

Volume 30 January - February 2018



# Link-Up (Qld)

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION®



## Still Bringing Them Home

## Chairperson - Sam Watson



Sam Watson

This past month has been a whirlwind of very important events and gatherings to remember and honour the pain, suffering and ongoing trauma of the Stolen Generations. There have been very special, high profile functions in the capital cities and down there in Canberra. Here in Brisbane we have

hosted events at Cranbrook Place at Hill End on the river and at the Jagera Hall in Musgrave Park.

It has been a very busy time for us all and in particular we want to thank our wonderful staff who have made it all possible. Even as the dust settles and we stand back and gather our breath, we have to start making preparations for the national Sorry Week in May.

We have enjoyed sharing these moments with previous Prime Ministers, Deputy Premiers, Lord Mayors and other ranking members of the political hierarchy. We have really enjoyed listening to senior Elders who have stepped forward and shared their incredible stories. At the deepest heart of this very emotional issue of forced removals, is that burning, iron clad connection between Aboriginal people and country.

I have never seen that connection so validly presented or so poignant, as in an amazing documentary about so called "Mungo Man." (His traditional name is unknown).

Mungo Man was a senior Aboriginal man from country that is north by north west of Sydney. He is the oldest person to have lived and walked on this continent. His remains were found in the dry sandy bed of an ancient lake. Non indigenous scientists found his fossilised skeleton in the ground and very carefully

removed it and then took it down to Canberra to study it. The remains were dated to almost 45,000 years ago.

Mungo Man was a senior man of his tribe and he was buried on his own country with great ceremony and reverence. How the world must have looked through his eyes. At the time that he lived and hunted and conducted ceremony, whitefullahs in Europe were still working out how to get down out of the trees.

The local traditional owners and custodians of that country have always been very upset about this old man and the fact that whitefullah scientists had taken him away from them. They demanded that he be returned to them and that he be allowed to go back to his rightful place. The whitefullah scientists, to their credit – accepted that the old man had to go home. The documentary told of the very moving ceremony there at the university when the old man's remains were handed back to his living descendants and transported back to country.

We are enlightened and understanding people and we accept that the scientists were able to take a great deal of very important information from the grave and the remains of that old man. Those things had to be done. But then, that old man had to be taken home. Back to his own country. That was done with great ceremony and respect. He is back home and the senior Elders are going to place his remains in a secret place so he can never be disturbed again.

Across that amazing span of 45,000 years that old man is still talking to us and reminding us of the very sacred, eternal bond that exists between us Aboriginal people and our country.

Sleep well Grandfather, we can hear you. From Cranbrook Place, from the Moore River Settlement, from the grassy hills of Purga...to the sun swept plains of your own special country. Your voice rings strong and true.



Front Cover:  
**Brian Gray and Deputy Premier Jackie Trad lay a wreath at Orieh Park, West End**

**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.**

## In this issue:

➤ Apology Day 2018 - Musgrave Park	4
➤ National Apology Commemoration Ceremony	6
➤ Apology 10 - Canberra	8
➤ Margaret Parker Reunion	10
➤ Rosemary Bulmer Reunion	12
➤ Roselyn Barlow Reunion	14
➤ Palm island/ Townsville/ Mt Isa Christmas Parties	16
➤ Liworaji Apology Event - Purga Mission	19



## CEO - Patricia Conlon



Patricia Conlon

Welcome to the first edition of our magazine for 2018. This edition features the 10th Apology Anniversary events, reunion stories and photos from client Christmas functions in Mount Isa, Palm Island and Townsville which didn't make the last magazine.

Link-Up (Qld) was pleased to collaborate with Deputy Premier of Queensland and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Ms Jacki Trad's office and staff from DASTSIP on the National Apology Commemoration Ceremony at Orleigh Park on Sunday, 10th February 2018. Former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd who gave the Apology 10 years ago in the Australian Parliament was a Keynote Speaker at the event.

Many Stolen Generation members who were in Parliament House and on the lawns of Parliament 10 years ago were present at Orleigh Park and very pleased to meet up with Mr Rudd again. The Apology meant so much to them. Deputy Premier Jacki Trad reflected on the Apology and the important partnership between DASTSIP through the Communities and Personal Histories Unit and Link-Up (Qld) in accessing records maintained by the Queensland State Government to assist us with the important work of reuniting Stolen Generation members and their descendants to family, country or communities.

We also heard moving speeches from the Federal Member for Griffith, Ms Terri Butler, Brisbane Lord Mayor Graham Quirk, Link-Up (Qld) Chairman Sam Watson, Brian Gray - Link-Up (Qld) client, Noeleen Lopes, CEO Gallang Place, and emerging Indigenous Leaders - Lateisha Dunbar and Shea Spierings.

Brian Gray is a Link-Up (Qld) client, he lives in Cairns with his wife and family and is featured on the cover of this magazine with Deputy Premier of Queensland, Ms Jacki Trad. Brian shared his story of being taken away with his siblings and placed in a home for babies in Rockhampton. He never knew his mother, he had not seen a photograph of her, he was taken away at an early age, as an infant. Brian and his brother were in the same home, so remained together, however their sisters were kept separate from them.

Brian never met his sisters until later in life as young adults

Brian's mother passed away when he was about 12 years old, he was still in the home. He was not allowed, he was not given "permission" to attend his mother's funeral. The pain and trauma he has suffered remains with him today. He has not been able to visit his mother's gravesite because of the hurt and suffering he has endured due to being removed as an infant and institutionalised because of the atrocious past policies of governments of the day.

There was a very sombre mood at the National Apology Commemoration Ceremony at Orleigh Park, when Brian told his story. His story is not unique, it could be mine, it could be yours or that of our parents. I saw at that gathering very powerful speakers, who became emotional and had to hesitate to compose themselves, I am sure they were thinking about their loved ones who had also suffered similar injustices. We honour the resilience and strength of our people who have suffered terrible injustices because of past government policies and practices and that we have survived those injustices.

Link-Up (Qld) staff feel our clients pain, we take them on their journey of reuniting with families, country or community. We take them through their research, filling in the missing gaps in their life. For Brian we were able to provide him with four generations of his family history, for which he is pleased to learn. We will take him to visit his mother's gravesite, something he has not been able to bring himself to do - we will continue to support him on this journey.



Link-Up (Qld) Client Brian Gray



## Apology Day 2018, 10th Anniversary - Musgrave Park, Brisbane



Link-Up (Qld) hosted the 10th Anniversary of the National Apology at Jagera Hall on Tuesday, 13th February 2018. Over 200 people attended the event. It was an honour to have many of our Elders, Stolen Generations and their families in attendance. Tammy Williams, a young Aboriginal woman and Acting Director General of Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships was the Keynote Speaker on behalf of Deputy Premier of Queensland and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Ms Jacki Trad. We thank Tammy for her attendance and representing the Deputy Premier. We are very proud of Tammy's professional achievements and that was certainly acknowledged by all in attendance at the event.

Cherbourg women, Cephia Williams, Irene Landers and Cindy Button together with film maker, Janine Kelly shared their story: My Struggle, My Fight – highlighting the challenges families are faced with of children still being taken away today.

Zeek Powers a talented young artist performed at the event, thank you Zeek, what an amazing voice – keep an eye out for this young man. Murri School dancers always deadly, and a real hit with our Elders who couldn't help themselves, joining in singing as the kids danced.



Link-Up (Qld) Chairperson Sam Watson



Uncle Des Sandy



Tammy Williams A/DG - DATSIP



Film Maker Janine Kelly



Cephia Williams, Irene Landers & Cindy Button



Aunty Fay Gundy







## National Apology Commemoration Ceremony - Orleigh Park, Sunday 10th Feb 2018



Deputy Premier of Queensland and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Ms Jacki Trad organised a National Apology Commemoration Ceremony at Orleigh Park on Sunday, 10th February 2018. Link-Up (Qld) were honoured to be invited by the Deputy Premier to support and contribute to this event commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Apology. Former Prime Minister, The Hon Kevin Rudd was the keynote speaker at the event, his presence significant given that as the 26th Prime Minister of Australia, he rose to his feet in the National Parliament of Australia and in the presence of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples in the public gallery and on the lawns outside of Parliament House, gave the National Apology. In particular, he said:

We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country. For the pain, suffering and hurt of these stolen generations, their descendants and for the families left behind,

*We say sorry*



Deputy Premier Jacki Trad



Former Prime Minister, The Hon Kevin Rudd



Federal Member for Griffith Terri Butler MP



Elder Brian Gray



AIEF Alumni Speaker Latiesha Dunbar



AIEF Young Leader Shea Spierings







## Apology 10 - Canberra 13th February 2018



Brian Gray at the Aboriginal Embassy in Canberra

Link-Up (Qld) staff Rob Frescon – Team Leader from Brisbane Office and Joshua Thompson – Caseworker from Cairns office accompanied Link-Up (Qld) clients Aunty Dorothea Bardell (Dot) and Uncle Brian Gray to Canberra for the 10 year Anniversary of the Apology delivered by former Prime Minister Hon. Mr Kevin Rudd.

Opposition Leader, The Hon. Bill Shorten and former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. Following the breakfast, we participated in yarning circles, designed to give us an opportunity to share our understanding about the contemporary needs of the Stolen Generations and their descendants. The yarning circles were facilitated by Grant Sarra and the Healing Foundation team.

On Tuesday 13th of February 2018 we attended breakfast in the Great Hall at Parliament House which was coordinated by Message Stick and Reconciliation Australia in partnership with the Healing Foundation. Aunty Matilda House from the Ngambri-Ngunnawal people delivered the Welcome to Country and officially opened the ceremony and David Williams a Wakka Wakka man with his amazing talent playing the Didgeridoo. The event was coordinated by the Healing Foundation in partnership with 33creative. We were honoured and grateful of the opportunity to attend such a prestigious and moving event.

The breakfast was very emotional, hearing stories directly from those who were affected by past government policies and listening to reflections from

Later that evening we attended the Apology concert on the Lawns at Parliament House hosted by Aboriginal comedian Steven Oliver and TV and radio presenter Myf Warhurst with live performances by Archie Roach, Shellie Morris, The Preatures, Busby Marou and Electric Fields. The concert was also an amazing experience to be sharing the moment with so many people from around the country and such talented artists performing.

Our CEO organized a visit for us to the Australia Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). Kayannie and Jeana showed us through the centre, gave us information about how AIATSIS began, where the records come from and how the database is used to search family history. The visit gave



Brian Gray and Adam Goodes



Aunty Dot meeting Former PM Kevin Rudd



Concert on the lawn of Parliament House





Link-Up (Qld) workers Joshua Thompson and Rob Frescon, Aunty Dot Bardell, Pat Williamson from the National Museum and Brian Gray gave us a good insight into the records kept and the importance of the collection of material looked after by AIATSIS and how we access those records on behalf of our clients.

We also visited the National Museum of Australia. Pat Williamson, a senior Aboriginal woman from Cloncurry who works at the museum met with us and organized for David Kaus to give us a behind the scene experience through the Museum. Our highlight was seeing the Seven Sisters exhibition, Songlines - Tracking the Seven Sisters story is one of pursuit and escape, desire and magic and the power of family bonds.

On behalf of Josh, Aunty Dot and Uncle Brian, I would like to thank from the bottom of our hearts The Healing Foundation staff Sarah Kanai, Nancy Jeffry, Kelleigh Ryan and Lisa Hillan for all their hard work in pulling together the Apology 10 events and for looking after all of us whilst we were in Canberra.



Link-Up (Qld) Team Leader Rob Frescon and Aunty Dot Bardell

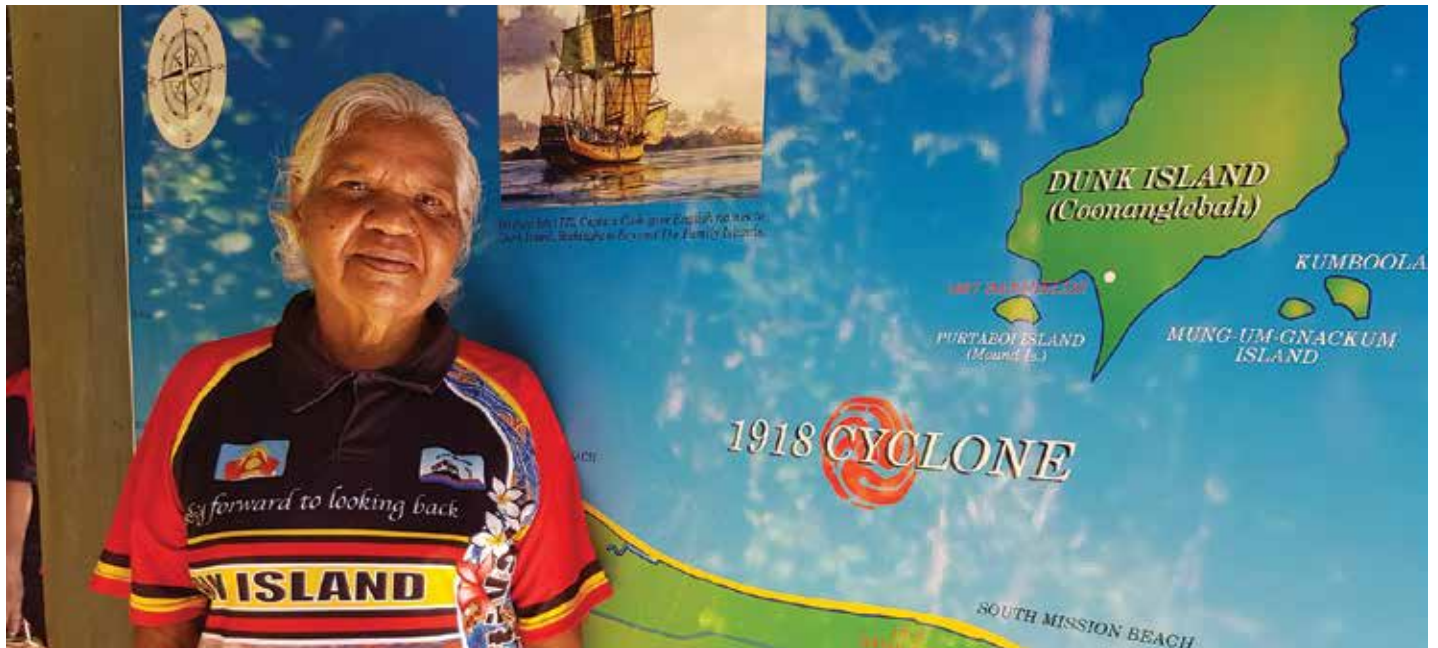
We really appreciated the opportunity and experience of the gatherings in Canberra. Thank you too, Kayannie Denigan and Jeana Bajic from AIATSIS and Pat Williamson and David Kaus from the museum for taking us on a journey through those special places. A special thank you to our CEO for giving us the opportunity to attend Apology 10 events and for organising visits to AIATSIS and the National Museum.

A special thank you to our CEO for giving us the opportunity to attend Apology 10 events and for organising visits to AIATSIS and the National Museum.





## Margaret Parker Reunion - Mission Beach



Margaret Parker at South Mission Beach

My name is Margaret Parker and I was born at Palm Island in 1946 to parents George Parker and May Mungalla. My mother's mob is the Djiru people from the Mission Beach area. My parents raised 8 children on Palm Island and I am the eldest. One day one of my grandchildren asked me about my family history especially on my mother's side and queried where was she born? I knew Mum was born at Hull River near South Mission Beach area in 1915 however, when my grandchild questioned me more about her heritage I was unable to give her much information. Throughout my life I always felt something was missing as in the earlier days Mum didn't say much about her childhood and upbringing including speaking any language.

In the earlier days Mum often obtained permission to leave Palm Island and visit Tully. In 1957 I was only 11 years old when on one of these trips we visited another place near Tully at the Old Riversdale camp on Davidson Road, Euramo. It was at this place that I clearly remember seeing my mother hugging and crying with a man who she said was her brother, Uncle Moseley Dickman. They were so happy to see each other. What really stuck in my mind all those years ago was the fact that they were talking in the same lingo and not in English. I'll never forget that moment and later on I wanted to know more about Uncle Moseley Dickman and to connect with his family.

I did meet some of Uncle's family while attending funerals in Tully, however, there were still missing pieces of family information that I needed to know especially mum's childhood movements after her birth in 1915 to until after the 1918 cyclone which destroyed the Aboriginal settlement at South Mission Beach.

My siblings and I have no information regarding how my grandparents had died and where they were buried or whether they survived the cyclone.

I first heard about Link-Up (Qld) through their visits to Palm Island and eventually became a client. This was my opportunity and a glimmer of hope to find out more about mum's side of the family. When I received the documentation there not a lot of information about Mum's side of the family.



A early photo of Margaret's Mother and brother Eric



Margaret and her sister Lorraine at the Old Mission Site



What the research did confirm though was that my maternal grandparents were Charlie and Maggie Mungalla and that mum was born at Hull River in 1915 including possible connections to Uncle Moseley. Due to limited departmental records however, the research was unable to expand as much in regards to the missing pieces in my life.

I really appreciated Link-Up (Qld) for their time and effort to arrange a back to country reunion visit to Mum's birthplace at Hull River, South Mission Beach. When the Traditional Owners gave clearance through Girrigun Aboriginal Corporation (Cardwell) and Djirru Warrangburra Aboriginal Corporation (Innisfail) my sister Lorraine and I travelled with the Cairns staff members to visit the area. We met Kathy Bobongie and Sylvia Wright in Townsville and travelled to Cardwell to meet traditional owner Leonard (Lenny) Andy.



Margaret, Lorraine and Traditional Owner Lenny Andy



Meeting Aunties Marjorie and Doris and their families



With Uncle Moseley's daughter Cathy Dickman

Meeting Lenny was an amazing time because of his wealth of knowledge and history of the Hull River Aboriginal Settlement, Clump Mountain and South Mission Beach area. Lenny showed us the site at South Mission Beach where the Aboriginal Memorial Midja had been erected testifying of the large number of Aboriginal men, women and children who tragically died when the severe 1918 cyclone and tidal wave demolished the Aboriginal settlement at this place. After the cyclone some of the Aboriginal people that survived were taken to Palm Island. We really appreciated Lenny for showing us around and taking the time to share the knowledge and history of the Djirru people in this area. I tried to imagine the camp site before the cyclone and how it must have been for Mum's people back in those days. Next day before leaving Mission Beach we also visited the Old Mission Site where more photos and history about the plight of the Aboriginal settlement were on display.



We called in at the township of Tully nearby with the intention of catching up with any family members of Uncle Moseley, here we saw his daughter Cathy Dickman as well as meeting two other elderly Aunties from Euramo, Marjorie and her sister Doris Kinjun along with some of their family members.

My sister Lorraine and I would like to thank Link-Up (Qld) for allowing us to visit our mother's birthplace and look forward to returning with other family members when the 100 years Commemoration of the 1918 Cyclone takes place in March 2018.

There is still unanswered questions and missing pieces of the family puzzle for me. I will continue to search for these answers for the sake of my children and grandchildren.



## Rosemary Bulmer Reunion - Cairns



Rosemary Bulmer and her niece Shianne Sellars

My name is Rosemary Bulmer (nee Sellars) and I am a 46 years old woman from Coen, Cape York area of Australia, I was born in Cairns to parents Cecil Desmond Sellars and Margaret Nelson. Both my parents have been deceased since 2003. As a child, I spent the first six years with my family at Musgrave Telegraph Station, now known as Musgrave Road House before being sent to a children's home because of a hearing problem to Yeppoon. I remained at the home until I was about 13 years of age. While staying at this children's home I would travel back Coen for short stays and had limited contact with my parents as they were working on another station outside of Musgrave. When I came home for visits I would stay with my grandparents, aunties and uncles. After an operation for my hearing, I eventually returned home to Coen to the care of my grandparents.

Over the years I was given contradictory information from family and community members regarding having a sister and possibly another brother. Family would mention that I had another sister named 'Maisey Jane' who had fair skin but did not talk any further for cultural reasons.



Other information was that Maisey Jane was flown out by the Royal Flying Doctor from Musgrave Station to Cairns Base Hospital at the age of 7 months with vomiting and diarrhoea. A community nurse also said that she heard that Maisey Jane may have passed away around 2 years old. I also had an older sister, Millie Sellars, who unfortunately died at 38 years old. Before she died, Millie told me that we may also have a brother who was fair skinned, however, there was no further information relating to this other sibling.

I spoke to my Uncle Robert Nelson (mum's brother) about why I was not told about my sister Maisey Jane and he said it was not culturally appropriate to talk about his older sister Margaret and to speak about it. However, my Uncle Robert did give me permission to find my siblings/s as my approach was culturally the right way. Other information also given to me was when my parents worked at Artemis Station, my mother befriended the owner's daughter-in-law. My mother "allegedly said to her friend that the government informed her that she was getting paid too much in 'child endowment for Maisey Jane' even though she had been separated from her child for around 10 years". Mum had to stop the payment and repay the money back to the government.

In May 2016, a cousin of mine received a phone call from a lady in Brisbane called "Carol" but did not give her last name. Carol said she was separated from her parents when she was small and was looking for a language name for a baby and that her mother was a northern Kaanju women. This lead me to thinking was this my sister Maisey Jane. In my search for my sister, my aunty told me about Link-Up (Qld).



Because I was living in Mareeba at that time, I met and spoke with a staff member from Link-Up (Qld) Cairns office and told her my story that I was searching for my sister and possibly a brother. In October the following year I received a phone call from the Caseworker Sylvia Wright and was informed that my research for my siblings had been completed and that they wanted to meet with me in Mareeba. I started to feel emotional and excited, however, I told Sylvia that I was now back on community living and working in Coen. Sylvia offered to do the research delivery over the phone along with the Social and Emotional Well-being counsellor Tegan Green as I preferred not to wait until my next available trip back to Cairns.

Unfortunately, the research did not have a happy ending. The information I received was that my mother had given birth to a female child exactly one year after my birth in 1972 at the Cairns Base Hospital. My sister, Mace Jane Sellars was reported to be healthy and well. I was also told that the research was unable to find any record of a brother being born to my mother. Sadly I was further informed that my sister had passed away on 10 June 1973 on an aircraft en route to the Cairns Base Hospital from Coen due to a serious illness. The research further revealed that after 44 years my sister Mace Jane Sellars was buried at the Cairns Martyn Street Cemetery on 18 June 1973.

The Cairns Link-Up (Qld) team kindly arranged a graveside reunion on Monday 13th November 2017. I felt sad that my eldest sister was not alive but had made a solemn promise to find our little sister. I became overwhelmed and developed mixed emotions, feeling good, sad, relieved and happy that I finally found my sister but at the same time angry, that it was unclear and unknown to me regarding her birth and death. For the graveside reunion, I requested if my sister Millie's eldest daughter Shianne Sellars who lives in Gordonvale, just south of Cairns to attend the graveside reunion as well with her new born baby girl named Millie. It was so special and appropriate timing to have a new born baby girl in the family representing a life at the cemetery after many years of the unknown death of my baby sister, Mace Jane Sellars.

The graveside reunion provided closure of knowing what had happened and where my sister was buried. I would like to thank the Link-Up (Qld) team for their support as well as my niece Shianne and her baby daughter for being a part of this graveside reunion. I would highly recommend Link-Up (Qld) to anyone wishing to find their relatives as they are a good organisation with caring staff that assisted throughout my entire experience in finding my sister.



Rosemary placing mementoes on the grave of her sister Mace Jane



Shianne Sellars and her new born baby Millie



## Roselyn Barlow Reunion - Brisbane



Roselyn Barlow with her sister Christine, her cousin Trina Richards and her daughter Jade

My name is Roselyn Barlow, nee Richards. I was born in Townsville and grew up with my father and mother (Dulcie and Bruce Douglas Richards) and two sisters and three brothers. We lived out of town and dad worked on farms and on the railway line, he would always have a job and worked very hard to provide for his family. My father was taken and placed in a the Salvation army boy's home in Brisbane when he was very young and later his parents moved to Stradbroke Island and they would have to write to the police commissioner so they could have him on weekends.

When he got older he enlisted in the army and fought in 2nd World War. He was a prisoner in Changi for 3½ years but survived. He came home back to Brisbane where he enlisted and travelled to Townsville and met my mother. He told me how he was starved as a prisoner and they all worked hard on building the Burma railway line during the war. He also told about his mother, brothers and sister, but he had no communication with them and had lost contact with his family.

Hearing his stories of being a Prisoner of War, this was a very horrific and hard time for dad. This was a sad part of his life which also gave him bad memories of very hard times.

But this did not stop him from being a good provider he would walk or get a ride with work mates as he didn't drive a car. I went to a local school where we would all have to walk to school and back. Mum would be at home cleaning the house, and have home cooked meals for us when we got home this is how it was back then, Dad working and Mum at home cleaning and washing our clothes by hand having no electricity made it very hard for mum.

When I left home I moved away and got married and I had my children two sons and three daughters and now I have grandchildren and great grandchildren. I followed the same structure that was taught to me by my parents of looking after family was important to me. School and education, learning to respect our parents, aunts, grandmothers and family members



Christine and Roselyn at Cranbrook Place, Orleigh Park, West End



Christine, Roselyn and Link-Up (Qld) staff Tegan Green and Fred Binge





Meeting Trina and Jade for the very first time



Trina, Roselyn, Christine and Jade

including cousins. All sharing and caring for one another was the main focus in all my growing up years. I am very close to all my family and always help when I can as a mother would.

For the past 20 years and still currently working as a Teacher's Aide in Townsville. I assist young people in a youth Detention Centre.

After dad died I remembered what he told me about his family then I started searching for his family. It took me several years searching for dad's family, his brothers and sister I wasn't able to find out where they were living. So when I couldn't get any more information I decided to get in touch with Link-Up (Qld) last year. I then got good news that my father's sister aged 87 years was still living in Brisbane where my father was from before he joined 2nd World War. As part of the search, I was given information about my uncle Trevor Richards who is my father's brother who had a daughter living in Brisbane.

Link-Up (Qld) arranged a family reunion where my sister Christine and I flew to Brisbane and I was able to meet my cousin Trina Richards and her daughter Jade for the first time. We chatted about lots of things relating to our fathers who both fought in the 2nd World War and how they were separated for years. Both had married but did not communicate between themselves.

It was rewarding for both my sister and I coming to Brisbane and meeting our cousin for the first time. It was very satisfying having knowledge of where they live and that we made that connection, we will always cherish this memory. After this reunion we hope to meet new family members and giving them information on our family tree lineage. Hopefully too open up more information, learning and sharing photos. Also, find out about family background of where they grew up; listening to their stories and sharing memories.

The reunion allowed meeting our new family, sharing a meal, yarning, laughing, and taking photos. We want to say thank you Link-Up (Qld) for helping us to finally meet our cousin and her daughter in Brisbane. It was the best thing having a reunion with cousins that I never knew I had.



Trina Richards and Roselyn Barlow



**Palm Island Client Christmas Celebration 2017 - Coolgaree Bay Bistro**



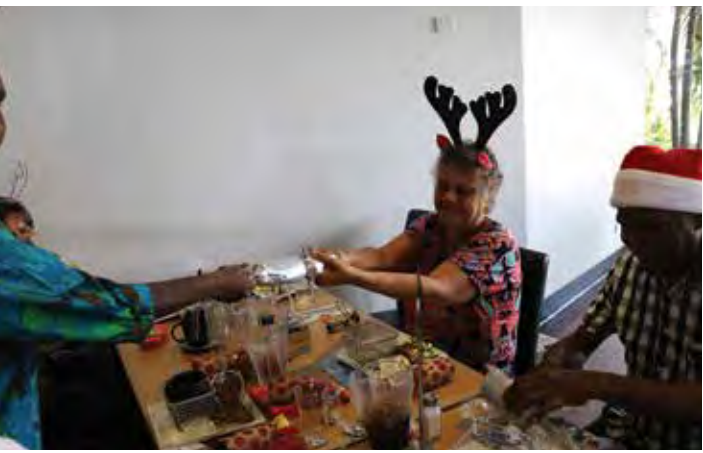


**Townsville Client Christmas Celebration 2017 - The Cowboys Club**





**Mount Isa Client Christmas Celebration 2017 - The Buff's Club**





## Liworaji Apology Event - Purga Mission

Lilly Davidson, Manager of Liworaji Aboriginal Corporation shared photo's of their Apology event which was held at Purga Mission on Tuesday, 13th February 2018. Over 120 people attended Purga to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the National Apology given by the former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in the National Parliament 10 years ago. The Apology was read out on the day which was particularly moving, not only for our Elders present, but also for the children in attendance. Permission was obtained to read out the Purga Aboriginal Mission school list, a sensitive reminder of children, so young affected by past policies in our history.



It was great to have local Traditional Dancers – Yuggera Dance Group perform dances from the local area and performances from local high school students. Their performances were captivating, and emotional.

The most major part of the event was providing a safe space for Elders to share their stories of being on an Aboriginal mission as children away from their families. Some of the Elders were placed on Purga Aboriginal Mission as young as 5 years old. One Elder is now 88 years and another 82 years of age. We were also privileged to have 2 Elders from the Cherbourg Aboriginal Mission dormitories in attendance.

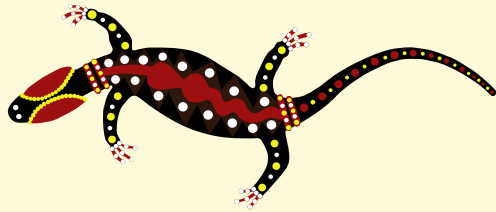


Liworaji would like to thank all those agencies who supported the 10th Anniversary Apology event on the day. Feedback has been very positive with many Elders asking when is Liworaji hosting another event. It was a very emotional day, listening to our Elders stories, there were tears, laughter and ending with sharing lunch to just talk and embrace the strength and resilience of our Elders.

Liworaji would also like to acknowledge The Healing Foundation for their support in making this event a success.







# Link-Up (Qld)

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION®

Still Bringing Them Home



## About Link-Up (Qld) -Our Mission-

Link-Up (Qld) Aboriginal Corporation supports the healing journeys of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people who have been separated from their families and cultures through forced removal, fostering, adoption and/or institutionalisation. We deliver professional, culturally sensitive and confidential research, reunion and cultural wellbeing services.

Link-Up (Qld) Aboriginal Corporation Caseworkers and Counsellors are experienced individuals who can assist in reuniting Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander families.

We also provide a referral service to the appropriate organisation or Government Department.

## Quick Facts

- Link-Up (Qld) is a FREE service
- We offer support before, during and after your family reunion
- We respect your privacy and treat all information confidentially
- Link-Up (Qld) runs a range of healing activities; camps, support groups, art, craft and music workshops
- We offer cultural renewal activities and support return to country

## Link-Up (Qld) ABORIGINAL CORPORATION OFFICES

### BRISBANE:

5 Reid Street WOOLLOONGABBA Q 4102  
PO Box 3229 SOUTH BRISBANE Q 4101  
Email: [contact@link-upqld.org.au](mailto:contact@link-upqld.org.au)  
Tel: (07) 3638 0411 Fax: (07) 3217 3458

### CAIRNS:

2/128 Spence Street, CAIRNS 4870  
PO Box 298 BUNGALOW Q 4870  
Tel: (07) 4041 7403

**Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/linkupqueensland](https://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  
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.

