

Link-Up (Qld) Aboriginal Corporation
ABN: 36 073 956 496 ICN: 680

2010 Annual General Meeting Minutes Monday 6th December 2010
54-56 Peel St, West End Qld 4101

Members Present: Sam Watson (Chairperson), Kym Kilroy (Director), Jody Jackson, Brian Marshall, Mick Angeles, Dr Norm Sheehan (Director), Lloyd Kyle (Director), Willie Prince (Director), Rodney Boschman, Ruthie Link, Henrietta Hunter, Kerriann Toms, Dion Tatow, Rhonda Collard .

Members by Phone: Bernie Singleton (Director), Darcy Bolton (Member)

Invitees: Austin Gibbs (Returning Officer, Pilot Partners), Dr Melisah Feeney (CEO), Vanessa Smith, Mati Mistry, Marietta Pita, Helen Akee, Kathy Watson.

Minutes: Valerie Clarke

Meeting Started: 10.00am

1. **Welcome** by Chair, Sam Watson and acknowledgement of traditional owners and remembering those who have passed on in the last 12 months.
2. **Confirmation of Minutes** of 2009 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Motion: Jody Jackson moved that the minutes be accepted.

Seconded: Kym Kilroy.

All in favour.

3. **Receipt of Reports:**

- **Chair** - gave a verbal update reflecting on the year just passed. Sam Watson talked about the expansion of networks across the state, continuous travel, staff full professionalism and owed a vote of thanks. On behalf of clients this is acknowledged. The past 12 months have seen reconnection with clients and LUQ now has complete financial endorsement and is now in a strong position. Sam gave special thanks to Melisah Feeney for her management and also to senior management and admin staff to deliver higher level of support to community, and to every other member of the staff. Sam also paid tribute to fellow board members for their contribution. He noted that we have walked through hard and challenging times but now have a new sense of purpose. We have also farewelled senior community persons in past 12 months. We continue to work and move forward.

Motion: Sam Watson moved that the above report be accepted.

Seconded: Willie Prince.

All in favour.

- **Chief Executive Officer** – The CEO Dr Melisah Feeney acknowledged and thanked Sam and the team. She talked on how far we have come in a short time, that 2010 had been a 'Year of Housekeeping', and we are now in a better position to service and focus on our clients for the next 12 months. She noted that the number of clients has increased and the number of reunions had also increased this past year. The most exciting thing is that the team is now a strong team, better placed to serve the clients and community. Melisah gave thanks to the Board for their support and for giving her the freedom in the past year, to use her instincts in decision-making on behalf of LUQ. She gave thanks and acknowledgements to individual Board members for their contributions and noted that 'The house was now in order'. It was noted that 2011 will be a busy 12 months with many events, Healing Camps and reunions scheduled in. Melisah gave thanks to Brian as her right hand man and to Valerie for keeping her organised and on track over 2010. Lloyd gave a tribute to LUQ and noted that it was an honour to see a regionalised LUQ and a credit to both CEO, staff and senior management. Sam also acknowledged LUQs new state-wide profile.
- **Casework Achievements (Brian Marshall)** – Brian spoke on the key points of his written report. He noted that it had been an interesting year, with the first 5 months spent getting LUQ back on track and a difficult time for everyone. The start of year focus was upon changing peoples' attitudes towards LUQ and this has been achieved, due particularly to Melisah's ability to bring more staff on board to assist. Brian talked to his power point presentation that outlined data from the foxtrot system; more staff on board, location of current

clients (majority in far north Qld) and SE Qld; status of clients (improving stats and data collection), majority 1st Gen stolen gen; breakdown of age of clients, gender breakdown of current clients – more female clients, location of reunions in 2010. The aim in 2011 is to focus on target male clients. There was discussion on working well with the prison system. It was noted that LUQ have already made steps to link in with the prisons, and plan to continue this in 2011. Sam suggested that the next Board meeting be held in Townsville and that we connect with the prison up there. Sam thanked Brian. Kym asked how the trip overseas to Canada went – Brian talked on the differences and similarities between organisations here and there – examples given were the competition for funding and legality of Stolen Gen definitions.

- **Reports from Regional Offices (Nick Thompson, Marilyn Smith & Darcy Bolton)** – Nick Thompson is currently on a reunion so Melisah talked on his behalf and noted that he has achieved 13 reunions, has been doing fantastically up there with the high demands, plus doing Far North QLD work on behalf of other caseworkers, the Yarrabah cemetery program, the Art Initiative project, and helping get MOUs with medical services and BTH counsellors. Melisah noted that Nick would like to extend thanks to Uncle Bernie for his help and support. Melisah talked on the upcoming interviews on 15 Dec in Cairns for new SEWB worker to work with Nick in Cairns. Dion talked on the professionalism of Nick's presentation at the recent SEWB forum. **Marilyn Smith** – Melisah talked on her behalf and talked on setting the office up at TAIHS; Melisah noted that Marilyn had not yet achieved any reunions, but one is coming up just before Christmas and two more in the New Year. This was noted by the Board. Melisah noted that Marilyn has put together a fantastic steering group up in Townsville. **Darcy Bolton** - talked on his report – that he has built up a good rapport with Woorabinda – but that it had been difficult working in isolation at Rockhampton. He is currently working with Murri Court. Melisah thanked Darcy, and talked on the aim in 2011 to move this counsellor position to Cairns (more work and demand in this area).
- **Counselling team – Mati Mistry**– talked on the Art Initiative – has been working with Norm and Melisah in 15 locations. The workshops have now been completed and the digitilisation team have started photographing the artworks. There was discussion on the Brisbane workshops and ownership of the pieces and it was noted that a group of 3-4 ladies were still meeting and that pieces will be shown at an Art Exhibition in May next year. Rhonda Collard talked on the success of her art workshop. **Ruthie Link** talked on the success of Healing Camps – next year will hold one in far north Qld, and SE Qld, a Healing gathering on Palm Island, Dormitory gathering on Cherbourg. She noted that there would be an increased focus on clinical skills and Foxtrotting in 2011. It was noted that excitement existed around the upcoming Cherbourg reunion. There was discussion around the possibility of organising a gathering/healing program for groups with physical disabilities. Melisah asked if we should have a specific reunion for this group and this was answered in the affirmative by Willie who noted that there were 100s of clients out there with this need.
Sam thanked all staff who gave their reports.
- **2009 Financial Report and Auditors' Report** – Austin Gibbs read out the key points regarding the financial statements. The report summary was that of an unqualified audit opinion and that we have been able to acquit to funding body that funds were acquitted properly. Our financial position is strong for the year ahead.
Sam thanked PP for their support and help over 12 months.

Motion: Sam moved that the above reports provided be accepted.

Seconded: Bernie Singleton

All in favour.

4. Appointment of 2011/2012 Auditor:

Motion: Mick Angeles moved that Link-Up (Qld) appoint Pilot Partners as next years' Auditor was moved by Mick Angeles

Seconded: Kym Kilroy

All in favour.

5. Election of Directors

The Returning Officer declared the election of Directors in accordance with Rule 8.4 of the Corporation's Rulebook as follows:

- 1) Nominations were called for eligible members to be included in the 2010 election of directors in accordance with clause 8.4(a)(i). The Board consists of seven (7) director positions.

- 2) Three (3) existing directors re-standing for election under the rotation rule 8.7 were automatically included.
 - 3) Nominations were received in respect of five (5) directors, who duly passed the director eligibility criteria set out in clause 8.2.1.
 - 4) The nominee duly completed a "Consent to Act as Director" as required by clause 8.2.3.
 - 5) (a) Directors re-standing for office in 2010/11
 - Kym Kilroy
 - Willie Prince
 - Prof. Norm Sheehan.
 b) Nominations:
 - Bernie Singleton
 - Helen Akee
 - 6) As there are 7 (seven) eligible candidates standing to fill seven (7) available positions, no ballot is necessary to determine election, i.e. all candidates are deemed elected.
 - 7) Under clause 8.4 (g), I hereby declare the following person elected director in accordance with Rule 8.7:
 - Kym Kilroy
 - Willie Prince
 - Prof. Norm Sheehan.
 - Bernie Singleton
 - Helen Akee
 - 8) The full Board of Directors for the 2010/2011 year will be:
 - Sam Watson (Chair - 2 year term– to be eligible for re-election in 2011);
 - Lloyd Kyle (2 year term – to be eligible for re-election in 2011);
 - Kym, Kilroy (2 year term - to be eligible for re-election in 2012);
 - Willie Prince (2 year term - to be eligible for re-election in 2012);
 - Prof. Norm Sheehan (2 year term - to be eligible for re-election in 2012);
 - Bernie Singleton (2 year term - to be eligible for re-election in 2012);
 - Helen Akee (2 year term - to be eligible for re-election in 2012);
- Melisah noted Austin's eagerness and interest in getting involved in community events in 2011.

6. Special Resolutions - to amend the Corporation's Rule Book (Constitution) to ensure a mix of Director location, gender and expertise as per Notice of Special Resolution provided with the agenda

As outlined in the paper provided with the agenda, directors recommend members approve the following Special Resolutions to ensure the company has Directors from both the Brisbane region as well as regional and remote parts of Qld, of mixed gender and with specialist competencies to enhance the corporation's governance capacity. The resolution was read out and then discussed. Members highlighted the importance of this resolution to attract good quality directors with differing abilities and experience to bring to the table. People were invited to vote for or against the resolution noting that 75% need to be in agreement for the resolution to be approved.

Special Resolution No. 1

To amend Rule 8 by adding a new section (8.2) and re-numbering the remaining sections:

8.2 Geographical Location of Directors

- (a) There shall be two electoral zones for the purpose of electing directors. These are as follows:
 - (i) Zone QEA shall be the area within the Greater Brisbane area.

- (ii) Zone QEB shall be the remainder of the state of Queensland.
- (b) To be eligible for appointment as a Director, a member must be resident in either electoral zone.
- (c) A minimum of four Director positions will be allocated to each electoral zone.
- (d) The board have the discretion to appoint up to four casual Directors from either zone to maintain the good governance of the corporation.

Moved: Norm Sheehan **Seconded:** Bernie Singleton Unanimously carried.

Special Resolution No. 2

To amend Rule 8 by adding a new section (8.3) and re-numbering the remaining sections:

8.3 Gender mix of Directors

- (a) The corporation must have an appropriate mix of male and female Directors.

Moved: Kym Kilroy **Seconded:** Helen Akee Unanimously carried.

Special Resolution No. 3

To amend Rule 8 by adding a new section (8.4) and re-numbering the remaining sections:

- (a) The corporation must have an appropriate mix of specialist competencies represented on the board. These include the following:
 - (i) Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural expertise;
 - (ii) Members of the Stolen Generation
 - (iii) Community Development / Engagement
 - (iv) Social and Emotional Wellbeing / Mental Health
 - (v) Disability Experience and Knowledge
 - (vi) Research / Evaluation / Building an Evidence Base
 - (vii) Financial Management / Funding Sources
 - (viii) Government / Political Experience
 - (ix) Human Resource Management

Moved: Willie Prince **Seconded:** Lloyd Kyle Unanimously carried.

- The term 'appropriate mix' (Special Resolution No. 2) was questioned by Lloyd. Melisah noted that this mix was left to the Board to decide.

- 7. **Multi-Media presentation of Highlights from the Year** - Melisah talked on the power point presentation; LUQ is now a stable team, with an increase in reunions (especially old reunions finally closed), Mental Health promotion day (Henrietta Hunter initiating). Mick talked on his role in educating Indigenous JEP police cadets about Stolen Gen, also in schools and TAFE colleges, and prisons (with Bernard Kelly-Edwards and Ruthie Link), National Forum (LUQ facilitated) which was a success: paid respects to Aunty Kay for her service over the years, networking, Cherbourg a particular focus of the year, accreditation preparation and thanks given to Marietta, the Art Initiative, Sorry Day, Ruby Hunter dedication, and various festivals. Sam asked if Jody Jackson could congratulate the Touch Footy team for their efforts. NAIDOC - Mick talked on this and noted the

length of the event– 2 months, with plans to go out to Oakey, Koorbarrah, Ipswich, Palm Island, Rockhampton and Townsville.

8. Key Focus for Year Ahead

- Sam talked on current steps being made to look into new premises for the year ahead. Possible premises have been found at a West End location and the Indigenous Land Corporation has been approached with regards to initially leasing this building.

9. General Business

10:20am - Sam introduced the Choir who gave a recital.

Meeting closed: 11:45am.

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Sam Watson
Chairperson
Dated: December 2010

