

ANNUAL REPORT

2013-2014



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WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are warned that this document may contain images of deceased persons.

FRONT COVER:
Cairns Healing Camp at Genazanno Conference Centre, Lake Tinaroo NQ

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY:

Link Up (Qld) Aboriginal Corporation, its Board and its Staff
would like to pay their respect to the
Traditional Owners and Elders, past and present
on whose lands we have visited,
and on whose lands we work and live.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:



Sam Watson
Chairperson

Welcome to this year's AGM and thank you for your ongoing support. The AGM is that time of the year when the members come together and fully scrutinise the reports and financial statements, and peruse the audited returns. It is at the AGM that the membership is given the opportunity to evaluate the activities and performance of the corporation. This organisation has now been operating for 30 years and we have grown and expanded to the point at which we are now widely regarded as being a senior, peak organisation in this sector. We have regional offices in Cairns, Townsville and Mt Isa, and we service communities and families from every part of this vast state. We reach out and connect with individuals and families, we run programmes and initiate and manage activities, and we continue to serve those members of our community who were forcibly removed during those darker times of our recent past.

Link-Up (Qld) has witnessed and been a contributing partner to some of the most significant events of this nation. We were there when the Royal Commission in the 1990s was conducted by Sir Ronald Wilson. We were there when the Prime Minister, the Hon. Kevin Rudd MP, launched his new government and a complete new era of race relations in the land, with that incredible moment of the national apology to the Stolen Generations in 2008.

Link-Up (Qld) was initially founded to respond to the needs of our Stolen Generations survivors, and their families and communities. We were founded to become a committed advocate for people from within our community, who were victims of the most appalling treatment and abuse. From very humble beginnings we have grown to this level at which we are senior leader, and as a major corporation we are a very real presence in this sector. We are there on a daily basis for our clients and our community, and we are constantly talking to government and to our partners, in order to advance our struggle to properly address and serve our clients and our community.

As you read through the reports that have been prepared for you, you will note that we continue to maintain the highest level of administration and accountability. There are no qualifications on the audit and we have given due account for every cent that we have received from government. You will also note that we have said farewell to a number of staff from last year's AGM. Those people have each made significant contributions to the work of this corporation and they have left our employment with our blessings. Each one of those persons has gone onto other positions and other work, and we wish them well. We have also welcomed into our Link-Up (Qld) family some new faces and we have been very, very impressed with the quality, commitment and vision of our new members. As the Chair of the corporation and on behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank all members of our staff (both past and present) for your magnificent efforts across this past year. To work in this sector and to confront on a daily basis, the horror and tragedy of so many damaged lives is never an easy thing to do, and many of our own staff have had to access substantial and ongoing counselling to assist them to deal with their work. I also want to thank our clients and our community for your continuing support and endorsement.

I also say a huge thanks to our Board of Directors, you have each done great things and it has been a real privilege to work with you. I am pleased and proud to hand the corporation back to the members and to seek your support for another year.

Sam Watson
Board Chairperson
November 2014

BOARD BIOGRAPHIES:



SAM WATSON (QEA)

Sam's people are from the Birigubba tribe, in Bowen Basin country and like himself have been strong fighters against racism. In 1990, Penguin Books published Sam's first novel - The Kadaitcha Sung - to broad critical acclaim. The novel was the runner up in the 1991 Victorian Premier's literary award and in the same year Sam was honoured by the Fellowship of Australian Writers as the Indigenous Writer of the Year. In 1991, Sam returned to work at the Brisbane Aboriginal Legal Service and became an executive member of state and national legal aid bodies and was directly involved in implementing the findings of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.



WILFRED PRINCE (QEA)

Willie is a Wakka Wakka and Kalkadoon man, is a member of the Stolen Generations and was removed from his family, community and culture for seventeen years because of his physical disability. He is passionate about advocating for the needs of people with a disability and focusing on building recognition of people's abilities. Willie has showcased his own abilities in his professional, community and sporting life. He previously excelled in athletics at a national level, winning medals for shot-put and discus.



SUSAN KLEIN (QEB)

Susie Klein is a Jaularoi woman born on Mandandanji traditional lands to which she whole-heartedly pay her respects. The Town of Roma is found on this land in South West Queensland, Australia. Susie is married to Brent and has two children, Rebecca and Myles, both of whom are adored. Susie is very grateful to her mother, the historian of the family, who has worked tirelessly in connecting her to her people. Susie's parents are Cliff and Ann Collins (nee McPherson) belonging to Jaularoi, Kamilaroi and Gungarri peoples between them.



BERNIE SINGLETON (QEB)

Mr Bernie Singleton is passionate about the health and well being of his people. For over six years, Mr Bernie Singleton has been the chairman for Apunipima Cape York Health Council. He has also been a Board Member of the Queensland Aboriginal Islander Health Council (QAIHC) for more than two years, representing Cape York and the Torres Strait region. His engagement with Far North QLD communities and his understanding of their history, politics and culture, brings a wealth of experience to Link-Up (Qld).



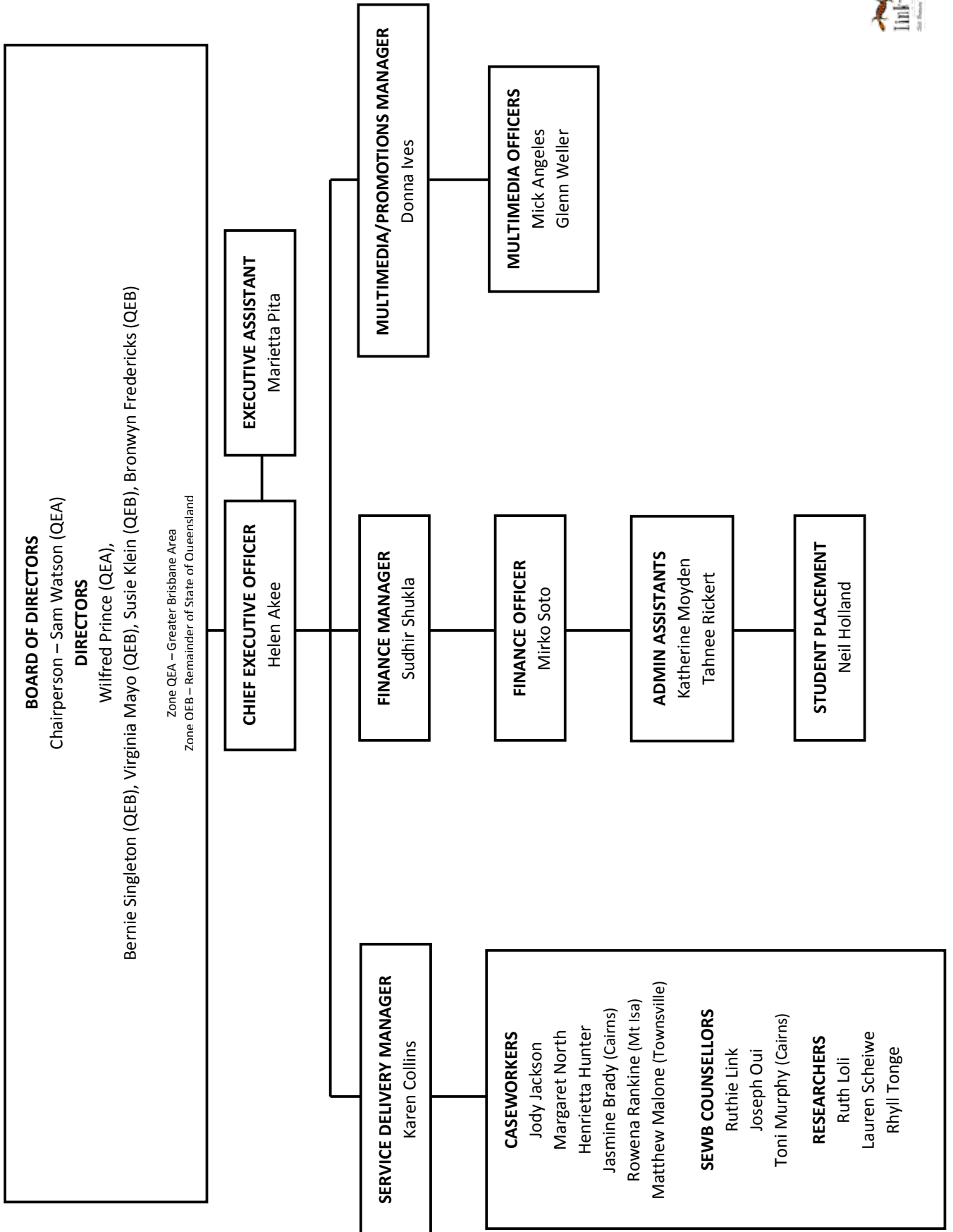
BRONWYN FREDERICKS (QEB)

Bronwyn Fredericks is a Murri woman originally from South East Queensland (Ipswich / Brisbane). She lives in Rockhampton and has a long history in working with community based organisations being committed to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community control. For the past 30 plus years she has served as a board member for both Indigenous and broader organisations at local, state and national levels. She has also worked at local, state and national levels, She has a particular interest in education, health, well being and women's issues and holds numerous tertiary qualifications.



VIRGINIA MAYO (QEB)

ORGANISATIONAL CHART:



SERVICE DELIVERY REPORT:



Karen Collins

The Service Delivery Team continue to deliver Reunions and support services to Stolen Generation clients to assist them to continue on their healing journey.

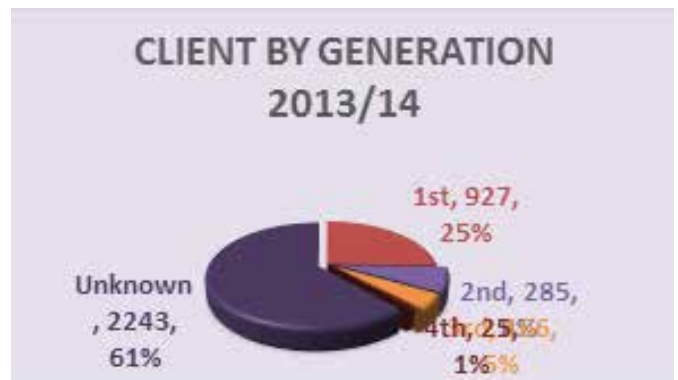
The reporting period has been challenging for the Service Delivery Team, down two staff, 1 Counsellor and 1 Caseworker, nevertheless with a good team effort the Team continued to deliver and were able to accomplish outcomes for our Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) of twenty-five Reunions as well as participation in all other LUQ events.

I have always endeavoured to support my staff through this busy but most crucial period to assist with the social and emotional wellbeing of our Stolen Generation clients.

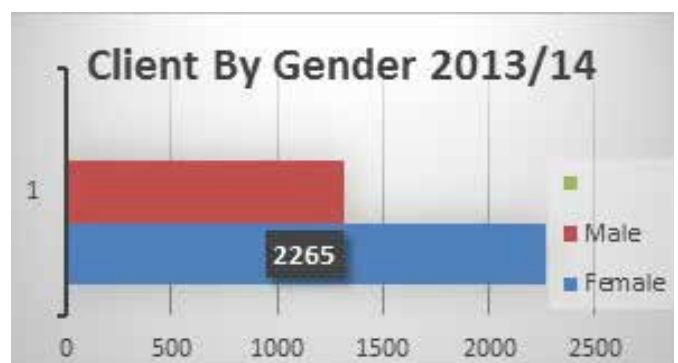
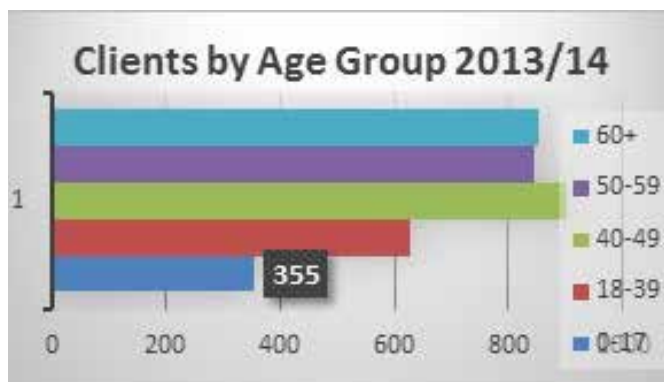
Thank you Staff for a team effort in your participation and achievements.

Client Data:

Key Performance Indicators (KPI) displayed in pie graph form contain very important information of Stolen Generations clients. Foxtrot captures the data that is a funding body requirement.



All aged groups are strongly represented in our client profile including 60+ years who are prioritized for immediate allocation and service delivery.

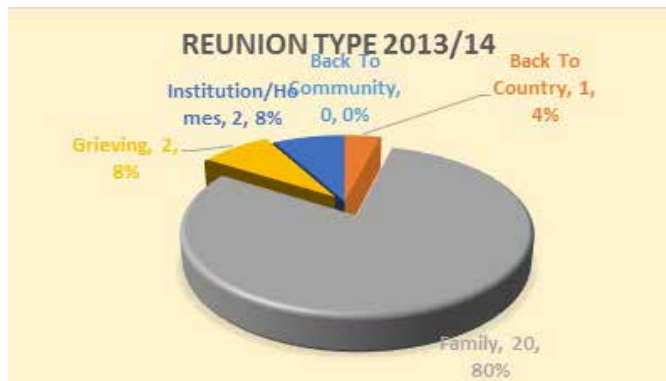


Females continue to be over represented in proportion to males.

Services delivered by Link-Up (Qld) during 2013 – 2014 period

Client Reunions:

Twenty-Five reunions were completed for the reporting period. These were located local, regional and interstate:



In **Western Qld** Reunions were held in Charleville, St. George & Cunnamulla QLD.

In **Southern Qld** Reunions were held in Bundaberg, Cedar Creek Falls, Wivenhoe Dam, Kingscliffe and Labrador.

In **Far North Qld** Reunions were held in Yarrabah, Townsville, Cooktown, Doomadgee & Wujul Wujul Interstate Reunions were held at Grafton & Taree NSW, Darwin & Katherine NT, Oodnadatta SA, Meningie SA, Port Augusta SA and Perth WA.

Healing Camps:

LUQ completed five Healing Camps during the reporting period, one was held at Qld Conference & Camping Centre, Mt Tamborine from 02 – 04 May, 2014 and the other one was held at Genezzano, Lake Tinaroo Conference Centre from 26 – 30 May, 2014. Both events were a success with LUQ staff assisting with social, emotional and wellbeing needs of clients at both healing camps.

LUQ Staff also assisted at the Woorabinda Healing Camp held on 26 – 29 September, 2013, 50 Years Commemoration of the removal from Old Mapoon held on 15 – 18 November, 2013 and Barambah Healing Camp from 06 – 08 December 2013. Staff were able to assist with Counselling, Support Services and the Recording of stories.

Therapeutic activities such as art & craft, music, yarnning circle, massage, boomerang throwing and hairdressing were held to allow clients/participants to come together and connect to culture, family and connection to country. Clients were also able to tell their story and have them recorded. These activities are some of the support services mechanisms which assist client with their resilience and strengths to continue on their healing journey. LUQ also work in partnership with other community agencies who assists with Counselling and support.

Bundaberg/Fraser Coast Healing Camp Planning:

Future planning is under way for our next Healing Camp to be held during the latter six months of the next financial year sometime in March/April 2015 at Bundaberg. Staff visits to Community and organisations, adhering to protocol and meeting with the Elders and providing information on the logistics and the importance of having a Healing Camp in the region to assist clients on their healing journey. LUQ Staff are also sourcing out a suitable venue to secure for the Healing Camp.



Hervey Bay's Goombala Dancers at the Susan River Homestead

It's been a hard slog for Service Delivery Team to deliver Reunions, Healing Camps and other important Link Up

Events during the last six months of the financial year, however, with the dedicated staff that LUQ has and considering we are one Caseworker short.

I wish to acknowledge the excellent work that LUQ Staff have participated in and was well receptive within our communities both local and regional centres.

Support Groups:

Link Up (Qld) completed eleven Support Group Healing Sessions during the reporting period. These group sessions are held on the last Thursday of each month for our clients to catch up and yarn with each other and staff members. These have displayed a success rate for both current and new Intakes of our Stolen Generations Aunties and Uncles.

Culturally appropriate activities are organised to assist clients therapeutically and spiritually to continue on their healing journey. Each session ends with a closing yarning circle to discuss any topical issues.

Royal Commission:

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has been set up to investigate child sexual abuse in institutions such as Government agencies, Churches, Missions and Foster Care and how those institutions responded.

LUQ received funding in June 2014 to provide support and culturally spiritually therapeutic support for Stolen Generations members and other Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander community members affected by the Royal Commission.



Sharing a yarn and a cuppa at Link Up (Qld)'s Clients Support Group Morning Tea

LUQ will also support and assist a secondary target group of people who are affected through their engagement with the Royal Commission, without having been exposed directly to abuse, such as family members of Indigenous survivors and employees of Institutions or organisations where abuse occurred.

A Royal Commission Cherbourg Gathering was held at Virginia Palms and LUQ Staff organised support services activities such as Massage Services, Bead and Jewellery Making and Art Therapy. These activities were a success with the participants of the Royal Commission.

Research:

The LUQ Research Team has a strong commitment to contributing to the social and emotional wellbeing outcomes for Stolen Generation clients. The Research Team provide specialist support to Caseworkers and Counsellors by accessing a wide range of restricted and open access records to compile family histories for clients and to reconnect clients back with family, community and/or country.

Key Performance Indicators:

Following are the research KPI outcomes for the reporting period:

New Research Requests	70
Completed Research Requests	65

Outcome of completed research requests:

Reunion	25
Reunion Pending	33
File Closure - No proof of Aboriginality	15
File Closure - Other	7
Outstanding Research Requests (as at 30 June 2014)	54

Casework and Counselling:

During the annual reporting period LU has initiated 905 client contacts: 152 being field visits and 753 non- field visits.

Community Awareness:

Other important events which LUQ Staff attended and participated in during the reporting period are:

- Social and Emotional Workforce Gathering
- Apology
- National Sorry Day Event
- The 2014 QAIHC Quality Workshop

The Service Delivery Team will continue to assist Stolen Generation Clients and to promote LUQ through educational community awareness information sessions in both the local and regional areas.



A three State collaborative Reunion to Oodnadatta



A Reunion to Wujal Wujal Country NQ



Lighting Remembrance Candles at the Anniversary of the Apology Celebrations.



Link Up (Qld) Sorry Day Breakfast in Orleigh Park

MULTIMEDIA & PROMOTIONS REPORT:



Donna Ives

Link Up (Qld)'s Multimedia and Promotions Unit has had a very busy year not only with the regular activities of planning and organising NAIDOC, Sorry Day Breakfast, The Anniversary of the Apology activities, Healing Camps, Newsletter, Graphic Design and DVD production, but also with a number of extra promotional projects including the Old Mapoon booklet and DVD, the Community booklets and DVDs, the MonoPrint Art project and the Music Therapy project.

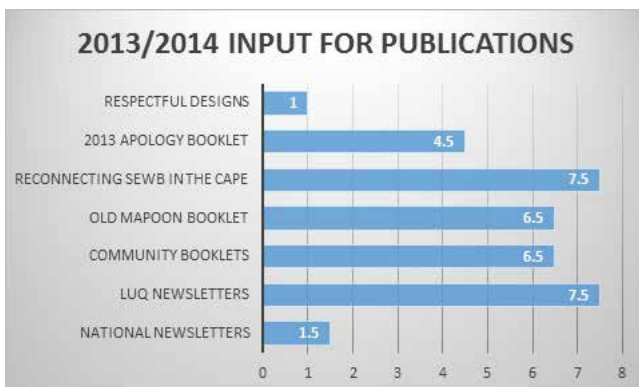
APOLOGY ANNIVERSARY, SORRY DAY BREAKFAST and NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS

Link-Up (Qld) has held an annual Sorry Day Breakfast at the Sorry Day Plaque site in Orleigh Park since 1998. A marked triumph was procuring the attendance of Dame Quentin Bryce to speak at this year's Sorry Day Breakfast in Brisbane's West End.



Our NAIDOC marquee was a highlight for staff with the inclusion of a Photo Booth that had the crowds lining up.

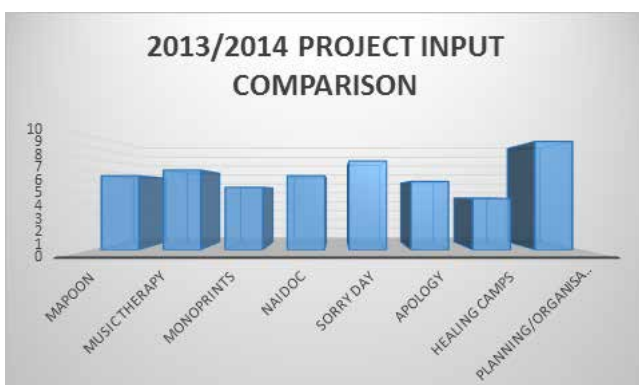
Link Up (Qld)'s "Anniversary of the Apology" event held at the Link Up (Qld) Brisbane office also drew a large number of clients, Elders and supporters. The effective outcomes of these events demonstrate the Unit's abilities to successfully accomplish event management with limited resources and pecuniary input.



MAPOON COMMEMORATIVE BOOK

The Mapoon Commemorative Book is on target to be completed late 2014.

The Booklet highlights the Paanja Cultural Festival held in Mapoon late 2013, it was the 50 year celebrations of the Mapoon people returning to Country after their forced removal by the Protector Killoran and Comalco. Highlights of the Commemorative Events include Speeches, Performances and the Sunday Morning service along with 7 Interviews of Traditional Elders and Stolen Generations Elders.



A crew of three travelled to Mapoon Community late August, 2014 for follow up interviews with Community people towards the completion of the Book. A further eleven people were interviewed, and the Old Mapoon Mission photographed and material gathered.

MUSIC THERAPY PROJECT

The Music Therapy Project is in the final throes of completion. Mastering of the sixteen CD tracks is almost finalised and the graphic design work for the CD jacket requires a definitive resolution. The content for the CD was created gathering stories from participants at three healing camps and producing either songs or poems to recant their narratives. This project was funded by the Healing Foundation. The CD is titled "Walking Proud".



Clients showcasing their original songs at Mt Tamborine



Clifford Guest lays down tracks for his song at Lake Tinaroo

CLIENT REUNIONS & STOLEN GENERATIONS ORAL HISTORY DVD

DVD production side of the unit managed eighteen Reunion DVDs and Photo CDs with each reunion requiring multiple 'dubs' for participating parties, multiple copies of the Tamborine and Lake Tinaroo Healing Camps, forty-two oral history DVDs, highlight DVDs of the Apology Anniversary and Sorry Day Breakfast and other DVD productions including presentation, kiosk and information DVDs and Photo CDs. Also, nineteen Reunion DVDs were added to client files on Foxtrot. As time permits, more backlog client DVDs will be added to the Foxtrot files.



Old Mapoon resident, Stanley Budby

MONO PRINT CONNECTIVE ART WORKSHOPS

The Mono print Connective Art Workshops were a great success. Mono Prints was a new form of Art development for our communities. Teaching the procedure for mono printing to our Indigenous community members allows for continuance of connectedness, but in a different Art Form for them. Exposing communities to new ways of expression provides opportunity for artistic experiment. Not all community members embraced painting with paintbrush, acrylic paint and canvas. Accessing artistic expression and interpretation through the mono print process was a new experience for most of the community members. There was a natural flow of visual production and story sharing for cultural development.



Mackay participants displaying their artworks

"I personally found a connection to family at these workshops giving us ground to become more relaxed and interact with participants on a more personal level, once we formed that cultural bond - that is the meaning of Family!"

The art works completed in the workshops remained with the individuals who produced them after the Exhibition. Link-Up (Qld) collects digital images of these works for a compilation DVD promoting the Project. Presentation of the DVD and the web presentation show the works in a positive way that reinforces the strength of their Identity.

Participants and Community Organisations were very positive toward learning a new technique such as the Mono Print Workshops, this allowed all participants an opportunity to discover a new style of expression.

HEALING CAMPS:



Fishing activities at Lake Tinaroo
Healing Camp 2014

Barambah Healing Camp: Cherbourg Stolen Generation Elders travelled to the Susan River Homestead, outside Hervey Bay for their Healing Camp organised by Barambah Regional Medical Service with assistance from Link Up (Qld).

Mt Tamborine Healing Camp: This Link Up (Qld) camp captured numerous photographs, three Stolen Generations Oral History interviews, the Closing Yarning Circle and also six client compositions for the Music Therapy Project.

Lake Tinaroo Healing Camp: This camp organised by the Cairns Link Up (Qld) office was at the Genazzano Conference Centre near Yungaburra NQ. Numerous photographs were recorded along with nine Stolen Generations Oral History Interviews, the Closing Circle at the end of the Camp and eight musical compositions from clients for the Music Therapy Project.



Hervey Bay's Goombala Dancers pose with Cherbourg Elders at Susan River



Clients pose for a group photo at Mt Tamborine Healing Camp 2014

COMMUNITY BOOKLET UPDATE

The Multimedia Unit attended the Woorabinda Healing Camp conducting Interviews with respected Elders who related their stories of how things were back in their day and the improvements that have occurred over time.

Late last year the Unit attended the Barambah Healing Camp at the Susan River Homestead, on the outskirts of Hervey Bay to gather Stolen Generations stories for their Community Booklet. This then led to a further visit to Cherbourg in April this year holding interviews with the Mayor, Kenneth Bone, The Ration Shed Museum curator, Sandra Morgan and the local Radio Station staff, Jeanette Brown and Christine Collier-Bond.

Planning is in place to visit Mornington Island, Doomadgee, Yarrabah and Palm Island to collect and collate stories from these areas for their booklets. These areas are sporadic with access being limited to prevailing weather conditions. On completion of this project, there will be presented Community Booklets for the following communities Woorabinda, Cherbourg, Doomadgee, Mornington Island, Palm Island and Yarrabah. Along with the booklet will be an accompanying DVDs which will be a worthy informational resource for Link-Up (Qld) Clients. Funded the Healing Foundation.

NEWSLETTER:

Our Newsletters are a valuable source of information to all our readers giving them a beneficial insight into what's happening at Link Up (Qld) and at the same time promoting our services to the wider community. Our newsletters are mainly distributed intra-state by mail or electronic post but we also have recipients interstate who look forward to their copies of our bi-monthly editions.

- Volume 7: Clive Sam at the Mt Isa office launch.
- Volume 8: Old Mapoon 50 Year Commemoration
- Volume 9: Aunty Margaret Stanley at Apology Day, 2014
- Volume 10: Dame Quentin Bryce and Beverly Johnson at the Sorry Day Breakfast.



Volume 7



Volume 8



Volume 9



Volume 10

Photographs



Staff at Cherbourg Radio Station 94.1 US MOB FM



Enjoying the sights at Lake Tinaroo



A proud Mackay artist shows off her MonoPrint artwork



Staff at the Link Up NAIDOC PhotoBooth

Link-Up (Qld) Aboriginal Corporation

ABN 36 073 956 496 ICN 680

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 30 JUNE 2014

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents		1,012,048	797,265
Trade and Other Receivables		10,806	22,500
Deposits & Prepayments		24,570	44,496
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,047,424</u>	<u>864,261</u>
NON - CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment		214,510	270,075
TOTAL NON - CURRENT ASSETS		<u>214,510</u>	<u>270,075</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>1,261,934</u>	<u>1,134,336</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payables		205,489	112,957
Employee Benefits		94,519	91,892
Unexpended Grant Funds		301,918	203,134
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>601,926</u>	<u>407,983</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee Benefits		14,425	11,837
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>14,425</u>	<u>11,837</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>616,351</u>	<u>419,820</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>645,583</u>	<u>714,516</u>
EQUITY			
Corporation Funds		645,586	714,520
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>645,586</u>	<u>714,520</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

STAFF TRAINING ACHIEVEMENTS:

Link Up (Qld) staff have been kicking goals not only with Reunions and client events but also academically, augmenting their skills and effectiveness in the workplace gaining proficiencies in dealing with client related issues. Some staff have endured years of scholastic studies organising time away from family with face to face block studies and completing assessments and assignments to achieve their educational aspirations.

Caseworker, Margaret North attained her Diploma in Narrative Therapy Approaches at Nunkuwarrin Yunti in Adelaide recently after years of study that commenced in 2012. With this educational accomplishment, Margaret has successfully realised her ambition and has gained an SEWB Counsellor position at Link Up (Qld).

Researcher, Rhyll Tonge also commenced her studious journey in 2012 and graduated in March 2014 with an Advanced Diploma of Art Therapy. Rhyll facilitates over Art Therapy workshops at Link Up Healing Camps and events.

Service Delivery Manager, Karen Collins and Caseworker Henrietta Hunter graduated from the Gallang Education & Training Centre in Brisbane, with a Certificate IV in Mental Health in June 2014. The qualifications gained through the Mental Health course has enhanced their abilities and aptitude to assist Link Up clients with their own mental health issues. Through the course she developed skills in rehabilitation and support for people affected by mental illness and psychiatric disability, implementing community-based activities focusing on mental health, mental illness and psychiatric disability, and mental health promotion work.

Multimedia Manager, Donna Ives had to go to Melbourne University to attend the Graduation Day Ceremony and receive her Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Arts Management. Donna studied through the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development, Melbourne University in 2013.

