



BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

We are committed to justice and reconciliation...

Every year the Uniting Church marks a Day of Mourning to reflect on the dispossession of Australia's First Peoples and the ongoing injustices faced by First Nations people in this land. For those of us who are Second Peoples, we lament that we were and remain complicit. The observance of a Day of Mourning was endorsed by the 15th Assembly in 2018, arising from a request of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC). As an expression of the Uniting Church's commitment to justice and truth-telling, the Sunday before Australia Day was declared as a Day of Mourning. Again this year in 2022, we will acknowledge this on Sunday 23 January, holding a worship gathering that reflects on the effects of invasion and colonisation on First Peoples.

In marking a day of mourning, we hear the call of Jesus to love one another. We live into our covenant relationship to stand together with, and listen to the wisdom of First Nations people in their struggle for justice. We affirm the sovereignty of First Peoples and honour their culture and their connection to country. We reaffirm our understanding that First Peoples encountered the Creator God long before colonisation. We confess and seek forgiveness for the dispossession and violence against First Peoples, we lament our part, and we recommit to justice and truth-telling.

The Uniting Church since its early days has shown an active engagement in justice and reconciliation and we are currently one of the only institutions in this country who acknowledge Australia's First peoples in our constitution. Here in Bangalow and Byron Bay we are blessed to have opportunities to engage with local indigenous people and culture who share their stories and knowledge with such passion and joy. We acknowledge the Arakwal people of the Bundjalung nation and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging. We continue to give thanks to God for the way they have cared for this part of God's beautiful creation since time immemorial. This year we are honoured to have Arakwal leader Delta Kay joining us to share a welcome to country and stories about the local area, its people and culture.

May we continue to find ways to walk together into the future, acknowledging the true history of what has occurred here in this land and the experience of indigenous people. May we also seek to love our neighbours as we have been called to do as those who seek to walk the way of Christ.

Grace & peace, Rev Phil



DAY OF MOURNING 2022

A worship service for faith communities to reflect on the effects of invasion and colonisation of Australia's First Peoples.



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...

Open Church: Tuesday 9-11am @ Bangalow, Wednesday 9-11am @ Byron Bay.
Open Church will be on a break until the first week of February 2022.

Scripture at Byron Bay PS: Rev Phil Thursday 12-2pm
(Scripture is currently on pause and will resume in 2022 as a result of the COVID situation and NSW Roadmap)

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop: The Op Shop is remaining closed for an extended period as we seek to address the rising COVID cases in our region and maintain safety for our volunteers.

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

Growing Young Bookclub: every fortnight (details below)

Upcoming events...

Growing Young: Monday 24th January, 3pm @ Bangalow UCA

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



Christmas Offerings - Christmas Bowl

This year all the offerings received during our Christmas gatherings will go to the Christmas Bowl. This is an ecumenical appeal through the National Council of Churches that brings hope to people throughout the world. This year there is a focus on the urgent relief needed in the country of Ethiopia. The Christmas Bowl appeal currently funds 28 projects across 19 different countries around the world. Through giving we will be acting together for peace, helping to create a world where people uprooted by conflict and



disaster have a safe place to belong. We are pleased to announce that this year we received \$675 that will be sent on to the Christmas Bowl. Thank you to all those who contributed.

COVIDSafe Update

At this stage we are continuing to gather in our buildings for worship, despite the increased number of COVID cases in our region. We encourage you to maintain a clear approach to safety and if you are a close contact, have COVID-like symptoms or test positive, to take the correct isolation protocols. Please inform Rev Phil if you have tested positive, so that we can coordinate pastoral support, prayer and assist practically when needed. During our gatherings we request that all people register their attendance by QR code and wear masks at all times. Please also maintain physical distancing in the entrances and throughout the buildings at all times. We also request a sense of flexibility and patience as the current situation may change suddenly and if so, we will do our best to inform you as soon as possible.

Lectionary Readings

16 January	Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalms 36:5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
23 January	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Psalms 19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
30 January	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalms 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30
6 February	Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)	Psalms 138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11

Gathered Worship

Sunday 16th January	5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 23rd January (Day of Mourning)	9.30am Byron Bay	- Rev Phil
Sunday 30th January	5pm Bangalow - Picnic at Bangalow Weir	- Rev Phil
Sunday 6th February (Communion)	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

BYRON SHIRE UNITING CHURCHES

Let us PRAY

Week of 16 January: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen
Week of 23 January: Cyprus, Greece, Turkey

Prayer Points:

- The work of The Christmas Bowl as they organise projects around the world to address the needs of those who have been uprooted from their homes due to conflict and disaster. May our contributions be used to bring love and justice to those in great need.
- Those in our congregation who are unable to join us at gatherings at this time due to recovery from medical procedures, health concerns and COVID-related safety measures.
- The rising COVID case numbers in NSW and in the Byron Shire. May our frontline workers and health professionals be kept safe and find respite from their increased workloads.
- Our Growing Young Project, as we as a whole church engage in the idea of ministry to the younger generations and as we respond to new ideas, activities and ministries as they arise.

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.