

National Link-Up News
edition > 35



Letter from the Editor

Hello to all our readers, and especially a big thank you to our National Link-Up Network who work tirelessly to support, up-hold and assist in the healing of the Stolen Generations in Australia.

There are some exciting things happening in this space. The 2020 National Records Taskforce have commenced to improve Stolen Generations records access, recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service men and women is increasing, reunions are ongoing, despite the challenges Covid-19 has presented to staff, clients, and organisations; and AIATSIS and the National Society of Archivists have collaborated to develop training to better inform record-holders and Freedom of Information workers on the impact that records access can have for Stolen Generations and their healing.

It is my honour to present Edition 35 of the National Link-Up Newsletter, and I want to say a huge thank you to all those who have contributed to this edition. Those who are not a part of the National Link-Up Network have also contributed some beautiful content, such as Uncle Justin Mogridge of Uniting Country SA and Sergeant Jason Enchong of 1st Armoured Regiment. Lest We Forget.

Regards,

Emma Heidenreich
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Front cover photograph courtesy of Dr Robert Anderson and photographer JS Wiley. Thank you AIATSIS Family History and Collections Access Units for providing access to this and other photos of Aboriginal servicemen in this edition. Private Albert Tripcony, 'Uncle Bob' from Stradbroke Island, Queensland served in the Australian Imperial Force in WW1. He was killed in action in France in 1917 and is on the Roll of Honour in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. This photograph was probably taken in Brisbane in 1916. The War Memorial website has personal profiles of 824 Indigenous service persons, including Albert Tripcony. All WW1 service records have been digitised and are available on the National Archives of Australia website. These records are a valuable resource for Family History Researchers.



The Dawn Service honoured Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander soldiers of the past by incorporating a Smoking ceremony and a spear and shield in the memorial wreath, provided by Ynimni

South Australia

South Australia

Rose Highfold wins role as Link-Up SA Team Leader

In November 2020, Rose Highfold won the role of Team Leader at Link-Up SA here in Adelaide. As well as being a member of the Community herself and a descendent survivor of the Stolen Generations, Rose has over 20 years' experience working with Stolen Generations. She is a qualified counsellor and has extensive knowledge of community and cultural ties. She is wise, strong and kind. Our Community Engagement Officer, Emma Heidenreich, sat down to speak with Rose about her story, her time as Link-Up SA Team Leader so far and her vision for our team moving forward.

Tell us a little about yourself, your cultural ties, where you were born, your Country and community.

I was born and raised in Alice Springs, and I identify as Eastern Arrernte on my dad's side and Garrawa/Yanyulla on my mum's side.

Given the story of your parents, what does it mean for you to work in this space?

Both my parents were members of the Stolen Generation. Dad was removed with his siblings from Arltunga Historical Reserve and sent to the Bungalow in Alice Springs when he was nine years old. He remained in care until he was fourteen years old and then he was sent to a Cattle Station just out of Alice. Nana and Grandpa kept in contact with him while he was at the Bungalow, so he knew his cultural connections and his language.

My mum was removed from Red Bank Mine near Doomadgee Mission (Queensland), when she was 13 years old and sent to Garden Point Mission just off Darwin. Her father was non-Aboriginal and was working in the Darwin Post Office, she believed that is why she was placed in the Mission at Garden Point. Mum never had any contact with her mother, father or her siblings after she was removed. It was only when she was in her late forties that she was able to reconnect with her mother and siblings. Mum had lost her cultural connections and language. She had to re-learn all of it.

My parents and the other members of the Stolen Generations are why I work in this space. They are the main reason I went to university and gained a degree in counselling. Once I graduated, I gained employment as a Bringing Them Home Counsellor and was committed to assisting the Stolen Generations and their families to address their intergenerational trauma, support them in their

therapeutic needs and connect them with their families.

When and why did you move to South Australia?

I moved to Adelaide in 1983 to attend the Aboriginal Task Force and to complete my Associate Degree in Community Development. The Aboriginal Task Force was part of the University of South Australia in North Terrace and it offered various degrees tailored to Aboriginal people. It was also a support hub for other students who can complete a bridging course and enter mainstream courses at university. I completed my associate degree in 1985 and my husband, my family and I moved out to the APY Lands and lived for a few years. I totally enjoyed my time living on the APY Lands.

When did you start the role of Team Leader at Link-Up, and how did your previous role as counsellor prepare you for the role and working at NY in a leadership capacity?

Before I started in the role of Team Leader at Link-Up SA, I was employed as a Counsellor at Link-Up SA. My main role was to support clients during release of their removal records, assist clients with reunions, to support them with their therapeutic needs and to engage new members to our Women's Group. I really enjoyed being in this role and working with clients and I also like working within Nunkuwarrin Yunti. We have some awesome workers that are committed to assisting Aboriginal people gain access to not only Link-Up but to Nunkuwarrin Yunti to address their health needs.

What do you hope to achieve in the role of Team Leader? What is your vision for the Link-Up SA team?

I want to see our service continue to provide the good work that it does and to make sure that we assist as many Stolen Generations as we can, for as long as we can. Twelve years have passed since Kevin Rudd's Apology to our people, but I still remember sitting there, listening to those words. It was a powerful moment. I will continue to take that memory with me as I do this role to the best of my ability. The Records Taskforce, which Karen our Research Historian is involved with, is an exciting next step for our organisation as well. We continue to learn from our clients and Stolen Generations families and their communities about the challenges they face when trying to access records or learn about their families, culture and Country. As my dad always said, 'you have to know where you come from, to know where you need to be in your life'.

Rose Highfold, Link-Up SA Team Leader



South Australia

Honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ANZAC Soldiers in Port Augusta

On Sunday 25th April 2021, an ANZAC Dawn Service to honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service men and women was held at Arid Lands Botanic Gardens in Port Augusta. 'This was the first Aboriginal Dawn Memorial Service we've had here in Port Augusta and it was very special,' says Uncle Justin Mogridge, Community Engagement Officer for Uniting Country SA. 'The sun rose over the hills as the last post was played, it was a goosebumps moment,' he said.

The ANZAC Dawn Service was made possible by Uncle Justin, a Yuad and Noongar man and his colleagues Jason Enchong, Indigenous Liaison Officer, Sergeant and Erub, Mer Island and Maori man from the Ngati Whatua Iwi people for the 1st Armoured Regiment and Michael Edgecomb of Doing Life Together. Of those nine soldiers that attended the Dawn Service, four were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and they were joined by Elders and other local people from various community groups in and around Port Augusta, as well as Army personnel. 'I was extremely proud of my soldiers who volunteered to participate in the Dawn Service, especially one that held such significance to the community,' says Jason.

The Dawn Service was the culmination of a long-term project. 'In early-2021, I travelled to Port Augusta to see what things we could achieve together. As it was close to ANZAC Day,' says Jason. 'We agreed on a Dawn Service with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. We envisioned a service similar to the Indigenous Dawn Service

held in Canberra, which was met with great support from the Commanding Officer of the Regiment,' he says.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women have served in the Australian Armed Services for as far back as the First Boer War in 1880, but it was not until 1917 that an Army order allowed the enlistment of 'half-castes', a derogatory name used to describe children of mixed European and Aboriginal ancestry. These men and women who survived the war were often survivors twice over - many of them were Stolen Generations, removed from their families and communities under past Government policies and placed in forced adoptions or sent to institutions, where they later enlisted. 'People can feel forgotten in their pain, this was a time where their grief was recognised, and they were heard,' says Uncle Justin. 'One of the ladies who attended said to me, "I can now start to heal".'

The term 'forgotten heroes' is often used, because Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander soldiers received little or no recognition upon returning to home soil, to the Country they had fought hard to protect. The Dawn Service honoured Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander soldiers of the past by incorporating a smoking ceremony, a Welcome to Country by Bargarla Elder, Uncle Harold Dare, and a spear and shield in the memorial wreath, provided by Ynimmy. 'This service helped me just to remember how many of our people have fought and supported the war effort,' says Uncle Justin. 'Elders came in and did a smoking ceremony, everyone was welcome to grab some leaves and put them on the fire,' he



Unidentified Family - The man on left is a possibly serviceman - he wears boots and a jacket and is smoking a cigarette



Alick Jackomos (far left) and other soldiers of the 2nd and 4th battalion waving from the deck of a ship from Papua New Guinea



"In Sacred Memory of Their Sacrifice"

He came and joined the colours, when the war God's anvil rang,

He took up modern weapons to replace his boomerang,

He waited for no call-up; he didn't need a push,

He came in from the stations, and the townships of the bush...

In Sacred Memory of Their Sacrifice, Lest We Forget

Peter J. Fitzpatrick, AM

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired)



Community Members stand for the last post at the ANZAC Dawn Service with the sunrise in the background

South Australia

says. Jason adds, 'the significance of the smoking during the ceremony cannot be understated. [The smoking ceremony] is quite an important part of our culture [and] our healing process, and a cultural link back to our ancestors who fought in our wars. It was a link that connected today's modern warriors, brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles, to our protectors of the past,' he says.

'In recent years, we've come across written documents of Aboriginal families who had family members go to war and how little recognition they got for their sacrifice,' says Uncle Justin. 'There was a discussion [at the Dawn Service] around who identifies as having family members who fought in wars, and we spoke about the pain of losing family members,' he adds. In recent years, military records and enlistment documentation have come to form a critical resource for family history research, particularly that research conducted by Link-Ups around Australia for the Stolen Generations. According to our Research Historian, Karen George, 'enlistment details and military records can really help us with details about the [Stolen Generation] person, height, next of kin, even photographs... They don't necessarily confirm Aboriginal identity, but they are helpful,' she adds.

The fight for recognition on the home front continues, the Returned Services League (RSL) in Port Augusta are yet to hold a service that includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service men and women. 'There's a lot of wrong that needs to be put right [and] we still have our own wars to fight at home,' says Uncle Justin. 'I'm hopeful that we can continue to build our relationship with the community in Port Augusta in years to come.'

Uncle Justin also recommends a book called Forever Warriors by Jan James for further reading on this topic. Thank you to Tina and Sye at Port Augusta Library for lending this book for research purposes.



The ANZAC Dawn Service in Port Augusta gathered community members, organisations, Elders, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Servicemen and Women and their families



A soldier reads the Ode to Fallen ANZAC Soldiers



A Military Parade with Soldiers on horseback in formation, taken in the 1940s

Sorry and Beyond: Healing the Stolen Generations

On 26 May, Sorry Day was marked in Adelaide by the release of Uncle Brian Butler and John Bond's book, *Sorry and Beyond: Healing the Stolen Generations*.

The event was hosted by AIATSI in collaboration with Aboriginal Studies Press, and honoured and included representation and speakers from various organisations around the country and state. Organisations included the Healing Foundation, Link-Up SA at Nunkuwarrin Yunti, the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC), the South Australian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (SAACCA), Commissioner of Aboriginal Children and Youth, April Lawrie, NSW Link-Up Glendora Stubbs and a Zoom speech by Former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd.

Gina Mezzino, Link-Up SA Senior Caseworker, reflects on the book launch, what it meant to her and to all of those who attended:

Brian was the last speaker. He spoke about his personal journey of his grandmother and how she was taken from her family by government officials in 1910 at the age of twelve. Twenty years later her daughter, Brian's mother, was taken. Brian spoke about his journey which started when he was at the age of fourteen. He spoke on how he wanted to help people from the Stolen Generation find their families, which led him onto working with many like-minded people that were driven and devoted to reunite families.

Brian reflected on all the people that had helped him follow his passion and the commitment of people that had worked with him and worked for him through Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC), and South Australian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (SAACCA). He honoured their work in supporting young Aboriginal children to find their families and keeping them connected to their families while in care.

His speech was very emotional and close to his heart and everyone there and including my heart. I could relate to what he was saying through knowing Brian whilst working for him at SAACCA in the nineties. Brian also acknowledged his family that were there, and he presented his book to his daughter at the launch and other people that had shared their journey with him.

It was great networking after the launch with people I hadn't seen for close to 30 years and I feel privileged to have been a part of Brian's journey and to read what he has written and

spoke about today and remembering those events and all the hard work he has been committed to throughout his journey and right back to when he was a young boy.

It was a pleasure to meet up with people and to hear some amazing work they had gone onto do since then and reading those stories in Brian's book. It's a great read.

Link-Up SA have a copy of *Sorry and Beyond*, signed personally by Uncle Brian, available in our library.



From left - Healing Foundation Policy Officer and CEO, Lou Turner and Fiona Cornforth, Emerging Minds Child Mental Health Consultant, Bec Edser and Uncle Brian Butler at the book launch



Link-Up SA Senior Caseworker, Gina Mezzino and Uncle Brian Butler at the launch of *Sorry and Beyond*, 26 May 2021

South Australia

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An Update from the National Records Taskforce, June 2021

In late-2019, an historic National Records Taskforce was commissioned by The Healing Foundation, to discuss the main challenges and barriers that Stolen Generations survivors face when accessing their records. '[The idea] came directly from Stolen Generation survivors themselves,' says Healing Foundation CEO, Fiona Cornforth. 'This is one of those amazing ideas that's been implemented to ensure... First Nations people, whose families and histories are intertwined with the Stolen Generations... can access their records,' she says. 'It's survivor-led.'

The Bringing Them Home Report released in 1997 listed the improvement of 'access to records' as a core recommendation for Stolen Generations survivors. While improvements are slow, the National Records Taskforce, a small number of archivists, community members, academics, and Link-Up staff, recognise and understand the unique challenges that Stolen Generations survivors experience when trying to access their records, as well as the barriers it creates to their own and their families' healing.

Some of the core issues pertaining to Stolen Generations' records access include name, language and/or birthdate changes, multiple locations of, poor quality or heavily redacted records, as well as a phenomenon known as Orphan Records. 'There are a lot of mission organisations that popped up specifically to remove children and take them into institutional care,' says Karen. 'Some missions do not have an overarching body that presides over them, [so] those records become known as "Orphan Records" because they end up, generally, in the possession of [an] Honourary Custodian... who shut down any access to those records,' she says.

The hunt for records on behalf of Link-Up researchers and caseworkers is a race against time, many First Stolen Generations are elderly or sick and require new strategies to try to gain access to records faster. 'We currently have approximately 15 clients in South Australia alone who still do not have access to their records, some previous clients have passed away before they have a chance to find out what happened to them... and no records often means no reunion,' says Karen.

The National Records Taskforce has also identified critical inconsistencies across the different states with regards to records access. 'In South Australia we are really lucky,' says Karen. Our Memorandum of Understanding with Births, Deaths and Marriages [allows] caseworkers [to] go into the

BDM registry for free and apply for transcripts of records which makes our research easier, but if we are applying for records interstate for example, then we must go through that state's processes and pay the same price as anyone else,' she says. A proposal to rectify this issue has been made by the National Records Taskforce to the National Meeting of BDM Registrars, who meet regularly.

Another core focus of the National Records Taskforce has been to develop a Whole-of-Government Memorandum of Understanding, which could expedite and simplify records access of state-owned institutions or foster carers across Australia. 'A whole-of-Government MOU would mean... we could apply for any kind of record created by Government... state care, police records, court records, education records, anything you can think of that is run by the State Government,' says Karen, 'and this could be useful for Redress clients too'. Karen and Nunkuwarrin Yunti CEO, Vicki Holmes, met with Attorney General, Vickie Chapman to present the proposal earlier in 2021.

The National Records Taskforce, in conjunction with the Australian Society of Archivists, have also developed trauma-informed training for record-holders. 'There is so much pain and trauma in [Stolen Generation] records, so we try to honour the courage of survivors to come forward... [and] archivists need the skills and understanding to service that person and be sensitive to their specific trauma/experience when accessing those records,' says Karen. The training package includes information about the Stolen Generations, their history and past decisions made by Government, as well as information about the triggering language that is often used in records and is misleading and/or altogether false. In time, this training will be available to Freedom of Information workers too, to impart an understanding of the trauma experienced by Stolen Generations, so FOI workers know and have compassion for what effect redaction has on people.

The National Records Taskforce are a unique mix of thought-leaders in records access for Stolen Generations. Fiona Cornforth says, 'contemporary records can be stored in a more meaningful way for Stolen Generation survivors... we are working to understand what are the needs now? How do we heal now? What are those strengths that we need to build on that have gotten us to where we are now? And there's so much rich information. They really are leading intergenerational healing not just for themselves and their families but for this country.'

Discovering Kin And Country

Tips and Skills for Researching Aboriginal Family History

Date & Time

Tuesday 31 August 2021, 9.30am-4.30pm

Location

Please note that due to COVID-19 restrictions this is a virtual Zoom event.

Details and free registrations at this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/discovering-kin-and-country-tickets-156996698351>

Are you new to researching Aboriginal Family history and don't know where to begin?
Stalled somewhere in your healing journey of connection to family and community?
Interested in learning new skills? Then this event is for you. Hear from researchers, archivists and library staff and come to the Aboriginal Family History Hub to meet with record holders and others who are involved in discovering kin and country.



Nunkuwarrin Yunti
of South Australia Inc.



AIATSIS



Genealogy SA
Helping find your family history



State Library
South Australia



LUTHERAN
ARCHIVES

State Records
of South Australia



Western Australia

Western@Australia

Women's Healing Circle, July 2020

In July 2020, Yorgum Link-Up facilitated a second Women's Healing Circle. Social support has long been recognised as a critical factor for healing and working in a group provides an opportunity not experienced in one-on-one counselling. Our Healing Circles are designed to address issues that have come out of the policies which created the Stolen Generations, resulting in intergenerational trauma.

The Circle is a closed group, which creates a sense of trust and safety, in turn leading to deeper sharing and healing. The group is facilitated by one of Yorgum's Bringing Them Home counsellors, and is being held at the Healing House in Calista, WA. This setting is well-known to the participants and provides a supportive and healing atmosphere.

We started with six women, but two had to drop out for personal reasons. The remaining four are sisters who were all placed in the mission at New Norcia. Six sessions were completed by the end of November, and the final six will be held in 2021.

The Healing Sessions are based on therapeutic yarning with a purpose, in conjunction with Dadirri, the practice of deep inner listening and quiet still awareness, as taught by Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann. These two approaches combine to create a culturally safe healing practice.

To begin, we sit in a circle, with a coolamon in the centre. Where possible, flowers from the current nyoongar season are placed in the coolamon. The coolamon helps create a feeling of a sacred space, and sets the scene for healing.

In the initial sessions, we focused on the trauma that has resulted from colonisation, looking at the impacts of this trauma on individuals, families and communities. Part of this work includes identifying those issues experienced by the women in the group, examining triggers, and looking at ways of managing these. We have looked at the ongoing loss and grief that has come out of this trauma, and which continues to affect the women, their families and communities. Following on from this, we will look at ways of moving through the trauma into healing.

Each session starts with an Acknowledgement of Country. We then move into yarning with a purpose and deep listening. We use a talking stick so that each woman is given the time and space to share what she chooses. It helps the rest of the group to stay focused when the speaker has silent pauses, instead of rushing in with ideas, questions and advice. Because this is a sibling group, roles have already

been developed and advice is readily given. The women have been able to adapt well to this new way of listening to each other.

Where there has been long-term trauma, especially as a child, a survival strategy is to squash down emotions and body sensations, in order to keep going without being overwhelmed. An important part of healing is to get in touch with these suppressed feelings and emotions, to process them and heal some more. To help with this, we use cards developed by St Luke's Resources in Bendigo, such as the Body Signals Cards and the Bear Cards. These delightfully illustrated cards are a non-threatening way to start tuning into emotions and body sensations.

A very important concept in these groups is that of self-care. These women are often juggling family commitments, such as raising their grandchildren, managing ongoing health issues and often have other community responsibilities. Self-care is sometimes viewed as selfish. To help the women, we use the analogy of the oxygen masks that drop down during an emergency in aeroplanes. The adult must put on their mask before helping their children and if the adult isn't okay, for example if they don't put their oxygen mask on first, then they are of no use to those around them because they have collapsed. We help the women understand that self-care means they are more able to support those people depending on them. This will help the women stay as healthy as possible and improves their quality of life, as well as the lives of those around them.

The women reported that the Circle sessions were helpful. "Taking this journey has opened me up and helped me tremendously, I feel calmer now, and more grounded. The loss and grief work has been heart-breaking but helped a lot," said one client.

Healing is a lifetime endeavour, and the Healing Circle is a step along the way of the healing journey that these women are undertaking.

Women at the Healing Circle in November 2020. From left: Helen Casey, Cindy Ballard, Benita Indich, Rosslyn Indich and Jan Gilchrist



Western Australia

Western@Australia

Women's Healing Camp in Point Samson 12-16 October 2020

This year's Women's Healing Camp was held in Point Samson, in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Eight clients were invited to attend in total, however only seven were able to come. The ladies participated in a variety of healing activities throughout the four-day camp. On the first day, the ladies attended Bowen Therapy with Spring of Wellness in Point Samson, which they all thoroughly enjoyed and would certainly attend again if given the opportunity. They also visited the Cossack Museum, taking in the view of the surrounding beautiful blue sea. Sadly, clients were unable to go fishing as it was 40 degrees at 10 am that morning! We then continued onto Karratha, to visit the client who was unable to attend due to illness.

The following day we had arts and crafts at the Old Goal in Roebourne, where we looked around the old items in the area. The final day was a visit to the Ganalili Gallery in Roebourne, which was the Old Victoria Hotel. One of the workers also gave the group a guided tour of the Centre. All artwork in the gallery and for sale, is made by local people in the Community. There is also a kiosk, where family members from around the Roebourne area can learn about how their families connect.

The Women's Healing Camp was shared together as a group, and evening meals were at different rooms with the ladies. The ladies were all grateful to Yorgum Healing Services for organising and facilitating the Women's Healing Camp. It was a meaningful four days.



From left - Patricia Conway, Leanne Jones, Beverley O'Brien, Molly Narrier, Eileen rule, Mary Agale, Melanie Gordon and Winnie Sampi at the Women's Healing Camp

Yorgum Healing Services Team Building Day

The Mulberry Estate in Caversham provided the scenic backdrop for Yorgum Healing Services' Team Building Day on Thursday 10 December, 2020. Surrounded by the natural landscape and calming river, Yorgum Healing Services' staff came together to collaborate, share and build upon the diverse skills, knowledge and values we hold and work by. Yorgum Healing Services stretch from the Pilbara region, including Port Headland and Kalgoorlie, through to Albany. Staff from all sites were represented.

Noongar Elder, Nick Abraham, began the day with a moving Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony. He also shared the story of the Noongar peoples, the traditions, the culture, the connections to Country and spoke about how all living things are interconnected. This immersion into Aboriginal culture fostered a place of readiness for staff to begin the day's work into further developing and consolidating our roles.

Our facilitator for the day, Tim Muirhead, gave us many learning opportunities to strengthen our team's knowledge of one another. Staff found this very helpful. The importance of understanding Aboriginal peoples' needs from a healing perspective was also a focus, as well as the acknowledgement that providing quality services, requires strong governance. Yorgum have been successful in this way, which is evident in our recent accreditation results.

The day also allowed staff to network, get to know one another and learn about the different services we all provide. This was a great opportunity for long-standing staff and new staff, to get to know one another, share our passions and to build a spirit of unity for the Aboriginal families in our care.

By Angela Moncada, BTH Counsellor



Yorgum Healing Services Staff at the Team Building Day

Queensland

Queensland

Behind the Scenes of a Reunion 25 Years in the Making

Every reunion is unique, but Uncle Roy Gray's graveside reunion which finally took place in November 2020, holds a special place in many of the Link-Up (Qld) staff's hearts and minds, as does Uncle Roy himself.

Roy Gray first became a Link-Up (Qld) client in 1995, through his search for information on his paternal grandmother, Agnes Gray. His father was removed as a child and Roy never met his grandmother, he did not know her story or heritage and he didn't know if there were any more siblings or descendants from his grandmother's line.

At that time, more than 25 years ago, the tools available to family researchers were limited compared to their accessibility today. Access to historical and government records has always been a challenge. Roy is an avid family researcher himself but had come to a dead end trying to find out information about his grandmother and where she came from.

Ruth Loli, Research Manager, tells part of the story:

"In 2013, I took on Uncle Roy's case and conducted thorough research using a wide range of government and non-government sources. However, I was also unable to uncover information about Agnes Gray, in part due to being unable to establish identifying information about her in the records such as birthdate and parentage. The limited information we were able to establish was that she was born at Dubbo and lived and worked in Brisbane in the years around the time her son Alfred (Roy Gray's father) was born. Sadly, this was insufficient and in 2016, Uncle Roy's case was closed because all research avenues had been exhausted, and a reunion was not facilitated.

In 2018, Uncle Roy contacted Link-Up (Qld) after completing an AncestryDNA test and matching to two extended family members. We explored this lead and determined that one family member was the descendant of Agnes Gray's father's second marriage. Uncle Roy met with this relative in person and together they visited Pat and I at the Link-Up (Qld) office. Uncle Roy's relative shared her family history information, including oral history and birth, death and marriage certificates that she procured. This information provided crucial identifying information about Uncle Roy's grandmother, opening new doors to conduct further research. This was a good example of where DNA can

provide leads to compliment traditional genealogical research practices.

Consequently, Roy Gray's case was reopened and I conducted additional research resulting in a 22-page research report of family history information relating to Agnes Gray's life, heritage and ancestry. We determined Agnes Gray's parentage and family members, various life events and her resting place at Toowong cemetery, Brisbane. It appears that Agnes never had any other children other than Roy's father, Alfred, after whom Roy's brother is named. Uncle Roy's family was traced back five generations to his great, great grandparents who were born at Burrawong near Cumnock NSW and of a well-known Wellington Wiradjuri family. We even located a photo of Uncle Roy's great, great grandfather, John Stanley, taken in 1876 which was a special find."

In this case, DNA provided a vital 'pivot point' for Uncle Roy's family research.

In August 2020, Ruth Loli and Michelle Resuggan travelled to Cairns and met up with LUQ Cairns SEWB Counsellor, Tahnee Rapson. Together, they visited Uncle Roy at his home near Yarrabah, to deliver the 22-page research report. Uncle Roy asked to video the research delivery so that he could go back over the information with ease and share it with his children. With such a comprehensive research report, and a family tree tracing back five generations, Uncle Roy was presented with a choice of reunions. His original wish to find and visit where his grandmother was buried, could now become a reality. He could also go back to his great, great grandparent's Country, Wiradjuri in country NSW, but as interstate travel was still uncertain at this time, that special trip will have to wait for another day.

While Uncle Roy was going through his own discovery, there was another family in Brisbane conducting their own family research who connected to him through his grandmother's sister, Ada Gray. They communicated online and this family were also hitting brick walls in their research. The family were excited to learn of their connection to Uncle Roy. Roy invited these new-found family members to come along to his reunion, and Graham (the grandson of Ada) and his immediate family were welcomed with open arms.

On the day of Uncle Roy's reunion, a crowd of people gathered at Link-Up (Qld)'s Brisbane office. Roy with his

brother, Alfred, who had both come down from Cairns, Roy's niece, Leigh, with her daughter Danika, Graham with his wife Patricia, and their son Warren with his wife Debra, together with Cairns Link-Up staff Josh and Tahnee, and Brisbane staff Ruth and Michelle.

Everyone poured over the research paperwork, linking family trees and finding out where each other fits into their family stories. It was very special to see new links and connections being made.

This was the first reunion for Michelle and Tahnee, who had both joined Link-Up (Qld) in early 2020, but with Covid restrictions in place, many reunions were postponed. All the Link-Up staff involved in Uncle Roy's reunion feel very privileged to be a part of Uncle Roy's journey and to be able to finally give this dignified and gracious man some answers to where he comes from.



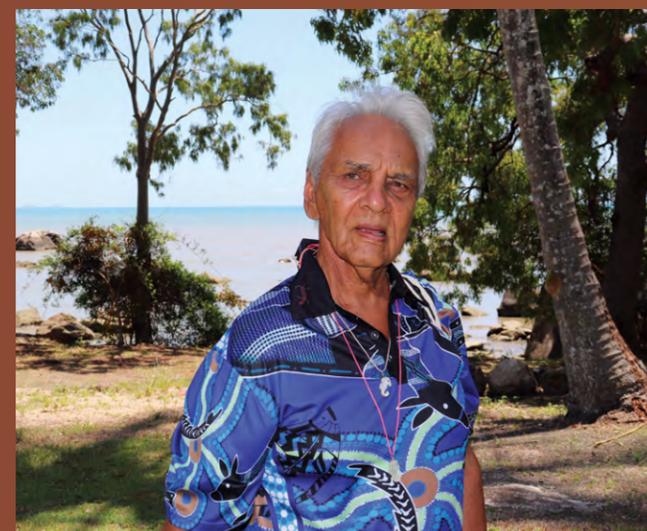
Uncle Roy's Graveside Reunion, from left: Patricia, Graham, Warren, Deborah, Alfred, Danika, Roy and Leigh

Queensland

Queensland

Uncle Roy's Story

My name is Roy Gray, I was born in 1944 at Yarrabah Mission. I went to school at Yarrabah until Grade six, when I was sent out by the Superintendent to work in a couple of sheep stations. For two years, I worked at Winton and Julia Creek. In around 1962 or 1963, I applied for my exemption from the Aborigines Protection Act. When the documentation came through, I left Yarrabah and went to Cairns where I met my wife Colleen. We have been together ever since; I've been married for 54 years to the same girl.



Uncle Roy Gray outside his home near Yarrabah

After Colleen and I got married, we lived a short time in Sydney where Colleen did her nursing training at Liverpool Hospital and I worked in an iron factory. At times I was working two jobs. I worked in the factory at night and during the day, I worked in fencing construction. When Colleen and I came back to Cairns in the late 1970's, Colleen got a job as a matron at Yarrabah Hospital. We managed to raise three kids and adopted another four kids. Our daughter is now a solicitor over in England and our two boys, Roy and Colin, are working in the mines.

After moving back to Yarrabah, I got involved with politics. At that time, it was Micky Miller and Joe McGuinness (AM) and that crew. We were fighting to get equal rights for Aboriginal people, fighting for award wages for our people and we managed to win some arguments there.

After that, I settled down in Yarrabah and worked for the council as the museum caretaker, encouraging people to do artwork and stuff like that. I was instrumental in getting the dedicated trust for our community and other Queensland Aboriginal communities. The Arts Museum at Yarrabah is still operating, though I've been retired since 2013. My education at Yarrabah mission school was limited, but I have learned a lot since leaving Yarrabah, accessing Link-Up (Qld) services and other Aboriginal organisations and just learning from other people.

I first contacted Link-Up (Qld) some time ago, I was still interested in finding out who I really am. Link-Up (Qld) researched the background of my mother's family and I received complete records of her. I didn't know who dad's family was, so I approached Link-Up (Qld) again to do some background searches, but there wasn't a lot of information other than that he was in an orphanage as a child, living in Brisbane as a young man and coming up to wartime, then marrying mum up here in the 1940s.

Today I'm happy that I joined up with Link-Up (Qld), they have proven some information about my father's family and his ancestry. During the research process, Link-Up (Qld) found that dad's ancestors come from the Dubbo area, but before that I think the original Gray was a descendant from Scotland. They were able to locate information about dad's mother, Agnes Gray. Agnes was from Dubbo, but she died in Brisbane in 1932. Link-Up (Qld) were able to locate the unmarked paupers grave where she was buried in Toowong Cemetery, Brisbane. Cemetery staff marked the exact location for us and during my reunion, we cemented in a cross to mark the site where dad's mother Agnes was buried. That was the highlight for me.

Leading up to the reunion, Link-Up (Qld) helped me to feel confident, by supporting and helping me as I learned where I came from and who my family are. During November, when the reunion happened, Link-Up (Qld) staff were so encouraging, so helpful and so respectful. They assisted me with travel and to record the reunion in writing, so it could be there for future reference for my kids. The records are there now, forever and ever, for my children to look at and learn from. It's a good thing to have these records and they are now there for Link-Up (Qld) to use to help other people too. I took my younger brother, Alfred, on my reunion with me. He was a good support, and because he is a family member, it was important that he was a part of this reunion

too. The support from the staff of Link-Up (Qld) was also meaningful, there was nothing but support from everybody involved.

My reunion turned out to be not only a graveside reunion, but about discovering that there was more family to find in the future. We found another family that we didn't even know existed! The graveside reunion benefited dad's side of the family, myself and my brother. Following that, the Gray clan joined us on the reunion, the family of my grandmother's sister Ada. It was a big discovery, as we didn't even know that they existed either, but now we are in contact with them, and these connections will last forever.

Throughout the reunion, I felt satisfied that we have come this far with the help of Link-Up (Qld) and staff. Now it's only the beginning... we are finding out the rest and finding who we need to find that has that connection with dad. After the reunion, I felt very supported, and so did my brother. It was a good experience and we left with a good feeling. We now have more knowledge of who we are and who we are connected to.

I don't think we need to make any plans about going back or reconnecting again, the process has already started - we are already connecting up with members of the Gray family on dad's side. The other people that we are connecting to - we will find out who they are, we will connect up or they will connect up. It's a natural process. We have no plans to concentrate on this, because that will be a distraction, you just got to let things happen.

Every single Link-Up (Qld) staff member that I met showed me not only respect, but also love. I felt I was loved by all the Link-Up staff, I can't say anything bad about any of the staff. When I got to meet the Brisbane staff, their hearts were all open to helping me in the journey too.

I would like to thank all the staff at the Link-Up (Qld) office at Cairns, the two Joshes - Josh Williams and Josh Thompson, with Sylvia and Tahnee and thank you very much to the Cairns office. In Brisbane, we've got our fearless leader there, Mrs Thompson, Ruth Loli and Michelle. Thank you for putting in your time on my behalf. All the other staff, I don't know their names, but they are very supportive of me. I felt nothing but love. Thank you.



Uncle Roy Gray with LUQ Research Manager Ruth Loli after his research was delivered



Warren, Alfred and Roy cementing in the cross at Toowong Cemetery to finally mark Agnes' resting place



Graham Lockyer (grandson of Ada Gray) with Roy Gray (grandson of Agnes Gray) at their first meeting. Roy is holding the cross he made and painted in his garden at Yarrabah, for his grandmother's grave

Victoria

Update from Link-Up Victoria, June 2021

Victoria is experiencing its fourth lockdown due to the pandemic. Originally it was going to be for seven days, but the lockdown has been extended for another week and we are currently holding our breath, desperately hoping we will be able to return back to work this Friday 11 June, 2021.

For the Link-Up Victoria program, our fourth lockdown has again disrupted the service we are able to provide to our clients and to the Stolen Generations living in Victoria who we work with. Although we have not been able to facilitate reunions, we are able to provide assistance and support in many other ways, including through family history research, which we consider to be equally important to our reunion work.

Prior to the latest lockdown, workers were focusing on undertaking at least one home visit to each of their clients. A schedule of home visits across the state was developed in February. Each month, it was reviewed to ensure that our objective of visiting all clients was reached.

Current staff at Link-Up Victoria are:

Bev Murray, Program Manager

Luke Captain, Team Leader

Angela North, Reunions Officer

Anita Singh, Reunions Officer

Narelle Carter, Client Support Officer

Mirikki Love, Client Support Officer

Deseree Corlett, Administration and Records

We have one Client Support Officer role, which remains vacant at this time.

There have been three events held in 2021 so far. The first was the event to commemorate the Anniversary of the National Apology, which was held in partnership with the City of Darebin and Connecting Home, and was pre-recorded and streamed online. The intention was to film the second half of this event live from the Stolen Generations marker in Preston, however, Melbourne went into our third lockdown and the event ended halfway through the program. The filming of the second half of the event was held recently and it will be added to the first half so that it will, at last, be possible to view the video as a complete event.



Colin Hunter, Wurundjeri Wolwurrung Elder, lay a wreath at the Stolen Generations Marker in Fitzroy on National Sorry Day

The second event, held on National Sorry Day and in partnership with the City of Hume, was the launch of the Stolen Generations Art Exhibition called 'Sharing the Stories of the Stolen Generations'. Link-Up is represented on the City of Hume Stolen Generations marker project, and it made sense to try and provide opportunities for local residents to develop their understanding about who the Stolen Generations are and why a Stolen Generations' marker was important. The Art Exhibition was dedicated to Alice Solomon, Yorta Elder and respected advocate for survivors of the Stolen Generations. It is being held at the Gee Lee-Wik Doleen Gallery in Craigieburn for some two months and comprises over 30 unique and beautiful pieces of artwork, showcased together for the first time. The launch was held in front of a small audience and included speeches by two of the exhibiting artists - Thomas Marks and Lorraine Nelson. Further proposed floor talks will be given by exhibiting artists during NAIDOC to bigger audiences including school groups, provided the Covid situation subsides.

The third event was the commemoration of National Sorry Day in Fitzroy, an event that is held each year in partnership with City of Yarra, Link-Up Victoria and Connecting Home. Usually, this event is held at the Stolen Generations marker in Atherton Gardens, but the wet weather required us to move to the courtyard of Charcoal Lane restaurant. The restaurant is located in Gertrude Street, Fitzroy, directly opposite the Stolen Generations marker, where it was streamed live. Guest speakers included Megan Van Den Berg from VACCA, Eva Jo Edwards, Stolen Generation survivors,

Kyle Vader Kuyp, Stolen Generation survivor, Dave Arden, performer and the Djirri Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Dance Group.

Link-Up Victoria is also represented on the Victorian Stolen Generations Reparations Committee, which was set up late in 2020. It is expected that the advisory report to government detailing Victorian Stolen Generations reparations will be submitted in June, 2021.

A lot has been happening in the Stolen Generations space here in Victoria, all of the Reparations Committee work, the Healing Foundation strategy launch, all of it aimed at improving the lives of Stolen Generations survivors and their

families. In the coming weeks, an Internal Evaluation of our program will be conducted, to inform decision-making about our future work. There will also be a Planning Day, which will provide all staff with the opportunity to respond to the outcomes from the evaluation and provide input into the next 12 months of activities and events.

Finally, on behalf of Link-Up Victoria, we extend our deepest condolences to the family of Russell Moore who passed away in a correctional facility in Florida, USA. Russell was a client of ours and we will continue to support the family to bring Russell back home.

Link-Up staff and senior VACCA managers at the launch of the Stolen Generations Art Exhibition in Craigieburn. Left to right - Bev Murray, Ange North, Narelle Carter, Deseree Corlett, Anita Singh, Luke Captain, Megan Van Den Berg, Bindi Jose



Canberra, AIATSIS

Canberra

An Update from the AIATSIS Family History Unit, May 2021

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 Family History Unit provides support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities undertaking family history research.

AIATSIS has developed the Certificate IV in Stolen Generations Family Research and Case Management. This nationally recognised qualification specifically addresses the needs of staff working as Link-Up case workers, Link-Up counsellors, Bringing Them Home Workers and Family History researchers. The course provides graduates with a range of knowledge, skills and competencies to undertake family tracing activities to support members of the Stolen Generations.

This qualification has been developed in conjunction with the Training Advisory Group which comprises Link-Up managers, Link-Up Caseworkers, Link-Up researchers and the AIATSIS Family History Unit, with a focus on creating an accredited qualification that addresses the competency needs of the Stolen Generations Workforce. To date, 49 learners have successfully completed the course and have highly commended it as a positive, topical, unique and integral component of the training for Stolen Generations case workers.

The course structure follows a sequence of three pillars. Each pillar reflects key aspects of the learner's role in the workplace:



Pele Lui in Port Kennedy Community Hall on Waiben-Thursdays Island in the Torres Strait during an AIATSIS community access visit in 2013

PILLAR 1 – SEWB AND CASE MANAGEMENT

- Promote Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural safety – CHCDIV002
- Manage personal stressors in the work environment - HLTWHS006
- Communicate and work in health or community services - CHCCOM005
- Facilitate the interests and rights of clients - CHCADV001

PILLAR 2 - RESEARCH:

- Assist customers to access information - BSBINS406
- Obtain information from external and networked sources - BSBINS403
- Research and analyse information to meet library customer needs - BSBINS508
- Maintain and monitor digital information and records - BSBINS409
- Search library and information databases - BSBINS404

PILLAR 3 - SELF-CARE AND PROJECT WORK:

- Undertake project work - BSBPMG430
- Deal with conflict - PSPGEN032
- Participate in workplace health and safety - HLTWHS001
- Reflect on and improve own professional practice - CHCPRP003



Artwork by Ngarrindjeri man Jordan Lovegrove on behalf of Dreamtime Public Relations

The units have been taken from the Business Services, Community Services and Health Training packages. Learners must complete all 13 core units to receive the qualification. There are no pre-requisite requirements for the course.

Delivery of the Certificate IV in Stolen Generations Family Research and Case Management requires a combination of face-to-face, online and self-paced learning in addition to on-the-job practical activities with a workplace mentor, to ensure the safety of both clients and the learner.

AIATSIS is pleased to advise that Nunkuwarrin Yunti South Australia will be delivering the Certificate IV in Stolen Generations Family Research and Case Management to interested learners in 2022.

In the meantime, all Link-Up caseworkers can access unaccredited family history research training for free through the AIATSIS Family History Unit. We have held sessions over the past year for 16 Link-Up caseworkers and Bringing them Home workers. These sessions provide you 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 that journey.

If you are interested in having a training session for your caseworkers, please get in touch at linkup@aiatsis.gov.au or call the Family History Unit Manager, Sherilyn Dean, on (02) 6129 3912 for more information.

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