



**LINK-UP [NSW]**  
**Aboriginal Corporation**



**Issue 4 | April 2022 - June 2022**

**LINK-UP (NSW) ABORIGINAL  
CORPORATION NEWSLETTER**



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**Link-Up (NSW) Aboriginal Corporation** acknowledge that our work is conducted on the traditional lands of the Aboriginal nations across New South Wales.

**We pay our respects to Elders both past and present, and to those emerging leaders who will guide us into the future.**

**Link-Up (NSW) Aboriginal Corporation** is committed to honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to Link-Up (NSW) and our communities.

**We also acknowledge members of the Stolen Generations whose connection to their country was interrupted and search for belonging and identity has been long and difficult. We stand by them in their struggle.**

**WARNING:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned that this document may contain images of deceased persons

# Message from the CEO

Hi, I would like to welcome you to another great addition of Link-Up (NSW) Newsletter.

This time of year is always a special time for Aboriginal people. We go from Sorry Day and all the festivities in Reconciliation Week through to NAIDOC Week. The theme for NAIDOC week this year “Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!” is such a pertinent reminder for all of us to show action towards making improvements for our mob. Talking is no longer good enough, I have challenged my staff at Link-Up (NSW) to ensure that we continually strive for the betterment of the Stolen Generations.

For Sorry Day, our staff were involved in the following events:

- Mt Annan Sorry Day Event



- Parramatta DCJ Sorry Day Event
- Dubbo AMS Sorry Day Event
- 2022 Child Protection Legal Conference Darling Harbour

For NAIDOC Day we have been apart of the following events:

- Chifley College Dunheved Campus
- Kingswood Park Public School
- Jamison NAIDOC Event
- Chifley College Bidwill
- Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation

## Message from the CEO continued

I attended my first National Link-Up Leaders Conference in Cairns. It was a tough couple of days as NSW lost the first Origin against QLD, however I was lucky to meet all the other deadly staff from across Australia that are working with our Stolen Generation. I am looking forward to when NSW Hosts the National conference in 2023.

Business Manager, Kylie Norman and I attended the Reconciliation Industry breakfast event at Nirmiba TAFE. Kylie and I were part of a panel that answered questions from students and gave an insight into working for an Organisation that helps and supports Aboriginal community members.

We recently held our second Healing Weekend for the year at Anna Bay. We had 34 clients that attended with 7 Link-Up NSW Staff. The focus of the Healing Weekends is to support our clients with their Healing journey and to network with other clients. I want to thank the Healing Weekend Committee for their innovation and hard work and for all that attended the Healing Weekend.

Jo Bird, Kylie Norman and I attended the Inaugural CSU First Nation Indigenous Awards at Wagga Wagga. It was a honour to be part of the first awards and we are looking at our continual partnership with CSU. I would like to thank Heath McGregor who invited our staff to the awards and for the ongoing commitment from CSU towards the Stolen Generation.

I was part of the NSW CAPO Quarter 3 Progress report meetings. It is a privilege to be part of the progress reports with other CAPO members. CAPO holds NSW Government account to the Closing the Gap and work with NSW Government employees (Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal) to hopefully see an improvement in the Closing the Gap goals and see innovation initiatives for our communities.



# Message from the CEO continued

Recently Link-Up NSW staff attended our annual staff retreat in the Hunter Valley. The staff focused on how we can better service the Stolen Generation, team work and learning about culture. We had a process that determined our 5 Core Values that we will be focussing going forward. I am proud of the process that the staff went through to arrive at the 5 values below.

- Accountability
- Respect
- Integrity
- Communication
- Commitment

Thanks and Stay Deadly

Jamie

# Reunification

The Reunification team have been working together in partnership with our clients to make sure that we provide accurate family history and the right sort of reunion to assist in the healing process of our reunification clients.



## Nadaenes Reunion Story

In May, Link-Up NSW client Nadaene, a descendant of the Gomeroi people of Coonabarabran was returned to her country.

Nadaene's reunion consisted of a visit to Burra Bee Dee mission/cemetery to pay tribute to her Great great grandmother Mary Jane Chatfield nee Cain. Nadaene had the privilege to meet with Elder's Uncle Casey and Auntie Beryl

and our cultural mentor Clinton. Clinton completed the reunion by providing Nadaene with some cultural education around the area, their people and their customs.

Nadaene stated that this reunion has given her a stronger connection to who she is and her ancestral story.

We wish Nadaene all the best in continuing her journey of self-healing and identity.

## Uncle James' Reunion Story

Another reunion held in May was a collaboration between Link-Ups NSW and Victoria. Uncle James "Jimmy" Smith contacted Link-Up Victoria in hopes of finding his sisters Aunty Rachael and Aunty Brenda. Caseworker Angela worked hard on this case and eventually found both sisters, one who resided in Victoria and the other in NSW.

Angela arranged for Uncle Jimmy to fly from Qld to NSW to meet with Link-Up staff who would transport him to Nowra where he would eventually meet his sister Rachael.

After spending time with Rachael, Uncle Jimmy then flew to Victoria to meet with Angela who transported him to meet with his other sister Brenda.

The collaboration between the two Link-Up's ensured that Uncle Jimmy and his sisters had every chance possible to meet.

Link-Up NSW thank Uncle Jimmy for allowing us to be a part of his reunion with his sisters and wish the family well in the years to come, hopefully making new memories with each other.



# Redress

The National Redress Scheme has been created in response to recommendations by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. It was created in 2018 and will run for 10 years, ending in 2028.

The National Redress Scheme ensures that all victims of child sexual abuse within institutions are listened to and believed regarding their abuse.

Institutions may include any of the following:

- orphanages,
- Children's Homes,
- schools,
- churches and other religious organisations,
- sports clubs,
- hospitals,
- foster care and
- other institutions.

To be eligible to apply for the scheme you must:

- Experienced institutional child sexual abuse before 1 July 2018,
- Were born before 30 June 2010, and
- Are an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

If you would like more information on the National Redress Scheme, please contact Link-Up (NSW) on **(02) 7227 1443** or at **[Linkup@nsw.link-up.org.au](mailto:Linkup@nsw.link-up.org.au)**





# Research & Family Link

The research team at Link-Up conduct family history research on potential reunification clients who have completed and mailed back a Link-Up reunification application pack.

The team confirms that all new potential clients meet the eligibility criteria, which is:

- **Aboriginality**
- **Removal** - this includes forced adoption and fostering.

There are many services involved in this process which means that the time between applying to Link-Up to the reunion taking place could be anywhere from 6 months onwards.



The Family Link Team have been busy working on the numerous files received from both government and non-government organisations. The staff share an excellent rapport, working together, mentoring and consistent in their approach. We take pride in providing information to assist our clients connect with Family, Culture, Community & Country.

For more information on Family Link or reunification for an application pack please contact Link-Up (NSW) on **(02) 7227 1443** or at [Linkup@nsw.link-up.org.au](mailto:Linkup@nsw.link-up.org.au)

# Healing Weekends

Link-Up (NSW) held their last healing weekend at the beautiful Kangaroo Valley Golf and Country Retreat. In attendance were 18 clients and six (6) staff. We were lucky enough to be witness to an amazing welcome to country and smoking ceremony by Uncle Sonny Simms followed by his son Matt Simms and the wonderful dancers from Djiriba Waagura Pty Ltd.

Clients were able to choose from a selection of activities which included kayaking, bush walking, massages and art. Clients and staff enjoyed their evening time by indulging in some bingo and trivia, with a little friendly competitiveness. There were some inspirational talks around the National Redress Scheme and the local culture.

To be eligible to attend a Link-Up (NSW) healing weekend individuals must be clients who have had a reunion or a family member of a client that has attended a reunion.

For more information on healing weekends please contact Link-Up (NSW) on (02) 7227 1443 or at [Linkup@nsw.link-up.org.au](mailto:Linkup@nsw.link-up.org.au)



"Had an absolutely fabulous weekend with you all.... can't wait till next time!"

# Healing Weekends

"I have worked for Link-Up (NSW) for a year and a half, and I had the honour of attending my first Healing Weekend from the 24th to the 27th of June 2022 in Anna Bay.

What a privilege it was to be a part of this process, sitting down and having a yarn, seeing the clients laugh and relax while participating in the activities, hopefully helping them heal from the atrocities they sadly endured in the past.

I met some very beautiful souls, Aunts, Uncles and Elders, that amazed me with their resilience, determination, and the love they share to others.

I work with such an amazing team of people and what they do on a daily basis is remarkable! Thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of a deadly team and allowing me to take part in this process for our clients."

It's something I will never forget. - Adelle Aspinall



# Healing Weekend Gallery



# Healing Weekends



“I’ve been working at Link-Up (NSW) for over a year now, and I have learnt so much. I had the opportunity to attend a Link-Up Healing Weekend for the stolen generation survivors and be apart of there process to healing. Throughout the weekend we had minute to win it games, painting, Jonnie Cakes cooking class which I really enjoyed, Men’s yarning circle and women’s yarning circle, Trivia, Bingo which I also enjoyed with the Aunts and Uncle’s. I really enjoyed seeing the smiles on everybody faces, because it showed me that we are all here for an important reason.

Through out the weekend, I was inspired by the amount of strength that all the Aunt’s and Uncles had, because it made me realise, that I have to be strong to make a change for the aboriginal community and give back. I am truly amazed at the resilience and the strength that all the Link-Up workers showed and the strength that the Aunt and Uncles had.

Listening to the Aunts and Uncles, made me more motivated and interested in learning about the Indigenous Culture and there way of life as every indigenous mob has different ways of living and experiences in life.

I would like to Thank Mary Anne Frail and Luke Roseworne Delisa for guiding me through the healing weekend and for simply making me a better caseworker with all the knowledge that give.” - Hoki Lyon

# Healing Weekend Gallery



# Staff Retreat

In June, we held our Annual Staff Retreat at the Crowne Plaza in Hunter Valley. The staff took this opportunity to engage with one another, focus on teamwork and discuss growth and improvement plans.

We started the Retreat with a beautiful smoking ceremony to cleanse ourselves and begin a new chapter. We also had a deadly group of dances perform for us, language activities and much more!

Throughout the retreat we done activities such as a Link-Up Olympics, where staff gathered in teams and versed each other in tug of war, bean bag races, etc. We also had a Great Gatsby themed dinner night, where we done a 20's themed murder mystery game!

"We all connected and came together as one"



# Staff Retreat Gallery

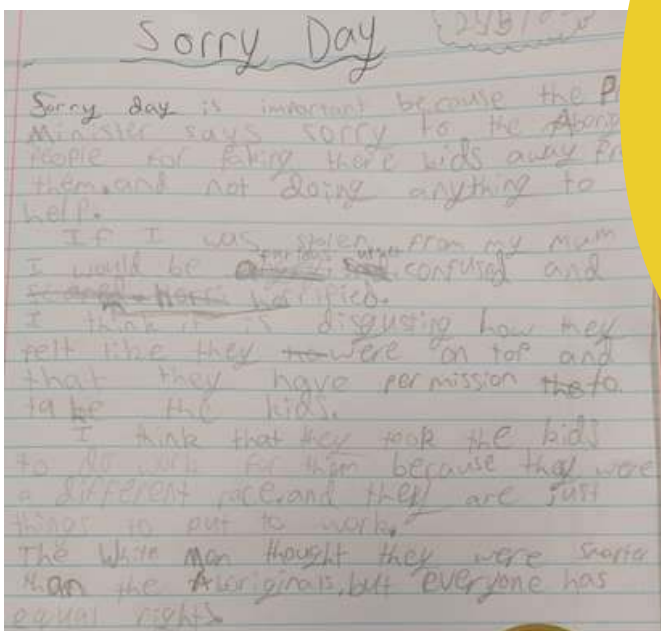




# Sorry Day

This years Sorry Day, Link-up (NSW) attended multiple Sorry Day events such as the Dubbo AMS National Sorry Day, Clawford Public School Sorry Day event, Mt Druitt Sorry Day event, DCJ Parramatta Sorry Day Event and Mt Annan Sorry Day event to mourn for and show support to our Stolen Generations, elders and ancestors.

We had the opportunity to yarn with potential clients and engage with the community while paying our respects.



After Uncle Dennis' speech at the Clawford Primary School, the students felt inspired to write a poem about Sorry Day. Here is one of the students poems that touched our hearts.

**We would like to thank all the event planners for inviting Link-Up (NSW) to their sorry day events.**

# Sorry Day Gallery





# COOEE Festival Update

Unfortunately due to the wet weather conditions, we had to make the heartbreaking decision to postpone COOEE for the 3rd time, At this stage we are exploring and discussing options with Blacktown city council, our performers and others involved. Stay updated by regularly checking our social media.

Despite the event being postponed multiple times as a result of COVID and Weather conditions, we believe our event is important for mob and we will continue to overcome every hardship to deliver this significant event for our Western Sydney community.

For now, our Merchandise is available for purchasing on our COOEE Website in our merchandise tab.

<https://www.cooeensw.org.au/shop>



# Staff Profile



## Alisha Carroll

Alisha is young proud Wiradjuri and Kamiliroi woman. She was raised in Mt Druitt Western Sydney, but her family are originally from Narrandera and Coonabarabran. She has been working at Link-Up (NSW) for 2 months now. She applied for this position because she has always wanted to work with an Aboriginal organisation that helps, and changes people's lives forever as she has the same passion to do so too.

Alisha was apart of an Aboriginal dance group named Gadi Birrong that performed at our very own COOEE Festival in 2019. She is now employed as the face of our organisation as a junior receptionist in 2022.

# Beautiful baby boy!



Kenneth Benjamin Henry John Palmer born at westmead private hospital at 7:00am on 6th may 2022. He was very tiny, 5 pound 6 oz 50 cm long.



Libby's little miracle rainbow baby is very much loved by his 8 siblings who dot on his every cry and since kenneth finally greeted the world, everyone that meets Kenneth believes he is an old soul and has traveled this land before. His amazing blue eyes makes everyone melt when they look at him!

Check out this heartwarming photos of Uncle Dennis and Board memembr Peter Ried holding Kenneth

Staff Member Libby Palmer has given birth to a beautiful baby boy!





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## About Link-Up (NSW)

Link-Up (NSW) Aboriginal Corporation has been reuniting Stolen Generations Members with family, community, culture and identity since 1980. Today, our services expand beyond reuniting clients; seeing us conducting family history research and identifying culture for our kids in out of home care to embed a sense of identity and belonging. Building strength in our communities, as well as counselling and addressing trauma in our people. We offer mentors, self-empowerment and always strive to prove that the Aboriginal community can do more than “just survive”!

## Contact Us



1800 624 332  
(not free for mobile phones)



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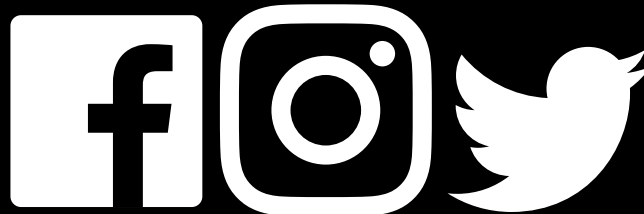
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## Social Media

@linkupNSW



## Thank you to our funders



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