

Adding a personal touch - how to make funerals more authentic

TIP SHEET 4

There are endless ways you can add your own ideas to make a farewell memorable and reflect the lifetime and personality of the person who has died.

Here are some suggestions to think about:

- Create a colourful photo board to welcome guests when they arrive
- Show a life story through a DVD photo and music presentation
- Make a memorabilia display of personal items
- Decorate the coffin – with handprints, special messages, signatures
- Have a custom built Enviroboard LifeArt coffin – personalised with photos or scenery of your choice
- Bring your family pet to the ceremony
- Form a guard of honour
- Ask team mates or club members to come dressed in uniform or club colours
- Drive past the family home on the way to the cemetery or crematorium
- Release doves or balloons or butterflies
- Video the ceremony or have it streamed to interstate and overseas family
- Keep a lock of hair
- Consider the time of day for the ceremony – perhaps a candlelit twilight service followed by a cocktail party is more reminiscent of the person
- Live musicians – bagpipes, harp, singer, jazz band
- Military honours – RSL tribute with poppies and Last Post included in the ceremony
- Have take home mementos for guests - bookmarks or photo cards or even a favourite recipe
- Theme our chapel with a favourite colour and decorate with it personal effects
- Ask guests to wear a special colour or hat or tie – something that reflects the person's style or character
- Create an online memorial on Heavenaddress.com – invite family and friends to add their own tributes and photos
- Choose a venue that reflects the person's life – golf club, garden, beach, or the backyard at home