

Anglican Diocese of Bendigo and its commitment to Indigenous Australians

The Diocese of Bendigo has for many years worked to advance the place of indigenous Australians in the Diocese and beyond. In recent times the diocese has supported six significant initiatives:

1. The appointment of an Indigenous Ministry Officer

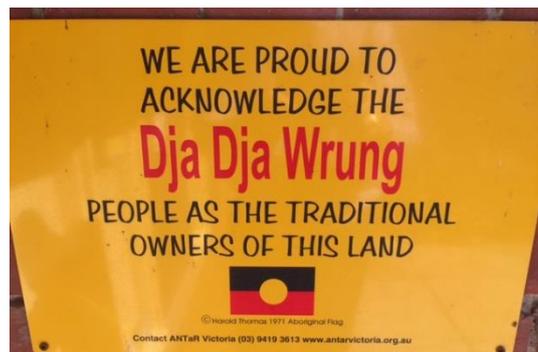
The Rev'd Robyn Davis, a Wadi Wadi women, has been in this role initially as a lay person and since 2009 as an ordained minister to undertake a ministry across the diocese which covers North Central, northern Victoria, parts of the Wimmera and the Mallee. Robyn has been very proactive in working with Indigenous people across these regions as well as conducting numerous events to raise the consciousness of our congregations in relation to indigenous issues and affairs.

2. The establishment of Walkabout Ministries

The diocese has partnered with the Rev'd Robyn Davis and Koori Leader Ed King in establishing Walkabout Ministries which as a very specific brief of pastoral care to indigenous people, particularly along the Murray Valley.

3. Recognition

The diocese initiated, with its churches in the Dja Dja Wurrung country, the erection of signs on our church buildings in recognition of their people as the traditional owners of the land. In addition to this many of our churches have been supplied with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags which are flowing during Reconciliation Week and on other key dates that recognise the First Peoples of this land.



4. Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

The Diocese is also involved in the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) which it anticipates launching in late May this year at the dioceses annual Synod. The RAP will address the key areas of listening and learning, the meaning of reconciliation, the development of programs, the setting of targets and driving cultural change. The RAP will further strengthen the dioceses acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of the lands on which the diocese stands and pays tribute to the Elders past and present.

5. Nara Dreaming

The diocese has been, through its welfare agency New Horizons Welfare Services, a partner with an Indigenous group who, for a number of years, has been running an art show in Bendigo called 'Nara Dreaming' to highlight Reconciliation Week, which also includes cultural education workshops for local schools.



6. The Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation

The diocese is committed to working with the Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation in relation to matters concerned with native title, as is the situation with respect to land the diocese is seeking to sell at Glenlyon in Central Victoria. In conjunction with the Corporation the diocese will follow due process.