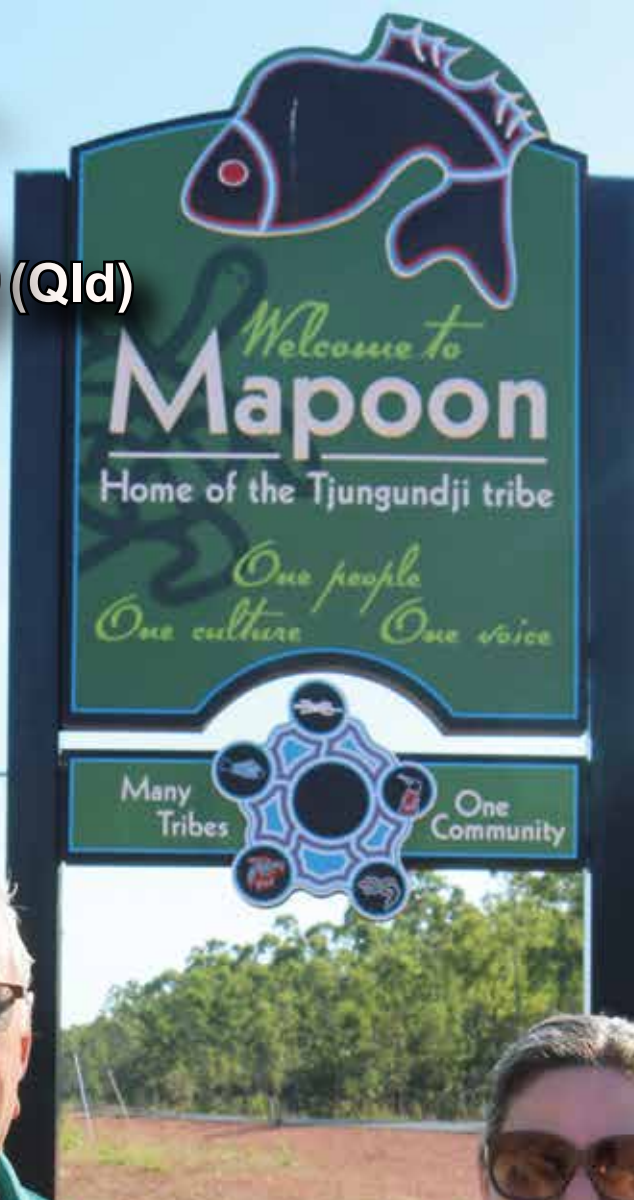




Link-Up (Qld)

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION ©

Volume 39 July - August 2019



Still Bringing Them Home

Chairperson - Sam Watson



Sam Watson

Elder's Stories

Over the past year Catherine and I have been invited to a number of different ceremonies at the various schools, colleges and universities that are located around Brisbane. Across the academic year we have the opportunity to welcome new ATSI

students who are just beginning their studies and at the other end we also go along to graduation nights and join families and friends to offer congratulations to those students who have achieved their degrees and diplomas. Well done to those students and their families. All that hard work and sacrifice were worth it.

These occasions are a real highlight of our working year as we have the opportunity to be a part of something that is really quite powerful. We look back across the decades and we remember that back in the early years of the struggle there were very few of our students who were able to make it through to year ten. There were very few who made it to year twelve and even fewer who made the great leap into a tertiary course.

I still remember the excitement around our community back in the mid 1960s when people like Uncle Charlie Perkins and Uncle Garry Williams actually graduated from the Sydney University and in the early 1970s we had people like Paul Coe and myself entered law schools in Sydney and Brisbane. We attended a breakfast this week at the QUT to celebrate Reconciliation Week with the Law School and we learned that

there are now more than eighty Indigenous lawyers registered and practicing in Queensland. We have lawyers and senior Counsel, we have magistrates and we even have an upper court judge. The schools across the city have a large number of young Indigenous students in every year and the upper schools and tertiary level courses feature an enormous number of our brightest youngsters. Across our community we have teachers, doctors, dentists, truck drivers, surveyors and even policemen. Our young people are really pushing those boundaries back.

To achieve these numbers and to achieve these performance results takes a lot of hard work and commitment from the students, the staff and the families. But we must also remember and honour the role played by our Elders in the raising of these children. Our young ones learn a great deal in the class room and in the school yard, they will go onto high and wonderful things; but they must never forget that it was the courage and the vision of our grandparents and our great grandparents and generations of our elders who prepared the way for the generations of today. We were deeply moved by the keynote speeches of our young leaders of tomorrow who acknowledged the contributions of those old people from the past who fought against the racist and genocidal policies of governments that kept our people locked up in the missions and the dormitories.

Our leaders and heroes of the 1960s and 1970s smashed those chains and led us into the broader community and gave us the opportunity to go to regular schools, to go to proper hospitals and to get proper jobs and opportunities. As we finish up the time of Sorry Week and Reconciliation Week, we give due honour and thanks to all those wonderful Elders who came before us and prepared the path that we are now walking upon. We will never forget you...



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

CEO - Patricia Thompson



Patricia Thompson

Welcome to this edition of Link-Up (Qld) magazine. Here we are at the beginning of another financial year and it has been an extremely busy start. Our 35th Year Anniversary Gala was held in May 2019 – a wonderful event at which we honoured and celebrat-

ed the strength and survival of our Stolen Generations through stories, songs and images. It was a wonderful opportunity for many past and present clients, staff and directors to come together to celebrate our heart work. Following on from the Gala we are now busy working on a publication 35 Years 35 Stories which will highlight a brief glimpse of 35 of our client's 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 of our Stolen Generations and their families have endured and to honour their survival, strength and resilience. We look forward to launching this publication later in the year.

At the 35th Year Gala, Link-Up (Qld) paid tribute to Ruth Loli, Research Manager for 10 years of service. Ruth is tenacious, dedicated, persistent, thorough, compassionate and a leader in the field of research. We paid tribute to her professionalism and the knowledge and experience which she brings to our organisation and our community. Ruth is held in high regard in her field around the country. A gift was presented to Ruth in appreciation of her dedication and commitment to the important work of research and the profound contribution she has made to the lives of

our people.

Later in this edition Ruth is featured in a Q & A – reflecting on her work and experiences.

Link-Up (Qld) also paid respect to and acknowledged the valuable work our Chairman Sam Watson has made over the past 40 years plus representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, for supporting our people, taking the fight up at every opportunity across every spectrum to make a difference in our all of our lives. Sam Watson has been Chairman of Link-Up (Qld) for over 12 years.

The National NAIDOC Awards were held in Canberra in July, 2019. It is an honour to be part of the National NAIDOC Committee and to celebrate the achievements and significant contributions Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make to our communities at local, state and national levels. This year's Theme - Voice. Treaty. Truth. were three key elements to the reforms set out in the Uluru Statement from the Heart. These reforms represent the unified position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. For generations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have sought recognition of their unique place in Australian history and society today. For generations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have looked for significant and lasting change. We need our fellow Australians to join us on this journey – to finish the unfinished business of this country.

The National NAIDOC Committee invites all Australians to walk with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a movement of the nation for a better future.

Finally I want to acknowledge Link-Up (Qld) staff for their ongoing dedication and commitment to our Stolen Generations. Keep up the great work Team.



2019 NAIDOC winners and committee

Robert Clark Reunion - Mapoon



Robert's Reunion Dinner at Mapoon with his many nieces and nephews.

Hi, my name is Bob (Robert) Clark my age is 76 and I have "Waanyi" aboriginal tribal blood lines in me through my mother and I am very happy to share with you my recent Link Up trip with my daughter Robyn to Mapoon.

My mother Mabel Clarke was taken from her parents at Lawn Hills and relocated to Old Mapoon in the early 1900's. My three brothers Malcolm, Donald and Henry and my sister Gloria were all born in Mapoon. I was born in Cairns and had never seen Mapoon until this trip but I had heard many great stories about her life there and her experiences with the missionaries and her close relationship with the local Tjungungi tribal people.

I have nephews and nieces and many other relatives still living in Mapoon so I was excited when case worker Jason Ives invited me and my daughter to visit. This afforded us the opportunity to link up with not only family but the land that my mother was taken to. She was placed in the care of the Missionaries but learnt most about the land from the local Tjungungi tribal people. The local people taught her to basket



weave, make shell and wild berry necklaces (beads) and to cook fish, uckle, taro and jam 'murrie style'. Mum was taught how to crochet as well as other handcrafts and then ended up teaching at the Mission School.

So it was with great pride I was able to visit some of the sites where mum fished, cooked and explored in her young days. I was able to experience the wonderful beaches and breathe in the pristine fresh air. My two wonderful nephews Peter and Ricky Guivarra were great hosts and took us 4- wheel driving along the beaches and surrounding areas to sites where the local tribal people hunted for tucker and to the sites where the Mission used to be.



Peter, Robyn, Ricky, Robert and Maria





Robert with his wife Rosslyn and his mother Mabel Boota

Thank you Link-Up (Qld) for giving us two extremely talented and caring people in Jason Ives and Josh Thompson to make sure our trip went as planned, Jason is "Mr Quickfinger" with his camera and took many wonderful photos. My family and I will discuss another visit with those who have yet seen Mapoon when finances allow.



My niece Maria Guivarra and her husband Michael welcomed us into their home where a glorious meal of local crabs and fish was prepared. It was a joyful night gathered around the table filled with the noise of the little one's playing and endless yarns from all our relatives. It was a precious and moving time for me at my age to catch up with many of my mob and to have my daughter with me to experience this made it so special.

I was very impressed to see and hear how the local people are progressing. The local school play parks and especially the Cultural Centre an organisation that my grand-nephew Jason Jia is a part of it is a real credit to the Community.



Robyn and Robert leaving Mapoon



Ian Gray Reunion - Brisbane

My story is successful with the efforts of Jason Ives (LUQ), Christine Reeves (LUQ) Aimee Pierce (cousin).



Ian saying a few words at the site of his great grandmother Jane's grave.

** Why I felt the need to find the family history, why I felt this was important.*

Sadly, the search for my grandmother's family has always been a mystery to our family for many years as we never knew her history. Within me has always been an urge to find her family, our family had no idea who she came from so we had no idea who we can say our distant relatives were.

All of my adult life while my mother was alive, I wanted to find out who we were, I use to say to my mother "mum are we Aboriginal, Islander, or Maori? None of these tiresome questions got answered and it frust-



rated me for my mother's sake and mine to know who we are, and if there were any others out there looking as we are who we could be related to.

My story started eagerly wanting to find my grandmother's (Ruby) family history while my mother (Shirley) was still alive, because in 1989 after receiving several birth certificates to use in a passport application, within Ruby Pierce's birth certificate while doing research we discovered there was a twin of Ruby (Olive) noted as being born at the same time.

Suddenly there was a renewed spark of anticipation and expectation that there are others out there. Around this time also we had our twins, so my wife and I were excited to see some hope of that these girls of ours may have come from my genes by the way of Jane McMillen/MacMillen.

We were excited to learn that we may have family somewhere that may be alive. A good friend during those years "Max Conlon" said to me, try Link-Up so gradually over a 30 year period starting with typing



Ian and his daughter Shari place flowers at the grave of his grandparents



letters, phone calls then email and now the internet.

Doubtless to say over the 30 years I did eventually give up hope of finding anyone out there, until my cousin Aimee Pierce was also doing research and found some evidence I'd not yet discovered. So after about a 5 years quiet period I contacted Link-Up again to find an eagerness within the staff to help me continue my search.

** How it all changed for you when we discovered that you had a Great Aunt Daphne that the family never new about.*

Successfully we finally revealed the beginnings of a new journey with new found relatives.

In the quickly closing weeks of research we can now confirm another daughter of Jane McMillen "Daphne" "and elder sister to Ruby and Olive, remarkably Daphne is the name of Ruby's late eldest daughter, this finding was also beautiful to find out.

It was during the 2018-2019 period that Jason Ives said he may have some evidence that the research team have to confirm that may assist in finding a lost family, when Link-Up (Qld) eventually confirmed and sent evidence of "Daphne" who was born 6 years earlier than my grandmother, I was so excited to see this, and my family were also excited to see what they looked like... would we look similar?



Shane, Leanne, Thomas, Shari and Ian at Mt Cootha



We thought how funny it would be to have cousins other than the ones we know on Ruby's side who may have some similarities to Daphne's side. Anticipation grew for the month leading up to our reunion. On the outside I was calm but inside I was so happy to finally get this result.

To celebrate the findings one of my daughters Shari was able to come with me, we spent the reunion with my new cousins, the Scott family line who are now wonderfully known to us and did celebrate with us on the 29th of May at Jane McMillen's plot at the Toowong Cemetery with the placing of flowers and flag.

Thanks to Max Conlon, Link-Up (Jason Ives and Christine Reeves) we had a time of sharing stories and our first meal at Mt. Cootha overlooking the Toowong Cemetery where our story started with Jane McMillen. Our new family (Peter, Thomas, Leanne, Shane, Darryl, Dina) commemorated with us our great grandmothers' story and to share the paths we have created that starts from Jane's short but busy life. We anticipate the growing list of relatives that have been a result of a young aboriginal girl named Jane McMillen from Goondiwindi-Boggabilla



Ian's grandmother Ruby and his mother Shirley

Alison Leany Reunion - Currawillinghi Station



Alison at the entrance to Currawillinghi Station

My name is Alison Leaney, I grew up with my 2 older siblings and my mother. I have lived in Logan City all my life. When I was younger no one spoke with me about my family history. We were told we were possibly Spanish, but when I was about 12 we were told we may have Aboriginal heritage. For years I tried connecting to programs and people who may be able to share the culture and give me some kind of connection. I got nowhere because I couldn't prove my heritage. I felt like a fraud, like I was misappropriating a culture and misrepresenting myself.

It wasn't until my Grandfather Harley passed way in 2010 that any research could occur. My Aunt put in the hard work of applying for all the documentation. A few years later I connected with Link-Up (Qld) and began the journey to find my family's history. I was told it could be quite a long wait, which didn't worry me much. I'd already been waiting for 20 years what was a few more.

At the beginning of 2019 Link-Up (Qld) called to give me my information. Receiving the research back was over whelming, it went back 5 generations to my

5th great grandmother Jennie. The research was very thorough. It mentioned Euahlayi member Michael Anderson was contacted and confirmed Jennie was from the area. This sent me down the path of looking up information on the Euahlayi Nation. It is great to be able to read about where my family was from and see there is still a connection to the land.

In July my husband and I travelled with Shane and Jessie by plane to Roma, then drove to Dirranbandi to sleep the night. I wanted to see as much as I could so I woke before sunrise to take some photos. Dirranbandi is only a small town but there's quite a bit to see. It was freezing cold! But so stunning. Then it hit me, I was finally there! I was back where my family began. I'm not gonna lie I cried a little.

We left Dirranbandi after breakfast and travelled to Hebel to meet with a local named Ray. Ray guided us to Currawillinghi, the station some of my ancestors were born and resided on. We looked around the first homestead which was currently housing a lovely couple and their rescue animals. After looking around the old houses and sheds we drove to the back of the



Alison, her husband Daniel, Link-Up caseworker Shane and Local Ray



Making a new friend



property where the shearing sheds are still standing including a little sway bridge that was used to move sheep across the river. The bridge has been there so long the trees have grown around its rails. It was nice to connect in person, the area felt peaceful. As lovely as it was, I felt I needed more, I hadn't quite gotten what I needed out of the trip yet. But no matter it was time to head back to Roma.

On our return we stopped at Dirranbandi for a feed at The Tucka Shack, the lovely owner there told us she had spoken to one of my relatives and was instructed to call her if we came back in. So we had lunch and waited. Sue walked in and sat with us. The knowledge about my family came pouring out I almost couldn't keep up. Then she put me on a conference call to another relative! After we had finished the call Sue jumped up and said we should go back to her home, she had photos to show me. With a shout of "which way? Yuwaallaraay!" she gathered her things and jumped in her car. We jumped in our car and followed her to her house a few doors down. She showed me her copies of the family tree and photos. She gave me 2, One of my great great grandmother and one of my 3rd great grandmother. I am so grateful to Sue for giving me that connection and making me feel welcome. She was exactly what I was missing. I now feel more comfortable with searching and connecting with



family I only wish I'd met her the day before so we could spend more time together.

I have been added to the family Facebook page. They have been holding annual family reunions for quite a while now. The next one is in October and I can't wait! I've started planning our trip out with my family and I'm also planning next years trip where I hope to take a bit more time to drive out to other places my family are connected to.

Discovering stories of ancestors is not just exciting it's fulfilling. To learn you're connected to something bigger is humbling, but it also drives you to look for more stories and more connections. It's almost addictive! Ultimately I would like to have all these stories so it's already there for my children, so they don't have to search like I've had to.

Thank you Link-Up (Qld) and a special thanks to Jessie Cobbo and Shane Wallace. A big thank you to the owner of The Tucker Shack, Tania, without your help I wouldn't have met Sue on my trip. And also to the family we never knew we had, Thank you so much for welcoming us! It means so much to be connected



The old sway bridge used to move the sheep.

Daniel, Jessie, Tania, Alison and Sue

Cairns NAIDOC - Fogarty Park



LUQ staff had a information stall at the annual NAIDOC celebrations at Fogarty Park in Cairns North Queensland on the 5th of July 2019.

Loud and passionate marchers marched from Munro Martin Park along Grafton Street before turning on to Spence Street and arriving at Fogarty Park.

The day was filled with great live entertainment including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island dance groups, bands, speeches, comedians and other great performers. There was plenty of good food stalls from fish and chips to traditional tucker. Record numbers of stalls including Link-Up (Qld) were present and a high number of attendees. LUQ staff provided information about their services and handed out bags of promotional gear.

This year's NAIDOC theme Voice, Treaty, Truth was displayed by the Cairns Community throughout the day with our people speaking up and having a great time.





Purga NAIDOC



The Ipswich State High School Dancers

Liworaji Aboriginal Corporation organised NAIDOC at Purga. It was a beautiful sunny day out at Purga. Ipswich State High School students performed traditional dance and sang songs. A very talented young group of people. There were also stalls by different service providers.

An Elders cook-off was organised, which proved to be a lot of fun. Jim Madden, the Local State Member for Ipswich West, Denise Gibson from Ipswich State High School and Uncle John Burns were the culinary tasters and judges. Toni Carr won 1st prize with her beautiful chocolate cake, covered in strawberries and filled with cream, our CEO Pat Thompson won 2nd prize with her curry dish and Aunty Faye Carr, 3rd for her yummy butterfly cakes.

A fun day it was, enjoying the sunshine and catching up with family and friends at Purga.



The place getters of the Elders Cook-Off.





Q & A with Ruth Loli

This year marks Research Manager Ruth Loli's 10th anniversary at Link-Up (Qld). Passionate about her role, we ask Ruth to reflect on her work and experiences.



Tell us about your position at Link-Up (Qld)?

As Research Manager, I am responsible for leading the Research Unit to undertake family history research and tracing for our Stolen Generations clients in an effort to reunite them with family, community and country. I oversee the research, analysis and preparation of complex genealogical reports and family trees using archival and other records. It is important in my work to have a comprehensive understanding of past government administration and control of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as well as an in-depth knowledge of information sources, record keeping systems, relevant legislation and access policies. I provide specialist research advice and training to staff and others, and I monitor and report on our team's progress in achieving core business objectives, namely reunions.

Three words to best describe you:

Tenacious, empathetic, driven.

What were you doing before you joined Link-Up (Qld) and what drew you to this role?

Prior to my position at Link-Up (Qld), I worked in an administrative role at the National Native Title Tribunal who held functions in the registration, mediation and arbitration of native title matters. As an Anthropology graduate, this role equipped me with important skills and experiences to compliment my studies however after time, I became a little disheartened with the native title system. I wished to work on the ground in a community organisation where I could

offer my skills to have more direct and meaningful impact. This is how I found my way to Link-Up (Qld).

Tell us about some of your achievements?

Link-Up (Qld) was based on a caseworker/counselor service delivery model prior to my employment. I was responsible for setting up the Research Unit in 2010 and we became the first Link-Up service in Australia to have a dedicated research team. This involved creating a comprehensive set of research processes and practices to be utilised within the team and building solid networks with stakeholders. The 'three phase' methodology I designed for research of Link-Up (Qld) clients is adopted in the course content of the AIATSIS Certificate IV in Stolen Generations Family Research and Case Management. In 2012, 1



introduced a new research data software system for improved management, discoverability and accessibility of client research information and research resources. This has promoted faster reunions and other outcomes.

What is one of your highlights or memorable experiences from the past 10 years?

In 2013, I attended the Mapoon 50th anniversary commemoration. I sourced photographs of the old mission site from AIATSIS and State/National libraries before the visit, many of which were unidentified. At the event, many elders looked through the photographs. One old lady and her sister recognised themselves in a picture, sitting on a swing and playing as young girls. Their faces lit up with such joy - their smiles and delight stays with me. I assisted the women to have the photograph identified and obtain quality copies from the repository.

Do you come across challenges in your role?

Definitely, one of the greatest challenges is where records do not exist for a client and we cannot find answers they seek nor bring about a reunion. There are cases where records were never created or have been destroyed, or records may be withheld for various reasons. This can be difficult for a client to accept and we have Counsellors to assist in research delivery and provide ongoing support. I currently sit on the National Historical Records Taskforce and hope to drive change for better access and preservation of records for Stolen Generations people.

In your 10 years of service, what has been your proudest moment?

At Link-Up (Qld)'s recent 35th anniversary gala held at Brisbane City Hall, CEO Pat Thompson made a



surprise speech on stage and presented me with an award in recognition of my service. The award is inscribed: *Link-Up (Qld) acknowledges Ruth Loli, 10 years of service to our Stolen Generations, your heart work has been profound and inspiring, 2019.* It was an honour to be acknowledged in this way and was certainly a proud moment for me.

What project are you focused on now?

To commemorate Link-Up (Qld)'s 35th anniversary, we are releasing a book *35 Years 35 Stories: A reflection of Link-Up (Qld)'s heart work through selected client narratives.* With selected staff, I've had the exciting job of interviewing and writing 35 client snapshot stories dating from today, back to Link-Up (Qld)'s beginnings in 1984. The book will be launched in the coming months, keep your eyes peeled.

In final reflection, what have you gained from working at Link-Up (Qld)?

It has been a privilege to work at Link-Up (Qld) and to share in the journeys of our clients and witness their incredible tenacity, resilience and strength. I have built many relationships over the years, with staff and clients, and the teachings and cultural mentoring I have received is invaluable. I see it as a gift that has widened my worldview and fed my development as a person and a professional. I look forward to continuing my work to make a small difference towards facilitating the healing of our Stolen Generations.



Brisbane Client Support Morning Tea



The monthly client support morning tea was held on Thursday 25th July 2019. We welcomed new clients along with our regular clients. Mike and Melinda, Counsellors from Gallang attended to provide support.

Our guest speakers were Roya Yeganeh and Bronte Lincoln from Inclusion Support QLD which is a service providing inclusion support to Queensland early child care services. Roya and Bronte talked the importance of inclusive children's services providing unique opportunities for children to play, develop and learn together with children of their own age.

Their service provides support to educators to develop a Strategic Inclusion Plan, identifying what the children's service needs to do to support educators to include all children in the room. They talked about the importance of these relationships being the foundations for learning and providing a powerful way of belonging to a group and developing a sense of who they are.

Since many of our clients are Grandparents we found their presentation interesting, providing information about inclusion support and many question were asked of them at the end of their talk.

Our Deadly Service Delivery Team with the help from Bec from Research team, Janet our volunteer and Executive Officer Bec, cooked up a feed of Corn Beef, Chicken Curry, Rice and Potatoe Bake which was delicious and enjoyed by all.



We also celebrated 3 birthdays that morning, Aunty Dot Bardell's 80th birthday, Paul Sandow and Uncle Victor Thomas helped her cut the cake.

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.

Link-Up (Qld) has been visiting North Queensland to present information sessions about the National Redress Scheme. If you know of anyone that has experienced childhood sexual abuse with an institute being responsible for that abuse, please let them know about the National Redress Scheme. They can contact Link-Up (Qld) for further information. This is an opportunity that people can take in being able to reach out and receive support in disclosing their lived experiences.

Counselling and Psychological Services

As part of the National Redress Scheme, applicants will be offered Counselling and Psychological Care (CPC). This will mean that an applicant can connect with services that can support an applicant through stressful situations, unhelpful thoughts and feelings, and coping with the impacts of trauma.

Link-Up (Qld) will be assisting applicants to connect with the Counselling and Psychological Care professionals. This assistance will be in the form of being able to refer you to the trauma registry and support you in finding the right professional that will suit your needs. If you already have counselling and psychological care and wish to continue with the professional you are working with, then they can apply to the Trauma Registry for continued service.

Link-Up (Qld) will also work closely with services in supporting professionals wanting to register for the Trauma Registry. <https://www.traumasupport.com.au/>

Services that are on the registry can include: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers, counsellors, psychologists, social workers, mental health nurses, psychiatrists, occupational therapists and general practitioners (doctors).

An applicant will have access to 20 hours of counselling and psychological services (more if needed). The price cap is \$180 dollars (\$198 includes GST). If your professional charges more than this price, they must inform you of this gap in price and work out an agreement of payment.

Link-Up (QLD) and Micah Projects will be coordinating invoices. Please let your professional know that they must send the invoice to

Link-Up (Qld) for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples on (07) 3638 0411 or 1800 200 855. Or Micah Projects - Lotus Support Services on (07) 3036 4490 or visit www.micahprojects.org.au/services/#national-redress-scheme-assistance



Book launch later this year.



Link-Up (Qld) is celebrating their past and future with a book titled 35 Years 35 Stories, showcasing and honouring the history and legacy of Stolen Generations clients. The 35 stories are representative of the work Link-Up (Qld) has done and will span the 35 years of service.

The book will demonstrate the continued value we bring to our clients, their families and the wider community. The stories are from urban, rural and remote Queensland, some have connections interstate.

Storytelling has long played an important role as a cultural and therapeutic practice. The strength of our clients continues to be built by sharing their story. Within the pages of the book will be stories of 'heart break' and 'heart full'; windows into the grief, pain and desolation of our clients yet the courage, hope and resilience that persists.

Link-Up (Qld) staff are busy right now! Seeking past and present reunion contacts, seeking permission to tell and write their stories; identifying 35 different kinds of stories; looking for great photographs; taking photographs; working with a Graphic Designer to design and print the book.

Plans are also underway for a suitable venue for the Book Launch in Brisbane, a suitable date to hold the Launch, Speakers and Entertainment.

Watch this space!

Link-Up (Qld) Cairns Update - visit Townsville and Ayr



Sunrise in Townsville



Client Support Group Lunch in Townsville

On the 23rd to 25th July, Link-Up (Qld) staff Shane Wallace and Daniel Houtman travelled to the Townsville & Ayr District to visit clients and also to host a client support group lunch in Townsville.

Staff also delivered LUQ magazines to various indigenous organizations in the region for networking and promotional services.



Link-Up (Qld) Caseworker Shane Wallace and Client Roselyn Barlow

A message from Rachel Loli - Teacher, Community Services, South West Region TAFE QUEENSLAND



Thank you to the team at Link Up for affording TAFE QLD Springfield Campus your time and knowledge. The information was very relevant to what the students are studying and it was a meaningful way for students to learn. The students listened intently and have commented to both my colleague Vickey and I how much they were just unaware of.

Another student commented that it was like a Q and A panel so I think the informal question time at the end was well worth it.

Being a guest speaker is a great opportunity to inform and influence a large group of people who essentially will be workers in the field and that happened today.



Skilled Volunteer - Janet Lawson



Under a Skilled Volunteering Program set up by Coolamon Advisors in partnership with Department of Education and Training, Link-Up (Qld) was fortunate to have volunteer, Janet Lawson in our Brisbane office for 2 weeks.

We were able to utilise Janet's skills to work on a much-needed project on our wish list.

Janet fitted right in and in the first week attended our monthly Client Support Meeting and witnessed first hand, staff and clients catching up over a big cook up.

Janet's email:

"I sincerely thank you all for having me in your working space for the last two weeks. I feel very thankful to have had this experience meeting and engaging with you all. The work you all do is truly amazing, and the community is very blessed to have you working for them.

I also want to thank the Board for their permission and support of me to complete the two weeks of volunteering with Link-Up Qld, Thank you!"

Link-Up (Qld) would like to thank Janet for her focus and energy for the work she did with us.

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:

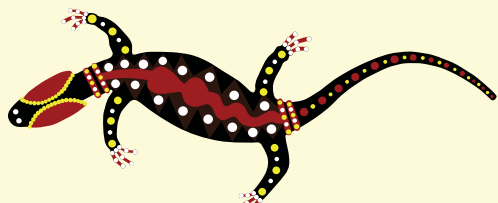
26th September

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:

26th September



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
or visit our website at www.link-upqld.org.au**

Toll Free: 1800 200 855 from landlines

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