



BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

Walking together into the future...



Last Sunday 22nd January we had a powerful and challenging experience, as we held our annual Day of Mourning gathering at the Byron Bay Church. Flowing from the request of the UAICC (United Aboriginal & Islander Christian Congress) to the Uniting Church in Australia, we responded to the voice of the First Peoples and opened ourselves to further reflections on the impact of colonisation and the treatment of First Peoples in our country. We also considered the well known passage from Micah in the Old Testament, where a prophetic voice call's God's people back to their core way of living - the way of love marked by justice, kindness and humility:

'What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?'- Micah 6:8

In light of our considerations, we must be moved to wonder what it means for us as individuals and in this context, as a community, to do justice in relation to Australia's First Peoples. Where do we start? How do we show kindness to our sisters and brothers who have faced such humiliation, pain, removal and dispossession? How do we walk with humility? In the Uniting Church we are called to be a fellowship of reconciliation and our foundational document, the Basis of Union, urges us in this to seek justice and mercy for those in great need and to be agents of reconciliation in our community and world.

An important starting point is to be open to listening to and hearing from First Nations people. How can we engage and continue to learn and listen?

Here are a few brief ways we could begin or continue this path:

- Discover more about the local First Nations people in our region: the Arakwal people of the Bundjalung Nation - attend art exhibitions, dance concerts, walking tours.
- Read the Uluru Statement From The Heart - a key current document.
- Consider activism around the Voice to Parliament and the Referendum in 2023.
- Attend rallies organised by First Nations people to hear their experience and concerns.
- Engage in local NAIDOC celebrations, 2-9 July 2023-Theme: "For Our Elders."
- Read books about the true history of our country: eg. "Dark Emu" by Bruce Pascoe.
- Support First Nations businesses.

These are just a few ways we can either begin this journey, or continue the journey of walking together into the future as First and Second peoples in this country.

May we hear God's call to action that joins us, First and Second Peoples, in a shared future marked by truth-telling, justice and healing.

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)

Scripture:

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

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop:

The Op Shop has now reopened. Open Monday-Friday from 9am-1pm

Upcoming events...

Growing Young Session:

Monday 30th January, 3pm @ Bangalow UCA

"New Year - New Hope" Family Gathering:

Sunday 5th February, 5pm @ Bangalow 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



"New Year - New Hope"

Family Gathering

Sunday 5th February

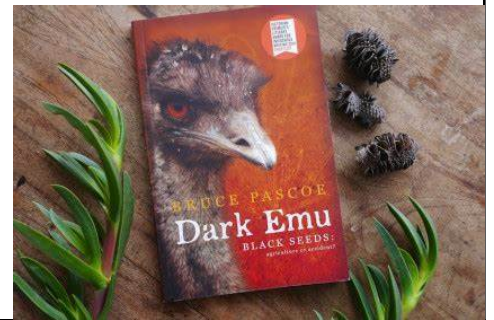
5pm

@ Bangalow UCA

Our first family worship gathering for 2023 is approaching quickly on the 5th February. Our theme for this gathering is : "New Year - New Hope" and we will be exploring the ideas of resilience, versatility and hope. These gatherings are an opportunity to invite family and friends of all ages to join us in a time of interactive and creative worship, as we explore faith in an inclusive and creative way together. This is one way we are seeking to engage and support families and young people in our community. The evening will include a meal.

Some key ways to hear more from First Nations People:

- Discover more about the local First Nations people in our region: the Arakwal people of the Bundjalung Nation - attend art exhibitions, dance concerts, walking tours.
- Read the Uluru Statement From The Heart - a key current document.
- Consider activism around the Voice to Parliament and the Referendum in 2023.
- Attend rallies organised by First Nations people to hear their experience and concerns.
- Engage in local NAIDOC celebrations, 2-9 July 2023
Theme: "For Our Elders."
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eg. "Dark Emu" by Bruce Pascoe.
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Lectionary Readings

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
12 February	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalm 119:1-8	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
5 February	Exodus 24:12-18	Psalm 2 or Psalm 99	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9

Gathered Worship

Sunday 29th January	5pm Bangalow Park (BBQ/Picnic)	- Rev Phil
Sunday 5th February	9.30am Byron Bay - Communion & Morning Tea 5pm Bangalow - Family Gathering & Communion	- Rev Phil
Sunday 12th February	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 19th February	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 29 January :

Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia

Week of 5 February:

Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Vatican City



Prayer Points:

- Following on from The Day of Mourning gathering last weekend, may we hear God's call to action that joins us, First and Second Peoples, in a shared future marked by truth-telling, justice and healing.
- Flood-affected communities in WA, and those experiencing intense rain and flooding in Queensland. We pray for safety and care as communities recover in the short and long term, and for the work of our Bush Chaplains and others who are providing support.
- Students and teachers as they begin the new school year. May they have peace at this time and energy for their learning and teaching in the year ahead.
- 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.