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Link-Up (Qld)

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION®



Still Bringing Them Home

Chairperson - Sam Watson



Sam Watson

The 2018 Global Healing Our Spirit Worldwide has been an enriching and provoking experience. It was held in Sydney and there were Indigenous delegates from across the world. It was great to run into people I have not seen for a while and the panels and presentations were of the highest quality.

Much of the conference was very enjoyable, much of it was not. That was not the fault of the organisers or the army of keen young volunteers. It was just that much of the conference dialogue took me into a place where there was a real heaviness of spirit.

Firstly, I was concerned by the way in which many of the victims of the forced removal of young children, blamed themselves. They were the victims. They had been attacked by a vast and powerful global system that was designed to crush and destroy our people. The systematic and ongoing forced removal of small children is a coldblooded and intentional strategy to smash our indigenous peoples from the earth. The invader cultures need access to our lands and environs. The invaders are purely dedicated to profit and they will destroy everything in order to achieve their vile ends. Our people are not the perpetrators, they are the victims. Victims of an ongoing genocide.

Secondly, I was saddened by the fact that many of the groups frequently used their own languages, they danced their traditional dances and they conducted their traditional cultural practices. At one level that is a wonderful thing that they were able to do that. But at the opening ceremony we were seated close to many people who were stolen generations and they looked deeply shamed. That is not the fault of the other Indigenous delegates, more power to them. But again,



Front Cover:
Jennifer and Steven Hart at the
Healing Our Spirit Worldwide
Conference in Sydney 2018.

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.

our own mob are taking the blame for that loss of culture and dispossession upon themselves.

We have had the Royal Commission, we have had the National Apology and we have a wonderful network of agencies and front line programs to stand by and support our stolen generation mob; but we now must try to give them back those things that they have been denied at a cultural level. The sad truth is that thousands of those Elders and gatekeepers have died and they did not have the time to pass on that knowledge and that power of pure cultural practice. We have to step in now and close that gap.

We need to develop a national, accessible language that our mob can learn and speak. We must develop a treasury of dances, stories, songs and other cultural practices that can be used by our mob to construct a real and genuine cultural persona that they can carry to every corner of the globe. We all know that when we meet other mob our first greeting is – “whose your mob, what’s your language and where’s your country?!” Too many of our stolen gen mob look away in silent shame, because they just do not know.

We need to give to our mob the information and the practice they can use to define themselves as bona fide Aboriginal people. We need to give back to our stolen gen mob that true sense and knowledge of self. Deadly T shirts and painted faces may look good; but I really do want to build towards that day when I can run into my own mob and we can all talk in a language that was old and true, long before Jimmy Bloody Cook turned up on our sacred lands.



Correction to Nilisa Allen reunion story –
last 2 sentences of last paragraph on page 4 – of
Link-Up (Qld) Magazine Volume 34.
Link-Up (Qld) apologies for the error.

In Doomadgee we met cousin David Jnr, his father and my grandmother were siblings. David showed us the old oven that my great grandmother used to cook with to help feed the community.

CEO - Patricia Thompson



Patricia Thompson

Welcome to the final edition of our magazine for the year. As usual we have had a very busy year and staff are looking forward to a well deserved break over the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

2019 will not slow us down. Link-Up (Qld) will be celebrating 35 years of service to our

Stolen Generations clients and to our communities. Link-Up (Qld) was established in 1984, in response to community concern about the number of people searching for their families. Our people were removed due to past government policies. Policies and laws which saw us forcibly removed from our families, our communities, our country and culture with the aim of assimilating us - causing insurmountable hurt and pain.

Link-Up (Qld) was established prior to the 1987 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and the subsequent Bringing Them Home Enquiry and Report in 1997. Our important work continues to enhance the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by reuniting those who experienced forced separation – known as the Stolen Generations – we support their healing journeys and we are Still Bringing Them Home.

For Jennifer and Steven Hart though, we have not been able to find Sasha Mona Lisa Bond – Jennifer's only child - born on 6th April 1978 in Melbourne. Their story is one that lingers at Link-Up (Qld) and while we were never able to achieve the outcome we sought and the healing journey they grieve for – it strikes at the heart of what we do and the journey we travel with our clients.



Steven, Jennifer and Patricia at The Healing Our Spirit Worldwide Conference

The Healing Our Spirit Worldwide Conference was held in Sydney in November 2018. Link-Up (Qld) produced a video presentation titled: ***Searching for Sasha: Access Denied. The barriers in reunifying individuals and families of the Stolen Generations.*** The presentation highlights Jennifer and Steven's anguish about their lost daughter. It also highlights the barriers Link-Up (Qld) faced in accessing records in our search for Sasha Mona.

I want to acknowledge the tenacity of our Research Manager, Ms Ruth Loli for her dedication and commitment to Jennifer and Steven's case. Ruth spent 7 years doing intensive research, exhausting all research avenues, reluctantly a decision had to be made to close the case.

Jennifer and Steven's story is on page 8.

Cheryl Haines and Tarni Williams had the opportunity to attend the HOSW Conference in Sydney thanks to support from the Healing Foundation. This is what they said about being there:

"We both felt excited and apprehensive about the great opportunity to attend. We weren't sure what to expect. There is a great vibe and aura of love at the gathering. There is also a strong feeling of unity demonstrated through talking to people, listening to stories and sharing experiences. It seems that Indigenous people from around the world are learning to overcome the shameful ignorance and arrogance of our oppressors. It's emotional being here and we feel personally and culturally strengthened in our own healing journeys. We feel we are a part of a global cultural and healing awakening".



Tarni Williams and Cheryl Haines at the Conference

Brisbane Client Christmas Party





Cairns Client Christmas Party



Mt Isa Client Christmas Party



Townsville Client Christmas Party



Jennifer and Steve Hart - Cherbourg

Searching for Sasha: *Access Denied.*

The barriers in reunifying individuals and families of the Stolen Generations.



In 1978, Jennifer and Steven Hart had a daughter - that daughter, Jennifer's only child was taken away. 32 years later in 2010, Jennifer and Steven approached Link-Up (Qld) on one of our visits to Cherbourg and Jennifer signed up to be a client. Jennifer's request was straight forward; she stated poignantly in her application:

"I was born in Cherbourg. This process is about locating my daughter. She was born 7 April 1978 at Richmond Hospital, Victoria and taken away. I named her Sasha Mona Bond".

Jennifer's case is complex and it is unique. But it holds similarities with many of our clients in that it tells the story of Link-Up's service and the barriers Stolen Generations members face in accessing records to trace their histories and reunite with families - the trauma our clients go through in being separated and the disconnection that persists.

Finding Sasha was never going to be straight forward. Over the course of Jennifer's case, Link-Up (Qld) made extensive searches of many agencies. In total over 80 searches. We also embarked on a media effort in 2014 but this unfortunately did not yield any new leads.

Our Research Manager, Ms Ruth Loli has dedicated 7 years of intensive work on this case, exhausting all research avenues and despite these efforts, we were unable to uncover information about the circumstances of Sasha's separation - *what happened to her? - where did she go?*

Nor could we determine Sasha's current name, her identifying information, her whereabouts...we could locate nothing.

In some agencies, we made multiple searches over various years as we uncovered new leads or were unconvinced that a full and thorough search had been made. In other agencies, the outcome was unsatisfactory to an extent that we escalated the decision to the Freedom of Information Commissioner for review.

The complexity and difficulty in locating records in Jennifer's case falls behind two main barriers:

1. Agencies are fixed in their process and dictate a requirement of concrete details to make name based searches of their database only. However the details of Jennifer's case are hazy and there are a large number of variables in her case due to the exceptional circumstances and trauma surrounding the event. Searches need to be made applying a wide range of criteria but agencies are resistant and often unwilling to make a manual search of the records. The records are not on open access that we can search ourselves; the agencies essentially stand as gatekeepers.
2. Records have been destroyed or records have been withheld. What is demonstrated in this process is that privacy and confidentiality is only one element in determining access. Perhaps there is a layer of apprehension, an unease of what a release of information could lead to: **validation... accountability... compensation...?**

In 2013, we made a Freedom of Information application to Victoria Police seeking access to a 1978 Fitzroy

Police Station Staff List. This was the third FOI application we were to make to Victoria Police since the commencement of Jennifer's case in 2010. We were made aware of the List through liaison with a Sergeant at Fitzroy station who suggested the former officers on the list may have recollection of or be able to provide leads in Jennifer's case.

The official decision handed down by Victoria Police was that the Staff List does not exist. A further FOI application was made, this time with the proof of the list and with the named Sergeant willing to attest to the existence of the list, however, the decision remained the same and access was denied.

We brought the decision to the Office of the Freedom of Information Commissioner for review. Victoria Police made a submission in which it was stated, in part:

"... given the passage of time, and given the sensitive nature of the issues in question should current and former members of Victoria Police face questioning now, by the Applicant, regarding the application of government police in 1978, it is likely they will suffer distress and anxiety."

We were successful in our appeal and granted access to the Staff List in late 2014. It took 18 months to get one record.

A similar scenario played out with St Vincent's Hospital. Two FOI applications were made before escalating the matter to the Freedom of Information Commissioner. The Hospital was unyielding in their response that a patient name and a patient number is a requirement to make a search. A decision was handed down stating a record does not exist. This was based on a lack of time and resources to manually search Hospital archives; **it was stated that such a request would detract from the normal operations of the Hospital.**

This process from the initial FOI application spanned a period of 4 years and even with the involvement of the FOI Commissioner, we were unable to influence an outcome.

It is possible a record for Jennifer still lies there.

Our service at Link-Up (Qld) is guided by the **heart**. We honour our client's stories. We hold empathy for their experience and trauma. We provide services to facilitate healing. But agencies are so often riddled in red tape and there is **no heart** to meet client needs.

But it doesn't just come down to the agencies, it comes down to the individuals who are the agency contact points, the Freedom of Information officers or similar, who choose to block the process, be it through **idleness, racism** or through a **mere lack of initiative**.

They are the gatekeepers.

But just as there are gatekeepers, there are also individuals with heart, such as the Sergeant at Fitzroy station. He continued to assist in Jennifer's case for 5 years, going above and beyond his course of duties, making various enquiries and identifying new leads. At the time of Jennifer's case closure in 2017, he wrote an email, in part he said:

"...can I only suggest that an approach be made..... with your story as it is a compelling one. As I have said to you before, she woke up somewhere this morning! I am sorry that I could not assist further with the matter and sorry about the ongoing sadness of your clients. It is often on my mind."

It has been 20 years since the findings of the Bringing them Home Report and access to records is still a broken system for Stolen Generations people. The Australian Government states a commitment to the reunification of families yet problems accessing the records we require persists.

Jennifer and Steven Hart's daughter is still out there somewhere - she will have celebrated her 40th birthday.

We need to open the path that she can find her way home.



Steven and Jennifer's wedding day at Cherbourg.

Skye Shannon Reunion - Gold Coast

“About 60 Aboriginal Children are being taken away every month by child protection services. They are being taken away at numbers not seen since the Stolen Generations.” - Dr Djiniyini Gondarra



Lorraine Malcolm and Skye Shannon.

My name is Skye Shannon and I am 27 years old. I found out about Link-Up (Qld) through Bahloo Women's Youth Shelter and in 2014 became a client of Link-Up (Qld) to find my birth mother Lorraine Malcolm.

I was born at Rockhampton Queensland and was 'given up' a few days after my birth. I grew up living on the Gold Coast, Queensland with a white single English woman. Until this year I was blinded by the words that I had heard my whole life growing up from my 'white mum'.

I grew up not knowing my family, culture and country and had a hard time feeling proud of being an Aboriginal person. This made me feel like I didn't belong

anywhere. People would ask me questions like, "why do you have a white Mother?" The next question was "is your Dad black?" Sometimes I still don't have the answers.

I grew up very lonely. I learnt things by reading books and going to school. You can never stop learning and learning gave me strength. I have two young daughters Salah and Zalie and I want my jarjums to believe that they can be smart and that I am able to help and support them.

When I received my Research document, I was surprised by the amount of information Link-Up (Qld) provided. Reading my Research and Family Tree with all the family names and places has been incredible. Knowing I have family connections in places like Blackwater, Burketown, Cherbourg, Doomadgee, Eidsvold, Emerald, Mornington Island, Palm Island, Rockhampton and Woorabinda is mindboggling. It is also sad knowing that some of those places were not good places for my people due past policies and legislation. I love having the knowledge of my connections as it has given me a sense of belonging to my Aboriginal family, to culture and to country. Being a mother, I will always keep the culture going and the information I have I will give to my children. How I see it is that not to share knowledge is selfish. Knowledge is there to pass onto others to share and is the key to our future.

The day and night before my Reunion to meet my birth mother, I was a tangle of emotions. However, I needed to go through with the Reunion for myself



Skye and Lorraine spending time together.



and for my girls, as this meeting was my connection to my identity, history and future. I relied on my daughters Salah and Zalie to keep me occupied and out of an extreme depressive state of mind.

The morning of my Reunion I turned to Facebook for support from my friends. My friends' positive messages of support helped me to venture out of the Meriton and walk to the Southport Broadwater Parklands to prepare for meeting my birth mother.

When the Reunion happened, it was surreal. Here I was 27 years old and here we were looking at each other. I knew at that moment I wanted to hug her. Salah knew what was happening and baby Zalie sensed it, as the emotions swirled around. They accepted their grandmother Lorraine as 'brown Mum'. My daughters are my greatest comfort, my rock, my world, my saviours and I am extremely grateful for having them with me at my Reunion.

I felt connected to my mother and happy to meet her face to face and in the month of October virtually for the first time since birth I spent time with my blood mother thanks to Link-Up (Qld). Meeting Lorraine



confirmed what I had been told by Gold Coast locals about my existence is true.

I felt safe and well supported by Link-Up (Qld) staff members, Research Manager Ruth Loli, Counsellor Christine Reeves and Caseworkers Jessie Cobbo and Sharron Jackson. I definitely recommend to anyone searching for family who have been disconnected through the foster system, adoption or Stolen Generation to connect with Link-Up (Qld). In many ways Link-Up (Qld) staff are like family to me. Without Link-Up (Qld) I might never have gotten to know that my mother is Lorraine Malcolm, who my family are or where I come from. Special thanks to Ruth, Christine and Sharron for everything as they have been amazing through the ups and downs of my journey.

At this stage I'm not sure about where to from here as there is limited support from my biological family which makes me sad. There's a possibility that I might in the future get to meet more family as I know experiencing that will add to my girls and my Identity. In the meantime, I am thankful that my daughter Salah's father Wayne King and his family continue to be my family and my support at the Gold Coast. Thank you.



Lorraine, Skye's daughters Salah and Zalie and Skye.

Edna Stewart Reunion - Yarrabah



Edna Stewart, her sister Gloria meeting new family member for the first time in Yarrabah.

My name is Edna Eileen Stewart born to parents Albert Stewart and Margaret Jingle. I reside in Mornington Island, but my home is Burketown. My father passed away when I was very young, my mother was pregnant with my sister Gloria at the time. I joined Link-Up (Qld) after my sister Gloria Gavenor completed her reunion with LUQ to Cloncurry to learn more about our father. I decided then to search our mothers side Margaret Jingle. Knowing we had a big family and knew a lot of them, I always knew there were more family out there who I was yet to meet.

Once my research was completed I received a call by Kathleen Bobongie and Joshua Thompson from Link-Up (Qld) in Cairns who delivered it to me over the phone and sent it via Australia post to Christabel Stafford one of our community workers on Mornington Island.

From the research we found out there was family in Yarrabah. Joshua Thompson (LUQ Caseworker) and Daniel Houtman (LUQ Counsellor) planned for my sister Gloria and I to travel to Yarrabah to meet our family. Our Travels started on the 17th of October 2017 where we boarded a plane from Mornington to Normanton then Normanton to Cairns. Once we arrived in Cairns Daniel and Joshua was at the airport to pick us up and take us straight to KFC before checking into our accommodation. It was a long day for us travelling from Mornington to Cairns but we had very comfortable rooms. Daniel also stayed at the accommodation, so he was just a phone call away if needed. We spoke to our brother Ossie to see if he could attend our reunion the following day which he agreed to.



Edna Stewart with her brother Ossie and her sister Gloria.



Edna and Gloria at Yarrabah



Meeting Family

On Thursday the 18th of October it was a big day for Gloria and I, meeting with family we never met before for the first time. Daniel and Joshua took us to pick up brother Ossie and start our drive to Yarrabah. I was nervous to meet my family but I was also nervous of the Yarrabah range. Back in the 1970s I was going over to Yarrabah but the range had stopped me I told my friend who was driving on the range to turn around if not I will hop out and walk back, I laugh about it now. Joshua told me that the range is good these days and he is a good driver.

Once we conquered the range (which wasn't as bad as I thought) Joshua and Daniel took us to the Yarrabah museum, in there we seen artefacts that reminded us of home. We then went straight to the beachfront which was a beautiful site, we met with Shane Wallace (LUQ Caseworker) and Kathleen Bobongie (Regional Manager) whom had a beautiful lunch set out and some family members with them. We embraced and started yarning about our family. I also had copies of my research to show and discuss whilst other family members started coming in, by the end of the day there was over 20 of us all together, young and old. It was lovely to meet all of them and made us feel welcome, some family members said they want to visit us in Mornington, we look forward to it.



Before we left Yarrabah we went to the Old Yarrabah Cemetery to pay our respects. Buried in there is our Grandmother's sister's daughter. We spread rose petals and laid a beautiful floral wreath.



Our journey to Yarrabah to meet our family was lovely and we hope to see them all again someday.

Big thank you to Link-Up (Qld) and for all they have done, from finding my research to planning my reunion.

Daniel and Joshua took us back to the airport the next day, we had a good laugh, then said our good byes before boarding the plane back to Mornington Island.



Paying our respects at Old Yarrabah Cemetery.



Ossie spreading rose petals.

Irwin Ambrym Reunion - Mossman



Irwin Ambrym at Yalanjiwarranga Juljal burial place

My name is Irwin Blake Ambrym, I was born in Cairns and I currently live in Townsville. I am the eldest son of Harry Walker Ambrym and Janet Ethel Ambrym/Kynuna of Yarrabah.

I am the oldest grandson who wanted to find out more information about my grandparents of both my mother and father's side. My father's parents were John Allenby Ambrym and Valmai Walker and my mother's parents were James Victor Kynuna and Margaret Anne Creed. I approached Link-Up (Qld) with the hope of finding out as much as possible about the history of my family heritage and descendants.

The Link-Up (Qld) Research Officers that are based in Brisbane provided me with my family history. It gave me hope that I may have the opportunity to gain the knowledge and information about my countrymen. The extensive research and family heritage as

well as copies of photos that was provided gave me a strong and close connection with my family and cultural heritage. Once all this information was given to me, Caseworker Shane Wallace was able to make all the arrangements for a reunion. The reunion would take me back to the Daintree Aboriginal Cemetery where my Father's mother's mother's parents were buried. My great-great grandparents Old Kooka (born 1856 died 1951) and Topsy Kokoe (born 1876 died 1942) was the location for my reunion.

Travelling from Townsville to Cairns by plane and then driving to Mossman was exciting, going back to Kuku Yalanji country. My partner and support person Cecilia Cannon and I jumped off the plane and we were warmly greeted by Shane Wallace and SEWB Counsellor, Daniel Houtman from Link-Up (Qld) Cairns office. We all travelled to the accommodation in Mossman and along the way I had a strong feeling of strength and a sense of belonging, going back on country and paying my respects to my great-great grandparents. Leaving Mossman we continued our journey to Daintree Village where Link-Up (Qld) had arranged a wonderful lunch at the village. After lunch we took a short drive to the resting place of my great-great grandparents Old Kooka and Topsy Kokoe. This sacred resting place for many of the Kuku Yalanji people is called Yalanjiwarranga Juljal burial place.

I felt very emotional and proud being back on country and standing on sacred ground. I felt a deep connection with all my ancestors here and I was glad that my partner Cecelia Cannon was by my side on this special journey. Shane Wallace and Daniel Houtman took many photos capturing this special time here on this memorable day.



Irwin and his partner Cecelia Cannon



The next day we visited the famous Mossman Gorge and there I learnt more about my Kuku Yalanji culture on a rainforest tour. Our tour guide was Mooks and his knowledge of the bush medicines found on country was amazing and deadly. I caught up with Mooks after the tour and took some photos and I will see him next time I return back to country. I also met some park rangers from the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation in Mossman and made some family connections there as well.

This completed my reunion and on our final day we travelled back to Cairns to catch the plane home to Townsville. My reunion was a gift from Link-Up (Qld) and I have a lot to be thankful for and felt very blessed and grateful for the opportunities I've had. Throughout the journey I experienced mixed emotions of happiness and gladness. I also felt a strong sense of connection and belonging to my countrymen.



I want to thank Cecilia Cannon for accompanying me back to country and paying respects to my family members who have since passed away. I would like to acknowledge the Link-Up (Qld) organisation and Cairns staff members Shane Wallace and Daniel Houtman for organising my reunion. I thank them for their effort in helping me to prepare for a special journey in paying my respects to my great-great grandparents in returning back to country.

Thank you Link-Up (Qld).



Irwin and Cecelia at Cairns



Irwin, Cecelia and LUQ staff Shane Wallace and Daniel Houtman

Norman Walton Reunion - Cloncurry



Norman Walton and his sister Marlene at Cloncurry

My name is Norman James Walton and I lived and worked on Palm Island all my life. My parents were Henry Walton and Betty Walton (nee Nardoo) and we were a big family but some of my siblings have since passed away. I was only 8 or 9 years old when mum left the island and dad continued to look after us.

I didn't know anything much about my grandparents on both my parent's side. The search for my heritage began when a couple of my friends told me about Link-Up (Qld) and so I approached a Caseworker in 2016. It made me feel good that someone was going to help me find my family. I initially wanted to search for my dad's father Willie Walton and was told that he was from around the Kuranda area.

I first met the Link-Up (Qld) Caseworker Sylvia Wright while she was on Palm Island. Sylvia had a letter and a family tree done by the Link-Up research mob. When she showed me the research, there wasn't just few names, but many names on my mother's heritage on both sides through her parents. I was hoping to see more information on dad's side about my grandfather Willie Walton heritage. However,

there was much more information about my mother's heritage through her parents. I was trying to understand how the family tree works as there were too many names. It wasn't easy to follow. The caseworker decided to fold the paper in half and concentrate on my mother's heritage. Sylvia traced the lineage on the family tree with a highlighter starting with myself to my mother Betty Nardoo then her mother Nancy Smith, her parents Alick Smith and Topsy and then Alick's parents Monkey Smith and Sophie. There were four generations with connections to a place called Canobie Station. Canobie Station was out west somewhere near Cloncurry. I was the fifth generation on the family tree.

Turning the page over, we traced mum's father heritage. The family tree had all these names of my extended families that I didn't know. I was thinking maybe their children were still alive. Unfortunately, on dad's side the research couldn't find any family heritage on my grandfather Willie Walton. After putting my head around all this information, Sylvia said did you want to meet anyone from the family tree and do a reunion from my maternal Grandparent's heritage.



Meeting Aunty Kay Douglas and her children.



Going over my research



I chose my grandmother's side. Further research had to be done to look for any living descendants.

Nine months later I received a call from Link-Up (Qld) advising that the research was completed with descendants on mum's side. After reading the research by phone, Sylvia said that to do a family reunion we could discuss the options in person at the Mungalla Healing Camp being held in Ingham in the following month. The second family tree had many names listed as the descendants of my great Great Grandparents Alick Smith and Topsy. I was excited as there were many options of who to meet. I decided on the descendants of Ethel and Reginald Douglas. Sylvia said she would look into finding out if there were any living descendants and get back to me. Three months later Sylvia rang and informed me that she had made connections to living relatives from the Douglas family in Cloncurry.

A family reunion was organised and we commenced our journey to Cloncurry. My sister Marlene was my support person and we flew from Palm Island to Townsville to meet up with Link-Up (Qld) Regional Manager Kathy Bobongie. All three of us flew to Mount Isa together and Sylvia was waiting there to pick us up at the airport. Next day we travelled to Cloncurry and went straight to the Mary Kathleen Park. It was here that Marlene and I were introduced to Auntie Kay Douglas and two of her sons Norman, Brian and his daughter. Norman and Brian's father Uncle John Douglas who is now deceased is the son of Ethel and Reginald Douglas. We also met another family member Lynette, daughter of Phyllis Hudd my grandmother's other sister.

Although it was a very hot day we all sat down at the table under the shaded area so that I could share my research information with the family. It felt good to be able to meet my Grandmother Nancy Smith's family. Auntie Kay shared some photos as well and also told us that we could go to the cemetery to visit some family gravesites. Next day we went to visit the gravesites to pay our respects and place flowers of those who passed away from the Douglas and Hudd family. It was sad leaving the cemetery of the family we never knew and met. It was hard and very emotional.

I would like to thank Link-Up (Qld) for the opportunity to travel out west to do this family reunion. My sister Marlene and I acknowledge the support given by Link-Up (Qld) staff and thank them for making this healing journey possible. We have found missing links to our mother's side of the family and hope to maintain this connection between Palm Island and Cloncurry.



Norman Douglas, Lynette Hudd, John and Kay Douglas

National Redress Scheme

The National Redress Scheme is in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

National Redress Scheme Line -1800 737 377

On the 22nd October 2018, many people were able to attend or view the Prime Minister's, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, apology to victims and survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. A copy of the apology is now available for you to order either through the following email address: nationalapology@ag.gov.au or you can order through the website:

<https://www.nationalapologyconsultation.gov.au>

- click the link under events. On the page there is a form you can fill in for the order. The National Apology team have said that supplies are there, but they will only be available until they run out.

Commemorative items available to order: a hard copy of the National Apology, a DVD, a keychain, a lapel pin and a ribbon.

At the National Apology in Canberra, there were memory books available for people to write their thoughts, reflections and comments in about the day. The National Apology team is still open to having anyone wanting their words written into the memory books. This can be done through sending a copy of your words through to their email:

nationalapology@ag.gov.au

Updates for the National Redress Scheme processes.

Queensland Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Di Farmer has announced that Queensland's participation in the National Redress Scheme will commence from the 19th of November 2018.

The Northern Territory Attorney General and Minister for Justice Natasha Fyles announced that the National Redress Scheme will begin on the 16th November 2018 in the Northern Territory.

Legislation has passed for the Tasmanian and South Australian Governments. Commencement dates have yet to be announced. The Western Australian Government is still going through the legislative process but will be participating within a few months.

Applications can be made anytime; however, the institution will need to have finished the opt in process for applications to be completed. For non-government

institutes the legislative and operational process are as follows:

1. The institute must provide current and historic physical locations.
2. Prove that they can be operational which will include administrative and financial aspects
3. Complete training provided by the Department of Social Services.

This process can take between three to six months. Institutes are being encouraged by the Australian Government to join the National Redress Scheme and be involved in making amends for the past wrongs that have occurred. Institutes can opt in up until the 30th June 2020.

The online application has been upgraded so it will be easier for people to fill this in online through a mygov account: <https://my.gov.au>

Part three of the application process is being changed. Applicants will have the choice whether they want to share part three with the institute involved. The application itself will be changing soon to address this choice. Existing applications both online and hard copy are still being allowed to be submitted.

Up to date information is available on the website: <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/> At the bottom of the home page there is a link to be able to subscribe to the newsletter which is sent out on a regular basis for current information and future changes.

Link-Up (Qld) has been travelling to remote locations ensuring that the National Redress Scheme information is available to all communities.

Link-Up (Qld) provides support for people to apply for redress and while they are waiting of the offer to be made. Link-Up (Qld) offers Counselling, face-to-face support, healing and culturally appropriate support for Indigenous Australians.



Uncle Alfred's Men's Group - Townsville

Sarina/Mackay Outreach Visit



Link-Up (Qld) Caseworkers Shane Wallace and Joshua Thompson from the Cairns Office and Julie Pemberton, Specialist Support Counsellor for National Redress Scheme from the Brisbane Office recently visited Sarina and Mackay to promote LUQ.



In Sarina we visited Mudth-Niyleta Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation and in Mackay with most of the Indigenous service organisations. Mackay's own Indigenous Radio Station My105fm which is central to all of the organisations in Mackay, kindly offered LUQ the use of their board room to showcase LUQ via visual presentation of our staff and their roles as well as oral histories and reunion stories of our clients.

Julie presented information about the National Redress Scheme for those who experienced institutional child sexual abuse. The Queensland Government has now passed legislation joining up to the National Redress Scheme, so individuals who are eligible can now access the scheme. Julie provided her contact details in our Brisbane Office for those wanting to apply or looking for information about the scheme.



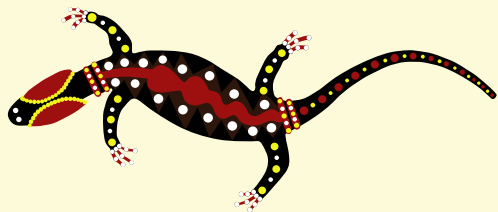
LUQ Caseworker Joshua Thompson and Julie Wallis



Julie Pemberton - Specialist Support Counselor

LUQ would like to thank all those in attendance at our presentation and for making us feel very welcome. We are looking forward to having a strong relationship with you all and creating a client base in the region making regular visits.

Shane and Joshua continued on to Townsville, following up with client visits and a Client Christmas party at Sizzlers. Clients were happy to share with others, their reunion journeys connecting with family and country.



Link-Up (Qld)

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION ®

Still Bringing Them Home



Link-Up (Qld) Office Closure 20/12/2018 - 02/01/2019

These services are 24 hour helplines should you require counselling or support during the Christmas/New Year period.

- * Lifeline 24 hour Crisis Line 131114
- * Suicide Call-Back 1300 659 467
- * Kids Helpline (under 25 years and under) 1800 55 1800
- * DVConnect Womensline 1800 811 811
- * Mensline Australia 24 hours 1300 789 978
- * Blue Knot Foundation 1300 657 380
- * SANE 1800 187 263

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
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

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

Toll Free: 1800 200 855 from landlines

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