

Location

The Jarrahdale Cemetery is located along Atkins Street in Jarrahdale. The Cemetery has a number of burials and cremation options available, and the staff at the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale will assist you and your family in finding something suitable for your loved one.

History of Cemetery

The name "Jarrahdale" describes the nature of the area which is in some of the best Jarrah forest in Western Australia. The area was settled because of the granting of timber licences in 1872. When the Cemetery was established in 1872, there was no grass but a lot of tree and leaf debris covered the area, however access to all the sites was easy, and flies were in abundance. The cemetery has come along away since 1872 and is an absolutely beautiful place for your loved ones to rest in peace.

The Government Gazette, 24th October 1883 shows the setting aside of land for a cemetery. This follows a letter from the mill manager William Atkins dated 3rd October 1883 to the Surveyor General requesting some land for a cemetery. It was a 9 mile drive over a rough track to Serpentine Cemetery. Burials usually took place the following day after death as there was no cold storage!

The land was donated by Mrs Maria Batt, widow of Joseph Batt, who had a flour mill in the area. The cemetery did not operate immediately as the land needed surveying. On the 6th March 1884, Maria Batt wrote to the Commissioner of Crown lands, saying she would donate a further acre to the cemetery, this was to allow denominational division of the cemetery into Catholic and Anglican, this was not allowed, as the cemetery was a public one.

The Catholic Record stated that the first adult male buried there was Walter Council in August 1885.

The names of a Board of Management are listed in the Government Gazette 25th September 1885.

The timber company was the original undertaker and they kept no record of burials until a government audit in 1911 recognised this. The local Roads Board then became responsible. However in 1934 white ants destroyed the records.

The public were asked to come forward with names, through an ad in the West Australian. Also the local policeman was able to give names from inquests held since 1896.

Nurses and midwives had also kept records as the early recorded burials are mainly stillbirths and infants.

There were many unmarked graves, with many being marked with a wooden cross. Unfortunately fire and termite damage was common and some may have been never marked.

The Jarrahdale Heritage Society has a list of names, which is very incomplete; it is thought there may be as many as two hundred unmarked graves or more in the cemetery.

Many early settlers were immigrants who had come to seek their fortune and were far from home and family.

It is estimated that as of 2015 the availability of new plots should last approximately 60 years at current burial rates.

Contact Us

Enquiries

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In Person

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