



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 23 April 2023

A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



Good morning everybody

I was recently asked why it is important for a Christian church to have an 'Acknowledgement of Country' at the beginning of a worship service.

I know that some of you wonder why we always start our worship service with an 'Acknowledgement of Country'. You might think that it is just a formality, or a political statement, or something that has nothing to do with our faith. But I would like to offer a different perspective and explain that it is important, meaningful, and reflects our Christian identity, values, and mission.

The 'Acknowledgement of Country' is not a mandatory in the Uniting Church, but it is a strongly recommended by the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia. The Uniting Church in Australia has been a leader in advocating for the rights and dignity of all Australians. The Assembly "encourages the whole Uniting Church to listen deeply for what it means to walk together, as First and Second Peoples, to lament the past and to seek to be a healing community, characterised by the love of Christ." The 'Acknowledgement of Country' is one way that we can listen deeply and walk together with our Indigenous sisters and brothers. It helps us stop and ponder another culture's view on the land.

An 'Acknowledgement of Country' is a simple practice that recognises the Indigenous Peoples of our area as the First Peoples and original custodians of the land we worship on. It shows respect for their history and cultural heritage. It acknowledges the Indigenous Peoples deep and ongoing connection to the land. It is a way of acknowledging the past

injustices and traumas that the Indigenous Peoples have suffered. It seeks to foster a sense of solidarity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. And as Christians it is a way of expressing not just the Uniting Church's but Jesus' call to reconciliation, unity, and healing.

The 'Acknowledgement of Country' is not only a sign of respect and solidarity with Indigenous Australians, but also a declaration of our faith and identity as followers of Jesus Christ. We acknowledge that God is the creator and sovereign over all things, and that we are just stewards of his creation. We acknowledge that God loves all people equally, unconditionally, and that we are called to love our neighbours that same way. We acknowledge that God's mission is to reconcile all things in Christ, and that we are called to participate in his work of justice and peace. We acknowledge that our hope and vision is for a future where all people live in harmony, peace, and dignity as God's beloved children.

This is why having an 'Acknowledgement of Country' at the beginning of a worship service is not only appropriate, but essential for us as followers of Christ. It is a way of expressing humility, hope, and love. I believe that by doing this simple but profound act, we are not only honouring the First Peoples of this land, but also honouring God who calls us to be his faithful witnesses in this world. It is a way of affirming our identity, values, and mission and it is a way of witnessing to the world that we are a people of grace.

Grace and peace

Rev. Aaron

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Acknowledgement of country

Banora Point Uniting Church acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

What's Happening This Week

Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am
Thursday	Men's Bible Study group 8.30am KYB (CWCI) 10am Bible Study 6.30pm
Friday	Craft Club 9am
Saturday	Mens Breakfast 8am

Other upcoming events for your diary

Mainly Music 2 May 9.30am
Elders/Council Meeting 9 May 7pm
Fellowship Lunch 10 May 11.45am
Craft Club 12 May 9am
Messy Church 13 May 4pm
Chaira Companions 21 May 12noon

Church Roster

Today **Next Sunday**

Duty Elders	Audrey & Robyn	Neil & Robyn
Organist	Audrey	Jill
Greeters	Lorraine & Daphne	Jane & Elspeth
Bible Readers	Lumiere & Yesha	Barbara & Dudley
Morning Tea	Sylvia & Pat	Mary & Chris
Hall Set Up	Brian	Craft Club
Cleaning	Lorraine & Helene	Craft Club

If you are unable to do your roster, **please organise a swap AND let Janice know ASAP.**



Facebook

Do you use Facebook? You can help us get the word out to our community! If

you're on Facebook, please like and follow Banora Point Uniting Church Facebook page. When you see our posts, you can then like (or react), comment or share as this will help to get more exposure for our church and be seen by more people.

Men's Breakfast

Meeting for breakfast at 8am on Saturday 29 April at the Twisted Fig Café (near Bunnings in Tweed Heads South), then on to our church hall for Carpet Bowls.

All men are welcome.

Craft News



Our craft club are on the lookout for old greetings cards. If you have any such cards (Christmas, Birthday, Sympathy cards etc) and would be willing to pass them on to be recycled/reused for new cards to be sold for church funds, please speak to Sylvia.

Border Council of Churches - combined worship evening

A combined churches worship evening is being held on Sunday 30 April at The Gathering, 56 Caloola Drive, Tweed Heads. It starts at 4pm with a food truck on the grass, and the worship service begins at 5pm. Everyone is most welcome to attend, however if you are intending to go, could you please let Dudley know, as approximate numbers have been requested.

Offerings

As the Body of Christ here at Banora Point, there are many ways we can contribute to Christ's ongoing mission. Volunteering in local community groups is one way we can be the presence of Christ sharing the Gospel in action in our community.

Another important way we can contribute to the mission of Christ at Banora Point Uniting Church is financially. The offering enables the Uniting Church to have a continued presence in Banora Point, it allows us to run our current outreach programs and will help us meet the changing needs of our local community in the future. Our offerings are received physically during the Worship Service every week or if you prefer you can choose to give electronically, directly into our account. You can do this by direct debit or at your local Commonwealth Bank branch. Please contact Neil Rackham if you need any assistance.

Banora Point Uniting Church Bank details are:

Account Name: The Uniting Church in Australia Banora Point Church (Note: Your Bank website may limit the number of characters you can put into the account name box so "The Uniting Church in Aust" is OK)

BSB No: 062 611 Account No: 10120762