



LINK-UP [NSW]
Aboriginal Corporation



Issue 6 | October 2022 - December 2022

LINK-UP (NSW) ABORIGINAL CORPORATION NEWSLETTER



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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Hi Everyone,

I want to start by saying what an amazing year 2022 has been for Link-Up NSW.

We have worked extremely hard with our clients, our funding providers, our Board of Directors and our Aboriginal communities

Recently we held our Annual General Meeting, there has been some changes to the positions (please see below). I want to take this opportunity to thank Aunty Lizzie May as the Chair of the BOD for all of her hard work and the leadership shown throughout the year. The BOD are and I are working through plans to make 2023 even bigger and better than 2022.

- Chairperson: Aunty Lizzie May
- Secretary: Aunty Rebekah Curtis
- Treasurer: Uncle Mark Hartley
- Vice Chairperson: Aunty Raelene Corak
- Director: Aunty Janet Smith
- Director: Aunty Aileen Bell
- Director: Antonietta Corak-Phan
- Director: Uncle Peter Read
- Director: Uncle Craig Edwards



Link-Up NSW attended the four day Koori KO in Bomaderry in October. We had our stand that our fantastic staff manned and we interacted with survivors from the Stolen Generations, Elders, Kids and community members. It was deadly watching the Dunghutti Connxtions (sponsored by Link-Up NSW) lift the trophy for the Womens event. Personally my team from my home town of Coonamble, Castlereagh All Blacks (CAB) made their first semi final and Monday.

Our Annual Report has been endorsed by the BOD. I want to take this opportunity to thank Aiesha on her fantastic work, designs and putting it all good. We are sending copies to our members and to our Funding providers. Please take some time to read the AR. It will be up on our website ASAP.

On Saturday 29th October Link-Up NSW celebrated our Gala Dinner. We had almost 300 people in attendance. Andy Saunders did a deadly job on MC. The Night was opened by Erin Wilkins doing Welcome to Country, entertainment was done by the Brolga Dancers, Jarrad Hickling and Montanah. My fave two parts of the night was listening to Aunty Oomera and Uncle Peter give their recount of the beginning of Link-Up NSW. Hearing Aunty Janet give her address was emotional. What an amazing night.

Link- Up NSW will be closed for our Christmas shut down period from Thursday 22nd December and reopening on Wednesday 4th January. Kylie can you add a line or two here

I want to take this opportunity to thank our funders, Board of Directors and staff for a great year.

Please have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Years. Enjoy time with your family and start 2023 in a safe fashion.

Jamie

DAVID RYAN'S REUNION



David Ryan was made a Ward of the State with his brother in 1976 where they were placed into Church homes and foster care placements. David came to Link-Up (NSW) in 2017 for assistance in locating his sister who he was wanting to be reunited with. In October 2022 Link-Up staff Luke and Shanarah had the opportunity to take David to Caloundra for his reunion with his sister. Link-Up staff picked David up from his home and went to the airport for our flight to Caloundra, this was David's first ever flight, so he was feeling a little nervous about flying. David had the window seat so the whole flight he looked out the window and was so amazed on what he could see. The next day was the reunion day, Link-Up staff and David drove to pick up David's sister and his nephew. We then drove to Moffat Beach and met elder Uncle Lance O'Chin who performed a Welcome to Country and a Smoking Ceremony, Uncle Lance also sang a song and danced after he did the Welcome to Country. Everyone then sat at the table while Uncle Lance told us stories about the Land and the water ways on which we were gathered on where his ancestors walked upon. After that we headed to the Caloundra RSL and had lunch together where we told more stories and David got to talk more with his sister and nephew. When we finished lunch, we drove David's sister and nephew back to the Glasshouse Mountains, before we dropped them home, we stopped to look at the mountains. David's sister told us some stories that she knew about the history of the Glasshouse Mountains. We all just stood around for a bit talking and having a laugh.

"David, his sister, and nephew all connected, and their bond was like they had been together for years, this was beautiful to watch."



HEALING WEEKEND

We held our most recent Healing Weekend on the mid-North Coast in Kempsey. In attendance were 21 clients and 6 staff members.

Uncle Graeme Quinlan, local Dunghutti Elder held a beautiful tradition Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony by the Macleay River which the venue was situated on.

There were a range of cultural activities for the clients to participate including yarning circles, beading and painting, however the highlight as always was fishing by the river. Uncle Dennis even caught a baby bull shark!

On the Saturday, staff took some of the clients out on a trip to the Kempsey night markets at the Slim Dusty Centre. Just the bus trip to and from the markets was a lot of fun for the clients, where many laughs were had and stories were told. The next day, some clients were taken to the local Aboriginal Missions, and then onto South West Rocks where they enjoyed some snacks by the beach. Other clients opted to stay back at the venue and just relax.

Throughout the weekend there was trivia, bingo and minute to win it games that got everyone laughing, smiling and interacting with each other.

“I FEEL RELAXED AND CONTENT. THE STAFF AND OTHER CLIENTS MADE ME FEEL INCLUDED. I CAN’T THINK OF ANYTHING THAT NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED, IT WAS FANTASTIC”







LINK-UP GALA DINNER

On Saturday, 29 October 2022 Link-Up (NSW) held their 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner at Rooty Hill RSL. Link-Up (NSW) has been established for 42 years since 1980 however, COVID-19 restrictions meant we could not celebrate in 2020. This momentous occasion was in recognition of all those who paved the way over the past 42 years with their hard work, dedication, and commitment to reuniting Stolen Generations with their kin, community and culture.









KOORI KNOCKOUT

The Koori Knockout has been postponed for 2 years due to covid, so it was a big weekend with players representing their mobs, & family supporting their teams. With over 50,000 people coming together to celebrate culture and talent, it was an amazing turn out.

9 of our staff volunteered to work and attend the Koori Knockout in October. Link-Up pitched up a tent for the 4-day event, we had plenty of engagement. Whether it was from other organisations, the general community, Elders, and even kids came over to have a yarn with our staff. Safe to say, we are very excited for next year's Koori Knockout.





IMPROVING INDIGENOUS HEALTH OUTCOMES

Enhancing cultural safety & access to services to close the gap

Hybrid Summit
22 - 23 February 2023
Sydney Boulevard Hotel,
Eora, Sydney & Online

This conference aims to provide a platform for **Elders, leaders and respected voices in the community to discuss how we can enhance the health** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. It is pivotal that we are consistently engaging the community and giving them the opportunity to take control of their health. You will have the opportunity to discuss how to enhance cultural safety, access to services, co-designing programs and priorities with the community and improving social determinants that impact health.

“The Hatchery has its finger on the pulse of what is genuinely topical and useful to understand not only in elements of working life, but elements of the human experience.”

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and
Communications, January 2022

Key Benefits of Attending

Hear from **Elders, leaders & respected voices in the community** on how we can improve **cultural safety** within health services.

Understand how to **co-design programs & policies alongside the community** to work towards **closing the gap**.

Learn how to **shift westernised responses** within health to **incorporate culture**.

Learn how to **improve mental health responses to combat the increasing rate of suicide** amongst youth.

Featured Speakers

- **Jamie Sampson:** Chief Executive Officer, SW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations (NSW CAPO), Link-Up NSW
- **Julie Tongs OAM:** Chief Executive Officer, Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services
- **Kayeleen Brown:** Chief Executive Officer, Katungul Aboriginal Corporation Regional Health & Community Services
- **Peter Malouf:** Chief Executive Officer, Townsville Aboriginal Islander Health Service, WLD
- **Adam McEwen:** Regional Project Officer, Aboriginal Environmental Health Unit, NSW Health
- **Suzanne Naden:** Chief Executive Officer, Bungree Aboriginal Association, NSW
- **Michelle Steele:** Assistant Secretary, Aged Care, Indigenous Programs & Collaboration Branch, Department of Health and Aged Care

Two day summit on 22-23 February + interactive in-person seminar

Proudly supported by

Discounted tickets available until 25 Nov
or contact: Marshal.Chettri@the-hatchery.co



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



2022 ANNUAL REPORT READY TO READ ON OUR WEBSITE!



STAFF PROFILE

"I'm a proud Wiradjuri woman born in Gilgandra. I have 4 beautiful boys, I've worked in the community service sector for 10 years. One of the main reasons I applied for Link-Up was the nature of the work that gets done here, the commitment and passion matches my own and when I see a team of people who are so driven, passionate, and dedicated to supporting community in either reunions, or otherwise, its an instant yes from me."





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MERRY *Christmas*

LINK-UP WILL BE CLOSING FOR THE CHRISTMAS
PERIOD

CLOSING - 22 DECEMBER 2022
REOPENING - 4 JANUARY 2023





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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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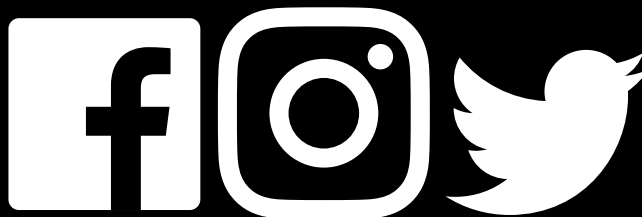
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Social Media

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Thank you to our funders



Australian Government

**Department of the
Prime Minister and Cabinet**



**Family &
Community
Services**



Australian Government

Department of Social Services