

Making Sorry Local and Personal

Kevin Rudd's Sorry to the Indigenous people was an important milestone for our nation. It seems to me that making an apology specific to what happened in each particular place is a helpful start to the process of local reconciliation. We have spent some time exploring local history and our family history for this purpose and were blessed to be able to say our personal family sorrys in the presence of some of



the relevant Indigenous elders. At a subsequent gathering Buderim SAILS was presented with an illuminated and framed copy of Kevin Rudd's sorry speech by the local indigenous people. We value this as an icon of the local reconciliation process.

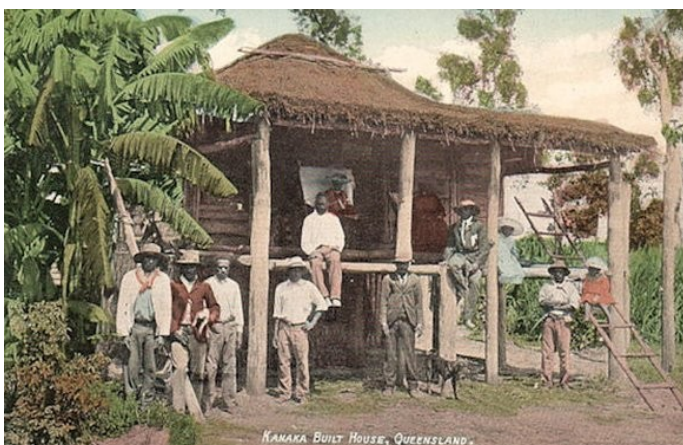
2012

The year that marks 150 years since first white contact on Buderim. There will be celebrations through the year.

The organising committee have asked Buderim SAILS to facilitate the Pacific Islander and Aboriginal content of the year's events. We are working with the local Historical Society. We have also commissioned a professional history by a cultural heritage group who will organize:

- Gathering of elders
- Filming the elders' stories
- A video DVD
- Producing material suitable for news paper articles.

This has begun to bring us into very welcome contact with local Indigenous and Pacific Islander people and has given us opportunities to speak about this aspect of Buderim's history to general population.



It may be good to have more pictures of traditional Aboriginal Scenes. What do local elders think?

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On the Gold Coast**

Introduces by Archbishop Aspinall Anglican Diocese of Brisbane

Today we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, and their care of it for thousands of years. We recognise that when others came later to this country there was violence and injustice. We gather on this land we now share aware of past injustices, and with respect for the land and its ancient people. Open to the Spirit who has ever been present here, we resolve to continue to appreciate its beauty, to protect its resources, and to honour the connection the traditional custodians have with this land.

Welcome to Country

Traditional Dance and Didgeridoo

At Buderim SAILS is committed to Indigenous reconciliation. We have said the white fella sorrys and prayed for the healing of the land with several different groups locally.

Following one of these occasions the local elders presented us with an illuminated copy of Kevin Rudds Sorry Speech. We value this as a symbol of reconciliation. We encourage all Australians to know their local and family histories and to make the appropriate apologies.

White fella sorrys All kneel

I am sorry for my sins, the sins of my family and the sins of my people against the aboriginal people since white settlement.

My ancestors were early settlers in New England, and first settlers on the Darling Downs. As such they participated in the brutally dispossession of the indigenous people in those areas.

I lived in Australia before 1967 and didn't protest that the aboriginal people had no civil rights. Knowing the history I have acted as if it didn't matter. I have belonged to groups, including church groups, past wrongdoing has been ignored and haven't protested. I have thought and acted as if I owned the land of which I am the present custodian when I know it is God's land and no one owns it. I don't wear shoes these days because of a wish to walk respectfully and carefully on the land,

I lived in Surfers for 20 years and am the present custodian of some land there. I acknowledge that here on the Gold Coast the aboriginal people were brutally dispossessed and that their blood was spilt on the land. It may have happened here at Arundel. I acknowledge the injustice of this. I'm sorry that I didn't study the local history or work for justice and local reconciliation when I lived here.

Because of my connection to this place which is being named in honor of my late husband I wish to pray for this piece of land to be blessed. When Russell went to the Holy Land he brought back some water from the Jordan River. The Jordan River was to Jesus what the Nerang River is to Gold Coast people. I am pouring this water on the land as a symbol of our intention to love and respect all of creation.

Pours water. Kisses the earth. Crosses herself

In the name of God. Life giver, pain bearer, love maker amen

Stands up

In our devotions at the Green House with the Teralba men everyone is given a piece of greenery, a leaf, or a flower. We think about God's creation and place the piece of nature in the sacred space. If you would like to pray now for a place with which you have a personal connection, such as a place your family comes from, where you live, or a place you feel connected, and say sorry for the whatever wrongs happened there in the past. take a piece of greenery and put it here saying the name of the place as you do so.

At Buderim SAILS Teralba men make Aussie Crosses. These have been placed prayerfully at many places including graves, massacre sites, battlefields in France and Vietnam, pilgrimage sites such as

Lindisfarne in the UK as a symbol of prayers for healing the land. If you would like to take one and place it somewhere prayerfully please do so. It could be a special place you like or a place that you feel needs some spiritual attention. It could be your back yard, the beach, the Council Chambers or Central Surfers. Or you could take one to remind you to pray local indigenous reconciliation and for the work of SAILS here.