

**References**

Cemeteries Act 1986  
Cemeteries Local Law 2001

**Date Proposed/Adopted****Motion Number**

Reviewed	
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***This policy supports the delivery of the Shire of Cranbrook Vision***

*That the Shire of Cranbrook is a proactive, sustainable, safe, friendly and prosperous place to be*

**PURPOSE**

To ensure that part of the Shire of Cranbrook's culture, identity and heritage is not lost by marking six "unmarked" graves each year across the cemeteries in the Shire.

**SCOPE**

All the Cemeteries in the Shire of Cranbrook.

**DEFINITIONS**

An "unmarked grave" is one without a visible headstone and a number only.

"Geno-tourism" is genealogy tourism where visitors come seeking to reconnect with their past.

"Close relation" would be a son, daughter, niece, nephew and in some occasions, a mother or father.

"Board" is the Shire of Cranbrook's Council.

**OBJECTIVE**

The Shire of Cranbrook recognises the importance to the community of the local cemeteries. They represent people's culture, identity and heritage, and comprise a resource which allow the community to delve back into their past. The Shire of Cranbrook's cemeteries represent the last public memorials of many people who were involved with the growth of the local area in which they are buried.

For that reason, the Shire of Cranbrook is implementing a policy of marking six "unmarked" graves; those without a visible headstone and a number only, each year with a simple plaque with details of the person's name, date of birth, date of death, cause of death and their occupation and dependent upon information provided a sentence about their lives. This will ensure that as time moves on, people are not totally forgotten.

The criteria will be that the death recorded is more than 50 years from the current year of research, unless approved by the Chief Executive Officer, and there are no close relations in the Shire of Cranbrook and community consultation has not resulted in any wish for the grave not to be included. If that does occur, or it is clear that there is any opposition, then the grave will be left "unmarked".

**PRINCIPLES**

- Cemeteries are important to the community as they are a resource which allows the community to delve back into their past.
- Cemeteries are important in the attraction of visitors engaged in “geno-tourism”.

#### **PROCEDURE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS POLICY**

- Costs to be included in the Shire of Cranbrook’s budget each financial year, provided funds are available.
- Under the Shire of Cranbrook’s Cemeteries Local Law, the Board is able to give permission for memorials, and can, therefore, approve the placing of a plaque on each of the “unmarked graves” selected under this policy.

#### **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Community – in identifying and providing any relevant information relating to any “unmarked grave”.

#### **Chief Executive Officer and Managers**

- Ensure compliance with policy.