

Townsville Cemeteries

Belgian Gardens



Guide to Memorial Choices and Community Gatherings



A Place to Remember. A Place to Reflect. A Place to Connect.

Nestled beneath the iconic Castle Hill, Belgian Gardens Cemetery has served the Townsville community for generations. In peaceful surroundings adjacent to the World Heritage rated wetlands, and with a range of memorial options provide families with a place to honour, remember and celebrate those they love.

Welcome to Belgian Gardens Cemetery
56 – 62 Evans Street, Belgian Gardens.

Choosing a final resting place is one of life's most personal decisions.

Whether you are planning ahead or making arrangements for someone you love, our team is here to help you understand the options available with compassion, respect and care.

Belgian Gardens Cemetery offers a variety of burial and memorial options to suit different wishes, traditions, family needs and budgets.

This guide has been created to help you explore those options and make informed decisions at your own pace.



A Place Rich in History

Located on the traditional lands of the Wulgurukaba People, Belgian Gardens Cemetery is one of Townsville's most significant historical, cultural and community places. For more than 120 years, it has provided a place of remembrance, reflection and permanent rest for generations of Townsville residents.

Established on 10 November 1900, the cemetery was created following concerns about the long-term suitability of the former West End Cemetery. In response, a new 100-acre cemetery reserve was proclaimed at Belgian Gardens on the Townsville Town Common. When the sale of burial plots at West End ceased in 1902, Belgian Gardens became Townsville's principal cemetery.

Initially managed by the Townsville Cemetery Trust, the cemetery has grown alongside the city and remains an important part of Townsville's history and identity.

Situated between Castle Hill, Rowes Bay and Townsville Airport, Belgian Gardens Cemetery spans approximately 46 hectares (463,158m²). Within its grounds rest pioneering families, community leaders, veterans and generations of local residents, reflecting the rich and diverse story of the region.

Today, Belgian Gardens Cemetery is managed by Townsville City Council and offers a range of burial and ash interment options within a peaceful, well-maintained setting that continues to serve the community with dignity and respect.

Comparing Your Memorial Options

Every family's story is different. Some families prefer the simplicity of a lawn burial, while others seek a traditional monument or a dedicated place for ashes. There is no right or wrong choice—only the one that feels right for you and your family.

When making your decision you may wish to consider:

- Burial or ashes
- Future family interments
- Personalisation options
- Ongoing maintenance
- Religious or cultural preferences
- Budget

Memorial Options at a Glance

Memorial Option			Personal Memorial	Maintenance			Best for
	Burial	Ashes		Council	Family	Internments	
Lawn	✓	✓	Plaque on tablet	✓	✓ Headstone only	2 coffins*** 6 ashes	Traditional memorial with minimal maintenance
Monumental	✓	✓	Floor monument/ headstone		✓ Monument and plot area	2 coffins*** 6 ashes	Highly personalised monument
Baby Lawn	✓		Plaque on tablet	✓ ****	✓ Monument and plot area	1 baby coffin 1 or 2 baby ashes	Traditional memorial for babies
Reflection Beams		✓	Plaque	✓ Garden	✓ Plaque	1 or 2 ashes	In ground low maintenance in a garden setting
Remembrance Courtyard		✓		✓	✓ Plaque	1 or 2 ashes	Above-ground low maintenance in a courtyard
Ash Scattering Garden		✓ Scattering only		✓	✓ Plaque		Minimal maintenance and memorial in garden setting
Forever Garden*			Padlock or brick	✓ **	✓ **		Honouring and remembering a loved one, regardless of where they rest

* The Forever Garden is a memorial Space and has no interment options.
** The Forever Garden is maintained in partnership with Townsville Club Rotary Saints and Townsville City Council.
*** Up to 2 coffins one at 6ft and another at 4ft on the condition that full depth can be reached. Two coffins cannot go in at 4ft.
**** Council maintains aisle ways and access points.



Lawn Sections

A lawn burial provides a peaceful and elegant memorial within beautifully maintained gardens.

Each memorial features an area for you to install a headstone/plaque at the head of the grave while the surrounding lawn is maintained by cemetery staff, creating a neat and tranquil setting for families to visit.

Suitable for:

- ✓ Traditional burial
- ✓ Ash interments
- ✓ Families seeking minimal ongoing maintenance



Monumental Sections

For families wishing to create a highly personalised memorial, monumental sections allow for the installation of traditional monuments constructed from granite, marble or other approved materials. These memorials provide a lasting tribute that reflects the individuality of the person being remembered. Maintenance of the memorial and immediate surrounds are the responsibility of the Right of Interment Holder or their family.

Suitable for:

- ✓ Traditional burial
- ✓ Ash interments
- ✓ Custom monuments



Baby Lawn

Our Baby Lawn provides a gentle and peaceful resting place for up to 12 months of age. Designed with dignity and care, this area offers families a quiet environment to remember and celebrate young lives.

Council staff maintain the surrounding lawns, creating a calm and respectful setting.

Suitable for:

- ✓ Traditional single infant burial
- ✓ Baby ash interments
- ✓ Families seeking minimal ongoing maintenance



Reflection Beams

Reflection Beams provide a contemporary memorial option for the placement of ashes. Purpose-built memorial beams are set within attractive landscaped gardens and native plantings, creating peaceful places for quiet reflection.

Suitable for:

- ✓ 1 or 2 ash interments
- ✓ Families seeking minimal ongoing maintenance



Remembrance Courtyard

The Remembrance Courtyard provides above-ground memorial niches and cylinders for ashes.

Surrounded by landscaped gardens and seating, the courtyard offers families a beautiful place to visit throughout the year.

Suitable for:

- ✓ 1 or 2 ash interments
- ✓ Families seeking minimal ongoing maintenance



Ash Scattering Garden

The Ash Scattering Garden provides a peaceful setting for families choosing to scatter the ashes of their loved one.

Surrounded by gardens and trees, this tranquil space offers a simple and meaningful place for remembrance.

Suitable for:

- ✓ Ash scattering
- ✓ Families seeking minimal ongoing maintenance



The Forever Garden

Nestled within Belgian Gardens Cemetery, the Forever Garden is a unique Community/Council-created space dedicated to remembrance, reflection and healing for families who have experienced the loss of a child, regardless of age or stage of life. Created through a partnership between Townsville City Council, the Rotary Club of Townsville Saints, and community members with lived experience of child loss, the garden provides a peaceful place where memories can be honoured and grief acknowledged.

Officially opened in 2023 following several years of community collaboration, the Forever Garden combines nature, art, poetry and contemplation spaces to create a compassionate and welcoming

environment. The project transformed an area of the cemetery into a living place of connection, remembrance and hope.

The Forever Garden reflects the belief that cemeteries are more than places of burial. They are important community spaces that support healing, storytelling, remembrance and connection across generations. Through ongoing community stewardship and annual memorial events, the Forever Garden continues to provide comfort and support to families while contributing to Townsville's compassionate community approach to grief and bereavement.



Open 6am to 6pm.
Scan to learn more about
The Forever Garden.

Community Stewardship and Volunteering

The Forever Garden is cared for through a partnership between Townsville City Council and the Rotary Club of Townsville Saints. Rotary volunteers undertake regular maintenance and stewardship activities within the garden,

with volunteer working bees generally held once per month. Community members interested in becoming involved are encouraged to contact the Rotary Club of Townsville Saints for volunteering opportunities.

Cultural Artwork Area

The Cultural Artwork Space is a unique place of reflection, connection and storytelling within Belgian Gardens Cemetery. Developed in partnership with Traditional Owners, Elders, community members and Townsville City Council, the space celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, language, art and community.

Featuring vibrant artwork and seating areas, the space provides a welcoming environment for remembrance, conversation and quiet reflection. It was created through an extensive community-led process that brought together Traditional Owners, Elders, artists and Council staff to strengthen cultural understanding and reconciliation.

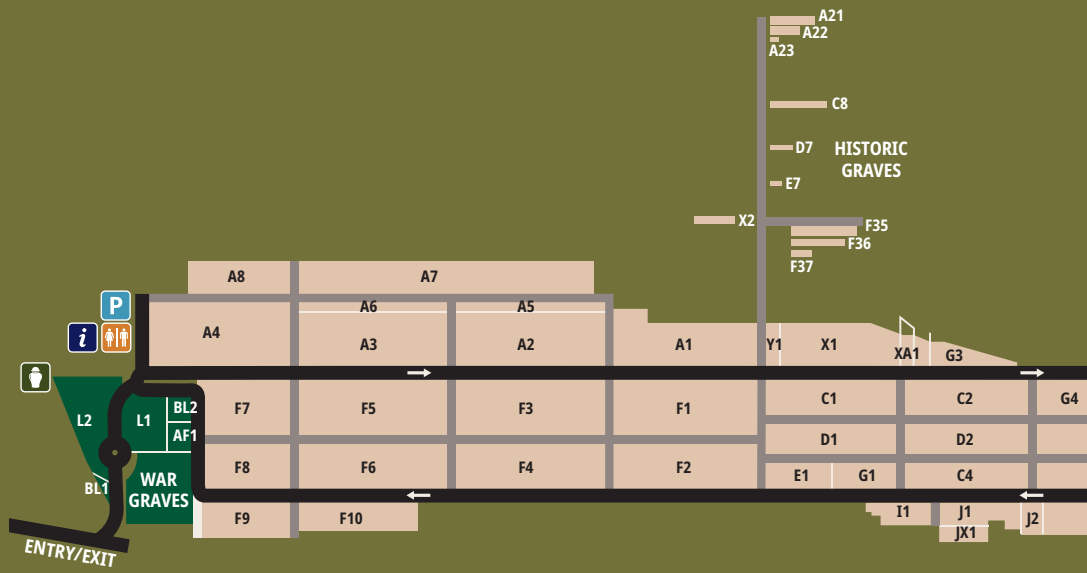
In recognition of its impact, the Cultural Artwork Space was selected by Reconciliation Australia as one of Australia's leading community development projects, showcasing the principles of Respect, Relationships and Opportunities.

Open daily during cemetery operating hours. Visitors are welcome to respectfully enjoy and reflect within the space.



Scan to learn more about Council's Reconciliation Action Plan.





Visiting Belgian Gardens Cemetery

Visitors are welcome throughout the year.

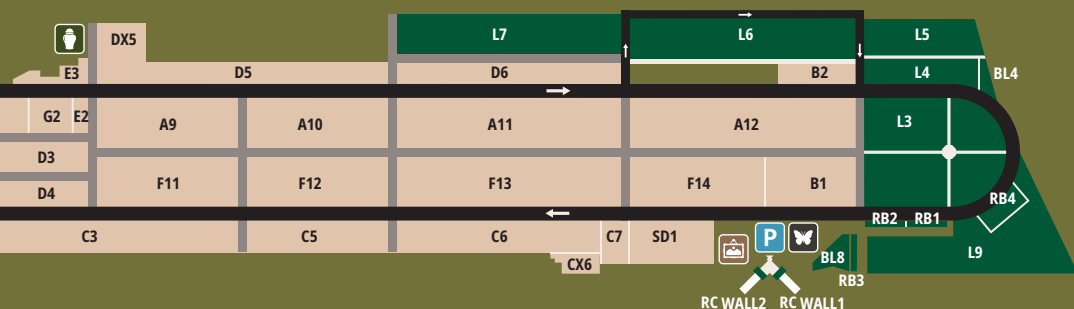
Facilities include:

- Public parking
- Accessible pathways
- Seating throughout the cemetery
- Public amenities
- Cultural Artwork Space
- Forever Garden
- Shade and landscaped gardens

Opening hours

6am to 6pm

	Monumental		Pathway		The Forever Garden
	Lawns		Cemetery office		Cultural Artwork Seating Space
	Sealed road		Parking		Ash Scattering Garden
	Unsealed road		Public toilet		



Annual Remembrance Services

Throughout the year Townsville Cemeteries hosts a community Mother's and Father's Day remembrance events, providing opportunities for families to come together, remember loved ones and connect with others.

Everyone is welcome.



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**“The butterfly counts not months
but moments, and has time enough.”**

Rabindranath Tagore

We're Here to Help

Choosing a memorial can feel overwhelming, but you don't need to navigate it alone.

Our experienced team is available to answer your questions, explain the available options and support you in finding the memorial that best reflects your loved one's life.



Belgian Gardens Cemetery



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 Townsville City Council Cemeteries

