

C B R



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AISLE MEETS ANNIE

Example Acknowledgements of Country

KATRINA AND DONALD ON WIRADJURI COUNTRY

Worrimi, Yuuma, Yumalundi, Yirradu Marang. Hello, welcome, and good day in Dahrug, Ngunnawal, and Wiradjuri language.

Let us pause for just a moment to absorb what we're doing here today, in witnessing the incredible union of Katrina and Donald, and take in this stunning Country where they've chosen to bring their marriage into existence today, on Wiradjuri Country.

Today some of you have travelled from Sydney in Dharug Country, while others have come from Canberra in Ngunnawal and Ngambri Country where so much culture was shared with neighbouring mobs. We've travelled along the storylines of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, our first carers of Country throughout Australia. Across song lines - the navigational tracks of the land, waterways, and skies, created by spiritual ancestors and giving story to the land... singing the landscape to travel from one area to another.

Today you have travelled along rivers and roads till you reached here. From the Nepean river where Donald was born, beside Lake George and the Yass river, past the Murrumbidgee river to here, Gundagai.

Rivers and roads, running alongside one another in parallel. Rivers and roads, leading the way, just as Katrina and Donald do for one another.

So, on behalf of myself, and the Bride and Groom, I'd like to say thank you to First Nation's Peoples for their ongoing contribution and connection to community, culture, and Country. This land was never surrendered. It has always been and will continue to always be Aboriginal land.

I extend that respect to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples who are here with us today, as well as Elders past, present, and emerging.

JOANN AND MIKE ON NGUNNAWAL AND NGAMBRI COUNTRY

Hello and welcome, or Yuuma Yumalundi in Ngunnawal.

We're here at the Botanic Gardens where this love story began, surrounded by the plants that have been used by First Nations People since time immemorial. Like the Southern Grass Tree with the flower used to make a sweet drink after the spike has been soaked in water, the soft white leaf bases eaten, the resin surrounding the leaf giving medicine relief for the skin and giving glue for weapons and stone axes.

It is truly an honour to marvel in the land and to learn from those who have cared for this country the Ngunnawal and Ngambri Peoples. It's an incredible thing to be able to look beyond what we see presented to us, and to discover that there is value in all the little things that create a whole.

Jo and Mike, today you're standing in front of one another looking at each other just as they are, but also knowing the intricate pieces of their story that has made them into the person they are today, the wonderful and the weird (yes I'm talking about how much you love knitting Jo), but you're loving them anyway.

So, on behalf of myself and the couple, I'd like to pay respect to Ngunnawal and Ngambri Peoples, and all First Nations People as the first carers of Country throughout Australia. I'd like to extend that respect to Elders past, present, and emerging, as well as any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples who may be with us today.

CREATING MEMORABLE

and MEANINGFUL

EXPERIENCES

MEGAN AND ROSS ON NGUNNAWAL AND NGAMBRI COUNTRY

We are gathered here today at the National Arboretum with this spectacular view of Canberra, where you have called home for the last three years, and the place you have chosen to build your future together in marriage. The Arboretum holds a special place in Megan and Ross' hearts as it was one of the first places they came to when they moved to Canberra as a way to get to know the region.

Welcome, or Yumalundi in Ngunnawal. Canberra is Ngunnawal and Ngambri Country, Ngunnawal meaning "we, the people, or us", and Canberra meaning "meeting place" and so many neighbouring mobs also have a deep connection to this land. People met here and connected to culture. Important ceremonies were held, art was practiced, goods were traded, important news was shared, and marriages were arranged. That is what we're doing today, celebrating the meeting of these two people, Megan and Ross, to be joined in marriage.

I say thank you to our First Nations Peoples and our first caretakers of this land, the Ngunnawal and Ngambri Peoples. I pay my respects to the Elders past, present, and emerging and extend that respect to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with us today. I acknowledge that this land was never surrendered, and it has always been and will continue to always be Aboriginal land. Thank you for your ongoing contribution and connection to land, culture and community, and for us to learn from you and the land.

As we look upon this beautiful Country, I'd like for you all to take a moment and think about how you may, and how many of us, capture the land in drawings, in paintings, and in photographs. We see the land from where we stand on the ground looking out to the landscape. This is us here, and that is the land there. We look at the land as it presents itself right in front of us. Now think to some Aboriginal paintings and how these Peoples see the land. It is from above, seeing the land as a whole, a map. And so today we stand up here, looking down on this stunning view of Ngunnawal country, looking upon it in all its beauty. Let us take a moment to appreciate the honour of living with this land.

Megan and Ross, today you may be looking at your partner as they stand before, just as they are. But today, like the land, you are also saying "I will love you and care for you and support you at every angle, throughout the years of change, when you are covered with light and when you are cast in shadows, forever".

