

Volume 20 May - June 2016



Link-Up (Qld)

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION®



Still Bringing Them Home

Chairperson - Sam Watson



Sam Watson

Greetings from the Board room and hope that we are all surviving the winter chills. There is more cold weather to come, so please rug up and keep a close eye on our Elders.

National Sorry Week was a very impressive program of events and as always Link-Up (Qld)

staff did amazing things. The breakfast event on the river has really become our peak gathering for the year and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The location has been firmly claimed by Link-Up (Qld) and we salute our outgoing Ward representative, Cr. Helen Abrahams who retired at the last election. On that morning down on the river we were able to make a special presentation to her for all her hard work on our behalf and we wish her well. We were also able to welcome the new member for the ward, Jonathon Sri - who treated us to a poem that he had written.

Our research crew have been able to identify and then contact additional descendants of those young girls from Cranbrook House. It is an amazing moment to stop and watch those people walking on the site of the original home that was such a terrible experience for their ancestors. But it was also a very empowering moment to watch our people walking across that place in the full knowledge that the abuses of past decades will never be perpetrated again.

The guest list is always growing and this year we were honored to have senior representatives and members from the three tiers of government. Even though a few people could not attend because of that certain election that is coming up, we were still very pleased to welcome those who were able to get there. There was a bus load of aunties who were visiting Brisbane from Yarrabah and we were so pleased that they were able to come along as well. One of the aunties was able to play a part in the presentation for Cr. Helen and that was a nice touch.

The food was sensational, the company was brilliant and the entertainment was of the highest standard. We had the two choirs there and this year Donna organised some of the best talent from ACPA and the voices of those young people were incredible. We will be seeing many of them coming through into the higher levels of the national entertainment world in a very short time.

The Board want to thank everyone who came along to the event, it means so much to us all. We want to thank our CEO and her management team, the Multi Media crew and every member of the Link-Up (Qld) staff & family. The Men's Group were on deck very early to help out and they looked brilliant in their special community shirts. As always we were very thankful to MICAHA for their breakfast. There was an abundance of good hot, healthy food and the cake was a work of art.

The next big thing for our community will be the NAIDOC day in Musgrave Park on the first Friday in July. We will see you all there and do make sure that you drop down to say hello to our staff at the Link-Up (Qld) tent. Just be warned that our photographers are always out there with their sneaky cameras...

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Front Cover:
Cake cutting ceremony
at Sorry Day - Orleigh
Park with Patsy Fourmile
and Helen Abraham.

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 Conlon



Patricia Conlon

This year Link-Up (Qld) hosted Sorry Day Breakfast on Friday 27th May at Orleigh Park, West End.

This event is usually held on Saturday, however the change was successful with a good turn out as usual. We would like to express our appreciation

to MICAH and their volunteers for the support they provide each year cooking a hot breakfast for all to enjoy. Not only does that mean cooking, but preparing, serving and cleaning up! Thank you MICAH for your ongoing support, Link-Up (Qld) values our partnership with you.

We also acknowledge the Valley Men's Group for their ongoing support they offer to our clients and events. The Gabba Office and Brisbane City Council as well for their contributions.

Our Research Team continues to identify some of the girls who were at the Aboriginal Girls Home which was located on this site at Orleigh Park. This year it was a pleasure to invite Sandra Delaney as a Guest Speaker and supported by her sisters, telling their Grandmother's story. A story of resilience, strength and survival. As Sandra was telling her Grandmother's story, one of Link-Up (Qld) staff listened intently, and later introduced herself to Sandra as she realised they were connected directly through Sandra's Grandmother.

This story highlights the important work Link-Up (Qld) does in researching family histories and connecting families to their people who had been removed due to past government policies.

Our Multi Media Manager, Donna Ives put together an impressive program for the morning – dancers and singers from the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts. The dance performance was captivating and the vocal performance by the talented young men had the crowd wooed with their performance of "A change is going to come". Wow these young people are our future.

Songlines Chior and Meeanjin Voices Choir performed for the audience. Both choirs are made up of of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people who pro-

mote human rights and social justice, peace and harmony. We thank them for their ongoing support at our events – beautiful voices.

We would also like to acknowledge our Guest Speakers for attending and sharing some special words with us: Again, particularly Ms Sandra Delaney and her sisters on behalf of their 95 year old Mother telling their Grandmother's story, Senator Clair Moore, Mr Chris Whiting MP, Member for Murrumba, Councillor Matthew Bourke, newly elected Gabba Ward Councillor Jonathan Sri, and Murrawah Johnson and lastly but not least of all:

Ms Helen Abrahams who has represented the Gabba ward of the Brisbane City Council since 2003 (previously Dutton park) and involved in local government since 1991. Helen has been a staunch supporter of Link-Up (Qld), we are honored and privileged to have been represented by her and appreciate her ongoing support. Helen is featured on the front page of this edition. Thank you Helen - happy retirement.

Over the last year Link-Up (Qld) has also embraced its "Oral History Program". Our Multi Media Unit have travelled through-out Queensland collecting stories from many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The aim is to build a large archive library, with a rich and diverse collection of stories and to help preserve these valuable memories for future generations. Sadly many of these stories are being lost.

Recently the Multi Media Unit travelled to Mackay to host a "Sustaining Connection Workshop", it was here that they had the opportunity to interview 98yr old Mrs Ramsamy. She spoke of growing up on Thursday Island, Being moved to Cherbourg during the war and also getting married and living in Mackay.

We were privileged to meet with Mrs Ramsamy and record her story.



Mrs Ramsamy

Sorry Day 2016 - Orleigh Park, West End, Brisbane



Link-Up (Qld) CEO Patricia Conlon and Chairperson Sam Watson

Sorry Day 2016 was hosted by Link-Up (Qld) Brisbane on Friday 27th May, 2016 at Orleigh Park in West End. This is the site of where the Aboriginal Girls Home (1899 - 1906) acted as a receiving depot for Aboriginal Domestic Servants from all over Queensland.

Under the Aboriginal Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act 1897, the Aboriginal Girls Home was classified as a 'reserve' and was governed by the provisions of the Act.

This is the first time Sorry Day was held on a Friday since the late 90's, soon after the first National Sorry Day was held on 26 May, 1998 a year after the tabling of the report "Bringing Them Home" 3rd May, 1997.

Late last year a Plaque was erected beside the old cement stairway, which is all that remains of the Girls Home. The Plaque is to acknowledge the young Aboriginal Girls that were removed from their families and forced to become domestic help.

Approximately 120 people attended this years event which including a Women's group from Yarrabah. The program included representatives from Federal and State Government, newly elected Councillors and the highlight was Guest Speaker Sandra Delaney, granddaughter of Lizzie Smith who was held at the Aboriginal Girls Home. Sandra spoke in Jandai language and shared her Grandmother's story with the crowd.

Performances by the Meanjin Choir, Song Lines Choir and the talented Students of the Aboriginal Centre of Performing Arts excited the crowd with song and dance performance. Four young men moved the audience with "A Change Is Going to Come" in Acapella.

Two years ago Link-Up (Qld) began searching for the names of the young girls held at the Aboriginal Girls Home, West End. Our Research Unit and Community and Personal Histories have traced 17 names so far.

The girls identified from the Aboriginal Girls Home are:

Hannah Hamilton	Lizzie Smith
Lucy Wheeler	Clara Wheeler
Fanny Logan	Mary Combo
Mabel McCullough	Lucy Gracemere
Jessie Thompson	Ettie Walsh
Kitty Stott	Sarah Stott
Cissie Fraser	Minnie Mackay
Alice Barnett	Nellie Maher
Mary (or Mary-Anne) Thorpe	





Chris Whiting MP - Member for Murrumbidgee



Councillor Mathew Bourke - Jamboree Ward



Helen Abrahams - Past Councillor The Gabba



Councillor Jonathan Sri - The Gabba



Senator Claire Moore

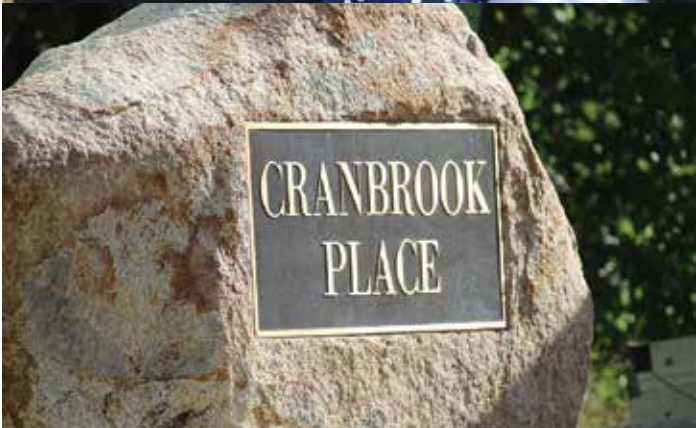


Valley Men's Group



Descendants of Lizzie Smith: Laura Morgan, Sandra Delaney and Pam Close

Sorry Day 2016 - Orleigh Park, West End, Brisbane



Sorry Day 2016 - Mt Isa



Link-Up (Qld) Mt Isa office hosted this event with just over 100 people in attendance. After the Traditional Owners welcome by a Kalkadoon Elder; Pattie Lees, a member of the Stolen Generation, gave a very moving and emotional speech of her time in the Palm Island Dormitory.



A video presentation of Auntie Rosalie Kunoth-Monks' speech at the 2016 Apology Anniversary event in Brisbane was shown and the Aboriginal Radio Station MOB FM played background music between speeches.

The commemoration cake was cut by Members of the Stolen Generation and Link-Up (Qld) clients after which a Link-Up (Qld) prize pack was raffled. Thank you to everyone that assisted and attended to mark this very important day on our calendar



A Poem by Pattie Lees:

Prayer for the Journey of Healing.

Almighty and loving God,
you, who created All people in your image,
lead us to seek your compassion
as we listen to those stories of our past.

You gave your only Son, Jesus,
who died and rose again so that sins will be forgiven.
We place before you the pain and
anguish of dispassion of land, language, lore, culture
and family kinship that Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander peoples have experienced.
We live in faith that all people
will rise from the depths of despair and hopelessness.

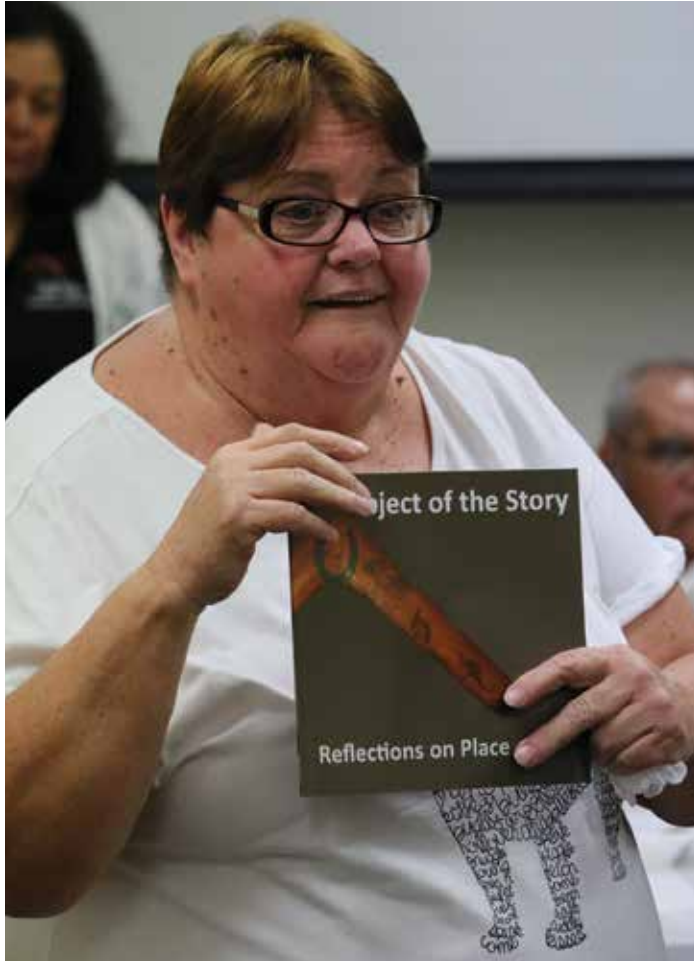
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
families have endured the pain
and loss of loved ones, through the
separation of children from their families.
We are sorry and ask God's forgiveness.

Touch the hearts of the broken, homeless
and afflicted and heal their spirits.
In your mercy and compassion
walk with us as we continue our journey of healing to
create a future that is just and equitable.
Lord, you are our hope.

Amen



Lynne Augustakis Reunion - Ballina



Lynne Augustakis speaking at the Link-Up (Qld) Brisbane Office

In mid 2013 I left my marriage of 45 years and started my journey to find me, who I was, where I had come from, who my Mob was. By 2014 I was living in Ipswich when I went to Kambu Medical Centre and they asked me if I was of Aboriginal decent, I replied yes of course. They felt I needed more proof so I came upon Link-Up (Qld)'s services. This has been the start of something extraordinary.



I have been to Sorry Day at Orleigh Park, West End in 2014. I met amazing people and it made me long for more. I had researchers working on my family history. It was long and hard searching through documents however they never gave up and I will be forever grateful for all their hard work and dedication to find out all they could.

So it is with much anticipation that I am visiting Jundaslin Country where my Mother was born. Where my Grandmother and Great Grandmother lived. Who knows whom I will meet? Some Uncles, Aunties, Family members. However I AM READY!



Tuesday 12/04/2016

Today I am waiting for my Link-Up (Qld) Caseworkers Dwayne and Kerry to pick me up. Good bye Logan Queensland and Hello Northern NSW. I have been to these places before never knowing I would be going there to connect with my Ancestors.

We left my home at 10am and motored on to Byron Bay. Oh my goodness I forgot how lovely this area is. To think my Family (My Mob) lived in this area forever. Who knows how long? We took some more pictures and motored on to Ballina. We stopped and looked out over the ocean then it hit me this was my Mother's home and I never knew it. How sad for my Mum, she never spoke about it except to tell us kids the story of how her Grandfather rowed her out into the ocean and threw her over the side of the boat and said swim and she did. She loved and trusted him enough to do it. When I look out over that ocean all I can think about is what an amazing life she had and how sad she was taken away from all she had ever known her Mum Dorothy Kapeen and her Grandfather John Kapeen who she spoke so fondly of. How cruel and unkind, how thoughtless of those in power to do that to someone so young and free. My heart breaks for her and what she lost and never got back right up until the day she died. She lived her life as a white person. Never spoke of her family her only link to her past were her two sisters, Maise and Netta. She lost contact with her other sisters Marie, Peggy and Phyllis.

I tried to put myself in her place and all I could think of was no wonder Mum seemed so harsh, so unforgiving. She had kept so many secrets and felt she couldn't share.



Marcus Ferguson, Lynne Augustakis and Kerry Charlton

Wednesday 13/4/2016

Off to Ballina Land Council to meet and greet. I can't wait to see if anyone remembers my Mum. We are going to Casino Land Council for a chat with someone close to the Family. We are having lunch and I am feeling excited! There is a lot to get through today. However I am ready, BRING IT ON!

What amazing day today is! I met the Kapeen Family members Aunty Bertha and her son David. We also met an amazing young man Marcus Ferguson. Wow a cultural encyclopaedia, a fountain of information about all things Aboriginal. He is so dedicated to finding where we came from and how we all connect. I have never seen so much energy. He makes all artefacts from stones, tree trunks and painting.



Marcus Ferguson and Lynne Augustakis

ABSOLUTELY AMAZING!! I cannot thank Marcus enough, he had photos of my Mum, can you believe that? He had no idea who took these photos and who they belonged too. When he showed me I cried and said that's My Mum! He was so excited yet again he had the opportunity to connect family.

Quick as lightning he was up and took copies and handed me the photos and said they are yours. Then he hands me the copies and ask for me to put Mum's name and where she was in the photo on the back. And he said now I can file that one under found. He was so happy to have connected that photo with me.

Then we moved on to what I had asked Marcus about earlier, if he might know where my Great Grandmother's grave was. I knew from my Link-Up (Qld) crew that she was buried in Wandell, I just didn't know where. Seems Marcus is working with the Council at the cemetery to clean the land where our people are buried in unmarked graves. He said would you like me to take you there? He had a piece of paper with him that had 10 plots no names just numbers. He had researched all these sights that he had found. Marcus knew the names of all those ten people. So off we went paper in hand and a happy heart, we are finally going to connect me with my Grandparents. I don't know who was more excited me or Marcus. When we got there I was so nervous I didn't know what to expect as we got closer I could see these ten maybe twelve plots all neatly in a row just like on the paper. He said two of these are your Grandparents. We walked along the edge I stopped and stood between two graves sites. I said to Marcus is this them? I had tears in my eyes he looked on the paper at the numbers and said on the left was Charlotte and on the right John Kapeen. I cried I was so overwhelmed! I was here standing between my Grandparents. I put my hands on both of their graves and tears just rolled down my face. Tears of joy, sadness, and thankfulness all in one and I finally felt like I was home.



Marcus and Lynne at the cemetery

All of the sudden the rain came down it pelted down on us. I couldn't move I said I was sorry they were getting soaked and they laughed. Marcus said Aunty its ok they are happy you came back; your spirit is with them and all the Family as well.

What more can I say I am home, I am happy and thank you all!! To Link-Up (Qld) for your support through my journey I cannot thank you enough. If anyone wants to contact me in regards to my story please contact Link-Up (Qld) Brisbane office. I will be more than happy to share my story with you.

Heartfelt Thanks Lynne Augustakis.

Rachel Fraser Reunion - Kowanyama



Rachel Fraser getting ready to travel to Kowanyama

Rachel was born and raised on Palm Island and has lived there all her life. She first made contact with a Link-Up (Qld) Caseworker during a visit to Palm Island in 2011 but was unable to reconnect with the organisation until 2014.

Rachel wanted to find information about her Mother and also her Mother's country. She believed her Mother had been removed from the Cape area to Palm Island. Rachel knew that there were two of her Mother's Sisters living in Kowanyama but she had never met them, her Mother had told them that she was separated from her two Sisters and how she was moved to Palm Island, got married and had her children and had never seen them again.

Racheal had been looking forward to this reunion and would have liked to have had her sister Jennifer with her but unfortunately she had been unwell and her brother was also unable to make the trip, so she travelled up to Kowanyama by herself with Link-Up (Qld) Caseworker Vicki Darr.



Rachel visiting Link-Up (Qld) Cairns office

Rachel travelled by ferry from Palm Island on the 24th April, overnighed at the Iris Clay Hostel in Townsville and herself and Vicki drove from Townsville to Cairns then flew into Kowanyama where they hitched a ride from the airport with some of the locals.

On the drive Rachel was quizzed why she was in the community and who she was there to see. By the time they had been dropped off at the accommodation and booked into their rooms, Rachel's two Aunts, Gloria Yan and Maude Googleye were at the accommodation asking at the office for her. (Blackfella grapevine – you can't beat it!!).



Meeting her Aunties for the first time

It was very emotional for all meeting for the first time and there was a lot to talk about, especially regarding her Mother, where she was born and where she grew up and how she ended up on Palm Island. Rachel got to meet a lot of her Aunties families and her time in the community was spent with them.

On the trip back Rachel reflected about her time with her Aunts and how she enjoyed the trip up to Kowanyama and hearing stories about her Mother and her Aunts growing up. She didn't want to say goodbye to the Aunts because she said it would be too upsetting for them and herself as well, but was looking forward to the Aunts maybe visiting at the end of the year as they were keen to visit Palm Island.



Rachel and her two Aunts in Kowanyama



Rachel said that she was very happy with her reunion and how Link-Up (Qld) was able to support her in her journey to connect with family on her Mother's side and hear stories of her and her sisters growing up together before they were separated.

Herman Bambie Reunion - Hope Vale



Herman Bamble at his Family Reunion

My mate was telling me he had found his family. He told me to write to Link-Up (Qld) to find my family. I joined Link-Up (Qld) on 13 February 2012. I applied for them to search for information about my Mother Lizzie born around 1914 and her Mother Lilly born around the 1870s. I wanted to know my Mother’s maiden name, background and I wanted to know my Mother’s siblings and their families.

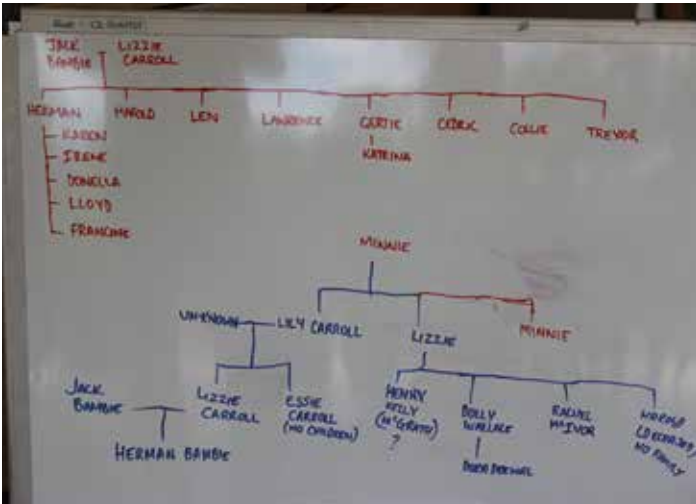
“I want to know them because you don’t know who you are passing on the street could be your own family”.

I was born at Spring Hill an old Mission outside of Cooktown in 1940. In 1942 during the war years our family was moved from Cape Bedford to Woorabinda. We were returned to Cape Bedford by the 1950s. I married Myrtle Deeral in 1961.

I bought a farm outside of Hope Vale community where we settled and raised our children; Karen, Irene, Donnella, Francine and Herman Lloyd. I worked at many jobs like; fencing, cattle yard building, as a stock man, station jobs, I was a truck driver for the Hope Vale Council for 24 years, I became a Community Councillor for Hope Vale for 5 years then I retired.

My Mother did not tell me much oral history, there is a lot I do not know about my Mother and Grand Mothers background. I did not know my Mother’s maiden name which has made me sad because I did not know her other family.

“I wanted to find them and tell them what a wonderful Mother my Mother was to me”.





Leading up to the Reunion I was feeling good. Family travelled from around Hope Vale and from Yarrabah at their own expense. During the Reunion on Saturday 4th June 'Oral History' was told by Hope Vale family members Dora Deemal, Grace Rosendale and Connolly Family members from Yarrabah; Mary, Sandra and Gayle.

Somewhere in the future we are planning to come together again and discuss the written research and our oral history and try to join the two.

I would like to say thank-you to Link-Up (Qld) for what they done for me this is something I will always remember. If it wasn't for them I might not know anything about my Mum.

I was looking forward to the family reunion and now something good came out from there it has been really good.

- Herman Bambie



Front Row: Mary Kyle, Herman Bambie and his Wife Muriel Bambie
Back Row: Sandra Houghton, Grace Rosendale, Gayle Fourmile and Dora Deemal

A Long Way to Cunnamulla - Murra Murra Healing Camp 2016



The Group travelling from Brisbane

Link-Up (Qld) clients and staff attended a healing camp held at Murra Murra Homestead near Cunnamulla from 29 May – 1 June 2016.



The healing camp was an excellent opportunity for both old and new clients to share their stories as well as some of the highlights and challenges of being reunited with family and country.



On the last night at Murra Murra Homestead

Former client, Lenny Utz attended the camp and spoke at the welcoming gathering about his previous experience in being reunited with his family and country in nearby Charleville. Clients from Brisbane and Mt Isa with connections to the local area also attended. Staff and clients braved the cold weather and 9 hour bus trip across dirt roads to come together for a memorable experience as part of their journey with Link-Up (Qld)





Aunty Mable, Len and Aunty Pat



Sitting around the campfire



Doing a tour of Murra Murra Homestead



Art workshop

Clients also participated in workshop sessions which included art therapy, jewellery making and beauty, pampering and massage sessions. Participants in the group included traditional owners, elders and staff from the Cunnamulla Aboriginal Health Service who also joined in the Yarning Circle, entertainment and meals around the campfire.

All participants were made to feel very welcome and were well-fed and cared for by local caterers, Punga Products.

Traditional owner, Ross Mitchell performed a smoking ceremony after an inspiring and entertaining closing performance from Cooma dance group.



Uncle Herb Wharton also wrote the following poem for 'Sorry Day' which we are proud and privileged to share with our readers:

Sorry

© Uncle Herb Wharton, 2016

Every day I say sorry mate
I tred on toes or bump someone
You mob got Big Sorry Thing
impose the Act, take our land, shoot everyone
now foreign ruling of our land

If you're proper sorry
Pay back rent
Give back our land
We shake hands
Then live as one.



Painting Workshop at Murra Murra Homestead

Our Quest to Find Family - Jennifer and Roslyn Von Senden



Roslyn and Jennifer Von Senden

My sister Roslyn and I were very privileged to attend the Healing Camp with Link-Up (Qld) to Cunnamulla Country, from 29 May to 1 June, 2016 where we stayed at the beautiful Aboriginal owned station Murra Murra. I had requested Link-Up (Qld)'s assistance to find our Father's Grandmother Angelina's family. Our Grandfather James Von Senden was born around 1903 at Mount Margaret, Thargominda, Queensland to parents William Von Senden and Angeline (no surname). Angeline (spelled Angelina) was born at Mount Margaret, around 1883 to parents Lizzie (no surname) and a non- ATSI male Charlie Elliot. William Von Senden was born around 1880 at Mount Cotton, Queensland to parents Elizabeth Lee and Henry Von Senden.

The Healing Camp was not to find family but to give us and others the opportunity to be pampered, loved and to grieve for our lost generation. At last a chance to get back to country and grieve for our loved ones whom we have never met or even really known about. On the second day of the camp we were going to visit the cemetery at Cunnamulla because I had mentioned to Link-Up (Qld) Mount Isa Counsellor Desley Ah Wing that we had family graves there that I had seen before when we pulled up at the cemetery once for lunch many years ago.

The night before our trip I told my sister Roslyn that I had my towns mixed up as upon recollection I had never been to Cunnamulla before it was Charleville where I had visited in the past. Anyway we decided we would still go to Cunnamulla to see what the town looked like. The group still went to the cemetery as there was a couple of elders who wanted to pay respect to their family members there. At the cemetery my lil sis and I decided to take a little walk amongst the old graves as we often did back home, just looking and talking about the names of those we would come across. Roslyn took the furthest path and I the path in front of me.



Chattering away and enjoying the beautiful sun on this day I was mindful of where I trod in the Cunnamulla dust when I stood a bit too close to a spinifex type bush. Well I got the fright of my life when this funny looking little animal jumped out from the bush. He zigzagged in and out of the old fading white headstones heading towards where Roslyn was engrossed looking at the grave before her; with me looking on in awe following his route as he was the first real live rabbit I had ever seen in the bush.

This little brown and white bunny rabbit skidded this way and that before a pebble flew off his foot hitting an old tin making a noise that caught Roslyn's attention. Roslyn looked in the direction of the noise and her eyes fell on the headstone of Francis James Von Senden.



With a call of “I found one,” filled with excitement, so intense that I thought she was joking, I said, “found one what?” Our family she answered. What an extraordinary feeling I felt when I rushed over to see the headstone. The feeling turned to sadness when I read the writing on the faded marble headstone.

Francis James Von Senden
Who died at Cunnamulla
August 18th 1920, aged 9 years 6 months
Our loss is great we'll not complain,
But hope in heaven to meet
Our darling boy again.

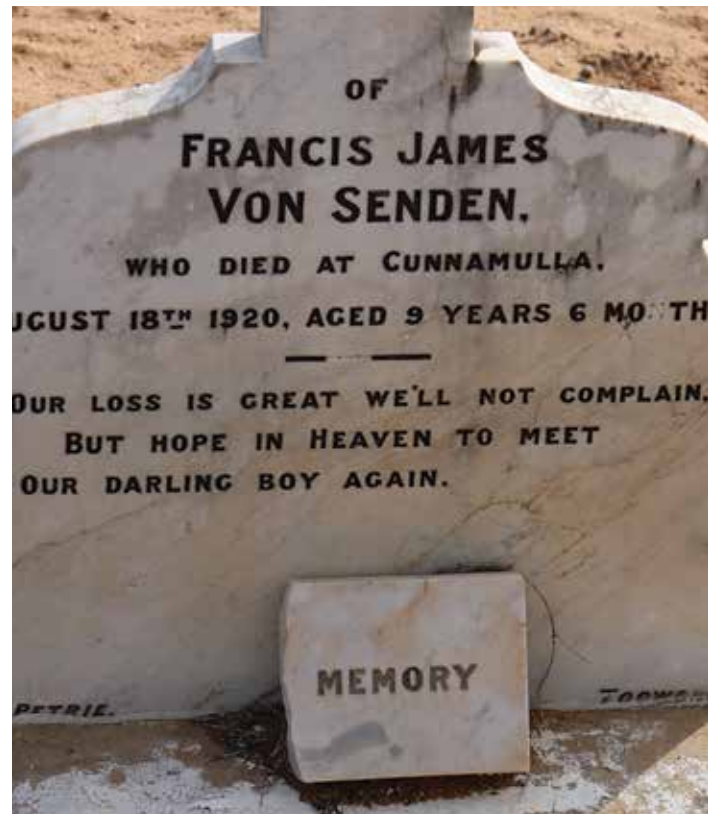


I walked away as sobs caught my throat as I thought of my own precious boy, Ricky Alexander James Von Senden, whom I had lost 2 years ago at the age of 33. It was in memory of my son that I began this quest as he would often ask me about his Grandfather's family and wanted me to look further into the family history. So uncanny that our family still continued to use the name James, Our own Grandfather James, Our Uncle James, Our big brother James and my son's own middle name James.

Little Francis James was such a young child with a whole life still ahead of him, what did he die of, what did he look like, all these many questions came to my



mind, will we ever know? I walked back to the grave site and my sister and I hugged in a state of quietness and together we shed silent tears for this little grandfather of ours from a far and distant land.



Roslyn gathered some yellow bush flowers and put them in a rusty tin that was on the grave, perhaps his parents left flowers there in this tin which was not rusty then, over 80 years ago, photos were taken and thoughts unbroken; Hugs and yarns we shared with our friends from Link-Up (Qld) and the friends from this journey, as we all gathered around this little boy's grave with our images of the past.

Our story was told again at the big old camp fire on our last night on Cunnamulla Country this time we shared our images of wisdom which we embraced and will continue to take on our journey guided by our ancestors in our quest to find our family. We had found our first small but beautiful link to our Great Grannie Angelina's beloved husband William.



Mt Isa Update - SEWB Counsellor Desley Ah Wing

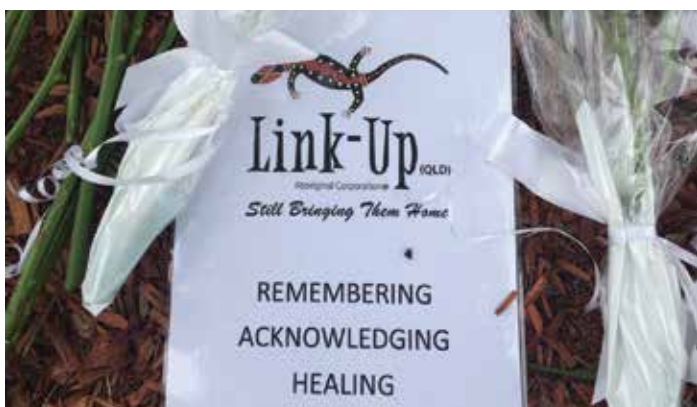
Link-Up (Qld) Mt Isa took part in the Inaugural White Wreath Day Walk in May 2016 which concluded with a Remembrance Ceremony.



The National White Wreath movement shines a light on suicide and mental health and acknowledges the huge ripple effect suicide has on family, friends, emergency personnel, workmates and the community in general.



This event was organised by the newly formed Ngukuthati Men's Shed.



On my visit to Mornington Island in June I met with many Agencies and local residents, to help spread the good work that Link-Up (Qld) does.



These photos are of some local residents and workers as well as historical buildings on the Island.

A big thank you to Farrah Linden and Katrina 'Amy' Loogatha for helping out during my visit.



Cairns Update - SEWB Counsellor Robyn Ah Wong

Link-Up (Qld) Cairns Office is excited about the Support Group Meetings at their office in 18 Scott Street, Parramatta Park.



This month's meeting that was held on Wednesday 25th May with a morning tea to get to know everyone and a yarning session.

All participated in a candle lighting ceremony in respect to family members who were removed from their family and their country as a Sorry Day activity.



Link-Up (Qld) Cairns Support Group Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month between 10am to 11:30am.

2016 Support Group Meetings dates:

27 July 2016	10am – 11:30am
31 August 2016	10am – 11:30am
28 September 2016	10am – 11:30am
26 October 2016	10am – 11:30am
30 November 2016	11:30am – 1pm

We look forward to meeting with you at our future Link-Up (Qld) Support Group Meetings

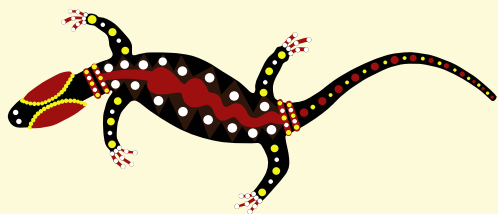


Brisbane Client Support Group 2016 Morning Teas

Held on the last Thursday of every month at the Link-Up (Qld) Brisbane office from 10.00am.
Contact Link-Up (Qld) on 07 3034 8444 for more

information. Next meeting will be on:

28th July
25th August
29th September
27th October
24th November



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



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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FREECALL TO ALL OFFICES 1800 200 855 from landlines

Make sure to like us on FaceBook: www.facebook.com/linkupqueensland

And visit our Website: www.link-upqld.org.au

Link-Up (Qld) is funded by
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet,
Department of Social Services,
Attorney-General's Department | Ministry for the Arts,
Department of Communities, Child Safety and
Disability Services.

