

Stratford District Cemeteries



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL



About our cemeteries

Stratford district has seven cemeteries, two of which are open to new burials. Stratford District Council are the guardians/kaitiaki of our cemeteries. We're here to help you select plots and arrange and book full burials and the interment of ashes.

It's our responsibility to look after the cemeteries and maintain the grounds.

The whānau/family members of the deceased are responsible for the care of memorial headstones and plaques.

Council holds records for all seven cemeteries, spanning over 100 years, and most of these records are available online.

Access and mobility

- Pedestrians can access the cemeteries at any time throughout the year.
- Vehicle access is available for Kopuatama Cemetery. Please arrange to get the key from our Service Centre.
- If you have mobility considerations you'd like to discuss before visiting, please get in touch.

Find out more

[Stratford.govt.nz/Cemeteries](https://stratford.govt.nz/Cemeteries)

[Stratford.govt.nz/CemeteryRecords](https://stratford.govt.nz/CemeteryRecords)

Contact us

(06) 765 6099

Cemetery@stratford.govt.nz

Visit

Council Service Centre

63 Miranda Street

Stratford

Open cemeteries

Kopuatama Cemetery

State Highway 43, 4km east of Stratford

Kopuatama Cemetery is a peaceful, green reserve with full burial and ashes plots available.

This cemetery also offers:

- A Wall of Remembrance to memorialise loved ones that rest elsewhere.

Installation of plaques need to be done by a registered stone mason. Please talk to us about the plaque options available.

- A Returned Services Area for veterans who have served overseas and their spouses or partners.

For information about eligibility, visit VeteransAffairs.mil.nz or call 0800 483 8372. We look after this area on behalf of Veteran's Affairs, but you'll need to contact them direct to arrange plaques and headstones. Burials and the interment of ashes in the Returned Services Area should be arranged through us.

Visit Stratford.govt.nz/Cemeteries for a map of Kopuatama Cemetery.

Midhirst Cemetery

Beaconsfield Road, Midhirst – 5km north of Stratford

Next to the historic 'Old Cemetery', the Midhirst Cemetery is the only open cemetery in the Midhirst area.

There are no ashes plots available, but you can reserve a full burial plot and inter ashes there, if you wish.

FAQ

Can I have my ashes interred in a family member's plot?

Yes, if there's space and you have the written permission of the family member's nearest relatives.

See more cemetery FAQs at Stratford.govt.nz/Cemeteries



Returned Services Area at
Kopuatama Cemetery

Arranging a burial plot or interment

We're here to make the process as easy as we can for you, whether you want to secure a burial plot for the future, or you're organising the funeral of a loved one.

We know it's not always easy to discuss these matters, and it's okay to feel upset or anxious. Consider having a support person with you during this process, or you can ask a Funeral Director to help. When you're ready, get in contact with us.

Reserving a plot

A plot purchase reserves the chosen resting place. Plots can be sized for ashes or a full burial. We do not charge for plots in the Returned Service Area.

You may have family buried in the cemetery, or other considerations to take into account when choosing a plot. We can help you find the right solution for you and your whānau.

Ashes plots

Cremation plots can hold up to 3 standard sized urns or boxes. You'll have the choice between a plot where a plaque can be installed, or a headstone.

Full burial plots

We have single and double depth plots available and there is no cost difference between the two. Single depth plots are for a single burial. Double depth plots will allow loved ones to be buried together. Regardless of the depth, within one plot you can have a full burial as well as ashes.

Read the Cemeteries Bylaw at [Stratford.govt.nz/Bylaws](https://www.stratford.govt.nz/Bylaws) for detailed information about plots, interments, and memorials.

Interments

When a burial needs to take place, there is a fee for interments which includes the cost of gravedigging and filling.

Funerals can be held on any day of the week between 8am and 4pm.

You'll need to complete and return forms to apply for interment at Kopuatama or Midhirst Cemetery. Forms are available at [Stratford.govt.nz/Cemeteries](https://www.stratford.govt.nz/Cemeteries)

Headstones and plaques

Plaques and headstones need to be installed or dismantled by a registered Monumental Mason. Your mason will make the application to Council for a permit to carry out the work on your behalf. The installation is at the cost of the family and is payable to the stone mason.

Vases and loose memorial items

As the guardian/kaitiaki of our cemeteries, we need to maintain a safe space for our community. Please make sure vases, containers, and loose memorial items are not easily breakable, and that they're kept clear of grassed areas. See our Cemeteries Bylaw for more information.



Cemetery fees and charges 2024/25

Plot purchase

Adult (16+ years)	\$2,800	Child (2 – 15 years)	\$2,000
Infant (under 2 years)	\$1,200	Ashes plot	\$1,200
RSA plot	No charge	Memorial Wall	\$198

Interments (includes grave digging)

Adult (16+ years)	\$2,100	Child (2 - 15 years)	\$1,500
Infant (under 2 years)	\$1,000	Stillborn	\$550
Ashes	\$600		

Miscellaneous Charges

Bond for damage (Private Users) as per clause 19.4 of Cemeteries Bylaw. Damage in excess of bond will be charged at cost.	\$300
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Notes

- *Weekends/Public Holidays Fees are included in above charges.*
- *Administration and Permit Fees are included in above charges.*
- *Disinterment and Reinterment are the same as interment charges above.*
- *Extra Depth is included in above charges.*
- *Services Cemetery fees are the same as the adult interment charge above.*
- *Services Cemetery Purchase of Plot is free as per Stratford Borough Council decision at meeting on 16 July 1917.*
- *Memorial Wall Plaque - Permanite material, size 390mm x 190mm*

Over 140 years of Taranaki history

*Whangamomona
Cemetery*

Closed cemeteries

With burials recorded as early as 1882, visiting our district's closed cemeteries can be a journey through Taranaki's colonial history.

Midhirst Old Cemetery

Beaconsfield Road, 5km north of Stratford

Opened in 1880, Midhirst was for many years the district's only cemetery. The first confirmed burial was in 1882.

Pioneer Cemetery

Regan Street West, Stratford

Stratford's first public cemetery opened in 1886. The last recorded burial was in 1910. It's now the site of the Pioneer Memorial.

Tahora Cemetery

80km northeast of Stratford

The earliest recorded burial at Tahora Cemetery was in 1924, and the last was in 1937.

Waipuku Cemetery

State Highway 3 – 9.7kms north of Stratford (no access)

The earliest recorded burial at Waipuku Cemetery was in 1898, and the last was in 1924.

Whangamomona Cemetery

63km east of Stratford

The first known interment was in September 1900 and the last interment was in January 2004, although the cemetery was officially closed in 1997.

Read more about our closed cemeteries at Stratford.govt.nz/Cemeteries

100 years of history online

Through our online Cemeteries Search, you can find over 100 years of burial and interment records from all council operated cemeteries in the district. The first record is from 1890.

Our online database is compiled from over 100 years of district registers and books.

While we've taken every care, we can't guarantee the accuracy of information given to us from original, hand-written sources. Please keep this in mind when you're doing your research.

Search the records at Stratford.govt.nz/CemeteryRecords



