

11 July 2021



BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

Heal Country...

Today marks the final day of this year's NAIDOC Week. NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. Many of the activities planned locally for this week have been postponed due to the COVID situation.



I wonder if you have paused in this week to consider the experience of the First Peoples or to reflect upon the experience of the local indigenous people in our area. We live and minister on the custodial lands of the Arakwal people of the Bundjalung nation. The NAIDOC 2021 theme – Heal Country! – calls for all of us to continue to seek greater protections for our lands, our waters, sacred sites and indigenous cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction. For the First Peoples, country is more than a place. It is inherent to their identity. Here in the Byron Shire we are privileged to live in a part of this country surrounded by God's beautiful creation. The land, the oceans, the rivers and the ranges all speak of God's glory in creation. This place holds such an important heritage for First Peoples. This week also marks 27 years since the The Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) formally entered into a covenantal relationship at the invitation of and with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC). The banners in our buildings remind us of this every time we gather. As a result we are encouraged to continue to seek truth telling, justice and reconciliation for First Peoples and to engage in walking together into the future. The UCA is one of the only organisations in our country who have included First Peoples in our constitution in the preamble, which reflects the importance of this for us as God's people. Take time to reflect on these words from that preamble:

"When the churches that formed the Uniting Church arrived in Australia as part of the process of colonisation they entered a land that had been created and sustained by the Triune God they knew in Jesus Christ. Through this land God had nurtured and sustained the First Peoples of this country, the Aboriginal and Islander peoples, who continue to understand themselves to be the traditional owners and custodians (meaning 'sovereign' in the languages of the First Peoples) of these lands and waters since time immemorial. The First Peoples had already encountered the Creator God before the arrival of the colonisers; the Spirit was already in the land revealing God to the people through law, custom and ceremony. The same love and grace that was finally and fully revealed in Jesus Christ sustained the First Peoples and gave them particular insights into God's ways."

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We acknowledge the Arakwal people of the Bundjalung nation, the original custodians of this place. We acknowledge their deep spiritual connection to these lands and waterways upon which we live and gather, and honour their elders past, present and emerging.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Please contact us to find out more about any of our programs and activities.

Every Week...

Men's Cooking @ Bangalow Uniting Church: 10am Fridays (Not yet running)

Scripture at Byron Bay PS: Rev Phil Thursday 12-2pm

Open Church: Tuesday 9-11am @ Bangalow, Wednesday 9-11am @ Byron Bay

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop: Monday to Fridays 9am-1pm

Uniting Sewing and Social Group @ Byron: 9am-3pm and 6pm-9pm, Mondays

Growing Young Bookclub: every fortnight (details below)

Upcoming events...

Growing Young Bookclub: Monday 18th July 3.30-5pm at Janelle Jarrett's house (tentative)

Fair Trade Fortnight Morning Tea: 10th August (Bangalow UCA) & 11th August (Byron Bay UCA)

Frontier Services Gathering & Baptism: Sunday 15th August 10am @ Bangalow UCA

Church Council Meeting: Tuesday 17th August, 11am @ Bangalow UCA

Bangalow Harvest Service: Sunday 17th October

Bangalow Fair Trade Fair: Saturday 6th November

Banking Details:

Giving your offering or tithe by Direct Debit or EFTPOS is a helpful way of engaging in this important act of worship.

If you would like to do this the banking details for our church are:

BSB:634-634

Account Number: 100 018 564

Speak to our Treasurer George Graham for more details on offering, gifts or bequests.

Bangalow Byron Bay Uniting Church: 6601 2010

<https://byronshireunitingchurches.uca.org.au>

 <https://www.facebook.com/BangalowByronBayUnitingChurch>

Minister: Rev. Phil Dokmanovic

Phil: 0425 291 955 // phild@nswact.uca.org.au

(Minister's Day Off: Friday)

Church Council Secretary: Corinne Nash 6629 1692
email: allthenashes@gmail.com



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As we conclude NAIDOC Week 2021, the Uniting Church Assembly has just launched its first Covenant Action Plan (ACAP) – a strategic and practical framework which gives shape to our commitment as a national church to walk together as First and Second Peoples. As you reflect upon NAIDOC Week it might be helpful to read this plan which is available through this link:

<https://bit.ly/covenantactionplan>

May this year's NAIDOC theme, Heal Country, remind us of our own desire for change. A change that will renew us locally and the whole of Australia. Grace and peace, Rev Phil

For The Calendar

Fair Trade Fortnight Morning Tea: 10th August (Bangalow UCA) & 11th August (Byron Bay UCA)

Frontier Services Gathering & Baptism: Sunday 15th August 10am @ Bangalow UCA

Church Council Meeting: Tuesday 17th August, 11am @ Bangalow UCA

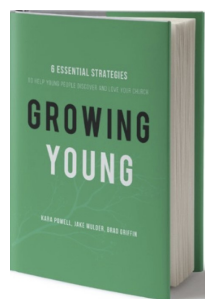
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Saltbush Gathering

The Saltbush Gathering scheduled for **Saturday 17th July** has been postponed due to the current COVID situation in NSW. A new date is being planned for some time in August and we will let you know as soon as it is settled.

Growing Young Project



The Growing Young Project has begun and we have had to place a pause on our sessions due to the COVID situation. This group will continue to meet each fortnight to consider a chapter and discuss the contents. It is not too late to join in, so see Rev Phil for a book and more details. The next session is tentatively planned for Monday 17th July from 3.30pm at Janelle Jarrett's home and we will be looking at Chapter 3 (we will confirm next week).

Frontier Services Gathering & Baptism

Sunday 15th August 10am @ Bangalow UCA

On Sunday 15th August we will be gathering for a combined service at the Bangalow Church. During this gathering we will consider the ministry of Frontier Services and raise funds for their important work. We will also share in the baptism of Matilda & William Jarrett, the children of Luke and Courtney (great grandchildren of Kevin & Edna).

Please mark this on your calendar and join us for this special celebration.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 11 July: Eritrea, Ethiopia

Week of 18 July: Djibouti, Somalia

BYRON SHIRE UNITING CHURCHES

Let us PRAY

Prayer Points

- A deepening of relationships as First and Second Peoples in this land and in our Church, as we continue to reflect on NAIDOC Week and the theme "Heal Country!".
- The members of the 16th UCA Assembly as they prepare for the meeting and gathering from the 17-18 July.
- Those working to contain the spread of COVID-19, those who are sick with the virus, people who cannot work and all those feeling afraid, anxious and alone.

Gathered Worship

Sunday 11th July	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 18th July	5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 25th July	9.30am Byron Bay Communion 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 1st August	5pm Bangalow Communion	- Rev Phil

Lectionary Readings

11 July	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19	Amos 7:7-15	Ephesians 1:3-14	Mark 6:14-29
18 July	2 Samuel 7:1-14a	Jeremiah 23:1-6	Ephesians 2:11-22	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
25 July	2 Samuel 11:1-15	2 Kings 4:42-44	Ephesians 3:14-21	John 6:1-21
1 August	2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15	Ephesians 4:1-16	John 6:24-35

Newsletter Items If you have an event or item for the newsletter, please email Phil the full details by the Tuesday before release, so that we can keep people informed and up to date.