

Ecological Burial

Natural Death Advocacy Network (NDAN) here in Australia defines a natural burial as:

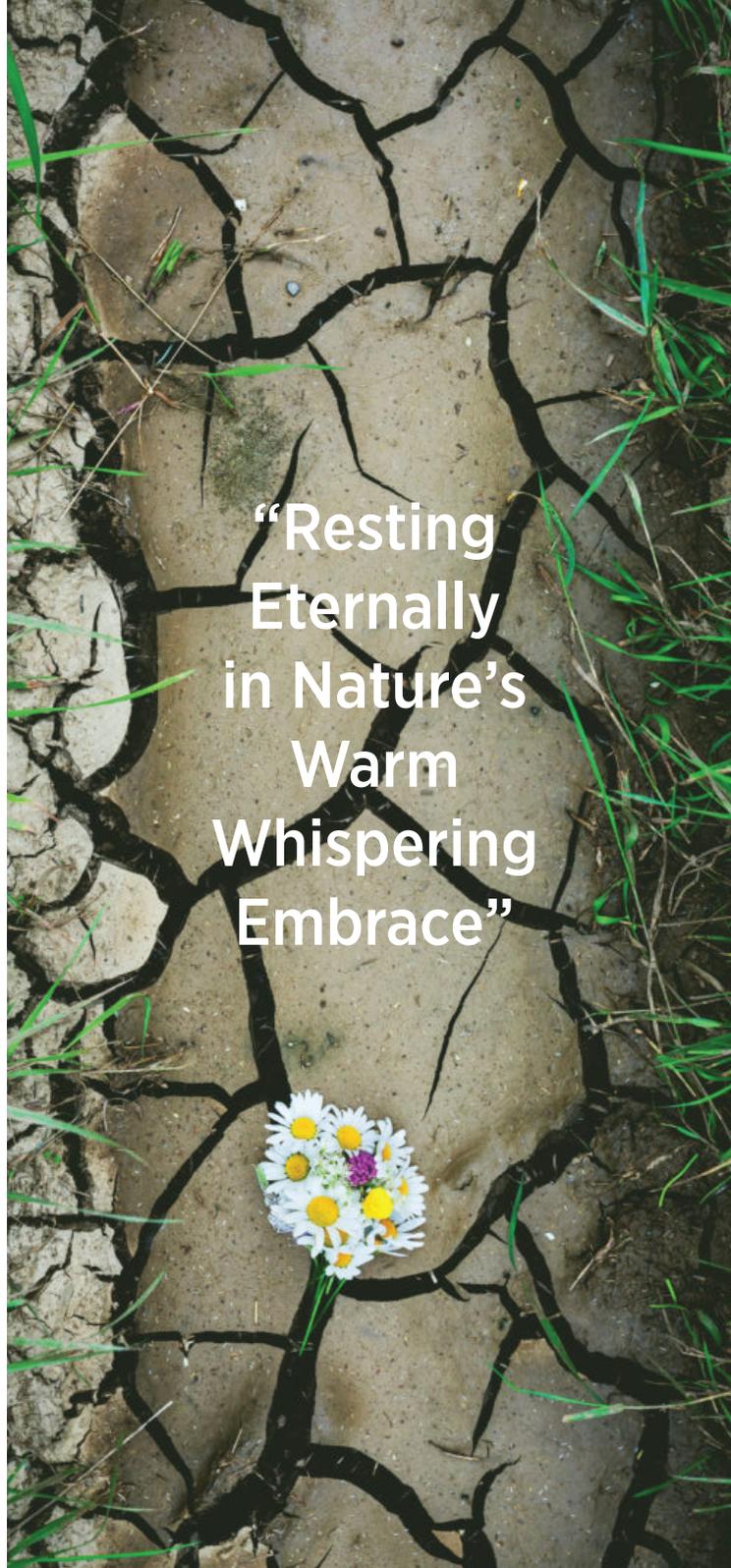
“The practice of burying a human body in the earth, in a manner that allows for natural decomposition with minimal impact on the surrounding ecosystem”.

Gippsland Memorial Park

Also believes an “ecological burial is a humanistically intimate, personal and caring farewell to a loved one that encourages the release of emotions and feelings of loss and love, whilst caring for the sensitivity of our environment. Incorporating elements of sustainability, biodiversity and simplicity”

Elements of an ecological burial:

- ▶ A shallower grave site adorned with real floral tributes (no artificial flowers or unnatural vessels)
- ▶ A burial shroud or biodegradable coffin houses the deceased for burial.
- ▶ The deceased is dressed in simple biodegradable clothing
- ▶ No heavy metals, or disinfectant chemicals are used: the deceased is washed in simple soaps and oils
- ▶ Embalming the deceased only when the law requires.
- ▶ Graves are marked by a small rock and a simple plaque
- ▶ The area maintains a belief of sustainability, giving back to the earth and nature’s touch



“Resting
Eternally
in Nature’s
Warm
Whispering
Embrace”

Gippsland Memorial Park Cemetery and Crematorium

“Whispering Gums”

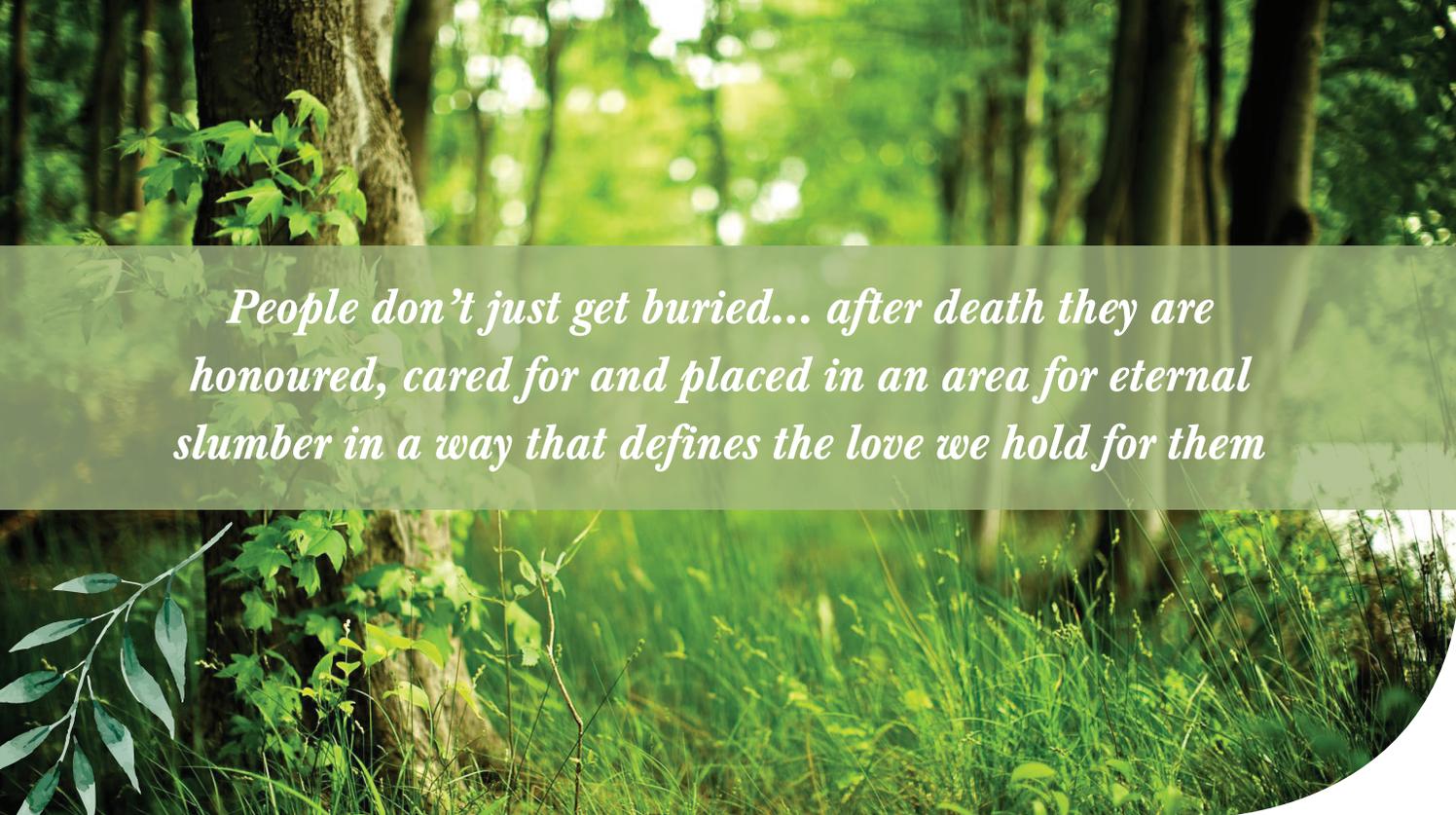
**Ecological Burial
and Cremation**



1 Cemetery Drive
Traralgon VIC 3844

Ph: 5174 9071

E: clients@gippslandmemorialpark.com



People don't just get buried... after death they are honoured, cared for and placed in an area for eternal slumber in a way that defines the love we hold for them

- ▮ *Ecological burial is a premium option for those wishing to experience the traditions of burial in a heartfelt natural humanistic way that will not do as much harm to the environment.*
- ▮ *Ecological cremation places emphasis on customs and Gippsland Memorial Park recognises the need for some cultures to attain peace through using customs akin to the beliefs of the deceased.*

Both ecological burial and cremation are offered to assist the family and friends with the trauma of death. The deceased may be bathed in simple soap and oil, they are lovingly tendered to by the Funeral Director and interred either in a grave that promotes rapid decomposition so as to benefit the soil or, in the case of cremation the ash remains are interred in a biodegradable vessel to ensure the soil's ecosystem and the roots of trees are not adversely impacted.



The Site

The Ecological burial site “Whispering Gums” is so called as it features a rare and gorgeous 400 plus year old Coastal Grey Gum specimen- home to many small insects and animals, its cool arching branches spanning many shady metres. To protect the roots of this eucalypt species all burials on site are singular and of shallower depth; all coffins or cremation urns are made of natural sustainable material (wicker, plantation pine, wood); all grave markings are smaller than traditionally used in cemetery grounds and beautiful real flowers placed as a floral tribute by loved ones are cut from real plants proving there is beauty after death in what nature has given and what she protects in her embrace.