

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATIONS

The cared for this land and the people living on it for many thousands of years before inhabitants from other nations came to the Great South Land of Australia.

We thank the for this care and want to work with them to sustain our land so that it will be life-giving to many future generations.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

We acknowledge the way the care for the land and their people. We thank them for this care. It is now our turn to undo some of our past history by enabling the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to strengthen or recover their spiritual and cultural heritage so that together we can look to the future.

HEALTH

The People are the original custodians of this land. We acknowledge and thank them for their custodianship. May we learn from working with the local Aboriginal Community, to improve the health of their own people. With the combined wisdom and knowledge of the Aboriginal People and the non-Aboriginal doctors we will work towards a healthier nation.

EDUCATION

The, the original custodians of this land knew the ancient traditions which enabled them to look after the land on which we stand in spite of the vagaries of our Australian climate. We acknowledge the way they watched over the land by teaching the young ones how to maintain and care for the land and with each other. Together we pledge ourselves to improving the education of all people.

RURAL

In times gone by the People knew how to work with the land for their own purposes, they had skills for trapping and catching fish and eels. They knew how to use the seasonal Bush Foods and sustain them. We acknowledge this knowledge and care of the land through fire 'farming' and other methods of producing growth and absorb this knowledge and care into our own methods

SPIRITUAL

As we gather today we recall that every person born on earth was brought into being by the Creator Spirit, although our Name for this Being might now be different. We acknowledge the spiritual depth given to the People. It was Mother Earth which sustained and nourished them, the same earth from which we were formed. We continue to do so by our care and concern for each other. This is continuance of Christ's message to love one another and forgive as Jesus did.

ECUMENISM

We pray for the the traditional custodians of this land. We acknowledge that, like ourselves, they came from the land – Mother Earth [*"..then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being"* (Gen. 2,7)]. As people from different beliefs and backgrounds, we come together in peace and harmony, by respecting the dignity of each person.

GENERAL

(Unveiled at Deepdene, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pentecost Sunday, 2007)

Women-je-ka
Welcome

For Indigenous Australians
land is sacred, they belong to it.

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri People
as the traditional custodians of the land
on which you are standing.

We understand the history,
culture and struggle of Australian People,
who have lived in this country for thousands of years.

And may true reconciliation be soon achieved.

SCRIPTURAL SUGGESTIONS THAT MIGHT HELP

ENVIRONMENT & RURAL SUGGESTIONS

AIR:

Mt 6.25-28 Look at the birds of the AIR
8.18-22 The birds of the AIR can make nests

DUST:

Gen. 2,4-9 Lord God formed man from the DUST
3,17-19 You are DUST and to DUST you shall return
13,14-18 it would be as easy to count all the specks of DUST on earth!
28,10-15 they will be as numerous as the specks of DUST on earth

1Sa 2,1-10 He lifts the poor from the DUST and raises the needy from their misery

1Cor.15,35(47)-58 The first Adam, made of DUST, came from the DUST; the
second Adam came from heaven

EARTH:

Gen. 1,1 God created the heavens and the EARTH
9,1(13)-17 the covenant between me and the EARTH
12,1-3 families of the EARTH shall be blessed.

Ex: 19, 1(5)-8 Indeed the whole EARTH is mine

Ps 73,25 Since I have you what else could I want on EARTH
97, 1 The lord is king! Earth be glad!

Mt 5, 13-16 You are the salt of the EARTH
6,5(10)-15 may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven
24,32-35 Heaven and EARTH will pass away

Lk 2, 8(14)-20 and peace on EARTH to those with whom he is pleased
5,17(24)-26 that the Son of Man has authority on EARTH to forgive sins

1Cor 10, 1(26)-33 "The EARTH and everything in it belongs to the Lord."

2Pet 3,1(13)-18 But we wait for what God has promised: new heavens and a
new EARTH

LAND

Genesis

1:10 God called the dry land land

12:7 to your offspring I give you this land

Exodus

20:12 Commandment

Deuteronomy

8:7 The Lord will bring you into fertile land

WATER

FIRE

JUSTICE

Isaiah

42: 1-4, 6-7 He will bring justice to the nations

Psalms

37: 30 A good man's words are wise he is always fair

99:4 The king is mighty he loves justice

111:7 In all he does he is faithful and just

Micah

7:9 I will see his justice

1John: 9 and justice will forgive our sins

Hebrews

6:10 God is not unfair

HEALTH

Isaiah

38:16 You restored me to health

Jeremiah

30:17 I will restore you to health

33:6 I will bring health and healing to it

1 Sam

25:6 And good health to all that is yours

3 John: 2 I pray that you will enjoy good health

EDUCATION – LEARN, LEARNING

- Dt 30,13 may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God
Prov 1,5 Let the wise also hear and gain in learning
 9,9 Give instruction to the wise and they will become wiser still
 16,21 The wise of heart is called perceptive
 16,23 The mind of the wise makes their speech judicious
Phil 4,9 Keep on doing the things you have learned and received
 4,11 have learnt to be content

SPIRITUALITY

- Ex. 31,3 and I have filled him with divine Spirit
Nu 11,24-29 I (Moses) wish that the Lord would give his spirit to all his people
Dt 34,9 Joshua son of Nun was filled with wisdom, because Moses had appointed him to be his
 Successor.