WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY GUIDELINES FOR UOW BATEMANS BAY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

WHO SHOULD PERFORM

- A Traditional custodian from the area such as Batemans Bay can only perform a Welcome to Country. The elder is recognised by the local community. The Elder welcomes people to their land. A Welcome to Country usually consists of a speech and may also include traditional language, singing, dancing or Didgeridoo playing.

- The Acknowledgement to country is performed by any person who is not an elder residing on their country this includes children. Non-Indigenous people are expected to perform an acknowledgement at ceremonies.

PROTOCOLS

- An Acknowledgement is a way that all people can demonstrate respect for Aboriginal protocols and can be performed by anyone who is not a traditional custodian from the Country of the land on which the event is being held. It is a respectful public acknowledgment of the traditional custodians of the land. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people can perform an Acknowledgement on its own, in response to a Welcome or to a preceding Acknowledgement.

- It is appropriate for the host of the ceremony to make the Acknowledgement unless a person has been specifically asked to perform this.

- If you are officiating at a ceremony or event, it is respectful to ask the Elder how he/she would prefer to be addressed. Do not assume that “Uncle” or “Aunty” is his or her preferred title.

- If you are at an official event and you are the speaker directly following an Elder performing a Welcome to Country, it is appropriate to make a brief Acknowledgement. This shows your respect for the Elder and is acceptable practice.

WHEN IT SHOULD BE PERFORMED

Events where an Acknowledgement/Welcome should be considered include:

- Graduation Ceremonies
- Significant public lectures
- Official openings of Careers Fairs/nights
- Large student events
- Meetings
- Orientation
- Student life events
- IN2Uni
- Whole of staff significant events
- Launch of new initiatives
- Special events as determined by staff managing events
Welcomes/Acknowledgements
Most elders will have their own Welcome to Country to perform at events. Below is the standard Acknowledgement of Country to be used at events.

- Standard acknowledgement

Before we begin the proceedings, I would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional owners of the land on which we meet; the Walbanga people, It is upon their ancestral lands that the University of Wollongong Batemans Bay Campus is built. As we share our own knowledge, teaching, learning and research practices within this university may we also pay respect to the knowledge embedded forever within the Aboriginal Custodianship of Country.

- Short acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners/custodians of the land on which we meet today. I would like to pay my respects to the Elders past and present and I would like to extend my respect to the Aboriginal people/colleagues/staff and students/who are present today

NOTE: This document should be read in conjunction with UOW’s policy document “GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS FOR WELCOME TO COUNTRY, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PEOPLE AND COUNTRY AND ABORIGINAL CULTURAL PERFORMANCES” which can be viewed at this address: http://www.uow.edu.au/about/policy/UOW151341.html

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