

18 September 2022

BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA



Creation cries...

The Uniting Church has demonstrated a strong commitment to preserve the environment.



As we continue through this Season of Creation, I wonder how your reflections on God's creation and our role in caring for it are going. Have you been challenged or concerned or confirmed in your thinking? Last weekend I had the privilege of organising and participating in a field trip to the forests around the Bellingen region. One of the most powerful moments for me was standing in a circle with about 24 other people (including local residents, forest protectors and activists, Uniting Church members and even a past Moderator of our Synod) at the top of a mountain where the Kalang headwaters originate. As we did so, hours from the nearest town, people shared stories about their trauma, worry and anxiety around the scheduled logging for the location, along with the

devastation it will create to the forest, biodiversity and eco-system. As I stood and listened, my heart was moved deeply and I wondered how this could be. Are we truly caring for this planet in the way that God has invited us to do? The creation stories in the opening of Genesis offer us what is known as the creation mandate, the human task of caring for creation:

“God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” - Genesis 1:28 (NRSV)

The words 'subdue' and 'dominion' in the NRSV are translated in different ways in other translations. Most scholars view these terms as a caretaker/steward role in its original language and not a dominating, self-seeking one. The result of humanity's treatment of the world around us through history and today is being seen in so many ways around us, with climate change being the most notable and obvious outcome. The younger generations and indigenous voices are reminding all of us of our responsibility to connect in harmony with God's creation and to care for it responsibly. May we continue to listen to the voice of creation, as creation cries out and may we be reminded of our Divine responsibility to care for this planet and to speak out against those who are not doing so. Below is a prayer written by Rev Mata Havea Hiliau, the Moderator Elect of the NSW/ACT Synod for the Season of Creation.

Creator God, You created the world and you said that “it is good”.

We lament however in what we have done since due to our greed and self-centredness.

Climate change confronts us, and we are at a crisis point.

As temperature increases, sea levels rise, pollutions grow,
extreme weather spirals out of control, we confess we have done wrong.

Creator God, may we hear the cry of the earth and stir our heart into action.

Empower us O God as the young or old, First Nations or recent arrival,
from the bush or the city, to be change makers.

Call us out in practical ways in our home, church, local communities, nation, and the world for our
sake and for the future generations.

Creator God may we stand together, and use our voice, our hand, our heart,
to respond to the environmental and climate crisis before us.

God strengthen us to continue to hold our world leaders, our government to account
for climate justice, for the least amongst us, for the common good.

In the Mighty name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen

Grace & peace, Rev Phil

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 9:30am-11:30am Byron Bay UCA

Scripture: Thursday 12pm-2pm @ Byron Bay PS during the School Term (Rev Phil)

Byron Bay Free Feed (YWAM): Wednesday 12pm-2pm @ Byron Bay UCA

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop:

Open Monday-Friday from 9am-1pm

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

Growing Young Group: every fortnight (details below)

Upcoming events...

Family Gathering: "Creation": Sunday 18th September, 5.00pm @ Bangalow UCA

Talking About Salt Final Session: Wednesday 28th September, 9:30am @ Bangalow UCA

Phase 3 Minister's Retreat: October 17th-19th @ Kincumber (Rev Phil)

Church Council Quarterly Meeting: Tuesday 22nd November, 11am @ Byron Bay UCA

Fair Trade Fair: Saturday 3rd December @ Bangalow UCA

Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday 4th December (after gatherings)

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



Talking About Salt, Final Conversation - 28th September, 9:30am @ Bangalow UCA

The final Talking About Salt Conversation is now scheduled for the 28th September. Those who were involved in the first series of conversations are invited to join this reflection and planning session. During our worship gatherings on September 25th, we will all engage in some discussion questions linked to this process.

Walking Together Conference - 22nd October, Wesley Conference Centre, Sydney

The Uniting Church Synod of NSW and ACT's inaugural First Peoples Conference - Walking Together - comes at a crucial time as the Prime Minister recently outlined plans to enshrine a First Nations Voice into the constitution. We encourage people to engage and support an enduring and constitutionally guaranteed Voice to Parliament - a way we can both honour the place of First Nations people at the heart of the nation, lift their voice and fully understand the theological implications for Australia and the church.

For more information see <https://walkingtogether.uca.org.au>



The Bangalow Christmas Tree Festival

We are now well into planning for a new event called:

The Bangalow Christmas Tree Festival.

Approved by the Church Council, this event will run in an exhibition style in the Bangalow Church from 18th-23rd December. We have invited a range of community groups in

the Bangalow community to participate by designing and creating a Christmas Tree that reflects their group. These trees will be displayed in the Bangalow Church for this period and the church will be open each evening for people to come and enjoy. We also aim to have musical groups and choirs singing and playing Christmas Carols to add to the festivities. At this stage we have received a fantastic response from a range of groups who have accepted the invitation, including the CWA, Police Station, Bangalow Public School, Bangalow Men's Shed, Red Cross, Bangalow Koalas, Bangalow Anglican and Mirabelle Preschool, with hopefully more to join us. We see this as a great opportunity to serve our neighbours, through providing an opportunity to join together as community and celebrate at Christmas time. Our own Christmas tree is already being designed and planned. To help with this we would like to take a photo of each person that we will use to decorate the tree. Please see Rev Phil after a gathering in the next few weeks as he is organising these photos.

Lectionary Readings

18 September	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1	Psalms 79:1-9	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13
25 September	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15	Psalms 91:1-6, 14-16	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31
2 October	Lamentations 1:1-6	Lamentations 3:19-26 or Psalm 137	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Luke 17:5-10
9 October	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7	Psalms 66:1-12	2 Timothy 2:8-15	Luke 17:11-19

Gathered Worship

Sunday 18th September	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow - Family Gathering: "Listen To The Voice Of Creation"	- Rev Phil
Sunday 25th September	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 2nd October	9.30am Byron Bay - Communion & Morning Tea 5pm Bangalow - Communion	- Rev Phil
Sunday 9th October	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil



ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 18 September: Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay

Week of 25 September: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru

Prayer Points:

- God's glorious and diverse creation that surrounds us with colour and life. May we be attentive to creation's cry for renewal, and each take actions to protect and help sustain the world around us.
- Those leading and working in the movement for Christian unity in Australia and beyond.
- May we nurture a lifestyle and culture that promotes self-care and good mental health, and work together to overcome the stigma of mental illness.
- First Peoples as they generously share their wisdom and insights into how to best care for this ancient land. May we listen.

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.