

# All about Jewish cemeteries and burial records

## 1. Useful scripts

נ " פ

nun peh = po nikbar = here lies

ט פ

tet peh = po tamun = here is hidden

ת . נ . צ . ב . ה

May his/her soul be bound up in the bond of life

## 2. Hebrew names

Four parts:

Given name	son of/ daughter of	Patronymic	Tribe
Gershon	ben בן	Raphael	haLevi
Ruchel	bat בת	Mordechai	haCohen

## 3. Tribes

\* 12 sons of Jacob → 12 tribes of Israel

- \* Levis descend from Levi – assist the Cohens – haLevi הלוי
- \* Cohens descend from Levi's son Aaron – priests who once served in the Temple  
- haCohen הכהן
- \* Israelites – everyone else

## 4. Tombstone symbols

- \* Pair of hands in priestly blessing – Cohen
- \* Water pitcher with/without washing hands – Levite
- \* Harp/Lyre – often Levite but can also be for musician/composer
- \* Crown – someone who is esteemed – a king/queen among people
- \* Torah scroll – maybe a rabbi, reader, or a person learned in torah
- \* Lion(s) – person named Yehudah/Judah/Lieb etc.
- \* Deer – person named Hirsh/Zvi/Naftali
- \* Bird(s) – person named Feige/Tziporah

For many more examples see:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Symbols\\_on\\_Jewish\\_gravestones](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Symbols_on_Jewish_gravestones)

## 5. Cemetery records

### Specific Jewish burial indexes

- \* The *Beverley Davis Burial Database* (the BD-BD) is the most comprehensive Jewish burial database for Australia and New Zealand. It has information about Jewish burials at all cemeteries within Australasia and Oceania plus Australian War Graves. It sometimes lacks information for burials where there is no headstone, it lacks recent burials for many cemeteries, and some sections in some cemeteries (e.g. Karrakatta in WA) seem to have been overlooked. <http://ajhs.info/cemetery/>
- \* The *Jewish Cemetery Rookwood* has a searchable index to the burials in Sydney's largest Jewish cemetery at Rookwood. <http://www.rookwoodjewishcemetery.com.au/>
- \* The *Melbourne Chevra Kadisha* has its records online, though what they have placed on the JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) is more detailed. Inexplicably, a search produces different results between the two databases, so check both. <http://www.mck.org.au/search>
- \* JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) – a growing compendium of worldwide Jewish burials. <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/index.asp>

## Online indexes for Australian cemeteries with Jewish sections (not exhaustive)

### NSW

- \* Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park: <http://www.easternsuburbsmemorialpark.com.au/finding-loved-ones>
- \* Frenchs Forest: <http://northerncemeteries.com.au/frenchs-forest/deceased-search/>
- \* Macquarie Park: <https://northerncemeteries.com.au/macquarie-park/deceased-search/>
- \* Sandgate Cemetery (Newcastle area): <https://northerncemeteries.com.au/sandgate/deceased-search/>
- \* Woronora Cemetery: <http://www.woronoracemetery.org.au/finding-loved-ones>

### VIC

- \* Fawkner Cemetery <http://www.gmct.com.au/deceased-search.aspx>
- \* Geelong Cemetery <http://www.gct.net.au/deceased-search/>
- \* Springvale & St Kilda cemeteries: <http://sbc.smct.org.au/deceasedsearch>

### WA

- \* Perth and Fremantle cemeteries: <http://www2.mcb.wa.gov.au/NameSearch/search.php>

### SA

- \* Centennial Park cemetery: <http://www.centennialpark.org/memorial-search/>
- \* West Terrace and Cheltenham cemeteries: <http://www.aca.sa.gov.au/Records>

### QLD

- \* Brisbane metropolitan cemeteries: <http://tinyurl.com/brisgraves>

### Some International Indexes

- \* **Austria:** GenTeam: <https://www.genteam.eu>
- \* **China:** Hong Kong Jewish Burials: <https://jhshk.org/community/the-jewish-cemetery/burial-list/>  
Shanghai: Jewish Burials: [http://www.shanghaijewishmemorial.com/index\\_1.htm](http://www.shanghaijewishmemorial.com/index_1.htm)
- \* **Czech Republic:** Southern Moravia Jewish Burials: <http://cemeteries.jewishbrno.eu/>
- \* **England:** United Synagogue Burials: <https://www.theus.org.uk/category/find-grave>
- \* **Israel:** Haifa Cemeteries: <http://kdh.org.il/regular-serch/> (in Hebrew)  
Petach Tikva cemetery: <http://www.sgula.org/> (in Hebrew)  
Tel Aviv cemetery: <http://www.kadisha.biz/> (in Hebrew)
- \* **Scotland:** Scottish Jewish Cemeteries: <http://www.scottishjewishcemeteries.org/>

## 6. Other death-related resources

- *Ryerson Index* – to newspaper death notices (1830s to present day)  
<http://ryersonindex.org/search.php>
- Obituaries Australia – mainly people of note <http://oa.anu.edu.au/>
- Genealogy indexer – Includes Yizkor books and *Neue Freie Presse* death notices  
<http://genealogyindexer.org/>
- *Aufbau* indexing project – journal for German-speaking Jews – many death notices  
<http://calzareth.com/aufbau/search.html>

## 7. If you need assistance

### Australian Jewish Genealogical Society

Website: <http://www.ajgs.org.au>

Email: [society@ajgs.org.au](mailto:society@ajgs.org.au)

**AJGen** – <http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/AJGen/> post your queries about Australian Jewish genealogy – see AJGS webpage for how to join.

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### AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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