

Why can't I locate my New Zealand ancestor's place of burial?

The importance of the 1882 Cemeteries Act

David Verran, local history librarian and team leader

Central Auckland Research Centre, Auckland Libraries

The 1882 Cemeteries Act

- **Section 57.** *All burials within any cemetery or burial-ground shall be registered in a book or register to be provided and kept for that purpose by the Trustees or Managers of such cemetery or burial-ground respectively, and such register shall be distinguished in what parts of the cemetery or burial ground the several bodies are buried, and a proper description of every grave shall be given, so that the situation thereof can be ascertained; and such register shall be indexed so as to facilitate searches for entries therein, Every register shall be open for inspection at all reasonable hours in the day-time upon payment of a fee of one shilling for every such inspection.*

The 1882 Cemeteries Act

- **PRIVATE BURIALS.** [With exceptions]
- *Section 83. It shall not be lawful to inter any body upon any land whatsoever not being a cemetery or burial-ground or burial-vault if there shall be any such cemetery or burial-ground or burial-vault within five miles of the place where the death shall have taken place, or of the place whence such body shall be taken for the purpose of being interred.*
- *Every person who shall offend against the provisions of this section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds.*