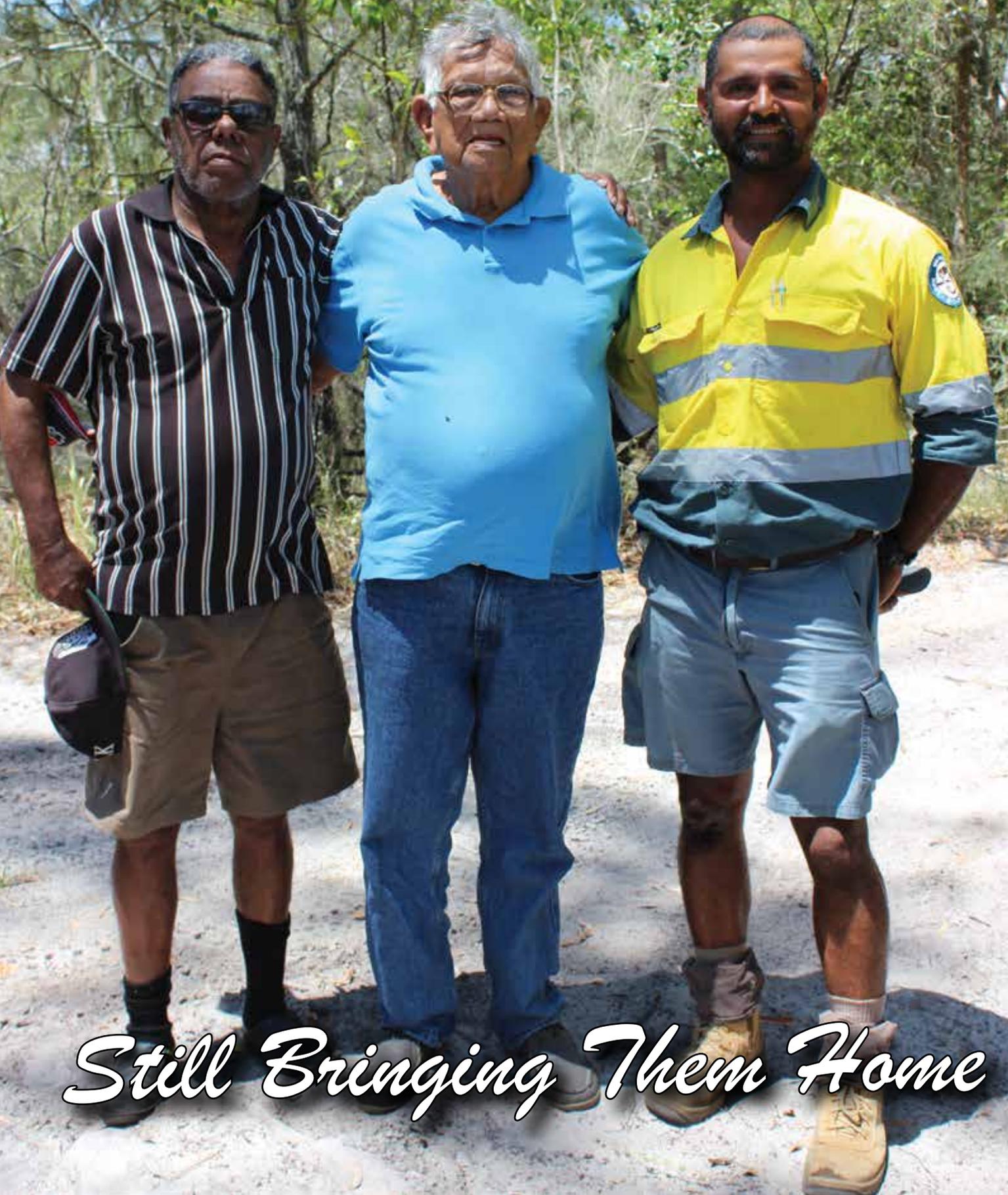




Link-Up (Qld)

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION®

Volume 23 Nov - Dec 2016



Still Bringing Them Home

Chairperson - Sam Watson



Sam Watson

There is a huge controversy out there in the public media about a certain cartoon that appeared in a recent national newspaper. The cartoon was drawn by a white Australian male and it depicted a scene that featured three characters – an Aboriginal police officer, an Aboriginal father and

a young Aboriginal boy. The Police officer confronts the father and demands he should take some responsibility for his son. The father figure is holding a can of beer. He reluctantly agrees and then asks what the child's name is.

This cartoon has drawn comments and views from across the nation with the debate split down the centre along largely racial lines.

Many Aboriginal leaders have attacked the cartoon, the cartoonist and the newspaper and accused them of being racist. The non Aboriginals have defended their right to the freedom of speech and have cried out that they are being pilloried by the Loonie left and the politically correct.

I look at the cartoon and I see the awful tragedy of the Stolen Generations. I see a father who is a victim of forced removal, a victim of a life spent in institutions, a life that was forever dominated and driven by powerful white bureaucracies over which the Aboriginal father had no control or redress. The three figures in the cartoon are all victims.

The father had been torn away from family, community, culture and country. He has never been shown any love or compassion throughout his wretched life. He and his mob were subjected to decades of horrific racism so the dominant society could move the bulldozers into his traditional lands. Now he is living on the fringes, without any resources or tools to survive within an alien and hostile environment.

The child is also lost. Being bought up within a community in which there is no structure or stability. There is almost zero unemployment, only basic education and very little infra-structure to serve and support the community. This child will complete the basic schooling and then transition to the dole. Just like his parents and grandparents.

The Aboriginal officer has a job, an income and some sort of lower position and standing within dominant society. But the uniform is a crude illusion. As we have seen in countless Deaths In Custody cases Aboriginal officers – sworn or unsworn, are merely window dressing to pay token lip service to the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

This scene was drawn to bring attention to what?! This cartoon does not introduce any new information or elevate the debate to any higher level. The public furore serves no-one. From an Aboriginal point of view it is very revealing. All the necessary information is there for all to see. Look at the cartoon and see three Aboriginals displaced from traditional homelands and trying desperately to get on with life. Then turn the pages of the paper to the stock exchange tables and economic reports and see that billions of dollars have been generated by the illegal exploitation of stolen Aboriginal land. The true legal owners are being ridiculed and attacked for their historical failure to repel the white invader, whilst the white billionaires are being feted for their accumulation of wealth under criminal circumstances.

If the situation of Aboriginal families in those communities wasn't so tragic, this cartoon would not have raised an eyebrow. But given the appalling poverty and fourth world conditions on those places this crude drawing is just another cheap and nasty attack on people who have endured such terrible, soul destroying lives. And the darker irony is that given the billions of dollars that have been ripped out of those same tribal lands those three traditional owners the father, son and police officer should be millionaires sitting back in air conditioned comfort; but instead they are being used as sad clowns to amuse white readers.

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DISCLAIMER: Whilst every effort has been made to respect cultural traditions, Indigenous readers are advised that this publication may contain images of people who are deceased.

CEO - Patricia Conlon



Patricia Conlon

Welcome to the final edition of our magazine for the year. I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the staff at Link-Up (Qld) who all do such an amazing job.

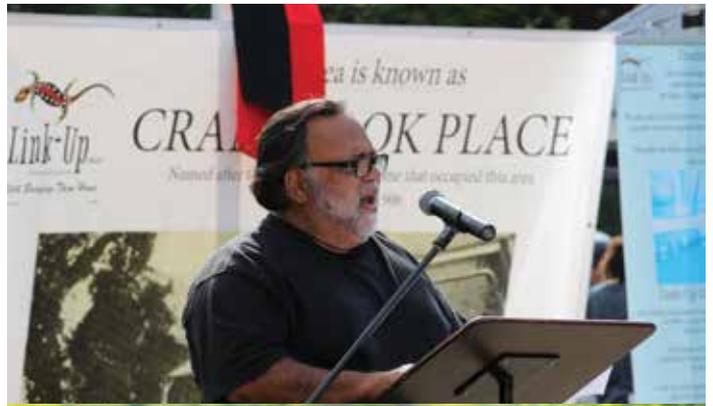
Our administration, our researchers, caseworkers and counsellors, our leadership team and of course our multi media unit – who put this deadly magazine together. Our staff are committed, dedicated and caring. This edition is packed with photographs and stories of reunions and our last gathering for the year – the client Xmas lunch which demonstrates the commitment of our staff to our clients.

We are also supported by a strong and dedicated Board of Directors headed by Chairman Sam Watson. We thank them for their leadership, wisdom and guidance.

We have had a very busy year and thought I might fill this page with a collage of highlights from throughout the year.

One of those highlights is Carmel Schleger our SEWB Counsellor launching “The Healing Room”, a new space in the Brisbane office where clients can visit to unwind, relax, reflect, and all together heal. We hope the space is something our clients value and view as beneficial to their healing journeys.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Link-Up (Qld) Brisbane's Healing Room

Stewart Reunion 112 years later - Fraser Island



Link-Up (Qld) Caseworker Wayne Ah-Wong, Ranger John Green, Eric Stewart, Traditional Owner Malcom Burns and Senior Ranger Conrad Burns

My name is Eric Stewart I was born in August 1930 in Cairns North Queensland. My mother is Jennie Cassen and my Father is John Stewart both deceased. I worked around the Cairns district cutting cane and as a butcher in the meatworks. I also picked oranges in Victoria.

I am aware of my father John Stewart's family history but I know little of my mother's family. I made contact with Link-Up (Qld) in Cairns during November 2014 requesting information about mother Jennie Cassen, born in 1899. I wanted to go back to my mother's country, where she was taken from on Fraser Island in 1904.

Archibald Metson attempted to establish the Bogimbah Mission on Fraser Island southern/central Queensland during 1897. My mother was 'removed' from Bogimbah Reserve in August 1904 when the Reserve was closed 112 years ago. My mother was around five years of age when she was taken from the Island and 'removed' to Yarrabah in North Queensland. When my mother Jennie Cassen married my father John Stewart at Yarrabah Aboriginal Community, it was noted in her marriage certificate that her Mother, my grandmother, was named Carrie. I never spoke to, met or saw a photograph of my grandmother Cassie. My mother never spoke of my grandmother.

Wayne and I travelled from Cairns and were met in Brisbane by Counsellor Gordon Glenbar and then travelled by car to Hervey Bay. On the Thursday we travelled across to Fraser Island and were met at the jetty by Traditional Owners – Elder Malcolm Burns Snr, Senior Ranger Conway Burns and Ranger John Green - I started to feel very emotional. I was not expecting what happened next - Senior Ranger Conway Burns gave permission for Ranger John Green to



Uncle Eric Stewart





Uncle Eric receiving a Traditional Welcome on Fraser Island me and Conway and John danced a welcome home dance for me, followed by a smoking ceremony. Conway said to me, as far as he knew I was the oldest living Butchulla person. Rodrick Walmsley from Marine Safety Queensland witnessed the three events.

Rangers Conway Burns and John Green then took me aside from the rest of the group and showed me other pre-colonial significant cultural sites in the area. We then went to the Bogimbah Reserve site where my Mum would have played and performed her daily tasks until she was taken away to Yarrabah. Conway, John, Uncle Malcolm and Rodrick left us there and went back to what they were doing before we came back to the mainland.

I am and will remain ever so grateful for what Senior Ranger Conway Burns, Ranger John Green and Elder Malcolm Burns Senior did for me on my reunion to my mother's country.

The day after the reunion I felt very relaxed and relieved. I would now like to take my sons back to the Bogimbah Reserve site on Fraser Island to see where their grandmother and her brother were taken from before I am too old.



Traditional Owner Malcom Burns and Uncle Eric welcome me to country in language. Ranger John then took us to the Bogimbah Reserve site. On the way we met up with Conway and his Uncle, Elder Malcolm Burns Senior and work colleague, Rodrick Walmsley from Marine Safety Queensland.

I was shocked yet again when Conway, his Uncle Malcolm and John sang a welcome to country song for



Debbie Young Reunion - Coonamble



Debbie Young and her Family at her fathers grave

I first came to Link-Up (Qld) towards the end of 2014 to try to find my father. It was the best thing I have ever done. I gave what little information that I had to the researcher Lauren Scheiwe in Brisbane. All I told her was my father's name and said that he was from NSW and she did the rest. I also did a little research on my own and shared the information with Lauren.

My father Gordon Whitton (also known as Dixon) was a Kamilaroi man from North West NSW. My mother and father were living in Cunnamulla when they separated. At that time I was 4 and had 2 younger brothers. We moved to Brisbane soon after the separation with our mother where she got into another relationship and had three more sons, but we were all removed from her care when I was 9 years old and sent to separate homes and institutions. I was placed in one foster home after another and was always sent back to the institutions after very short stays with foster families so I never really had a "family lifestyle".

It would be 9 years before I was reunited with my mother.

My journey to re-connect with my father started when I was around 12 yrs old. My mother never told me who he was and didn't encourage me to look for him, so I stopped asking questions. Many times I would cry for him when I was feeling sad, lonely and unloved. I always wondered who (and where) he was and thought that if he knew where I was he'd come and take me home and make everything alright. Unfortunately for me this didn't happen. My dad passed away in 1987 at the age of 49 and I never had the opportunity to meet him again. He died not knowing that he had four grandsons. My mother's older sister told me about my dad and I tried many a time to find him over the years but couldn't.

My family reunion started on Wednesday 22/9/16. I arrived at the Cairns Airport with my son/support person Keith. My other two sons Wayne and Mick



Aunty Pauline, Aunty Rosie, Debbie and Uncle Richard



With Aunty Phoebe and her sons Wayne and David



Wayne, Mick, Mathais, Debbie and Keith

(and his son Mathais) also came for the reunion and paid their own way. We then flew from Sydney to Dubbo NSW with Link-Up (Qld) workers Kathleen Bobongie and Jessie Cobbo. When we saw Dubbo, I said to my sons “We’re Home”. My father’s brother, Richard Dixon was waiting for us at Dubbo Airport. I almost collapsed when I first saw him because it was such an emotional time for all of us to finally meet. Uncle Richard and I had spent a lot of time talking before the reunion. I had never met him before but he travelled from Dalby Qld just to meet us.

On Thursday, we travelled 164 kilometres to Coonamble for the graveside reunion. I was blessed to have two of my father’s siblings, Aunty Rosie Wallace and Uncle Richard, my three sons and grandson with me. While the song that I had chosen was playing my sons cleaned the gravesite and placed 5 single stemmed roses and a framed picture of my deceased brother Mick (who died at the age of 44) on it. During this time Aunty Rosie comforted me. Even though it was a very sad and emotional event, I was happy that the ceremony went the way I had planned it. One of my cousins came to the gravesite soon after the reunion and gave me a photo of my dad.

After the graveside reunion we were all invited to Aunty Rosie’s house for lunch. I met more of my father’s relatives. It was as if we’d known each other all our lives. Everyone couldn’t get over how much we all looked alike. I felt like I was home when I listened to stories about dad and being on his Country made me feel like I “belonged”. The saddest thing my aunts and uncles told me was that my dad wondered where my younger brothers and I were but didn’t know how to get in contact with us or where to start looking.



Uncle Richard and Debbie

For many years a part of me was always missing. So it’s hard to describe the way I felt when I eventually got to be with dad. Even though it was a graveside reunion, I still got the closure that I’d longed for. My heart and spirit is now complete because I finally discovered the other half of my identity and now I know where I belong. Being acknowledged and welcomed by my family when I arrived on Country was a bonus.

I’m looking forward to travelling with all of my family to NSW in the very near future to visit and meet more family, and also having them come to Cairns to visit us.

I would strongly recommend Link-Up (Qld) to people who are out there trying to trace or connect with loved ones. I’d like to take this time to acknowledge and thank Lauren, Kathleen, Jessie and Desley Ah Wing for their assistance and support along my journey.

It took me 56 years, but thank you Link-Up (Qld) for “Taking Me Home”.



Wayne, Kathleen, Debbie, Uncle Richard, Keith, Mick, Mathais and Jessie

Roy McIvor Reunion - Alice Springs



Uncle Roy McIvor, his daughter Ramona and Auntie Thelma McIvor

Extract taken from story written by Thelma McIvor, wife and support person of Roy McIvor - Link-Up (Qld) client.

This sad story began in the 1900's when Roy McIvor's Mother Nelly Thompson, her sister Dolly and young brother Harold were taken from Stonehenge, south west of Longreach Queensland by Cobb & Co Coach, train and boat to Cape Bedford Mission on the east coast of Far North Qld. As the children were being taken away, Roy's Mother Nelly, the eldest at 9 asked the Coach Driver to stop at Warbreccan Station where their eldest brother Henry was working. Sadly they said their goodbyes to Henry not knowing where they were being taken to. At Cape Bedford Mission Nelly was baptised as Rachel and later married Paddy McIvor becoming Rachel McIvor.

From Cape Bedford, Rachel wrote letters back to Stonehenge to her brother Henry. Sadly all the letters were returned. When Cape Bedford people were forcibly removed at gunpoint to Woorabinda during WW2, Rachel met other relatives and again began to write letters in search of her brother Henry, again without any success.

Rachel's son Roy McIvor now living in Hope Vale Community Qld in his 50s (1984 – 1994) took on the quest to find Uncle Henry on his own. Roy phoned the Elderly Post Masters at Stonehenge, Indigenous organisations, land councils, Tennant Creek and Darwin, again without any success. Roy registered for help to search for his Uncle with Link-Up (Qld) around 1995. At first searching for Henry Kelly without any success. The case went cold for some time. During November 2015 Roy's daughter Ramona noticed on her Great Uncles documentation regarding his Exemption papers some places his surname was spelt Kely and not Kelly. Link-Up (Qld) Research Team took up the search this time for Henry Kely.

During April and May 2016 the Link-Up (Qld) Research Team found a death certificate and grave site for Henry Kely in Alice Springs, Northern Territory. The family did have some doubts but although brief the death certificate had enough matching information for Roy to believe that this was his Uncle Henry Kely. Roy absorbed and accepted the information and wanted to visit the grave site of his Uncle Henry. For our family the question was could Roy, now 82 years of age and deteriorating health, be able to travel comfortably to Alice Springs.



Uncle Roy and Auntie Thelma at his Uncle Henry's grave



Link-Up (Qld) Staff began planning a graveside Reunion in Alice Springs. I knew that winter in Alice Springs could put Roy in his own grave, so we left the visit until it got warmer in late October 2016. Once we arrived in Alice Springs we laid a huge amount of living, royal blue orchards, artificial flowers and two glass angles on the grave site. We wanted Uncle Henry to know, without a doubt, that he had been greatly missed by his sisters, brothers, nephews, nieces and grandchildren.

and I purchased a plaque for the grave site and we searched for local people who may know our Uncle in particular the families of two witnesses on the death certificate - Mr W J Satour and Mr J Cassidy 1951.

Thank You Link-Up (Qld) for listening to Roy's request, your belief in the cause, your dogged research and wonderful outcome, and the icing on the cake for the reunion trip to Alice Springs and Uncle Henry's grave.

Roy prayed and we both sang songs in Guugu Yimidirr language in Uncle Henry's honour and remembrance. Roy said he was happy to know his Uncle was laid to rest surrounded by beautiful mountains and gum trees. Several days after we arrived back home Roy told me Uncle Henry came to him smiling. During the last day in Alice Springs, Roy



Uncle Henry Kely's gravesite



At the grave of Uncle Henry



Visiting Albert Namajira's gravesite in Alice Springs

Thompson/Rolf Reunion by Aunty Faye Carr

Why did they take her so far away?

My grandmother, Annie Rolf was removed from her parents aged 9 years old and sent to Deebing Creek mission near Ipswich some 1,100 kilometres away. Her father died in 1919 when she was 14yrs old and her mother died in 1936 when grandmother Annie was 31 years old. She never saw her parents again after she was removed and as a young girl did not even know if her parents were still alive. Departmental records tell us this. It haunts and saddens me that my grandmother Annie had her own 7 children whilst her mother was still alive and so far away from her and that they were never to ever see each other again or to know that her little girl was herself a mother.

Not only was grandmother Annie removed from her parents, but also her siblings – Jack Jnr, Lena, Grace and Eric. Never to see them again or have contact with them. Lena was taken by a doctor and his family when their father died in 1919. Ironically, this family moved to Marburg where Lena lived with them for 17 years and just 23 kilometres away from where her young sister Annie was. As far as we know, even though they were so near, they never saw each other after being removed from their parents. Lena then ended up in Sydney with this family and we understand from records, she never married or had children. She was cremated at Northern Suburbs crematorium.

Grace was removed to Isisford, where she died as a young woman around 17 years of age. She is buried at Isisford cemetery in an unmarked grave.

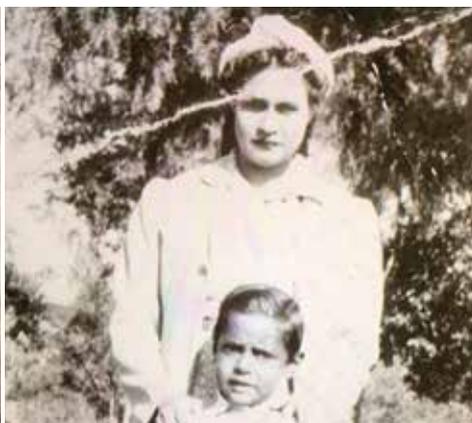
Jack Jnr ended up at Woorabinda and we understand he married a lady named Nellie Gray around 1940, and from records we have there is no reference to any children.

Eric Rolf lived in Longreach and had one son, Peter. Eric died in 1979 and is buried at Longreach.

My grandmother Annie is buried at Boonah with her husband, my grandfather Harry Thompson, her parents and siblings at Winton, Isisford, Longreach, Aramac and Sydney – it is so sad that they were removed and remained so far away from each other.



Annie (Rolf) and Harry Thompson Jnr



Doris and Walter Thompson children of Annie



Lena Rolf



Eric Rolf and two unidentified men



Eric Rolf



My sister Sheryl and I on behalf of our many brothers and sisters, our many children (we are talking hundreds), Aunty Phil, Aunty Syliva and Uncle Wal who are the last surviving children of our Grandmother Annie Rolf want to say Thank You to Link-Up (Qld) for helping us to put the pieces together for us on our Grandmother Annie Rolf's side of the family. Without the support from Link-Up (Qld) we would not have known where to start in terms of locating where our old people are resting.

We just can't express our gratitude enough for the opportunity to visit the gravesites of our Great Grandmother Lizzie at Winton, our Great Grandfather Jack Rolf at Aramac, Aunt Grace at Isisford Cemetery in an unmarked grave, Uncle Eric Rolf at Longreach. Through this visit to Longreach we met local Elders, Tony and Myrtle Weldon and Peter Holt, who were able to put us in contact with Uncle Eric's son Peter. We will follow up and meet with Peter and visit Uncle Jack Rolf Jnr's grave at Woorabinda. We also want to follow up with the family who Aunt Lena lived with in Sydney at some point in the future.

In Longreach we also had the pleasure of meeting Noel and Annie Hart. Noel was a train driver and Uncle Eric worked on the railway with him. It was great meeting them and having a good old yarn.

We particularly want to thank Link-Up (Qld) staff Rob our Caseworker, Rhyll who did the research, Jason for the photo's, Pat the CEO and her amazing team of people. Coming to the Link-Up (Qld) office is always a pleasure, we are always treated with respect and welcomed at any time.

If anyone out there wants to find their family, I would encourage you to contact Link-Up (Qld) – they are Deadly!



Tiara West Reunion - Darwin



Amber West, Graig West, Desmond, Tiara West and Mathew Brennan

My name is Tiara West and I am 23 years old. I was born in Coffs Harbour, NSW. My mother and father separated when I was very young. My mother had four other children to care for. The responsibility of helping to care for my siblings as well as other factors resulted in situations of conflict within the family home. It was a bit of a roller coaster ride for me and I felt very unhappy and kept running away. As a result, the Department of Community Services placed me in foster care at the age of 12. The other children remained with my mother. My foster parents were great but it wasn't the same as living with family.

As I was growing older, my father, Craig West was always in my thoughts and I longed to see him again. I had been looking for him since I was 14 years old. I tried to trace him through another organisation but there were no leads. This was very heartbreaking for me. There were so many unanswered questions. I started to wonder if he was still alive and if so, would he ever be found? Would he even want to know me or want to meet me again?

I was living in Dalby in Qld in 2013 and attended Goondir Health Services. I was offered a referral to Link-Up (Qld) and later completed an intake form for them in the hope of finding my father. Life got busy and I moved to Darwin to be with my partner Matthew Brennan. We have a son, Desmond who is almost 2. I am expecting another baby in December this year.

In August this year, Kathleen Bobongie from Link-Up (Qld) contacted me and told me that my case had gone cold and that they had managed to find me again after I moved from Dalby. Kathleen asked me if I was still interested in trying to locate my father. Of course I said yes, I was stoked. Within a few weeks, Kathleen phoned me to tell me that she had found my dad and had spoken to him in person. I was a bit shocked as it all happened so quickly. I felt so emotional, especially knowing that my father wanted to see me again and that a day hadn't gone by without him thinking about me. My partner didn't know what the conversation was about, he looked at me, saw that





I was a bit shaken and thought that somebody had passed away.

The reunion was organised for the weekend of 15 and 16 October 2016 and my father and my cousin Amber West were going to travel from Wellington in NSW to Darwin. I started to get really excited. Everything was moving very quickly. At the back of my mind I wondered if it was really going to happen. The Link-Up (Qld) workers Kathleen Bobongie and Jessie Cobbo arrived in Darwin first on Friday, 14 October. I asked Kathleen to send me a text message when my father and Amber arrived in Darwin at 11pm later that night. It was about midnight when I got the message. I couldn't believe it, they were staying in a hotel a stone's throw away from where I lived. So close yet so far. Everything hit me all at once and I had trouble sleeping that night. My thoughts started racing and the anticipation of the reunion was upon me.

I woke on Saturday morning feeling a little tired but eager to see my father again. My partner and my son and I arrived first at the Darwin Botanic Gardens and waited in front of the fountains which was the meeting place for the reunion. I wasn't even sure what dad looked like after so many years and wondered if he would recognise me. The most significant part of my

reunion experience was finally seeing my dad's face again. We hugged for a long time. Dad still called me his baby. I also met my cousin Amber for the first time, we are the same age, born 1 day apart. Dad met my partner Matthew and his grandson Desmond for the first time as well. I felt so emotional. Dad felt so emotional. Matthew was happy for us as he knew this meant so much to me.

We spent time catching up over dinner that night at the Darwin Wharf. We went to Sanctuary Lakes on the second day so that dad could feed the ducks with his grandson. There was a family trip to Crocosaurus Cove. A beautiful ending to the reunion weekend was going to Mindil Beach markets on Sunday night and watching the sunset and enjoying the food. Everybody was feeling tired and dad and Amber had an early morning flight back to Sydney.

It was very emotional having to say our goodbyes but I am hoping to get Dad to visit us again in Darwin soon and spend some more time with us. Though my healing journey continues, I feel more complete within myself and can now look at dad's photo and call him and hear his voice again. I even put dad back in touch with mum again over the phone after all these years so our family has had the opportunity of reconnecting again.

I am very impressed with Link-Up (Qld). It is the most successful organisation I have come across and without a doubt clients will end up with results. Link-Up (Qld) staff will always keep in touch. Amazing organisation, amazing staff, amazing work. The reunion was perfect and staff were very supportive. Thank you Kathleen and Jessie.

Thank you Link-Up (Qld).



Graig West and his Grandson Desmond



Tiara West with her father Graig West

2017 Client Christmas Party - Brisbane









Sheila Wahsquonaikeshik - Batchewana First Nation of Ojibway



Link-Up (Qld) Cairns staff Wayne Ah-Wong, Kathleen Bobongie, Robyn Ah-Wong and Sheila Wahsquonaikeshik from Canada

Staff in the Cairns office were privileged to receive a visit from Sheila Wahsquonaikeshik who is a member of the Batchewana First Nation of Ojibway (Anishnawbek) from northern Ontario, Canada. Sheila's last name and spirit name hold a cultural significance - her name by which she addresses all of creation is "Sunwoman" and her last name is descriptive of how the sun peeks over the horizon in the morning "Like glowing white cedar", describing the redness of the morning sun.

Sheila is here attending and presenting on two panels at the National Association of Gambling Studies being held in Cairns from November 23rd to 25th, where she will be sharing her work (gambling awareness and associated issues) in the remote northern region of Ontario. Her second presentation is a panel discussion on the topic of Diversity. Sheila has a vast skill set which focuses on program development; in the area of palliative care training modules (HIV/AIDS); land-based programming for Indigenous people affected by addictions; land-based programming for First Nation youth who are in-care of the child welfare system to name a few.

Ms Wahsquonaikeshik has had the privilege of working with Residential School Survivors and survivors of the Sixties Scoop which took place from the 1960's to 1980's. Sheila is a survivor of the Sixties Scoop which was a government sanctioned program involving the forcible (and/or unjust) and genocidal practice of separating First Nation's children from their parents, community, language and culture and placing/adopting them with non-indigenous families which were more often than not families from the dominant white culture.

Upon Sheila's arrival to Australia, an esteemed colleague of hers shared Link Up (Qld)'s brochure and Sheila inquired if a meeting could take place. We, at Link-Up (Qld) were honoured to have her come and share her narrative of the Stolen Generation from within the Canadian context. As our meeting progressed it became more apparent how similar the policy of assimilation is within Australia and Canada within the context of both the Sixties Scoop and Stolen Generation.

The complexity of genocidal practices was shared - Her father was a survivor of the Residential School system and her generation became the subsequent target of family, community and cultural fragmentation by way of apprehending children under the aegis of benevolence - "in the best interests of the child". Sheila contends that we need to pay more than lip service to the adage "in the best interest of the child" - concrete steps must be taken to ensure that apprehensions of Indigenous children by child welfare authorities must be avoided to ensure that the cultural integrity and way of life is assured to all Indigenous people.

This would include the provision of adequate funding to communities that would lend itself to high standard of quality infra-structure to positively impact associated social determinants of health. There is a critical need to interrupt and dismantle transgenerational traumas that result from institutions like Residential Schools and the Child Welfare System.

Sheila has overcome many obstacles that were faced as a result of this cultural dislocation; self-harm vis-à-vis cutting, drug addiction, gang involvement, justice

system, physical and sexual abuse and suicide attempts. She is a firm believer that with good supports, mentoring and well supported repatriation programs delivered in a wholistic culturally respectful way that survivors of the Sixties Scoop/Stolen Generation can come to a place of healing and peace to live full vibrant lives, free of residual trauma.

Sheila generously shared her personal story, her healing journey and her pathway to how she was able to embrace and internalize her cultural self that was denied to her as a child. Both the Link-Up (Qld) staff of Wayne, Robyn and Kathleen, along with Sheila appreciated the mutual sharing that occurred.

Meegwetch.



Sheila Wahsqonaikezhik - Batchewana First Nation of Ojibway

Cairns Client Support Group 2017 Morning Teas

Held on the last Wednesday of every month at the Link-Up (Qld) Cairns office from 10.00am to 11.30am

Contact us on (07) 4041 7403 for more details

Next meeting will be on:

25th January

22nd February

29th March

26th April

31st May

28th June

26th July

Brisbane Client Support Group 2017 Morning Teas

Held on the last Thursday of every month at the Link-Up (Qld) Brisbane office from 10.00am.

Contact Link-Up (Qld) on 07 3034 8444 for more information. Next meeting will be on:

23rd February

30th March

27th April

25th May

27th June

27th July

31st August

28th September

Link-Up (Qld) Brisbane office has a new phone number

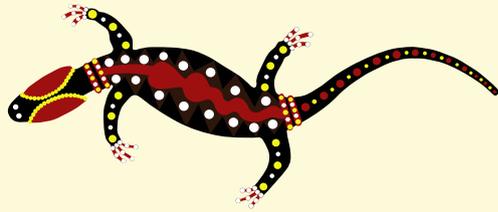
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And visit our Website: www.link-upqld.org.au



Link-Up (Qld)

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION ®

Still Bringing Them Home



About Link-Up (Qld) -Our Mission-

Link-Up (Qld) Aboriginal Corporation supports the healing journeys of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people who have been separated from their families and cultures through forced removal, fostering, adoption and/or institutionalisation. We deliver professional, culturally sensitive and confidential research, reunion and cultural wellbeing services.

Link-Up (Qld) Aboriginal Corporation Caseworkers and Counsellors are experienced individuals who can assist in reuniting Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander families.

We also provide a referral service to the appropriate organisation or Government Department.

Quick Facts

- ▶ Link-Up (Qld) is a FREE service
- ▶ We offer support before, during and after your family reunion
- ▶ We respect your privacy and treat all information confidentially
- ▶ Link-Up (Qld) runs a range of healing activities; camps, support groups, art, craft and music workshops
- ▶ We offer cultural renewal activities and support return to country

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Please be aware that Link-Up (Qld) Brisbane office has a new phone number

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