



Media release

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## Cemetery Records Now Online

A new online cemeteries database is up and running on the Selwyn District Council's website which will help people research their family history.

The database has been in the pipeline for six years and is now available for public use.

Selwyn Records Team Leader Robyn Mills says it acts as an electronic record for cemeteries in the district and will digitally preserve Selwyn's history.

"Council burial registers can hold valuable information for family history research, and although there are thousands of headstones in the district, most of them have never been documented in an easily accessible place," says Miss Mills.

The database is up to date with records from more than 10,000 individuals from the 19 public cemeteries in the Selwyn district. It includes information about their burial site and dates.

Miss Mills says council staff has been working to provide a comprehensive family history database for grave records that everyone can access.

"In the past, it has been a lengthy process for people to find out about their family history and where they may be buried, but now they can search for a name, burial place or date to pin point exactly where their family members are," she says.

"It also means it is a more streamlined process for staff to access information from one database rather than go back and forth between various hard copies. This database is a great time saver both for us and the public," adds Miss Mills.

Work has also started on photographing headstones in the cemeteries.

"Over time the lettering of the headstones can become unreadable, so now is the time to preserve them. We are starting to compile photos of headstones to add to the database," says Miss Mills.

To search the cemetery database, visit [www.selwyn.govt.nz/cemsearch](http://www.selwyn.govt.nz/cemsearch).

Ends

*Image attached: Weedons cemetery is one of the 19 public cemeteries people can now search the records of through the new online database.*

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