IDEAS FOR A FAREWELL

Where We Remember

Usual and unusual places for a memorial

REEDS & DRAGONFLY · CELEBRANCY BY ROSEMARY



A NOTE FROM ROSEMARY

A place that feels like them

A memorial can happen almost anywhere. Some families choose a chapel because it feels right and takes care of the details. Others gather at the beach at sunrise, in the back garden, or at the footy club where everyone knew their name.

There is no wrong answer. The best place is one that tells a little of their story, and where the people who loved them can be together comfortably.

Here are some ideas, from the familiar to the unexpected, and a few practical things to think about along the way.

THINGS TO WEIGH UP

- [ ] What the place meant to them
- [ ] How many people are coming
- [ ] Access for older guests and wheelchairs
- [ ] Weather, shade and a Plan B
- [ ] Sound: can everyone hear?
- [ ] Permissions and bookings
- [ ] Cost and what's included
- [ ] Time of day, tides and light

With warmth,
Rosemary



THE USUAL PLACES

Familiar and well supported

Easy to organise, with seating, sound and staff on hand.

Funeral home chapel

Comfortable and private, with the funeral director close by.

Usually has a screen and sound system.

Church or place of worship

Meaningful when faith was part of their life.

Check whether a non-religious celebrant can lead.

Crematorium or cemetery chapel

Everything in one place, often with gardens.

Time slots can be tight; ask how long you have.

Graveside

Simple, intimate and close to where they will rest.

Bring chairs and umbrellas for older guests.

Community hall

Roomy and affordable, with a kitchen for afterwards.

You may need to hire sound and chairs.

Club rooms

The RSL, bowls, sailing or sports club they loved.

Often has catering and a bar for the gathering.

Restaurant or function room

Ceremony and wake under one roof.

Book a private room for quiet.

The family home

Warm, personal and relaxed.

Think about parking, toilets and neighbours.



IN THE OPEN AIR

Under the sky

Botanic gardens

Beautiful and peaceful, with paths and shade.

Most need a booking and have set areas.

A local park

Familiar, free or low cost, close to home.

Ask the council about permits and numbers.

Beach or foreshore

For the swimmer, surfer or sunset walker.

Check tides and wind; bring a portable speaker.

River, lake or dam

Still water and a sense of peace.

Watch footing near the edge for older guests.

Bushland or national park

For the bushwalker or camper.

Parks often need permission for gatherings.

Farm or rural property

Wide open space, room for everyone.

Plan parking, toilets and a dust-free spot.

Their own garden

Among the plants they grew.

A gazebo or marquee makes a good Plan B.

A lookout

At sunrise or sunset, with the whole view.

Arrive early; light changes quickly.

THE UNUSUAL PLACES

Deeply personal

Sometimes the perfect place is the one that makes everyone say, "Of course."

Their favourite café or pub

Where they were a regular.

Golf course, bowling green or surf club

Their second home on weekends.

Their team's ground

Scarves and colours welcome.

Workshop, shed or studio

Surrounded by what they made.

On the water

From a boat, a jetty or a pier.

Winery, brewery or orchard

A toast among the vines or trees.

Theatre, gallery or music venue

For the performer or art lover.

A tree planting

A living memorial that keeps growing.

Dog park, paddock or stable

A farewell for a beloved animal.

A convoy or ride

The car club or motorbike mates, together.

Online

So family overseas can share the moment.

On a day that mattered

Their birthday, or a favourite season.

Making it work

Permissions and safety

- [ ] Book or get permission from the venue, council or park
- [ ] Check the local rules before scattering ashes
- [ ] A Plan B for rain, heat or wind
- [ ] Shade, seating and drinking water
- [ ] Toilets and parking nearby
- [ ] A clear path for wheelchairs and prams

Questions to ask a venue

- [ ] What does it cost, and what's included?
- [ ] How long can we have the space?
- [ ] Is there a microphone, speakers or a screen?
- [ ] Can we bring our own food and music?
- [ ] Is it accessible for everyone?
- [ ] Do you need us to have insurance?

Places that feel like them

Wherever feels like them,
I'll meet you there.

I'm happy to travel to where you and your family are in the metro area, from a chapel to a back garden to the beach at dawn.

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