**Lyle Schnadt  - Agreement Concerning the First Burial on the Findhorn Hinterland**

Lyle Schnadt was buried on 15th December 2002. Terms of that agreement were arranged before his death between Lyle and Jonathan Caddy, at that time a Director of Duneland Ltd who owned the land.

Lyle understood that his burial might be the first of many at a site now called 'the dell' in the Hinterland dunes north of the Universal Hall. At the time it was seen as a possible location for a community burial ground that was later located in Wilkie’s Woods. The latter is now the official green burial site with full planning permission for this activity.



Lyle's was the first permitted burial to be applied for by Duneland Ltd with Moray Council. It was a single application because the idea for a community burial ground was in early stages. He understood then that a man named Kevin had also been interred there, but Jonathan sent this correction: ‘…there had been an enquiry when Kevin Fahey, Clancey's dad, died of a heart attack but after consideration Duneland did not let this go ahead.  He is buried at Clach Toll graveyard by the River Findhorn and his gravestone along with a few other deceased Findhorn friends can be seen there.’ Scottish law permits the burial of up to two bodies on a piece of land as long as certain conditions are fulfilled. Picture clipping

In 2002, young trees had already been planted in the dell and special lichens were growing there that were later surveyed professionally. This and other areas of Hinterland were already seen as special. Lyle believed that, even if permission wasn’t granted for it to become a burial ground, his grave would always be in a lovely undeveloped setting kept clear of gorse to conserve its unusual environment. The trees growing up around his gravesite have subsequently been called Lyle’s Wood to commemorate him.

A natural stone from River Findhorn was engraved as a headstone. This was agreed with Jonathan Caddy at the time although all subsequent burials on Duneland land are not marked. The grave was intended to blend in with the dell’s natural state and Theresa MacGillivray planted heathers on it with that in mind. The engraved stone is only noticeable to those looking for it. A small path to the grave was also needed due to encroachment of gorse. For a number of years, John Atkinson of Burghead tended the young trees until 2008, when he had to stop due to ill health.

No one predicted or expected the dell to need gorse-clearing or grave maintenance. The vision was for an ongoing natural place with special lichens and heathers thriving under maturing trees. No obligation was placed upon Lyle’s descendants to do grave maintenance or other work on Duneland lands in exchange for his burial. Nor was he asked to pay funeral or other costs as it was felt he had contributed greatly to the community. His undertaker was paid by his Men’s Group, many things were spontaneously undertaken by people who wanted to help and the coffin was made by Lyle and Craig Gibsone using wood from crates for solar panels Lyle had invented and sold through one of the few small businesses he had started. The stone was found, lifted, carried and transported to the engraver by daughter Sara, Ian Turnbull, and Elizabeth. The same friends who hand-dug his grave did the funeral procession and covering over. The memorial in the Hall and burial were planned, attended and witnessed by the entire community plus local friends and colleagues. It should also be noted that Liza Hollingshead and others pushed to complete a house ahead of schedule that Lyle had helped to design on the Field, so he could settle into its purpose-built flat a few weeks before the 40th Findhorn Foundation Reunion. Old friends, much help, and kindnesses particularly from Robin Alfred, graced his last days.

Lyle was happy to believe he had secured an agreement for a minimally marked grave accessible to his children and friends in an unusual natural dell with trees, lichens and heathers. He also believed it would remain so over time and would always be a lovely place for them to visit, and never a burden.

Respectfully submitted with love and gratitude by,

Sara Schnadt (daughter)

Anna Marriott (daughter)

Michael Schnadt (son)

26th August 2013