

Methodist cemeteries in New Zealand

A list compiled by the Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

The origins of this list came from a query by Murray Lynn who wanted to know the names of Methodist cemeteries throughout New Zealand for inclusion on his website. Our first question was – how do you define a Methodist cemetery?

We have called a Methodist cemetery, one that was originally associated with a specific Methodist Church. The term “Methodist” is used to cover the names of the branches of what is now the Methodist Church: Wesleyan, Primitive Methodist, Bible Christian, and United Methodist Free Churches.

This excludes public cemeteries, which in the nineteenth century, were set out in denominational areas. Often there was what was called a Wesleyan or Dissenters or Non-conformist area, for those of religious denominations other than Anglican (Church of England) or Roman Catholic.

In this list, we have included the original name of the Methodist church that the cemetery was attached to.

Names of cemeteries have changed over the years, and are often known locally by colloquial names rather than their proper name. Confusion over names has also arisen when the New Zealand Society of Genealogists started transcribing inscriptions on headstones – the information was sometimes sent to the Society using the locally known name rather than the correct name.

Many records relating to burials in the cemeteries in this list have been lost. Where original records are known to survive, this is noted in the notes column, along with the current administrators or owners of the cemetery, if known.

The Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives preserves the records of Methodist parishes and churches within the Parish Archives Collection. Lists of these records are published on the Methodist Church website www.methodist.org.nz under the Archives section of the site. Any surviving burial records or plot plans, which survive in their original form are included in this list.

Copies of information or lists are included in our cemeteries file. Copies of information held in the file can be purchased. In many cases, the only information surviving is the headstone transcripts compiled by members of the New Zealand Genealogical Society and this is noted.

If a parish no longer administers a Methodist cemetery, in most cases the cemetery now belong to the relevant local council. When councils took over responsibility for cemeteries, the burial records were handed over at that time. In some cases, this is why there are no records held in the Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives.

Current name of cemetery	Alternative names or original names	Address	Notes	Information held in Methodist Archives' Methodist cemeteries file:
Bridge Street Methodist Cemetery	Lower Hutt Methodist Church Cemetery Laings Road Methodist Church cemetery	Corner Bridge Street and Marsden Street, Lower Hutt, Wellington	Owned by Lower Hutt District Council. Contact the Council for burial records. Wesleyan Cemetery deed registered 1869. Cemetery closed to those other than Wesleyan 1887. 1901 cemetery closed and transferred to Council. (Olsson p117). 1927 church becomes Laings Road Methodist Church.	Copy of headstone transcripts and list of burials compiled by Alison Carey in 1987
Flat Bush Methodist Cemetery	Chapel Road Methodist Cemetery. East Tamaki Methodist Church Cemetery	Chapel Road, East Tamaki, Auckland	Contact Pakuranga Methodist Church. Sexton's records lost after cemetery closed in 1972.	Copy of plan of cemetery giving plot numbers. List of names of those buried in cemetery compiled by Merv Walsh, 2000
Henui Primitive Methodist Burial Ground	Fitzroy Methodist Church Cemetery	Fitzroy, New Plymouth, Taranaki	This burial ground is located at the Fitzroy Methodist Church. Administered by the New Plymouth Methodist Parish	Copy of plaque erected by New Plymouth Methodist Parish in June 1999 acknowledging names of those buried in cemetery

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Homedale Methodist Cemetery	Coast Road Wesleyan Church Cemetery. Wainuiomata Methodist Coast Road Church Cemetery Homedale Methodist Cemetery	Coast Road, Wainuiomata, Wellington	Owned by Council. 1863 Coast Road Methodist Church opened. 1870 first burials in cemetery. 1932 plan and register of cemetery prepared and paths laid down. Wainuiomata Methodist Coast Road Trust controls cemetery. 1958 cemetery closed except for relatives. Trust dissolved 1966 (Trust minutes held Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington) (Olsson p 221-222) Other denominations buried in cemetery (Alexander p16). Information about those buried in the cemetery is in <i>The history of Wainuiomata's Coast Road Church and cemetery</i> by Vicky Alexander	Copy of burial index and plot plan
Hurdon Methodist Cemetery	New Plymouth Primitive Methodist Church Cemetery	Tukapa Street, New Plymouth, Taranaki	A Primitive Methodist Church was erected in on that site, and moved to Inglewood in 1872. Earliest burial 1960, latest 1975. (Headstone transcripts preface). Burial information can be obtained from the New Plymouth Council.	Headstone transcripts. 2 photographs of cemetery ca 1980s
Johnsonville Methodist Church Cemetery		Norman Lane, Johnsonville, Wellington	Copy of burial register held in Wellington Public Library. 1874 Johnsonville Wesleyan Church Trust formed, burial grounds fenced off. Plots of 9 ft x 9 ft were £4 and burials cost £1. 1937 all cemetery plots taken. (Olsson p 93-94)	Copy of burial register compiled by Colin Green

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Kaukapakapa Methodist Church Cemetery	Kaukapakapa Wesleyan Cemetery	21 Shanks Road, Kaukapakapa, Helensville, Northland	Kaukapakapa Methodist Church was built in 1864, and the first recorded burial in the cemetery is 1864. Other denominations are also buried in this cemetery. The cemetery became the de facto public cemetery for the area. The original burial register was destroyed in a fire. Helensville Pioneer Museum also holds a copy of the burial register.	Copy of burial register and headstone transcripts
Mangati Road Methodist Cemetery		Mangati Road, Bell Block, Taranaki	Administered by the Bell Block and Lepperton Co-op Parish. Previously administered by Powderham Street Property Trust.	Copy of headstone transcripts. 3 photographs of site of cemetery
Mangungu Methodist Mission Station Cemetery	Mangungu Wesleyan Mission Station Cemetery	Hokianga, Northland	The Mangungu Mission Cemetery has a public cemetery adjoining it. First burials took place in 1828 and it was closed in 1905. (Church, p1). No burial records known to have survived for the Mission Cemetery.	Copy of essay "History in a graveyard. Mangungu Cemetery, Hokianga: 1829-1982" by Ian Church. Copy of sketch plan of cemetery.
Mauriceville North Methodist Church Cemetery		340 North Road, Mauriceville, Wellington	Cemetery administered by Mauriceville North Church Trust. The Mauriceville North Methodist Church was opened on 9 July 1881. The burials date from 1882-1987. Burial records have been lost.	Copy of headstone transcripts
Okaihau Methodist Church Cemetery		Okaihau Horeke Main Highway, Okaihau, Northland	Cemetery alongside the Okaihau Church and fallen into disuse. Cemetery Reserve transferred to the Bay of Islands Council in 1961. No records of burials known to survive. A handwritten sketch plan giving some names was compiled in 1959 by Rev Silvester from information supplied by Mr Anderson.	Closed property file for Okaihau Church and Cemetery, (Administration Division closed files) which includes sketch of plan and correspondence re transfer of reserve

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Pa Street Methodist Cemetery	Pah Street Methodist Cemetery. Motueka Wesleyan Church Cemetery	Pa Street, Motueka, Nelson	Owned and managed by Ngati Rarua Atiawa Iwi Trust. Site of the first Motueka Wesleyan church. Memorial stone in the cemetery records those buried there.	Photograph of memorial stone. Copy of headstone transcripts
Pakuranga Methodist Church Cemetery	Old Pakuranga Methodist Cemetery	337-339 Pakuranga/Howick Highway, Auckland	The Methodist Church was moved on to the site ca 1906. The Church was sold to the Historic Places Trust, who moved it back to Howick in 1977. The land is now under the jurisdiction of the Auckland City Council	Copy of headstone transcripts
Paparoa Methodist Church Cemetery		Hook Road, Paparoa, Northland		Copy of headstone transcripts held. Paparoa Parish Cemetery Trust minute book 1906-1956 held Auckland Methodist Archives
Raithby Methodist Church Cemetery		132 Chapel Road, North Loburn, Canterbury	Sold by the Rangiora Methodist Parish in 2002, now in private hands.	Plot plan held in the Methodist Archives Christchurch. Copy of headstone transcripts held. Booklet "Raithby Methodist Cemetery" held
Rangiora Methodist Church Cemetery		156 Ashley Street, Rangiora, Canterbury	Administered by the Rangiora Methodist Parish. Early Methodist burials also in East Belt Cemetery, Rangiora. Burials date from 1877 and the cemetery is still in use.	Copy of headstone transcripts. Copy of <i>Records of Methodist Cemetery Ashley Street, Rangiora May 2005</i> (original in Rangiora Parish office).
Rapaura Methodist Church Cemetery	Rapaura Methodist Cemetery	Corner of Wratts Road and Rapaura Road, Blenheim, Marlborough	Administered by Rapaura Church. Burials date from 1885-1977	Copy of typescript list of burials

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Southbridge Methodist Church Cemetery	Leeston Methodist Church Cemetery	Bishop's Corner, Leeston/Rakaia Road, Southbridge, Canterbury	Owned by Selwyn District Council.	Copy of headstone transcripts. Note of two burials in 1871 and 1872 copied from the Springston Methodist church baptism register 1871-189, our ref B205
Swannanoa Methodist Church Cemetery		Tram Road, Rangiora, Canterbury	Owned by Rangiora District Council. Opened in 1874 behind the Swannanoa Methodist Church. Burials 1878-1980	Copy of headstone transcripts
Te Kopua Methodist Mission Station		Cannon's Road, Pirongia, Northland		No information held about burials.
Te Uku	Moon Memorial Church Methodist Cemetery. Te Uku Methodist Trust Cemetery	Main Road, Te Uku (near State Highway 23, Raglan), Waikato	Administered by Te Uku Methodist Cemetery Trust	Copy of list of those buried in cemetery
Te Waitere Methodist Mission Station	Kawhia Wesleyan Home Mission Station	Te Waitere Road, Kawhia, Northland	Owned by Te Taha Maori Trust Board, Methodist Church of New Zealand in 2005. <i>160 years of Methodism at Kawhia</i> records there are only two graves there: Charles Wood and John Whiteley	No information held about burials
Weedons Methodist Church Cemetery		Cnr Maddisons and Weedons Ross Roads, Weedons, Canterbury	Owned by Selwyn District Council	Plan of cemetery, list of those buried in cemetery, records of the Friends of Weedons Cemetery 1988-2006 (Personal Papers and Historical Records Collection)

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Westney Road Methodist Church Cemetery		Cnr Ihumatoa Road and George Bolt Memorial Drive, Auckland	Cemetery closed for extension to Auckland Airport runway, remains exhumed and majority re-buried in the Mangere Lawn Cemetery	Copy of report to the New Zealand Historic Places Trust which includes details of those buried in cemetery plus images of headstones downloaded from www.cfgheritagbe.com Copy of headstone transcripts, list of those buried in cemetery
Withells Road Cemetery	Yaldhurst Methodist Cemetery	27 Withells Road, Christchurch, Canterbury	See <i>New Zealand Journal of Archaeology</i> 11:5-22.1989 "Historical Records or Archaeological Fact? – The Withells Road Cemetery" by Bev McCulloch and Michael Trotter. Associated with St Stephens Methodist Church	Copy of the <i>Methodist Church Withells Road cemetery empowering act 1981</i> . <i>New Zealand Journal of Archaeology</i> 11:5-22.1989
Woodend Methodist Church Cemetery		Main North Road, Woodend, Canterbury	Owned and managed by Woodend Church (Rangiora Methodist Parish). This cemetery is still in use	Copy of headstone transcripts. Copy of burial register compiled by Mr John Judson and plot plan drawn by Mr John Judson (originals at Woodend Church)
Woodside Methodist Church Cemetery		Wiri Station Road, Wiri, Manukau, Auckland	Owned by Auckland Council	Copy of list of burials

Burials previously associated with a Methodist Church

Ebenezer Garden (not a cemetery)	Stoke Methodist Church Cemetery	Corner Main Road, Songer Street, and Bail Street, Stoke, Nelson	Owned by Nelson Council. Memorial stone listing names of those who were buried there is within Ebenezer Garden	Photograph of site provided by Murray Lynn
Karori Methodist Church Burials (not a cemetery)		Karori Road and Beauchamp Street, Wellington	Bodies buried beside the Church reinterred in the Karori Public Cemetery	

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References

- Alexander, Vicky. *The history of Wainuiomata's Coast Road Church and cemetery*. Wainuiomata Historical Museum Society, 1997.
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- New Zealand Journal of Archaeology* 11:5-22.1989 "Historical Records or Archaeological Fact? – The Withells Road Cemetery" by Bev McCulloch and Michael Trotter
http://www.localgovt.co.nz/site/Recource_Library/activities_services/services/cemeteries/Cemeteries_Search_Models.aspx as at 15 March 2012
- <http://nzcemetery.kiwicelts.com/index.html> a database of New Zealand cemeteries compiled by Murray Lynn
- <http://www.genealogy.org.nz> site of the New Zealand Genealogical Society

Up-to-date contact information for New Zealand Methodist churches and parishes can be found on the Methodist Church of New Zealand website www.methodist.org.nz

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