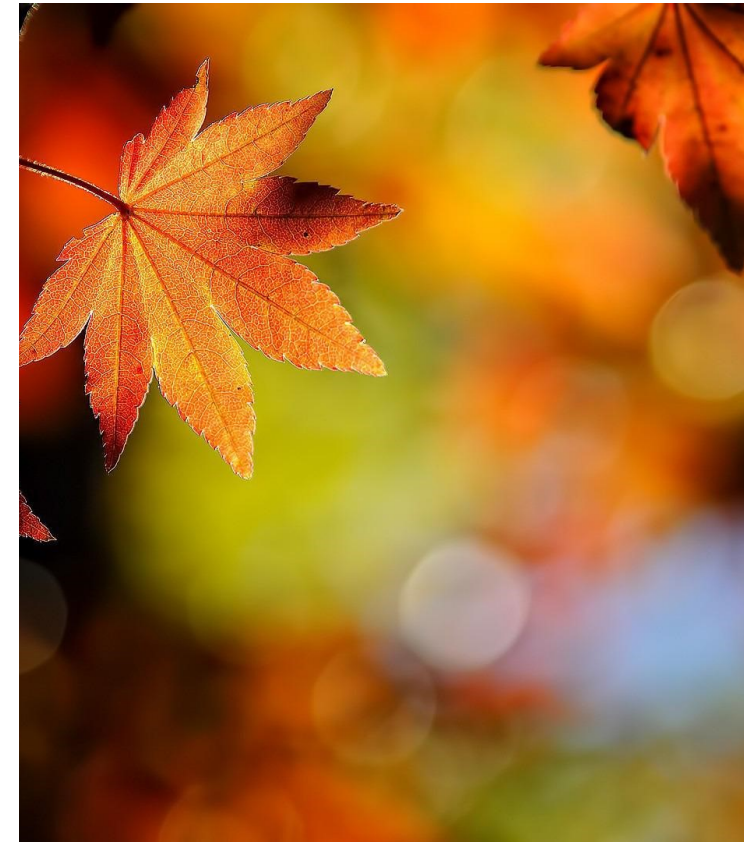
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Thinking about a Funeral

Hospice affirms life ~ living every moment



Things to consider



Arranging a funeral after the death of a loved one can be a daunting task, compounded as it often is by exhaustion and grief. The following are some points to consider.

Making plans before a death

Families often find it helpful to discuss funeral options before death (some people include their wishes in a will). If feasible, a dying person should be given the opportunity to express their preferences about the nature of their funeral and whether they want a burial or cremation.

"Mum was keen to organize her funeral, to tell us what hymns and readings she wanted and where she wished to be buried. We were pleased to know that we were carrying out her wishes"

Funeral Directors

Sometimes people find it helpful to have a funeral director in mind prior to a loved one dying.

Contacts details of local Funeral Directors can be found in the Yellow Pages or online.

Celebrants

Who would you like to help you celebrate the life of your loved one? This person does not have to be a minister or funeral director.

Venues

You don't have to have a service at a chapel. People choose inside venues or outside venues or a chapel or church. Think about the place that would best reflect your loved one.

Service Options

There are no rules for a service. At the end of your farewell it's good to say "that was them". So therefore you might like to think about music, photo memories, tributes, readings, poems, prayers, balloons. The options are extensive.

Embalming

It has been customary for people in New Zealand to be embalmed, but increasingly other options are being considered, such as partial embalming or even no embalming.

It is important to discuss this with a funeral director before making a decision.

Cremation or Burial

You will need to investigate what is involved with each of these options. For example *'you must get permission from the local council to conduct a burial or cremation unless the burial or internment of ashes is in a denominational burial ground or an existing private cemetery'* (Department of Internal Affairs 'Before Burial or Cremation') [http://www.dia.govt.nz/pubforms.nsf/URL/BeforeBurialorCremation.pdf/\\$file/BeforeBurialorCremation.pdf](http://www.dia.govt.nz/pubforms.nsf/URL/BeforeBurialorCremation.pdf/$file/BeforeBurialorCremation.pdf)

Coffins / Caskets

There is an increasing range of options (and costs), starting with simple shrouds, cardboard coffins or cremation coffins and going onto more elaborate polished wood coffins.

