



LINK-UP [NSW]
Aboriginal Corporation

Issue 5 | July 2022 - September 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

PAULINE DENNY'S REUNION

Pauline is a Gomeroi women who originally came to Link-Up (NSW) to find out more information on her family and for a reunion Back to Country. Pauline's grandfather was a Haynes who was born at Boomi and was a resident at the Terry Hie Hie reserve in 1931, his mother was born in Mungindi. Pauline's reunion took place in July 2022 where Caseworker Shanarah and Counsellor Mary-Anne had taken Pauline and her son Shane out to Moree, Mungindi and Boomi with the assistance of Paul Spearim. Paul is an Aboriginal knowledge holder from the Moree area. Paul was able to pass down a lot of information about the history of the client's family and tell stories about the history of the Gomeroi people. Both clients were able to be involved in their first smoking ceremony and to walk on the same ground that their ancestors had walked on. They were able to feel connected whilst being on country where they are from.





CAPO UPDATE

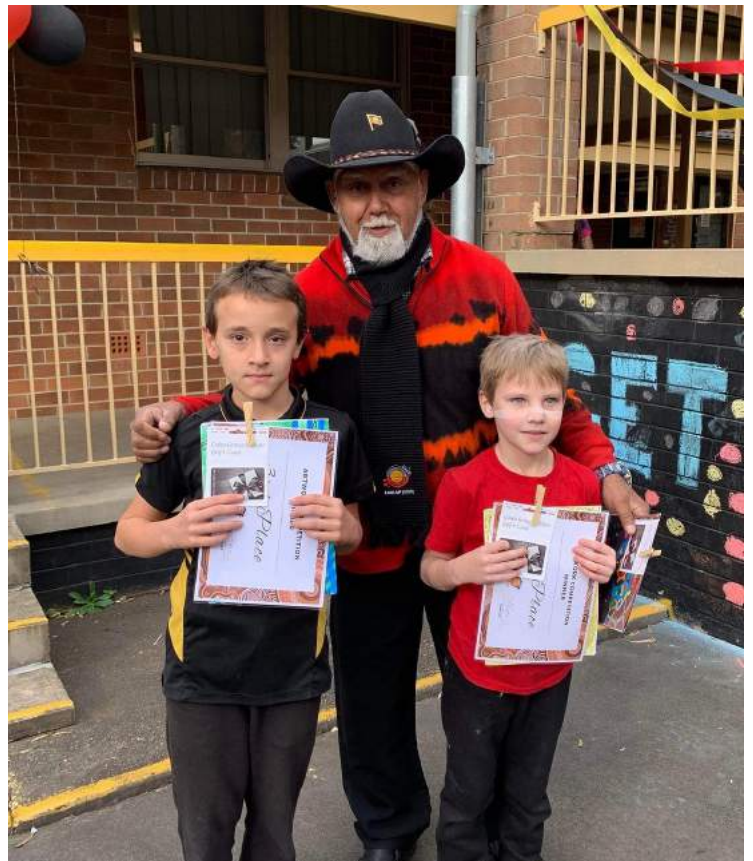
This year has been a massive achievement regarding CAPO and the forward development of culturally safety and inclusion for our mob. What this looks like for us as a community in a variety of different areas, some of which include health, community building and employment. The CAPO team is working tirelessly on creating a streamlined approach to Aboriginal disability care and how this affects our community also. Some of these amazing achievements include the development of a new 24hr Aboriginal Health Practitioner (AHP) Emergency Department Model to ensure that there is cultural safety in NSW services, work to explore more birthing on Country models of maternity care in partnership with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and the expansion of the Building Resilience initiative and investment in culturally safe mental health models of care. These are being led by AH&MRC and the CEO as well as the co-chair of CAPO Robert Skeen has said "I am confident that this plan will create real change and look forward to continuing to work in genuine partnership with the NSW Government to improve outcomes for Aboriginal communities across the state" Link-Up NSW are working on our policy with the CAPO team which involves strengthening the Aboriginal employment strategy in the public service sector, which means we were working together to create a better process for cultural safety, processes, and application access. We are committed to creating policy that ensures the cultural safety of recruitment processes, involving cultural capability training and standards in government organisations and most importantly, a zero-tolerance approach to racism. Link-Up NSW has also participated in the community consultation on the data sovereignty project expected to begin next year. The data exchange project enables Aboriginal community members to share and choose who has access to their information, in return the Aboriginal community can control where Aboriginal funds go and what services deserve the funds based on data information from the community. So, for example, if the data suggests that there is an increase in Aboriginal NDIS needs in the western Sydney area then an Aboriginal organisation or organisations will be contacted about the need and the process will start from there. An Aboriginal organisation will then be allocated the funds and the needs assessed regularly as well as data correlation checked to ensure the needs are being met. This is an exciting project that Link-Up is excited to be a part of and given the needs within the western Sydney community, we are excited to be able to support the need of new and giving services in our little slice of heaven.

NAIDOC WEEK



This NAIDOC Week our staff planned to attend multiple events but unfortunately some events were postponed due to the wet weather conditions and flooding. Staff were lucky enough to attend the Narang Birrong NAIDOC Ball, Bidwill High school, PCYC and Kingswood Public School.

Kingswood Public School invited Elder Uncle Dennis Dunn as guest of honour to their Naidoc week to be the judge of their art Competition. Link-Up NSW workers Jo Bird, Tania Skerry and Luke Roseworne were also there working behind the Link-Up stall, handing out information about our deadly services It was wonderful meeting all the children watching them do Cultural Dancing which they had done and well, we met a lot of other community parents and other community members with stalls. It was a great day which made Uncle Dennis proud of seeing the next generations embrace our culture.





RED BELLY WARRIORS

KNOCK-OUT

On the 17th of September Link-Up (NSW) Aboriginal Corporation sponsored and attended The Blacktown Red Belly Warriors Knockout 2022. There were women's and men's games throughout the day with teams travelling all around NSW to play. The event had an amazing turnout with the Blacktown men's and under 17's boys team making the grand final. Under 17's boys had a great result and won their grand final.

The Blacktown men's team had a tough game but unfortunately didn't come up with the result they planned to have as they placed 2nd on the board. We thank Blacktown Red Belly Warriors for giving us this opportunity to be apart of their event. We loved seeing all the teams play and showcasing their talents.





MUDJIN MUDUNG

As a caseworker I never really have the chance to interact with community and to support the Next Generation who will continue the growth and to inspire others through the whole Aboriginal Community.

Link-Up NSW had the opportunity to provide support at Mudjin Mudung, which was held at Kimberwalli in Whalan. Link-Up NSW had an information Stall where we interacted with the community and notified the community what we do here at Link-Up NSW. We had tattoos for the kids, we had small little footballs which the kids enjoyed. There were activities for kids but seeing all the kids and the community just having fun and experiencing the amount of happiness that day was a feeling I can't fully explain. There was also a sausage sizzle, which Uncle Dennis and Luke Roseworne Cooked, who did an amazing job. Fellow staff did an amazing job as well Mary-Anne Frail, Bianca O'Hanlan, Elizabeth Palmer, Jo-Ann Bird, Aiesha Pettit-Young.

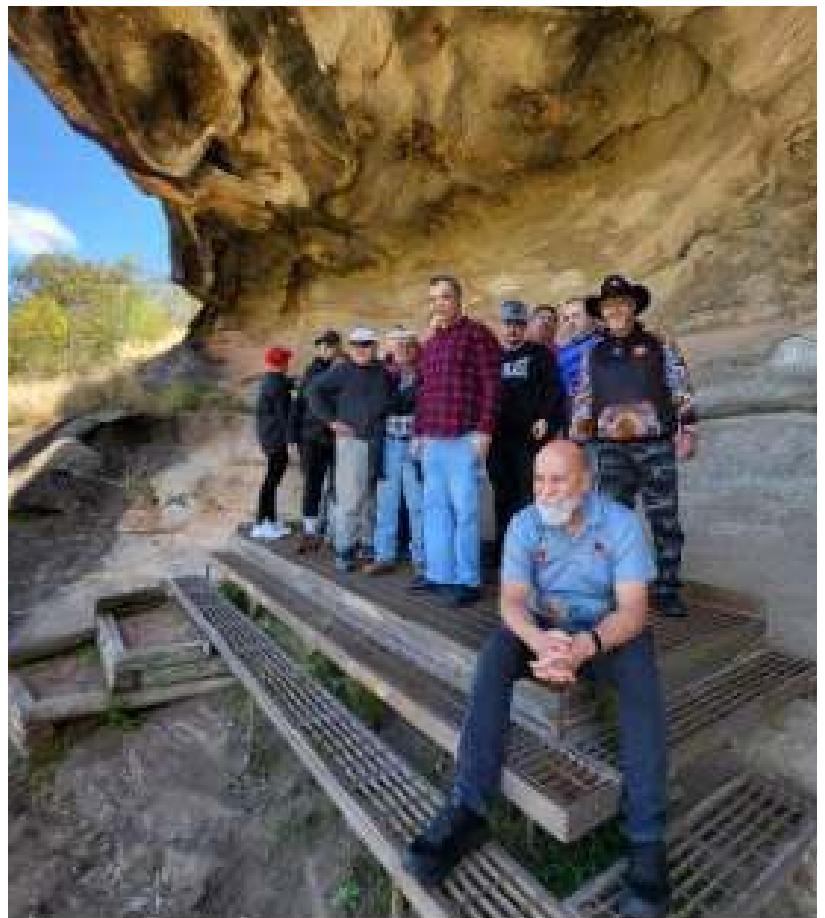
I learnt a lot that day, seeing the community. No matter what the Aboriginal Community goes through, we always come together and stand side by side each other and move forward.

Being a part of Mudjin Mudung community events, reminds me why I love my job and why I do what I do. It keeps me grounded and reminds me why I feel so connected within the Aboriginal Community. But that I really enjoyed myself and was happy to be apart of such an amazing community. - Hoki Lyon





GWAHS MEN'S GROUP TRIP TO BAIAMIE CAVES



HIGHLIGHTS



JERSEY DAY 2022



COUNSELLING ON THE RUN WORKSHOP



COOEE FESTIVAL

15 April 2023



Celebrating the oldest
surviving culture in the world

LIVE MUSIC
MARKET STALLS
FOOD TRUCKS
ELDERS TENT
KIDS WORLD
ART EXHIBITIONS
AND MORE

Mount Druitt
Town Centre Reserve
10am - 4pm



LINK-UP NSW
Aboriginal Corporation

JESSICA MILANOVIC

Family History Researcher

I'm a proud Wiradjuri woman, I was born in Lake Cargelligo but, grew up in Wagga Wagga.

My mum Tanya Clarke comes from Lake Cargelligo and my dad, Clayton Wighton comes from Condobolin.

My siblings Tristan and Daniel live back home on Wiradjuri country with my family. My brother has a son, Ashdan and my sister is currently pregnant with her first baby.

I moved to Wollongong in 2017 to start a new job and started working in Out of Home Care as a Caseworker and then I met my husband in 2018 and moved to South-West Sydney.

I love living in Sydney, growing up I didn't like the place but, I couldn't think of living anywhere else. My favourite thing about Sydney is the diversity, opportunities and food.

I'm currently working at Link-Up (NSW) as a Researcher and enjoying the role. I am passionate about our people and want to make a difference in their lives.





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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



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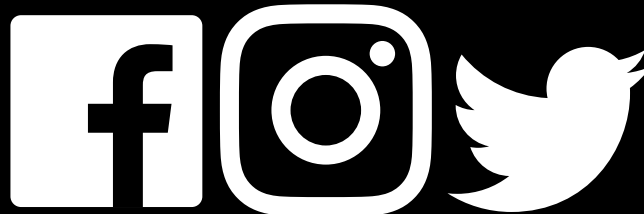
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Social Media

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Thank you to our funders



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