

# BY HEART

A MEMORIAL SERVICE CAN BE THE PERFECT WAY TO FAREWELL A LOVED ONE.

**M**emorial services have become more and more common in many countries, and in a way are a sign of the times.

The Memorial Service is often held within a week of the death. These days, however, it can even be postponed for a long period of time for the sake of the family's convenience.

This may be the case especially if mourners must travel a great distance to attend.

The memorial service itself is more informal than a funeral, and people can mix and mingle and exchange recollections of the deceased.

Realise, too, that the occasion honours the deceased and is a chance to celebrate his or her life.

Some friends and/or family members speak; music may be included. Often times a jazz band or a folk singer could play at a memorial service.

## **MEMORIAL SERVICE LOCATION**

Memorial services may be held in any location. Many people choose locations with personal significance, such as a favourite beach, park, or family home, or locations that can accommodate a large group, such as a religious place of worship, a favourite restaurant, a banquet hall, or other event space.

If you will be following any religious traditions, you may want to hold the memorial service at your place of worship.

## **MEMORIAL SERVICE FEATURES**

There is no formal structure to a memorial service. As with a traditional funeral, people may participate in the memorial service in many different ways, including delivering readings or prayers, singing songs or playing musical instruments, or sharing a memory of the person who died.

If you will be having a religious service, there may be a religious structure that you'll follow.

These days, the family often supplies the Memorial Home director with many photos of key events in the deceased's life and the Director adds a music bed and prepares a DVD which runs during the service or at the wake/reception.

## **THE GOALS OF A EULOGY**

Eulogies are meant to remember the person who died in a positive light and offer an opportunity to speak about who the deceased was and the ways in which he or she made a

difference in the lives of family, friends, and his or her community.

It is very common that eulogies are given at a memorial service.

## **WHO CAN DELIVER A EULOGY**

Family members, friends, clergy, and/or celebrants often give eulogies. For many people, writing and delivering a eulogy is a deeply emotional experience, and though it can be a positive experience for some, it can be too difficult for others.

If you feel you cannot deliver a eulogy at the funeral, ask other family members or close friends if they would like to; there is no shame in passing on the opportunity to deliver the eulogy.

## **POST-MEMORIAL SERVICE RECEPTION**

After the memorial service, it is common to have a reception, which can be held at a funeral home, religious place of worship, a family home, or another location that can accommodate all those who attended the service.

A reception or gathering after a memorial service is a good opportunity for people to spend time together and remember the person who died.

Memorial services often bring people

together who may not have seen each other in some time, and a reception also provides an opportunity for people to reconnect and reflect.

After nearly two decades in Katoomba, Brownjohn Family Funerals changed its name to TR Brownjohn Memorial Home.

Tom Brownjohn is prepared to offer his services including catering and flowers anywhere from Penrith to Lithgow. As he says, "...it's time we had a talk."

*Please give him a call at 02 4782 2613*

