

2025



Last week I saw on TV a discussion about charges for Funeral plots and how it is different all over NZ. It got me thinking about pre-paid funerals and how important they are, so that family don't get left with the burden of the cost for a family members funeral. So here is some information. Maybe it is something that you might find interesting and useful.

## HOW TO SET UP YOUR FUNERAL TRUST PLAN

### Step 1: Find a funeral home

Use the Find a Funeral Home map to find your local Funeral Directors Association funeral director.

### Step 2: Contact the funeral home

Call or email to arrange an appointment. They'll arrange a time to visit you, or for you to come into the funeral home to complete your application.

Anyone can join regardless of age or state of health. You can apply for yourself or on behalf of a loved one.

You are welcome to bring along a family member if you need help with completing the application. If you have a person appointed as a power of attorney, they may also complete the application on your behalf (proof of power of attorney will be required).

### Step 3: Be prepared

You'll need to provide a form of proof of identification and address, and if you are applying on behalf of a loved one, they will need to supply these details, as well as acknowledging and consenting to the collection, use, storage and disclosure of personal data. Your funeral director will talk you through the [acceptable forms](#) of identification and proof of address.

It can be hard to know what a funeral might cost. Your funeral director will talk to you about your wishes to help you decide the right amount to set aside. They'll also talk to you about payment options such as regular payments if you don't currently have a lump sum available.

The Funeral Trust administrator will need to check all documentation before your plan is set up. This means you won't be able to pay money in on the day you complete your application. Instead, once the paperwork is completed and the application approved by the Trustee, you'll receive an email advising how to make your first deposit.

Your funeral director will be able to help you understand the process and will also provide you with information about how to make additional future contributions. They will be there to advise your family how to claim when the time comes.

#### **Step 4: The value of pre-planning your funeral**

As part of establishing a Funeral Trust Plan, your funeral director can help you consider all aspects of your final farewell.

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What will make it meaningful for your loved ones? How would you personalise your farewell? Burial or cremation? What type of coffin? Who will officiate? Do you want a church or chapel? Do you have a music preference?

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

*The average funeral in New Zealand costs approximately \$10,000 to \$12,000, but there's only 5% of New Zealanders that have pre-planned their funerals.*

## **What factors influence funeral prices?**

Depending on your personal style and your family's needs, these are the most common factors that will contribute to how much a burial or funeral will cost:

- religious, ceremonial or family requirements
- being buried or cremated
- the cost of a burial plot if being buried; including digging, casket, headstone, transportation, and council fees
- the cost of an urn, flowers, and funeral director
- where and when the funeral or memorial service is held
- if food and drinks will be provided for mourners after the ceremony
- other costs such as newspaper notices and death certificates.

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**Funeral grant from MSD is \$2,616.12. This is asset tested.**

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## "Close the gate on rural thefts"

Police are urging rural property owners to be vigilant and ensure their property is secure including farm gates.

A key focus for Police is preventing crime from happening in the first place.

We would like to remind rural property owners to make security a priority.

A lot of reported thefts are committed by opportunistic criminals looking for an insecure shed, or a farm vehicle with keys left in the ignition or an open gate.

It's important to ensure your property, including fuel tanks, are secure and locked to restrict theft and tampering.

There are a range of measures you can take to ensure your property is safe and less appealing to burglars:

Secure your home, garage, farm buildings, fuel tanks and vehicles at night and when unattended.

Record the serial numbers or engrave tools, electronic and valuable items with your licence number.

Install an alarm system and get sensor lights fitted as a deterrent.

Always lock your property and auxiliary buildings when you leave, even if it's only for a short time.

Always lock your vehicles when you leave them and take your keys with you.

Use chains and locks to secure openings and access.

Keep in contact with your neighbours and let one another know if you see anything unusual.

We take burglary and theft incidents seriously, if you see anything suspicious contact Police immediately on 105 or Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

Further burglary prevention advice is available on the Police website.



<b>Burglaries</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Date</b>
Hokio Rd (30-40) night	Hokio Beach	18/7
Avenue Road (1-20) day	Foxton	18/7
Opiki Rd (500-530) night	Opiki	18/7
Signal St (15-30) day	Foxton Beach	19/7
Cook St (30-40) day	Foxton	19/7
Mangaore Rd (170-200) day	Shannon	19/7
Avenue Road (150-170) day	Foxton	20/7
Stirling St (15-25) night	Southeast levin	20/7
Highbury drive (40-55) night	Northeast levin	21/7
Avenue Rd (55-70) day	Foxton	22/7
Solway St (20-30) day	Southeast levin	23/7

Lady's mile (1-20) day	Foxton	24/7
<b>Theft Ex Car</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Date</b>
Queen St west (5-20)	Northwest levin	19/7

<b>Unlawful takes of M/V</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Date</b>
Lady's Mile (1-20)	Foxton	19/7

## July's Coffee and Chat.

On Wednesday we held July's Coffee and Chat. The guest speaker was Hannah from Community Law. She spoke about Wills, and how important it is to have one and what should be in the will. It was a very informative presentation. We had 35 members attend. We won't be having coffee and chat in August because we will be holding our AGM. At the beginning of August invite and details will be coming out. **SO, KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR EMAILS.**



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