

15 January 2023

BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA



Why A Day Of Mourning?

Since 2019 the Uniting Church has marked 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 from many lands, we lament that we were and remain complicit. This observance arises from a request from the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) which was endorsed by the 15th Assembly of the UCA in 2018. The declaration of the Sunday before Australia/Survival/Invasion Day as a Day of Mourning is an expression of the Uniting Church's commitment to justice and truth-telling which is required of us by the Covenant we have made and recently reaffirmed with UAICC.



Artwork by Grace Williams,
Community and Cultural
Resource Officer, Leprena -
UAICC Tasmania

Again in 2023, all Uniting Churches in Australia are invited on Sunday 22 January to hold worship gatherings that reflect on the effects of invasion and colonisation on First Peoples. We will be gathering at the Byron Bay Church at 9:30am to mark this important occasion. In marking a Day of Mourning, we hear the promise of Jesus that the truth will set us free. The Day of Mourning invites us to listen to the truth of the effects of colonisation and racism on First Peoples and to hope that in confronting this truth we will discover ways to create communities of justice and healing. In marking the Day of Mourning, 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.

In preparing for this occasion, Rev Sharon Hollis (UCA President) & Rev Mark Kickett (UAICC Interim National Chair) encourage us by saying: *"As we move into 2023 with the probability of a referendum on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament, we ask that all members of the Uniting Church inform themselves about the Uluru Statement and its vision of Voice, Treaty, Truth. We ask that you conduct conversations about the Voice with respect, and with the impact of whatever you say on First Peoples always at the forefront of your mind. We pray that this year in our nation might be moment of reckoning when we face the truth of our past and present in ways that promote healing and justice."*

Here in Byron Bay and Bangalow we acknowledge the Arakwal People of the Bundjalung Nation as the traditional custodians of the lands and waterways that we live in and on. We pay our respects to their elders: past, present and emerging and we give thanks to God for the way they have cared for this part of God's beautiful creation since time immemorial.

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 (on a pause until Feb 2023)

Scripture:

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

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop:

The Op Shop is now on a break and will reopen at some stage during the week beginning 16th January.

Upcoming events...

Family Social Event:

Friday 20th January, 5pm @ Broken Head Park

Day of Mourning Gathering:

Sunday 22nd January, 9:30am @ Byron Bay UCA

Mission Planning Day:

Saturday 11th February @ Byron Bay 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



Family Social Event - Friday 20th January, 2023, Broken Head Park

To provide opportunities for connections and time together, we are having a Family Social Event on the 20th January. This will take place at the Broken Head park opposite the beach starting at 5pm.

Everyone is invited and please bring a picnic meal to enjoy. There will be opportunities to chat, spend time together and maybe play a fun game of cricket. This is one way we are trying to encourage our families and kids to connect and have fun.

Christmas Bowl



This year during our Christmas gatherings and the Christmas Tree Festival we received an offering that will go to the work of the Christmas Bowl. Through the Act For Peace international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches, these funds are distributed to over 30 projects in 20 countries around the world. This work results in the improvement of life for people facing some of the toughest conditions in the world. The heart of this work is to create a just and peaceful society and involves supporting displaced people, building unity and transforming systems for the benefit of the marginalised and disadvantaged. We are pleased to announce that this year we were able to raise \$1072 to send to the Christmas Bowl.

Christmas
Bowl

Summer Schedule - January 2023

Date	Location & Time
15th January	Bangalow UCA 5pm
22nd January	Byron Bay UCA 9:30am (Day Of Mourning Gathering)
29th January	Bangalow Park 5pm (BBQ/Picnic)

Gathered Worship

Saturday 15th January	5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 22nd January	9.30am Byron Bay (Day of Mourning gathering)	- Rev Phil
Sunday 29th January	5pm Bangalow Park (BBQ/Picnic)	- Rev Phil
Sunday 5th February	9.30am Byron Bay - Communion & Morning Tea 5pm Bangalow - Communion	- Rev Phil

15 January	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
22 January	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1, 4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
29 January	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12
5 February	Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)	Psalm 112:1-9 (10) 1	1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)	Matthew 5:13-20

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 15 January :

Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia,
United Arab Emirates, Yemen

Week of 22 January:

Cyprus, Greece, Turkey



Prayer Points:

- The Day of Mourning gatherings around the country. That these would be an important time of truth telling and a commitment to ongoing justice and reconciliation for First peoples.
- We pray for the local Arakwal People of the Bundjalung Nation, thankful for the way they have cared for this part of God's beautiful creation for so very long. May their elders be blessed and may the emerging generation of younger leaders be supported encouraged and honoured.
- The future mission and ministry of our congregation as we seek to explore this through focused mission planning beginning in February 2023. May we be open to God's Spirit leading us and also to moving us in new, exciting and fresh directions.

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.