

Thank you Loranda and Krista for helping our family arrange and conduct a Scattering of Ashes for our Mum and Dad.

When it was suggested that we consider placing the ashes of our parents into the ground next to a pillar and a tree in the Scatter Garden, we were a little unsure of what that would be like for their final resting place. It turned out to be just what we were looking for!

We were pleased to find the Scatter Garden is in a quiet area towards the back of the cemetery amongst established trees.

The ten, tall memorial timber pillars of Ironbark erected in this area look like sentinels on guard. Next to each pillar is a native koala habitat tree. Out of the four trees planted, we choose the Tallowwood tree to watch over our parents. Koalas, birds and bees will eventually visit the tree, something our dad would have enjoyed watching.

Each pillar has room for ten bronze memorial plaques. Although small, everything we wanted to say fitted easily. Even their favourite scripture verse. And their plaques are placed next to each other on the pillar, which is rather sweet as Mum and Dad enjoyed sitting next to each reading or knitting for many years.

Knowing that our parents were, literally, together in their final resting place was very heart warming. The actual Memorial ceremony was simple yet meaningful: careful emptying of the ashes into the prepared hole in the ground; a small trowel so each person present could place earth over where the ashes were interred; some prayers, scripture verses; a short eulogy; a blown kiss to them both; a last touch of the earth above where they lay; some hugs and tears; and a final 'goodbye' and 'I love you'.

Knowing that Mum and Dad are together in a beautiful, natural setting gives us peace to now move forward in our own lives.