



REMEMBRANCE PARKS  
CENTRAL VICTORIA

# Visitor Guide

---





# Visitor Guide

The **Remembrance Parks Central Victoria (RPCV) Visitor Guide** is designed to consider everyone's safety and visiting experience. We appreciate your help in keeping our remembrance parks and cemeteries naturally beautiful, clean, and tidy places in which to reflect and remember. We thank you for respecting and cooperating with this Visitor Guide during your visit.

This guide is designed to assist you to understand the following:

- ◇ Respectful use of the parks and cemeteries by all members of the community.
- ◇ RPCV's responsibilities and obligations to maintaining the remembrance parks and cemeteries.
- ◇ Options to adorn your loved ones resting place whilst assisting us with our legislative and safety responsibilities.

## Key Principles

RPCV has developed this document following extensive community consultation to serve as a set of guidelines rather than a set of rules.

These guidelines are based on the following key principles. RPCV is committed to working in partnership with the community to honour these principles.

<b>RESPECT</b>	Visitors to remembrance parks respect the role of the parks and cemeteries as places of tranquillity, peace, and reflection.
<b>PERSONALISATION</b>	Visitors to remembrance parks are welcome to personalise their loved one's resting place but are mindful of maintaining respect for all other park visitors, and the role of the parks and cemeteries staff in maintaining a clean and tidy environment.
<b>PRIVACY</b>	Visitors to remembrance parks respect the privacy of all other users of the parks and cemeteries.
<b>PROTECTION</b>	Visitors to remembrance parks have respect for the environment and think carefully about the type of adornments and tributes being used so as not to harm the environment.
<b>SAFETY</b>	The safety of visitors and staff is a priority. Visitors to remembrance parks do not leave items in the cemeteries that may cause harm to others or that create a safety hazard. Staff regularly maintain the parks to safeguard visitors.
<b>DIVERSITY &amp; INCLUSION</b>	RPCV strives to foster a sense of community and belonging. We welcome all members of the community into our cemeteries and respect their choices, customs, traditions and rituals in ceremony, adornment, and memorialisation.



## Visiting Guidelines

### CULTURAL MEMORIALS AND CEREMONIES

- ◇ RPCV strives to foster a sense of community and belonging at our cemeteries.
- ◇ Some areas of the cemeteries are set aside for those who identify with certain cultural groups or faiths.
- ◇ We welcome all members of the community into our cemeteries and respect their choices, customs, traditions and rituals in ceremony, adornment, and memorialisation.

### CYCLING

- ◇ Bicycles are permitted on sealed roads and when travelling to and from a grave or building. Cyclists should travel at walking pace.
- ◇ Please use caution – our roads are not like city streets with stop signs and traffic signals. People driving in the cemeteries can be distracted.
- ◇ Give way to all cemetery vehicles. They are working to serve the community and keep our parks and cemeteries beautiful.
- ◇ Victorian road rules apply within cemetery grounds.

### DOG WALKING

- ◇ Dog walking is allowed in the parks and cemeteries.
- ◇ Dogs must be always on a lead.

## DRIVING AND PARKING

- ◇ Parking in designated car parking areas is preferred.
- ◇ You may park anywhere along the roads inside the parks and cemeteries (unless specified otherwise).
- ◇ Do not park or drive on bushland, garden, grass, or lawn areas.
- ◇ Please drive slowly and give way to cemetery vehicles, funeral processions, graveside services and pedestrians.
- ◇ Victorian road rules apply within cemetery grounds.

## EXERCISE AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

- ◇ Walking is encouraged at all our parks and cemeteries.
- ◇ Please avoid disrupting or walking near funeral and graveside services.
- ◇ Give way to cemetery vehicles and funeral processions.
- ◇ Take care in wet and slippery conditions.
- ◇ Avoid walking on top of graves and lawn cemetery concrete beams (concrete sections that form the headstone).

## MUSIC AND LOUD NOISE

- ◇ Please keep voices at a respectful volume.
- ◇ Loud music and use of external speakers is not permitted without RPCV approval.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

- ◇ You are welcome to take photographs of our parks and cemeteries for personal use only.
- ◇ Photography for commercial purposes is permitted if it has been arranged as part of a funeral service or a sanctioned RPCV event.
- ◇ For other types of photography, please request permission by sending an email to [enquiries@rpcv.org.au](mailto:enquiries@rpcv.org.au)

## PICNICS AND GATHERINGS

- ◇ Small, private picnics are permitted when visiting the parks and cemeteries when visiting a loved one's grave or in one of our open areas.
- ◇ Please do not picnic on the graves of people that you do not personally know, including well-known or historic figures.
- ◇ If using a grill or BBQ, this must be supervised for safety reasons.
- ◇ Tables, tents, and other party equipment are not permitted other than for a scheduled funeral service or RPCV-sanctioned event.
- ◇ Please remove all waste and litter before leaving the area and deposit in the bins provided or take it away with you.
- ◇ Larger gatherings can be arranged at the cemeteries by contacting [enquiries@rpcv.org.au](mailto:enquiries@rpcv.org.au)

## PLANTS AND WILDLIFE

- ◇ Many animals and unique plant species live and thrive in our parks and cemeteries.
- ◇ Please do not feed or disturb birds or other wildlife.
- ◇ Fishing, hunting, or trapping wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- ◇ Do not pick flowers or remove/disturb plants, shrubs, trees, or natural vegetation.
- ◇ Planting for the purpose of decorating an interment site is generally not permitted but this can be discussed with cemetery managers.

## SMOKING AND ALCOHOL

- ◇ Consumption of alcohol by adults is permitted at our parks and cemeteries when visiting and enjoying a private picnic or other gathering.
- ◇ We ask that visitors remove their rubbish, bottles, and cans and, for safety reasons, do not leave full cans or bottles of alcohol or other beverages at the cemeteries as these could be ingested by a child.
- ◇ To avoid the risk of fire, we ask that you only smoke in designated car parking areas and take your litter away with you



## Maintenance

RPCV undertakes regular cleaning and maintenance of its parks and gardens. We will remove or clean up:

- ◇ Litter and waste
- ◇ Hazardous spills or substances
- ◇ Dead animals, birds, and animal droppings
- ◇ Weeds, leaves, and small tree branches

RPCV is also responsible for installing, repairing, and maintaining various facilities and infrastructure in its parks and gardens. This includes:

- ◇ Pedestrian walkways
- ◇ Roads
- ◇ Lawns and garden beds
- ◇ Litter bins
- ◇ Public toilets
- ◇ Signs
- ◇ Drains, pipes, and irrigation systems
- ◇ Park furniture and fixtures
- ◇ Lighting

RPCV is also responsible for maintaining the grave or memorial itself, including:

- ◇ Mowing lawn areas and trimming edges.
- ◇ Backfilling or topping up sunken burial sites.
- ◇ Ensuring plaques are properly affixed.

## SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE

RPCV has annual commitments to upgrading existing sections of the cemeteries and opening new sections for the future. When upgrading existing sections of the cemeteries, we may ask for your cooperation in removing and storing any special or personal adornments so that they are not lost or damaged during infrastructure works.

RPCV will undertake to advise visitors about any scheduled maintenance via appropriate signage and notification via email, website and/or social media at least six (6) weeks prior to the commencement of works.

## Adornment Guidelines

Mourning and remembering a loved one is a very personal process that takes many shapes and forms over time. One way that you may want to remember your loved one is by decorating their grave or memorial with flowers or other tributes. Rather than being too prescriptive about what constitutes an appropriate tribute or adornment, we have developed this document as a set of principles to guide individuals as to what options are available and what items visitors may wish to consider.

## TEMPORARY MARKERS

How to mark your loved one's grave or memorial is an important decision, so it makes sense if you need to take some time to make this decision. RPCV offers personalised temporary markers to identify your loved one's grave. Temporary markers may be placed for up to twelve months. You can also place flowers and small tributes at the memorial during this time.



## FLOWERS

Placing flowers at your loved one's grave or memorial is one way to commemorate their life. To help extend the life of your floral tribute, RPCV provides vases or other receptacles within memorials at most of our cemeteries. You may use your own vase, but we ask that you consider the use of materials that are not fragile or easily breakable.

In keeping with the natural landscape and with our principle of environmental protection, we respectfully request the placement of fresh or dried floral tributes at burial and memorial sites. This can be as simple as freshly picked flowers from home.

Fresh or dried floral tributes are preferred over artificial tributes as fresh flowers will biodegrade over time. Please avoid wired arrangements as they can pose a safety risk. We ask you to consider the protection of the environment when considering artificial (plastic) flowers and arrangements.

Please remove any plastic wrapping and rubber bands from any floral arrangements before they are placed in the vases. When visiting your loved ones, we ask for your cooperation in removing any withered or weathered floral tributes and placing them in the bins provided.



## OTHER TRIBUTES

Whilst flowers are beautiful and very commonly used in cemeteries, there are other ways to add a meaningful tribute to your memorial. We want you to be able to personalise your memorial, so here are some suggestions to consider:

- ◇ A ceramic photograph embedded into the memorial plaque.
- ◇ Seasonal decorations or those that mark special occasions that are important to you.
- ◇ Letters, notes, and pictures written or drawn for your loved one.
- ◇ Items that fit safely and securely in vases or other containers.
- ◇ Small potted plants or flowers.

## LIGHTING & ILLUMINATION

Some members of the community like to use solar lights to illuminate their loved one's resting place. If using solar lights, please ensure that they are secured and not embedded into areas that are routinely maintained with grass-cutting equipment, as this can create a safety hazard for the groundkeepers.

Use of solar or other lighting in natural areas of the cemetery is not encouraged. Some people choose these natural areas as the resting place for their loved ones, with minimal or no adornment. We ask that all users respect the choices of others in these natural bushland areas when considering adornment.

## ITEMS OF VALUE OR IMPORTANCE

If an item is valuable, unique or of sentimental importance, consider taking it home with you after a visit. Weather, wildlife, vandalism or theft can cause items to be damaged or lost and it is not possible for RPCV to guarantee the safety of your adornments.



## CHOOSING ADORNMENT ITEMS

Whilst RPCV encourages the personalisation of memorials, we also have responsibilities and obligations in relation to the maintenance of parks and cemeteries and the safety of staff and the public. For this reason, we ask you to consider the following when choosing memorial tributes:

## RESPECTING NEIGHBOURING MEMORIALS

Please be aware of encroaching on the memorial or burial locations of neighbouring families. This can cause distress to neighbouring families.

## SAFETY FIRST

For safety reasons, we ask you to carefully consider the following items as memorial tributes:

- ◇ Glass, ceramic, fragile or breakable items. If these items are used, we ask that you check the site regularly and remove any broken or damaged items. This is particularly important on lawn sections where objects on the lawn can create a safety hazard for the grounds-staff during routine maintenance.

For safety reasons, we ask you to exclude the following items as memorial tributes:

- ◇ Tins or aluminium cans and empty glass bottles.
- ◇ Small items that may be accidentally ingested by a child.
- ◇ Bottles or cans of alcohol or other liquids that may be accidentally ingested by a child.
- ◇ Non-standard edging, curbing, stones, and bark on lawn areas.
- ◇ Metal or other spikes on lawn areas.
- ◇ Decorative pickets, fencing or border decorations on lawn areas.
- ◇ Open flames that are not supervised.



## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

For the benefit of all users of the remembrance parks, please consider the following:

- ◇ Decorations that may impede RPCV's ability to maintain the parks and cemeteries safely and efficiently. To assist with this, please place tributes on the concrete (headstone) sections of lawn cemetery graves and/or in receptacles on masonry graves whenever possible.
- ◇ Decorations that may perish or deteriorate due to weather exposure, e.g., soft toys. Please consider more durable alternatives where possible.
- ◇ Ornaments or decorations that may cause offence to other families or visitors.

## NATURAL AREAS

Some areas of the remembrance parks are deliberately left in a natural state to encourage native plant life and birds. Some people choose these natural areas as the resting place for their loved ones, with minimal or no adornment. We ask that all users respect the choices of others in these natural bushland areas when considering adornment.

# Scheduling & Removal Of Memorial Adornments

## SCHEDULED ADORNMENTS

RPCV recognises that people like to visit cemeteries on certain special days of the year. For this reason, RPCV will schedule and publish an annual calendar of key dates so that the community can decorate their loved one’s burial or memorial site in preparation for this special day.

Our aim is to ensure that all visitors have a positive experience when visiting the cemetery, so we ask for your help and cooperation in removing ‘special day’ adornments before they deteriorate.

See example schedule below for 2024. This annual schedule will help you to plan for any special events and ensure the safe removal of items that are not a permanent fixture on the memorial.

HOLIDAY (SEASON)	DATE 2024	DECORATING BEGINS DATE	DECORATION REMOVAL DATE
Australia Day	26 January	19 January	2 February
Valentine’s Day	14 February	7 February	21 February
Easter	29 March – 1 April	22 March	8 April
Anzac Day	25 April	18 April	2 May
Mother’s Day	5 May	28 April	12 May
Father’s Day	1 September	25 August	8 September
Remembrance Day	11 November	4 November	18 November
Christmas/New Year	25 Dec & 1 Jan	4 December	15 January 2025

RPCV also recognises that some people like to visit their loved one's burial or memorial site on other days of the year, which are unique to them. These include birthdays, anniversaries, religious holidays etc. For those who wish to decorate a loved one's resting place with a range of additional (or non-standard) adornments that help you to celebrate or remember your loved one on a special occasion, we ask that you decorate the site no more than 7 days prior to this date and remove the non-standard decorations from the site no more than 7 days after this date.

### **DISCRETIONARY CLEAN-UP**

The remembrance parks are maintained year-round to a standard that enables the whole community to visit a clean, safe, and tidy environment. As most tributes will weather and deteriorate over time, at some point these items may need to be removed as part of our routine maintenance and/or following a severe weather event.

RPCV maintenance teams may remove items that have withered, decomposed, deteriorated, or are broken and/or create a safety hazard for visitors or staff. Some items can become a safety risk to others when they break or get accidentally moved onto the lawn areas that are being maintained with grass cutting equipment. We will endeavour, whenever possible, to contact the relevant visitor(s) when an adornment has become unsafe or hazardous to discuss its temporary storage or removal.

### **FEEDBACK**

RPCV welcomes feedback on this Visitor Guide at any time.

Please visit [rpcv.org.au](http://rpcv.org.au) or call **1300 266 561** for more information.



