



Link-Up (Qld)

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION ©



Still Bringing Them Home

Chairperson - Sam Watson



Sam Watson

Bjelke Blues: Stories of Repression and Resistance in Joh Bjelke-Petersen's Queensland 1968-87 is a book recently released by Brisbane writer Edwina Shaw.

I had the privilege of sharing some of my experiences of Joh's years

in power with Edwina. In the 1970's in Brisbane, I was and activist and university student. Below are extracts written by me in the chapter Equal and Opposite Forces.

Joh Bjelke-Petersen became Premier in 1968.

He was an absolute lunatic. Through 1970-71 there was the impending visit by the South African rugby union team, and we were building a very large network of support groups behind the African National Congress, and regularly had speakers come to talk about what was happening in South Africa. We used those platforms, through the support of the Communist Party and the Seamen's Union, the wharfies, to highlight the abuse of human rights here in Australia.

Joh really came into his own in mid-1971, when the Springboks landed to play their first game in Perth, and then on to Melbourne and Sydney. Wherever they went there were mass mobilisations and demonstrations.

Joh saw his moment and seized the opportunity a

week before the Springboks came to Brisbane, declaring a state of emergency. Nobody had heard much about him, and people couldn't even spell his name.

We knew him at the Aboriginal community level, because a number of our family members were living at Cherbourg and Woorabinda, and Joh regularly accessed workers from these "missions" around harvest time to work his crops. I had cousins, and uncles and aunties, who'd be bussed over to his farms or his mates' farms and they'd work in the full heat of the day in very grubby conditions to harvest peanuts and other crops. At the end of the day they'd be given a couple of shillings. The kids were given bags of boiled lollies.

The Springboks made 1971 a critical year. It was one of the high points, the coming together of the mainstream radical movement, centred around the old Trades Hall in Edward Street, the students at University of Queensland, and church groups from right across Brisbane. It was also the year that Denis Walker and myself started the Black Panther Party. We used our comrades in the trade union movement to get us access to literature and saw there was a range of Panther programs that we could easily adapt to the Australian situation.

One of those was Pig Patrol. The Pig Patrol would monitor police activity in our community on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. We wouldn't interfere with the police while they were arresting our people, but we'd make sure the coppers knew we were there, and we'd record police numbers, licence plates, and whatever happened when police made these arrests.

In court the next day we'd encourage the Aboriginal people to plead not guilty. But when our mob started pleading not guilty, the coppers then used the system to give them the whole "ham, cheese & tomato". They said, "Well, if you guys want to get cute, instead of just being charged with drunk and disorderly, we'll upgrade those charges to obstructing police, resisting arrest, and obscene language." That's the ham, cheese & tomato.

Unfortunately, a lot of our mob just couldn't afford to pay those sorts of fines.

A number of us were arrested and got bashed. The young women were touched up by coppers and violated, but who could you go to?

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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.

Joh politicised the Queensland Police Force to extreme levels.

A number of us were involved in the Aboriginal Legal Service. We had the Anti-Racism Conference at the University of Queensland in January 1972, and we had the Aboriginal Embassy in Canberra in 1972, and from there we worked closely with the Whitlam (-led) Opposition to sign up Aboriginal people on the electoral rolls, and drafted the Aboriginal Affairs policy. So, in December 1972 when Whitlam was elected, that brought in a whole new spirit for Aboriginal people. Everything that Whitlam tried to do in Queensland, Joh blocked it.

Joh even kicked Fred Hollows and his trachoma team out of Queensland in 1979. Fred was working up in the Cape York area and he had employed two important Aboriginal leaders (Mick Miller, deceased, and Clarry Grogan, deceased). They were doing wonderful work with people from those remote communities. It was inspiring. Uncle Clarry and Uncle Mick were also talking to Elders and leaders in those communities and Joh was told that they were signing up Aboriginal people to start a network of ALP branches so they could roll the Nationals.

It was never established if in fact Uncle Mick and Uncle Clarry were doing anything political while they were there with the trachoma team.

Joh panicked and immediately kicked Fred and his entire crew out of Queensland. He had no regard for the important work that Fred was doing and after the political dust had settled, he made no attempt to replace that trachoma team, so many of the Aboriginal people who Uncle Fred had been working with lost their eyesight

Joh was a tyrant, and he was a criminal. He personified all that we were fighting against. But I'll at least acknowledge, in that old basic physics formulae about every force being balanced by an equal or countering force, that perhaps if we had have come up against a lighter, less extreme political opponent, we may not have developed into the sort of freedom fighters we have become.

Joh personified all that we were fighting against.

Acknowledgement: Extracts from this book was first published in the Courier Mail on Saturday, 15th September 2019.



Police stand off with protestors at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy



Sam Watson and the late Senator Neville Bonner Snr



The late Fred Hollows (right)



The late Mick Miller, the late Steve Mam and the late Clarry Grogan

CEO - Patricia Thompson



Patricia Thompson

Welcome to this edition of Link-Up (Qld) magazine. We feature in this edition the retirement of Willie Prince from the State Library of Queensland after 32 years of service. Willie shares with us some of the challenges he has had in his life, being removed

from his family as a baby, being diagnosed with Spastic Quadriplegia, having to make his own way in life, growing up independently away from family influences, his community and culture.

Most of us have known Willie over a long period of time, we know that he works at the State Library and has for a long period of time, we know that he is a Board member at Link-Up (Qld) and has been for many years, we know that he is co-founder of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network of Queensland, we know that he is a strong community advocate, we know that he has many sporting achievements at state and national levels.

So, we know all these things about Willie, yet I, like others who attended the Elders and community gathering farewell for his retirement in September 2019 were really intrigued when Willie shared some of his life story with us. Despite the challenges Willie has faced since infancy, Willie is an inspiration, he has not shied away from a challenge, he has made his own way in life, working and living independently throughout his life and finally now in retirement after 32 years of employment with one employer – the State Library of Queensland.

Talking to Willie just recently he has not slowed down at all, he is still very much involved in community activities and his work with many organisations including as a director of Link-Up (Qld). Slow up Willie, enjoy your retirement, you deserve it.

This year has been significant in terms of celebrating 35 years of providing Link-Up services across Queensland. Since commencing in 1984, Link-Up (Qld) has enhanced the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were forcibly removed from their families as children or were affected by forcible removal policies.

Our work is integral to helping right the wrongs of the past by assisting our Stolen Generations to rediscover their identities and find their families, community and country to reunite them. Each person's story of loss and removal is unique and so is the path toward healing. We facilitate our client healing journeys in a way that is suitable for each individual.

We commemorate this 35th Year with a special publication highlighting a glimpse of 35 client journeys over 35 years – an important milestone in the history of Link-Up (Qld). This publication is an opportunity for us all to pause and reflect on the pain and suffering endured by our Stolen Generations and their families and to honour their survival, strength and resilience.

We also acknowledge the many faces of Link-Up (Qld), former and present staff, Board members and advocates who have worked tirelessly to reconcile the past and unlock a meaningful future for our clients. We acknowledge their sustained energy, passion and commitment.

We also acknowledge the important collaborative working arrangements and partnerships that have been developed with many organisations and agencies over the years. Particularly the longstanding and valued partnership with the Communities and Personal Histories Unit within the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnership which enables Link-Up (Qld) access to archival records created by former Queensland government departments during the Protection era relating to many of our clients and their families and crucial to piecing together stories.

We look forward to the launch of this special publication.



Willie Prince Retires After 32 Years of Service



Willie Prince has retired after 32 years of continuous service with the State Library of Queensland. Willie's life journey has not been without its challenges.

Willie Prince was born at Cherbourg in 1960. At that point in time the *Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Act 1939* governed the lives of Aboriginal people. The Act stated that the *Director of Native Affairs* is the 'legal guardian of every aboriginal child under 21'.

Willie very poignantly states, "*I was born a non-citizen of this country, considered native flora and fauna under the Act*". During the first 18 months of my life whilst living at Cherbourg I was in and out of the Cherbourg hospital, presenting around 16 times during that period and on one occasion almost died. I came to the attention of the State Medical Doctor because of the number of times I was admitted to hospital during that period.

The State Medical Doctor and the Chief Protector or Administrator at Cherbourg, then sat down and deliberated on my future. They decided that I would be removed and that decision was deliberated without consultation with my family or community. With the stroke of a pen, I was removed and transferred to the Royal Children's Hospital in Brisbane. I was





diagnosed with Spastic Quadriplegia by a visiting Specialist from England. Photos were taken of me and appeared in the Courier Mail. I understood later, that potentially I would be up for adoption, however I learned that my mother had never signed papers for me to be adopted and I ended up as a Ward of the State.

I understand that the visiting Specialist from England and his wife were also interested in adopting me and taking me back to England. Had this occurred I would not have known that I had an Aboriginal family.

I remained at the Royal Children's Hospital for a couple of months and then transferred to Xavier Home for Crippled Children at Coorparoo. The Home was run by the Catholic Church who then looked after me for the remainder of my early years and teenage life.

During this period from the age of about 2 years to my teenage years, I had very little contact with my family. My family remained at Cherbourg and the *Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Act 1939* was repealed by the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Act 1965*. Effectively this new Act still controlled the lives of Aboriginal people living on reserves such as Cherbourg. My family needed permission from the Chief Protector or Administrator to leave the community to visit me.



It was mainly my grandmother, Mable Chapman who tried to visit me as often as she could. I called my grandmother, Mum because she looked after me. My grandmother still had to get permission to see me whilst I was in the Home and had to also seek special permission for me to go on holidays to Cherbourg.

I started to learn about my mother when I was in the home. One day out in the playground with the other children, one of the children said to me, "You're different", I said, "How am I different, we're the same, we are all the same, everyone here in the home is the same, we're all in wheelchairs here". The child replied, "You're different, you're black". I didn't know how to respond to that, I had never been told that before, I didn't see the colour before that, I didn't even think about that, I just knew we were all the same because we were children, all in wheelchairs, we were no different. When I was about 10 or 11 years old, I was told by one of the Nuns at the Home that I was Aboriginal.

I moved out of the Home in my late teens and went to the Qld Spastic Welfare League, where I lived in a hostel which accommodated and supported children and young people who came in from the country areas a place to stay whilst receiving medical

treatment and an education. I stayed there for about 5 years and then moved into a flat with some other young people with disabilities, lived independently, until I was able to move into my own place. That was over 30 years ago now.

My first job was at a sheltered workshop – Centrecraft Industries. I was a process worker, we packed refresher packs and plastic cutlery. I did this job for a little while and my interest was spurred to see if there was anything else in the world I could do.

I then got a part-time job as a paper seller. I was selling the daily telegraph, in Queen Street, where the mall is now. The paper cost 15 cents and on average I would sell about 400 papers a day. I got a lot of tips in those days, at the end of the day I would end up with as much as \$20 in tips, which was a lot of money in those days. *“Paper telly, city final, read all about it”* – those of you from the era will remember the call.

I was spurred on again to look for something more challenging in terms of employment. I went into the then Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) in Fortitude Valley to see if they could assist me, they referred me to the Aboriginal Employment Officer. I went to the counter where the Aboriginal Employment Officer was and asked if they could assist me, the person told me that it might be better if I was referred to the employment service area which looked after people with disabilities. I went back to the initial counter and explained I was referred back to him for assistance. That person said as much as we would love to help you, I think it may be in your best interest if you go and speak to the Aboriginal Employment Officer. So not giving up, back I go and the person agreed to see what jobs they had available.

This is where my service of 32 years commenced with the Public Library Division of the State Library of Queensland which was located at Teneriffe in those days. It was a traineeship available under the National Employment Strategy for Aboriginals delivered through the Commonwealth Employment Service back in the 1980's.

I began as a telephone operator and receptionist and continued in that role until the library was transferred to a new building at 299 Montague Road at West End in the 1990's. I then transferred to the new library at Southbank with an opportunity to work with the Indigenous Library Service and then ended up at kuhril dhargun until my retirement in September 2019.

I was removed from my family, community and culture for more than 17 plus years. I didn't know I was Aboriginal and was in a situation where I had to grow up independently, away from my family influences in a white environment, I had to make my own way in life. It was when I left the Home and started living independently, that I pursued my curiosity of who I was, and where I was from and wanted to reconnect with my family, community and culture. Working at the State Library gave me an opportunity to learn about my culture and where I came from that has given me the confidence and ability to seek out and reconnect with family.

Whilst I am now retired, I remain committed to advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disabilities and will continue to be the voice in the community by being involved with like minded people.



Lance Poynter Reunion - Chillagoe



My name is Lance Gabriel Poynter, I was born in Townsville and I currently live in Palm Island. I am the youngest now of 10 children of Hector Poynter of Normanton and Burma Beckett of Cherbourg.

I became a client of Link-Up (Qld) to seek information relating to my maternal grandmother, Nellie White. My mother Burma Poynter nee Beckett was removed from her mother at Cherbourg and sent to Palm Island. The research that the Link-Up (Qld) provided showed that my maternal grandmother Nellie White was born around 1908 in Chillagoe or Maytown.

With the information and records that Link-Up (Qld) provided showed that my grandmother Nellie White's country was in the Chillagoe Area. My Caseworker Shane Wallace of the Cairns, Link-Up (Qld) team provided information that my traditional area was the Wakaman, Djungan and Bar Barrum aboriginal people.

The Link-Up (Qld) Researcher Officers that are based in Brisbane provided me with my family history.

It gave me hope that I may have the opportunity to gain the knowledge and information about my countrymen. The extensive research and family heritage as well as copies of photos that was provided gave me a strong and close connection with my family and cultural heritage. Once all this information was given to me, Caseworker Shane Wallace was able to make all the arrangements for a reunion. The reunion would take me to Chillagoe where my maternal grandmother Nellie White's traditional country was.

Plans were made by the Link-Up (Qld) team for myself and older brother Lincoln Poynter to travel from Palm Island, Townsville, Cairns and to Chillagoe. My brother Lincoln Poynter my support person, and I jumped off the plane and we were warmly greeted by Shane Wallace and SEWB Counsellor, Daniel Houtman from Link-Up (Qld) Cairns office.

We visited the Cairns Link-Up office to meet the staff and along with that we took photos there. We then travelled to our accommodation in Cairns and checked in. My brother Lincoln and I visited the



Cairns city area and had an early night. The next day we checked out and the Link-Up (Qld) staff Shane Wallace and Daniel Houtman were waiting for my brother and I to begin our journey going back to country.

Travelling from Palm Island to Cairns by plane and then driving to Chillagoe was exciting, going to Wakaman, Djungan and Bar Barrum country.

On the journey to Chillagoe I had a strong feeling of strength and a sense of belonging, going back on country and paying my respects to my grandmother.

On arrival to Chillagoe we checked into the accommodation which was very nice. We then visited The Hub – Chillagoe Visitor Information Centre and met Amanda who spoke about Chillagoe and showed us the display centre that showed the history of the traditional owners the Wakaman, Djungan and Bar Barrum people, my countrymen. While we were there at the centre, we met a Traditional Owner of the area Ranger Eddie Thomas, a tour guide for the National Park on the Chillagoe Caves.

My caseworker Shane Wallace had arranged with Eddie Thomas to take us on a private tour to Mungana, this place is where my great great grandfather was born around here Walsh River – Mungana 1865. His name is Pluto and his wife was Topsy so this place is where they would come and receive their rations from as records show. So, we drove down the road a couple of kilometres away to Mungana and Eddie Thomas would tell us the history and his knowledge of the traditional owners of land. We were very privileged to be able to have this private tour and I want to thank my countryman Eddie Thomas for passing on our cultural heritage to my brother and I.

My brother Lincoln and I were very emotional at this place knowing that our family walked and lived all

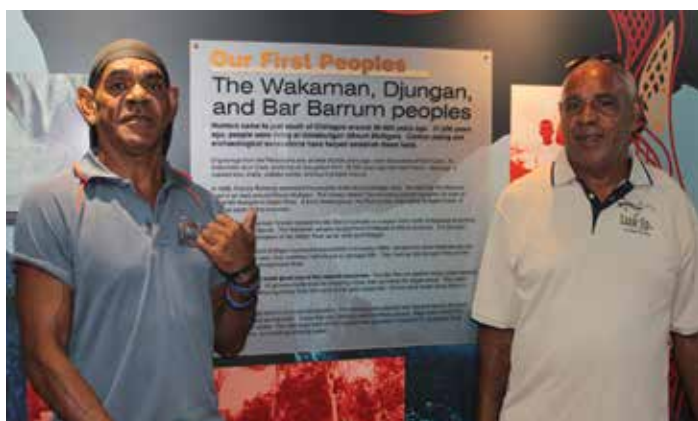
in this area. The land brought a calming and moving place in both our hearts and we were filled with tears of joy and comfort in our hearts. I grabbed the dirt from the earth here and let it fall through my fingers to feel the connection to this country.

My brother and I felt very emotional and proud being back on country and standing on sacred ground. I felt a deep connection with all my ancestors here and I was glad that my brother Lincoln Poynter was by my side on this special journey. Shane Wallace and Daniel Houtman took many photos capturing this special time here on this memorable day.

The next day we visited the Chillagoe Caves and there I learnt more about my Wakaman, Djungan and Bar Barrum culture on the tour. Our tour guide was Eddie Thomas and his knowledge of the caves and country was amazing and deadly. I caught up with Eddie after the tour and took some photos and I will see him next time I return back to country.

This completed my reunion and on our final day we travelled back to Cairns to catch the plane home to Townsville and then on to Palm Island. My reunion was a gift from Link-Up (Qld) and I have a lot to be thankful for and felt very blessed and grateful for the opportunities I've had. Throughout the journey I experienced mixed emotions of happiness and gladness. I also felt a strong sense of connection and belonging to my countrymen.

I want to thank Lincoln Poynter my brother for accompanying me back to country and paying respects to my family members who have since passed away. I would like to acknowledge the Link-Up (Qld) organisation and Cairns staff members Shane Wallace and Daniel Houtman for organising my reunion. I thank them for their effort in helping me to prepare for a special journey in paying my respects to my family members in returning back to country. Thank you Link-Up (Qld).



Delphine Clay Reunion - Charters Towers



My name is Delphine Clay nee Robertson and I was born in 1967 in Ayr, North Queensland and my parents were Sidney Santo and Ethel Robertson. My early childhood years were spent at Palm Island and I was mainly raised by my maternal grandmother Elsie Robertson (Munjanii) from the Jirrbalngan clan, Ravenshoe. Later my dad's brother Uncle Alan Santo and his wife Aunty Elizabeth Santo looked after me as well until I finished college in Charters Towers, and I returned to Palm Island and eventually had my own family.

I completed a Link-Up (Qld) application in 2015 to search more about my father's heritage on the Santo side. Once the research was completed, I was excited when I read the results that I would like to share some of the information for my story. My father 'Sidney Santo was born at Toomba Station, Charters Towers in 1925 to parents May and Willie Santo. 'Sidney worked

on properties at Bluff Down and Toomba between 1939 and 1941. He then went to work at Niall between 1943 and 1947. Sidney was working at Mirtina Station from 1947 until at least 1950. In May 1950 Sidney applied for exemption from the Act, however his application was turned down despite having a good reference from his employer. In 1952 Sidney re-applied and was granted exemption on 19 November 1952. There were no other departmental records for dad 'as the department ceased to create records about him after his exemption.' The research went on to say more about my paternal grandparents, William Charles Santo and May Gordon. 'Willie Santo was born at Charters Towers around 1891 to parents Maggie and Charlie Santo. May Gordon was born in Townsville in 1899 to parents Lizzie and Herbert Gordon. Charlie Santo (great grandfather) was born at Santo Island, around 1853, and passed away on 30 May 1945 at Charters Towers.'





During my discussions with Link-Up (Qld) I decided to have a reunion back in Charters Towers as I never knew where my grandparents were buried and wanted to pay my respects. My husband Assan Clay accompanied me on the reunion. We both left Palm Island by Sealink Ferry and met with Caseworker, Sylvia Wright at the Townsville terminal to commence our journey to Charters Towers. After having lunch and choosing some flowers for the gravesite, we drove to Charters Towers and checked in at our accommodation. Later we met Anne Garrett who is a Counsellor from the Link-Up (Qld) Brisbane office. Anne had earlier obtained information from the Charters Towers Regional Council regarding the graveside plots for my Grandparent William and May (Gordon) Santo and Great Grandfather Charlie Santo.

When we started searching for their gravesite, we were surprise to come across my father's gravesite, Sid Santo as his gravesite was nearby where we had first pulled up. All these years I never knew where he was buried. My husband and I spent time reflecting and paying our respect to dad before continuing on to find my Grandfather and Great Grandfather William and Charlie Santo. We left Dad's gravesite to drive further



around another area of the cemetery looking for their gravesite and were amazed to see the cemented gravesite with three crosses bearing the name of my Grandparents William and May Santo and as well as Great Grandfather Charlie Santo laying side by side to each other. We also noticed that a Santo child was also buried near the 3 marked graves. The Link-Up (Qld) research showed many other descendants from the Santo family including Uncle Alan and Aunt Elizabeth Santo that were buried at the Charters Towers cemetery and we decided to pay our respect to some of those that were listed in the information from the Council. When we left the cemetery, I felt very sad after visiting the gravesites of family members on my father's heritage. I was so glad that I had the opportunity to pay my respects through my father's heritage and would like to thank Link-Up (Qld) and staff members Sylvia Wright and Anne Garrett for allowing this experience of a graveside reunion. It was so special and important for me so that I can return with my children and grandchildren to visit the graves of my Santo family now that I know where they are all buried. My children and grandchildren will also have the opportunity of paying their respects to their Santo family heritage in Charters Towers.



Outreach Visit – South West Qld

Link-Up (Qld) has been travelling out to rural and remote communities to present information about the Link-Up Program and the National Redress Scheme. This information is important to know so that if you or members of your family have been removed and you would like to have family tracing done for the purposes of having a reunion, you know how and where to contact us.

Link-Up (Qld) also assist individuals who are eligible to make a claim under the National Redress Scheme to complete your application. If you know of someone who might need this information and assistance, please let them know to contact our offices.

During the month of September, 2019, staff visited the following centres, providing information sessions and promotional material as well as meeting up with clients and potential clients.

Gatton

Ricky Page at the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre. Staff and Ipswich Elder Aunty Faye Carr, a regular visitor to the centre, met with many women, providing information and we enjoyed participating in activities with the women in the yarning circle.

Toowoomba

Kyle Wyton at the Goolburri Health Services. Kyle kindly organised a room for our visit to meet clients, we provided information brochures and magazines.

Kaye Lindsey and her team at the Heights Community Centre in Wilsonton Heights. It was a privilege to visit this community centre, a hive of activity and support to the local community. We enjoyed afternoon tea with Kaye and her team and visitors at the centre. We look forward to a further visit when the new community centre is built.

Dalby

Wendy Lindsey and Kristy Dodd at Goolburri Family support. It was great to meet Wendy and Kristy, we provided information about our service and was pleased to hear from Wendy and Kristy about the great work they do in the community supporting families.

Tara

Anne Graham and Kimberly Wade at the Tara Family Support Services. We were pleased to meet with Anne and Kimberly at Tara, a small community, and

to hear about the great work they do supporting their local community. We left brochures and magazines about our programs and hope to do a follow up visit.

Chinchilla

Louise King at the Chinchilla Community Centre. We had afternoon tea with Louise and staff at the community centre. It was great to make the connections and to meet up with Louise who we had been having phone contact with to support individuals in Chinchilla.

Billie-Jean Taylor at the Chinchilla Library. Link-Up (Qld) appreciates the support from Billy-Jean at the local library for ensuring that our magazines are made available to the local community and for putting us in touch with people in the community. Thank you Billie Jean for supporting our work.

Oakey

Katrina Johnston and her great team at the Goondir Health Service. Thanks very much to Katrina and her team, we had a great turn out in Oakey. We caught up with old friends and acquaintances at this visit. It was great to see Aunty Zona Martin, a great advocate for Aboriginal people over a long period of time. We had some afternoon tea and good engagement at Goondir. Thanks Katrina to you and your deadly team for being so welcoming and providing a space for our presentation.



Liworaji Aboriginal Corporation Elders Supporting Families and Children

Liworaji Aboriginal Corporation was established in 2011 by a dedicated group of respected community elders – Auntie Faye Carr, Elizabeth Davidson, Mireea Davidson, Sheryl Thompson, Irene Davidson, and the late Gail Bunda at a BoysTown PaCE community meeting. PaCE is a community driven program for parents and carers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and young people up to the age of 19 years. The program builds on parental strengths to empower parents to support their children and improve educational outcomes.

BoysTown supported Liworaji to become registered and supplied office furniture and equipment allowing Liworaji to commence valuable service in the Ipswich community. Since 2011, Liworaji has successfully delivered student and family support programs in the community. The success of these programs clearly demonstrate the organisation's capability to deliver programs in partnership with other service providers and community leaders.

Social indicators for the Ipswich Aboriginal community coupled with limited Aboriginal controlled service provision clearly point to a deepening crisis within our families and homes. This is evidenced by the number of families who are in crisis and who are now subject to child safety interventions. Family breakdown is evidenced through the increasing numbers of aggravated violence orders, increasing numbers of adults/parents in prison, number of children entering youth justice system. Underpinning the crisis is:

- Increased drug and alcohol use;
- Generational trauma being experienced by children and parents who witness and are subjected to violence in the home;
- Grief and loss experienced when family members are removed by the justice or child safety system. (Data Aboriginal CS referrals, reunification rates, DFV orders, YJ data, children on dual orders);

Liworaji has successfully delivered a range of programs supporting the local Ipswich community such as DATSIP – Student pre-suspension programs; Brisbane Broncos – School breakfast programs; FOGS – ARTIE Elders Breakfast program fostering reconciliation and harmony between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, Samoan, Maori, African nations and Asian students; a collaborative

project facilitated by Elders of Liworaji and school staff between Bundamba State School, Worklinks, BoysTown, Parents and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who created, illustrated and published a set of 4 story books designed at helping early readers in the school community. DATSIP then supported this collaboration by providing funding to have the books professionally printed. All students were presented with a set of 4 books and the school library presented with 20 sets of books to support early readers in Prep to year 3 at Bundamba State School; DEEWR funding to facilitate a Family Camp "Connecting Families to Culture and Country" through PaCE, achieving cultural revival and sustainability, bringing families together in a cultural environment with all Indigenous Facilitators for 11 families per camp.

There are so many other organisations and agencies that have supported Liworaji such as Kurgingai Warrior Program, Designer Life, supported Domestic and Family Violence Awareness Programs, Rural Training Qld, facilitating an Agricultural Training program on the Purga Mission site, "Women returning to the workforce certificate II in Community Service Works", funded by SQW; Hutchinsons Builders Participant Support Service.

The programs Liworaji has partnered with and facilitated has been for the benefit of the Ipswich community, families and children with the aim of improving their lives and empowering families. There are so many other partners, who have confidence in Liworaji supporting them to deliver important community development and capacity building programs to the Ipswich community.



Doomadgee Cultural Festival

Link-Up (Qld) was invited to attend the Doomadgee Cultural Festival from Thursday 3rd to Saturday 5th October 2019. We took this opportunity to do some community outreach and provide information about the Link-Up program and the National Redress Scheme.

The festival began with a gathering of Community people, local and state organisations and visiting dance groups to attend the Street March. They walked along the streets showing solidarity. The programs theme for the cultural festival promoted the saying:

“Everyday counts: Every child, Every day that’s the Doomadgee way”

The march ended at the Doomadgee Rodeo Grounds, where Elijah Douglas, the 2016 NAIDOC Youth of the Year, MC’d the Opening Ceremony. It was wonderful to witness the Doomadgee Dancers perform proudly for their family and community; all ages participated together to highlight the community’s cultural heritage.

The theme was *“Together We Dance Together We Grow”*.

There were many families and children that were participating in the festival. The festival had workshops covering storytelling and Language, basket weaving and didgeridoo making. There were story telling through art, music workshops cooking classes and health checks.

Each night crowds gathered for the night sessions that included Fireworks, different Dance Groups and music.





Staff Professional Development 6th Asia Pacific Rim Confederation Of Counsellors Conference 28-29 September At Brisbane - Anne Garrett

Link-Up (Qld) SEWB Counsellors Anne and Daniel, along with Redress Counsellor Julie attended this conference facilitated Australian Counselling Association and the American Counselling Association. The conference was opened with a Welcome to Country by Derek from the Yerapong Dancers, followed by a performance.

I found all the workshops beneficial, learning about the latest research and therapeutic techniques and I signed up for research updates. I am keen to incorporate some of these techniques into my daily work with clients.

Workshops included:

- Meaning Centred Therapy with Survivors of Trauma workshop - Dr Susan Miller: discussion about creative practices and techniques when working with people who have experienced trauma
- Ego State Analysis - Dr Peter Richard-Herbert: tools to help clients with coping strategies and giving Counsellors an understanding of how they can make a significant change in clients lives
- Post-Traumatic Stress is not a Disorder... it is Healing Trying to Happen - David 'Bhakti' Gotlieb: techniques that help Counsellors to assist clients in healing the traumatic shock that follows them into their day-to-day living
- An invitation to discuss the concept of decolonisation: Reflections and implications for counsellors - Dr Suzanne Jenkins: embedding Indigenous Perspectives into the Counselling Degree
- Social Glue: Examining the role of honour in creating effective communities - Dr Tom Edwards and Dr Cosimo Chiera: how honours gives people dignity and a way to achieve respect, and how honour can be the key to community resilience
- Clay Therapy Workshop - Dr Patricia Sherwood :shared how she works with Indigenous communities in Western Australian and Rwanda. This was a practical workshop where attendees got hands on experience with working with clay
- More to the story: Synthesising Narrative Therapy with Adaptive information - Claudia Fletcher: how she uses the Narrative approach and has adapted it to use with other therapy tools
- Addictions. Lasting change is not only about changing the behavior - Tania Curtis who presented on the need to address the root cause of a persons

behavior and not to just focus on changing the root cause of the behavior



QAIHC Leaders Network Forum 20-21 August 2019 at Brisbane

Caseworkers Sloane Stallan and Jessie Cobbo and SEWB Counsellor, Anne Garrett attended the QAIHC Leaders Network forum. This forum brought together representatives from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services throughout Queensland that deliver services under the Social Emotional Wellbeing and Alcohol and Drugs framework. Sarah Kanai, Deputy Director of Programs for the Healing Foundation was one of the presenters, sharing information about the history and purpose of and ideas for coordinating, leading and supporting our own healing camps.



Brisbane Client Support Group

Client support group morning teas are held on the last Thursday of each month. These gatherings are an opportunity for clients to meet up and share their stories and to have a yarn in a safe space. Guest Speakers over the past couple of months have been Marshall Saunders giving a brief update on the outcome of the Stolen Wages Class Action against the Queensland Government; Jennifer Jones and Lyn Thompson from the Queensland State Library providing information about what services and collections are available to access at the state library.

Andrew Osedo from the Indigenous Electoral Participation Program, Australian Electoral Commission gave a presentation about the AEC and encouraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to apply for work on Polling Booths during the elections.

Highlights are also the delicious meals staff cook up for clients at these gatherings, and the tasty fruit cake made by Marnee's husband Ivan shared at the last gathering. Another highlight was Uncle Gerry Parker singing Murri Pokie in his language while Aunty Penny and Counsellor Anne did the dance.



Brisbane Client Support Group 2019 Morning Teas

The last Thursday of every month from 10.00am.
Contact Link-Up (Qld) on 07 3638 0411 for more information.

Next meeting will be on:

31st October

Cairns Client Support Group 2019 Morning Teas

The last Thursday of every month from 10.00am.
Contact Link-Up (Qld) on 07 4041 7403 for more information.

Next meeting will be on:

31st October

National Redress Scheme

The National Redress Scheme is in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

National Redress Scheme Line -1800 737 377

Link-Up (Qld) assist individuals eligible to make a claim for the National Redress Scheme to complete their applications. We offer a supportive environment in which you can speak to our Specialist Support Counsellor for assistance with your application in complete confidence.

The National Redress Scheme has received over 4500 applications and around 313 applications have been paid with a further 130 awaiting acceptance by the applicant. The average payments have been between \$75,000 and \$85,000.

When receiving an offer, the National Redress Scheme will call you first to discuss the outcome of your application. If you received an offer, you will then receive a letter outlining the offer. You will have six months to accept or decline the offer. Recent responses of people receiving offers has been to rush the decision to decline or accept the offer or part of the offer. Take your time when deciding, remember you have up to six months to decide. Reach out to a support service in order to discuss your options and how you want to proceed.

You have until 30th June 2027 to use the Counselling, and Psychological Care and Direct Personal Response components of the offer if you accept them. A reminder about the two parts of the offer is that this is a user-friendly model. This means that as you are the recipient of the offer, this allows you control of whether you want contact with the Counselling, and Psychological Care and Direct Personal Response teams. Due to confidentiality these two teams cannot connect to you first, it is up to you to call them. If you need further information, please contact the support service that you are using.

Link-Up (Qld) can help navigate the process of contacting the Counselling and Psychological Care and Direct Personal Response teams. If you are connected or not to a Counselling or Psychological support, we can help you make sure that you are able to connect to a registered service and one that you are happy with.

If you are not happy with your offer, you can ask for a review to be completed; this needs to be requested within six months. This six month starts from the

date of the letter that you received outlining the outcome of your application.

You may feel that you are wanting to get this application over and done with but just take your time when deciding what you want to do. There are many different parts of the redress that may affect how you are reacting and feeling, please contact a support service to help you through this journey.

There are many different types of support that you can connect to about your redress application and offer. Knowmore Legal Service is a free legal service which can help guide you around the legalities of the National Redress Scheme. They also have a financial team to help you navigate through the financial options you may want to look at. You can also contact other financial or legal teams of your choice. Be aware of the costs involved and ask up front if there are any payments you may be charged with.

If you are experiencing emotions you're not coping with, the following services can be contacted 24 hours a day and seven days a week:

Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636

1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732

MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467

For more information or to find support services, go to the National Redress Scheme website: <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/> or call 1800 737 377 Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm (local time), excluding public holidays



Stolen Wages Class Action

UPDATE

An in-principle settlement has been reached with the State of Queensland, Respondents to the Stolen Wages Class Actions, for \$190 million.

BELAW is proud to have successfully sought justice for nearly 10,000 First Nations Queenslanders who had their wages withheld between 1939 and 1972 under discriminatory Protection legislation.

Our lead applicant, Hans Pearson, says “It's fantastic, justice has been done. I'm very happy.”

Eligible group members can still register interest in the class action by contacting BELAW Stolen Wages team. To be eligible you must satisfy the following criteria:

1. You identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; and
 2. You lived in a district or on a mission or reserve in Queensland; and
 3. Between 1939 and 1972 you had a paid job at some time and you didn't get paid your wages; and
 - a. Your pay for your paid job was controlled by the Queensland Government or the head of the mission or reserve;
- AND/OR
- b. If you are an Aboriginal, between 1945 and 1966 you were required to work on a settlement or mission.

University of Southern Queensland

Link-Up (Qld) was invited to do a presentation at the University of Southern Queensland Ipswich campus where Kambu Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Health in partnership with the University are running their Literacy Development Program for School Students aged between 9-11 years old from the Ipswich region.

Around 14 Students accompanied by parents, carers, USQ and Kambu staff attended the presentation which centered around searching for family and Connection back to Country.

The students have worked hard during the 10 week program, having written their own books based on the NAIDOC theme Voice, Treaty, Truth.

The students will celebrate the result of their hard work through the official launch of their professionally published books at a showcase event on 8 October.

If this applies to you, or you are unsure, please contact our friendly Stolen Wages team on (07) 40 411 641.

Getting your MONEY BACK
Let the court decide the amount!



If you, or a deceased family member had wages withheld or controlled by the Queensland Government, you may be an eligible group member for our Class Action for Stolen Wages!

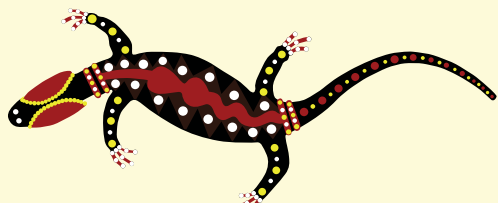
This isn't compensation – this is recovering the actual wages earned, and letting the court decide, not the Queensland Government.



Hans Pearson

This is an exciting and proud moment for these young Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander students, and their families, as they become “published authors” on the night.





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.

Link-Up (Qld)

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION ®

Still Bringing Them Home

ihca
supporting excellence
CERTIFICATION

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

Link-Up (Qld) ABORIGINAL CORPORATION OFFICES

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**Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/linkupqueensland
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Toll Free: 1800 200 855 from landlines

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