

Link-Up (Qld)

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

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Still Bringing Them Home

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Chairperson Ken Murphy

I'm delighted to present the first edition of our magazine for 2024, resuming our regular quarterly publications.

This issue is filled with reunion stories that highlight the essential work of Link-Up (Qld) in reuniting our Stolen Generations with their families, country, and culture.

Post-COVID, we have noticed a significant increase in the number of Indigenous people passing away.

There are serious concerns about the impact of COVID-19 on our people's overall health and its potential contribution to these deaths.

It seems that every day, or certainly every month, we are attending funeral services for family and community members across the state.

Our sincere condolences go out to those who have recently lost loved ones.

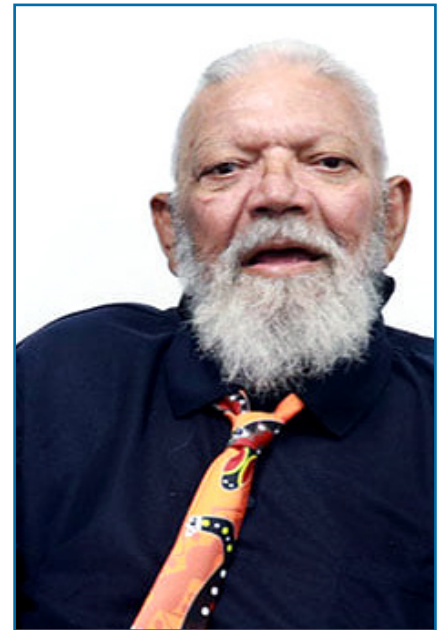
I want to highlight that our staff provides support to survivors of child sexual abuse in institutions who are eligible for the National Redress Scheme.

Recognising this is an important opportunity for affected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in their healing process, we emphasise that applications must be submitted before 30 June 2027.

Our Redress Counsellors can assist you with completing your application and will continue supporting you throughout the process.

Additionally, our staff can assist individuals eligible for the Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme.

This scheme acknowledges the harm and trauma experienced by



Stolen Generations survivors who were removed from their families or communities in the Northern Territory, ACT, or Jervis Bay Territory.

Contact our friendly staff for more information.

The Link-Up (Qld) Board of Directors commends our staff for the excellent work they continue to deliver through challenging times and circumstances.

Lastly, I'd like to acknowledge the enormous contributions of Wilfred 'Willie' Prince to our organisation. Willie was a Board Director of Link-Up (Qld) for over ten years before his retirement at the end of 2023.

His active involvement has played a pivotal role in many of our achievements, particularly in improving service accessibility for people with disabilities.

Thank you for your service, Willie. I wish you well in retirement.

Ken



This issue's cover story

Tina Gibson has written her story in remembrance of her grandfather, Ernest Harris.

Full story on page 4.

Disclaimer

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

CEO Patricia Thompson AM



It's been a very busy start to 2024, and we are pleased to share highlights from the beginning of the year, including tributes, reunion stories, staff updates, and colourful photographs in this edition of our quarterly magazine.

This year marks a significant milestone in Link-Up (Qld)'s history as we celebrate 40 years of supporting Stolen Generations survivors and their descendants in reconnecting with family, country, and culture through family history research and reunions.

We are planning a Gala Dinner toward the end of the year to showcase the resilience of our clients, their journeys, and the vital work Link-Up (Qld) continues to do 40 years on.

I am pleased to see the Queensland State Government has established the Truth Telling and Healing Inquiry and the First Nations Treaty Institute Council. We look forward to meeting with members of the Inquiry so they can hear directly from our people affected by past government removal policies, understand how their lives have been impacted, and

learn what their healing journey may look like during this process. Queensland and Western Australia are the only states yet to introduce a Stolen Generations Redress Scheme.

We hope the Inquiry will hear our Stolen Generations on this issue and make representations to the Queensland State Government to consider this matter urgently.

Too many of our Stolen Generations are passing away younger and younger without receiving any form of redress for the terrible suffering they endured due to past government policies on the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

Link-Up (Qld)'s Apology Day event was held at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC).

We appreciate the support of CEO Mr John Kotzas and his team for hosting and livestreaming the event, allowing people in regional, rural, and remote areas to view it.

Eddie Conlon and Jem Cassar-Daley delivered outstanding music performances.

It was great to have Professor Mick Dodson AM share a video message about his experience as a Commissioner on the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families, culminating in the landmark Bringing Them Home Report tabled in the Federal Parliament on 26th May 1997.

Sadly, many key recommendations from this report have still not been implemented.

We were honoured to have Pat Anderson AO as the Keynote Speaker.

Pat, a high-profile Australian human rights and social justice advocate, worked tirelessly on the 2023 Voice to Parliament Referendum.

She captivated the audience with her mother's story as a Stolen Generation survivor in

Kahlin Compound, Darwin.

Kahlin Compound was an institution for "part-Aboriginal" people in Darwin between 1913 and 1939.

Pat's family eventually lived in Queensland, making it fitting for her to share her story with us.

We also wish to honour the legacy of Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG, a remarkable leader and advocate for Indigenous Australians who sadly passed away in February this year.

Her lifelong contributions to improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and her tireless efforts in advancing their rights and well-being have left an indelible mark on our nation.

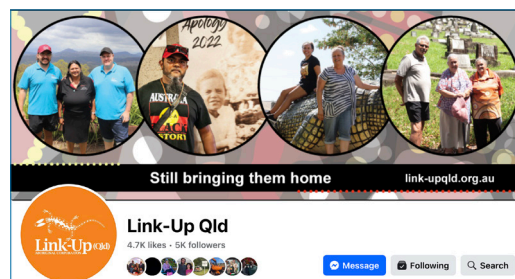
Her legacy continues to inspire us all.

You can read more about Dr O'Donoghue in our special tribute within this edition.

As we continue our journey in 2024, we are committed to working with our communities, partners, and government to ensure that the voices of the Stolen Generations are heard, their stories are honoured, and their needs are addressed.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our cause.

Pat



You can find Link-Up (Qld) on Facebook:
facebook.com/linkupqueensland

Reunion Story: Tina Gibson

Tina Gibson has written her story in remembrance of her grandfather, Ernest Harris, who was born on Yallock Station in the Griffith area of New South Wales on 6 December 1917 and died in Griffith on 2 September 1973.



I was born on 9th May 1969. In my beginning I had a mother, Lenore Valerie Page, from Mununjali mob in Beaudesert, south east Queensland, and my father, James Fredrick Gibson, from Condobolin, in the mid-west of New South Wales,.

My grandfather, Ernest Harris, was born on Block 12, Nericon Village, north of Griffith in New South Wales.

He was a shearer and died aged 55-years-old.

Born to John Harris (the second son) and Mother Mary Williams, he was one of nine children.

Great Grandfather John later had a son to Pearl Eade in Griffith, on the 9th of December 1953, who was the last surviving of the children, even though a half brother to the rest.

I went to meet him and my cousin Stacy O' Hara, granddaughter of Thelma Harris (Grandfathers sister).

Look this could be a long and tedious story, but the way I look at it is I was raised by my father, James, from about the age of six, or about 1975 or 1976, on his own as Mum had left.

My two younger brothers, Mark born in 1970, and Neville in 1973, grew up with me.

Dad worked most of the time as a bricklayer/trade worker.

We used to go to Wollongong to visit Dad's Aunty Mary on his mother's side, as she had raised him from a young boy or even a baby because his mother, my grandmother Alice Maude Gibson, didn't marry the father, my grandfather Ernest Harris, of her first child.

Aunty Mary married and had five children of her own, but became sick so my father, who was known as James Coe at the time, and his cousin (Uncle) Gregory were taken to The Westmead Boys Home.

The Home was an orphanage for about 200 homeless, parentless boys run by St Vincent De Paul.

The cousins spent five years growing up there, from 1952 to 1957.

It was a place of living off the land and learning, from the St Vincent Brotherhood, how to live and pray every day, morning, and night at 6pm.

They had a piggery, dairy, footy oval, and boxing, swimming, cricket competitions.

A pig they once raised in the piggery even won an award at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Dad was good at his studies and cut hair in their own Barber Shop.



He became an altar boy too. When my father left he became an apprentice bricklayer back in Wollongong at the Wollongong Steel Works Port Kembla.

After five years working and studying at the Wollongong TAFE, he had top results.

In his third year he was Apprentice of the Year, beating fourth and fifth year apprentices, to win a one-month holiday on the Hawkesbury River, north of Sydney.

Dad did not know his mother (Alice Maude Gibson) growing up, until he went to see her at the age of about 21-22 years old.

She was living on a farm with grape vines and children and a white man named Jack Winch, who was a shearer.

He hunted Dad away with his shotgun, but at least Dad knew he had two half-brothers and four half-sisters.

He did not meet his father, Ernest, until he was 27-28 years old.

He told me himself, sitting around the table, what he knew about his family.

He said he found him when he saw an article in a newspaper in Wollongong which had a story of a man who lost his legs from the knee down after rescuing people from a house fire near Griffith.

Dad went to see him in hospital – he must have known from his mother and/or aunty what his father's name was.

So Dad went to see him and took a photo of him in a wheelchair and of the three paintings of landscapes he had done while in hospital.

Grandfather Ernest asked him at the time if Dad could take him out in the wheelchair, but Dad said no, "because you never did anything for me".

It was too much pain and confrontation for a young person on their first and only meeting.

I believe it was too much pain that Dad held in for too long.

Grandmother Alice did come to visit us at Christmas time in about

1981, but she died in 1982 in Wollongong.

We went to the funeral with Dad.

I remember having a sleepover and Dad coming to take me to Wollongong in the middle of the night.

Thereafter only one of his half-sisters died the oldest one named June – she a very wholesome person, a real genuine person, with a soft, fun heart.

She had two children.

Dad went on and retired, but suffered kidney failure, mental health problems and Type 2 diabetes.

He passed away from the kidney dialysis treatment after 10 years.

He died on his father's – my grandfather's – birthday in 2018.

I was living in Brisbane and had travelled a bit, as Dad believed in knowing your own country.

It is what made me think of not being afraid to travel and enjoy travelling as he had.

Now time has come for me to find Dad's side of the family as I had moved up here to Brisbane, met my mother, lived in the area and met my cousins, aunts and uncles.

We knew my Dad's side was going to be harder to find.

We knew Grandfather Ernest had died years ago.

My brother had even visited the gravesite, he had a photo and the number of the gravesite from information on the cemetery computer files.

We found out he had died the same year as my young brother was born, in 1973.

Now the time had come that I should visit his grave too.

Continues...



Link-Up (Qld) helped me to achieve this, and to find out about my father's beginnings and my grandfather's identity.

I'm so happy my youngest brother went to visit Grandfather's grave, maybe five years ago.

The next step was to find family still living in Griffith.

Link-Up (Qld) Caseworker Kerry and Researcher Michelle suggested we email the Griffith Aboriginal Medical Centre as it was a service most Aboriginal people would use, and they would know names of families in the area.

Kerry told me a few days later the medical centre had found a descendant of the Harris family, and she was willing to meet.

I just screamed out, "Yes!" – after all these years we had found someone,

I couldn't believe it.

It was a joyous, happy relief for me, I'd been waiting and wanting to meet someone from my father's side of the family for years, and it was finally going to happen.

Kerry, Link-Up (Qld) Counsellor Christine and I travelled to Griffith to meet Stacey and my Great Aunt Thelma.

I was so excited those few weeks leading up to the evening meeting over dinner in Griffith.

My younger brother Neville was also able to travel to Griffith, but my middle brother Mark could not make it.

We all checked into the motel and that night we went to meet Stacey who had brought uncles, aunts and cousins to meet us over dinner.

We all exchanged photos and catch

up stories of Grandfather Ernest and his brother, David Eade, who we visited at his house the next day. He told us his story, and the history of the property he was living on, and the sad circumstances his of losing his wife and children.

Now me and my brothers have a place to come back to, a place to call home, where family connections have been made in the town of Griffith.

I am forever grateful to Link-Up (Qld) and all the wonderful people involved.

My brothers and I will go back to visit.

Now I have found out, our family and mob is Ngiyampaa Wangaaypuwan (pronounced Wongaihon), originally from the Hillston and Lachlan River area of New South Wales.



Reunion Story: Bernard Allen

Bernard Allen was born and raised in Logan City and worked as a social worker for 20 years before becoming a Link-Up (Qld) client.

I left school in grade 10 and entered the workforce, he writes.

It was only when I was in my early 20's that I completed my senior certificate, and I went to university to study social work.

I have worked in social work for 20 years.

I now live with my wife and two beautiful daughters in Burrum Heads, near Hervey Bay.

I was trying to help my mum make sense of her past and her story.

I was conducting family research as she had very little understanding of her family tree.

I contacted Link-Up (Qld) for tips on family research with no intention of becoming a client, but Christine encouraged me to apply.

It felt like a long process (years) and I felt that an important part of myself and my daughters journey was coming to an end.

I also knew that my story will continue to be written until I die, and then passed on to my children.

I genuinely did not know what to expect when we finally went home, and didn't want to go with set expectations.

I guess my main feeling was calmness.

When I got off the plane and put my feet on the grass outside Dubbo Airport, I know I was on Country and home.



This sense of calmness stayed with me throughout the trip.

My wife Jennifer was my support person on my reunion, she has been such a support throughout my journey.

I am so grateful I would not be at this point in my journey without her support – it was a reconnection to Country, which I found.

I also hoped to connect with Elders, which I did through Uncle Frank, also known as RiverBank Frank.

I was blessed to spend time with Uncle who was gracious enough to allow me to return with a jar of Wiradjuri soil.

Community and graveside reunion, we were fortunate enough to meet people related to my ancestors as well as attend the graveside of my great great grandparents Elizabeth Burns and James Thomas.

It had been more than 30 years since I had stepped on Wiradjuri Country and was deeply humbling and spiritual to be able to return and feel the land under my feet.

My feelings after the reunion, I felt inner peace, knowing I had reconnected with country and that this would now form a significant part of my life and my daughters stories moving forward.

Also gratitude to Country welcoming me back, Uncle Frank for his open arms, Link-Up (Qld) for genuinely providing that link in my journey that would have otherwise been severed.

Do I plan on going back or reconnecting again?

Absolutely, every year or two and with my family.

Also return to Country on behalf of my mother, who has limited mobility, and return with stories and pictures of her past and her memories.

I'd like to thank everyone at Link-Up (Qld), especially Christine and Kerry: you will forever be in my heart.



And the Link-Up (Qld) researchers, who work in the background with such amazing skill and professionalism.

My wife, who has walked this journey with me.

Uncle Frank Doolan, RiverBank Frank, for welcoming me with such love and acceptance.

Auntie Debra Clark, my cultural support, mentor and friend.

The Butchulla men, who have welcomed me into their community, and on whose land I am privileged to live, work and raise my family.

My mother Valerie, who did not know the privileges I grew up with, and the love I took for granted as an adult.

I also wish to acknowledge the intergenerational trauma we all live with as Indigenous people.

This is particularly relevant for Link-Up (Qld) staff who work daily in this space of such trauma and hurt in support of our mob connecting with what was lost as they walk that journey with them.

Reunion Story: Carmel Farrell

Carmel Farrell wondered who she was for much of her life until she and her daughter started work on their family tree, ultimately leading to an emotional journey back to her homelands.

My name is Carmel Farrell, born in Meanjin – Brisbane – in 1946 as Carmel Hendrick (and, after adoption, Carmel Sutton).

I now know that I am a strong, resilient Guwamu/Kooma woman from Bollon, walking in the tracks of my ancestors, linked back to great grandmother Lucy Sheridan and Nana Emily Foster.

My journey has never been easy, it has been a painful and at times tormented path, that has taken me many years to be able to share and find peace.

My children are my family, my mob, and it is through them that I have found love, courage and pride in myself.

This experience has finally allowed me to tell my story, and to really feel at home with my Mob, People Country – it has taken me nine months to be able to put this reflection together due to the deep emotions that are stirred.

From a very young age I wondered where I came from but I grew up in a complex family dynamic which made it challenging to ask questions and learn about who I am.

I knew I was different to the rest of my family, my step siblings had very white skin, where mine was dark.

When I was 12 years old, I found adoption papers in my parents room stating that I was adopted by my stepfather and mother.

Asking my mother about my adoption didn't go well so I decided to not ask any questions until I had my own money to purchase official birth certificates.



I have faint recollections of Nana Emily visiting with Auntie Phyllis and cousins Merv and Sandra when I was a very young child living with my maternal grandmother.

We played and yarned and shared much love.

They were always dressed in their Sunday best clothes, including hat and gloves.

But eventually these visits became less and less as I was moved back home to my mother to help care for younger new siblings.

Last time I saw Merv and my biological father Fred Henrick was at Uncle Albert's funeral.

Life was hard for us all, living on a rural block in Capalaba, Brisbane. Living conditions were harsh with mud floors, open slab style house with potato sacks as window coverings.

But it was particularly difficult as a dark skinned daughter, with white brothers and sisters, living with a tormented, violent WWII ex-serviceman as my stepfather.

I have been married twice over my long years, trying to find family, happiness and love.

Firstly, at the age of 16 years, to Lou Farrell, an Ipswich-born older man who was also from a difficult family background.

I have seven children – Wayne, Michael, David, Peter, Sharon, Jonathon and adopted son, Darren Gardiner.

I then remarried for 12 years to Don Michell, the son of a Lightning Ridge sheep farmer.

My children were dark skinned and have always identified, just never knew the family background details.

We were surrounded by an extended mob of family friends and got on with life to survive.

My children always faced harsh racism through school and life, and we tried to find peace with the horrible 'imposter syndrome' where you know you are black but do not know your Cultural Heritage, language, and history.

You find it difficult to be able to express yourself through your Culture as you have been removed and segregated from your People and your Country.

Fast forward to 2017, my daughter Sharon helped me create a family tree to finally find some truth about me and my family's identity.

At first, we used Ancestry.com to establish the family tree which dated back five generations.

From there, we contacted Link-Up (Qld) and they filled in all the gaps and led us back to country.

My great grandmother is Lucy Sheridan, born around 1865 in Goodooga area and settled with John Foster in Bollon.

She had eight children, including Emily, who was removed to a Brisbane women's orphanage at a very young age.

Elder Cheryl Buchanan had a yarn to us about our family tree and connections and explained the extended family tree.

She welcomed us with open arms and suggested a trip out to Cunnamulla and Murra Murra Station.

In July 2023 Link-Up (Qld) took my daughter Sharon and myself, accompanied by my grandson Lindsay (who drove out) to Cunnamulla, where we had the opportunity to meet Uncles, Aunties and Cousins.

On our first morning we were greeted by a massive flock of gallahs, Major Mitchell's and cockatoos waking us up by sunrise, next to the Cunnamulla Hotel.



I felt very at home seeing Slim Dusty sitting outside in the historic park (even if he was a statue).

We scouted around the town and took in the landscape through the old back camp and river areas, which highlighted the abhorrent conditions that our Peoples lived through.

Quandong trees, scar trees, grasses, flints and bush tucker sources were in plentiful evidence throughout Country, which reminded us that my grandmother, Emily Foster, and real families and children were living off that land.

We met Uncle Jeff Drury on Murra Murra station and he took us on a big adventure on Country, showing us the land, the stories and our connection.

Learning about what my People, my grandmother, went through in the stolen generation out on Country broke my heart.

When I was out on Country, I finally felt at as though I belonged.

I felt at peace, safe and calm.

Sharon, Lindsay and I felt welcome and we were overwhelmed by the generosity and humility that everyone showed us.

People came especially into town to meet us and make us feel welcome.

Lindsay yarned up with Uncle Bill Speedy and his family in Bollon and connected with Country in a deep emotional way.

A beautiful brother-cousin shared tales and said, "I've got an Auntie at home, she looks exactly like you", this made me very emotional as I

felt like I truly belonged.

Overall, the experience of being on Country was absolutely beautiful. Making connections to family, the land and my ancestors is something I will treasure forever.

We will be heading back out this year to further these connections.

A big thank you to Link-Up (Qld), especially Christine and Latia, who worked with us right through our journey to Cunnamulla – they were wonderful company to have.

Thank you to Lindsay and Sharon for your willingness and openness on our journey for identity, your support has allowed me to be open to learning about who I am and where I belong.

Tribute:

Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG, August 1932 – 4 February 2024

Professor Lowitja O'Donoghue's life story is one of remarkable resilience, perseverance, and advocacy, and her legacy is inseparable from the profound impacts and stories of the Stolen Generations

Born in 1932, Prof O'Donoghue was forcibly taken from her family as a child under the government policies that led to the Stolen Generations.

Separated from her cultural roots and identity, she faced many challenges throughout her upbringing, igniting a determination to overcome adversity and make a difference in the lives of Indigenous Australians.

After working as a servant in South Australia, she became a nurse and later said she had always hoped to open the door for young Aboriginal people to take up that profession.

Her journey to prominence was marked by milestones which included becoming the first Indigenous woman to head a government department in Australia, breaking down barriers and paving the way for future generations.

As the inaugural chairperson of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), Prof O'Donoghue seized the opportunity to advocate tirelessly for Indigenous rights and reconciliation.

Through her leadership, she amplified the voices of those who had been silenced for too long, shining a spotlight on the injustices of the past and the urgent need for healing and understanding.

Central to her advocacy was an unwavering dedication to addressing the legacy of the Stolen Generations.

With empathy and determination, she worked to raise awareness of the ongoing impact of



intergenerational trauma and to advocate for meaningful reconciliation.

While she acknowledged the trauma of removal, she also emphasised the importance of healing and reconciliation.

Her nuanced approach was reflected in her preference for the term "removed" over "stolen" in describing her personal experience and serving to highlight the complexity of the experiences of our people.

After the publication of the Bringing Them Home report in 1997 her advocacy efforts gained even greater momentum.

In the year 2000, she was the first Indigenous person to give the national address at the national Australia Day celebrations in Canberra.

She established the Lowitja Institute, a groundbreaking research organisation focused on Indigenous initiatives to improve health and wellbeing, and work towards empowering communities to address systemic inequalities and drive positive change from within.

The Lowitja O'Donoghue Oration is held annually by the Don Dunstan Foundation, in her honour.

Throughout her life, her actions spoke volumes, inspiring others to join her in the pursuit of justice, equality, and healing.

Her remarkable life continues to resonate across Australia, serving as a beacon of hope and resilience for Indigenous communities and all those committed to reconciliation and healing the wounds of the past.

Events: Aged Care Commissioner comes to Link-Up

Earlier this year Link-Up (Qld) hosted one of a series of consultation meetings working towards a proposed First Nations Aged Care Commissioner, as a result of the recent Royal Commission into Aged Care.



Above: (standing) Department of Health & Aged Care Queensland NT State Manager Nicole Jarvis, Department of Health & Aged Care Queensland State Office director Robert Zillman, Dot Bardell, (seated) Paul Sandow, Estelle Sandow & Lorna (Pilot) Spangen.

Above Right: Bernice Mitchell, Link-Up (Qld) CEO Pat Thompson and Tina Gibson.

Right: Maggie Walsh, Interim Commissioner Andrea Kelly, Beverley Johnson, Adam Oakholl & Brisbane Council of Elders secretary Uncle Tiger Singh.



Interim Commissioner Andrea Kelly said it was important to hear the voices of the stolen generations as part of the aged care cohort.

Ms Kelly has been engaging with First Nations communities and stakeholders on the design and functions of a permanent role, as well as advocating for ongoing changes to meet the aged care needs of our older peoples.

"This is not about me talking to them, but genuinely listening to the barriers that people have when they're trying to access aged care services," she said.

"We know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are really underrepresented in the aged care system.

"It's all about making sure that the services offered are culturally safe, trauma-aware informed, and also

healing-informed."

More than 20 Link-Up (Qld) clients participated in the meeting and said it had been useful.

"I wanted to find out a little bit about the aged care system," public servant Bernice Mitchell said.

"And also, because it was a consultation process, it was to share the story about my father and to support the need to have cultural competency built into the reform, and that flow over into the design of facilities, and how we involve more Indigenous people in aged care."

Estelle Sandow said she wished she had more information a decade ago when her mum was still alive.

Brisbane Elders Council secretary Tiger Singh said aged care was a big issue in the community.

Ms Kelly said there were already

some emerging issues.

"Some of the things are access, education, and that's two-ways, making sure people understand what they can access as they're eligible," she said.

"Language is a really big thing too, I'm not talking about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language, but the language governments use when we're talking."

She said housing for a support workforce was also an issue.

"A lot of what I'm hearing is people want to stay on Country and they want to die on country, so we have to have a system that enables and supports people to do that," she said.

"We've got to change the system, and my view is if we get it right for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, we get it right for all Australians."

Events: Queensland State Archives

The first thing visitors to the Queensland State Archives (QSA) may notice when they arrive is an eye-catching mural that pays homage to the sacredness of Yuggera country, the land where the Archives are located.



ABOVE: The Welcome Ceremony from the Nunukal Yuggera dancers and the Wagga Torres Strait Island Dance Company. RIGHT: 4. Bronze-cast gumnut sculptures designed by Nathaniel Chapman and Tamika Grant-Iramu



Inspired by the richness of this Country, the artwork – called ‘Seeds of Knowledge’ – incorporates native trees, plants, and totem animals, such as the sand goanna and Kuna, the carpet snake, which was significant to the Yuggera people.

Link-Up staff including Tahj, Leelana, Kerry and Latia were invited to the launch in February.

Artists Nathaniel Chapman (Goenpul and Yuggera) and Tamika

Grant-Iramu (Torres Strait Islands), in collaboration with Blaklash Creative, helped to create beautiful outdoor artworks to make the space welcoming to mob.

The artworks included a mural designed and painted by Nathaniel that incorporated native trees, plants and totem animals.

Blackwood timber bench seating was etched with artwork designed by Tamika to pay homage to the

eucalyptus and paper bark trees surrounding the QSA building.

Also featured were Bronze-cast gumnut sculptures designed by the pair.

Staff enjoyed the welcome to country from Aunty Kerry Charlton and performances by the Nunukal Yuggera dancers and the Wagga Torres Strait Island Dance Company, followed a few speakers and some delicious food.



ABOVE: Tahj, Leelana, Kerry, Nichole and Latia pictured in front of artist, Nathaniel Chapman's mural.

BELOW: Staff pictured on QSA tour



Later that month they also enjoyed a tour through the archives and a behind-the-scenes look at how they maintain, store and digitise records. "We were introduced to the team at QSA and had a yarning session notably with Indigenous staff members Clarice Stanley and Desmond Crump, who spoke about their ongoing efforts towards encouraging records access for mob and language revitalisation," they said.

"Next, we met the digitisation team responsible for scanning and uploading digital copies of records. "The team was also introduced to the conservation and restoration team, where we learned about the many challenges they have when preparing and repairing fragile records for viewing by the public." The team was shown examples of records which needed creases flattened, tears repaired, pages

pieced together and the importance of pest control, amongst many other things, was also explained. "We were taken through a number of rooms holding different types of records and staff were gracious enough to have some records out that we were able to view and hold," they said. "It was an incredible experience for staff to be able to see, feel and learn about the records that are integral to what we do."

Reunion Story: Russell Barlow

Yarrabah resident Russell Barlow's search for information about his maternal grandmother led him to the Nebo region, near Mackay.

My name is Russell Barlow and I live in Yarrabah, near Cairns in Queensland.

I have been a Link-Up (Qld) client since 2020, seeking information on my maternal grandmother, Mary Cooper.

My research was completed and delivered by staff from Link-Up (Qld) in 2022.

With work and home life commitments, as well as the digestion of the research information, it took me some time to do a back-to-country reunion.

In January 2024, it was time to go and visit my grandmother's Country with the assistance of Link-Up (Qld) staff Jack Webster and Kerry Sandow.

My grandmother was born between 1896 and 1898 in the Nebo region, west of Mackay in Queensland.

My sister, Kerry Barlow,

accompanied me to the reunion.

Whilst travelling from Cairns to Mackay we shared stories and knowledge along the way of my grandmother and her people, and we shared many laughs as well.

From Mackay, we drove to Nebo and visited the Nebo Cemetery, hoping to find any relatives who may be laid to rest there.

My nephew, Darren Petterwood, who lives a short drive from Nebo, met with us and shared some information that he had obtained by doing his family research over the years.

While Darren was trying to find phone reception, he bumped into a familiar face – Lerissa Kynuna, who had relocated to Nebo from Yarrabah for a new work opportunity.

We told Lerissa what we were doing in Nebo and she offered to open



the local museum for us to read about family and history in Nebo and surrounding areas.

We were very grateful.

The next day we visited the Mackay Library and Yuwi Yumba Cultural Hub where we spoke with Veronica Ahwang and Auntie Mabel Quakawoot.

Veronica said I strongly resembled her grandfather while she was sharing family information.

That evening we had dinner with many family members who reside in the Mackay region.

Lots of family talks were had and laughter was shared before our journey home to Cairns the next day. I made good contacts and received valuable information during my reunion, which I can now share with other family members.

I look forward to returning to Mackay and Nebo to continue this journey for my grandmother and to bring closure to our families.

On behalf of Kerry and myself, we would like to thank the Link-Up (Qld) staff for all their wonderful hard work and support they have given me over the years, and for making the information available for our future generations.



Reunion Story: Adam Oakhill

Adam Oakhill first contacted Link-Up (Qld) in 2019, so he and his mother Maureen could try to find out the true story of his beautiful Nana and aunts.



We believed my aunts, who were a lot older than Maureen, had been taken away from Nana and put into an orphanage when my Nana was living in West End as a single mother with two daughters.

I had heard of Link-Up (Qld) while I was working with Indigenous youth for the Brisbane Broncos' community programs.

We applied to become a Link-Up (Qld) client and were delighted to be accepted as we knew this would be the only chance for our family to find out the truth of what happened.

We were immediately made to feel very welcome and supported by all the staff, which really put my mother and I at ease in what was an emotional – and sometimes traumatic – time.

It was the first time I heard my mother talking and sharing memories and recollections from her childhood, which we have tried to piece together ourselves.

Working closely with our allocated caseworkers and researchers, and attending many of the morning teas and Link-Up (Qld) events, gave us a sense of belonging and being connected with community as we embarked on this journey.

My mother and I have learnt so much from these gatherings and made some lifelong connections and friends.

Some other highlights for me were being able to assist with

giving some young Indigenous job seekers I was working with at the time, with the Broncos, the opportunity to gain some invaluable work experience as part of their training at the Link-up Christmas party in 2020 and attending the Sorry Day event at West End in 2022, which was hosted by Link-Up (Qld).

Once the research report, which was so detailed and thorough, was complete it was presented to us in a way that was very comfortable for my mum to understand and allowed us plenty of time to ask questions or seek more clarity.

A reunion was then organised for us to meet our cousin, Uncle Ted Williams, who was able to help us make connections and answer any questions we might have had.

Link-Up (Qld) staff Kerry and Christine took us to the Beenleigh Heritage Museum, which displayed Yugambeh's history.

It was really beautiful watching Mum and Uncle Ted share childhood memories and names which were validated by each other.

It was a wonderful day together made possible by Link-Up (Qld).

Overall, this journey has been one of the most interesting, emotional and rewarding experiences of my life – I'll be forever grateful to Link-Up (Qld).

I will continue to make further connections with my relatives and remain a part of the extended Link-Up (Qld) community.



Reunion Story: Uncle Wallabi Agwar Kuundabar

Uncle Wallabi Agwar Kuundabar (Gunggarri & Manbarra) has always been strong on family history and dedicated much of his life to gathering family information.

I contacted Link-Up (Qld) in 2019 to find out more about my maternal grandmother, Mary Blackman, he writes.

The Link-Up (Qld) research team were able to provide me with a detailed copy of my grandmother and her people's journey.

My grandmother Mary Blackman's birth was not officially registered, but she was born between 1892 and 1898 to parents Thomas Blackman (non-indigenous) and Emily Graham (Kabi Kabi Tribe).

In 1898, after the passing of her father, she and her youngest brother Charles lived in Tiaro and Bundaberg with their mother while the other siblings were sent elsewhere to live with relatives and employers.

My grandmother and her siblings were under the Act (Queensland Aboriginal Protection Act) and forced to move throughout the state to places including Barambah

(Cherbourg) and Palm Island, where she remained until her passing.

Unfortunately, Palm Island cemetery records only exist from 1968 onwards.

My nephew, Orpheus Blackman, lives in Alpha in central Queensland, and I wanted him to support me on my reunion.

Link-Up (Qld) made this possible.

It was a long, memorable journey for me and I am very grateful I was able to meet family members I hadn't met on my grandmother's side.

Orpheus drove from Alpha to Woorabinda, where I reside.

We then went to the Rockhampton Airport and travelled by air to Brisbane, where we met with Link-Up (Qld)'s Latia Schefe and checked in to our accommodation for the night.

The next morning Orpheus and I were introduced to Joshua

Thompson from Link-Up (Qld)'s Cairns office.

Latia and Josh took us to meet my cousin, Fiona Foley, for the first time at the Powerhouse Café on Brisbane's waterfront before we travelled to Townsville that afternoon.

I had my family tree and Fiona found her mother's place on the tree straight away – it was good to be able to share our family history. Fiona and I also share a love of art, so we shared stories and pictures of our art.

Fiona is an artist, and her art practice has been widely exhibited across Australia and internationally for more than 30 years.

In Townsville, Latia took us to meet another cousin of mine, Ian De Satge.

Ian gave us a tour of some significant sites around Townsville whilst sharing our family knowledge.



Ian also joined us at the Link-Up (Qld) client Christmas party that was held at the Cowboys Leagues Club.

A boat was the next part of the reunion trip, travelling to Great Palm Island on the Sealink Ferry.

Palm Island is a beautiful place where we yarned with the locals and family members.

We had a lovely seaside lunch before making our way back to Townsville, saying our goodbyes and then heading home.

I would like to thank Latia Scheffe for the reunion and the information that was given about the family, which helped to fill in some unexplainable things.

It was like putting a puzzle together from stories of long ago.

It was very emotional for those couple of days of meeting my grandmother's family.

It was also a healing and spiritual journey for me, moving closer to finding more of my identity.

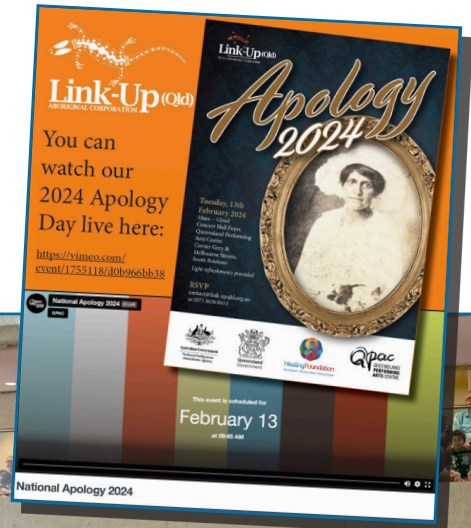
I thank you for making it all possible and wish all the best for you.

Keep up the good work, because your support helps all First Nations people to self-heal.



Events: Apology Day

This year's Apology Day commemoration was held at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre on Tuesday 13 February with singer/songwriters Edgar Conlon and Jem Cassar-Daley who may have been hard acts to follow, but Minister Leeanne Enoch, Aunty Pat Anderson AO, Professor Mick Dodson AM and our own Len Utz and Pat Thompson AM all contributed to what was a great and very moving event.



Apology Day speech excerpt from Professor Mick Dodson AM:

"I was one of the commissioners at the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, as it was known at the time, that did the national inquiry into the Stolen Generations. I can say it was probably, in my professional life, the most difficult thing I'd ever been asked to do. Apart from the sheer enormity of the tragedy that it is and was, it was the unceasing day-to-day, listening to people telling the most awful stories about their lives.

I'm sorry things haven't gone as we may have wished at the Commission when we did our report. Not everything that we said ought to be done has been done, but we should never give up.

We should continue to fight the good fight and make sure that justice is delivered to the Stolen Generations."





**Apology Day speech excerpt
from Aunty Pat Anderson AO:**

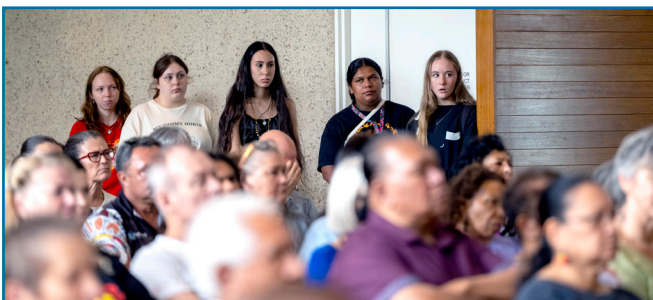
"I really want to honour Link-Up.

I'm going to talk about the first meeting we ever had of the stolen generations – it was a term coined by Barbara Cummings from Darwin – and we had a big meeting, 600 of us, and that's how the whole thing started. One of the calls for was to have an organisation like Link-Up to 'link up' all the families across the nation.

And you have done an amazing, amazing job, and I honour and pay my respects to you on behalf of all of those people, all of our families, and many of them who aren't here today.

We all are and we have the responsibility of carrying that legacy forward. We come from a most resilient, most amazing heritage, we've lived on and I just want to remind you, because sometimes these are dark days and they're going to get darker, we are resilient.

We are not going anywhere. This is our place."





**Apology Day speech excerpt
from Patricia Thompson AM,
Link-Up (Qld) CEO:**

"I would like to acknowledge QPAC CEO John Kotzas, for the ongoing support that we receive from you, John, and your staff, Hannah and Brad, in holding this event here.

We are really proud to come here and to share this event with you.

I'd like to also acknowledge QPAC Board of Trustees chair Professor Peter Coaldrake, who is here and other members of the trust and advisory committee who are here.



Each year this gets a little bit bigger and we're really proud we're able to share stories.

Our young people who are our future, like our staff Latia and Taj, have done a great job today, we really are proud of them.

Thank you so much to our entertainers, the Leichhardt Primary School, Jem Cassar-Daley and, of course, Eddie Conlon, with his powerful voice.

Eddie is actually my nephew and I'm very proud of him.

His uncle Mop was my cousin and if you listen to the words of those songs like 'Brisbane Blacks' and a whole lot of other songs written by Mop from the 1970's you hear they are about justice for Aboriginal people.

So we haven't been crying out for justice just in recent times, this has been going on for a very, very long time and I'm really pleased to see that people like Eddie and Jem and other young people can continue to perform these songs, so that that message is heard by everybody.

Thank you very much for coming today."



News: Wilfred Prince retires

Wilfred Prince, or Willie as he is affectionately known, retired as a director of Link-Up (Qld) at the end of 2023 after serving on the board for more than ten years.

At this year's Apology Day event Willie was presented with gifts and words of appreciation by Len Utz on behalf of the Board for his long and loyal service.

Willie was born at Cherbourg in 1960 at a time when the Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Act 1939 governed the lives of Aboriginal people.

The Act stated that the Director of Native Affairs was the 'legal guardian of every Aboriginal child under 21'.

Willie has shared his story of being born "a non-citizen of this country, considered native flora and fauna under the Act" on many occasions.

During the first 18 months of his life he was in and out of the Cherbourg hospital about 16 times, on one occasion almost dying, and therefore coming to the attention of the State Medical Doctor for the frequency of his visits.

That Doctor and the Chief Protector at Cherbourg decided he should be removed – a decision that was deliberated without consultation



with Willie's family or community.

With that stroke of a pen, Willie was taken to be transferred to the Royal Children's Hospital in Brisbane where he was diagnosed with Spastic Quadriplegia.

He spent several months there before he was transferred to Xavier Home for Crippled Children in Coorparoo.

He later learned that he would potentially be up for adoption, however he ended up a Ward of the State.

Willie was removed from his family and community because he was born with a disability – the government official's pen was all it took. He grew up in an institution and went onto become a Queensland Public Servant for 32 years before he retired from the workforce in 2019.

"Willie, we thank you for your contribution to the Link-Up (Qld) board over the past ten years," Len said.

"Thank you for our loyalty serving on the board with the late long-serving chairman Sam Watson for many years."

Willie said he had a long story to tell.

"Firstly I'd like to thank the board and staff of Link-Up (Qld) who over the years have supported me," he said.

"Over the years I was able to give back to advise them on issues that relate to our mob with disabilities in relation to being stolen or removed from communities.

"We are often overshadowed, and we don't much of a voice, but being with Link-Up (Qld) has given me the confidence to get out there and speak."

CEO Pat Thompson said it had been pleasure to have him on the board.

Willie's story is one of overcoming adversity and being a successful role model, and it needs to be told.

Last year the Queensland State Government passed the Path to Treaty Act 2023 which became law this month - and an important step in enacting this legislation was the establishment of the Truth-Telling and Healing Inquiry (see next page).



News: Treaty Institute / Truth-Telling & Healing Inquiry



Members of the First Nations Treaty Institute Council L-R: David Saylor, Ivy Trevallion, Albert Bowie, Professor Valerie Cooms, Michelle Deshong, Seleena Blackley, Dr Janine Gertz, Dr Tracey Harbour. Photo by Lewis James. Not pictured: Associate Professor Phillip Mills OAM and Professor Cindy Shannon AM.

The Queensland Government has announced the leadership for the First Nations Treaty Institute and the Truth-Telling and Healing Inquiry.

The Path to Treaty Act 2023, was passed with bipartisan support and paved the way for these initiatives, which were co-designed between the Interim Truth and Treaty Body and the government.

Operating independently, the Institute's functions include developing a treaty-making framework, supporting communities in recording the impacts of colonisation and empowering them in treaty negotiations.

The Truth-Telling and Healing Inquiry, chaired by Joshua Creamer, would listen, record stories, and educate on First Nations history and culture.

Mr Creamer was a Waanyi and Kalkadoon man with connections to north-west Queensland who specialised in human rights, class actions and Native Title.

He said he was honoured.

"Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples have been seeking truth-telling and healing for a long time and the establishment of the Truth-Telling and Healing Inquiry is a significant step for Queensland to take towards a better future," he said.

"It will be incredibly important that the community has confidence to share in this process as we work to acknowledge the complete history of the colonisation of Queensland. "I know this body of work will

change the future in a positive way for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Queensland, and Queensland more broadly.

"I look forward to joining the esteemed members of the Inquiry when we officially commence on 1 July 2024."

Minister for Treaty Leeanne Enoch said the new members brought extensive experience, connections and insight to guide and lead truth-telling and healing in Queensland.

"The announcement of members of the Truth-Telling and Healing Inquiry and First Nations Treaty Institute Council confirms the Queensland Government's commitment to reframing the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples," she said.

"The Inquiry and Institute Council members will play a pivotal role in building community understanding of Queensland's shared history and support the healing process for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, non-Indigenous peoples and communities.

"I want to acknowledge members of the Interim Truth and Treaty Body, the Treaty Advancement Committee, the Treaty Working Group and the Eminent Panel for their significant work which has led us to this point in the process."

Members of the Truth-Telling and Healing Inquiry:

Joshua Creamer (Chair)
Roslyn Atkinson AO
Cheryl Buchanan
Ivan Ingram
Vonda Malone



Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry chair Joshua Creamer

Members of the First Nations Treaty Institute Council:

Mr Albert Bowie
Seleena Blackley
Professor Valerie Cooms
Michelle Deshong
Dr Janine Gertz
Dr Tracey Harbour
Assoc Professor Phillip Mills OAM
Professor Cindy Shannon AM
David Saylor
Ivy Trevallion

Local Government elections in the state's 17 former Deeds of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) communities, now Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Shire Councils, were held this month.

A record number of women participated in the elections for Councillor positions but only three were successful as Mayors – Barbara Bandicootcha in Aurukun, Terita Dick in Kowanyama and Elsie Seriat for the Torres Shire Council.

The largest, and possibly the most remote, was also one of the most stable with Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) Mayor Phillemon Mosby one of only two incumbent mayors to be re-elected out of more than eight who tried.

The other successful incumbent was Mayor Wayne Butcher in Lockhart River, with unsuccessful re-attempts including in Aurukun, Northern Peninsula Area, Wujal Wujal, Yarrabah, Pormpuraaw, Hope Vale, Torres Shire, Kowanyama and Cherbourg – all of which have new or returning mayors.

Cherbourg has a new mayor in Bruce Simpson, and a mix of old and new in their Councillor team.

Mayor Simpson – the son of much-loved and long-time former Councillor Ada Simpson – said he was excited.

"As elected mayor, I'm excited for the next four years," he said at their swearing-in ceremony in the Council's Chambers.

"We stand on the shoulders of great pioneers, the five of us and all of us in this room.

"We stand on the knowledge and the cultural pathways that shape who we are.

"I do lead with passion, so you'll probably see me from time to time getting emotional, but that's part and parcel of how we struggled and how we are resilient people.

"And then to have the elders in the room who really know what changes that need to be done."

Those elders included John Stanley, Ada Simpson and Sandra Morgan, who said they wished the new Council all the best.

"All the best to everyone," Mrs Simpson said.

Ms Morgan said she had seen progress over the years, from the dirt floors of way back to modern times.

"Being passionate about history, I think this is more history to add to our museum," she said.

New Hope Vale mayor Bruce Gibson said he was proud to walk in his father, Mervyn's, footsteps.

"So it's my first time as Mayor and I've joined my dad now, he was the first Community Council chair for Hopevale, and the first chair of the Aboriginal Coordinating Council," he said.

Mayor Gibson said Hope Vale was once one of the leading communities on Cape York.

"There are issues here, like everywhere else, there's unemployment, there's a lack of business but our infrastructure is starting to grow and we have a lot of planning that's been put in place," he said.

"I'm in a position now to really push ahead and build a Hope Vale that one day I could retire in."

The new Mayors have hit the ground running, Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey – re-elected after a four-year break – said.

An invitation by the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) to meet Prime Minister Anthony Albanese at the Queensland Media Club in Brisbane – just a week after the polls were declared – was taken up by Mayors Butcher and Lacey and resulted in their first priority – housing – in a national level spotlight.

Mayor Butcher said while their own communities were front and centre of their negotiations, they were conscious of other remote regions in Queensland, such as Coen, Normanton, Winton and beyond, who also suffered housing issues.

"Our First Nations people are desperate for additional housing tools, we have to think about these countrymen elsewhere too," he said.

In the 'mainstream' councils several Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander candidates were successful, including radio personality Trevor Tim, who was the first Indigenous Councillor elected to the Cairns Regional Council.

New mayors have been elected in:

Torres Shire (Elsie Seriat),
Northern Peninsula Area (Robert Poi Poi),
Mapoon (Ronaldo Guivarra),
Aurukun (Barbara Bandicootcha),
Hope Vale (Bruce Gibson),
Kowanyama (Terita Dick),
Mornington Island (Richard Sewter),
Wujal Wujal (Allister Gibson),
Yarrabah (Daryl Sexton),
Woorabinda (Terence Munns)
and Cherbourg (Bruce Simpson).

Re-elected mayors (either incumbent or previous) include:

Torres Strait Island Regional Council (Phillemon Mosby),
Napranum (Roy Chevathen),
Lockhart River (Wayne Butcher),
Doomadgee (Frederick O'Keefe),
Pormpuraaw (Ralph Kendall)
and Palm Island (Alfred Lacey).



Top: CEO Chatur Zala swearing in new Cherbourg Mayor Bruce Simpson along with newly elected Cherbourg Councillors Tom Langton, Carla Fisher, Daniel Weazel and Gordon Wragge. Above: Cherbourg's youngest Councillor Carla Fisher with Uncle John Stanley. Cherbourg pics with thanks to Us Mob Radio 4UM-FM



Left: Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Lockhart River Mayor Wayne Butcher.

Below: Hope Vale Mayor Bruce Gibson (middle) with new Councillors Shellane Gibson, Barry Bowen (3rd term), Rowan Hart & Eva Bounghi.



Staff Profiles

Link-Up (Qld) HR & Finance

Officer Jodie Blewett was born in Durban, South Africa - a city filled with vibrant culture and rich history – and spent many years in Gaborone, Botswana, where she said she enjoyed “a harmonious blend of modern urban living with the stunning natural landscapes and abundant wildlife the country boasts”.

“Over the years, my professional journey has been as diverse as my cultural background,” she said.

“I’ve navigated through many occupations, from the fast-paced environment of waitressing to the meticulous world of office management within the hospitality sector.

“While initially rooted in the

hospitality industry, my career took an interesting turn as I transitioned into commercial cleaning, exploring new facets of business operations and management.

“In my most recent role before Link-Up (Qld), I served as the Account and HR Administrator at a contract food manufacturing company, where I honed my skills in financial management and human resources.” She said she was committed to her new role.

“As I embark on this new chapter, I am committed to providing the essential support services needed to make a meaningful impact,” she said.

“I aim to leverage my background and expertise to build a brighter future with Link-Up (Qld).”

Jodie Blewett



Leelana Fabila-Hicks

Link-Up (Qld) Research Officer

Leelana Fabila-Hicks was born and raised in South-East Queensland, around the Logan area.

“I am a proud descendant of the Djabera Djabera tribe of the Kimberly, Western Australia,” she said.

“Prior to working with the research team at Link-Up (Qld) I was studying full-time at UQ.

“In 2021 I graduated with my

Bachelor of Health Sciences majoring in Public Health.”

She said this was her first job out of uni.

“It has been a privilege to work within this space,” she said.

“The work done here by the team at Link-Up (Qld) is very important to the Stolen Generations peoples and I am honoured to continue to aid in the healing journeys of our clients, their families and community through reunification.”

Link-Up (Qld) Redress Counsellor

Jai Sigley was born in Tweed Heads, NSW on Bundjalung country, where he lived until he was about 5-years-old.

“I have grown up and lived in Brisbane ever since,” he said.

“My ancestry on my mother’s side is from Baradha/Barna and Gabalbara tribes from Central Queensland and from Yorkshire/England on my father’s side.

“I have worked in many diverse fields over the years, but most recently as an Ecological Restoration Practitioner with the Water & Carbon Group where I helped to restore natural habitats

in and around the Greater Brisbane area.

“With a passion and a focus on health and happiness, I have also worked as a Reiki practitioner for more than 10 years.”

He said his current work was a dream come true.

“To be working as a Redress counsellor for Link-Up (Qld) helping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kin with their healing journeys has been a dream realised,” he said.

“I hope to continue to learn and grow, and to support our clients in their healing journeys with the strength, support, and guidance of the family here at Link-Up (Qld).”

Jai Sigley



Client Support Morning Teas

Current and past clients of Link-Up (Qld) are invited to join us for morning tea on the last Thursday of every month, which includes a short information session, light refreshments and good company. This is a terrific opportunity to meet other people on a similar journey and stay up to date on the benefits available to members of the Stolen Generations and their families.

Upcoming Dates:

10am Thursday 25 July 2024

10am Thursday 29 August 2024

10am Thursday 26 September 2024

10am Thursday 31 October 2024



Client morning teas are held at Link-Up (Qld)'s Brisbane office at 5 Reid Street, Woolloongabba.

To find out more, call our Brisbane office on (07) 3638 0411.



Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme

Seeks to recognise the harm and trauma caused to Stolen Generations survivors who were removed from family or community in the NT, ACT or the Jervis Bay Territory.

Find out more at territoriesredress.gov.au or call **1800 566 111**



territoriesredress.gov.au



Australian Government
National Indigenous Australians Agency

What is the National Redress Scheme?

The National Redress Scheme provides support to people who experienced child sexual abuse in the care of an institution.



It can provide access to counselling, a payment and a direct personal response where the institution says sorry for what happened.

SORRY

You can be connected to a free and confidential Redress Support Service.



They can provide emotional and practical support with cultural understanding.



They can also provide access to free legal advice so you don't have to pay for a lawyer.

FREE

National Redress Scheme
For people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse

Call the National Redress Scheme on **1800 737 377**
Mon to Fri 8am - 5pm AEDT
nationalredress.gov.au

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 appropriate organisations or Government departments.

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.

Brisbane Office: 3-4 Reid St,
Woolloongabba QLD 4102

Cairns Office: 2/608 Bruce Hwy,
Woree QLD 4868

POSTAL ADDRESS:
PO Box 3229, South Brisbane Qld 4101

Email: contact@link-upqld.org.au

FREECALL 1800 200 855



Link-Up (Qld) is funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency, Department of Social Services, Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts and The Healing Foundation.



Australian Government



**Queensland
Government**



HealingFoundation
Strong Spirit • Strong Culture • Strong People