

Welcome to Country

Peramangk Country Smoking Ceremony

Dave Booth and family

Photo Credit: Baldwin Media



Purpose

A Welcome to Country is a ceremony conducted by the Traditional Custodians of an area at the beginning of an event to acknowledge and welcome visitors to that land. A Welcome to Country can only be conducted by Traditional Custodians, or in some cases approved Representatives of Traditional Custodians. Welcome to Country ceremonies are performed in a variety of ways, and may include a speech, a smoking ceremony, dancing, and singing.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

15-30 minutes
during the Lab

Tips for preparing

Research the history

If you know the general area you will be working in, but do not know the local Traditional Custodians, get informed on the history of the area and the Traditional Custodians prior to colonisation.

Local advisory

Reach out to local elders. Let them know what you hope to do. As relevant, invite them to attend and/or seek paid cultural advisory for your event. Seek their advice as to who is approved and recommended to conduct a Welcome to Country ceremony (and B2 Walk on Country).

Culturally safe space

Check with elders as to whether or not your proposed location is a culturally safe space. Take their recommendations for alternatives or how to make the space culturally safe.

First Nations flags and imagery are often displayed.

Remuneration

Welcome to Country ceremonies and performances are paid. In requesting services, ask for the fee schedule.

Develop your own acknowledgement

Display a written/drawn Acknowledgement of Country.

Offer your own verbal Acknowledgement of Country in opening remarks.

Check to make sure all relevant Traditional Custodians and Countries are mentioned.



Gippsland | Kurnai Country
Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony:
Cheryl Drayton



Eurobodalla | Brinja-Yuin Country
Welcome to Country: Minga Cultural Experiences, Patricia Ellis
Smoking Ceremony:
Muladha Gamara Dancers



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INNOVATION

