



Woden Cemetery's Memorial Gardens

Planning for my end of life

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which Canberra Memorial Parks stands, the Ngunnawal people. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.





Gungahlin Crematorium



Gungahlin Cemetery

How does planning ahead help?

Like in most aspects of our daily lives, planning includes preparing for unexpected events. At Canberra Memorial Parks we want to help you effectively plan your end-of-life options and select a resting place where your loved ones will want to come visit.

We are passionate about providing sensitive and personalised customer service, with the relevant information, for you to navigate these often difficult decisions with ease and make informed decisions about how you want your life honoured and celebrated.

As caretakers of Canberra Memorial Parks and also the ACT's first and only public crematorium, we strive to educate the community about current

cremation processes, traditional and emerging burial choices, like natural burials, and how we can facilitate your family, cultural and religious traditions.

There are many ways in which planning ahead can benefit you and those around you, including:

- Reducing the emotional and financial burden on your family by making the arrangements yourself.
- Deciding how you want your life to be celebrated and memorialised as well as where you would like your loved ones to visit in the future.
- Creating peace of mind that your arrangements will be taken care of, so your family can have the time they need to mourn and celebrate your life.

What can I plan in advance?

At Canberra Memorial Parks we believe that you have the right to plan your options so your memorialisation is personalised to you and that your loved ones have less to think about, while they are coming to terms with your passing. Questions that we commonly assist people to answer include:

- Do I want to be buried or cremated?
- Where and how would I like to be buried?
- Do I want a funeral service and/or wake? If so, where would I like it held?
- Do I want people to be able to view my body?
- Do I want religious, cultural or family traditions observed?
- Where would I like my family and friends to visit/pay their respects when I am gone?
- Can I prepay my allotment or cremation to reduce expenses for my family or to secure my place of rest?
- Do I want particular readings, prayers or poems read at my service?
- Is there a charity that is important to me that will accept donations in lieu of flowers?

There are many ways to pre-plan your options. At Canberra Memorial Parks, you can speak to a customer service team member to help you navigate the process.



Gungahlin Cemetery Family Estate

How can my traditions be honoured?

In communities and families around the world the passing of a loved one is memorialised in an infinite number of ways. Recognising the diversity of the Canberra community and our commitment to personalising your service for you, our facilities and experience allow us to facilitate a wide range of religious, cultural and family traditions in your end-of-life planning.

For example, Gungahlin Cemetery's newest facility consists of a peaceful viewing room for cremations, where Buddhist, Sikh and Jain families can honour their traditional practice of viewing the

coffin as it enters the cremator. Families may also hire the viewing room to say their final goodbyes to their loved one before cremation.

Across the Gungahlin, Hall and Woden grounds we have dedicated religious and cultural burial areas for Islamic, Jewish, Orthodox, Aboriginal and Christian communities, and an enclosed mausoleum at the Woden Cemetery.

Contact us to talk about how we can help you communicate or document your wishes so they are remembered.

How do I tell family and friends?

We understand the topic of end-of-life can be difficult to address with family and friends. As a society, the conversation around death has improved over the past few decades, as people become more comfortable talking about life and death, and everything in between. From pre-planning a funeral to discussing organ donation, more families are having open discussions to make their lives easier, if anything unexpected were to happen.

Firstly, consider your planning a gift that you are giving your loved ones to ease their grief and mourning, without having to focus on logistics. Start with telling them whether you prefer burial or cremation. Irrelevant of how far the discussion goes with a family member or friend, we still encourage you to state your wishes in, or with, your will, so your loved ones remember your intentions and are at peace knowing your wishes were respected.



Gungahlin Cemetery



Woden Cemetery Dedication Seat

Cremation or burial?

How do I decide?

The Canberra community has a wide range of end-of-life options for burial and interment, cremation and memorialisation across three beautiful public parks situated on Ngunnawal country, all with their own distinct features to choose from. We have provided a summary of the various options and locations for you to start thinking about this personal decision.

We believe that end-of-life planning does not need to be rushed and you can make informed decisions with time to explore your options.

We encourage you to book a visit to see our facilities and talk to our friendly staff who will guide you through our services based on:

- cultural and/or religious customs
- environmental impact
- costs
- where you would like your family to visit.

Burial

Whether you prefer a family estate, headstone, lawn allotment or natural burial, Canberra Memorial Parks offers a wide range of options at Gungahlin, Hall and Woden cemeteries. With a burial, you offer your loved ones the option of memorialising your life in a place that is ideal for them to visit you. If you would like to share your resting place with a loved one when they pass, most graves can be dug to double or triple depth as required.



Gungahlin Cemetery

Family Estate

Location: Gungahlin

A Family Estate consists of a garden bed with a tree planted in the centre, with families permitted to have small plantings in the shared garden behind their allotment. The garden is bordered by four concrete beams forming a square. There are eight lawn graves in total around the outer edge of the square, and they are purchased in pairs. Family Estate allotments for ashes are available.



Gungahlin Cemetery

Headstone Allotment

Locations: Gungahlin and Woden

A Headstone allotment is a grave which has a full monumental memorial, usually made of granite or marble, which covers the entire length of the grave.



Lawn

Location: Woden

A Lawn allotment is a lawn grave, with memorialisation by way of a chrome or bronze plaque installed on a raised concrete block at the head of the grave. A memorial plaque, cement base with vase, and raised concrete block are included in the cost of the allotment. An upgrade to a raised granite block can be purchased.



Monumental Lawn

Location: Gungahlin

A Monumental Lawn allotment is a lawn grave, with memorialisation by way of a small headstone on the concrete beam at the head of the grave.



Natural Burial

Location: Gungahlin

Natural burials have no memorialisation at the grave location. A small shrub chosen by the family from a list of approved natives can be planted at the grave location by cemetery staff. The intent is for graves to blend into the beautiful surrounding of bushland. By choosing a natural burial, people are choosing a burial method that has a lower environmental impact, allowing the remains to decompose sustainably and return back to nature.



Plaque Beam

Locations: Gungahlin and Woden

A Plaque Beam allotment is a lawn grave, with memorialisation by way of a large plaque installed flush on the exposed aggregate beam at the head of the grave.



Woden Cemetery

Tree

Locations: Gungahlin and Woden

A Tree allotment is an ashes grave, with memorialisation by way of a large plaque installed flush to a granite block. The block is positioned at the base of a tree and inset into the ground. Tree allotments have two purchase options - an individual tree or a shared tree. An individual tree option has provision for a family to have up to six ashes interments and plaques, with the first being included in the cost of the allotment. The shared tree allotment is for one ashes interment and one plaque on a granite block.



Woden Cemetery

Vault

Locations: Gungahlin and Woden

A Vault allotment is a headstone grave that has a sealed, double-depth, concrete crypt installed within the allotment. The memorialisation is by way of a full monument covering the entire length of the grave. Pre-installed vaults can be purchased. Alternatively, subject to site approval by Canberra Memorial Parks, a vault can be installed in your preferred position, which incurs an additional fee.



Woden Cemetery

Christ the Redeemer Mausoleum

Location: Woden

Christ the Redeemer is a unique mausoleum surrounded by large, noble trees. The mausoleum comprises a dedicated chapel area and secure internal and external burial crypts, including family vaults, double and single crypts, and for interred cremated remains, columbarium niches.

Cremation

Cremation services have risen in popularity in the past decade, attributed to factors like cost, reducing your carbon footprint and the options available for interment of ashes. Research suggests the practice of cremation dates back at least 17,000 years ago and today is more common than traditional burials in Australia.

Our modern technology, practices and procedures at Canberra Memorial Parks ensure the deceased are always handled with care and respect. With strict protocols in place, the identification of your remains is guaranteed from the time your body is delivered to the crematorium by your funeral director, through to the interment of ashes.

Returning ashes to your family

Some people want their ashes to be with family or scattered in a place of personal significance, like the town in which you were born or near other relatives buried outside the ACT. We can arrange for your ashes to be returned to loved ones, however we encourage you to contact your local council if your remains are to be scattered in a public place, as permission is normally required. If it is on private land, then you need to obtain permission from the owner, unless the land is yours.

Burying your ashes at Canberra Memorial Parks

Cremated remains can be interred in a designated area in Woden, Hall and Gungahlin cemeteries' Memorial Gardens areas.

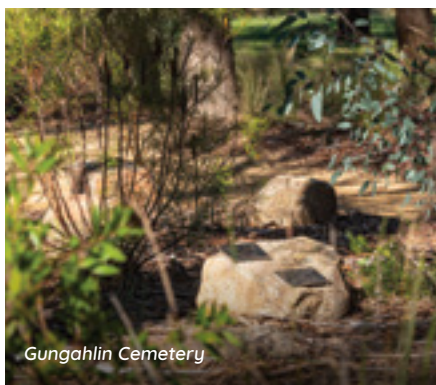


Hall Cemetery

Memorial Gardens

Locations: Gungahlin, Hall & Woden

A Memorial Garden allotment is an ashes grave, with memorialisation by way of a plaque installed on the kerb bordering the Memorial Garden. Only one set of ashes can be interred in a Memorial Garden allotment.



Gungahlin Cemetery

Memorial Rock

Locations: Gungahlin and Woden

A Memorial Rock allotment is an ashes grave, with memorialisation by way of a plaque installed on a rock, which is positioned in a garden bed. Standard Memorial Rocks have provision for two sets of ashes and two memorial plaques. A Family Memorial Rock can accommodate up to four sets of ashes and four memorial plaques.

Where can I be buried in the ACT?

Canberra Memorial Parks manages three beautiful parks across the ACT in Woden, Gungahlin and Hall with their own unique features that you can explore in the following section or book a tour with our customer service team to visit.



Gungahlin Cemetery's Ornamental Lake

Gungahlin

The Gungahlin Cemetery was opened in 1979 and is extensively landscaped with a large lake and many bird species that create a tranquil and peaceful environment. Separate attractive areas are provided for lawn and monumental burials and for placing your ashes.

It is also the home of the Gungahlin Crematorium, the ACT's first publicly owned crematorium which was opened in 2021.



Woden Cemetery's Liquidambar Lane

Woden

The Woden Cemetery was opened in 1936 and is a formally planned cemetery, with many stately mature trees and lawn and monumental burial sites in many different religious and general areas. Our enclosed mausoleum, Christ the Redeemer is also located on the grounds.

The cemetery is accessible all year round and the public is welcome to explore and enjoy the grounds. It is within walking distance from the Woden Bus Interchange.



Hall Cemetery Headstones

Hall

Hall Cemetery is the oldest cemetery in the ACT, dedicated in 1883, with the first recorded burial in 1907. It is a small rural cemetery, mainly for long time residents of the Hall region. It is divided into religious denominations and a special memorial wall and garden for cremated remains are available for the interment of ashes.

The Hall Cemetery contains some very rare and endangered plants so mowing the grass is not possible in the Spring and early Summer, allowing the plants to flower and seed.

What type of funeral can I have?

Your funeral director will help your loved ones plan your funeral service in your preferred location. Canberra Memorial Parks can host a range of services that your funeral director can book, according to your wishes.



Gungahlin Crematorium Viewing Room

Viewing Room

Location: Gungahlin

A dedicated viewing room allows mourners to watch the cremation and participate in religious ceremonies. The viewing room can seat up to 25 people. Cameras in the viewing room and the crematorium room can broadcast and record the process if your loved ones are not able to attend.

Families may also hire the viewing room to say their final goodbyes to their loved one before cremation.

Stringybark Room

Location: Gungahlin

The Stringybark Room is available for hire for your memorial service, which includes set up of the room and audiovisual equipment. When making an appointment with us, let our customer service team know if you would like a tour of the Room.

Grave Service

At Canberra Memorial Parks, we can facilitate a graveside service for your family and loved ones to attend. This can be after a religious service or in lieu of a church ceremony.

How can I be environmentally conscious in my decision making?

Natural burials and cremation have a lower environmental impact than traditional burial practices. At Canberra Memorial Parks, we are proudly one of 1250 crematoria worldwide that participate in a recycling program with OrthoMetals. OrthoMetals was founded in 1997, by a surgeon and his business partner, to recycle metals remaining after cremation

from medical devices, like titanium hips, dental work and jewellery. The funds generated from this program will be returned to Canberra Memorial Parks in the future to support local community projects that align with the vision of the Parks.

Please contact us for more information about our sustainable practices.



Book an appointment

You can contact us to book an appointment via phone, email or via our website to discuss your options with our friendly customer service team.

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