



# Link-Up (Qld)

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Volume 46 | October - December 2020



**Still Bringing Them Home**

# Chairperson - Ken Murphy



Ken Murphy

We are glad that COVID restrictions are now easing and families are able to catch up in larger gatherings. This past year we have lost many precious family members, young and old and it has been distressing having to restrict the numbers attending funerals. We have large families and extended families and friends and it is always important for us to gather to pay our respects. We hope that in 2021 our people are safe and as healthy as possible so we can gather for happy celebrations.

Whilst the restrictions are easing, we encourage everybody to continue to be vigilant with personal hygiene, washing hands with soap, social distancing and wearing face masks where you may not be able to social distance. We have done very well in managing this pandemic, let's keep that effort up to keep us all safe in the future.

November 27th was 1 year since we lost our brother Sam Watson. We paused to reflect and remember him and the legacy of his decades of fighting for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It has been a privilege to be a director of Link-Up (Qld) with Sam as our Chairman for over 11 years. The organisation is in a strong and stable position because of his steady stewardship. The photograph below proudly sits on the wall in the foyer of our office.

**We feel his presence and him guiding us as we carry on his legacy.**

On behalf of the Board I also want to acknowledge the strong and stable leadership of our CEO, Pat Thompson and her management team. This year has been particularly challenging with COVID-19, however staff have been resilient and flexible in their professional approach supporting our Stolen Generations culminating with client morning teas resuming in October, music therapy workshops, healing camps and group healing activities. After months of isolation, our clients have been happy to come together to share in laughter and catch up.

We wish everybody a Merry Xmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.



## This issue's Cover Story

Adam Hopkins with Phylliss Powell on a recent client cultural outing. Full details page 15.

## 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



Pat Thompson

I am looking forward to 2021. The COVID pandemic in this current year has impacted and changed the whole world, not just in our bubble here at Link-Up (Qld). Anxiety was running high for many of us concerned for our families, particularly our elders and those with underlying health conditions, our own health and wellbeing and that of our clients and work colleagues. I am very proud of the team at Link-Up (Qld) - Strong, United, Resilient, Proud and Flexible reflects who we are.

We have stood strong as a team and we have come through the pandemic supporting our clients and each other, not losing sight of our core business or the fact that it is our privilege to work in this space.

There have been some very challenging moments throughout the year and I appreciate the support of staff and the Board of Directors. We conduct ourselves in a professional and supportive way, civility and empathy at the core of our behavioural standards.

Despite the impacts of COVID due to organisations and government agencies locking down and travel restrictions, we continued planning our work activities and maintained contact with clients. In October we recommenced client activities and you can read further on in the magazine, the reunion stories, healing camps, music therapy workshops and other client activities our staff have been very busy organising. The photographs of course highlight how important it is for us to come together and share these special events.

The Board have also worked very hard through COVID restrictions, ZOOM and teleconferencing replacing face to face meetings. Recently the Board were able to have a workshop to review Board policies and procedures and really enjoyed their contribution and participation to the process. The Board understands the importance of maintaining its Quality Management Systems certification. The Board acknowledges the work of our management team and particularly Rebecca Oberle our Executive Officer who has worked very closely with Ken Chaille, a QMS consultant on improving our quality management systems.

We wish all of our clients and partners in the community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us here at Link-Up (Qld).



LUQ Board Directors, appreciating the opportunity to workshop face to face again



Mirko Soto, LUQ Finance Manager, presents Rebecca Oberle and Ken Chaille with tokens of appreciation for all their hard work throughout 2020.



# Valerie Craigie Reunion - Cloncurry

My name is Valerie Craigie and I am a Kalkadoon woman from Mount Isa in North West Queensland, where I grew up.

I was lucky I knew my Paternal and Maternal Grandparents. I also knew my Great Grandparents on my Mother's side. My Kalkadoon Grandfather talked a lot about his family, traditions, culture and the removal of his family, these were my bed time stories, but I can't recall my other Grandparents talking to me about their lives so I have always had a lot of questions later on. I did try to do some research but was frustrated with the lack of information each time. I wanted to know more about my Paternal Grandmother Topsy Mary Craigie, her traditional name was Pinthi and I wanted to know about my Maternal Great Grandmother Annie Ah Fat. I knew bits and pieces but wanted to see any official document that Government or Archives may have had. I never thought to contact Link- Up (Qld) for assistance as I believed Link-Up only dealt with connecting Stolen Generation clients and didn't realise that it is for their descendants also.

I became a client of Link- Up (Qld) after speaking to staff on one of their trips to Mount Isa. My research was delivered quite quickly in 2019 by Joshua Williams and a graveside visit was planned.

My information was obtained through extensive research by Link-Up (Qld)'s professional researchers, sifting through government documents, National Archives and various recorded writings. I now have a folder with lots and lots of information about my family, which I will treasure and pass down to the next generations.

The surprise for me was how much information came up about my Chinese Grandfathers, Charlie Tim



*Finding family names at the Cloncurry Cemetery*



*Valeria Craigie with her husband Glynn*



*Tommy Ah Fat with his grandchildren*



*Plaque at the Cloncurry Chinese Cemetery*



See Foo and Tommy Ah Fat. I now know that Charlie Tim See Foo was also known as Charlie Tim See Too and his Mother was Lizzie See Too. All were from Canton China.

On my reunion day I was in the company of Joshua Williams and Sloane Stallan from Link-Up (Qld) and my husband Glynn Johnston. The reunion consisted of a visit to the grave site of my Grandparents in Cloncurry and a visit to the

Cloncurry Chinese Cemetery where my Chinese Grandfathers were laid to rest. It was a special day much more than a graveside reunion. For me it was a special day of restoring family links. This consisted of me taking a whole day of acknowledging my amazing Ancestors, sending them thoughts and feelings of love. I was thinking of the challenges and difficulties they faced and overcome.

I felt a lot of love for my family and could not help feeling that I was very lucky to belong to such wonderful people.

I believe my Ancestors are my Guardians and I have called on them when I have been in need. This family information will provide an opportunity for my future generations to connect to me and my Grandparents when I'm gone. Link-Up (Qld) has helped fill in a lot of gaps in my family tree and I can now build on this knowledge for my future generations.

Words cannot describe how much I appreciate all the work and effort that was involved in compiling my family research and the care in which my information was given to me. I want to thank Link-Up QLD staff Joshua Thompson, Joshua Williams and Sloane Stallan for the care, comfort and friendship that was shown to me throughout my journey.



Restoring family links at Cloncurry Cemetery



The Cloncurry Chinese Cemetery where my Chinese grandfathers were laid to rest.



# Marnie Kent Reunion - St George

Hello, my name is Marnee Kent and my story is quite different to most in some ways. I grew up believing myself to be white but later I found I had a foot in both worlds.

In 1991 after a heart wrenching request from my cousin who was fearful for his daughter's life because of the continual bullying, owing to the colour of her skin and her features, and knowing her to be on the brink of suicide I approached my father at his request for the truth. 'Yes, we are Aboriginal; my great grandmother was full blood,' he said. Later via writings from my father's cousin Ronnie Lopez I discovered her name was Frances Murray and she had three children to my great great grandfather George Marshall Kirk. He had founded the St George Jockey Club in 1864 I believe when his daughter Annie was a year old.

Over the course of my life I had many spiritual experiences, like being given dreams relaying knowledge of sacred places, words and much more. I was gifted many beautiful art pieces one of which is a Coolamon that I treasure. My Gran Polly Donley and I were very close; the memories of her, her brothers and sisters are strong family memories and connections. There is much I could share but words are limited. As an artist myself, all three generations of my female line have presented in my paintings (soul guided) and it is from there that I know Frances, Polly's grandmother wants to be found. It breaks my heart when I think how little they mattered and how they were treated.

After experiencing 'Spirits of the Red Sand' theatre play courtesy of Link-Up (Qld), I can only hope none of these terrible outcomes is what happened to Frances. We have no way of knowing – just her

name and the name of Ballantyne Station (renamed Mt Driven) on the Moonie River where she gave birth to my great grandmother Annie Kirk. I'd also found other information about George Marshall Kirk and properties in connection with him.

I contacted Link-Up (Qld) about four years ago and the search began for Frances and Ballantyne Station. My caseworker Sloane Stallan has been a great support and has encouraged me to hang in there when things appeared to go nowhere. My counsellor Anne Garrett joined the team later on this journey and together she and Sloane have been an immense help. My heartfelt thanks to both of you, they were both pleased when they rang me to say the research was complete and to arrange a date to deliver it.

I was excited to finally hear what had been found, however on the surface it appeared not much new information had come to light.

**At home, going over the actual research notes was like winning the lottery. I found places, names and connections that only made sense to me and brought it all together.**

I want to say a deep heartfelt thank you to the research team for their diligent work.



*"Standing on that land I knew it to be home and I felt an amazing sense of peace fill my heart, I felt a sense of belonging I have never had before."*

The real journey began when Sloane, Anne, my husband Ivan and I travelled to St George to locate Ballantyne Station. Sloane had followed the course of the river to where the old map had shown it to be. The day we arrived there my experience was profound. I had asked the ancestors for a sign or a feeling earlier and I received both. Standing on that land I knew it to be home and I felt an amazing sense of peace fill my heart, I felt a sense of belonging I have never had before. Anne stood beside me as three beautiful white butterflies, with wings tinged and edged with purple flew right to me, around me and kept coming back. I knew this was my sign and Anne agreed.

Sloane and Anne organised a boat trip of the Moonie River and were able to point out 'Hollywood' and 'Sandy Town', two of the reserves where our people were sent to. I had been looking for Deer Park where my Gran Polly was born

on the Moonie River in 1893; it appears it was renamed to 'Sandy Town' at some point which made locating it very difficult. It was only due to the councillor we met the following day who confirmed that to be the case, because many people had never heard of it. Robyn Fuhrmeister has done a huge amount of research over the years and has offered to share with me what she has been able to find in relation to my family and Frances along with any relative photos she may have. She showed me that morning a photo of Ellen Meacle, who was a well-respected member of their community in her day who I believe has a strong connection to my family.

The people of St George were all extremely welcoming and very helpful! My journey of discovery is still unfolding with Link-Up connecting me to an 89-year-old second cousin for which I am truly grateful. I want to express to

Link-Up (Qld) CEO Pat Thompson and the entire staff my eternal gratitude for all they have done to not only bring the ancestors and I home but for the opportunity of belonging and the real peace I now feel.

Never ever give up on your search, when you are meant to know you will be guided so please listen to the ancestors. We are an ancient culture with beautiful spiritual values to be proud of, so we can all hold our heads high knowing in our hearts nothing can defeat us, look at how far we have journeyed and how far we have come. In 2020 we may be a remnant of a proud race but we are still here! By choosing to stand up and be counted we are not only united but we make the ancestors proud and their lives and sacrifices worth something.

With Peace & Love,  
Marnee



*In front of the 'Hollywood' sign*



*Link-Up (Qld) caseworker Sloane Stallan with Marnee and her husband Ivan at St George*



*My great great grandfather George Marshall Kirk founded the St George Jockey Club in 1864.*



*Ivan, Marnee and Sloan enjoying a boat trip down the Moonie River*



# Men's Healing Camp - Kajabbi

In September Link-Up (Qld) held a Men's Healing Camp in Kajabbi Qld approximately 118km North East of Mt Isa and 100km North West of Cloncurry.

Service Delivery Manager North Joshua Thompson was in contact with Kajabbi host's Glynn Johnston and Glenn Haitana pre COVID-19 to initially have the camp in April 2020.

The Men's Healing Camp participants travelled to Mt Isa to be greeted by Glynn Johnston and Glenn Haitana (Kajabbi Host's), Mark Craigie (Cultural Advisor) and Valerie Craigie and Jacob Takurit. Valerie Craigie welcomed us all on Kalkadoon (Kalkatungu) Country in Kalkadoon Language.

Travelling out to Kajabbi in our convoy of vehicles we made several stops along the way where Glynn and Mark showed us different types of plant species of bush medicines and bush foods. One in particular has so many medicinal uses you wished you could grow it at home, from cleaning and sealing cuts and abrasions, soothing headaches in seconds, reducing swelling and inflammation and providing arthritic relief. It can also help to keep the digestive system healthy.

Participants travelled to Lake Julius for a day of fishing on land and boat. Plenty of fish were caught that day from catfish to black bream. Uncle Kurt Fisher reeled in a huge black bream before it spat the hook as they were pulling it into the boat, so we can say that's the one that got away.



*Fishing for black bream from the boat on Lake Julius*

Glynn and Mark also took us to a beautiful spring out in the outback which was covered with beautiful paperbark and palm trees. This particular site was hidden from the public and used to have many fruit trees growing such as mango, orange and lemon before it was discovered by a group of people that then burnt the area, including all the fruit trees. On our way Glynn told a story just months prior that a crocodile was accidentally run over by a truck at a river crossing in which the remains were still there, participants took photos of the skeletal remains and was fascinated by the bone structure of the dinosaur. After that we went 4WD site seeing and got to view Battle Mountain where once over a thousand warriors stood strong.



*Billy fishing from the shore of Lake Julius while Kurt cools off*



*Glynn showing us a bush medicine tree*



*Kajabbi, September 2020*



At the camp there were two sections top and bottom we called it, top part had self-contained dongas and camp kitchen and the bottom part had an old railway quarters converted into what's now called the Kajabbi Hilton which consists of six beds, kitchen, bathroom, laundry and pool table. We had our very own pool comp at the Kajabbi Hilton where Billy Komra was crowned the pool champion undefeated in 6 consecutive games.

All our meals at Kajabbi were amazing thanks to Stewart Green. Stewie is well known in the LUQ community as he was formerly head cook and owner of Coffee at the Gabba. Stewie is a positive happy, bubbly person that is always up for a yarn and laugh. Everyone enjoyed Stewie's cooking so much his name was changed to Chef, Cook or Casey Ryback. With Stewie attending the camp to cook, it gave Glynn more valuable time with the participants.

Glynn spoke of many interesting topics including different fire making techniques, historical hatred and the effects of generational behaviors. All throughout the camp there was lots of laughter and storytelling. Participants had ample time to sit and speak with Glynn, Mark and LUQ's dedicated staff and counsellors.

Participants received certificates of appreciation for their attendance and respect shown all throughout the Men's Healing Camp. The purpose of the Men's Healing Camp was to create a positive mindset, a connection to cultural activities, relaxation and to learn and pass on knowledge and skills. Many new friendships were formed over our four days at Kajabbi.

On behalf of LUQ we would like to say a big thank you to all of our participants (Alex Broome, Bill Komra, Jeffrey Pyne, Kristan Asaki, Kurt Fisher Lawrence Broome, Victor Thomas) Kajabbi Host's (Glynn Johnston, Glenn Haitana, Mark Craigie) and MOB FM's Valerie Craigie and Jacob Takurit for all the many teachings, stories, happiness, respect and welcoming.



*Kurt and Stewie at Lake Julius lookout*



*The Broome brothers*



*Participants and staff at Men's Healing Camp, Kajabbi*



*Kristan on the road to Kajabbi*



*Keiron and Billy at Lake Julius*



## Music Therapy Workshop - Cairns



### Language, Culture and Country

From 6-9 October, a small group of our clients participated in a Music Therapy Workshop in Cairns with talented singer songwriter Shellie Morris. From the minute Shellie walked in the door, it was clear our clients were in for a special few days.

Some of our clients were nervous and apprehensive coming into the workshop, but it didn't take

long for clients to generously and openly share their stories, their pain and their triumphs. Wonderful connections were made amongst the participants, and everyone related well, with a lot of the group finding out that they were also actually related!

The song writing process was a new experience for most of the participants. Everyone had contributed words or sentences, and sometimes the lyrics just jumped out, other times they had to be reworked. Clients joined

in with clapsticks and guitar, individual vocals were recorded, and the resulting song is a beautiful reflection of shared histories with common themes of belonging and survival. Every voice was important, and every contribution valued.

Thank you to Shellie Morris who successfully facilitated both of our Music Therapy Workshops in Cairns and Brisbane and thank you also to Jodie Cockatoo-Creed whose vocals lent an undeniable 'star quality' to the song recording!







"I had no idea that music could take away the pain in my heart. This morning I woke up and my heart is lighter, my heart is good and I feel happy."





## Music Therapy Workshop - Brisbane



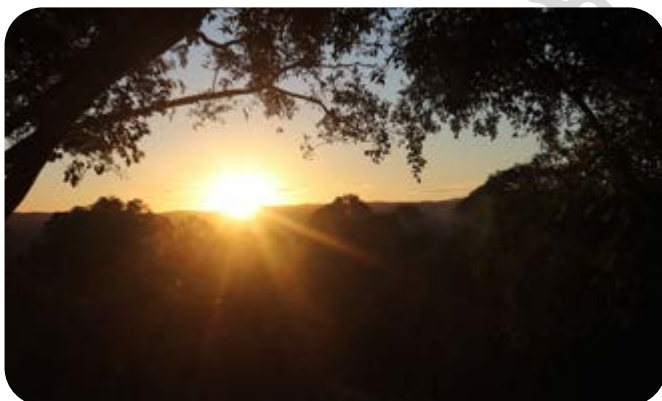
A Brisbane Music Therapy Workshop was held with Shellie Morris from 10-12 November and once again a small group of clients thoroughly enjoyed being a part of this amazing healing experience.

Clear Mountain Lodge was the beautiful venue for this special workshop where participants could explore the healing power of music, combined with other healing and cultural activities in a relaxed and safe environment.

**"The power of music is amazing, the bonds formed will never be forgotten".**







"It helps me to forget the past and move forward"

"I definitely felt this is a wonderful workshop to learn, make new friendships and to heal and talk to others"

"I enjoyed the whole workshop, the Counsellors were very supportive during the three days, even after and before."



Facts about Shellie :  
Shellie Morris is an award-winning singer-songwriter who sings in over 17 Aboriginal languages, and who has an unwavering commitment to healing through music. She has toured internationally and has also worked in more than 70 remote Aboriginal communities in her career. She is the 2014 NT Australian of the Year, the 2014 NAIDOC National Artist of the Year, a multi Deadly Award winner and a driving force of the acclaimed album Ngambala Wiji li-Wunungu and the internationally award-winning musical documentary Prison Songs.





## Client Support Group - Spirits of the Red Sand

Eighteen Link-Up (Qld) clients thoroughly enjoyed a night out at the 'Spirits of the Red Sand' live theatre experience, followed by a delicious 3-course dinner.

Spirits of the Red Sand is an interactive open-air live theatre show, based on true events, and tells the story of three Aboriginal brothers dealing with clashing cultures and beliefs of the 19th century.

The show journeys from the Dreamtime to the 1800's, as guests move from scene to scene and experience what it was like in Australia, when the British and Aboriginal ways of life collide, and the devastating effects it had on the First Nations people that continue to this day.





## Client Support Group - Stradbroke Cultural Tour

### "NEEMBEEBA BINUNG GANA" (Look, Listen, Understand)



Link-Up (Qld) clients and staff boarded the "Calypso" water taxi at Cleveland on 20 October to spend the day with the Minjerribah, Moorgumpin Elders in Council.

Our first stop was the Elders Yarning place in Goompee (Dunwich). We were given a warm Welcome to Country in Jandai language by Uncle Norman Enoch.

Uncle Norman explained that the Nunukul, Ngughi and Goenpul people were all traditional custodians of Minjerribah (North Stradbroke), Mulgumpin (Moreton) and the surrounding bay islands.

Making our way to Mooloomba (Point Lookout), we took in the beautiful scenery and native flora as Uncle Norman spoke about the importance of preserving and protecting the island's history, cultural heritage and environment.

We stopped at the headland of Queensland's most easterly point, which overlooks 30km of beach and then went on to the beautiful gorge walk.

We arrived for lunch at Terra Bulla Leumeah meaning "A beautiful place, here I rest". Terra Bulla is a very significant cultural gathering place that contains a bush tucker trail.

A scrumptious lunch was prepared by the Elders and we all got to experience local traditional food such eugaries, oysters, fish and prawns. We were also treated to freshly baked damper and Lemon Myrtle cake for dessert.

Our final stop was Bummeira (Brown Lake). The natural perched lake is surrounded by native tea-trees, which gives the lake its brown colour. Aunty Maureen acknowledged its sacredness as a traditional women's place. It was a very tranquil and special way to end our day.

Thank you to Uncle Norman, Aunty Maureen, and the other Elders of Minjerribah for sharing your knowledge, time and space and allowing us to walk together on Country with you.





# Community Healing Day - Cherbourg

On Wednesday the 14th of October 2020, the Cherbourg Community Healing Event took place during Queensland Mental Health Week. The theme was Connect, Heal, Respect.

Link-Up (Qld) thought it was important to support this event and set up a stall to provide the community and local services providers with information relating to Link-Up services and Redress support.

We had a great spot near the entrance of the Sports Complex and one of the first people we got to meet was Elvie Sandow, Cherbourg's first female Mayor.

It was wonderful to be at this event and to see the support from the community and local service providers. We enjoyed meeting community members and students from Cherbourg State School and Murgon State High School.

Some of the highlights of the day were: live music and interviews with the people of Cherbourg, the Waka Waka dancers and the Murgon High School Mob Choir "Singing for Community".

Before we left, we took the opportunity to visit organisations in Cherbourg doing a great job servicing the local and wider community. We spoke to Garth from the Ration Shed Museum

and met Martina and Sophia from the Winifred Fisher Indigenous Knowledge Centre. We also dropped into "Skill Centred", the Cherbourg Community Café and hospitality training centre.

Thank you to Michael Monk and Cherbourg Radio 94.1 for coordinating this important day.





# Murri Meals Cooking Class - Cairns

With COVID restrictions still in place during NAIDOC Week, Link-Up (Qld) had to think creatively as to how we could celebrate with our community and connect to the theme of this year 'Always Was, Always Will Be.' Food is always dear to our hearts, so it was decided to run a small Murri Meals Cooking Class using bush tucker ingredients that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have used in their cooking for thousands of years.

The venue for our small cooking class was the beautiful Café Strada in Cairns, where the talented Indigenous chef Jodi Parsons taught the participants how to make a quick and easy banoffee pie, with a delicious mango salad, dukkah roasted zucchinis and mouth watering barramundi seared then smoked with paperbark and lemon myrtle. The class was filmed and the link is on our website at [www.link-upqld.org.au](http://www.link-upqld.org.au) so everyone can join along, and get some ideas about how to incorporate native bush tucker ingredients into their everyday cooking.



Indigenous chef Jodi Parsons owns and manages Cafe Strada in Lake St, Cairns with her husband Frank.

Thank you to the National Indigenous Australians Agency for partial funding of this NAIDOC Week activity. We sourced all our ingredients from Dreamtime Kullilla-Art at Clontarf, an Aboriginal owned and managed family business and a shop that we will definitely be returning to!



Ingredient boxes were also sent out to some of our clients, and we have loved receiving the feedback and photos.



Sandra Evans models the apron and oven mitt from her home in Toowoomba.



Murri Meals cooking class participants enjoying the cooking, and the eating!



# Service Operations in the year of a pandemic

2020, and what a year it has been! I'm certain I am not alone in knowing that this year will be passed down in our living memories. As the year draws to a close, I reflect not only on the challenges and impacts of COVID-19 upon so many individuals, families and communities, but on the power of solidarity and the fortune that Link-Up (Qld) was in a position of stability and strength to continue service provision in the year of a pandemic.

As one of Link-Up (Qld)'s longest employees, I have witnessed and been involved in the growth, development and organisational change at Link-Up (Qld).

**We are constantly improving and transforming, and this is credit to our strong CEO leadership for over 6 years, innovative management and ongoing dedication, passion and committed focus of staff.**

When changes to our working lives started to unravel, I felt reassured and solid in our processes and systems to respond to the escalating difficulties of COVID-19, continue service operations and maintain engagement with clients. Link-Up (Qld) is an accredited organisation and we have a quality management system successfully integrated into our business operations. Over time we have built a 'toolkit' of work policies

and procedures, document templates and forms. Our service delivery manual was recently modelled as a best practice example at the national Link-Up forum. We are a leader in family history and tracing practices, sharing advice to other organisations about our research mechanisms, and securing positive reunion outcomes for our clients. We are currently implementing a new evaluation and monitoring framework to measure client satisfaction. Our strategic plan documents our vision and keeps our work on point.

The demand for services under the changed conditions of 2020 may have been overwhelming without this foundation. While our reunions were placed on hold and monthly client morning teas were shut down, we compensated with client care packages, wellbeing phone calls, zoom meetings and support. Staff banded together to tackle the challenges and keep

our approach dynamic. Research and reunion planning continued allowing for 8 reunions to be facilitated once travel restrictions eased. Healing activities, such as music therapy sessions, were also planned and enacted following the lockdown. We are fortunate in our strong workplace culture and staff capability that energy remained positive and productive during trying times, and could be collectively rechanneled to continue our work.

All our staff thoroughly enjoyed our client Christmas party and feel thankful that the end of year sees us being able to come together again. The connection of clients, staff and community is the cornerstone of Link-Up (Qld).

I wish everyone all the best for 2021.

Ruth Loli, Research Manager



*Some of the Link-Up (Qld) team at the 2020 Client Christmas Party.*

*From left to right: Mirko Soto (Finance Manager); Anne Garrett (SEWB Counsellor); Christine Kanofski (SEWB Counsellor); Keiron Brown (Redress Counsellor); Ruth Loli (Research Manager); Rebecca Oberle (Executive Officer) and Tahnee Rapson (SEWB Counsellor)*



# Staff Spotlight - Michelle Resuggan

In our latest employee spotlight interview, we meet Michelle from our Brisbane office

## Position: Communications Manager

### Tell us about your role at LUQ?

My role here at Link-Up (Qld) involves communications, promotions and events. The part of my job that is most visible to clients would be this magazine you are reading now, which I edit, design and contribute writing for, together with the gift bag contents that clients receive at healing camps or workshops. I am also responsible for our website, social media and any filming or photography at LUQ events.

### What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy being part of a team that is committed to doing good in the world, and everyone here is absolutely focused on supporting our clients in their journey. I feel my job is important – it gives Aboriginal people a voice and a visibility and brings our clients stories to the wider community. Our magazine is a way to make new records, it contains stories that can be passed down so that hopefully future generations find it easier to know where they came from and who they are. I also love the variety of this role; no two days are the same and I'm fortunate that I can accompany and photograph events, reunions and client outings.

### What is a common question you get asked?

'Where am I from, who's my mob?' I'm from a little coastal village called Black Head, in between Taree and Forster in NSW in beautiful Worimi Country. My dad died when I was a baby and I'm always wanting to know more about him and his family. I am hoping that Link-Up is able to help fill in some of the missing pieces so that I can tell my children.



Michelle Resuggan (left) with Rebecca Oberle at the 2020 Client Christmas Party

I also get asked 'Is this photo going in the magazine? What's the next cover?' Staff at LUQ can get a little competitive about the covers – they all want their clients on the cover!

### Do you have a favourite project, memory or highlight from work?

There have been so many fantastic heart-warming moments and I've only been here less than six months. It really all is *heart* work, everything is based on healing and helping people on their journey and every day I appreciate how special it is to work for an organisation like Link-Up. My favourite moments would be a collection of the little things: the infectious giggle of Aunty Phyllis on the Stradbroke Cultural Tour, Kerry surprising us all in the office with afternoon snacks, Uncle Roy singing at Music Therapy, Tamara's random but always interesting yarns in the lunch room.

### Three words to best describe you?

Loyal, resilient, hard worker

### What is a fun fact about you that people may not know?

I used to live in Iceland and I got married in a fun park. My husband is actually related to Michael Hutchence - I know that last one isn't technically about me, but I do like telling people that he is my cuz whenever an INXS song comes on the radio!

### Favourite quote?

Desiderata, especially the last couple of lines "With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy."





# National Redress Scheme - update

**The National Redress Scheme is in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The Scheme started on 1 July 2018 and will run for 10 years.**

**National Redress Scheme Line: 1800 737 377**

The Scheme:

- acknowledges that many children were sexually abused in Australian institutions
- holds institutions accountable for this abuse, and
- helps people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse gain access to counselling, a direct personal response, and a Redress payment.

## Improvements to the National Redress Scheme

The Australian Government is committed to continually improving the Scheme for survivors.

Announced in the 2020-21 Budget, a further \$104.6 million will be invested in the Scheme to improve and stabilise its operation and better support survivors to

ensure the Scheme meets their expectations.

Redress Support Services play a critical role in providing timely, trauma-informed and culturally appropriate support to survivors. This includes providing emotional support for survivors, and practical support to complete an application and interact with the Scheme.

The department is aware that several Redress Support Services are experiencing increased demand. This funding will minimise the number of people applying without support and ensure that appropriate assistance is available to survivors.

## Institutions

The Scheme is continuously working with institutions that have been named in applications or identified by other means to encourage them to join and participate in the Scheme. To date the Commonwealth, all state and territory governments and 288 non-government institutions covering around 53,300 sites such as churches, schools, homes, charities and community groups across Australia are participating.

A further 117 institutions have committed to join and finalise on-boarding by no later than 31 December 2020.

If you are experiencing emotions you are 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**

**Men's Line Australia: 1300 789 978**

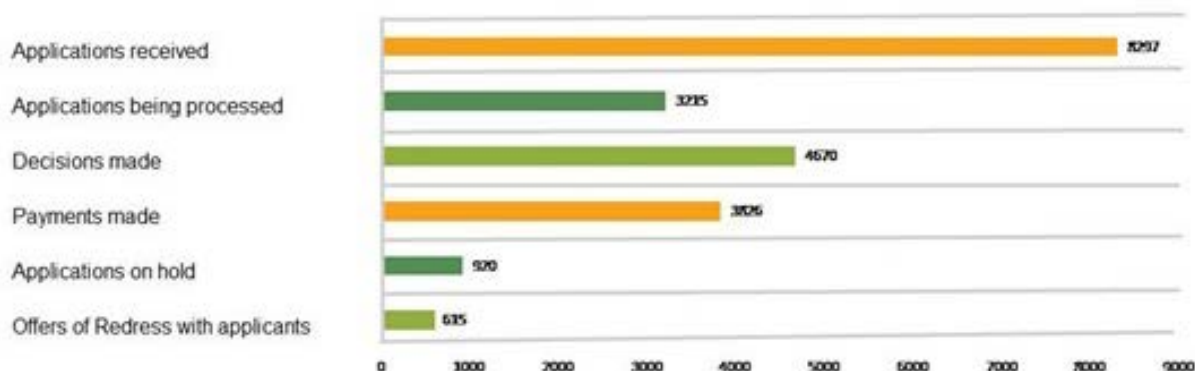
**Lifeline: 13 11 14**

**Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467**

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

Please feel free to speak with the Redress team at Link-Up (Qld) Anne Struckett-Redress Manager and the Redress Counsellors Yvette Salam and Keiron Brown; available 8am to 4pm – Monday to Friday.

## Application progress as at 9 October 2020



**\$315.1 million in total payments**

**Average payment of \$82,324**



## Client Christmas Party - Brisbane





## Client Christmas Party - Brisbane





## Client Christmas Party - Townsville



### Client Support Group Morning Teas 2021 Dates for Brisbane and Cairns

Morning Tea is on the last Thursday of the month from 10:00am. Contact Link-Up (Qld) on 07 3638 0411 (Brisbane) or 07 4041 7403 (Cairns) for more information

**February 25**

**March 25**

**April 29**

**May 27**

**June 24**

**July 29**

**August 26**

**September 30**

**October 28**

**Link-Up (Qld)  
offices will be  
closed for the  
Christmas break from  
21 December to  
4 January 2021.  
We wish all our  
clients and their  
families a happy and  
safe holiday season.**



# 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) Offices

### BRISBANE:

5 Reid Street, Woolloongabba, Qld 4102  
PO Box 3229, South Brisbane, Qld 4101  
Tel: (07) 3638 0411 Fax: (07) 3217 3458  
Email: [contact@link-upqld.org.au](mailto:contact@link-upqld.org.au)

### CAIRNS:

2/128 Spence Street, Cairns, Qld 4870  
PO Box 298, Bungalow, Qld 4870  
Tel: (07) 4041 7403

Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/linkupqueensland](http://www.facebook.com/linkupqueensland)  
or visit our website at [www.link-upqld.org.au](http://www.link-upqld.org.au)

**Toll Free: 1800 200 855 from landlines**

### Link-Up (Qld) is funded by

National Indigenous Australians Agency,  
Department of Social Services,  
Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women.

