

WEEK OF PRAYER

27 MAY - 3 JUNE



*Rainbow Serpent comes out of the Water 1990
Willie Gudipi and Moima Willie*

FAITH & RECONCILIATION

Religious communities across Australia will join to pray for reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider community during the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation from 27 May to 3 June.

This painting is about men's and women's business. The four rainbow serpents at the top come out of the waterhole Warligundu Murwlu, underneath. The two on the left are female spirits, Dalari and Mowgardi; the two on the right are male spirits, Wunawurkuri and Goornqongurni. They are the practitioners of the ceremony which takes place in the area beneath them. In this part of the painting the Marda Marda (female) meet the Warrmil (male) and the rituals take place.

21st Anniversary Week of PRAYER for RECONCILIATION

27 May – 3 June, 2014

Give thanks for:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clergy and leaders as they minister in many isolated locations and challenging situations.
- the progress toward Reconciliation in terms of greater awareness and the Constitutional Recognition agenda.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council (NATSIAC)

- the revised Canon completed in the year passed and its foundation to future developments in ministry.

Diocese of the Northern Territory

- the appointment of a Ministry Development Officer Rev John Hewitson and Registrar Leeanne Zamagias

Nungalinga College

- more than 100 applicants for the literacy course which is more than places available.
- the overwhelming number of students wishing to come and study.

Diocese of North Queensland, Wontulp Bi Buya College

- the Board and staff as they provide leadership, instruction and assistance to the students.
- the start of a new year with enthusiastic students' returning to their studies.

Pray for:

- the challenge of Christian ministry throughout Australia and in particular in this week of prayer for reconciliation ministry with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- greater awareness of the Reconciliation journey amongst all people in Australia
- leadership, wisdom and tenacity to continue to drive policies and constitutional change toward recognition.
- the concern about the high rates of suicide in the Top End communities, as well as the lower life expectancy generally.
- hope for those who have none, for access to good medical care, and for a growth in understanding in how to live in two cultures.
- encouragement and resourcing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to take up opportunities that are available to learn skills to assist their development.

Significant dates toward Reconciliation

February 13	National Apology (2008)
March 21	National Close the Gap Day (2006)
May 26	National Sorry Day (1997)
May 27–June 3	Week of Prayer (1993) National Reconciliation Week (1996)
June 3	Mabo Day (1992)
July 1	The Coming of the Light Festival
July 7–14	National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (1991)

NATSIAC

- the ongoing struggle to grow the awareness of the National Church to the challenges and concerns of the First Peoples in Anglican ministries around their country.
- the presence at the General Synod this year and the successful delivery of the revised Canon to the whole Anglican church.
- Leadership strength and development in this an election year.

Diocese of the Northern Territory

- retired Bishop Clyde Wood as he leads in the period of transition before the appointment of a new Bishop.
- the appointment process for a new Bishop

Nungalinga College

- the growth of literacy in Indigenous communities as this issue significantly impedes people's ability to study, work, and grow in faith.
- the wisdom in how to empower Indigenous Christians and provide education that will equip them in their lives and ministries in communities and churches.
- the resources, both human and financial, to meet the growing demand.

Diocese of North Queensland

- wisdom and provision in the resourcing of ministries across the Diocese.

Wontulp Bi Buya College

- strength for Principal Rev Victor Joseph as he leads the team
- developments toward the strategic plan the Board has set the College.



A NATSIAC Story

Rev Lois Nadjamerrek has been faithfully serving her community for many years. as a Bible translator for three decades and was ordained Deacon and then Priest to serve in the Church of Emmanuel, Gunbalanya, and that parish in Arnhem Land.

Lois has recently been attending a Pastoral Care Course at Nungalinga which provides opportunity for input and refreshment in the midst of a life of ministry of constant pastoral care and outreach. In a small community premature death is a reminder of the inequity of health and living conditions. Even whilst in Darwin she will attend to many pastoral needs such as hospital visits. Please continue to uphold Rev Lois in prayer as she ministers to others, and for those who support her, and other indigenous clergy, with ongoing training and professional development.

Cover image: Courtesy of Faith Communities for Reconciliation.

For more information about the ABM Reconciliation Program please contact **Mal MacCallum** at reconciliation@abm.asn.au

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