



# Link-Up (Qld)

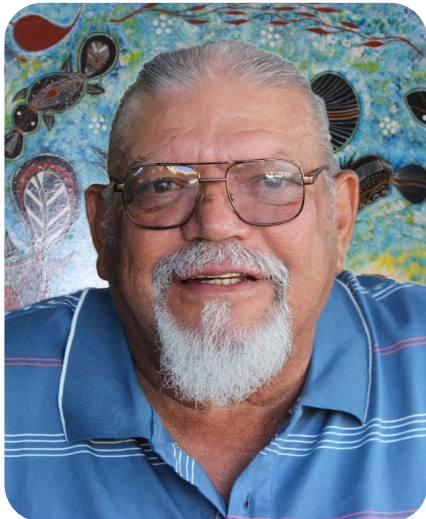
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Volume 48 | April - June 2021



**Still Bringing Them Home**

# Chairperson - Ken Murphy



Ken Murphy

As we go to print with this edition of our magazine, here in south east Queensland and other parts of the state we have gone into a 3 day lock down due to an outbreak of COVID-19 cases in the community. There are serious concerns about the spread of the virus and particularly the very infectious Delta strain given there has been community spread and exposure to others across Queensland and interstate. I encourage people to keep check on the Queensland Health website for regular updates so that you are informed about this virus. If you are sick or have the symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, runny nose, dry cough, tiredness or sore throat, please contact your doctor immediately to seek medical advice. This virus affects different people in different ways.

I also urge all of us to keep check on family members and vulnerable people in our community to see that they are safe and doing OK. This virus is not going away and

the recent outbreaks, particularly here in the south east of our state reminds us that we need to stay vigilant in terms of hand hygiene, social distancing, at the present time the mandatory wearing of face masks and checking in on the QR code app wherever you go into businesses in the community.

Using the check in app is a very efficient way for Queensland Health to help make contact tracing faster, more reliable and complete and presently it is mandatory to do so. The app is an easy way for people to sign into businesses without having to enter your details each time you visit a business. Next time you visit either of our Link-Up (Qld) offices in Brisbane or Cairns you will see the QR code on our door so you can check in safely and easily. Your personal data is stored by the Queensland Government, however only used for contact tracing if needed.

It is important for us all to follow the Queensland Health directives in relation to COVID-19. They are put in place to protect us from the virus and the very infectious Alpha and Delta variants which have emerged in the community. So let's all do our bit and follow the Queensland Health directives to keep our community safe.

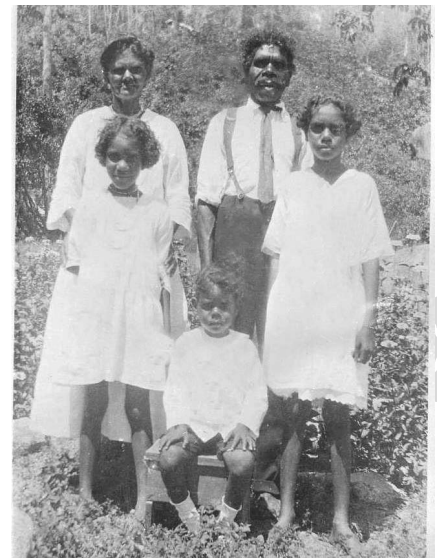
Even though there have been challenges since March 2020 when COVID-19 impacted on us, Link-Up (Qld) staff have continued to deliver services. This magazine has stories on reunions and healing camps and lots of colourful photographs. In between COVID outbreaks and lockdowns, clients

have also enjoyed outings where they have been able to catch up with each other and staff for a good yarn and laugh whilst also sharing some delicious food tasting.

Sorry Day was held at Orleigh Park on 26th May 2021. We were pleased with the turnout at the park, given last year's event was livestreamed due to COVID-19 restrictions. It was a beautiful day and credit to the staff for pulling together such a wonderful gathering. The yarn tree with its spectacular colours caught everybody's eye and credit to staff for engaging clients in the project with knitting and crocheting the pieces to dress the beautiful old tree. Thanks to all who support us at this event.



## CORRECTION



*Unfortunately this photo of Uncle Roy's family published in Volume 47 of this magazine was incorrectly captioned. The picture shows his maternal grandparents, and one of the daughters in front is his mother. We apologise sincerely for any confusion caused to our readers.*



## This issue's Cover Story

Ivan Ingram, Patricia Thompson and John Fitz Jupurula after our Sorry Day Event at Orleigh Park. More pictures are on page 4 and 5.

## 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



Patricia Thompson

Here we are at the end of the financial year and a very challenging one it has been. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on all of us and our overall wellbeing. Recent events where there are new cases and the very infectious variants is alarming, anxiety is running high for many of us concerned for our families, particularly our elders and those with underlying health conditions, our own health and wellbeing and that of our clients and work colleagues.

Despite the challenges over the past 12 months with COVID restrictions and snap lockdowns, our staff have been resilient and have continued to carry on our incredibly important work with our Stolen Generations. I commend them for their commitment and dedication throughout these challenging times for maintaining focus on our core business. Our Board have also been a source of strength and wisdom for us during these challenging times, adjusting to becoming tech savvy to meet governance obligations and stay connected.

Teamwork is incredibly important to the successful outcomes we achieve throughout the year. A pivotal part of this is the work of

our highly efficient functioning research team which undertakes detailed genealogical research and analysis to trace our client's family histories and prepare complex research reports for the purposes of facilitating reunions. Whilst there has been some delays in accessing records from various agencies due to COVID-19, our research team has continued to function at a high level of efficiency. This has enabled our service delivery team to deliver those research reports and facilitate 13 reunions and provide counselling support despite snap lockdowns and travel restrictions.

Our communications team produces our magazine with the wonderful and heartfelt stories of those reunions, as well as supporting our service delivery team to coordinate client activities and healing camps. Clients thoroughly enjoy the therapeutic settings of our healing camps which over the past year have included two music therapy workshops, two men's healing camps and women's healing camp. These healing camps are an opportunity for clients to come together to share their stories, to form special bonds, to feel the calmness and healing effects of being on country, enjoying bush tucker, having a good laugh and cry and importantly all supporting each other on their journeys.

The Redress Team has also achieved good outcomes for our clients through assisting with applications for redress, counselling support, healing camps and other therapeutic activities. The whole of the Link-Up (Qld) team including admin and finance staff all have a very important role in our organisation supporting our Stolen Generations.

The National NAIDOC Theme this year is 'Heal Country'. I

am pleased to have been one of the National Co-Chairs of NAIDOC over the past 3 years with John Paul Janke and also a committee member for 9 years. Congratulations to Shannon Dodson who has taken over this role. Shannon brings vibrant energy and a wealth of experience in strategic communications and engagement to the Co-Chair role.

The theme 'Heal Country' calls for all of us to continue to seek greater protections of our lands, our waters, our sacred sites and our cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration and destruction.

Country is more than a place and is inherent to our identity.



'Heal Country' is about truth telling and an acknowledgement of past wrongs with a positive message about the health, wellbeing and future of our people.

Finally I would like to acknowledge our funding bodies for the support we receive to continue our work supporting our Stolen Generations and for the support from partners in the community.

# Sorry Day 2021

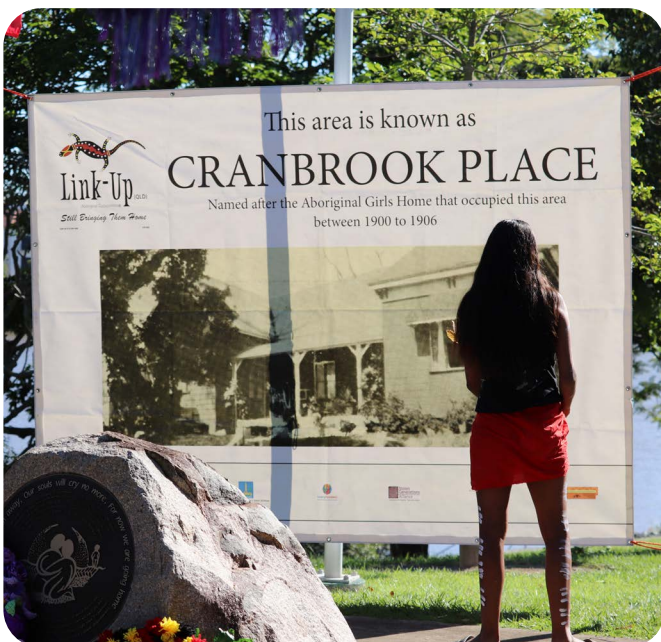


This year Link-Up (Qld)'s Sorry Day ceremony returned to Orleigh Park after last year's Sorry Day was livestreamed from inside the office due to covid gathering restrictions. It was lovely to get back together outside, and the beautiful late May weather was perfect for a special morning ceremony in which to pay our respects.

For some months now our Link-Up (Qld) family have been knitting and crocheting in preparation for the decoration of our yarn tree at Orleigh Park and everyone was keen to be a part of it, adding on beautiful purple flowers to denote compassion and spiritual healing.



A delicious, cooked breakfast was kindly supplied by our friends at Micah Projects, with hot drinks supplied by Deadly Espresso. People from all backgrounds filled the seats from 9am to listen to some wonderful performers, ranging from the Wakka Wakka Dance Group, who opened the ceremony with dances rich in storytelling and movement, to the ever-radiant Aunty Maggie Walsh reciting her poem 'Christmas Time' to a young, up and coming local musician PURSE, who did Kerry Fletcher proud with his rendition of her song, Sorry Song.



All levels of government were represented, with Federal Member for Griffith Terri Butler MP sending through a speech as she couldn't be there in person as parliament was sitting. Queensland Minister Craig Crawford MP joined us for breakfast and had a good yarn with our CEO and Chairman and local Councillors Dr Amy McMahon and Jonathan Sri spoke passionately to the crowd.

Lesley Orenda's grandmother was placed in the Aboriginal Girls Home that once stood on this site, and it was interesting and powerful to not only hear her story, but to hear the actual words that were used in the official documents relating to her time in care.

Hand made wreaths were laid before the traditional cake cutting.

Thank you to LUQ Director Willie Prince for his Acknowledgement of Country and a special thank you also to our wonderful Master of Ceremonies, Ivan Ingram who did a fantastic job.

Overall, a great morning was had by all those in attendance as we look back to pay our respects in honouring the strength and resilience of our Stolen Generations.

**We are still bringing them home.**



## Lesley Orenda Reunion - Beaudesert

I was born in Brisbane and we moved a lot as kids as my Dad was a truck driver. My parents divorced when we were little, and I have one full sibling, my brother, to that marriage. My brother and I spent some time in a Children's Home at Sandgate Qld, and I have been trying to find out why we were placed there. I came back to live with my mother when I was 11.

In the late 1970's I came into contact with two women who were looking for my father. One of them said that she was his older sister, but I had very little contact with her again.

I contacted Community and Personal Histories at the Department of Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander Partnerships to see if they had any information about my family or myself, and they had a little bit of information. In 2017 I applied to Link-Up (Qld) and became a client. Link-Up (Qld) have persevered and have brought me to the place where I am now – where I know I have family and I know some of my own family history.

My best friend Frank, and my sons Dwayne and Joshua accompanied me to my reunion to meet members of my family at Beaudesert Park in the centre of town. I wasn't nervous at all, which surprised me. When Link-Up (Qld) staff members Anne and Alison turned up much the same time as my new cousin Sharron, it was if we

were old friends already. Sharron was a total pleasure to meet and very easy to converse with. Sharron's very keen to learn about the family, and she has a lot of information to share too, growing up with others from the family.

The next day I met up with more cousins and extended family and it was wonderful.

**It seemed as if I had known them all my life and I felt very comfortable with them.**



*Lesley with her cousin Sharron, meeting for the first time at Beaudesert Park*



*Members of Lesley's family at the Beaudesert Aboriginal Cemetery*



*Family sprinkling rose petals in memory of their great Grandmother Fanny Thorpe*



*Lesley with her sons, cousins and other extended family members who have warmly welcomed each other into their lives*

A number of my cousins told me that I am the image of my (deceased) Auntie which was mind blowing for me. One of the cousins Matthew, comes from Kingaroy, just 20 odd kilometres from where I live.

We all visited the Beaudesert Aboriginal Cemetery together where we had a little ceremony for our great Grandmother Fanny Thorpe. Her gravesite cannot be located despite trying. Link-Up (Qld) provided beautiful rose petals and we all did a walk around the area and sprinkled rose petals for Fanny. It was very touching. There was lots of storytelling and sharing of family information, past and present.

We had a lovely lunch at the Beaudesert RSL and continued to find out more about each other.

The day after the reunion I did feel a bit sad as I was sorry that I had missed out on knowing the Uncles,

Aunties and cousins that we spoke about during the reunion as I would of loved to have been a part of those stories.

**But at last I felt like I belonged to a family. All these people are a part of me, and I have come home.**

I have already caught up with Sharron Lucas at the Link-Up (Qld) Sorry Day Breakfast at Orleigh Park. Sharron was with me as a story was read out about our Grandmother Mary Ann Thorpe who was placed in Cranbrook House and we both went to the 'My Dilly Bag' Busstucker Tasting in June.

I really feel that our family will keep expanding from now on as more relatives are contacted and I may

eventually find out why my brother and I were put in the home at Sandgate.

I would like to thank all the amazing people who work at Link-Up (Qld) for all they have done in enabling me to connect with my family. Caseworker Sloane Stallan has been with me from the beginning and Counsellor Anne Garrett came on board and was with me during the last 2 odd years and was wonderful support. I would also like to thank Michelle Resuggan for helping me to have my story told at Sorry Day 2021.

I especially want to thank my new family for their kindness in accepting me, a total stranger, into their lives. I'm very privileged to have these people in my life and I look forward to meeting up with them again soon.



# Margaret Kemp Reunion - Walgett

I was born in Rockhampton in 1955, to parents Jack Kemp and Amelia Kemp/Murray/Sharpley. Growing up I lived in Blackwater, Clermont and Mt Morgan and finished school in Year 9.

I left home to work at St Brendans College in Yeppoon and continued to work there until I started my family of 3 boys and 1 girl. I currently live in Duaringa and am an applicant on the Native Title claim "Ghungalu Nation Party.

I first started looking for Mum's family members around 20 years ago, doing my own research and made some contact with a couple of family members but had never met them in person. I heard about Link-Up (Qld) and in 2018 I started my journey with them. This eventuated in Link-Up (Qld) finding descendants of my Maternal Grandmother Helen Sharpley living in Walgett, NSW. After providing the completed research to me, Link-Up (Qld) then made contact with family members in NSW and a family reunion was arranged.

On the 9th May 2021 my niece Kim Dale and myself excitedly left Emerald airport to meet up with Link-Up (Qld) Counsellor Anne Garrett and Service Delivery Manager Yvette Salam. We flew together to Tamworth the next day and then drove onto Walgett.

I felt overwhelmed that I was finally meeting my Mother's and Grandmother's family because growing up I had only known my father's side. Now I was going to meet my Mum's family and return my Grandfather's, Grandmother's and Mother's Spirits home to their traditional home lands, and create connections that will last a life time.

Having my reunion to my Mother's home country has been very emotionally and spiritually healing for me as I got to meet a lot of special people and family and walk on the country that my mother would often speak about.

The places she would mention were Kamilaroi, Namoi River, Angledoon, Lightning Ridge and Walgett.

We were met at Walgett by my cousin Daphne Wallace-Sharpley, who was brought to Walgett from Armidale NSW by Luke and Tania from Link-Up (NSW). I was so glad to finally be able to meet her. Daphne bought along Anna Wallace and it was a delight to meet her too, I will always remember her beautiful smile and laugh. Daphne shared her knowledge, her love and support, and introduced me to many family members.

I was so relieved to meet Bubba (Helen Sharpley) on our final day. Bubba was my first connection to mums family, we made contact almost 20 years ago along with Elizabeth Sharpley who was my mums niece. Unfortunately she passed away a few days before my visit, it was the saddest news to hear.



*Margaret's cousin Daphne presented her with a beautiful collage of family photos*



*Margaret with Bubba. Bubba was one of her first connections to Mum's family.*



Daphne also introduced me to Blackeye (Ron) Sharpley and his wife Robyn. Blackeye opened up their home to us and we had a BBQ there and met other family members. It was Blackeye's birthday and I loved singing Happy Birthday to him. The next day Blackeye led us on a tour of Lightning Ridge and Angledoon and I appreciated his willingness to show us around the areas that my Mum used to speak about. At Lightning Ridge we met Boy and his beautiful daughter, who presented me with a precious Opal.

On our last day Blackeye made a farewell gift of Emu Egg Brownie which was absolutely delicious. We had a little bit of time available before we needed to leave for Tamworth to catch our flight to Brisbane and we were able to meet with members of the Dharriwaa Elders Group and chat with them for a while. Returning home was the saddest part but I was also relieved that I had returned their spirit back to their country.

**I was full of love and light in my heart and that is still there today.**

Thank you, Daphne, Anna, Blackeye, Robyn and Boy, for opening up your hearts and knowledge, and to Luke and Tania from Link-Up NSW for bringing Daphne to Walgett to meet me, to Anne and Yvette Link-Up (Qld) for organising my reunion, and for their time and patience. It was a pleasure to have them escort us around safely, and a special thank you to my niece Kim who took time away from her family to help me with this experience and share my journey with me.



*At Lightning Ridge, and digging for opals with Robyn*



*They stopped at many sites that were significant places for the family*



*Margaret with her niece Kim as they wave goodbye for now*

## Theresa Creed Reunion - Winton



My mum was taken from Cloncurry to Palm Island, and dad had moved with his mum from Boulia to Palm Island. They then moved to Woorabinda, where I grew up in the Woorabinda Mission, before moving to Townsville.

I have been wanting to learn more about my family and heritage through my paternal great grandmothers' line, my Great Nana Lucy Fogarty. I contacted Community and Personal Histories back in 2012 but they did not have any departmental records for Great Nana Lucy, although they did have information about my grandfather, William Creed. Link-Up (Qld) was able to give me more details about my family and to my relief, locate my Great Nana Lucy's grave in Winton.

I flew to Longreach with Link-Up (Qld) staff members Anne Garret and Christine Kanofski, and we then drove onto Winton. When I saw Great Nana's grave at Winton Cemetery, it was obvious that no one had visited it for a long time. It was an unmarked grave but the cemetery staff had kindly marked out the exact place where she lay. We had our special time there, I decorated the grave with some red flowers and an angel and said a prayer for my Great Nana.

Afterwards we went into to Winton library to research the Aboriginal history of the local area. The librarian suggested that we should talk to a local woman, Pearl Eates. Pearl is my cousin and my countrywoman from Boulia, Pearl holds a lot of family knowledge

and she kindly shared stories with me about my family history and stories from Pitta Pitta. We caught up on family news, I found out that another cousin, Great Nana Lucy's grandson was in the Northern Territory working on a station.

We left Winton the next day and had a safe trip back to Brisbane.

When I got home the old ladies visited me in my dreams and I was settled again.



Theresa with Link-Up (Qld) staff members Anne and Christine catching up with Pearl at the Winton library



Theresa at Pelican Waterholes, the original name for the settlement of Winton, roughly 1.5kms from where Winton is now.



Theresa at Pelican Waterholes. The settlement of Winton was moved from this location in 1876.

### **Yesteryears by Theresa Creed**

*Old places where you used to stay, make me dream of how it used to be in the yesteryears*

*I know you lived the hard life*

*But having your kids around you would have made up for the things you didn't have*

*I wished I could have met you and shared some time with you*

*But I will remember you and visit your resting place so I don't forget you*

*May you find peace wherever you are and be in rest*



Theresa with Link-Up (Qld) staff member Christine at her Great Nana Lucy Fogarty's gravesite at Winton cemetery.

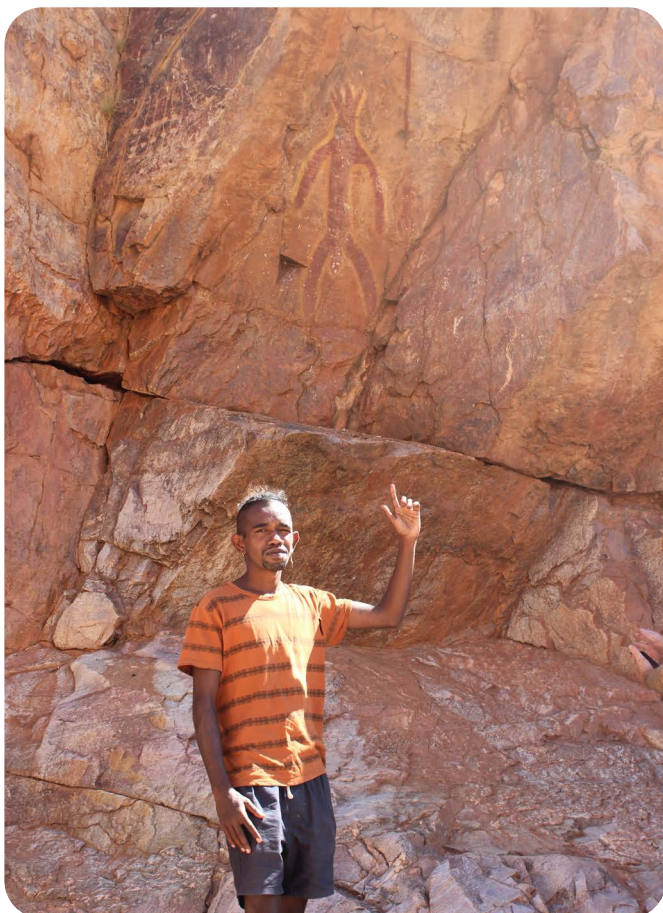
# Men's Healing Camp - Kajabbi

The Men's Healing Camp to Kajabbi in remote Far North West Queensland brought together Indigenous men from across Queensland to the remote community to heal on country, in the natural surroundings of the area in all its beauty and ruggedness. The aim for the participants was to connect to culture and country as well as communicate and interact with each other in a caring and nurturing natural and social environment with the support of

Link-Up (Qld) staff and the Camp Coordinator, Glynn Johnston.

On their arrival at the Mt Isa office, Link-Up (Qld) staff and clients were welcomed with a traditional Kalkadoon Welcome to Country by Elder Valerie Craigie. The group visited painted rocks near a hidden waterhole significant to ancient travellers. Glynn also introduced participants to the various bush tucker and natural medicinal plants used by their ancestors and still relevant today.

It was the healing flames and connecting to each other through stories that helped participants settle their minds. In Aboriginal lore, the fire has a strong position in the culture for men to come together and yarn about their experiences. For this group, the fire and yarning was pivotal in them sharing their thoughts and feelings in a safe environment. The fire provided a warmth that allowed participants to open up and tell their stories in a safe and sharing environment.



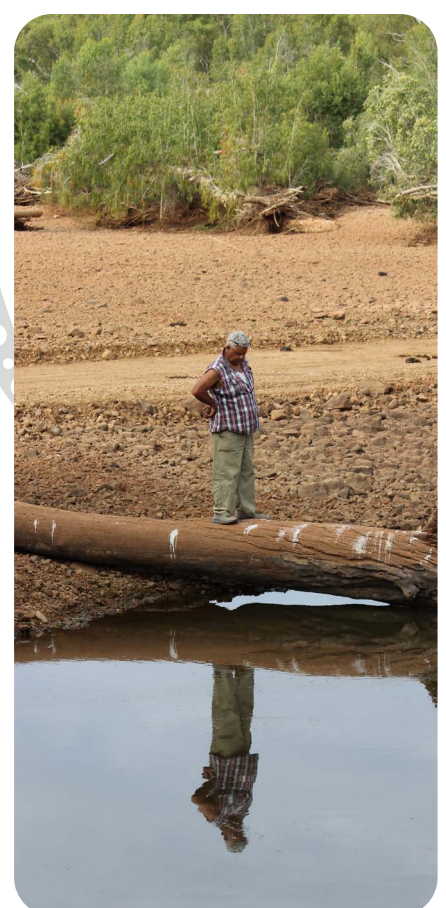
We had an excursion to the Leichhardt River, which provided an opportunity to sit and yarn as well as do bush walks to connect with nature. Our host Glynn shared knowledge of bush craft of the old people who navigated the vast landscape, living in harmony as one.

By connecting one's footprint with the land, there was a feeling of belonging, an interconnectedness between the human dimension and the natural landscape.

For the participants, this was a strong pulling to reconnect their feelings with the land.

We travelled to a remote oasis where we went fishing and spotted some freshwater crocodiles. While the fishing provided scant results, yarning, and walking in natural surroundings, provided a soothing experience. The fishermen of the camp blamed the full moon for the lack of fish being caught.

The Lunar Eclipse was observed in the clear night sky, unencumbered by city lights. There was a general feeling among the participants of being unencumbered ourselves, allowing us to let go of some of the thoughts and feelings that encumber our journey through life. Glynn pointed out the Emu Dreaming as told in the night sky, which was clearly visible during the eclipse. The uniqueness of the universe in all its splendour provided a cathartic experience where participants expressed



strong emotions and feelings. The sense of the 'largeness' of the universe made for a feeling of belonging, and feeling as one with the heavens and the lands that are both sacred institutions within Aboriginal society.

While participants were at different levels of their personal healing journeys and experiences, they all worked well together, cooperating in a spirit of togetherness to make healing a collective possibility. Learning new knowledge about bush tucker, visiting sites of cultural significance, and the history of Kalkadoon, participants managed to align their own stories of country as a calming influence through their connection to culture and country.

This approach was the vital link that placed collective healing at the epicentre of positive change. The Healing Camp was an opportunity for participants to come together as Indigenous men yearning for positive change across all areas of their lives, breaking the cycle of dependency and negativity and assisting them in their overall journey to recover. Everyone was supportive of the healing effects the Kajabbi country had to offer.



*"Most beneficial was being with people with the same problems as me and talking together"*



*"I feel more exhilarated and ready to have a clean soul; a better attitude in life"*



*"The talking, laughing and friendships helped me in my healing journey"*



*"The whole experience was a privilege to come to. I couldn't ask for a better time"*

*"It helped me think and get my brain in a better place"*



*"It provided me with more culture and knowledge about other people"*

*"All was good"*



*"The people have all been there, the same as me. We understand each other"*



*"Thank you for a memorable time, I enjoyed the peace, rest and friendships"*

## Women's Healing Camp - Boonah

A small group of inspiring women gathered from 1st -4th June for a Women's Healing Camp at The Outlook, Boonah. Link-Up (Qld) clients, staff, CEO Patricia Thompson and Director Aunty Faye Carr, together with Aunty Gracelyn Smallwood, We Ali-li facilitators Beth and Carolyn, and Kody the beautician were honoured to be welcomed to Country by local Elders Aunty Sheryl Thompson with friend Aunty Gloria Thomas.



On the way to Boonah we stopped in at the Purga Aboriginal Cemetery named Doreen Thompson Memorial Cemetery, where Elders and Traditional Owners Aunty Faye and Aunty Sheryl were able to share the history of the cemetery. Aunty Faye and Aunty Sheryl's great grandmother Amy Turner, daughter of King Billy Turner of the Yuggera Tribe was buried there in 1918. The area where Amy Turner is buried is the original cemetery which is fenced in.



Aunty Doreen Thompson, Aunty Janey Arnold, Uncle Don Davidson and Uncle Herb Shields were key people who fought to have the area of land around the smaller fenced cemetery plot handed back to Purga descendants. There are other significant family members buried at the cemetery which is still used today. It is lovingly cared for and maintained by Aunty Faye's family and Purga descendants.

Aunty Gracelyn Smallwood reflected on how she felt when she attended the very special ceremony when the land was handed back over 25 years ago. All the women could feel the significance of this special place that was filled with love, and our visit was made even more meaningful with our treasured Elders present.



During the next three and a half days we bonded together around the firepit, enjoying the yarns, laughs, tears, poetry, art, beading, knitting, crochet, stretching, meditation, singing, dancing, all learning and healing together. We Ali-li facilitators Beth and Carolyn worked through Dadirri with us, a beautiful piece of reflection writing by Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr.

The Outlook at Boonah was a very special setting for our healing camp, the serenity helping us to leave the demands of our

usual daily routines at home. Our chef Sam became like family, she incorporated bush tucker ingredients into her delicious meals and we highly recommend her business Scenic Rim Event Catering for anyone who is looking for catering in the area. We all wished we could take her home!

A separate treatment room was set up, where there was a qualified beautician Kody who was ready to offer manicures, pedicures and massage to our clients and guests. Kody touched us all with

her most beautiful soul, and we appreciate everything she did for us. There was also Yvette Salam offering reiki sessions and Aunty Gracelyn offering essential oils and traditional healing massages. Clients seemed to positively float out of that treatment room after enjoying the pampering and deep healing they deserve.



*"It was an awesome few days. I enjoyed it very much. I needed those few days."*



*"I thoroughly enjoyed the camp with the other ladies and Aunties and all the activities we did throughout the week. The massage and reiki really relaxed me as this is something that I would not normally do."*



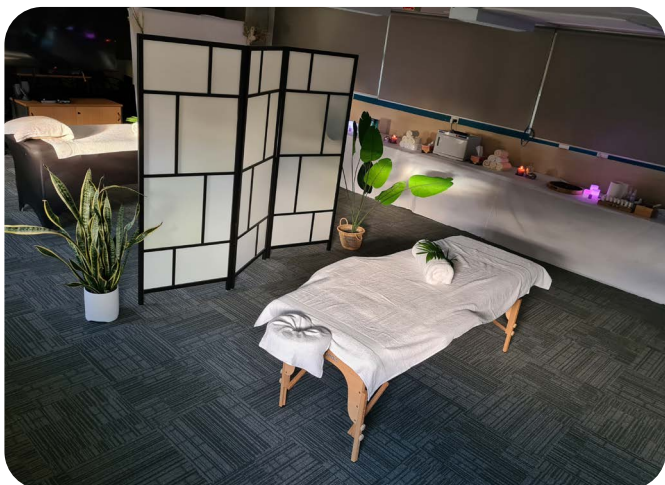
*"Link-Up (Qld) have fantastic staff that looked after everyone and thanks to them for the work that they put into making the camp happen."*



*"The healing camp helped me to open up to tell part of my story"*



*"It was perfect"*



*"The beauty therapy room was beautiful, I felt like I was in heaven."*



*"Thank you Link-Up (Qld) for four beautiful days."*



# Rainforestation Nature Park

On Friday 16th April, a group of staff and clients from the Cairns Link-Up (Qld) office attended a day trip to a Rainforestation Nature Park near Kuranda.

The group had so much fun in their first activity, which was to learn to master the skills to effectively throw a boomerang. We then moved on to experience the ancient sounds of the didgeridoo and heard incredible sounds of native animals being mimicked through this great instrument. Our third activity was witnessing spear throwing over metres of targets as a demonstration of hunting techniques of the local tribe, the Tjapukai (Djabugay) people.

Our group watched the wonderful and entertaining performances of the local Tjapukai (Djabugay) tribal dancers, as they demonstrated the welcoming dance, the honey (Wumba) from the tree dance, the Dreamtime snake dance and All together closing dance (Warmma).

The Rainforestation Nature Park staff were very supportive and helpful to our group. They arranged for our clients to be picked up from the stage performance scene and taken with a tour guide to the Rainforest Army Duck Cruise which travelled throughout the pristine natural habitat of the local Tjapukai (Djabugay) rainforest. Our clients got to see some of many rainforest species during the tour such as snakeskin, spiders, blue tongue lizard, dingoes, cassowary, wallaby and many native birds as well. There were dangerous native plants and trees that we need to be aware of when exploring the rainforest in tropical north Queensland and its surrounding natural environment and habitat. Some of the native plants were stinging leaves, our tour guide explained the significance behind this plant and the effects if anyone

came into physical contact with it. Our tour guide described the experience as being really painful.

Once we reached the end of our Army Duck Tour, we made our way as a group to the Rainforestation Nature Park eatery. We gathered and reflected, sharing our experiences during the day trip.

Burgers and chips were on the menu for our lunch with soft drinks and milkshakes to quench our thirst. All too soon our day trip was over, so we thanked each other and hope to catch up again soon.



# My Dilly Bag

On June 16 and June 23, two excited busloads of Link-Up (Qld) clients, staff and LUQ Board members Aunty Minnie and Aunty Faye headed north to My Dilly Bag, a bushfood business owned by an inspiring Kooma and Yuwaalaraay woman from western Queensland, chef Dale Chapman. From the moment we entered the doors, Dale impressed everyone with her knowledge, her passion and her ambitions for the use of native Australian ingredients. She is also

proud to be supporting other Indigenous artisans to educate the wider community and show the world just how deadly the oldest living culture in the world is.

We enjoyed tasting all the delicious food on offer, including a lemon myrtle and ginger infused macadamia nut oil, Tasmanian peppercorn, saltbush and vinegar seasoning, fingerlime and rivermint syrup, kangaroo stew and so much more. Our LUQ family always love

the opportunity to get together, and there were some wonderful new connections formed.

Thank you so much to Dale and her beautiful family for educating us, feeding us, stocking our pantry and taking care of us all during our client outing to your fantastic business. We are all excited to see what the future holds for My Dilly Bag as it continues to empower Aboriginal communities.



# Staff Spotlight- Keiron Brown

In our latest employee spotlight interview, we meet Keiron from the Brisbane office.

**Position: Redress Counsellor**

**Team: Service Delivery - Brisbane**

## Tell us about your role at LUQ?

I support people who are eligible to apply for redress through the National Redress Scheme. I not only help people with the paperwork, completing the 42 page application form, but I also support them by providing counselling to help them come to terms with traumatic experiences from childhood. I provide that support for the duration of the application process, which can take up to 12 months, and I help them link in with other support services along the way.

## What do you enjoy most about your job?

I get most enjoyment out of feeling like I am helping people. The impact of any type of trauma is a terrible burden that many of us carry throughout our lives.

Nothing makes me feel better than helping people lighten their load.

## What is a common question you get from clients?

What if I don't have any proof of what happened to me?

You don't need proof. All you have to do is "tell your story", and find Redress. I am here to listen to your story and help you move forward.



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

I have been involved as part of the Link-Up (Qld) team taking groups of men on healing camp retreats to remote North Far West Queensland twice now, to heal on country, and I am in awe of how much we are able to let go of by getting out of the city and returning to country. Time moves differently out there and it helps us see what really matters and allowing us to let go of some of the things that weigh us down.

## Three words to best describe you?

Caring, supportive and sensitive

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

I am starting to lose my hair

## Favourite quote?

"We are not here to see through one another, but to see one another through" Anne Lamott



# Staff Farewell - Sloane Stallan

In May 2021, I tendered my resignation after working for Link-Up (Qld) since November 2016. I was sad to make this decision because staff and clients at Link-Up (Qld) have become like family to me, however for health and family reasons, it is a decision I needed to make. The past 4 ½ years has been an amazing journey for me on a personal and professional level. I have had the opportunity to work with a lot of amazing people and wonderful clients during that time. Thank you for the learning and development opportunities and support provided during my time at Link-Up which has had a positive effect on me personally and to others I work with and support.

The work of Link-Up is really important in researching family histories to give our people who have been removed from their families and communities the information missing from their lives because of the impact of past government policies. Delivering a completed research report to a client is very satisfying, witnessing their reaction when provided with their family history is something that I have been privileged to be a part of. Taking those clients on a reunion then to meet family or to go back to country is something I will treasure. Friendships and special bonds have been formed which I will remember with fondness.

Thank you Link-Up (Qld), keep up the deadly work, it has been a great honour working with you all.



# About Link-Up (Qld)

## Our Mission

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

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

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

## Quick Facts

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

## Link-Up (Qld) Offices

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

CAIRNS:  
1/214 Mulgrave Road, Cairns Qld 4870  
PO Box 298, Bungalow, Qld 4870  
Tel: (07) 4041 7403

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

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

**National Redress Scheme: 1800 737 377**

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