



**Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation**

***"Whadna!"***

**July Newsletter 2018**



# KSGAC Chairperson Mark Bin Bakar's Message



Welcome to the Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation's First E-Newsletter which will make it easier for services to receive and view all of our news and photographs online. To keep everyone in the loop we will continue to distribute our Newsletter to our Members who prefer a printed version.

Friends and Members of KSGAC we have entered a new financial year and the Directors and Staff have been working very hard with our Accountant to ensure that our funding commitments met.

This year I travelled to Canberra with two KSGAC Directors, Merillee Lands and Elizabeth Cox and also our Link-Up Senior Counsellor David Cox to attend the 10th Anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generation. We enjoyed morning tea with Mr Kevin Rudd and other members of Parliament and later that evening attended a concert that was put on by the Healing Foundation. I would like to thank the Healing Foundation for their support in allowing us to travel to Canberra to attend this important event.

I then stayed on in Canberra with David Cox to meet up with Kirk Coffin, the Royal Commission Support Officer, to attend meetings and a workshop to provide us with an update on the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. The latest news is all states have bought into the National Redress Scheme including the Western Australia Government in principle. A number of Church Organisations are now on-board. On 31 May 2018, the Anglican Church, Salvation Army, Scouts Australia and YMCA also made a joint announcement committing to join the Scheme. On 4 June, the Uniting Church committed to joining the Scheme. Individuals can now seek help with Redress applications through our Office with Re-dress Worker Kirk Coffin.

We will continue to lobby through the various Local Government Representatives to ensure that our clients are catered for under the proposed scheme and that KSGAC continue to be funded appropriately to provide the necessary support to these victims.

**KSGAC grounds update.** Willie continues to do an exceptional job looking after the grounds and we continue to get positive feedback from community members about the organisation. We have a letter from Bishop Saunders regarding the Lease which also highlights his congratulations on looking after the grounds so well.

I thank the KSGAC staff for their continued commitment to the organisation and the hard work that they continue to do. I hope that the organisation will continue to grow from strength to strength and encourage people to pop in for a cuppa or a yarn to see what is happening and also to check out our website.

*Photo: Board Members Merillee Lands, Chairman Mark Bin Bakar, David and Liz Cox during the Apology Day anniversary in Canberra.*

# Update of KSGAC's Achievements from the Chief Executive Officer Tania Bin Bakar.



**Link- Up.** Our Link- Up team are carrying out regular remote field visits. The Link-Up staff have been networking in the community, visiting organisations and attending Open Days or other related activities and also having Information Stalls in the major Shopping Centres in Broome.

**Staff expand skills.** KSGAC staff have been updating their skills and qualifications through undertaking various training. Most staff have now updated their First Aid Training with St John Ambulance. In addition, Link- Up worker James Feehan has been attending a Pilot Healing Accredited Short Course in Brisbane where he not only participated in the course but also evaluated it at the same time. James Feehan, Paula Ellis and Pauline McKenzie attended Marumali Training, which is a four day program, in Melbourne.

Pauline McKenzie continues working with Annelie De Villiers from Melbourne University on the Data Base which is for the Kimberley Cemeteries in the first instance and will be expanded further over time.

KSGAC Counsellor David Cox will be participating in the National Link-Up Leadership Group where one of the pressing issues is to discuss the future of the Certificate IV in Stolen Generations Family Research and Case Management..

**Website News.** I have had discussions with Scott Sansoni from Sanz Web Development who will be working with relevant staff to re-develop and maintain our website so please keep an eye out for these improvements which will be coming shortly.

**Our KSGAC team is growing.** We welcome Jennifer Martin, who has commenced as the Administration Officer and has been working collaboratively with Finance Administration Manager Sunny Leiberman. Desiree Sutherland is now our Projects Officer. Maureen Pigram has just come on board as a Link-Up Case Worker.

## Apology Day Broome



Apology Day of Chairman Mark Bin Bakar's speech as read by Leonie Kelly during the Broome event. "*Sadly*, we have lost a large number of them now and we still stand here and exist in their name and in the name of those still surviving and the trans-generational pain that has been imposed on the children and grandchildren of the Stolen Generation people themselves. As a nation we should stand up united as one voice to correct the wrongs of the past and the terrible experiments and atrocities.

All Australians should stand proud of their Ancient Aboriginal Brothers and Sisters who have overcome all the challenges imposed on them and have become resilient in their ability to survive, after two ice ages and then the wrath of colonisation. One must have to take off ones hat to acknowledge this fact of Aboriginal people. Yes we still struggle with things like alcohol, drugs, domestic violence and limited opportunities and aspirations. But hey, this is not unique to just Aboriginal people, this is a Australian phenomenon. But we continue on as we have hope for our future generations to take the lead, Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal.

Kevin Rudd's Apology speech had a huge impact on the world and to his credit he will go down in history as a man of compassion, commitment and sincerity. imposed on our people, fellow Australians, in fact the oldest living culture in the world, in which we should be celebrating and being in oneness of each other.

*Some things you should know about the National Apology*

1. You should know... The speech On 13 February 2008, then-Prime Minister Kevin Rudd delivered an impassioned speech apologising to the Stolen Generations on behalf of the Australian Government.
  2. You should know that... 'Sorry Day' and the anniversary of the National Apology are two separate days 'Sorry Day' is actually held on the 26 May, the presentation of the Bringing Them Home Report- and has been since 1998.
  3. You should know about... the Bringing Them Home Report The National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their families was established by the Federal Attorney-General in 1995. It was conducted by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) and their final report, titled The Bringing Them Home Report, was tabled in Parliament in 1997. The report identified that; Forcible removal policies saw the removal of between 1 in 3 and 1 in 10 Indigenous children, in the period 1910 to 1970.
  4. The effects of such removal were, for most victims, negative, multiple and profoundly disabling. Removal laws were racially discriminatory, and genocidal in intent. For many children removed there were breaches of fiduciary duty and duty of care, as well as criminal actions. The report also handed down 54 Recommendations in response to these findings, most of which have not been implemented by any Government since.
- You should know that... The National Apology is not intended to 'forgive and forget'.

## Apology Day Continued.



5. You should know that... The rates of Indigenous child removal today are higher than at any point in Australia's history In 2014-15, there were more than 15,000 Indigenous children in care across the country. Since Kevin Rudd made the National Apology to the Stolen Generations in 2008, that number has risen by 65 per cent.
6. You should know that... 'Sorry' is not just an admission of guilt, it is also an expression of sorrow Kevin Rudd did not apologise on behalf of every non-Indigenous Australian citizen, he did so on behalf of the Government. The Government, along with the Church, were the two main organisations who hold a level of culpability for the Stolen Generations. Individual Australians, however, can still acknowledge the pain and suffering caused. It doesn't matter whether or not you were 'personally responsible'; you can claim a sense of nationalistic sorrow for the people affected by policies enacted in the name of Australia, the same way you can claim nationalistic pride in the sacrifices made by the ANZACs or victories of Australian sporting teams.
7. You should know that... 'Sorry' is an important part of healing Even though there are many legitimate reasons to feel let down by the Apology, and the lack of action since then, it is still important to acknowledge the emotion felt by the many survivors who felt their stories had finally been acknowledged on this day, and by the many other Australians who joined in.

We have all been affected by those evil policies and laws that justified and controlled our people like animals in fact most of us were born under the Flora and Fauna Act. We as a nation must unite and deal with all the wrong doings imposed on our people, the

oldest living culture on this planet and; despite surviving through two ice ages, the colonial invasion, occupation and genocidal laws and policies, we have survived. Our people are very resilient and survived all the challenges since at least 60 thousand years. This should be owned, celebrated and rejoiced by Australia as a whole. Together we can fix this negative history and move on as a nation that owns its history, good and bad, right and wrong. This is the measure of a great nation to reconcile its history to move forward together. I would like to acknowledge the Healing Foundation and PM&C for their continued support." As Spoken by Leonie Kelly.

*Photo: Former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and KSGAC Board member Merilee Lands meet during the 2018 Apology Day Activities held in Canberra*

National Apology To Stolen Generations

#### Promoting Link-Up



Link-Up staff have promoted the essential service during an information Stall at Broome Boulevard.

Link-up frequently visits Kimberley towns and communities and helps people effected by past government policies of forced removal. If you are looking for family contact our Case Workers.

As part of Link Up's commitment to developing more effective inter-agency collaboration, the Link Up team have been working on developing a promotional PowerPoint Presentation to be used as a tool to outline in detail what services Link Up provides, how the service and processes work and how referrals are handled. You can call the KSGAC office or drop in with your inquiry.

*Photo of Work Experience person Surayah Bin Bakar and Link-Up Case Worker Paula Ellis*

## National Sorry Day May 26th

The Sorry Day Flower is the Purple native hibiscus which was adopted the Kimberley Stolen Generation elders due to its resilience as it is found widely across Australia and it is a survivor. KSGAC Chairperson Mark Bin Bakar said Sorry Day Commemoration activities are growing as evidenced in the increase in flower sales. "We have shipped thousands of our Sorry Day Flowers around the country. So many events have been held and it shows just how deep Aboriginal people's feelings are in relation to what has happened." Mark said.

"Every flower that we send off is worn by both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous People and this means we are all doing what we can to ease the pain and suffering of those who were being taken away from their mothers, families and communities. "Sorry Day gives all Australian's a chance to come together. It is very important to us and at the core of our business is helping Stolen Generation people. Our event in Broome is always supported by members of the Kimberley community, service providers and individuals."

*"This year the Western Australian Government members have worn the Sorry Day Flower and this recognition plays a vital part in recognising the trauma felt by Aboriginal people."* Mark said.



Purchase Sorry Day Flowers Here

## National Sorry Day Events



Across Australia Sorry Day Commemorations have been held. May 26th commemoration activities recognise the release of the 'Bringing Them Home Report', in 1997 with recognition given to Indigenous people whose families and culture were severely altered by the forced removal of children in Australia's Protection and Assimilation eras. The significant 'Bringing them Home' Report came out of a National Inquiry that investigated past Federal and State Government Polices involving forced removal of Indigenous Children across the country.

PHOTO: Left: A time of solidarity at the special Broome Sorry Day Event. Kimberley Stolen Generation Members John Ross, Olive Dann, Daisy Howard and John Cooper

## Sorry Day solidarity



The Sorry Day Commemoration activities in Broome brought 80 people together at the Kimberley Stolen Generation office. The event honoured the Stolen Generation and their families. Kimberley musicians John Albert, Ginger Cox, Patrick and Adi Cox and Lorrae and Kirk Coffin performed for the attendees.

Photo left to right: Ginger Cox, Gordon Marshall, Vinnie Bear, Marie Cox and Lucy Lemmon.

## Rise in Sorry Day Flower Sales



The Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation Inaugural Chairperson (KSGAC) Mark Bin Bakar said the National response to Sorry Day has been tremendous and commemoration activities across the country have seen thousands of the National Sorry Day Flower being worn.

Photo: KSGAC Members Betty Dixon and Mary-Ann Martin.

## Services Show Support

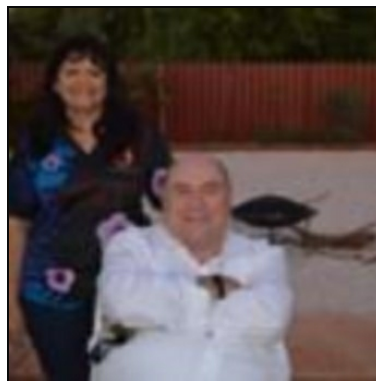


Service providers, Helping Minds, Headspace, Kimberley Aboriginal Family Law Service and Marnja Jarndu Women's Refugee participated.

The Shire of Broome showed support and light up buildings in Purple for the night.

*Photo of Service providers.*

## A United Front Shown



Chairperson Mark Bin Bakar highlighted the importance of Sorry Day, "Sorry Day gives all Australian's a chance to come together. It is very important to us and at the core of our business is helping Stolen Generation people."

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*Photo: Chairperson Tania Bin Bakar and Catholic Bishop Saunders*

## KSGAC Healing Art group gathering histories.



The Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation Therapeutic Art Group have been involved in putting together scrap books which contain important family photos and other memorabilia.

The project ran over several weeks and members will continue to add to their books and regard them as valuable personal history.

*Water colour Card by Leonie Kelly*

## KSGAC Members Produce water colour gift cards



Several members of the group have moved onto another art project-card making, using mindful art therapy images, coloured pencils, crayons and coloured ice blocks which produce a delightful background effect.

The members enjoy the weekly gathering to share news and create art pieces some of which are sold raising funds for new projects.

*Photo: Daisy Howard, Buddy Morrison, Lena Cox and Link-Up Case Worker Making Water Colour Cards*



# Notre Dame Medical Students Expand on the importance of Social and Emotional Wellbeing when working with Indigenous people.

22 Notre Dame University Medical Students have visited the KSGAC Office to meet with KSGAC members. During the visit the students learnt about the forced removal of Aboriginal Children from their families and human rights issues. The members talked the need for Medical Practitioners to have an awareness of Social and Emotional Well-Being issues to help Aboriginal people.

KSGAC CEO Tania Bin Bakar discussed the services role of assisting Stolen Generation Members with Counselling Support, Link-up, the National Redress Scheme and wellbeing projects. During the visit the students heard personal accounts of several members. The Medical students were encouraged to gain enough tools to help Indigenous people with Social and Emotional Well-being issues and to think about emotional wounds inside of Indigenous patients to provide better support. The Students were encouraged to seek guidance from Indigenous Medical Staff whose role is key in understanding patients, health and families.

Indigenous Dr Kim Isaac was present during the morning visit and gave her unique practice experiences and perspective on closing the Gap when working with Indigenous people.

The Students were able to ask Stolen Generation members about their lives and drew posters about their time at KSGAC. We look forward to the Notre Dame Medical Students visiting again next year.

*Photo: KSGAC Members and Notre Dame School of Medicine Students*



## AIATSIS meet with KSGAC Link-Up team.



The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) has met with Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation Link-Up Caseworkers to discuss accessing archival resources. AIATSIS aims to develop, preserve and provide access to a national collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage; AIATSIS is located in Canberra but held its annual Conference on Native Title in Broome.

KSGAC Office Link-up Case Workers Paula Ellis and James Feehan met with AIATSIS Family History Unit Sheri Dean and Liz Kerchel to discuss the important collection that contains many different materials such as; film, audio recordings, written and photo materials. KSGAC clients are able to request for information on behalf of clients through Link Up Case Workers.

*Pictured : AIATSIS Family History Unit Staff Liz Keschel, Sheryl Dean with Link-Up Case Workers James Feehan and Paula Ellis.*

## AIATSIS database brings Joy to KSGAC Member.

Recently, at the National Native Title Conference in Broome AIATSIS had a public stall where access to the Database was available free of charge and KSGAC member Leonie Kelly visited the site.

Leonie Kelly said, "It was great, I just typed in the name of my people and information come up. It was privilege to go and to have access on the spot instead of going to Canberra. It was an eye opener.

*"I was looking for mum and dad and I had some luck."* Leonie Kelly



# AFL Reconciliation Week KSGAC Guard of Honour



10 KSGAC Members and Staff recently travelled to the MCG as part of the AFL Indigenous Round during Reconciliation week. Our KSGAC members acted as the Official Guard of Honour for the Fremantle Dockers before their match against Collingwood Magpies. The Dockers Guernsey design included the Sorry Day Flower and the team Banner displayed the flower with the words emblazoned, "The symbol of strength and resilience. "

[Visit the Fremantle Dockers](#)

## 32,000 present at the Reconciliation Match



The match and the core message was respecting and acknowledgement of the Stolen Generation and Reconciliation. KSGAC Members John and Mary Ross said it was really good to go to the match. "It was a great trip we were really happy to be part of it."

KSGAC Redress Worker Kirk Coffin said supporting the KSGAC members was an honour. ***"It was good for me to have this experience with the elders and it was exciting."***

It was all part of the Indigenous round that promotes the recognition of Indigenous people."



# Healing Foundation

Strong Spirit • Strong Culture • Strong People

The Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation is proudly supported by the Healing Foundation, Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of Social Services and the Shire of Broome.



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