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Link-Up (Qld)

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION®



Still Bringing Them Home

Chairperson - Sam Watson



Sam Watson

Thankfully the Commonwealth Games has finally drawn to a close and the world has left our shores and returned back to their own far distant lands. The non stop Games events on TV have finished, British royalty have gone home and the medals have been counted and the world has moved on.

Our people were involved in every single aspect of the Games and the issues really did cause high drama and serious splits amongst our mob. Some were for the Games, some opposed them. There were a number of high profile Indigenous athletes who represented Australia. There were the traditional owners of the Gold Coast area who welcomed the world into their backyards and were the hosts for the event. There were a large number of artists and performers like Archie Roach and Yothu Yindi who were featured on the official programmes and there were also volunteers, who gave up their time to be a part of the Games.

Our own Mr Prince was a volunteer and visitor to the Games and he enjoyed meeting and mingling with all the mob. Mr Prince has been a lifelong advocate and supporter of the Indigenous disabled community as well being a world class athlete in his own right. The social network carried a number of really good photos of Mr Prince at the Games so well done! That was one very strong positive at the Games, the fact that the disabled athletes were included in the general programme and not put to one side as a support act.

And of course there were the protesters who set up Camp Freedom on a council reserve on the Spit and carried out a number of political street actions to try and draw the attention of the visiting media to the

historical injustices and terrible living conditions in which many of our people are forced to live. The protesters demanded that a Truth Commission be set up to fully examine just what has happened here on this land since Jimmy Cook first mapped the east coast in 1770. I think that such a Commission would be a very valuable exercise.

Back in the early 90s when Nelson Mandela became the President of the new South Africa, the parliament ruled that the very first step towards true equality and true freedom, was for the nation to be held fully accountable for those decades of horrific crimes and oppression of the Apartheid regime. We must never forget that the Apartheid system was based on the Queensland Protection Acts.

The Stolenwealth Games leaders have called for that Truth Commission to be set up and for senior judicial officers to travel across the country and take evidence about those things that have happened to our people since the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788. I think that yes, it is time for mainstream Australia to be confronted with the truth and reality of this country and I do not believe that we as a nation can continue to hide behind shiny gold medals while so many still suffer. At Link-Up (Qld) we know first hand just what happened to the members of the Stolen Generations and we know that truths such as this, must be exposed to the world.



Meeting Kurt Fearnley was a highlight for Willie Prince



Front Cover:

We pay tribute to 106 year old Gram Daisy Archer who sadly passed away recently.

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.

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CEO - Patricia Conlon



Patricia Conlon

Welcome to this edition of Link-Up (Qld) magazine. Congratulations to Link-Up (Qld) Director Willie Prince on being selected as a Baton Bearer in the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Willie was absolutely thrilled to be selected to participate in the Commonwealth

Games as a Baton Bearer, he was also excited to attend the athlete's village at the Games on the Gold Coast mixing it with the athletes, proudly posing with Gold medal winner Kurt Fearnley and others. Later on in this edition, read more about Willie's own achievements as an athlete.

Link-Up (Qld) is really proud to pay tribute to Daisy Melba Archer, affectionately known as Gram and respectfully referred to as Gram Daisy in this edition. Gram Daisy sadly passed away at 106 years old on 28th February 2018 at Mareeba, Far North Queensland. At Link-Up (Qld) we celebrate the strength and resilience of our Stolen Generations, the terrible acts of removal of our people by past government policies, being stolen from our families, but we survive, we are resilient – what a truly amazing example Gram Daisy Archer at 106 years old is of that resilience and survival.

Gram Daisy was removed from her family at a very young age. She was taken from her family at Cloncurry and placed in the dormitory at Yarrabah mission at the tender age of 7 years old. Gram Daisy never saw her family again.

Gram Daisy married Charles Archer at Yarrabah in 1937 and they had 8 children, 5 sons and 3 daughters. They left Yarrabah and spent some time at Mt Carbine before settling at the small mining town of Mt Mulligan, northwest of Dimbulah in Far North Queensland and eventually Mareeba.

At 98 years old, Gram Daisy became a client of Link-Up (Qld). ***“I would really like to know where I come from and if I had any brothers and sisters, or where my parents are buried, I am 98 years old and am still hopeful of finding something about my family”*** she said.

Gram Daisy never found her family and despite Link-Up (Qld)'s best efforts to assist her on her journey, we were unable to connect her back to her family.

Gram's son Ron, reflects that after his mum had lost touch, as a child, with all of her family, he and his siblings managed to track down one of Gram's brothers. Sadly, while Gram did get to meet her brother, unfortunately their time together was brief as he was killed in a tragic car accident with his wife, daughter and granddaughter on their way to visit Gram Daisy. This beautiful mum, a tower of strength and resilience – suffers another loss, the connection to her family, her lost brother. Almost a century of separation.

The National Apology to the Stolen Generations came too late for Gram Daisy – almost a century too late.

Link-Up (Qld) would like to extend our sincerest and deepest sympathy to the Archer family for the loss of their beautiful mum and thank them for sharing her life with us.



Gram Daisy with some of her children

Daisy Melba Archer (106 years) - 19th July 1911 - 28 February 2018



Daisy Melba Archer was born on the 19 July 1911 in Cloncurry, Queensland.

“I’m a Stolen Generation, they stole me from my parents and I don’t know nothing” - Daisy Archer

Daisy was removed from her family, Tribe and Country at the age of approximately 4 years by the government under the Protection Act, what we have come to know as the Stolen Generation, she states it was because of the colour of her skin. As far as it is known Daisy Archer was the daughter of Polly and granddaughter of Billy and Kitty. Polly was a full blood, she worked which left Daisy to be brought up by her Grandparents Kitty and Billy. These names are all we have that connect Daisy to family and Cloncurry.

“I remember I was with my Grandparents down at the riverside. They noticed me because I was the only half-caste. The rest were dark. Police come and grabbed me. Just took me. Nobody knew nothing” - Daisy Archer

Daisy was taken away from all she knew and placed at the Yarrabah Mission. At Yarrabah she lived, grew up, done her schooling and ultimately worked in the girl’s dormitory. She also worked in Yarrabah Hospital as a cook. In her 20’s she fell in love and married Charles James Archer on the 8th May 1937 in Yarrabah. After a bit of time Charles applied for an exemption to take his wife out into the world to start their life and a family.

Charles first took Daisy and baby Gwen to join his parents Charlie Senior and Jessie who were living and mining Wolfram in Mount Carbine. Jim, Eddie and George came along and when it was announced the war was over, Charles decided to then take Daisy and their young family back to his country (Djungan), Mount Mulligan. They walked from Mount Carbine to Mount Mulligan with all their belongings, one horse and carried baby George who was only six weeks old.



Having no place to live when they first arrived, Charles found a block, cleared it and built their home before he started working as a Coal Miner. They built their home on the Hodgkinson River where Daisy was a house wife. Her and Charlie’s children are Gwen, Charles (Jimmy), Edward (Eddie) (dec), George, Ronald (Ronnie), Gloria (dec), Alick (dec), Virginia (Jeany).

There was no electricity, instead they used lanterns for light and at night a wood fired stove to cook their meals. The water had to be carried up from the river in buckets for the washing, cooking and drinking. Daisy also made clothing for her family, this she really enjoyed along with crochet – needle work, but she always made time for her gardens.

In 1955 the mines closed down and the whole township moved down south. Charles and Daisy along with their children decided to stay in Mareeba. Charles built a house on the banks of the Granite River, the Council Reserve.

The Archer family lived on the Reserve for about 5-6 years until they moved into Mareeba. Charles and Daisy bought a three-bedroom home, they were the first Indigenous family to purchase their own home in Mareeba. Again, Daisy made her beautiful gardens and the back yard had plenty of fruit trees such as plums and guava’s. The neighbourhood was friendly and the children all attended the Mareeba State School.

Sadly, Daisy lost her husband Charles to a terrible car accident. Daisy never remarried and always remembered her husband fondly.

Daisy loved fishing and camping. She fished all around the Mareeba area and Mount Surprise and anywhere else her family would take her.

For the first time in her life, Daisy fell ill and was admitted to hospital for about a week or two. Family decided it was best for her to move into her son George and daughter-in-law Coral home at Wungu. After living with them for some time her daughter-in-law became ill and couldn't provide care for her and then she moved into Fred Leftwich aged care home but would continue to ask her daughter Gloria if she could move in with her and her husband David back in Mareeba. David and Gloria looked after her and took her out fishing to the beach. Her last fishing trip was when she was about 98 years of age; she loved this as it reminded her of her days in Yarrabah.

Daisy Melba Archer hit her century with strength and energy in 2011. She continued to be fiercely independent, doing her own washing including hanging them on the line, folding, sweeping, raking and anything else that made her busy. Daisy celebrated her 100th birthday in Dimbulah with many family and friends.

After Daisy's daughter Gloria fell ill Daisy moved into the aged care Garden settlement in Mareeba and when any of the family would visit her she would say "Where do you live, you come to take me home or take me to Wungu?"

On the early morning of Wednesday 28 February 2018, Daisy slipped away peacefully. She made it no secret that to live a full happy life she never drank alcohol or smoked in her life! She kept her witty and sicked sense of humour right to the end. Daisy lived to see 6 Generations including her children, great-grandchildren and great-great-great grandchildren. She has 141 descendants.

Ron Archer also paid tribute to his mother: Mum left a legacy that was based on family, although she didn't lecture or teach us - it was there to see the way she raised 8 children in a tin shed with dirt floor. Her life in raising kids was out in the bush with no modern facility in the house, she set a foundation on her children and that was family responsibility. She thought if she can lay a foundation for her children, her children could do the same. She left a principle in place, the men had their role to play, even though they were in the bush. It taught them responsibility, like hunting to provide for the family. You would always see the motherly things in her all the time.

Mum was always a Christian although we didn't understand as a young person. She adopted Christian principles and tried to influence her children. Dad

was a hard-working man, he left a legacy too and mum said you children have to do the same, when you get married, you got to look after your family. She always prayed that one of her boys would become a Christian. When I look back, see the relationship that us brothers had, strong ties between us brothers, this is what mum displayed. Ron remembers his mum ironing clothes. She had a steel iron, rubbed it in the dirt to clean the back off, run inside and wipe it down, lay a piece of cloth, iron one part of the trouser at a time.

I remember my broken clothes, you get on the sewing machine, Singer, foot pedal, mum showed him how to thread the needle, she said don't break the needle. Mum had gardening skills learnt from Mission days, carrying tin around to water plants. She grew Grana-dilla fruit, long beans, garden bed laid with grass bottles, creepers around the fence. We had good times down the river camping, always in the bush, whatever we caught and killed we ate out there. Mum cooked flying fox for us, singed all the hair off the flying fox on the fire, make a flying fox curry to eat with rice. We helped mum cook fish, bony brim, chuck on the fire, mum cooked damper chucked in the coal, we sat down and ate, we had a good time as kids.

Mum worked, the house was always tidy, four kids in a room, hessian bag over the window, beds made from wire netting. She had a big copper boiler, washing 8 children clothes and to dry all was scattered around the river bank all on the grass and rubber vine.

I talked to mum about the Stolen Generation, gave a copy (of the Apology) to her in a frame from Kevin Rudd - too stinking late she said - 90 years at the time. She didn't think too highly of it.

Mum had a sense of humour. She told me when I was born I was a blonde hair baby, nurse said, Daisy, baby is too white to be Charlies. She walked over and slapped the nurse.



Brian Gray Reunion - Rockhampton



Father Paul leads a service at the gravesite of Mavis Gray

My mother was born on a cattle station near Thargomindah, she was removed when she was 15 and taken to Woorabinda with 2 of her brothers. My Grandfather wrote letters to the Aboriginal Welfare Board saying he wanted his kids back and they eventually were allowed to go home.

I was born in a little town called Wanaaring near Bourke and by the time I was 3 years old we moved to Bogatunga. According to my research the police come to Bogatunga on a complaint that there was a kid there that looked undernourished, which was me apparently, so the police came and took me. They flew me to Emerald, put me in a hospital overnight, the next day I was in court and sent to an orphanage. That quick, one day.

I went to Birrilee Home for kids under four, once they got me they started hunting for the rest of my family, my brother and sisters, we all ended up in Birrilee Home. My sisters were fostered out and I never saw them again till probably 20 years later.

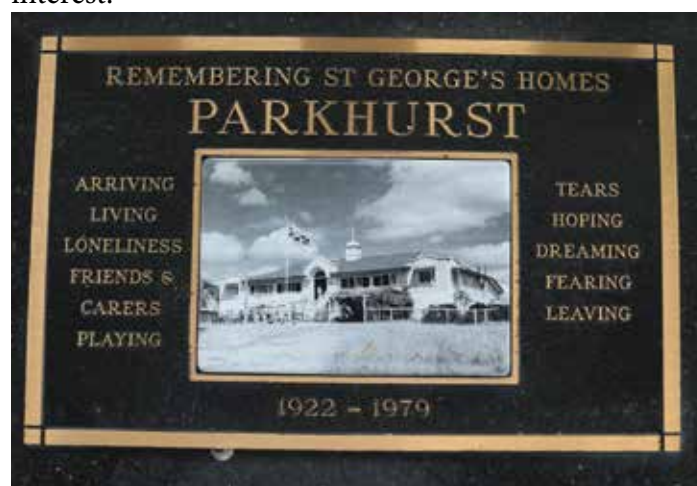


A young Brian Gray standing beside Mrs Gribble

After a while they sent me and my brother to St George's Homes in Rockhampton where we stayed till it shut down. We were slowly cut off from the outside world, family and culture. It was a very cruel and abusive place, they punished us by flushing our heads in the toilet for talking at night. Held upside down by the legs in a bath tub. We were thrown in sewers up to our necks in waste for misbehaving.

When I was about 8 they brought in another couple, Father Paul and Val Gribble, they changed everything, we told them our story, what happened to us and they treated us really well. When I was 12 years old, Mrs Gribble told me my mother was in hospital very sick and wasn't going to live. As she was telling me, I was asking her what's a mother? She had to sit down and explain what a mother was to me. Her and I was crying, I don't know what I was crying for, there was just something there that made me cry.

They wouldn't let me go and see her in the hospital or go to the funeral. They didn't think it was in my best interest.



St George's Homes where Brian and his brother spent their youth



When the orphanage shut down they sent me out bush on a station to work. I cried for weeks, I didn't know what was going on, because I missed the kids from the home. Then I had a fight with the station owner, I just told him I don't want to work there no more, and I sort of started going downhill from there. My sense of belonging was lost, I didn't know who I was, I spent life after the orphanage just living with Street gangs, alcohol and drugs and just mixing with the wrong people.

It wasn't until I started hanging around some park people in Rockhampton, they would ask who's your mother, "I think her name was Mavis Gray or something." "You Mavis' son? I know your mob". All a sudden I embarked on a journey of finding family.

It was about 20 years ago when I first contacted Link-Up (Qld), I didn't even know where my mother's grave was till they found it for me, they found other information for me, but it was a bit too sensitive, so I just told them don't worry about it I will leave it for now. I wasn't ready to face some certain things that



I'm facing now. When we were taken from our mother we never saw her again, I don't know what she looks like, to this day I never seen a photo of her.

Link-Up (Qld) organised a "Graveside Reunion" for my mother in Rockhampton. This day proved to be very moving, emotional, exciting and scary for me, and I was comforted by my wife Viki who came along as my support person. I had to take a moment by myself to come to the realisation of what today meant. Stepping out of the car I found my mother's unmarked grave was only a stone throw from where I played football throughout my junior years. All those years and my mother was just there. Link-Up (Qld) workers Kathleen and Joshua did a great job cleaning up the grave and placing flowers. Father Paul and Mrs Gribble also attended with Father Paul doing a small service. As I sat there with my thoughts I realised that today was going to heal me of a lot of things I have carried around for the last 50 years and I can now continue my journey.



Brian and Viki Gray



Lynette Godwell Reunion - Cairns



Lynette Godwell at Machans Beach

My name is Lynette Godwell (nee Remfrey) and I was born in Richmond and mostly grew up in Mount Isa. I am now retired and currently live in Townsville. My grandmother Topsy (Ivy) Kerwin (nee Hudson) was born on Vanrook Station near Normanton.

I came across a police report dated November 1905 about the manager of Vanrook Station talking about the Aborigines he had on the station that were not under the agreement. By this description it sounded like my grandmother and her mother and her brother. I approached Link-Up (Qld) in Brisbane and began my search. It was through them that I received confirmation that my grandmother Topsy was born around 1907 at Vanrook Station and that her mother was an Aboriginal woman named Nellie and her father was a non-Indigenous station manager named William Hudson/Hutson. My grandmother Topsy married Richard Kerwin in 1924 and had eight children.

My mother Alma Kerwin was the second child. As part of my research I wanted to visit Vanrook Station but Link-Up (Qld) in their attempts through the current station manager tried to secure a back to country

visit in this area, but the request was denied. Further to their research, Link-Up (Qld) Cairns also provided information that my grandmother Topsy's brother Willie Hudson died in 1940 and was buried at Kowanyama. Willie Hudson married Lucy Footscray and had ten children.

I became excited as Link-Up (Qld) in Cairns traced two of the granddaughters of Willie Hudson, the brother of my grandmother Topsy Hudson. There was always talk of this family but I have not met any of the grandchildren. The Link-Up (Qld) team organised a family reunion in Cairns which helped me to fill in lot of the gaps.

Prior to the family reunion, staff at Link-Up (Qld) organised a short visit down memory lane at Machans Beach, a beachside community and the closest beach to the Cairns City. As a child, my parents and another sister moved to Cairns from Mt Isa for 12 months due to a strike in the mines in the early 1960's. It was exciting to find that the old building we lived in is still on the beach front.



Thelma and Lynette sharing family information



Lynette's grandmother Topsy celebrating her birthday

The building had a set of four one bedroom units. We drove down a familiar street nearby and was also amazed to see a house I remembered as a child that was occupied back then by a Torres Strait Islander family. The building appeared to be condemned and now surrounded by a fence. I had forgotten the name of Torres Strait Islander family, however, when meeting my cousin Thelma later she revealed who they were. I also recall how my dad use to fish at the mouth of the Barron River and bring home in a large hessian bag his catch of the day.

It was fantastic to finally meet family, the two granddaughters of Willie Hudson, Thelma O'Shane (nee Busch) and Sylvia Green (nee Blanco). Their mothers are sisters, Molly and Louisa (Gina), children of Willie Hudson and Lucy Footscray. I first met with Thelma at the hotel and following the introduction Link-Up (Qld) staff Caseworkers, Sylvia Wright and Shane Wallace was hoping to find a lovely spot on the esplanade to sit and talk but due to the heavy wet weather conditions we decided to go back to the Cairns

Link-Up (Qld) office. It was at the office that I was able to spend time with Thelma and we both shared information about our family history. Later that evening I then met with the other family member Sylvia and we were able to spend some time over a meal and also chatted more about our family members. I was elated that I now had more proof of family and where we come from through this reunion. Following this family reunion, we plan on reconnecting again.

To end the reunion, Link-Up (Qld) also organised a visit to the Tjapukai Cultural Centre at Smithfield and I enjoyed the experience of local history and dancing of the Djabugay people. The staff at Link-Up (Qld) do a fantastic job in bringing closure to a lot of unanswered questions and bringing family together. Staff were excellent and are very committed to their clients and go out of their way to make sure the reunion went smoothly. We were given great support to make sure all parties were given space and time to connect in comfort.



Meeting up with Sylvia was also a highlight



Visiting Tjapukai Cultural Centre

Apology Day - Yarrabah



Link-Up (Qld) collaborated with Gurriny Yealamucka Health Service and hosted an Apology event at Yarrabah on Tuesday 27th February 2018.

The event was postponed from the original Apology Day due to heavy rainfall and flooding in the region. Funding and merchandise was provided by The Healing Foundation – shirts, badges, water bottles and magazines were distributed.

During the course of the morning about 40 people (mainly Yarrabah residents, workers and LUQ clients who live at Yarrabah) attended as well as 5 LUQ staff and 4 clients from Cairns making a total of 50 people).

The guest speakers were: Kayleen Jackson, Gwen Schreiber and Flo Watson. A huge cake, BBQ lunch, fruit and drinks was enjoyed by everyone.





There was a visit to the old cemetery in Yarrabah where one of the elders gave a speech and prayers for the people who had been taken to Yarrabah and for other stolen generation people. A wreath was laid and flowers in a basket were put on graves in memory of loved ones.

Link-Up (Qld) looks forward to collaborating for future events and strengthening ties with staff from Gurriny Yealamucka Health Service and the local community from Yarrabah.



National Close the Gap Day - West End, Brisbane



Link-Up (Qld) joined Micah Projects, ATSICHS (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service), ANTaR (Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation), Oxfam Australia, Caxton Legal Centre, Community Plus (West End Community House), IUIH (Institute for Urban Indigenous Health) and Reconciliation Qld to acknowledge National Close The Gap Day @ Bunyapa Park on the 15 March 2018.

It was wonderful to have so many organisations represented and networking on the day. Many signatures were gathered for Oxfam's Pledge for Action and organisers were happy to receive influential community feedback.

Link-Up (Qld) Chairperson, Sam Watson, began proceedings with a call to action, and was followed by other guest speakers and entertainers. A range of informative and educational material were available, highlighting the gaps in life expectancy, health, education, employment and incarceration rates, between Indigenous people and the greater community.

Congratulations to Micah Projects RAP Committee. It was a very special occasion.





Cranbrook House - Aboriginal Girls Home 1899 -1906, West End, Brisbane



Cranbrook House at Orleigh Park, West End

After 1842, much of this riverfront area was subdivided into “Orleigh Estate” and by 1890 was dotted with timber houses. However, most of these houses were washed away in the 1893 floods. “Cranbrook”, a large timber house survived the flooding. The only remnants of the house being the set of concrete stairs.



Hannah Hamilton's Family

In 1900 “Cranbrook” became the home for Aboriginal girls and young women who had been forcibly removed from their families and communities by the Government under the Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act, 1897. Many Aboriginal girls and young women forcibly removed were trained in domestic work as servants for whites.

The home played a vital role in the forcible separation of Aboriginal girls and young women from their communities; their subsequent employment as domestic servants and the removal and separation of any children that the young women may have had to orphanages and children's homes. In 1900 there were 22 young Aboriginal women in service in Brisbane and by 1906, when the home was consequently closed after an inquiry into the conditions in the home, the number in service had risen to 121.

The experiences of Stolen Generations people set them apart from all others because their removal was racially motivated and part of a general and popular social, political and administrative regime aimed at reforming their innate (racial) deficiencies.

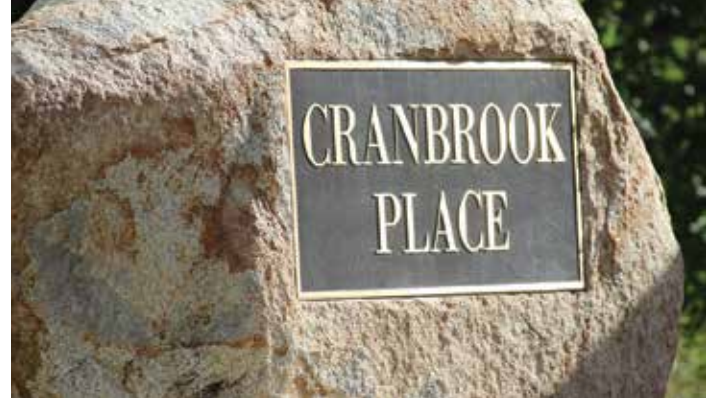
This mistreatment was later realized when the Royal Commissions into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody found that many of the deaths investigated were people who had been separated from their family and communities due to the actions of past government policies. The Bringing Them Home report by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission in 1997 confirmed the devastating effects that the removal of children has had on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families, Communities and Culture.

The first National Sorry Day was held on 26 May, 1998 – one year after the tabling of the Bringing Them Home Report on 3rd May 1997. The report acknowledged that ‘Indigenous children had been forcibly separated from their families and communities since the very first days of European occupation of Australia’ by governments and missionaries.

In 1992 Prime Minister Keating acknowledged the ‘we took the children from their mothers’ at a speech in Redfern. In 1994 legal action was commenced in the Supreme Court of New South Wales. These children who were removed came to be known as the Stolen Generations.

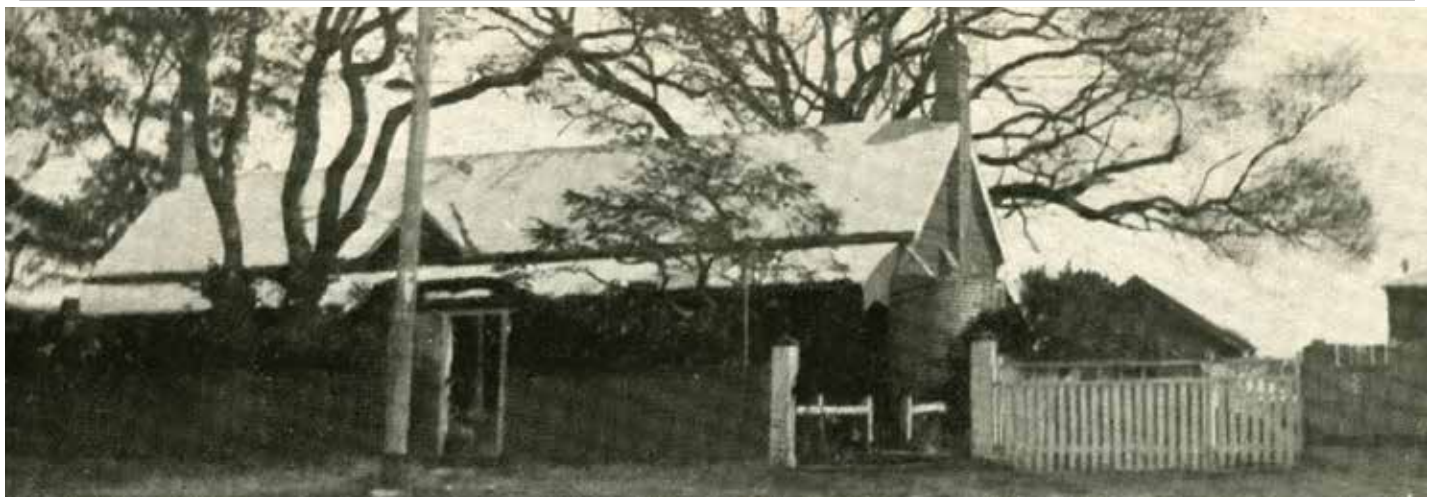
Link-Up (Qld) were there when the then Prime Minister, the Hon. Kevin Rudd MP, launched his new government and a complete new era in race relations in the land, with the incredible moment of the national Apology to the Stolen Generations in 2008.

Link-Up (Qld) will be at Orleigh Park on the 25th May for Sorry Day 2018. We have been hosting the annual event with free breakfast, speakers and entertainment for the past nineteen years.



Link-Up (Qld) worked with Communities and Personal Histories to identify some of the girls at the Aboriginal Girls Home:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Lucy Wheeler | 2. Clara Wheeler | 3. Hannah Hamilton |
| 4. Mary (or Mary-Anne) Thorpe | 5. Mary Combo | 6. Mabel McCullough |
| 7. Lucy Gracemere | 8. Lizzie Smith | 9. Nellie Mahar |
| 10. Jessie Thompson | 11. Kitty Stott | 12. Sarah Stott |
| 13. Ettie Walsh | 14. Cissie Fraser | 15. Minnie Mackay |
| 16. Alice Barnett | 17. Fannie Logan | |



Royal Commission Update

Julie Pemberton recently commenced with Link-Up (Qld) as the Specialist Support Counsellor for our Royal Commission clients. Julie has been contacting clients and working toward planning healing activities, including healing camps. If you would like to meet with Julie please contact her at our Brisbane office on (07) 3638 0411 or 1800 200 855.

Link-Up (Qld) is also providing updated information about the Redress Scheme which will provide support to people who were sexually abused as children in institutions.

The plan to have a Redress Scheme came from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. It is one way the government is working to acknowledge and help people who experienced child sexual abuse.

Subject to the passage of legislation, the Scheme will start on 1 July 2018, and will run for 10 years. It is designed so that relevant organisations take responsibility to make amends for sexual abuse that happened to children they were looking after.

The Australian Government is creating the Scheme, and it has promised to provide redress to people who were abused in places that were run by the Commonwealth. This includes places such as the Australian Defence Forces and cadet schools and onshore immigration detention.

So that redress can be provided to as many people as possible, other governments and organisations need to join the Scheme, which is called 'opting in'. The Australian Government is pushing for all state governments, churches, charities and other non-government organisations to join up.



On 9 March 2018, the New South Wales and Victorian governments announced that they will join the scheme and provide redress to people who were sexually abused as children, in those states, in places like state operated schools and out of home care. On 19 March 2018, the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) government announced it they would join the scheme.

This will also allow non-government institutions in New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory, like churches and charities to join the Scheme – if they opt in.

The Australian Government is negotiating with the other states and territories and we hope others will opt in soon. When each state government and institution joins up, it promises to pay for redress for people who were abused in its care.

The Redress Scheme can provide three things:

- access to psychological counselling
- a direct personal response – such as an apology from the responsible institution for people who want it
- a monetary payment.

Payments will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, reflecting the severity and impact of the abuse experienced with a maximum of \$150,000.

Redress is not compensation – it is about acknowledging the harm caused, and supporting people who have experienced child sexual abuse in an institution to move forward positively in the way that is best for them.

The Redress Scheme is an alternative to getting compensation through the courts – you can do one or the other, but not both.

Link-Up (Qld) will provide updates about the Redress Scheme as information comes to hand.



Link-Up (Qld) Cairns Update

Cairns staff have been very busy and productive with reunions, events, community visits and professional development and training. There has also been a lot of forward planning for future events that will take us up to the end of June.



Reunions

Caseworker Joshua Thompson completed two reunions. One of them was a graveside reunion in Rockhampton in March and the other one was a back to country reunion in Croydon/Normanton in early April. Caseworker Sylvia Wright completed a family reunion in Cairns in March.



Events

Cairns Office collaborated with Gurriny Yealamucka Health Service and hosted an Apology event at Yarrabah on Tuesday 27th February 2018. See more of the story and photos in this magazine.



Community Visits

Brief visits were made to Mount Isa and Townsville in March to follow up on clients and network.

Professional Development and Training

Cairns caseworkers attended the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC) SEWB Cairns Regional Forum on 13th and 14th March in Cairns. The focus this year was on the Next Step to Wellbeing and there was a focus on social and emotional wellbeing strategies to combat exhaustion, stress, intergenerational loss and grief, vicarious trauma and unfinished business. There were motivational speakers on the second day as well as updates from QAIHC staff.



Cairns caseworkers also commenced their first block of the Certificate IV in Mental Health with Gallang Place on 26th March in Cairns. The learnings gained from this training will be crucial for staff working with some of our mob who have experienced significant physical, social, emotional and spiritual setbacks in life or over many generations.

All staff in the office have commenced regular external supervision sessions. This will provide an opportunity for staff to debrief and discuss individual professional practice.

Future Plans

- Sorry Day Event in May
- Presentation and Guest Speakers for Prime, Minister and Cabinet staff in Cairns in May to celebrate National Reconciliation week
- Healing Camp at Mungalla Station in June



Willie Prince



Link-Up (Qld) Director Willie Prince was absolutely thrilled to be selected as a Baton Bearer in the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Willie is a Wakka Wakka and Kalkadoon man, a member of the Stolen Generations, having been removed from his family, community and culture for 17 years because of his physical disabilities. He has been passionate about advocating for the needs of people with disability and focussing on building recognition of people's abilities.

Willie was thrilled to also visit the Athletes' Village at the Commonwealth Games mingling with the Athletes. Willie excelled in athletics at a national level, winning medals for shot-put and discus.



With some of the Kenya Track Team



At the Athletes Village



Willie at the Commonwealth Games



At the Leisure Centre

Link-Up (Qld) Staff Professional Development



Sloane Stallan

Congratulations to Rob Frescon, Sloane Stallan and Sharkira Butterworth on completing their Certificate IV in Mental Health. A graduation ceremony was held at Gallang Place recently. The training offered by Gallang Place is delivered by professional and qualified training facilitators in a supportive learning environment.

Sloane also had the opportunity to attend a nationally accredited healing short course which was developed in 2016 by the Healing Foundation in partnership with Gallang Place and a Knowledge Circle of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders.

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 3638 0411 for more information.

Next meeting will be on:

**31st May
28th June
26th July
30th August
27th September
25th October**



Sharkira Butterworth

The course was designed to equip existing and potential Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers with the skills and knowledge to facilitate a healing journey for individuals or groups.

Donna Ives, Multi Media Manager and Rob Freson, Team Leader in our Brisbane office are both participating in the Certificate IV in Indigenous Leadership offered by the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre. The course is designed to build and develop leadership skills.

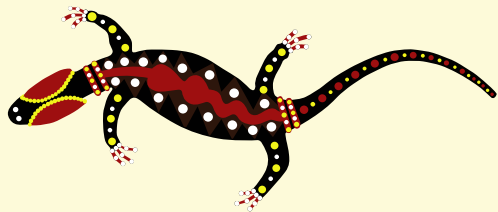
Link-Up (Qld) supports staff professional development training opportunities.

Cairns Client Support Group 2018 Morning Teas

Held on the last Thursday of every month at the Link-Up (Qld) Cairns office from 10.00am.
Contact Link-Up (Qld) on 07 4041 7403 for more information.

Next meeting will be on:

**31st May
28th June
26th July
30th August
27th September
25th October**



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

Link-Up (Qld) ABORIGINAL CORPORATION OFFICES

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**Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/linkupqueensland
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