

ALDINGA ARTS-ECOVILLAGE

**PRIVATE NON-PROFIT NATURAL
BURIAL GROUND**



INFORMATION FOR FUNERAL DIRECTORS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Our natural burial ground was established in 2016 in consultation with the City of Onkaparinga, and in compliance with the Burial and Cremation Act 2013 and Regulations 2014. Also in compliance with the Act and Regulations, a Natural Burial Ground Authority has been established to manage the facility. Our natural burial ground is for the use of our residents, and a few restricted categories of other people, but not the general public.

NATURAL BURIAL (NB)

This is a stand-alone natural burial ground as defined in the 2013 Act, and is not a cemetery.

The principles of natural burial are:

- To return the body to Nature as fast and non-toxically as possible
- Burial at low density and relatively shallow for faster breakdown
- The body is not embalmed or subjected to any toxic substances
- The body is dressed (if at all) in biodegradable clothing or shrouding
- The body is buried in a bio-degradable container or shroud; any plastic sheeting used must be bio-degradable. If bio-degradable sheeting is not available, it is the responsibility of the funeral director to use adequate cloth lining and absorbent materials with the burial container to ensure that no leakage occurs
- Coffin construction should not include any toxic substances or non-bio-degradable elements such as persistent plastics, solvents, paints, or metals
- The grave is located in natural bushland or an indigenous vegetation setting
- There is no graveside memorialisation
- Graves are left undisturbed, not reused after a fixed period of time (*"in perpetuity"*)
- Care is taken not to allow excessive density of burials (at least 9-10 m²/interment)

AT ALDINGA ARTS ECOVILLAGE (AAEV)

We undertake to hire the most competitive excavation services available locally. The client will be responsible for payment of this service, which will be charged at cost. If unforeseen circumstances arise whereby an alternative digger must be found, any higher costs must be borne by the client, i.e. excavation costs must be regarded as provisional until opening is complete.

CURRENT CONTACT FOR NATURAL BURIAL GROUND AUTHORITY

AAEV Secretary: aaevsecretary@gmail.com

CURRENT POLICIES OF THE PRIVATE NON-PROFIT ALDINGA ARTS ECOVILLAGE NATURAL BURIAL GROUND AUTHORITY (“The Authority”)

- The Authority at any time will have a person nominated as contact person and signatory for the purposes of interaction with external funeral personnel. See contact above.
- A *Certificate of Interment* will be issued after an interment with copies to the family and funeral director
- Records of the Authority will be available for public scrutiny during office hours at the office of the Community Manager (UnitCare Services, 52 Fullarton Rd, Norwood, SA, 5065), after payment of the appropriate fee.
- Interment locations will be chosen by the Authority according to the best ecological and logistical choice at any given time
- There will be no pre-sales of *Interment Rights* nor pre-allocation of plot locations.
- Interments will be carried out section by section, then over-planted with local indigenous vegetation
- Grave location for formal registration is determined by a triangulation system based on fixed survey points with tagged and detectable metal stakes at sub-ground level
- The Funeral Director is requested to have a second name plate in stainless steel made, which will be used for the permanent identification systems and location with a metal detector (dimensions not less than 100 x 100mm).
 - (Note: for the burial in 2021, the Funeral Director did not provide a second identification plate. An engraved aluminium plate was attached to the stake at the head of the grave at sub-ground level by the NGBA.)
- To avoid spread of weed and non-local plant species, floral tributes and coffin sprays are kept to a minimum and will be removed from the site within 4 weeks. Australian native plants are preferred, no gumnuts or plants with seeds unless local indigenous plants.
- The NEB principles listed above are to be adhered to by all concerned.

Please note the following policies established by the Aldinga Arts EcoVillage Natural Burial Ground Authority relating to funerals and services:

- **No embalming**
- Everything possible bio-degradable: clothes, shrouds, coffins, liners
- Everything possible non-toxic, not persistent in the ground
- Batteries from cardiac pacemakers, brain or other stimulators removed
- No weedy species for floral tributes etc
- The Authority will organise the opening and closing of the grave
- The Authority will require advice as to dimensions of burial container so as to minimise grave volume and depth
- Funeral Director to organise extra stainless-steel nameplate and provide official documentation to the Authority (NB. See above re nameplates).
- **Terms:** Funeral Director presents invoiced payment to NBGA on the day of interment (see Schedule of Fees)
- The client is responsible for any last minute cost increase in excavation
- Funeral Directors are expected to provide evidence of current public liability insurance policies (\$20,000,000 minimum).