

National Link-Up News

edition >34



Letter from the Editor

Hello to all National Link-Ups, our Stolen Generation clients and Community members,

The promise of the new year brings new hope and new possibilities. We hope and pray that a vaccine is made available for Covid-19 soon, but in the meantime, the slower pace of things has given us an opportunity to reflect on and action many projects that have gone unattended or forgotten about when everything is running normally. It has reminded us to look inward, to our offices, to the individuals who work in those offices and the vital role that they play to Community across the nation. This edition includes some powerful personal stories and client testimonies from our staff, as well as a beautiful reunion in the Northern Territory conducted entirely via Zoom!

Thank you for picking up a copy of Edition 34 of the National Link-Up Newsletter. We hope that wherever you are and whoever you are with, you have a safe and happy start to the new year. It is a wonderful opportunity to remember who we are, where we come from and why we do what we do, even in the face of adversity.

Regards,

Emma Heidenreich
Link-Up SA Community Engagement Officer
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With thanks to Link-Up teams and other organisations for their editorial contributions. This newsletter may contain photographs of people who have passed away. Front cover photograph courtesy of Link-Up SA and Redress Support Services at - Nunkuwarrin Yunti SA Inc., from left: Link-Up SA Caseworkers, Sherilee Kartinyeri, Sherry Baxter and Tyra Wanganeen, Redress Support Services Officer, Cathy Wyman and Link-Up SA Team Manager, Rose Highfold in Port Augusta.

Victoria

An Update from Link-Up Victoria, September 2020

STILL UNDER LOCKDOWN

At the time of writing this article, our service is under a second and more restrictive lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This makes for a challenging work environment and difficult for staff to service our clients and community in the ways we normally would. Here in Melbourne, working from home means that we are not able to offer any reunion services or home visits. Contact with clients can only be made via post, email, telephone and Facebook messaging. Despite these limitations, it has been heartening to witness the patience and resilience of our clients, the dedication of services who work with us and the feeling of comradery as we journey down this very unfamiliar road, together.

Our weekly working life includes zoom meetings. These were uncomfortable at first, but now we are all used to them and we can see value in how this new technology can be used when we are out of lockdown. For example, our online event for National Sorry Day will now be livestreamed every year so that community who are not able to make it can watch from their mobile phones or computers, making major community events more accessible to all our mob.



Team catch up Zoom meeting held during lockdown

NATIONAL SORRY DAY

Link-Up Victoria partnered with the City of Yarra who livestreamed our event from the Atherton Gardens in Fitzroy at the Stolen Generations Marker. It was strange to be there for this event. Only a limited number of people could attend and of course we all had to practice social distancing – no hugs allowed. It was wonderful to see and hear Kutcha Edwards perform and poignantly tell the story of the impacts of removal on himself and his family. We also witnessed the Djirri Djirri Aboriginal women and children's cultural dance group who are always a highlight at any event. Speakers were recorded beforehand and their contributions were added to the a livestream of this event, but those of us who were at the Atherton Gardens did not hear or see any of the speakers unless we tuned into it on our phones.



Kutcha Edwards performing at the Stolen Generations Marker, Fitzroy on National Sorry Day



Floral Wreath placed by Link-Up Victoria at Stolen Generations Marker in Preston on National Sorry Day.

Victoria

OUR WORK DURING LOCKDOWN



Ange our Reunions Officer working at home

Since the start of the 2020/21 financial year, there has been a significant increase in the number of applications received, as well as a higher number of queries received via telephone and from our website email. Queries received range from wanting to apply for a service and access assistance with locating family, to receiving advice about Confirmation of Aboriginality and the Victorian Stolen Generations Redress Scheme. At least half the queries received were from people who are not eligible for a service from us, so they were either referred on or provided with advice about what family research they can conduct themselves.

We found that our clients were able to access services to meet their day-to-day needs and it was inspiring to see programs at the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency, our own organisation and other statewide Aboriginal organisations, local Councils and of course local Aboriginal community organisations in country areas, work together to plan a range of services to meet the needs of our mob.

It has now been some six months since our last reunion, so our two Reunion Officers and our three Client Support Officers are all currently undertaking family research, family tracing and referral work. Reunion planning can still proceed, but until we have a clear date that we can resume reunions, planning is limited.

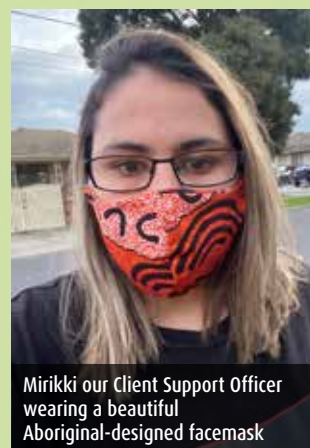
The Victorian Stolen Generations Redress Scheme Committee has been established and Link-Up Victoria will be represented on this group along with Eva Jo Edwards who we nominated to this group. There will be other Stolen Generation survivors nominated to the group and we are looking forward to working with the Stolen Generations, representatives from other Stolen Generations organisations and services and government on this very important issue.

We are all very much looking forward to the day that we can return to work and engage with our clients and community face-to-face. Hopefully, this will happen by the end of the year and that life will get back to normal for all of us soon.

Here are some photos of Link-Up staff that show what our daily working lives look like. As the Manager of the Link-Up Victoria program, I want to express my appreciation to my staff for all the work they do for clients and community despite the restrictions, stresses and challenges that are a part of our daily lives for now.



Narelle our Client Support Officer in her backyard



Mirikki our Client Support Officer wearing a beautiful Aboriginal-designed facemask



Deseree our Administration Officer taking a break from working at home

South Australia

Health Outreach during the Covid-19 Pandemic at Nunkuwarrin Yunti



Remote Area Registered Nurse, Gail Day and Aboriginal Health Worker, Jazz Sambo in the Primary Care Services hub at Nunkuwarrin Yunti

Since 1999, Link-Up SA has sat beneath the larger Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation known as Nunkuwarrin Yunti of South Australia Inc. Nunkuwarrin Yunti is one of the oldest and best-known incorporated health service providers to First Nations People in Metropolitan South Australia.

While this newsletter normally focuses exclusively on updates from across the National Link-Up Network, this year, a powerful story came to Link-Up SA's attention about the wonderful work of our Primary Care Services team at Nunkuwarrin Yunti throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. We felt this story was an important one to tell and that it echoes much of Nunkuwarrin Yunti founder, Auntie Gladys Elphick's original vision: To see healthcare made accessible, both culturally and practically, for the most vulnerable members of the Aboriginal Community in South Australia.

In July 2020, our Primary Care Services team stood directly in Auntie Glad's footsteps, providing emergency accommodation and healthcare to Anangu and Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara women and children, who were prevented from returning to their communities during the first Covid-19 lockdown. The story made national news and although the families were able to return home sooner than expected, further funding was made available for a clinical outreach programme to continue in Tarndanyangga (Victoria Square) and the West Parklands – both traditional meeting places for Aboriginal people in South Australia.

We spoke with Remote Area Nurse, Gail Day about her experience working on the outreach team at a pop-up clinic in the West Parklands, where services such as hospital admissions, medication and prescription checks, wound care and appointment arrangements were provided. "We have much to learn about helping Community in this way, but consistency is key for health outreach services, especially in urban areas – to be at the same location, at the same time, for a number of months. Aboriginal Health Workers who can support and create a comfortable environment for patients are also essential".

"We know that over-crowded housing is a problem, and this was a real concern for us as health workers during the Covid-19 pandemic but oddly, the funding provided during Covid-19 actually made it possible for us to treat and even highlight some of these needs that have existed before the pandemic."

The team consisted of Gail, a Registered Remote Area Nurse, a Remote Area Doctor, a Nurse Practitioner and several Aboriginal Health Workers, as well as the Harm Minimisation Team.

"It was awesome to be able to access people", said Gail. "Rarely are we given the opportunity as Health Workers to go out and actually find people who need check-ups, wound care and holistic or preventative care".

Thank you to all who participated, Auntie Gladys Elphick would be proud.

Link-Up SA Historian Researcher, Karen George, is awarded the Order of Australia



In June this year, Link-Up SA's Historian Researcher was made a Member of the Order of Australia "for her significant service to history preservation and research, and to her professional associations". This award recognised the contributions Karen has made to recording, researching and preserving stories, particularly for people who were disconnected from family and community as children, including survivors of the Stolen Generations.

Karen has been associated with Link-Up SA and Nunkuwarrin Yunti for many years. In the early 2000s, she researched and wrote a guide to records of children's homes in South Australia, called *Finding Your Own Way*. In 2011, this guide became the backbone of the South Australian part of the national Find & Connect website, a key resource for anyone seeking information about children's homes and child welfare history across the country.

Karen has worked as Historian Researcher in the Link-Up SA team at Nunkuwarrin Yunti SA Inc. since October 2015. She provides detailed research assistance and training to Case Workers, as well as family history support to members of the wider Aboriginal community. She has also worked with external record-holding agencies to renew existing Memorandums of Understanding and develop new ones.

Karen believes better, fairer and more compassionate access to records for Aboriginal people is a human right and she has advocated this for over 20 years. Karen is a member of the National Historic Records Task Force run by the Healing Foundation. She has also become involved with other stakeholders in looking at ways to implement the 2019 Tandanya-Adelaide Declaration. This key international document, which was developed by the International Council of Archives, aims at challenging and de-colonising the archive and increasing the involvement of First Nations people in every aspect of archival operations. This declaration paves the way for Link-Up clients and other Stolen Generation Survivors to speak out, tell their stories, respond to, refute and revise the colonial record and have their words preserved for their children and grandchildren and beyond.



Karen George, Link-Up SA Historian Researcher was awarded the Order of Australia

This is Who I Am, this is my Identity and I am at Peace

Sherilee Kartinyeri, Link-Up SA Case Worker, is a proud Aboriginal woman, a descendent of the Narrunga, Ngadjuri and Kaurna clan groups in South Australia. She has worked with Link-Up SA as a Case Worker since May 2020. We sat down to speak with her, to hear her story and to talk about her motivation for applying for the Case Worker role at Link-Up SA and her experience at Nunkuwarrin Yunti so far.

Why did you apply to work for Link-Up SA?

When I reflect on my upbringing and the teaching I received, our morals, our values, one of the most important things to our mob are our family kinship ties. I really threw it to the Ancestors to say, "you tell me where I need to go next!" That's what led to a phone call, which led to an interview and now I'm here, at Link-up! I believe that I am meant to be here for a reason and to contribute to this team. We are constantly observing, listening to and learning from one another.

The historical impact of past and present policies on our people are enormous. We continue to culturally survive in this country. We make up 3% of the population, yet we are high in health, housing, incarceration, courts and men, women and youth Homelessness statistics. Each one of us carries the past around inside of us, the intergenerational and transgenerational trauma of Colonisation. The Bringing Them Home report tells the story of many thousands of our people who have been affected by forcible removal and the subsequent hardships they endured. Some never come home.

I am honoured and privileged to work with our people, to help them find their identity, to find peace and harmony, to find the truth and to reconnect to family, kinship ties and Community. We are helping them to find their spiritual connection to their land, people and communities and to start to heal past wounds and strengthen their spirit.

It was all a bit intense starting a job in the middle of a global pandemic, but are you feeling more settled now?

I'm starting to find my feet and to understand the processes a bit better. My previous experience in administration has helped me to get through what I need to do here. But I've never seen so much paperwork! There are so many processes and so many things to remember, so many passwords and you have to understand the difference between Ancestry, Trove, AIATSIS, Births, Deaths and Marriages and State Records. Everything has a password!

One of the beauties of this job is that we have Karen our Historian Researcher, who we can lean on and ask questions of when we are unsure how to proceed. She has been a Godsend that woman.

It's taken me about 6 months to settle into this job and the training process wasn't easy, but I think we are also basically settled in now.

What stories have stood out to you in this job so far?

Every story is different and unique in its own way. There are always similarities for individuals who were removed under past policies, but the circumstances are often different. People have been exposed to abuse and trauma, but some people have been treated well. So, there are always negatives and positives. That's why everyone's journey is different.

The language to describe our mob in the files can be quite derogatory and traumatising. In one particular case I've been working on, my client always knew in their heart that they were Aboriginal, but I had to go back four generations to find Aboriginal heritage. The language that they used before Aboriginal people officially became Citizens of Australia by law, included phrases like 'appears dark skinned', 'brown' or 'dark'. This is unheard of now of course, but it is important to acknowledge that in this client's case, the language used made us look back over four generations to find an Aboriginal line on her mother's side.

Everyone has different experiences, some have stronger family units and connections. But at Link-Up, our clients' family connections have all been torn apart in some way or another. So we get right to the core of their souls and help them to reconnect, to heal, to find themselves and say, "Yes I was a statistic of this horrific thing that has happened, but that sense of peace and harmony in my life comes from knowing that when I leave this earth, I will go with a dignity and a sense of pride and say this is what happened, this is who I am, this is my identity, I am at peace!"

I will go with dignity and a sense of pride and say this is what happened, this is who I am, this is my identity. I am at peace!"

What is your story, your background? How has it shaped who you are and your work at Link-Up SA?

When I reflect on my own upbringing, I was removed and I know what it was like. I have a lot of empathy and understanding, but my journey was different. I can empathise, but each case is different.

South Australia



Sherry Baxter, Tyra Wanganeen and Sherilee Kartinyeri, Link-Up SA Case Workers

My wisdom and my knowledge comes from the strong women and men in my family that've given me guidance and role-modelling. Don't get me wrong, we've had our own dysfunctional moments, but I was exposed to a lot of the leaders back in the day. I've seen my people empowered, as activists and in rallies. My mum used to take me to things like that and see all the old fellas, see our mob who had nothing but unity and the capacity to stand strong with one another.

I remember getting together and being in those NAIDOC marches and events, participating in Aboriginal Carnivals. One of the highlights in my life is being a part of the Northern Territory Government handing Uluru, or "Ayres Rock" back to its rightful traditional owners. It was an amazing event, there was much dancing, singing, laughing and crying. It will be a significant event in Australian History.

Our people have been broken. Some are lost souls and trying to culturally survive as best as they can. Link-Up is about walking alongside them in their journey. Our job is to connect all the dots by researching their family history and putting the pieces back together, which will tell the truth of their life history and what happened to them. It's like this little thing reconnects inside you, a little light that shines through into the deep darkness of your soul. We continue to be resilient and persistent with ourselves, it is not easy, but we break down those barriers to see that beautiful big bright light shining – a sense of HOPE!

By Sherilee Kartinyeri

Redress Support Services at Nunkuwarrin Yunti

DID YOU EXPERIENCE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE WHILE IN THE CARE OF AN INSTITUTION BEFORE JULY 2018?

You may be eligible for the National Redress Scheme, which includes monetary compensation, counselling and an acknowledgement from the institution responsible for the abuse you experienced.

Redress Support Officers at Nunkuwarrin Yunti are trained to provide culturally safe, confidential assistance to clients who wish to apply for the National Redress Scheme. Our services are 100% free and you do not have to talk to the police, unless you want to.

Contact Nunkuwarrin Yunti today on (08) 8406 1600 and ask for a Redress Support Officer.

*I hope by myself and others coming forward it will
help to make a change.
Thankyou for the opportunity to be heard.*

Queensland

Staff Spotlight – Tahnee Rapson

Position: SEWB Counsellor

Team: Cairns - North

Tell us about your role at Link-Up Queensland.

As a Counsellor, I provide support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients through Social and Emotional Wellbeing counselling. I also case manage clients by supporting them throughout their healing journey. This includes support through the intake, research and reunion stages.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy meeting our clients, putting faces to names and getting to know them. I enjoy yarning with people from different backgrounds, finding common ground and even ties within the community.



Tahnee Rapson, pictured with her daughter Emerson

What is a common question you get from clients?

I often get asked: Where are you from? I find this question to be one which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people connect with. There is always someone that you know, and that someone else knows someone else. I am originally from Borroloola in the Northern Territory. I am Garawa and Yanuwa from my mother's side and Larrakia on my father's side. I spent most of my life living and working in Borroloola. 6 years ago, I moved to Queensland where I met my husband and settled down. We have a beautiful little girl together, whose ties through her father are from around Normanton and Old Mapoon.

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

I have only been working with Link-Up for a couple of months now, but I have memories with staff who I previously studied with. It was brilliant being able to connect with the Cairns staff long before being employed in the same office, because I had the opportunity to get to know them all on different levels before working alongside them.

What are three words that best describe you?

Friendly

Motivated

Determined

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

I am a mother of two and I count my blessings every day. I have a 16-year-old teenage boy, Antwhon, and a 1-year-old baby girl, Emerson. I enjoy camping, fishing, hunting and spending as much time as I can with my family.

Favourite quote?

"Live life and do what makes you happy, because you only live once."



Nagid, Yilanggu Ngiya – Grandfather, I am here

My name is Sloane Stallan, I am an Ugarapul man from the Ipswich Region. When I was growing up, I was told that my grandfather was George Carbine, I didn't know anything else besides his name. I didn't feel connected to a name.

I started working for Link-Up Queensland and began to understand the importance of connecting with family. I began to appreciate what connecting to family was about and to learn that knowing about a name is an important part of creating your own identity.

I had the same dream for three consecutive nights – it came to me in cartoon form. I would find myself walking behind this old man and his dingo. Each step the old man took, he would look behind and say, “you need to take me home.” Every time I closed my eyes, I would see the old man and his dingo. That dream never left me, so I became a Link-Up client. My journey had begun.

While I was studying at Gallang Place, I met another student who was from Woorabinda. They told me about a family that was still in Woorabinda, the Carbine family. I took my children and mother for a trip to meet them. We found out my mum is the eldest – they called her Tribal Aunty.

In 2020, the research completed by Link-Up Queensland was delivered to me by Joshua Williams, Daniel Houtman and Lauren Scheiwe. There was a lot of information in the research, and I was surprised by the family connections that were made. That name and resting place had a story and a graveside reunion was to be planned at Mitchell Cemetery in Roma, about 500 kilometres North West of Brisbane. It took me a few weeks to process this information – it was starting to sink in that the dream that I had been having was about to be fulfilled.

The day of the reunion came, I met Joshua Williams and Joshua Thompson Link-Up staff at the Brisbane airport. I was with my cousin, Colin Graham who came along for support. We flew into the Roma airport at night. I wasn't comfortable flying at night and when we landed in Roma, the weather was hot and there were a lot of flies that followed us around for the next three days.

I was thinking a lot about what was going to happen. I had questions going around in my head and I wondered: What was going to happen? And what was it going to look like? Colin and I spoke about the effects of generational healing and the story behind the reunion.

The next morning, I woke up and realised the moment I had been waiting for had arrived. I was getting nervous as we drove out to the cemetery, which took about an hour. Joshua told me the unmarked grave was marked with a steel picket and a ribbon. I left the car and walked to the grave. I took a deep breath and said, “you are home”. A peace fell over me as I stood there beside the grave, I was speechless. I lay my hands on the dirt and asked God “to take him home”, I knew then that the dream had been fulfilled.

I wanted to say goodbye in Gunggari language, so I wrote a prayer and put a piece of my grandmother's grave in a glass jar. I left it there with my grandfather, it reads:

(Nagid) Grandfather I am here (Yilanggu Ngiya)

God listens to me (Beer-an-ool-ah nah-din-ah yim-bah-nah),

*I have come here (Gun-ah-la) to bring back (Burr-goo) him home,
that his spirit (Bee-yul-bee-wal) be free.*

Goodbye (Noo-lah nah-gah-lah)

Peace is with you (Yan-tel-our-oo) as you return to the Sky (Bun-dah).

I want to thank Patricia Thompson, Chief Executive Officer for Link-Up, for allowing the reunion to happen. I want to thank the Link-Up Queensland staff – Joshua Williams and Joshua Thompson, for taking my cousin and I to Mitchell and to Lauren Scheiwe for doing the research.

Queensland

Gregg Duffy's Story

Hello, my name is Greg Duffy and I was born Kevin Dudley Lynch on 15 July 1956 at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. I was adopted by Noel and Joan Duffy, even though my papers stated that I was not suitable for adoption as "this one is showing colour." Joan took me home and raised me as her own child, along with Joan's daughter and my three siblings, who later came from Nudgee Orphanage.

My adoptive parents loved and raised us all as their own and provided a great family life, but I always felt the odd one out. I loved Noel and Joan, they were great parents, but I always felt the yearning for mum, the land and how things could have been.

At that time, nothing could be done to try and find my mob. Red tape and government restrictions made it impossible to track them down.

Years went by, I got married twice. Karen, my wife of 33 years and I, raised five great kids and now have five fantastic grandkids. As they got older, they started asking questions about their heritage and where we came from.

In 2006, I contacted Jigsaw for information, but they couldn't help at the time, that familiar red tape reared its head once more.

Some years passed before I started looking again. I was informed of Link-Up. I contacted them and arranged a meeting. With only my adoption papers in hand, I had no real source of identity. I was assigned Mr. Sloane Stallan as my Case Worker. The team got to work.

Along the way, I've met some wonderful people. My case moved on to Mr. Jason Ives, who along with the research team Miss Ruth Loli and Link-Up Queensland's CEO, Miss Pat Thompson. Each of these staff helped me and I am thankful for their support through this process and to all my friends at Link-Up morning teas and everyone involved; and of course the late Uncle Sam Watson, a wonderful man and warrior for us all.

I mentioned to Donna at one of the morning teas that I played guitar, and she came up with a crazy idea. What better way to establish identity and heritage than to play and sing a song she picked out for me called 'Feels Like Home To Me' at the 35 Year Anniversary Gala Night at City Hall. It was an honour and an experience of a lifetime, thanks Donna.

Due to the persistence of the research team, we finally confirmed my identity. My family now has roots that would eventually lead us to Waluwarra mob on the Georgina River.

After years of searching, out of the blue Jason calls and says, "I think we found your cousin Steven in Townsville!" Well I nearly hit the floor; I never thought this day would come. Jason said there was a bit more checking to do, and he will get back to me soon. At home, my family was buzzing with the news.

For the first time in 63 years, in March 2020 at the Link-Up office at Woolloongabba, I met a blood relative.



From left - Karen (Gregg's Wife), Gregg Duffy, Steven Lynch and his wife Kimberley

It was an amazing moment in time - when you look eye-to-eye with a man you've never met and feel the warmth and love straight up.

His name is Steven Lynch and along with his lovely wife Kimberly and my wife Karen, we spent a couple of fantastic days together. Steve shared stories of the family and is happy to help fill in the gaps wherever he can. We also spent time at the grave sites of our grandfather who was a World War 1 veteran in the light horse regiment and our uncle. We both didn't know they were there. It was a special time for us all.

To the Link-Up Team - your professionalism and dedication helped me in many ways to reach my goal of finding my family and hopefully leading to my mother. Your work is done, and my case is closed!

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you all.



Karen, Kimberley, Steven and Greg with Link-Up Queensland staff members Jason Ives, Rebecca Oberle and Anne Garrett at Toowong Cemetery

Western Australia, KSGAC

An Update from the Link-Up Team at Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation

The Link-Up team at the Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation cover the areas of the Kimberley, including services to Broome, Dampier Peninsula and the Bidyadanga Communities. Our Counsellor is an assistant on these trips and is there to provide extra support, mainly concentrating on Counselling services to our clients. The Link-Up Team Leader may also accompany and assist Case Workers on regional visits.

All these visits include meeting and greeting registered clients and signing up new ones – we are client-driven. Link-Up staff travel to the most remote parts of the Kimberley, such as the Balgo area in the Great Sandy and Tanami Deserts. We travel by Link-Up's 4WD vehicle, which takes an enormous toll on the officers. A daytrip to Halls Creek can last up to 14 hours and is a roundtrip from Balgo back to Halls Creek. We focus on research and we are always eager to take clients for approved reunions. We also provide Family History Tracing and Counselling services.



Evelyn Shadforth and her Carer



Maxine Gore, Kununurra



Bonnie Dixon, Halls Creek



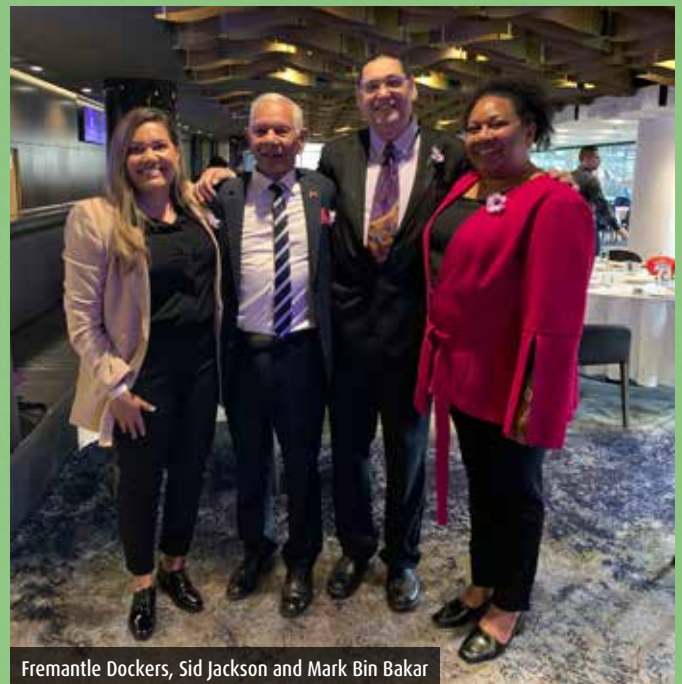
Ruth Smith Bayulu

THE KIMBERLEY STOLEN GENERATION ATTEND THE SIR DOUG NICHOLLS ROUND

The Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation was privileged to be part of the 2020 Toyota AFL Sir Doug Nicholls Round on Saturday August 22 at the Optus Stadium in Perth.

This year, our board members, staff and family members travelled to the Fremantle v Sydney Swans game, where the Stolen Generation Flower was the highlight.

"The AFL Fremantle Football Club recognises First Nations Stolen Generation Survivors. They support Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation by promoting the Stolen Generation Flower at these special events. This is about keeping the momentum of unity, healing, love and respect that we share as partners, by celebrating the Sir Doug Nicholls Round, Sorry Day and recognising Stolen Generation Survivors. The power of the Stolen Generation Flower is symbolic of the resilience, respect and survival of the Stolen Generations, a shared synergy between the Dockers and KSGAC", says Dr Mark Bin Bakar, KSGAC Chairperson.



Fremantle Dockers, Sid Jackson and Mark Bin Bakar

THE RING FAMILY REUNION



The Ring Family grieving at HK's Funeral

It was KSGAC's honor to be a part of the memorable reunion of the Ring family. The following extract, detailing the reunion, was taken from the Eulogy and Funeral book.

Minnie Genevieve Ring, neé Daley, was born in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia. She was the child of Gija woman Maggie and William Stretch.

Minnie's life was shaped by the official State Government policies which separated Aboriginal children from their parents, families, communities and Country. As a survivor of the Stolen Generations, she experienced great disadvantage, hardship, loss and sorrow but did not allow these experiences to diminish her. Minnie was a gentle, devoted mother who loved, nurtured and cared for her children in a way she had never known.

Minnie and her family lived most of their life in Geraldton. When Minnie's health started to decline, she was transferred to a facility in Perth and after a short period of treatment she sadly passed on 25 November 1953. Minnie was given a West Australian Government Trustee Funeral and was buried at the Karrakatta Cemetery in Perth.

Minnie's granddaughter, Hazel Kelly, known by many as 'HK', requested to have her Grandmother's remains exhumed and returned to her home in Geraldton to be with family. The request was rejected over and over. HK did not let this stop her, she rang all Aboriginal Departments for support and she wrote letters to many government agencies. All fell on deaf ears. Most people would have given up but not HK, she wanted answers and wanted people to take notice and be accountable for their actions. HK eventually went to the media. She spoke on radio in Broome with Dr Mark Bin Bakar, KSGAC's Chairperson, on radio MAMA in Geraldton and also radio in Perth. She even had her story in the local paper. Once this happened, things started changing fast. HK received a letter from the Karrakatta Cemetery Board giving her permission that she had spent years fighting for – the permission to bring her Grandmother Minnie home to the place she made her own in Geraldton.

At the same time, HK was communicating with family groups in



The Ring Reunion, HK's family grieve over her coffin



The Ring Family Reunion, HK's Coffin is driven from the funeral location to be buried

Kununurra, Turkey Creek and Halls Creek, regarding recognition of her Grandmother Minnie as a Gija woman and a traditional owner of that Country. Over the past five years, HK made numerous road trips to attend gatherings and meetings along with her children and sisters. During each of these visits, HK found out more about Grandmother Minnie and family. She was finally able to reconnect the family chain, linking Minnie to her traditional family in Turkey Creek.

In March 2019, HK received news that she and Minnie had already met and that her family were to be recognized as traditional owners of Turkey Creek. In April 2019, HK's Mother Betty, the last surviving child of Minnie, was invited to attend a self-determination ceremony with her extended family. This was one of the happiest times in HK's life. At the ceremony, HK sat up the back surrounded by her large family. Her mother listened to the Judge formally announce the return of the family's land. HK's mum shouted "Yes! Yes!". HK cried.

Sadly, the journey took a tragic turn when in February 2020, Betty fell ill and passed away 2 days after HK told her the good news that her Grandmother Minnie was on her way home.

Following Betty's funeral, HK had itchy feet and the travel bug! She travelled up north and wanted to speak with family regarding her Grandmother Minnie's funeral. This was to be her final journey, sadly HK also passed away during the trip at Fitzroy Crossing, just before she made it to Turkey Creek. Life works in mysterious ways but HK, her Mother Betty and Grandmother Minnie, are resting in peace on Country, as the rightful traditional owners of their precious Country.

This reunion included Grandmother Minnie being reunited with her family after 67 years of separation.

Western Australia, KSGAC

NATIONAL LINK-UP CONFERENCE

This year the National Link Up Conference was held in Broome from 4-5 March in the beautiful Cable Beach Club.

The conference included guest speakers from Knowmore Legal, the National Indigenous Australians Agency, Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services and the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

During the conference, delegates were entertained by the Mary G show on Wednesday night – a few were game to be interviewed by Mary! There was a Yawuru Cultural Tour included too.



KSGAC Staff, guest speakers and representatives at Cable Beach Club for the National Link-Up Conference in March, 2020



The Buddy (Errol) Morrison Reunion

On 14 February 2020, the funeral for Mr. Buddy Morrison was attended by many family and friends who paid their respects and paid tribute to his life. Mr. Buddy Morrison was a well-loved man by all who knew him. He was known especially for his charisma and great storytelling.

In February 2019, Mr Morrison was approved for a Back-to-Mission Reunion at Roelands Mission, where he was sent when he was 10 years old. Mr. Morrison was greeted by men who also grew up on the Mission with him. Here is an extract of his Reunion Book:

Mr Morrison, always known by his middle name 'Buddy', said he felt mixed emotions about the reunion – a bit of happiness and sadness. "It was very good to go down to the Mission where I spent most of my childhood. When we went to Roelands, I could still hear the children's voices echoing".

Mr Morrison said meeting up with family was very good. "On the trip I met up with my oldest sister-in-law, Maisy Western. She was married to my older brother. She is the oldest living sister-in-law I have. Maisy is 92-years-old and she has a lot of knowledge. Maisy talked about the good old days and watching us kids grow up. There were a lot of things she knew about the Morrison family. I also met up with my brother, sister and extended family at Tomato Lake in Perth, it was a very good day and I met with family in other places too".



The Morrison Family Reunion, Tomato Park, Perth

Australia

The Cox Family Reunion



The Cox Family Reunion, Alison and Elizabeth Cox

Back to Alice Derby's Mission and Graveside

January 14-16 2020

The Cox Family Reunion was organised by Link-Up at the Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation. Our client Elizabeth Cox and her support, Alison Cox, were accompanied by Link-Up Team Leader Pauline McKenzie and Link Up Caseworker, Suzette Edgar, to travel to Perth for two reunions – a back to Mission and a Graveside Reunion for Elizabeth and Alison's Aunt, Alice Derby. The name Derby was given to Alice instead of Cox because it represents the place where she was stolen from. Uncle Dudley Cox was stolen from Moongardie Community in the West Kimberley and taken to Moore River Native Settlement (Mogumber Mission). In 1914, at the age of 16-years-old, Dudley was sent back to his family, but never heard from Alice again.



The Cox Family Reunion, Alison and Elizabeth pay their respects

Research later confirmed that Alice was taken to Moore River Native Settlement in 1914. In 1932, at the age of 18, Alice gave birth to a baby boy. Alice passed away soon after giving birth and her son passed away at the age of two. Alice is believed to be buried at Mogumber Aboriginal Mission Cemetery and her son is buried at the Karrakatta Cemetery in Perth.

The first reunion gave Alison and Elizabeth the chance to go back to Mogumber Mission where Alice passed away. On arrival, 200 metres from the entrance, there was a wall with name plaques of people who are buried in the Mogumber Aboriginal Cemetery. The ladies quickly located the plaque with Alice's name. They spoke in language to their Aunt and the experience was very moving and sad. We stayed there for an hour and a half, drove into the Mission but did not locate the Cemetery. The next day, we went to visit Alice's son Joseph at his burial place. A plaque has been placed near his gravesite and supported financially by the Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation. This was another very emotional experience for the ladies. After this, we sat down at the cemetery to have a cuppa and to debrief with Alison and Elizabeth, who thanked Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation for the time spent organising a trip back to the resting place of their aunt and cousin.



The Cox Family Reunion, Alison and Elizabeth find their aunt Alice Derby



The Cox Family Reunion, Morgumba Wall

Western Australia, Yorgum

Kaya from Link Up at Yorgum Healing Services



Lynette Spratt, Colleen Wheelock (Team Leader) and Patricia Ellis

Kaya from Yorgum Link-Up in Western Australia! We want to reflect on the difficulties and challenges of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

We need to remain vigilant and ensure we are observing the social distancing rules and practicing personal hygiene, to keep our clients, families and staff safe, but we are also optimistic.

In the initial period, researchers worked from home, whilst all other staff remained in the office. During the lockdown period, care packages and culturally appropriate Covid-19 brochures were delivered to our clients in the metropolitan area of Perth and our Bringing Them Home Counsellor provided telephone counselling. Case Workers and Team Leaders also maintained weekly contact with clients, to check on their social and emotional wellbeing.

There were many positive responses from clients who were housebound. They expressed their appreciation for the phone contact, which enabled staff to check on their client's mental and physical wellbeing, as well as provide information, reassurance and advice about Covid-19.

Given that events and outreach visits were unable to be conducted in the community, items for Sorry Day and NAIDOC promotional bags were collected and delivered to our clients in the Perth South Hedland and Kalgoorlie regions. Each bag included a Yorgum beanie, a metal mug, a magazine, a bookmark highlighting the Nyoongar season of Makuru and the NAIDOC Theme, a blurb on Sorry Day and a voucher.

"It was a pleasure to come home and see a Sorry Day Bag on the Door," said one client. "It lifted my spirits and brightened my day."

Interstate travel to date has been, and remains, prohibited because of border closures. Subsequently, our work has predominantly focused on the state of Western Australia and has included graveside reunions, commencement of the Women's healing Circle in the suburb of Medina, Western Australia, service promotion and Family History Days in the metropolitan and outer suburbs of Perth. In the regions, a Men's Healing Day was held, and the fortnightly Women's Group has started again in South Hedland.

In addition, three new staff have joined Link Up in Perth. It is anticipated that these two Case Workers and a Counsellor will complement and grow our exiting team, assisting in the Healing Journeys of our clients, their families and the community.

Cheryl Augustsson, Manager, Link Up



Yorgum NAIDOC Bookmark

Promotion of Services at the Wadjak Community Centre Balga

On 24 August, Yorgum Link Up staff were invited to the Wadjak Community Centre, Balga, to promote our services to a group of Elders from the Wadjak Community. We were warmly welcomed by staff members Len and Denise Yarran, along with several local Elders. Len opened the proceedings with an Acknowledgement of Country, speaking of strength, love and respect for our past, present and emerging leaders.

The event then continued with introductions, outlines of staff member's duties and detailed information of how Link Up Researchers can amass their findings and also share where community members are able to find information on their own.

Senior Research Officer Casey Petersen, had also explained the setup of a Family Tree, based on the book by Lois Tilbrook called *Nyungar Tradition, Glimpses of Aborigines of South Western Australia 1829 – 1914*. This was well received by the Elders, who had many questions on how they could obtain their own Family Tree using this tool.

After all the speeches, we shared in a wonderful lunch and an amazing soup, homemade by one the Elders from the center. We then sat around the table yarning and sharing stories of the old days and their concerns for the future for their young people. It was topped off with earnest appreciation, spoken by Denise Yarran. They asked us to return for another information session.

The Wadjak Community Centre was filled with inspirational people, both Staff and local Elders alike. The event ran smoothly, was filled with conversation, positivity and solidarity from all who attended and help us work towards healing community.



Jan Gilchrist (Counsellor), Len Yarran (Wadjak Community Centre Manager) and Colleen Wheelock (Team Leader)

Occupational Health and Safety Training

My Name is Nora Derschow. I am a Case Worker, based in the Perth Office with Yorgum Link Up.

In July, I applied for the position of Occupational Health and Safety representative (OH&S) at my office.

At the beginning of August, I undertook some training, Introduction to Safety, facilitated by Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Western Australia.

The training outlined the importance of a safe work environment. It also went through the Legislation in Western Australia, regarding duties of both the employer and employees, Sections 19 and 20 Breaches, risk management, understanding hazards and risks, types of workplace hazards and the role and responsibility of the OH&S Representative.

Presently, our office has 9 staff members including our Researchers, Administration, Case Workers and Management. The role of the OH&S Representative is to communicate between Management and fellow colleagues the importance of managing a safe workplace for all. As we also host a number of meetings with clients and networking agencies, their safety and the safety of our staff is very important to us and the operation of our services.

Our policies here at Yorgum Link Up align with the current Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 and the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996. I am looking forward to carrying out the duties of the OH&S Representative, with an understanding of how I can make my workplace a safe work environment for my fellow staff members.

Western Australia, Yorgum

Megan Ugle, Caseworker at Yorgum Link-Up

My name is Megan Ugle, I was born in Ballardong Waurkadjin, also known as Beverley in Western Australia.

My loved one's family line, who are resting in peace, are from Benil/Bennell FB, Kandy FB, Munger, Collard, Mcguire, Winmar, Ugle, Garlett, Michael, Ninnette, Hayden, Blurton and Kickett.

I started with Yorgum Healing Services Link-Up on 27 July 2020, in the role of Case Worker, where I am responsible for providing case management and support to the Stolen Generations clients and their families who have been institutionalized, adopted or fostered through past Government removal policies.

Prior to starting with Yorgum, I was employed by the Western Australia Country Health Service as an Aboriginal Mental Health Worker in the Wheatbelt region. I have years of employment experience working with a diverse range of government departments and through my studies in Social Work. Currently, my studies are placed on hold due to my family commitments.

I have studied Business for many years and am working on breathing life into my new business Jipilj Djopilj, which means "splish splash" in our Noongar language. The business is based around healing and personal care products, such as bush essences, creams, candles and oils. This has been an ongoing stop start process over the years and will be ready in good timing, like the Noongar 6 seasons.

I am learning Noongar language; it makes me feel alive and joyful as it is a very expressive and interactive language. I believe our language could be the most important thing we learn at school or from our Elders. Noongar language could be a missing link that connects many other things within our being, through the senses of hearing and through our koort 'heart' space.

I love learning about different cultures, I'm really looking forward to working alongside my co-workers and Link-Up families to listen to our people's stories and to walk with them on their healing journeys. Our clients give me hope for the future. We have strong resilient people, we just need to look to our Elder's to know this truth.

Training – Introduction to Safety

My Name is Nora Derschow and I am a Case Worker based in the Perth Office with Yorgum Link Up.

Back in July, I put my hand up to fill the position of Occupational Health and Safety representative (OH&S Rep.) within my office at Yorgum LinkUp Service. At the beginning of August, I undertook some training, Introduction to Safety, facilitated by Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA.

The training outlined the importance of a safe work environment. It also went through the Legislation in WA, duties of both the employer and employees, Sections 19 and 20 Breaches, risk management, understanding hazards and risks, types of workplace hazards and the role and responsibility of the OH&S Rep.

Currently within our office we have 9 staff members including our Research team, Administration, Caseworkers and Management. The role of OH&S Rep. is to communicate between Management and fellow colleagues the importance of managing a safe workplace for all. As we also host a number of meetings with clients and networking agencies, their safety and the safety of our staff is very important to us and the operation of our services.

As our policies, here at Yorgum Link Up, align with the current Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 and the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996, with the training I received I am looking forward to carrying out the duties of the OH&S Representative, with an understanding of how I can make my workplace a safe work environment for my fellow staff members.

Colleen Wheelock's Story

My name is Colleen Wheelock and I am a proud Yamatji woman, born under a tree on Mellenbye Station in the Mid-West.

I have extensive experience working in administration, having spent 17 years with the Water Corporation. My most memorable times were the five years I spent as a Receptionist for the late Ernie Bridge in his Ministerial office when he was the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Water Resources and the Minister for the North-West.

After leaving the Water Corporation, I spent 26 years in the Kimberley where I worked in education as a Liaison and Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer, before studying to become a Primary School Teacher. I have taught in Kununurra, Broome and Derby. After leaving the department, I returned to Perth.

My journey with Yorgum started when I became a client and attended a Women's Healing Camp. Following that, I was lucky enough to get a position as a Family History Researcher within the organisation. I held this position for one and a half years. I am currently in the role of Team Leader and have been at Link Up for three and a half years altogether.

Having been a client and now working at Link Up, I have seen both sides of the organisation. I was able to go on a Back-to-Country Reunion and a Women's Healing Camp. The support that was provided to me and to my family during this time and my family was outstanding. It certainly helped in our healing.

Link Up staff are one big family and we are here to help our people, and to support them on their own healing journey.



Colleen Wheelock, Team Leader at Yorgum Link Up

Western Australia, Yorgum

Janice Michaels Graveside Reunion

On 30 January 2020, Yorgum Link Up staff facilitated a Graveside Reunion for Janice Michaels. Janice is a resident of a nursing home in Perth and is wheelchair-bound. She was referred to Yorgum Link Up for facilitation of a reunion to her husband's grave at Beverley Cemetery. It had been six months since her husband's funeral and Janice had been unable to visit his grave due to her failing health. Beverley is in the Wheatbelt area of Western Australian, 133 kilometers southeast of Perth.

Prior to the reunion itself, a wreath-making session was held at the nursing home. This was attended by Janice, one of her daughters and Wendy Ashwin the Aboriginal Coordinator at the nursing home, plus two Yorgum staff members, Jan Gilchrist (Counsellor) and Nora Derschow (Case Worker).

The graveside reunion was held a week later. Janice travelled to the cemetery in a maxi taxi, accompanied by some of her relatives, along with Wendy. The two Yorgum workers travelled up separately, so that Janice and her relatives could take as much time as they needed, including having a lunch together.

About twelve of Janice's relatives attended, including some younger great-grandchildren. All were involved in tending the grave and telling stories. Yorgum Link Up supplied a graveside kit, which meant the grave could be tidied and marked out using black, yellow and red tapes. The wreaths were then laid. Janice was very emotional – she and her husband had been together for 62 years. Another sadness for Janice was that he had died on her birthday.

Janice and her family were very grateful and thankful for the opportunity to have this graveside reunion. It brought family together in a meaningful way and was a significant part of their healing journey.

By Jan Gilchrist, Bringing Them Home Counsellor at Yorgum Link Up



Janice's family, Graveside Reunion



Janice's family, Graveside Reunion



Janice and her family at a Graveside Reunion to her husband's grave



Janice Michael's at her Nursing Home in Perth

Helen Corbett's Graveside Reunion, Perth Western Australia



Helen's Daughter, Natasha Corbett lays wreaths at the Graveside of her great-grandfather at Guildford Cemetery

On 26 June, two workers from Link Up, Team Leader Colleen Wheelock and Counsellor Jan Gilchrist, supported their client Helen Corbett and her daughter Natasha on two graveside reunions. Before the graveside visits, Helen and Natasha attended a wreath-making session at Yorgum Link Up. Yorgum staff were aware that two others had been placed in the same grave as her grandmother and were uncertain about what this would mean for Helen. Helen chose to pay respect by making two more wreaths.

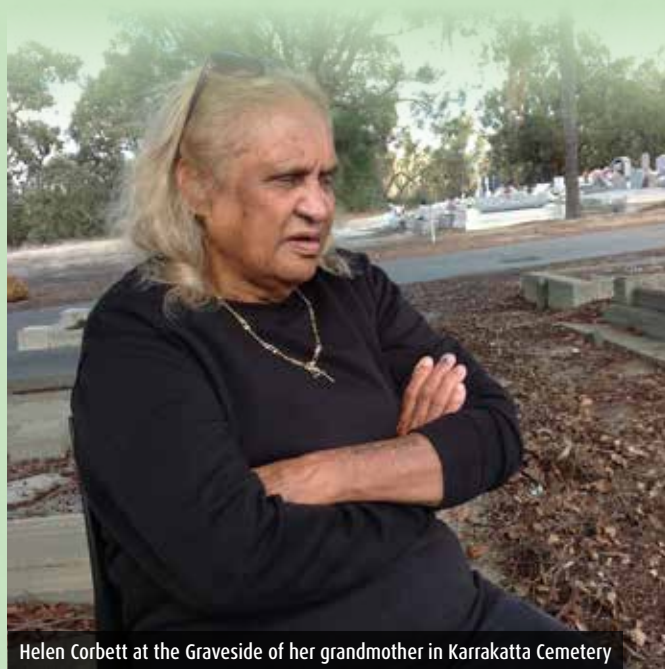
The first graveside visit was for Helen's grandfather at Karrakatta Cemetery. His grave, along with others, had been made into a refection garden. This was a peaceful setting, however, it did not allow for Helen to lay a wreath. Although there were books at the garden with names of those buried there, we could not find a listing for her grandfather. Helen and Natasha took time to talk about stories they knew and reflected on his life.

We then travelled to Guildford Cemetery where Helen's grandmother was buried. Helen was curious about who was buried with her grandmother, so Colleen phoned the Guildford Cemetery board who provided the names. During this time, Helen and Natasha raked and tidied the gravesite. Helen also went searching for the graves of her two aunts who were buried when she was five years old. Colleen returned with two names and we were all astounded to learn that these were the two missing aunts. This was a goosebumps moment!

This opened up more stories and memories about family that Natasha did not know. Helen and Natasha reported that tending the graves and laying down the wreaths was a healing experience. Now that Helen knows where her grandmother and two aunts are buried, she will bring family to visit, to share family history and stories.

Afterwards, at lunch, we continued to process and reflect on the experience, which left us all feeling uplifted. Colleen was overwhelmed with emotions in supporting Helen in her healing journey. From not knowing who was buried in the grave with her grandmother, to finding the names of those buried. Supporting clients in their healing journey is a very rewarding experience.

By Jan Gilchrist, Counsellor and Colleen Wheelock, Team Leader at Yorgum Link Up



Helen Corbett at the Graveside of her grandmother in Karrakatta Cemetery

Western Australia, Yorgum

Kalgoorlie Men's Healing Day

On 16 July 2020, Kalgoorlie Link Up and Hope Community Services in Kalgoorlie collaborated to facilitate a Men's Healing Day with a group of Stolen Generation clients. Three First Stolen Generation clients attended this event, along with Link Up Team Leader, Brian Champion and Stephen Morrison, a Counsellor from Hope Community Services. This event was the first of its kind that has been conducted and it is anticipated more clients will attend in the future. Brian and Stephen worked together to plan for this event, which was an overall success. The event provided a safe space for the participants to yarn and share stories. One client travelled over 260 kilometers from Leonora in Esperance to join with the other two men who reside in Kalgoorlie.

The itinerary began with a bus leaving Kalgoorlie and taking the men and staff to Rowles Lagoon approximately 30 kilometers out of Kalgoorlie. The lagoon is a natural water source and was a place of significance for the traditional Custodians of the land. Jilgies (freshwater crayfish) were traditionally caught and cooked on the beach area by local people. In recent times, Rowles Lagoon has become a site where local Aboriginal people camp and where children swim. The lagoon had dried up, but thanks to recent rains has been replenished.

Brian Champion welcomed everyone to Country upon arrival at Rowles Lagoon and the men's yarning flowed freely. Brian and Stephen created a safe place for all to share their stories. This session proved to be a good bonding opportunity, it was the first time these men had sat down together to openly talk and reflect on their lives and experiences spent on Missions.

Later, we drove further out to Ora Banda, another 20 kilometers away and setup a makeshift camp. During this time, the clients cooked together and continued their yarning.

Once everyone had finished eating, we set off to explore Ora Banda. Today, Ora Banda is a ghost town, but during the gold rush days, Ora Banda was a fully established town outside of Kalgoorlie which provided employment for many local people. We finished off the trip by visiting the old State Batteries, which are significant for the Aboriginal population, as they were a place where many of our old people were employed to crush ore during the height of the gold mining industry in Western Australia.

Shortly after, our group moved onto Broad Arrow, another ghost town. Visits to these two small towns generated further discussion and story exchanges, both good and bad, about what life was like for our people during the Mission days.

On the way back into town, clients joined together in reflection, to discuss and debate issues of the past. Those who attended agreed they would like to meet again and a follow up day is being organized. The clients were welcomed to talk further with Stephen Morrison, the Counsellor from Hope Community Services, if they needed to.

By Brian Champion, Link Up Team Leader, Kalgoorlie



Micheal McGuinness, David Wolgar, Richard Evans and Stephen Morrison, enjoying the scenery out at Rowles Lagoon

South Hedland Women's Activities



Morning Tea at the local Police Station

Each Wednesday morning from 10am – 2pm, Link Up South Hedland through Yorgum Healing Services, facilitates activity sessions for the Women's Healing Circle.

Participants include Elders who engage in art, craft and yarnning circles, where many stories of the Mission times have been shared.

During Covid-19, regional closures made contact difficult. We made regular phone calls and sent emails to clients in the Pilbara and Gascoyne areas on a weekly basis.

Link Up South Hedland have also actively engaged in the following community events and information sessions with our Elders:

- NAIDOC
- Suicide Awareness event, Rowan's Walk
- Domestic Violence and Mental Health information sessions

Our Elders are very active and respected in their community. We are also appreciative of the following service providers and workers: In-Spire Women's Group, Senator Sue Lines at Pilbara Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Forum, Bloodwood Tree Association, Aboriginal Family Law Services, Yinhawangka, Banyjima and Nyiyaparli (IBN) Corporations in the Pilbara, as well as Pilbara Mental Health.

Link Up South Hedland also cover the Pilbara region and recently made our first visits to Karratha, Roebourne and Wickham, following the Covid-19 closures.

South Hedland Link Up office is preparing to take 10 elderly women to Point Samson for a Women's Healing Camp, this will run from Monday 12-16 October 2020.

Link Up South Hedland would like to thank all our Elders for their strength, courageous spirit and support.

By Jane Bin Saad, Team Leader and Leanne Jones, Case Worker at South Hedland Link Up Office



Beverley Pickett - Karratha Client



Marine James - Karratha Client



Women's Healing Circle

An Update from Central Australian Aboriginal Congress

Congress Link Up Service experienced a lull in service activity between February and June this year, due to staff shortages in key Case Work and research roles. Fortunately, this was able to be turned around in June 2020, with the successful recruitment of Glenn Clarke as Congress Link Up's Team Leader/Case Worker and Kylie Preece in the Aboriginal Client Engagement Officer role. Glenn and Kylie are long-term locals from the Alice Springs community. They came to Congress Link Up with a wealth of knowledge on family connections across Central Australia and were therefore able to hit the ground running; immediately engaging our clients and continuing to support those who had unfortunately experienced a pause in their service due to the staffing shortages.

In the short time Glenn and Kylie have been with Congress Link Up, they have been busy engaging with our clients to progress their Link Up journey, promoting the service to bring on new members seeking support to make those all-important and long awaited connections. Courtesy of a small grant from the Healing Foundation, Glenn and Kylie have also been putting together and delivering care packs for our elderly Stolen Generation Survivors in Central Australia. The care packs consist of toiletries, sanitizers, activities, towels, pillows, blankets, vouchers and other small things that will help them through difficult times with Covid-19. The packs have been warmly received.

The major highlight for our new team members was to find the very last missing links to grant a 90-year-old mother her wish of making a long-awaited connection with her son, who was removed from her care many decades ago during the time of forced removal policy. Not letting Covid-19 restrictions or anything else stand in the way of a reunion between these two, Glenn and Kylie organised the necessary technology in both Tennant Creek and Walgett NSW, so mother and son could connect via Zoom. The reunion was an amazing success and mother and son are looking forward to a face-to-face reunion when interstate travel is possible again.



1. Congress Link Up workers Glenn Clarke and Kylie Preece with Elsie and niece Glenda at the Zoom reunion, giving Elsie a Care Pack
2. John with his daughter and partner
3. Elsie Kunoth at a Zoom reunion with her son John
4. John reuniting with his mother after 60 years, via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions
5. Elsie Kunoth at a Zoom reunion with her niece, granddaughter and great grandchildren

Canberra, AIATSIS

An Update from the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, September 2020



FINDING YOUR FAMILY

The AIATSIS Family History Unit can help Indigenous Australians find their families through a range of resources and services.

We have been assisting Indigenous Australians to do family history research since the 1970s.

Finding Your Family

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) holds the world's largest collection dedicated to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories. The AIATSIS Family History Unit provides support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities who are undertaking family history research.

To celebrate Family History Month in August, AIATSIS hosted three, free online events featuring special guest, Iamarnte woman Kath Apma Travis Penangke, author of her self-published 'her-storical' biography 'Minnie, Mum and Me: The Black Headed Snake'. Kath is of the Arrernte people of Alice Springs, she is a First Nations historian and a Stolen Generation survivor.

The online presentations covered the AIATSIS Collection and the Aboriginal Biographical Index (ABI), the AIATSIS Family History Unit and their services, family history research process, websites and resources available including demonstrations and a question and answer session at the end.

Our guest speaker Kath was removed from her mother at three weeks old and adopted by a Non-Aboriginal family in South Australia. In 1985, as a nineteen year old, she met her mother for the first time. She has spent many years examining her ancestral family history and is in her first year of her PhD at Victoria University. Kath's research seeks to explore ways in which archival stories can be re-claimed and re-authored by First Peoples to address individual, family and

community identity and intergenerational healing. Kath provided tips during the session on navigating and interpreting archives giving first-hand knowledge of the processes and places and how to incorporate the research into something that families can own and share. In turn, she's leaving a legacy for future generations to know the story, in the First People's narrative.

The sessions attracted over 500 registrations Australia-wide from a diverse age group of people keen to learn more about how to begin their family history. Some of the participants included Link-Up Case Workers interested in understanding more about the unit and our services. These online sessions were the first of their kind for AIATSIS, who previously held them onsite in Canberra. The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive and a copy of one of the video presentations will be available on the AIATSIS website soon.

This is the perfect time to remind all Link Up caseworkers that unaccredited family history research training is available for free through the AIATSIS Family History Unit. We have held sessions this year for 10 caseworkers, providing them with an understanding of the complexities of family history tracing, the services our unit provides in assisting you and your clients in their research and the importance of the AIATSIS Collection as part of the journey. If you are interested in having a training session for your caseworkers, please get in touch with us at linkup@aiatsis.gov.au or call the Family History Unit Manager, Sherilyn Dean on 02 6129 3912 for more information.

New South Wales

Please welcome our new staff members, Janelle, Jodie, Alison and Jethro



Janelle Clarke is a proud Aboriginal woman who was born in the northern NSW coastal town of Taree, on Biripi country. She has an extensive background working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities. She has had senior roles in community and government organisations in the areas of housing, education, employment, legal and justice and held positions such as Chief Operating Officer, Acting CEO and Board Member of the Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) and has also been a Board Member of the Tranby College and Member of the Women's Advisory Committee for Corrective Services NSW. Janelle has completed a Bachelor of Business Administration at the University of Sydney Technology.



Jodie Matthews is a proud Yorta Yorta Bundjalung woman. Born in Western Sydney, she has worked extensively in various fields including Customer Service, Corporate Insurance and Government Agencies such as Justice, Aged Care, Disability and Out of Home Care (OOHC). Jodie shares the following message:

"It has been 40 years since the beginning of Link-Up. This year we have seen challenging times for our community. At Link-Up NSW, we have stayed connected, safe and healthy and I have reflected on the original reason that Link-Up was established. In my work, I am guided by the champions who fought for this organisation to be a voice for Aboriginal people who for many years didn't have one. There are exciting times ahead at Link-Up NSW and I can't wait to share new creative, innovative and educational programs to meet the needs of our clients and communities. Always was and always will be..."



Alison Barnes is a Wiradjuri woman born and raised on Darug land. Alison currently lives on Darug/Gundungurra country and is happy to share her home with countless birds, possums, swamp wallabies and 2 teenage daughters. Before coming to Link-Up, Alison worked as a Registered Nurse for over 30 years. Most recently, Alison taught Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health to student nurses at Western Sydney University. Alison also sits on the NSW Nurses and Midwives Registration Board and is a member of the consultative committee for the School of Medicine at Sydney University. Alison loves painting and bush tucker and learning people's stories. Raising her girls to be strong, proud and compassionate young women is her proudest achievement.



Jethro Braico is a proud Djabugay, Muluridji and Olkola man born in Cairns. When he was 9-years-old, he relocated to Perth for 2 years, followed by a move to Manjimup, a small country town in the lower southwest of Western Australia for 6 years. After graduating high school, he moved and began study at the University of Sydney, where he graduated with a BA in Anthropology and Indigenous Studies in 2015. Before joining Link-Up, he worked for Indigenous organisations and community-orientated programs, including the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence and Indigenous Digital Excellence, both based in Redfern.

Contacts & Resources

National

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Northern Territory

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Alice Springs NT 0871
Tel: (08) 8959 4750

Northern Territory Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation

Shop 1, Malak Shopping Centre
Malak Crescent, Malak NT 0812
Tel: (08) 8947 9171
Fax: (08) 8947 9173

Queensland

Link-Up (QLD) Aboriginal Corporation

3-5 Reid Street, Woolloongabba QLD 4102
PO Box 3229, South Brisbane QLD 4101
Toll Free: 1800 200 855
Tel: (07) 3638 0411
Fax: (07) 3217 3458
Email: contact@link-upqld.org.au

Link-Up (QLD) North Qld Regional Office

2/128 Spence Street, Cairns QLD 4870
PO Box 298 Bungalow QLD 4870
Tel: (07) 4041 7403

South Australia

Nunkuwarrin Yunti of South Australia Inc. Link-Up SA

182-190 Wakefield Street, SA 5000
PO Box 7202, Hutt Street, SA 5000
Tel: (08) 8406 1600
www.nunku.org.au

Victoria/Tasmania

Link-Up Victoria

48 Mary Street, Preston VIC 3072
Ph: 03 7002 3700
Freecall 1800 687 662 (1800 OUR MOB)
Postal Address: PO Box 191, Preston Post Office, High Street, Preston VIC 3072
Email: linkup@vacca.org
Website: www.linkupvictoria.org.au

Western Australia

Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation – Head Office

176 Wittenoom Street, East Perth WA 6004
PO Box 236, Northbridge WA 6865
Tel: (08) 9218 9477
Fax: (08) 9221 0487
Email: reception@yorgum.org.com
www.yorgum.org.au

Perth Link-Up

3 Brammal Street, East Perth WA 6722
PO Box 236, Northbridge WA 6865
Tel: (08) 9428 3700
Fax: (08) 9227 0514

South Hedland – Link-Up

Suite 4, 3 Brand Street,
South Hedland WA 6722
Tel: (08) 9140 4029
Fax: (08) 9140 4031

Kalgoorlie – Link-Up

34 Dugan Street, Kalgoorlie WA 6430
Tel: (08) 9091 6359

Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation

28 Barker Street (PO Box 2775),
Broome WA 6725
Freecall: 1800 830 338
Tel: (08) 9193 6502
Fax: (08) 9193 5693
Email:
admin@kimberleystolengeneration.com.au
www.kimberleystolengeneration.com.au

National

AIATSIS Family History Unit

GPO Box 553, Canberra ACT 2601
Ph: 1800 352 553
Email: linkup@aiatsis.gov.au
www.aiatsis.gov.au

National Archives of Australia

National Archives of Australia,
National Office, Canberra
Old Parliament House
18 King George Terrace,
Parkes ACT 2600
PO Box 4924, Kingston ACT 2604
Tel: (02) 6212 3600
Email: archives@naa.gov.au

National Library of Australia

Parkes Place, ACT 2600
Tel: (02) 6262 1111
Fax: (02) 6257 1703

National Stolen Generations Alliance

Connecting Home (NSGA Head Office)
14 Gipps Street, Collingwood VIC 3066
PO Box 1234, Collingwood VIC 3066
Tel: (03) 8679 0777
Fax: (03) 8679 0799
Email: NSGA@connectinghome.org.au