



# Link-Up (Qld)

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Volume 50 | October - December 2021



**Still Bringing Them Home**

# Chairperson - Ken Murphy



Ken Murphy

2021 - What a very challenging year it's been. COVID-19 continues to impact on all of us and as we go to print with this magazine, the Omicron variant has reached our country from overseas. Health experts don't know much about this variant, what we do know is that there are a number of people in Australia with Omicron. COVID-19 has already taken the lives of millions of people around the world. Link-Up (Qld) has a duty under workplace health and safety legislation to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of its employees, and a further duty that the health and safety of other persons is not put at risk by work carried out by Link-Up (Qld).

Link-Up (Qld) Board and staff are all fully vaccinated in accordance with the Workers in a healthcare setting (COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements) Direction made by the Queensland Chief Health Officer effective from 10 November 2021. There are aspects of

our work which legally require our Board and staff to be fully vaccinated by 15th December 2021.

The Queensland Government, as part of its Public Health and Social Measures linked to vaccination status, will prohibit entry of unvaccinated persons to a range of places once 80% of Queenslanders aged 16 years and over have been double vaccinated. Those places include hotels, clubs and aged care facilities. Our important work involves conducting reunions and functions in such places.

**I urge our clients and community who are resisting being vaccinated to seek advice from your medical practitioner about the COVID-19 vaccinations.**

We know beyond doubt that COVID-19 is a virus that poses significant risks to health, particularly to the health of people who are vulnerable because of their age, health issues or socio economic circumstances.

It is also well established that:

- all vaccines approved for use in Australia substantially reduce the risk that a vaccinated person will be infected with the virus;

- all vaccines approved for use in Australia substantially reduce the risk that, if the vaccinated person is infected with Covid-19, they will become seriously ill or die;
- all vaccines approved for use in Australia substantially reduce the risk that, if the vaccinated person is infected with Covid-19, they will infect someone else.

I am so pleased and proud that our Board and staff have taken the appropriate steps to ensure that we are safe and doing our bit to protect others we come into contact with from this deadly disease.

The Annual General Meeting was held in November 2021, meeting our statutory obligations. Our Board of Directors remains strong and stable and are supported by a team of dedicated staff who are transparent, effective and accountable. We are proud of the work that staff do to support our clients on their healing journeys through reunions, healing camps and other therapeutic activities.

A recent inclusion in our magazines has been "From the Archives" – these snippets have been interesting facts from the past. Our first newsletter was printed in June 1988 and a feature from the first newsletter was client morning tea dates – somethings never change! Our monthly morning teas are still going strong, the dates for 2022 are at the back of this magazine.

Merry Christmas.



## This issue's cover

Sally and Len Utz with LUQ staff member Rebecca Oberle enjoying the 2021 Client Christmas Cruise. More photos are on pages 18-19

## Disclaimer

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

# CEO - Patricia Thompson



Patricia Thompson

The end of another challenging year for Link-Up (Qld). We are looking forward to the Christmas break, time to take a rest, enjoy our families and the festivities. In this edition you will see beautiful photos of our clients enjoying Christmas lunches with our staff.

We thoroughly enjoy this time of the year when we can all get together, even though we do that monthly at our client morning teas, Christmas is a special festive occasion for us all.

Despite the challenges faced with travel restrictions due to COVID-19 our dedicated staff continued to support our clients with their research and reunions where possible. Healing Camps were also organised for clients which they thoroughly enjoy. The healing camps are an opportunity for our

clients to connect to culture and country as well as communicate and interact with each other in a caring, nurturing, natural and social environment supported by staff and healing camp facilitators. Learning about bush tucker, visiting sites of cultural significance where clients experience a calming influence through connection to culture and country.

Our Research Team continue to produce high quality research reports for our clients helping them to understand their family history and to connect to country. This is an important and critical component of our work, which is completed with integrity and competence. Our Service Delivery Team deliver this research and facilitate reunions. Each reunion is unique and for our staff it is a privilege supporting our clients on their journeys.

The Redress Team is always busy, supporting clients through their application process for redress in a very sensitive and calm manner. Our aim is to support our clients to achieve the best outcome for them and to do this by listening and acknowledging their story.

As a team we all work well together, you can see the great work of our Communications Team in pulling together our magazine with contributions from all staff. Our Finance and Administration Team keeps us accountable and compliant in maintaining accreditation through Quality Management Systems.

I am proud of our Team at Link-Up (Qld) – Deadly Teamwork!

We have featured Ivan Ingram in this edition, on this page you see a young Ivan – a young fella destined to do great things. He's still a young fella and already he has crammed so much into his

young life with his education and professional career.



We are so proud of you Ivan, being appointed as a Federal Court Registrar – the first Indigenous and youngest person in the country.

The voluntary community work you do supporting Boards of community organisations and other committees with your knowledge and skills in governance is highly commendable.

Congratulations too, Rachel Malthouse who is the new CEO at Gallang Place. Rachel brings a wealth of experience and a trauma informed approach to Gallang Place as it moves toward change, growth and development into the future.

Thanks to the Board of Link-Up (Qld) for their ongoing guidance and wisdom throughout the year.

We wish all of you a very Merry Xmas and a Prosperous New Year.



## Juanita Johnson Reunion - Normanton

It has been a 115 year long wait for three generations of our family to reconnect with our maternal great grandfather Thomas McGrath's country of Normanton in the Gulf Country.

With the support of Link-Up (Qld), in September 2021 my older brother Hedley Johnson, daughter Jade Johnson and I returned and connected with Country and family.

Our Great Granddad Thomas McGrath was born in Normanton c1870 to parents Tom McGrath and Rosie, he partnered with a lady named Venus with the surnames of Alford, Croydon and Gulf who was from the neighbouring town of Croydon.

Due to the discovery of gold in the Normanton/Croydon area, our Great Grandparents were sent to Coen where their eldest son Jack McGrath known as Pop Johnno in Cherbourg was born in 1905.

Granddad Tommy was a boundary rider and stockman taking his family with him on long rides, ending up in the Inglewood region where our Grandmother Eva McGrath, Ida McGrath and a brother were born near Inglewood, Queensland.

With the death of my Great Grandmother Venus during childbirth, my Great Granddad Thomas and his young children Sarah, Jack, Ida and Eva were removed to Deebing Creek and Purga Mission then onto Cherbourg.

Sarah McGrath married Dick Cobbo, Jack McGrath married Effie Barber nee Smith and our Grandmother Eva McGrath married Alf Long from Beaudesert. Granny Eva had 3 children - our mother Edith McGrath-Long who married our father Bowman Johnson, Thomas Long and Juanita Long before passing from childbirth



*Juanita, Hedley and Jade*



*Juanita, Hedley and Jade received a very warm welcome by two Elders, Francine and Hilda, at the old mission site.*



*Juanita and Hedley pose with an iconic Normanton local*

complications at the age of 34 years in 1948.

It is sad to think that our Grandmother Eva and Mother Edith never had the opportunity to return to Country. This made both Hedley and I determined to make the most of the journey back to our Great Granddad Thomas and Great Grandmother's Country.

We left Brisbane on a 6am flight to Cairns on a Monday morning for a four-day visit with Yvette Salam from Link-Up (Qld). After another flight we arrived in Normanton where we met Link-Up (Qld) staff Josh Thompson and Josh Williams from the Cairns office.

It was dry season, and the temperature was hot, in the high 30's. The streets were wide, lined with trees and mango trees loaded with fruit in the yards of very old and notable dwellings.

It was exciting and overwhelming to be here and share this experience with Hedley and Jade as we connect the missing pieces of our family.

**It is spiritually and mentally healing. And while being on Country I personally noticed my pain and stresses seemed to disappear.**

On the first afternoon we had our first meeting at the old mission site with Francine (our host and guide) and Hilda, where we sat in the remains of an open structure as they told us about the old days, the community and its peoples.

Upon hearing our story of Thomas McGrath being from Normanton and Venus from Croydon, it was identified we had extended family members from the Douglas mob of the Croydon area.

During our time in the area we learnt about the importance of Delta Downs Station, the three

Traditional Owner groups, we visited wetlands, Normanton and Old Aboriginal cemetery, Aboriginal Corporations, Carpentaria Land Council, Karumba and a Douglas family gathering by the Norman River where we connected with each other and told stories with many a good belly laugh.

On the Thursday afternoon we flew out by plane seeing the vast beautiful channel country of the gulf below seemed like we were looking at Gods country.

Hedley, Jade and I are extremely humbled, honoured and blessed to Link-Up (Qld) and their staff Josh, Josh and Yvette for their exceptional support and look forward to continuing the connection with family, returning to Normanton and sharing our journey with our family.

Wadda mulli, Yowai, Thank you



*Jade, Hedley and Juanita are pictured here with Elders and members of the Douglas and Rapson families, who provided valuable information and made connections for the family.*

## Allan Simmons Reunion - Beaudesert



Jahmayne and Allan with Shaun Davies, Linguist and Language Research Officer at the Yugambah Museum Language and Heritage Research Centre, Beenleigh



Jahmayne and Allan at the Tamrookum Hall at the Memorial Stone of Allan's great, great grandparents William and Emily Williams Memorial

I want to acknowledge and pay respect to all First Nations people, languages and regional clans, past present and future. Personally for my family the Bundjalung Nation, Yugambah language and Mununjali clan.

I have been blankly staring at my computer screen trying to think of how best to put into words what has been a life changing experience. The experience has and will continue to impact me personally at a relational, emotional, spiritual, psychological, educational and professional level. Hopefully my feelings are expressed here with the same respect, privilege and responsibility I have felt since this process began.

I was born in 1973 in Brisbane. My father was born in 1926 in Melbourne and my mother 1932 in Gympie. Due to circumstances and age, I had almost no relationship or meaningful knowledge about my father's family in Melbourne. Information regarding my mother's family was limited and at times impossible to obtain as she was placed into care at a very early age and eventually formally adopted. I remember going with my mother to try and obtain her pre-adoption birth certificate and the person saying the file was stamped never

to be released. Somehow my mother reconnected with her mother in her adult years, and I do have some memories of time spent with her, although I was quite young. What I can say is that my grandmother's name before marriage was Alice French and my mother is Joan Simmons. The only other information I had was that she was an Aboriginal women with a possible link to Beaudesert. Fast forward to 2019 with both my parents having passed away, the extent of any family connection was zero and I felt that I was on my own in the world which I came to terms with. All that drastically changed on the morning of 21st September 2021 when Link-Up (Qld)'s Anne Garrett and Alison Bell walked through my door.

**The detailed and lengthy research done by Link-Up (Qld) left me lost for words, which continued to be a common response over this journey.**

Thankfully Link-Up (Qld) recognised the importance of relationships and allowed Anne Garrett and Alison Bell to walk with me on my reunion. I was also provided the opportunity to have a support person join and I immediately asked someone very important to me, Jahmayne Coolwell. I am pleased to share that Jahmayne and his family share the same connections as I do to the Bundjalung Nation and Mununjali Clan, through marriage and Lore. It must be said that at times I felt that the four of us were not alone in the journey and others were looking over us all.

I want to acknowledge and promote the importance of The Yugambah Museum, Language and Heritage Research Centre in Beenleigh. This centre is the gateway for connecting families, preserving our culture and the provision of education and awareness of the Bundjalung Nation, Yugambah language and the rich collection of local clans. I feel privileged that at the centre I was introduced to my great grandmother's brother's son Uncle Ted Williams. Although I was struggling with my words, it was wonderful to listen to him speak of other family members and how I, through Alice, am

forever linked. Uncle Ted is full of great knowledge and must be respectfully acknowledged for all the work and support he has provided. The other person that graciously gave up time to spend time with us was Shaun Davies. Another speechless moment began and continued when I first met Shaun. I have never met a person with the ability to mentally connect people together through various family lines and generations almost instantly. Shaun's knowledge of language, family and Dreamtime stories left me in great admiration of his dedication and knowledge. Due to the vast amount of important information I received, I left with a variety of emotions, happiness, gratefulness, confusion, excitement and pride to name a few.

That afternoon we arrived at Burleigh Heads and checked into our hotel. Following a walk with Jahmayne, we met for dinner with Anne and Alison where they both led a discussion which enabled us to reflect and breakdown the information and experience of our time at the Yugambah Centre. This proved to be extremely helpful and became a regular part of the breakfast and dinner routine.

Day 2 found us arriving at the Jellurgal Aboriginal Cultural Centre where we began with an important short film followed by a walking tour. The walk was led by a proud Bundjalung woman named Trish who grew up in the area and has significant historical and cultural knowledge passed down through local Elders. The tour not only educated me on how long the Tallebudgera and Burleigh Point areas have been inhabited for, the Dreamtime stories, respect for animals and environment, traditional gender roles and the hunting skills and tools highlighted the complex cultural and family lives dating back over 4000 years.

Following a late lunch, group discussion and debrief, we were off to Kooralbyn. During our time at the Yugambah Centre on the first day, out of the blue a thought came to mind about where my grandmother Alice would go on holiday each year. Due to my very young age at the time and passing of time, I am reasonably certain that Alice regularly returned to Kooralbyn. On checking in to our hotel, I inquired about the history of the hotel and area. I feel that by chance or not we were staying in the exact hotel

that my grandmother stayed in the early 1980's.

The final day was structured in a way that we spent time at significant locations in Beaudesert, Kooralbyn and Tamrookum, with room to visit a lookout where we could really take in the landscape and follow Knappy Creek which is another significant location. Tamrookum is an area outside Beaudesert but was also the name of the pastoral station of great importance to the Williams family story. We visited the Williams family memorial followed by a trip up the road to the church and gravesite. The time spent in Tamrookum really brought everything I had learned over the previous 2 days together and important to me personally, the contribution of the Williams family.

The phrase life changing is thrown about regularly these days, although I cannot think of any other phrase to explain what Link-Up (Qld) has done for me.

**One day I was alone in the world and the next I am connected to a family with a rich and beautiful historical and cultural connection to the land and each other.**

All my life I have felt alone and with little direction and have only dreamt of everything that Link-Up (Qld) has given me. I only wish that this information was available when my mother Joan was alive, because it would have changed her life as well as mine.



*Allan and Jahmayne at the Bora Ring at Jebbribillum Bora Park which also contains the Yugambah Aboriginal War Memorial*

## Link-Up (Qld) Outreach - by Virginia Clarke

Pthut Nyini - Hello, Greetings from Kalkadoon country. My first visit to communities since commencing with Link-Up (Qld) in July. It was a great opportunity to travel with Josh Thompson and Josh Williams from the Cairns office visiting clients and organising Christmas lunches.

We had a beautiful welcome from Valerie Craigie, the manager of Mob FM in Mt Isa. Valerie told me that Mt Isa was the most welcoming of communities and so it proved to be. Not to mention the country around was beautiful and

green. Fed by good rains, the red ochre land was laced with bright green tough trees flowering madly with lovely blossoms and silvery tipped seed pods. Grass sprouting from the gullies and ringed around Mt Isa the low mountain range ancient, weathered and blue green in the distance. This to Valerie is her favourite view looking out from home to see those hills always different, always stunning.

People were so friendly from the Coles to the Isa Hotel where we stayed. The Buffs Club where we had our Christmas lunch with

Link-Up (Qld) clients was a great place, nice and cool in all that humidity and the staff helpful and smiling for our Christmas party. Of course, they had a bit to smile about because Joshua Thompson, our manager apparently always has a rule about party hats. Certainly, made me smile. Fortunately for me I got to pick a small set of reindeer ears, quite cute I thought.

Tuesday evening flew out to Townsville, and lots of rain there as well during the weeknights which caused a terrific humidity, which everyone was remarking on, as this isn't usual for Mt Isa or Townsville at this time of year. So, every time we went out the door, we were a bit wimpy and kept saying "It's soo Hot!" But Townsville is a pretty place with plenty of good cafes and dining places. They have a lot of their old buildings still looking charming in the central town area and everything dominated by Castle Hill the giant pink granite monolith that stands proud in the centre of Townsville. I never got lost while driving around Townsville and out to Garbutt, I just followed around the mountain!

Josh Williams and I got up nice and early to fly to Palm Island on Wednesday morning. I was a bit surprised when I saw the very small Cessna Caravan which seats eleven. When you're in the Cessna you are really flying and there for every second of the ride. As we flew out there was still wisps of cloud from last night's rain low beneath us and every now and then I would see the shadow of our small plane outlined by a circular rainbow reflected of a small puff of white. And far below you could see seaweed beds feathering out in long pale green strands under the water anchored to sand banks that made the water a transparent emerald. Sometimes I would see a big grey outline amongst the reeds, so many silhouettes,



*Virginia with Palm Island locals Owen and David*



*Cheryl has been a member of our Link-Up (Qld) family for a long time*





*Joshua getting ready to board the 11 seater Cessna to Palm Island*

When we arrived, we visited Daphne at the Palm Island Health Centre, we were really pleased to meet Daphne as she had been so helpful with arrangements for our visit. Lunch was at the Coolgaree Café a local function place that has a lovely room looking out across the water to see the boats come in. The food was very good, and we had a fun time. And yet again I was reminded that it is always better to have a personal connection through meeting in person, as our clients share their lives and family with us.

**To share food and a laugh, to touch their hand is to let them know that we are with them on their journey.**

I was told when I left, "Next time, you have to stay longer!" I will, lovely Palm Island.

When we were back in Townsville, Josh and Josh met up with many of their clients and I got to visit one of my clients at home, where we shared a yarn and a cup of tea. Always a privilege to be invited to people's home. Our Christmas lunch at the Cowboys in Townsville was a blast with the food being excellent, I put too much weight on in this trip! Townsville is a pretty place with much of its old heritage buildings intact. And then all too soon I had to say goodbye to Josh Williams and Josh Thompson and Townsville and fly back to Brisbane. But as Aunty Dott, one of our regular clients always says, I was making memories, something that truly makes me happy.



*Virginia with more Palm Island locals*

I thought what could they be? maybe dugongs, I hope sometime that I can get closer to these magnificent creatures.

All too soon the flight is over, only eighteen minutes really. And when you get to Palm Island it's a short trip to the centre of the life of the island. We were lucky and met up with lots of the Link-Up (Qld) family in the town square outside the grocery shop where unofficially everything happens, and everyone ends up hearing the news or

meeting new visitors like myself to the island. Just around the corner I met one of the real surprises of the Island, three beautiful horses and a foal having a good feed on some lovely grass. I reminded Josh that perhaps next time we will keep some of our apples for the horses, they looked so beautiful and at home. Though the young man who drove us from the airport said at different times the horses are too big a burden on the Island and then many are collected and rehomed on the mainland.

## Ivan Ingram - Federal Court Judicial Registrar

Link-Up (Qld) is extremely proud to feature this article on Ivan Ingram, the youngest and first Indigenous appointment to the Federal Court.

Ivan Ingram is a Wiradjuri and Filipino man from Parkes, New South Wales. Recently, Ivan was appointed to the Federal Court of Australia as a Judicial Registrar in the Native Title practice area, this appoint being the first Indigenous appointment to the Federal Court at this level and now is the most senior Indigenous appointment to the Federal Court of Australia.

Registrar Ingram grew up in Parkes on a farm, being the son of a drover and a pharmaceutical representative with a chemistry background. Growing up, Ivan

had aspirations in pursuing studies in law, but didn't have a solid plan and idea on where he was going to end up. Moving to Brisbane in 2009, he commenced his studies in a Bachelor of Law at the Queensland University of Technology, later adding a Bachelor of Applied Science (Biotechnology). Following graduating in these disciplines he completed a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice with the Australian National University. Presently, he is undertaking his Doctor of Juridical Science Candidature with the University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona in the United States.

During his studies he worked as a paralegal (2012 to 2015), primarily with Gilkerson Legal, a boutique native title practice where he

developed his passion for working in this area of law and particularly representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditional owners. In 2016, he commenced working for Queensland South Native Title Services Ltd, the native title representative body for south-east and south-west Queensland. This is where he honed in his passion to work with traditional owners in the pursuit of getting their native title rights and interest recognised.

In 2019, Registrar Ingram spent time with PricewaterhouseCoopers Indigenous Consulting (PIC) as a Manager, and then was transferred to the Australia Indigenous Governance Institute (AIGI) as their Chief Operating Officer. Whilst at AIGI, Ivan undertook the organisation's consulting, direct engagements, and presentations on governance. He facilitated training and dispute resolution processes and was instrumental in enhancing the work of AIGI. Following this appointment, he then was appointed as Judicial Registrar.

Registrar Ingram commented that 'this role is important, as other First Nations legal practitioners can see themselves as being instrumental in the administration of justice and can also seek appointment to senior positions within the Court'.



Ivan at the United Nations - UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2016).

In addition to the legal roles Registrar Ingram holds, he is also active in Indigenous organisations in the Queensland community. He is the Chairperson of Gallang Place Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation, has been appointed a member to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group to the Queensland Performing Arts Trust, and a Director on Digi Youth Arts. His contribution in corporate governance enables

him to mobilise his legal skills and community engagement. Registrar Ingram said to us that 'these appointments are my way of giving back to community where I can in using the skills I have gained and operationalising them in spaces that need those skills the most', commenting specifically in the arts and the healing spaces.

Further, he has a particular passion in another area of intersectionality, that is, he has been appointed as the inaugural Indigenous Officer

for Pride in Law. This is Australia's first and only LGBTQ+ legal professional network, and he leads the First Nations engagement and education in this space.

He noted 'there is a lot of intersectionality between the black and rainbow community, especially in the plight to have basic human rights recognised, which are fundamentally about identity, acceptance, inclusion, and participation; these are all spaces where we can learn from one another.'



Joshua Creamer, Samuel Johnson, Judicial Registrar Ivan Ingram, Kristen Hodge, Felicity Thiessen, Kevin Smith



Admission to the Bar ceremony (2015) (L-R: Hayley Cooney, Ivan Ingram, Cassandra Lang, Nathalie Frost).

Registrar Ingram will be working to discharge his duties impartially and in accordance with the office of Judicial Registrar, however, it is important for us to note that it is important and indeed comforting to know that someone like Ivan who has the background and experiences he has, is bringing that wisdom and expertise into the Court system.

The team at Link-Up (Qld) would like to wish Registrar Ivan Ingram all the very best going forward and we look forward to where the path may take him into the future.



## Yvette Salam - Service Delivery Manager (South)



Congratulations to Yvette Salam who was recently appointed as the Service Delivery Manager in the Brisbane office with responsibility for managing the Service Delivery Team. Yvette has been with Link-Up (Qld) since March 2019 and comes with a wealth of experience working at local, state and federal government levels and importantly at a community level working directly with our people.

Yvette was born in Gladstone Queensland, to parents of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and grew up in Far North Queensland.

Coming from families (Maternal and Paternal) that have always been strongly connected to and involved with Indigenous community; she is very passionate about serving Indigenous communities and had always worked in community development type roles from grass roots level and above including supervisory, management and coordination.

Starting her working years in Education, as an Early Childhood teacher and then embarking on roles within state and local governments departments. Her work roles were predominantly in such fields as Indigenous Education, Indigenous Employment and Training, Indigenous Coaching and Mentoring whilst servicing Indigenous communities in Far North Qld, Cape York, Gulf of Carpentaria and the Torres Strait Islands.

In the last six years, she chose to take up employment doing support roles in other fields such as within the prison system, mental health and child protection.

Over the years, after facing many personal challenges in her life; her own triumphs over very life changing events had led to a growing passion in 'healing the wounds' of our own mobs and those of others.

As fate would have it, the universe had placed her in the right position to be successful in landing a job

with Link-Up (Qld) as a Redress Counsellor. Whilst working within the sexual abuse space was found to be very challenging, she thrived on the sense of being able to support people who have had such harrowing and sad life experiences; but at the same time being able to help survivors to see just how strong they have become from enduring such events and still providing hope to be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

In the more recent months of this year 2021; the universe was at play yet again and created the pathway for Yvette to act in the Service Delivery management role.

This only opened her eyes up further to the extent of 'healing' that needs to happen for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mobs around the country, because of the tragic history of Australia.

A healing that needs to happen from not only a national level, but universal – due to the repeated tragedy across many nations of First Peoples around the globe.

The recent announcement of her official appointment to the Service Delivery Manager role, has only made Yvette feel humbled and honoured to be able to utilise her supervisory, management skills and knowledge to be able to continue to support Link-Up (Qld) teams with delivering business that they do so with such strength, determination and humbleness – HEALING of our mobs.

**'Thank you to my Link-Up (Qld) family, for making me feel I am HOME'.**



# National Redress Scheme

The National Redress Scheme began on 1 July 2018 in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse and will run for 10 years.

**National Redress Scheme Contact: 1800 737 377**

## The Scheme:

Acknowledges that many children were sexually abused in Australian institutions,

- Holds institutions accountable for this abuse, and
- Helps people who have experienced child sexual abuse gain access to counselling and psychological care (CPC), a direct personal response (DPR) – apology, and a redress payment

## Institutions:

The Scheme works continuously with institutions that have been named in applications or identified by other means, to encourage them to join and participate in the Scheme. Institutions already participating across Australia are those such as Commonwealth, all State and Territory governments, non-government institutions (including churches, schools, homes, charities and community groups).

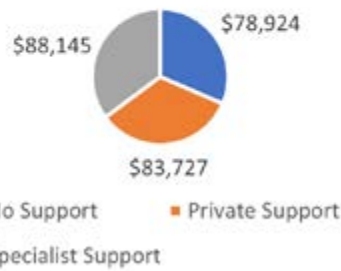
## NRS Reviews:

The Second Year Review of the National Redress Scheme highlighted the benefits of applying to the Scheme with the support of a funded Redress Scheme Support Service.

Payment outcomes were 11% higher for applicants supported by specialist Redress Scheme Support Services compared to applicants with no support.

**Interested in Applying for**

## Redress Payment Outcomes



## Redress? Or would like to find out more?

Link-Up (Qld) is one of many Specialist Redress Scheme Support services and are more than happy to provide support and guidance for Redress applications and enquiries.

Our Redress Counsellors can be contacted Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm.

Alternatively, you can find information via the National Redress Scheme website [www.nationalredress.gov.au](http://www.nationalredress.gov.au), or call 1800 737 377 - Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm.

**If you are in crisis, struggling and/or need to talk to someone, the following services can be contacted 24 hours a day/seven days a week**

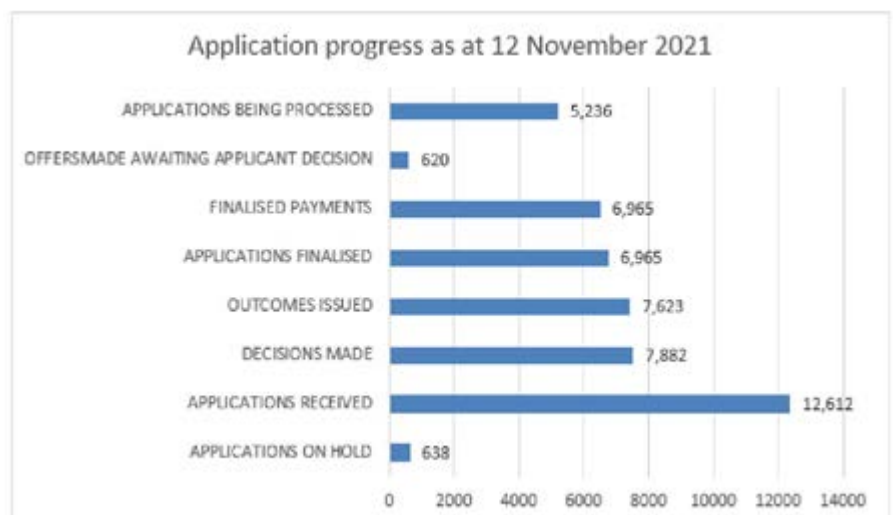
**Beyond Blue:**  
1300 224 636

**1800RESPECT:**  
1800 737 732

**Men's Line**  
**Australia:** 1300  
789 978

**Lifeline:** 13 11 14

**Suicide Call Back Service:** 1300 659 467



## Training with Knowmore

LUQ Redress staff had the wonderful opportunity of having training with Knowmore staff in their Brisbane office, to learn more about legal, financial and other considerations when applying for NRS.

Knowmore is a free, independent legal service providing advice to survivors of institutional child sexual abuse, about justice and redress. Free Advice Line 1800 605 762 Monday - Friday, 9am to 5pm.



L - R: John Brady Jnr. (Aboriginal Engagement Advisor/Knowmore), Alexia Zsigmond (Senior Lawyer/ Knowmore), Virginia Clarke (Redress Counsellor/LUQ), Karen Brown (Redress Counsellor/LUQ), Yvette Salam (Service Delivery Manager/LUQ), Rob Boothroyd (Snr. Financial Counsellor/Knowmore).

## New Link-Up (Qld) Office - Cairns



Link-Up (Qld) is very pleased to announce that our Cairns office has now moved into their new premises at 1/214 Mulgrave St, Westcourt. There is ample parking at the front of the building, and also designated Link-Up (Qld) parking at the rear for our clients and visitors. The new offices have been fitted out beautifully, with final touches still being applied. Cairns staff have been working hard to ensure the offices are a safe and welcoming space, accessible to everyone.

With this move comes the wonderful news that the Cairns office will again be able to host

morning teas in their latest space which has no stairs. Held on the last Thursday of every month, these morning teas are a great chance to catch up with everyone for a

yarn and a cuppa. Dates for the morning teas can be found on the inside back cover of this magazine, or just phone Link-Up (Qld) on 07 4041 7403.



# Gallang Place - Appointment of new CEO

Link-Up (Qld) congratulates Ms Rachel Malthouse on her recent appointment as the new CEO of Gallang Place. Rachel is a Mbarbaram descendant from Far North Queensland who was born and raised in Brisbane, Queensland.

**She is passionate about breaking the cycle of intergenerational trauma within the First Nations community.**

Rachel comes to Gallang Place with a wealth of experience having worked nationally for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance (NATSIWA), the Royal Commission into The Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and The Healing Foundation. Rachel has also volunteered her time as a member of the Reconciliation Action Plan Committee for the Caxton Street Legal Service and served as one of the members of the Reparations Panel for Queensland Reparations.

Rachel is an experienced Senior Manager with an extensive background working with Australian First Nations peoples and communities throughout Australia.

Rachel's grandmother Marjorie Malthouse (Chevalley) was taken from Far North Queensland and brought to Brisbane. Her mother Jennifer Herd (nee Malthouse) was taken from her mother along with her siblings and brought up in various homes in Brisbane and Toowoomba and was in care with community members from both Brisbane and Cherbourg.

Marjorie spent most of her time in Musgrave Park where she was taken as a victim of an attack which is not an uncommon story for our community members that reside within Musgrave Park.

Rachel's mother Jennifer educated herself as an adult in fashion design, early childhood teaching and Art. Jennifer taught at Kangaroo Point and at the Murri School when it was located in Dornoch Tce Highgate Hill. Founded and ran the Bach of Visual and Contemporary Australian Indigenous Art BOVCAIA (now called Bach of Contemporary Australian Indigenous Art BCAIA) at Griffith University until her retirement when she moved to Eumundi Qld. Jennifer is still a member of the artist group Proppa Now and exhibits her works at Fireworks Art Gallery in Brisbane.

Rachel and her three siblings Genevieve Matthews, Joshua Herd and Ramona Herd. (Ramona left us in her 30's and left behind one son) grew up around art and still enjoy discussing and supporting their

mother with focus and direction of her art interpretations.

Rachel's father James Dwyer an Irishman was taken two weeks prior to her birth. Jennifer married Peter Herd when Rachel was 2 years old and is the only father she has ever known.

Rachel has two daughters Bridget Broderick and Carmen Broderick that both work for government agencies.

**"I am very proud of my daughters they know where they come from and stay true to themselves, they are kind, and thoughtful and that is all a mother could wish for".**



## From the Archives

Link-Up (Qld) owns a small collection of books, reports, magazines and audio-visual material collated over time, since our beginnings in 1984.

In June 1998, Link-Up (Qld) published its very first magazine. Our magazine has grown exponentially since then and today it provides readers with colourful pages filled with client reunion stories, local community updates and important information about government funding, such as the National Redress Scheme. Our magazine is available in hard copy or electronically and can be downloaded from the Link-Up (Qld) website.

One consistent part of the magazine has been the promotion of our monthly client support group morning teas. As can be seen from the archived article

below, Link-Up (Qld) has been hosting these morning teas since 1998. The day has changed from Wednesday to the last Thursday of every month and they provide an opportunity for past and present clients to meet and have a chat

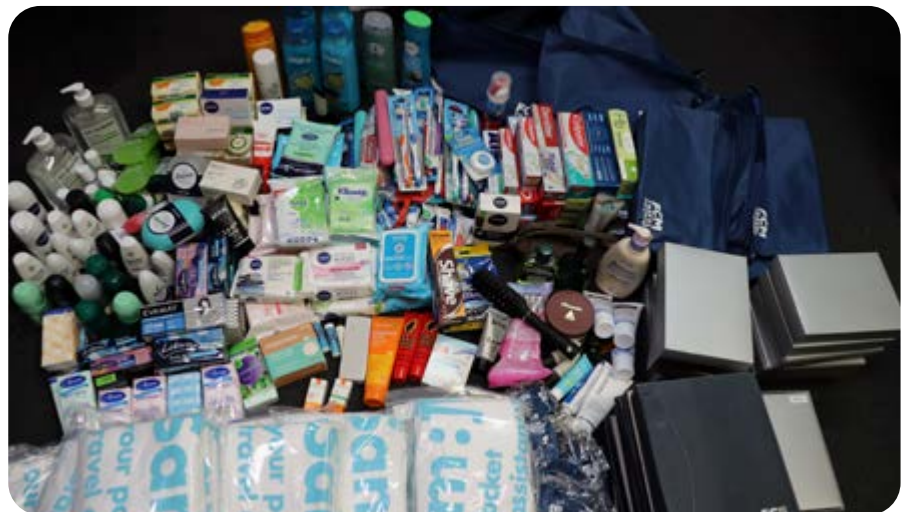
about their day or their past experiences. If you haven't been to one yet, feel free to drop in for a cup of tea and a yarn. Our next client support group will be held on 24 February 2022.



## Community Donations - Corporate Travel

Link-Up (Qld)'s Finance Manager Mirko Soto and Executive Officer Rebecca Oberle recently met with Tyler Miscannon, Flight Centre Employee Engagement Coordinator. Tyler is driving Flight Centre's Reconciliation Action Plan, a program they started to deliver beneficial initiatives to Aboriginal communities. She was really enthusiastic about Corporate Traveller and Link-Up (Qld) working in collaboration to try to deliver healing initiatives to communities.

Tyler advertised a toiletries collection drive amongst Flight Centre and Corporate Traveller staff and in less than three weeks, there were 25 toiletry bags filled to the brim with toiletry items such as toothbrushes, soap, sanitiser, shampoo and deodorant. In addition, there were T-shirts, lanyards and notebooks also very kindly donated.



Link-Up (Qld) has packaged up these donations and sent two boxes onto Palm Island and Mt Isa to be distributed amongst local people in those communities. Before we had our client Christmas lunch in Mt Isa and Palm Island, we made goody bags for the clients. The toiletry bags are excellent for this time of year when everyone is travelling to see family or simply holiday after a year of lockdown.

The journals were very attractive and practical too. In addition, we had Link-Up (Qld) scrunchies, wraps and shirts for the clients who attended the Christmas lunches.

On behalf of our clients, Board and staff, thank you again to Flight Centre and Corporate Traveller for their interest and practical actions in supporting Link-Up (Qld) as we support our local communities.



## Staff Spotlight - Mirko Soto

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

**Position:** Finance Manager

**Team:** Finance

### Tell us about your role at LUQ?

My role encompasses budgeting, monitoring, financial reporting as well as liaising with suppliers and stakeholders to ensure Link-Up's finance unit operates in a smooth way.

### What do you enjoy most about your job?

There are two things I enjoy the most about my job. The first one is the rewarding feeling that comes with being able to help our clients. The second one is the team I work with.

Link-Up is a second family and everybody is working together towards a common goal of having our clients' needs at the core. We work hard but we also care for each other and have good moments.

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

How long have I been with Link-Up (Qld) – the answer is that I have been working here for almost ten years!



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

Every project is unique and equally important. However, for me, the 35 Year celebration must be one of the most memorable events. It required a lot of preparation and planning, and a lot of effort went into it from everyone involved. At the end, the result was a magical night in which clients and all attendees enjoyed themselves and it was also a celebration and acknowledgement of all the *heart* work Link-Up (Qld) has been doing for over 35 years.

### Three words to best describe you?

Friendly, diligent, and optimistic.

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

As a child I used to be very playful and hyperactive. I even got suspended from pre-school once.

### Favourite quote?

It might sound cliché but 'don't worry be happy'

# Client Christmas Party - Brisbane





## Client Christmas Party - Cairns



## Client Christmas Party - Townsville



## Client Christmas Party - Palm Island



## Client Christmas Party - Mt Isa



# Covid-19 Vaccination Information

This last year has been a hard one in so many ways, and to be honest some of us can't wait to see the back of it!

We hope with all our hearts that 2022 is a healthier and happier year for everyone.

## All of our Link-Up (Qld) staff are double vaccinated.

Our reasons are varied. We wanted to help keep our mob safe, protect our Elders and care for our community. We did it so we can safely support our clients and continue doing the job we love. We did it so we can cross borders and see family interstate. So that we can visit loved ones in hospitals, aged care homes and prisons, and we can visit libraries and museums.



### Public Health and Social Measures linked to vaccination status

A PLAN FOR 80% AND BEYOND Unite & Recover

OBJECTIVE: Protecting Queenslanders As We Unite Families

Reviewed when we reach 90% double dose

AT 80% DOUBLE DOSE <small>(17 December)</small>	VACCINATED	UNVACCINATED	Rules for business
<b>VULNERABLE SETTINGS</b> – AGED CARE, HOSPITALS, PRISONS, DISABILITY SERVICES	✓	✗	Must not allow unvaccinated visitors. Unvaccinated people can visit if for the purposes of medical treatment, end of life, childbirth or emergency situation.
<b>HOSPITALITY VENUES</b> Example: hotels, pubs, clubs, taverns, bars, restaurants, cafés.	✓	✗	Only vaccinated staff and patrons permitted to enter. <b>No Covid-19 density limits apply.</b> (Private hire of venues, if occurring with unvaccinated individuals – a maximum of 20 people or 1 per 4 square metres).
<b>INDOOR ENTERTAINMENT VENUES</b> Example: nightclubs, indoor live music venues, karaoke bars, concerts, theatres, cinemas.	✓	✗	Only vaccinated staff and patrons permitted to enter. <b>No Covid-19 density limits apply.</b> (Private hire of venues, if occurring with unvaccinated individuals – a maximum of 20 people or 1 per 4 square metres).
<b>OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITIES</b> Example: tourism experiences including reef excursions, sports stadiums, theme parks.	✓	✗	Only vaccinated staff and patrons permitted to enter. <b>No Covid-19 density limits apply.</b>
<b>FESTIVALS (Entire venue – indoor and outdoor)</b> Example: folk festivals, arts festivals, music festivals.	✓	✗	Only vaccinated staff and patrons permitted to enter (including performers, crew, catering, food trucks). <b>No Covid-19 density limits apply.</b>
<b>WEDDINGS (Entire venue – indoor and outdoor)</b>	✓	✓ <small>(Restrictions apply)</small>	If any persons are unvaccinated, including the wedding party and officials, a maximum of only 20 people can attend. <b>No Covid-19 density limits apply where all attendees are vaccinated.</b>
<b>QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT OWNED GALLERIES, MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES</b>	✓	✗	Only vaccinated staff and patrons permitted to enter. <b>No Covid-19 density limits apply.</b>
<b>OTHER SETTINGS</b> Such as essential retail, other retail, public transport, places of worship, funerals etc.	✓	✓	COVID-19 density restrictions may still apply, as per Queensland's current COVID Safe Future Roadmap.

In line with the National Plan, additional highly targeted restrictions may be required in high-risk areas.  
For other settings not specifically outlined above, attendance is unrestricted but other measures may apply i.e. physical distancing.  
Restrictions will apply to eligible vaccinated population (16+) as per the National Plan.

**THE 'NEW NORMAL'**

- Maintain physical distancing (1.5m)
- Wear a mask when you're required to
- Maintain good hand hygiene
- Stay at home when sick
- Check in Qld app for effective contact tracing
- Get vaccinated



# Important Dates in 2022

## CLIENT SUPPORT GROUP MORNING TEA

Held on the last Thursday of the month at 10am.  
Come along for a cuppa and enjoy having a yarn  
with new and old friends.

### 2021 MORNING TEA DATES

Feb 24  
March 31  
April 28  
June 30  
July 28  
August 25  
September 29  
October 27

Please phone Kerry on 07 3638 0411 if you have  
any questions or to confirm time and place.



## APOLOGY 2022



February 14th, 10am  
QPAC Concert Hall Foyer

Link-Up (Qld) offices will be closed from the  
17th of December 2021 and will reopen on  
the 4th of January, 2022

**We wish everyone a  
very Merry Christmas  
and a safe holiday season**

**If you or someone you know needs support during this time, the following services can be contacted:**

Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636 [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)  
MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978 [www.mensline.org.au](http://www.mensline.org.au)  
Lifeline: 13 11 14 [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)  
Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467 [www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au](http://www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au)  
National Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Counselling Service: 1800 737 732

## About Link-Up (Qld)

### Our Mission

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

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

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

### Link-Up (Qld) Offices

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

### Quick Facts

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

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

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

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

**National Redress Scheme: 1800 737 377**

#### Link-Up (Qld) is funded by

National Indigenous Australians Agency,  
Department of Social Services,  
Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs.

