

Burial records dating back to 1891 at Karori Cemetery, and 1965 at Makara Cemetery, are available for public viewing at the Karori Cemetery office. The office also holds records dating back to 1849 of interments at Bolton Street Memorial Park. The cemetery holds records for 151,409 people who have been interred or cremated. Historic take up rates for Bolton Street, Karori and Makara are shown in Table 11.

#### 8.4 Issues

Makara Cemetery is one third full there is a need to begin thinking about planning for new areas in terms of planting, road access and services.

One key area that impacts on the level of service experienced by visitors to the Karori Cemetery, and possibly in the future for Makara, is gravesite maintenance. Under Council Bylaws, it is not Council's responsibility to maintain gravesites. This responsibility rests with either the person who has purchased a plot in advance, or representatives or successors in perpetuity of the person buried therein.

Unfortunately a combination of neither party (individuals or Council) carrying out their responsibilities to the necessary extent has led to difficulties with access and loss of gravesite integrity at Karori Cemetery. This is a cause for concern to the community.



Non-maintained vaults, headstones and gravesite structures can be removed by the Council. In situations where there is no 'next-of-kin' there is a gap in terms of maintenance responsibility. In this case the Council accept it has a role to play. It is not appropriate to allow the area to remain overgrown and regenerate to a more natural state.

#### 8.5 Present Situation

All burials are carried out in accordance with the BCA 1964.

The Cemeteries must approve the casket before cremation. Caskets must be made of combustible material and the contents must comply with Crematorium guidelines to ensure safety and environmental responsibility.

Karori cemetery

The only plots available now at Karori Cemetery are pre-purchased ash or family plots, and children’s plots. If a member of the family is buried at Karori, further interments in the grave are allowed. Potentially thousands of plots could be used in this manner.

Figure 15 shows interments at Karori (1891-2003) and Makara Cemeteries (1965-2003). The decreasing trend for interments over the past 20 years is due to cremation being more socially acceptable, a decrease in the national death rate, many elderly moving away from Wellington to retire and the high proportion of transient people buried at their birthplace outside of Wellington.

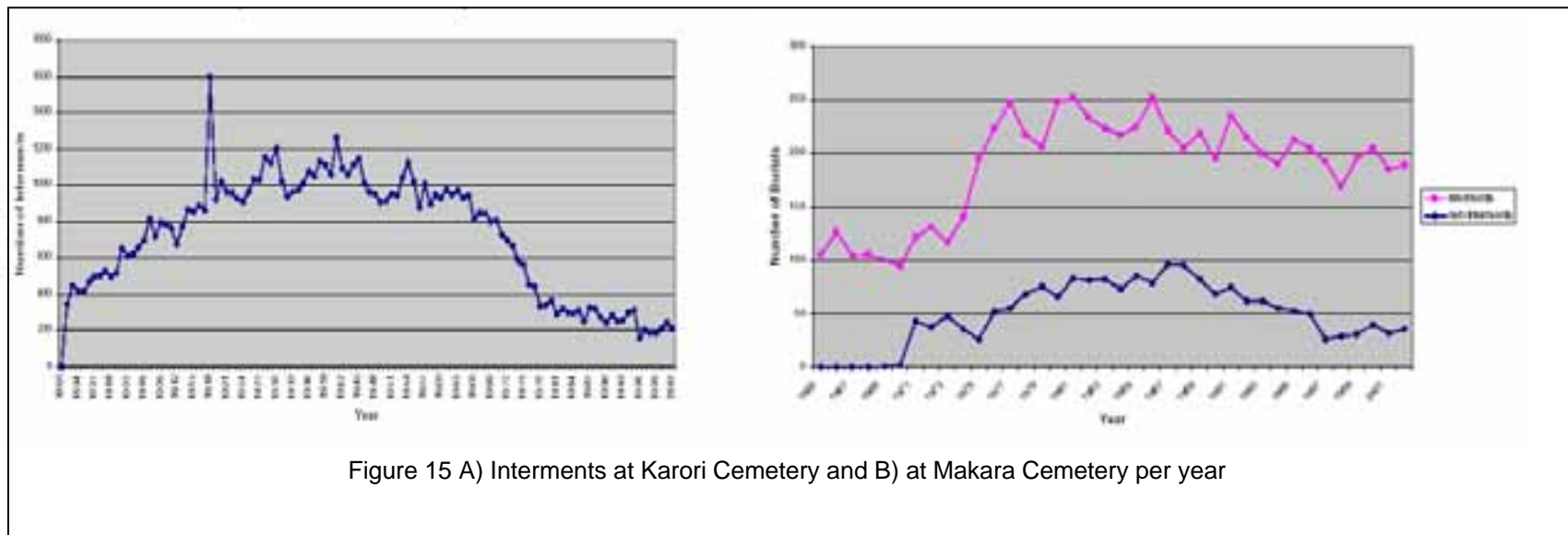


Figure 15 A) Interments at Karori Cemetery and B) at Makara Cemetery per year

Cremation numbers at Karori Cemetery have dropped due to increased competition within the cremation market as funeral directors have opened private cremators (there are two private crematory in Wellington; Harbour City Funeral Home and Lychgate Funeral Service). It is predicted that rates of interment will continue at much the same levels in the immediate future, but will slowly decline due to the finite number of available plots.

At current rates of use Makara Cemetery will cater for demand well into the future.