

Fact Sheet

Decoding Historic Burial Registers Ipswich General Cemetery

The following information outlines how to access, navigate and interpret the historical burial registers for Ipswich General Cemetery from 1868 to 1979.

Available burial registers

Historic handwritten burial registers for Ipswich General Cemetery have been digitized and are available to view at Pictureipswich.com.au

Registers for the following date and burial number ranges are available for viewing online:

- [July 1868 to December 1889 \(1-4251\)](#)
- [January 1890 to January 1906 \(4252-7839\)](#)
- [March 1906 to January 1921 \(7828-10000 and A1-A2119\)](#)
- [January 1921 to January 1933 \(A2102-A5939\)](#)
- [January 1933 to October 1946 \(B1-B755\)](#)
- [October 1944 to January 1959 \(B1-B4870\)](#)
- [December 1959 to October 1979 \(B4863-B9999\)](#)

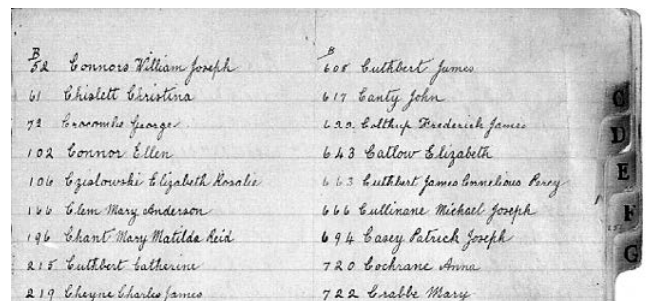
Burial numbers

Burial Markers, or pegs, were traditionally placed on each grave at the time of burial displaying the burial number.

Burial numbers commenced at 1 and continued to 10,000. Each new series thereafter was assigned a letter, e.g. A1 - A10,000, B1 - B10,000 and so on.

Navigating the registers

Each register begins with an alphabetical index. Names are recorded by surname in the order of burial. Burial numbers can be found within this index listing.



The remaining pages of the burial register are in burial number order. Using the burial number found in the index, the burial entry can be located to reveal information about the deceased which may include the name, age, religion, burial date, and the undertaker/ funeral director.

Some registers may also contain information about the applicant while others may show the location of the burial.

Did you know?

Ipswich General Cemetery was first established in the mid-1840s with current boundaries gazetted in 1887.

The site is approximately 14.6 hectares in area, which is approximately 3.6 acres, or two NRL football fields.

The cemetery has over 35,000 recorded burials and ashes placements.

Plot location information

Religious denominations have been in place since the cemetery was first established. However, the system of recording row and plot numbers was introduced sometime after. Headstone locations, where known, were later recorded within the burial registers, for example R1 G21 refers to Row 1, Grave 21.

The locations of many burials have been lost to time, particularly graves that did not have a headstone or where burial markers have been damaged, lost, stolen or relocated.

Notes within the burial registers provide additional information about the location of the burial. The following terms were used to describe the burial site:

- **Unselected** – plot location not chosen by family/funeral director. Often the next available plot within a religious section was used. For unmarked graves, referring to the date of death of nearby headstones can provide an approximation of the burial location.
- **Selected** – use of reserved plot. A related burial number may also be listed (e.g. Selected A5467).
- **Reopen** – subsequent burial to an existing plot with previous burial number listed (e.g. Reopen 7340).
- **9x4 or 9x8** – grave with an additional plot reserved to the North (NS) or South (SS). In most instances, the area was defined with a constructed surround (e.g. concrete edge or timber sleepers). In some sections these plots were constructed towards the ends of the section rows, or within specific rows. This has contributed to why there are apparent clusters of headstones and monuments along internal roadways and large open lawn areas containing unmarked graves.

IPSWICH GENERAL CEMETERY. 32				
Date of Burial	Name of Applicant	Date of Application	Name of Officiating Clergyman	Name of Undertaker
1947 April 29	Unselected 9x4 N.S. <i>Order 18-1924</i>			Reed
" 30	Reopen 7340 - Cement <i>Order 16-1905</i>			Reed
May 30	Unselected 9x4 N.S.			Dutton
" 1	Reopen A 812 Selected 5893-A1192-			Botcher
" 1	Selected A 5467			Reed

Websites and resources

Picture Ipswich

Pictureipswich.com.au

From the website homepage, open the 'Churches and Cemeteries' collection. Select the Ipswich General Cemetery tile to view further information, documents and historic imagery for the cemetery. Burial registers are located within the Handwritten Manuscripts topic.

Some of the information within the registers has been transcribed digitally through optical character recognition or entered manually by users of the site. This improves accessibility of information as any words, including for example names, become searchable. For information about editing or adding to transcribed information, refer to the Transcribing Manuscripts User Guide available from Picture Ipswich.

Ipswich Discover Ever After

ipswich.discovereverafter.com

Council has collated information from various historic databases into an online resource that may be useful for those completing family research or wanting to find burial location information. This is a free service that enables users to search for individuals by name, date of death or date of burial. This database is being expanded and refined as more information becomes available. Users are encouraged to report any omissions or errors to cemeteries@ipswich.qld.gov.au.

Family historic research service

Familyhistory.bdm.qld.gov.au

The Queensland Government provides a family history research service where users can search historical birth, death and marriage records registered in Queensland. The service classifies historical records as:

- births that took place more than 100 years ago
- marriages that took place more than 75 years ago
- deaths that occurred more than 30 years ago.

For births, deaths or marriages from other states and territories, refer to the relevant government department websites.

More information

For more information regarding historic burials contact cemeteries@ipswich.qld.gov.au