

Botanical
FUNERALS

BY IAN
ALLISON

“I’ve never had to organise a funeral before, what should I consider in choosing an appropriate funeral director?”

In choosing an appropriate funeral provider, you should consider that levels of service, quality and value vary widely among the industry.

From our experience, people choose Botanical Funerals because our team are experienced, helpful, professional and offer unmatched value, looking after you every step of the way.

We provide information and guidance and present you with options that best suit your family’s emotional, spiritual, cultural and economic needs. We also provide a 100% service satisfaction guarantee.

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“Why should I pre-arrange my funeral?”

From our experience, people often choose to pre-arrange their funeral for the following reasons:

- To save the emotional and financial burden on their family
- To ensure their wishes are carried out eg. Religious or non-religious ceremony, burial or cremation etc.
- For economical reasons – you can make considerable savings in the long-run by taking out a fixed price funeral today and in some cases it may also help minimise your tax commitments.

“What’s makes a funeral more meaningful?”

In her award winning book, ‘A Good Goodbye’, Gail Rubin, a well-known death educator, discusses the four R’s that make a funeral more meaningful and helpful to you in your time of grief, these include the following:

Recognise Reality

Remember

Reaffirm

Release

Psychologists cite a number of reasons for holding funeral rituals. They make the dead “safely dead,” dispatched with proper ceremony to rest in peace. They confirm the deceased and their survivors matter, and that the community will continue. They provide structure in the midst of chaos and disorder, and ensure communal support for survivors during a stressful time.

“Should I choose burial or cremation?”

The choice between burial or cremation is one of the first decisions you will need to make when organising the funeral and will often influence other important parts of the service.

People will often choose burial for cultural or religious reasons or if there is an existing family grave. In Victoria, a burial plot is a perpetual investment and therefore, we advise that you visit the cemetery so that you can consider all available options before making your decision.

While burial allows for a service at a chapel or church followed by a graveside service, cremation is commonly undertaken privately, whereby there is no attendance at the crematorium. Therefore, with cremation funerals, the funeral is usually all completed in one location.

Botanical Funerals' caring and friendly team will provide guidance and options so that you can choose whether burial or cremation best suits your needs.

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“Who should you notify after a death?”

There are a number of people to contact after someone dies. A helpful list has been provided by the Department of Human Services which you can download at <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/who-to-notify-checklist.pdf>.

“How can I personalise my loved one’s funeral?”

The personalisation of the funeral allows those close to the deceased to share memories, reflect and express their feelings to others. With personalised elements of the deceased tastes and values, those left behind can recreate an intimate connection with the deceased while honouring their life.

Whatever your wishes, our experienced staff will listen to you and provide you with guidance and options that best suit you needs.

For example, we will help you choose:

- Readings or poems recalling the life of the deceased.
- Music and songs that contribute to the funeral.
- Symbols and gestures that help honour the deceased such as the placing of flowers on the coffin, a memory table of the deceased favourite items or the creation of a service booklet.

“What should I do with the ashes after cremation?”

There are many choices available to you in relation to what to do with the ashes. You may wish to keep them at home in an urn or share them between relatives and friends in several urns. Or you may wish to scatter them in a special location.

If you decide to memorialise the ashes in a cemetery or memorial park, there are a wide variety of choices for you to consider and it is advised to visit the cemetery before you decide. Memorialisation within a cemetery or memorial park can be done in an existing family grave, a niche wall, family memorial garden, garden of remembrance, just to name a few.

“How do you announce a death?”

Traditionally a death is announced in the death and funeral notices section of the newspaper. This is commonly done in either The Age or Herald-Sun.

Death notice

The announcement in the death notices section of the newspaper usually includes the deceased's surname, first name and age, even the date and place of death. Also, people often include the names of the closest relatives of the deceased such as parents names, partner's names, in-laws, children and grand-children.

Funeral notice

The funeral includes information about the ceremony: date, location and time and information about the burial or cremation.

More and more people are now turning to social media to announce a death and we can assist you with this announcement through our e-tributes platform.

Ask our friendly staff how.

“What’s involved in repatriating the body of a deceased person overseas?”

Taking home the body or human remains of someone who has died or who has been buried in a foreign land can be an important spiritual journey for many. The family may feel that the person’s soul may not be at peace if the body was buried anywhere other than their homeland.

To repatriate the body of a deceased person requires many administrative procedures and documentation as well as an extensive knowledge of the obligations of each country and embassy. Botanical Funerals has significant experience in repatriating deceased persons throughout Asia, Europe and the Pacific Islands. We also have an extensive network of suppliers interstate and overseas who can assist us if and when required.

“How to choose a casket or coffin?”

The first thing you will need to understand is the difference between a casket and a coffin. A casket is rectangular and uniform in shape and usually wider and longer than a coffin. While a coffin tapers at the head and the foot.

From our experience, in choosing a casket or coffin people often look for a particular shape, colour, type of wood, fittings and interior. The shape can vary from your choice of casket or coffin and flat, tiered or domed lid. Colour choices range from light to dark shades, gloss, matt or satin finish, which are all options available in our range.

Our caskets and coffin are derived from sustainable timber and include composite timber, pine, oak, blackwood or mahogany.

Fittings and interiors also greatly vary depending on your needs, whether you prefer gold, silver or wooden handles and particular symbols added to the casket etc. Our friendly team, will provide you with suitable information in order for you to make the right choice that best reflects the personality of the deceased.