

# I.C.MARK LTD

Serving the Local Community since 1972

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

### MAKING CHOICES

Funerals today are becoming more unique and representative of the deceased and their family's desire to remember them in a particular way.

Choices made by the grieving family will ensure the memory of the person is honoured and cherished. These choices include but are not limited to where and when the service will be held, who will be involved and what the content of the service will be. Some services will be dictated by culture and tradition or ethnic considerations. Others will not feel bound by those same considerations.

#### CREMATION

Over 60% of families in New Zealand now choose cremation as their preferred method. Cremation usually takes place following a funeral service, held either in a crematorium chapel, or in another venue such as a church or funeral home chapel.

It may be appropriate to have a committal service at the crematorium if the main service has been held elsewhere. Another option is for the funeral director to take the casket to the crematorium with no further attendance or ceremony.



There is a far greater range of options available regarding the final resting place of the ashes than there is with earth burial. Ashes may be buried in a cemetery plot, memorial garden or even in a family

property or favourite place. Many families choose to scatter the ashes in an appropriate place or, in some circumstances, they may even keep them at home. It is also possible for the ashes to be divided and one portion buried or scattered while the other remains in the possession of family. Memorials in ashes memorial garden and lawn ashes areas are also available and choices varied.

#### BURIAL

Burial is the most traditional practice in New Zealand and in the past was the most common choice. Many families appreciate having a grave to visit and tend. Generally, a burial will follow a funeral service in another location, such as a chapel, church or marae. The traditional

practice is that following the service, mourners and family members will follow the hearse in a cortege. This is a slow moving procession that allows people to accompany the deceased on their



final journey. In some larger cities, it is becoming normal practice to meet at the cemetery at a specified time rather than form a cortege. This is due to the higher traffic volumes and the fact that many motorists do not seem to show due respect to a funeral procession. If there is a cortege, the hearse and following vehicles will travel with their headlights on, to alert other road users to the nature of the procession.

As with cremation, there are cultural and faith based reasons why burial is the only choice for some people. A lot of these reasons centre on the belief that the body needs to be whole in order to be ready for the afterlife. It is important to note that, in most cases, a burial will be more expensive than a cremation. This is because there are three charges involved.

- Plot purchase
- An interment (or digging) fee which also covers maintenance
- A memorial stone or plaque, in most cases.

#### MEMORIALS

A memorial stone or plaque for both cremation and burial plots can act as a catalyst in helping with healing and comfort for those grieving.

For centuries, families have recognised the importance of erecting memorials to the deceased. These can be elaborate or simple memorials, but they leave a permanent record of a life and are a place for families to visit and learn of their past. Choosing a memorial is a very personal matter, with many options to choose from, such as lettering, artwork, photos, and so on. Most cemeteries provide areas suitable for either full burial or cremation ash interments. The timing of the placement of memorials is up to the families involved. For further information about memorials visit [www.markmemorials.co.nz](http://www.markmemorials.co.nz).

 0800 ICMARK ~ (06) 368-8108

545 - 547 Queen Street East, Levin  
The Avenue Crematorium, Avenue North Road, Levin

[www.icmark.co.nz](http://www.icmark.co.nz)