

# WALKING TOGETHER IN COVENANT

*Leprena, Tasmania*

Leprena UAICC

## WHY DOES IT WORK FOR US? (IN A SOUTHERN LOCAL CONTEXT)

I think it comes down to two main things. First, we've always kept the door open for others. Second, nearby Ministers and congregation members have really put in the effort to connect with us. They've taken the time to get involved, understand what we do, and WHO WE ARE. They learn from us and then bring those lessons back to their own congregations, helping everyone feel like they're part of something bigger. This also shows how we're living out the Covenant and embracing cultural allyship, which is all about mutual respect, understanding, and working together across different communities. - Ayla Williams



## A REFLECTION BY THE MODERATOR



It was a fantastic time (20/21st June) of deep sharing and conversation. We acknowledged and sensed the presence of the elders, as we talked through significant personal stories around Leprena, and stories of Fanny Cochrane Smith, her faith and her strength in proclaiming and maintaining cultural identity. It was marvellous to have representatives of Tas Congress, Vic Congress, and National Congress together with other members of the Walking Together in Covenant Committee together at the church that is part of Fanny's legacy, deeply important to Congress Tasmania. The cultural awareness training, which was shared with other members of the local congregation at Kingston Uniting, skilfully drew us in to reflecting on the experience of the palawa people, both through the stories of their history and in everyday social experiences." - Rev. David Fotheringham

## THE COVENANT & CULTURAL SAFETY

The covenant should be cultural safety in abundance across the life of the church - it's not an option, it's a call, it's not a good idea, it's central to who we are as a church - it's not an extra, it's a connector, it's not a part of, it's the heart of "30 years on being in covenant isn't just knowing me as a UAICC member, it's knowing my peoples stories, it's wanting to know, it's our ethos as a church, yet there it sits often silenced, often misunderstood and at times invisible and disrespected. We are not invisible, we are the fire - Alison Overeem

