

# Celebrating the Wounded Heart Healing:

a decade of trauma recovery,  
healing and achievement 2008 - 2018



THE SISTER KATE'S HOME KIDS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

## Dedication

This book consists of the achievements of the Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation, and their Vision of building the Place of Healing. It is dedicated to all of the Sister Kate's Home Kids and their families, as well as everyone who has aided in our trauma recovery, healing, empowerment and leadership development to enable us as a Stolen Generations group, to achieve the great outcomes over the last decade for our Corporation, our members and for the wider community.

## Commemoration

This book also acknowledges the combined and individual efforts of several SK Homees who though have passed away (R.I.P.) – are still remembered by both our Corporation and members alike, as well, thought of highly by the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community as Champions for our people's human rights, and while they lived, made history-making contributions in their own right.

We acknowledge our SK Homee brothers Rob Riley, Len Culbong Senior, Graeme Dixon and Wayne Collard, and give tribute to them for helping to pave the way forward and inspiring our individual and collective healing journeys.

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## Foreword: a word from our Chairperson



"If you have come to save me you are wasting your time, but if you have come because your future is tied up with mine then let's work together" – Lorna Lippman

As the Chair of the Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation and Responsible Person for the Sister Kate's Home Kids, I offer you this gift from us that celebrates the hard work and effort over the last ten years, to establish a Healing Place for the SK Homees and their descendants on the vacant Bush Block in Queens Park.

This book presents an amazing range of stories and voices from all walks of life who have contributed in some way to keep the Vision of creating a Place of Healing alive. These, all combined will give you a taste of the history of Sister Kate's and the lives of those who were placed there without choice, the impact of being removed from their families and country on them and their families, and the many people who have become connected to this Vision and like us, the Sister Kate's Home Kids have tied their efforts to ours to make this happen.

These aren't all the stories, but they are a beautiful and powerful collection that gives clear evidence to the power of healing, where once was loss and grief and hurt is now connection, identity, love and dignity. It also confirms that reconnecting to our culture that once was denied us, is the one thing that provides us the power and beauty to recover and heal.

As the Responsible Person, I would like to acknowledge the work and role of my fellow Trustees both now and in the past such as Beverley Councillor, Linda Briskman, Patricia Dudgeon, Hannah McGlade, Jim Morrison and Mary-Ann Yates and as the Chair of the Board I would like to acknowledge past and current Directors and our dedicated staff for turning up each month to get the job done, and delivering our great healing programs.

Finally, please take the time to read these stories and connect with the people that tell them and I would encourage you to find yourself in them and if the spirits tell you then please join with us in any way you feel you can to bring the Healing Place to life.

**Glenn Pearson**

*Chair – Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation*

Prior and

Current Directors

sharing their voices

## Prior Directors

There have been a number of Sister Kate's Home Kids and descendants who have held Terms of Office in Director positions over the last decade, and who have accomplished much, to progress the SK Homee Vision of empowering our Corporation and building our Place of Healing.

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Wayne Collard	Beverley Humphries
Chris Dixon	Dezerae Miller
Lynette Ingram	Maxine Ingram-Clinch
Stephen Goodall	Nola Earnshaw
Kate George	Andrea Kean
Glenis Collard	Gillian King
Bonnie Collard	Gladys Penny

## Current Directors



**Cheryl Phillips** *SK Homee*

I am one of the Directors on the Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation Board, and I have been on a journey with the Corporation since 2011. We had one aim and Vision: to build our own business and a Place of Healing on the Bush Block.

The plan is to help our people heal from the traumas we experienced whilst being placed in that orphanage, where we are now part of the Stolen Generations. Being on the Board as a Director and Deputy Chair along with my sister, we strongly support our three staff who work hard running the administration and delivering our healing programs.

Now in 2018, we are finally getting close to the Homees' and descendants' Vision; getting the Bush Block divested to the Corporation and our Place of Healing built. This is what we call Give Back to our members, a great legacy for our younger generations; to take our Vision and make it grow for all Stolen Generations seeking help to heal their trauma is a great outcome. I love the idea that we are getting closer to seeing our Vision realized, and these words I share are a tribute – which I dedicate to all those SK Homees gone before us and may their young stay strong and deadly.



**Carmel Culbong** *SK Homee*

As a Sister Kate's Home Kid and a SKHKAC Director, I have seen the hard work undertaken by our Board, staff and families over many years now and am very proud of the achievements we have made so far toward our Vision. As a Stolen Generations group, we have been providing a series of healing and empowerment programs to our families which are very well received by our members, including the wider community.

We are now focusing on developing a succession plan for our younger generation Homee descendants, which will have a major focus on developing leadership in our young ones, so that they will have more opportunities for employment, as well as opportunities when our Place of Healing is operating on the Bush Block. We are now a decade old in our progress and getting this far is a great achievement in its own right and we all celebrate this Milestone – Happy 10 Year Birthday SKHKAC.



## Current Directors



**Roma Winmar** *Stolen Generation Survivor*

Being an older Aboriginal woman, I have witnessed some of the heartbreak felt by many of my Stolen Generations counterparts who work as I do in the field of Aboriginal education and health services for our children and people. I'm not a SK Homee or descendant but I am a Stolen Generations survivor through the control of my earlier childhood and adult life by the Native Welfare Department as was the same for my mother, a Moore River – Mogumber Mission Kid.

Over the decades, life has been very tough for a lot of our people, if not all of us and now with the many physical and mental health issues impacting our children and their children – a cycle of sorrow and heartbreak, and a sense of hopelessness prevailing their lives today. That said, since I have been a part of SKHKAC as both Director and cultural advisor, this has made my life more purposeful in helping the SK Homee families, working with the SKHK Board and staff to get the Bush Block divested to the Corporation so we can build the Place of Healing, which will provide a whole range of programs to aid in the healing of not just our SK families but everyone. The concept plan for our Place of Healing is a great achievement by the Board and the Corporation's staff and our members, and I truly celebrate with them this last 10 years of their journey. I acknowledge the hard work and commitment of everyone who has supported us and the SK Homees Vision – Happy 10th Anniversary SKHKAC!



**Ron Ronan** *SK Homee Descendant*

It's great to celebrate our Corporation's 10 Year Anniversary and all the achievements made in a short time. I am a SK Homee descendant and very proud to have the opportunity to be a younger generation Board member, sharing my perspectives and working alongside Homee Directors to achieve everything we need to do to get the Bush Block handed over to the Corporation so we can build our Place of Healing. My grandmother (R.I.P.) was a SK Homee and worked in Aboriginal health. Now with myself working with SKHKAC to develop and deliver our healing programs to members and the wider community, this is a great outcome for me because of what my Gran dedicated her life to and I feel I can now also make a contribution to the wellbeing of our members and all others who participate in our programs.

## Current Directors



**Kadambii Barnao**

The SK Homees healing pathway over the past decade has needed all the hope and resilience this amazing group of people could muster. The strength and creativity of the individuals and organisation as a whole is seen in every cultural event, healing program, art piece, video, and in the faces of those who collaborate and participate, young and old. Added to this, is the group's generosity to the wider non-Aboriginal community where they have built a bridge of understanding and shared endeavours.

The cultural values that SKHKAC expresses and teaches is an enlightenment for the non-Aboriginal community. Far too often in our society we hear the voices of ignorance speaking from places of authority and in institutions that continue to hide the truth of both the beauty of Aboriginal culture as well as the ongoing suppression of language, customs, knowledge and connection to Country. The Homees stand as a beacon of truth in the darkness of that ignorance. They cannot be ignored, nor can their words and past experiences be swept under the carpet. They are here, visible and irrepressible, a testament to the courage of their dynamic spirit and the strength of the Country that is their Mother.



**Russell Tipper**

I joined Sister Kate's Home Kid's Aboriginal Corporation (SKHKAC) as Director/Treasurer in 2017. This 10-year-old Stolen Generations Corporation has developed a strong base of corporate governance policies and procedures to guide the activities of the Board and the Staff.

In meeting its goals of healing, empowerment and leadership development, SKHKAC has had a major focus on developing the Place of Healing on the Bush Block in Queens Park. The support for this Project as demonstrated at the recent Community Gathering to share the SKHKAC concept plan for the Bush Block, will reinforce the Board's determination to see the Place of Healing completed.

Meanwhile, the SKHKAC Staff continues to develop and conduct healing and cultural awareness programs that will underpin the viability of the Place of Healing, as well as furthering the current collaboration with other service providers to service Homees, other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and the broader community.

# Celebrating a Stolen Generation's Healing Initiative



Established in 2008, the Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation supports Aboriginal people who were stolen from their families and communities when they were children.

In every state and territory in Australia, children and babies were torn from their families and homes and taken to one of 483 institutions across Australia or adopted. Around 40% of these institutions are located in Western Australia, one being Sister Kate's. Nearly a quarter of Aboriginal adults were stolen as kids and 2 in every 10 Stolen Generations live in WA. Almost half of these Aboriginal adults are descended from Stolen Generations, which means every family in WA has been affected by the 1905 Act and its successors, enabling authorities to forcibly remove children and control many aspects of Aboriginal people's lives. The brutality of child removal policies is a truth that Australia must face up to if intending to move forward as a progressive democracy.

**The Sister Kate's Homees are helping to tell that truth. The Healing Foundation's association with the Homees began in 2011 and since then has supported Sister Kate's in running these programs and uplifting Stolen Generations survivors. They are a courageous and determined group that should inspire all of us to overcome challenges in our lives.**

Sister Kate's delivers healing and leadership programs inspiring positivity and support community, using evidence-based outcomes. This book commemorating their ten year anniversary shares stories of empowerment with other Stolen Generations survivors and national organisations. Through sharing their story the development of other strong community-led healing initiatives can be supported. I am excited to see the development of the Place of Healing. It is essential to bring together survivors for collective healing experiences, and I am inspired to see this approach by Sister Kate's.

Sister Kate's has learnt and grown over this decade, always keeping their Homees at the centre of any decision or program. This is what sets them apart as a strength-based healing organisation. They are well placed to continue the healing journey with their Stolen Generations survivors, descendants and families. Our congratulations and love goes out to all the Homees and descendants for their ten-year anniversary of leading and driving their own healing. As stolen children they are creating their own future and a better future for all Australian children.

**Richard Weston**  
*Healing Foundation CEO*

# The Story of all our People



I am proud to have been involved with and continue to support the Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation. It was important to me to be part of their journey, and to see them go from strength to strength in the past 10 years.

Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation is a story of survival and recovery, of claiming justice and reclaiming culture.

Sister Kate's has been part of the dark history of Australia, an infamous institution in WA that was the depository of hundreds of Aboriginal children stolen from their families. My family were not personally associated with Sister Kate's, but the story of SKHKAC is ours, a national story. My family were placed into other missions, suffering similar consequences of institutionalisation. There were many places like this during colonisation when Aboriginal people were forcefully assimilated and trained as menials. Despite this, the heart of the people remained and from that adversity, bonds were forged, working together to create a place for themselves.

Sister Kate's is about turning a dark history into a bright triumph, into a future of empowerment and hope for generations to come. As well as being a Trustee for SKHKAC, I had the pleasure of working with them in the National Empowerment Project, addressing suicide through strengthening culture, empowering our local Aboriginal communities through self determination. Suicide is the tip of the iceberg the trauma and disadvantage in our communities. Healing and empowerment were important as this built resilience and a sense of self-worth.

**Staff from SKHKAC are professional and culturally grounded, helping programs at other national sites. This reflects their spirit of endurance and perseverance during times of adversity, stepping forward to claim a place of cultural renewal and healing. The future is a bright one – building the Place of Healing on the grounds of previous oppression is a great healing exercise in itself. The act of rewriting history, not forgetting the past, but weaving that into a different story is a powerful form of recovery.**

SKHKAC is founded on a collective and nurtures its people. They shared the past and now they will share in healing and hope for the future.

**Professor Pat Dudgeon**  
*Poche Centre for Indigenous Health UWA*

## Koorling Karriak Moort (coming home to family)



**"History isn't was. History is. No matter how much we wipe our feet at the front door, we track history through the house. Leaving its muddy footprints all over the carpet."**

*Phillip Adams; The Weekend Australian 2001*

This poignant statement echoes the need to reflect upon and learn from our past as a nation. Not only celebrating successes and accomplishments, but also commemorating the landmark events and acknowledging harm and trauma that certain periods and actions have brought to our nation – including our Aboriginal peoples and community. Organizations like Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation (SKHKAC) play an integral role in the re-positioning of Aboriginal history and the re-emergence of Aboriginal cultural autonomy in public spaces, now and in the future. This challenge that SKHKAC has gladly accepted is to (re)represent a cultural negotiation on behalf of its members (or 'Homees') and their descendants and (re)address the intergenerational trauma that 'Homees' and their descendants have endured – an ongoing need for respect and healing.

As part of both Kulbardi Productions at Murdoch University and my own Black Russian Productions, we have formulated a productive relationship with SKHKAC working on projects that have produced wonderful outcomes such as short documentaries: *Back to Country in Kondinin and Ngullak Moort – Malitj Moorditj (Our Mob – Grow Strong)*, which focus on returning to country and reconnecting with cultural healing bush camps, suicide prevention, incarceration, community engagement, health and mental health research, and poignantly providing support to the Stolen Generations.

I have witnessed firsthand the magnificent work SKHKAC do in reconnecting with country – particularly on their Bush Block in Queens Park, which strengthens culture through healing, language and traditional bush medicine. All that the Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation is about and the song-line that they aspire to is by Uncle Graeme Dixon, a Sister Kate's 'Homee' who longed for a place to call home and touchingly wrote these words in his first book of poetry – *Holocaust Island* (1990:34):

***I have no sweet home sir – where I can run free – no place to hang my hat,  
you see – I am Aborigine.***

If Uncle Graeme were still alive today he would certainly call the Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation and their Bush Block – *Home*.

**Dr Glen Stasiuk**

*Academic Program Chair of Screen Studies – School of Arts, Murdoch University*

## The Canning Connection



I am proud to be part of the 10th Anniversary book and to share how the City of Canning and Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation have developed a strong and thriving relationship.

The City of Canning connected with Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation a year ago after actively seeking out Aboriginal organisations within the Canning region. Our goal was to learn, build and foster relationships with these organisations.

**The City has an ancient and rich history with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and we recognise and embrace the strong and enduring connection the Noongar peoples have to the beautiful Djarlgaroo Beelie (Canning River). The Canning River is of vital importance to the local Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, both in terms of supporting their livelihood and for its spiritual connection to the Waagle.**

Over the past year, the City is proud to have partnered with Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation to work on several projects together. These projects include the divestment of the 'Bush Block' from the Indigenous Land Council (to be developed into a healing space with walking trails and facilities); NAIDOC Women's Stories; the NanaLinks program, City of Canning events such as the NAIDOC Walk and the City of Canning Women's Forum; creation of the Canning Reconciliation Action Group and partnering for the Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation 10 year Anniversary event.

Congratulations Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation on your 10 year anniversary. The City of Canning looks forward to further developing our relationship and working together to support each other and our communities. I am excited about our future and continued commitment toward reconciliation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**Paul Ng**

*Mayor, City of Canning*



## Survival

*Great Southern lands  
which stormy sea divides  
are united as one, by mass of sky  
where stars are read  
like an unspoken book  
that outlines cultures eternal  
that can never be took  
by those who came to  
rape and steal  
but found eternity's people  
shalt never kneel*

*Thus the storm of colonialism  
wrecked havoc among  
the first born people  
of which a proud History sung  
of spiritual cultures eternal  
who now raise voices as one  
and shout of shared victories  
that have now*

*Just Began*

*GRAEME DIXON*

## Our History Making Journey

## SKHKAC Pre-History

Kate Clutterbuck, better known as Sister Kate, came to Australia in 1901 (year of Federation) as a nun of the Anglican order of Sisters of the Church, which in 1903 was instrumental in establishing the Parkerville Children's Home in the foothills outside of Perth.

Parkerville was primarily set up as a cottage-style place of care; with the intent to provide unwanted babies and children a 'home' that was oriented towards a

family environment arrangement that children would not otherwise have access to in other childcare institutions.

On leaving the Parkerville Home, and in the following years, Sister Kate set about with the support of Ruth Lefroy (from an influential family within Perth society at that time), and a number of women who supported Sister Kate's vision – to establish another cottage-style Home specifically for Aboriginal children.

*The essence of Aboriginal spirituality is in the strength  
and connection to your family*

*Knowing who you are and where you've journeyed  
strengthens your sense of cultural belonging*

**Nyoonak Noongaral wirn moordawin  
moortang dandjoo koorl  
Kaadadjiny noonadar maat-bidi baalang  
djinang noonook nyin**

**CHERYL PHILLIPS AND CARMEL GULBONG  
SISTER KATE'S HOMEEES AND DIRECTORS**



Queens Park circa 1973, The Bush Block location in orange

## SKHKAC Post History

Following the years of the established Sister Kate's Children's Home, Sister Kate progressed further with her advocacy in caring for 'light-coloured skin children' from 1934 up to her death in 1946, where many Aboriginal children lived for near on 4 decades in the care of authorised others (cottage parents), with limited or no contact with their parents, families, culture or countries.

As the world changed so did various governance laws including the policies of the Native Welfare Department. Due to this happening (mid-1970s), the Home also changed its policies and the children were moved on to either their parents (if still living), older family members or to older siblings who had moved on from the Home in prior years, to take up employed positions and their place within the wider mainstream society.

*Some people didn't realise they had family, and  
Sister Kate's becomes that family. Homees together.*

**NOONGAR ELDER ROMA WINMAR  
SKHKAC DIRECTOR AND CULTURAL ADVISOR**

*Be thankful of what you have,  
because what you need will come*

**Djoorap ngala barang yey ka  
Nyoondal kenyak yoowal nidja**

**TYLA RONAN-KING, JACINDA AND KIMBERLEE BLURTON-KING  
SISTER KATE'S HOMEE DESCENDANTS**



Image courtesy of Community News

# SKHKAC Present History

In the early years of the new decade millennia (2000s), a group of SK Home Kids headed by Sue Gordon, a Sister Kate's Kid herself, lobbied the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) and the Uniting Church to have the two blocks of land (Lots 254 and 258 – Sister Kate's Home site proper, and Lots 295 and 296 – the Bush Block) individually divested to both the Sister Kate's Children's 1934-1953 Aboriginal Corporation and SKHKAC respectively, to enable both groups to develop proposals to build on their land what was considered beneficial and in the interest of their members.

Though it has taken SKHKAC a decade to have their land divested to them,

they have been operating for quite a while now, where SKHKAC, supported by our members, have worked hard over the last ten years, though slowly, to progress our Vision of building a Place of Healing on the Bush Block site in Queens Park – with a series of positive outcomes reached including several major Milestones achieved in the last several years.

It is envisaged at this stage, that the Bush Block site will be handed over in the very near future and the Corporation can start the Next Stage of further developing its concept plan for our Place of Healing.

*Look what happened to our culture over the years*

*and now we're healing our culture, we're putting it back together again.*

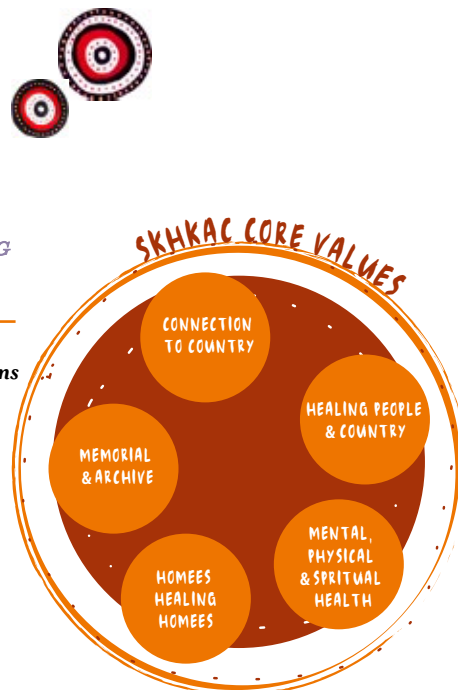
*This is the strength and the empowerment of our people out there in the community*

**NOONGAR ELDER MARGARET GULBONG**  
**SKHKAC SUPPORTER**

*Positive thought, right choices and good decisions make powerful outcomes*

**Moorditj kaadadiny kanarn maat**  
**Kwobadjil koorliny**

**CHRIS DIXON**  
**SISTER KATE'S HOMEE AND PRIOR**  
**DIRECTOR**



# The Bush Block - Place of Healing

## VISION:

Provide a 'Place of Healing' for former residents of Sister Kate's Home, their descendants, all members of the Stolen Generations and the wider community.

## VALUES:

Connecting people with culture and country

- Healing people and country
- Maintaining mental, physical and spiritual health
- Homees Healing Homees
- Memorial and Archive

## MISSION:

The SKHKAC 'Place of Healing' will be supported and funded through the delivery of all abilities access, healing and cultural services which aligns closely with our Vision and Values.



## A Stolen Generations Operative

Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation is a Stolen Generations and Descendants organisation, providing services to its own clients, the Sister Kate's Homees and descendants, as well as other Stolen Generations groups and the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community through a range of culturally based healing and healthcare promotion aimed programs, to address the personal, family, and social effects of intergenerational trauma including; loss of cultural connection to country, identity and pride, family relationships. These programs also aim to introduce break down and reunification strategies, racism, acculturative stress, trauma and trauma recovery, drug and alcohol addiction, mental and physical health problems and suicide prevention.

**Though SKHKAC is relatively a new Aboriginal Corporation (Incorporated 2008), it has proven itself to be a leading Stolen Generations organisation in Western Australia.**

Over these last ten years, the organisation was specifically set up to address the cultural, social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal families. In addition, it now includes a focus on the reconciliation of the broader community to build a better understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the impacting issues resulting from colonial oppression and assimilation policies – and to bridge the gap between cultures, highlighting positive benefits of co-design collaborations across a multitude of community engagement initiatives.

A further focus is the SKHKAC governance structure and healing programs, is our SK Homee Descendants Succession Plan specifically for our younger SK members, where the Board is providing opportunities for our younger generations to be Directors on the Board which includes governance training with ORIC, employment with the Corporation and facilitation roles within our programs in senior and junior leadership positions under the supervision of Elders, senior staff members and cultural knowledge holders and facilitators.

SKHKAC are currently looking at developing a series of programs that also enable our younger generations to learn about research particularly on the Bush Block, where they will work alongside older SK Homees and qualified bio-diversity ecologists and environmental scientists to document the ancient vegetation on the land, including a range of site survey cultural indicators for a major data base of archival information around the site.

## A Stolen Generations Operative

It is hoped that from the success of this pilot program, the initiative will be an ongoing focus in the Succession Plan, where SKHKAC will have a group of younger generation SK Homee descendants, with enough knowledge and experience in landcare to go onto further cultural and environmental studies to become official Rangers of the site.

SKHKAC, as a Stolen Generations Operative, is committed to providing a range of opportunities that are cultural and healing based; programs that are beneficial for our members and the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and that are aligned with a strong focus on self-determination for all our people as echoed by Elder and Cultural Knowledge Educator Terry Koodah Cornwall:

**...‘In my role as a cultural facilitator for a number of years now working across our community, I have also worked with the SKHKAC in various cultural knowledge and education sharing and healing programs over the last decade they have staged for their members and the Aboriginal and wider community, and I have come to both respect the hard work and commitment of the Corporation and staff and what they are providing for our people.’**

**‘As a Stolen Generations organisation, their programs are proving to be very beneficial for our families and will only grow further in positive outcomes when the SK Homees build their Place of Healing on the Bush Block in the near future. To all SK Homee families – Happy 10th Anniversary on a job well done!’...**

The programs that we deliver are multi-faceted in nature and produce a high level of engagement, productivity and beneficial outcomes for participants within a community health and healing environment that have encouraged other parts of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to become involved with the SKHK Healing Movement around healing and capacity-building for self-determination, which is growing in support from a range of Aboriginal and non-Indigenous service provider agencies, including several major organisations that provide support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children in care who are also wanting to work with SKHKAC on specific programs especially designed to cater to a range of client needs.



# Sharing a Perspective; innovation in motion



UDLA are proud and blessed to have worked alongside SKHKAC on the significant Bush Block Project. In early 2017 our team were kindly asked by the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) if we might be willing to collaborate with Engineers Without Borders (EWB) and WSP on this pro-bono opportunity. We jumped at the opportunity and immediately felt warmly welcomed by the SKHKAC family and engineering team.

This sincere and inclusive environment provided a great base for us to set forward on a journey of shared learning.

The purpose of the Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation (SKHKAC) development visioning was to provide organisational and spatial planning guidance for the soon to be divested Bush Block located on Hamilton Street, Queens Park, Western Australia. The visioning formalised the high level economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits that will come from realising the appropriate potential of this significant land asset.

The Sister Kate's Home Kids Place of Healing outcome has provided a clear and strongly supported conceptual direction and wider community beneficial program for SKHKAC's Bush Block including the opportunity for cultural immersion, healing, all abilities access and more, all within an urban setting that has retained 85% of the original Banksia and Marri bushland.

UDLA specialises in Urban Design, Landscape Architecture and Community Development. Our small team of 15 professionals are committed to a strong sustainable, social and environmental philosophy. We believe in a place-based approach that hinges on the understanding that the health of a place has an intrinsic relationship with how participants are engaged or enabled to have a say in changing their existing condition into a preferred one. This 'people-first approach', makes UDLA unique amongst design studios in WA. Our task is to foster the development of healthy and successful places; our collaborative process ensures that we do.

Recently, the project was recognised nationally and received two Awards of Excellence for community contribution. This is the highest of institute (AILA) awards, both locally and nationally. The awards reflected the fundamental role landscape architects play in advancing the health and wellbeing of our communities. Our team recognise the significance of the award and how it belongs to SKHKAC, the collaborative team and members.

Thank you and well done SKHKAC Board, staff and members, Homee descendants, ILC, EWB and WSP on a very successful and award winning visioning process and project. We will stay close to support the continuing journey of divestment as the 'Place of Healing' becomes reality.

**Greg Grabarsch**  
Director UDLA





## Awards for Innovation



Greg Grabasch interviewing Tjalaminu Mia – Community Consultation SKHKAC Bush Block Concept Plan for the Place of Healing, January 2018



Theo Valentine, Rasheen Lee and Greg Grabasch from UDLA. SKHKAC and UDLA received a National Award of Excellence at the 2018 Australian Institute of Landscape Architects



Tjalaminu Mia (SKHKAC) and Rasheen Lee (UDLA) receiving an Award of Excellence at the WA Australian Institute of Landscape Architecture Awards, Perth July 2018

## A Community Centered Approach Conceives a Place of Healing



For landscape project Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation's "Bush Block" in Perth, WA a team of architects and designers working pro-bono through EWB Connect used a community centered approach to conceptualise an award-winning plan that embodies connection to country.

Sister Kate's Home Kids 'Bush Block', in suburban Queens Park, WA, may be an unconventional success story for a landscape architecture project. Yet, it is an important statement on how Indigenous community collaboration and pro-bono work can create powerful social value. The Vision for the Bush Block is to create a space of remembrance, peace and tranquility for the Sister Kate's Homees, who under government control and assimilation policies of the day, were taken and placed at the Sister Kate's Home for Aboriginal children, where the adjacent Bush Block became their refuge. For their planning and development of the project, the UDLA team of architects and designers, led by Director Greg Grabasch, was awarded the 2018 Australian Institute of Landscape Architects' Community Contribution Award of Excellence.

Instead of pushing the vegetation down and installing a concrete building where the ancient Bush Block lay, the new master plan envisions the 'Bush Block' as a green refuge in an urban environment where Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation (SKHKAC) will run cultural healing programs and awareness workshops. Stretching out over 2.7 hectares in a busy neighbourhood, Greg explains "...it will contribute to cultural exchange directly out there in the bush instead of in a classroom or corporate building."

The SKHKAC healing programs will be open to everyone in the community and will range from cultural, spiritual, physical and educational programs, including a series of cultural, social and emotional wellbeing programs specifically for the SK Home Kids and their families. As Andrea Kean, Sister Kate's Homee descendant and former SKHKAC Deputy Chair Director points out "SKHKAC plays an important role in our community through its cultural programs and services, as they evoke the feeling of hope, safety and connection back to our cultural grass roots."

The big idea however was not clear from the start. "When we came in, there was a preexisting idea of a big building and a lot of the area would have been taken up by the building and a car park" says Greg "But we could just sense it wasn't really what the Homees wanted for the block." It took extensive discussions with the Sister Kate's

Homees and the wider community in order to fully conceptualise the project. Mediated by EWB Connect, UDLA worked together closely with SKHKAC and the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) to build trust, and develop a plan based on the SK Homees and wider community's ideas. "We tried to establish what the value of the block and the bush was to them," says Greg "Suddenly, it was not about the planned building, it was about the space. The bush had become a haven for a lot of people, a place for families who would come and camp there, and have a connection to the children across the road."

As a site of refuge the ground holds immense historical and contemporary significance for the local Aboriginal population, as emphasised by Noongar Elder and SKHKAC Director Roma Winmar "As an older Aboriginal woman, I have witnessed some of the heartbreak felt by many of my Stolen Generations counterparts, who work as I do in the field of Aboriginal education and health services for our children and people. I am a Stolen Generations survivor, as was my mother, a Moore River – Mogumber Mission Kid. Over the decades, life has been very tough for a lot of our people, with the many physical and mental health issues impacting our children and their children – a cycle of sorrow and heartbreak. That said, since I have been a part of the SKHKAC as both Director and cultural advisor, this has made my life more purposeful."

It is this value that made it even more important to actively listen to the ideas brought forward by the Sister Kate's Homees and their descendants, something which was also supported by the wider Aboriginal community. The inclusive process entailed listening and talking with other landowners in the region of the



SKHKAC Directors and EWB/UDLA walking the Bush Block 2017

Bush Block, various community members, and with end users. He considers the dialogue with the mob to be the key. "Everything you do has to be the locally preferred way of doing things. Everything is participatory. There is a lot to learn from working cooperatively with Indigenous people", says Greg, who sees building trust and genuine relationships to the Indigenous community as a key principle of UDLA's work.

He recalls the satisfaction with the redevelopment master plan that he felt from the SK Homees, Aboriginal Elders and people from the community who have supported SKHKAC for many years. "You could see that they all thought this plan is what they wanted to get. They told me, everyone who I spoke to, that they supported the SK Homee Vision. Now that the Homees know what to do with this place, they are a hundred percent behind it, as they feel the concept plan has both merit and is all accessible for everyone. A great outcome for the whole community."

This resonates with SK Homee Chris Dixon, a former SKHKAC Director.

**"The last 10 years have been an amazing journey for SKHKAC. All the Homees and descendants have been so resilient, and working with like-minded people like the UDLA Team, coming up with a great concept plan to aid in getting our land divested to our Corporation, plus building our Place of Healing on the Bush Block for all Aboriginal and non-Indigenous people is a great outcome."**

Plus the connections made are now providing a path towards SKHKAC partnering with the ILC in land ownership, and in the sustainable social, environmental, economic and cultural direction of Queens Park and other Western Australian Aboriginal lands.

For now though, the focus is on bringing the vision to life. "I cannot wait for the day that the Place of Healing is up and running," says Andrea Kean, "where we have a fixed location that is nurturing our culture by providing healing to our wounded community, using methods that our ancestors have used for generations. I am so emotional knowing how far we have come, and that we can almost touch the end Vision we have had in our hearts and minds for so long."

## Emma Boles

*Communications Manager  
Engineers Without Borders Australia*



## Homees Healing Homees



The fallout from Australia's dark history of the past; oppressing Aboriginal people to the point of trying to extinguish their very being as first people of country has now, as present history has exposed, caused many problems not just for our families and communities but for those who were once the oppressor.

There is no apology for making this statement because Aboriginal history cannot lie – the facts lay bare in front of us all as a Nation. Although there has been the Apology delivered by Kevin Rudd to Aboriginal people, and the recent Apology by Scott Morrison, which both at the time made history as well, has made some positive differences to our collective people, there still is a truckload of issues that need to be addressed across the board concerning the health, mental health and the cultural, social and emotional wellbeing of our people and their families.

Though Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation has only been operating for a short number of years, and is a young Aboriginal service provider compared to the many established in the metro area as well as nationally, as a Stolen Generations agency we have made many positive inroads to the healing of our members and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and wider community in a very short time.

The healing, empowerment and leadership programs that we deliver to members and clients have proven to be beneficial in many ways, not just for our people but those from other cultures, proving that we are on the right track in carving a path to healing hurts of the past but also sharing our cultural heritage with a wider audience, so to provide them with a better understanding of what we as Indigenous people have suffered in the past and what it means to be Indigenous in this part of the world.

The healing programs that our SK Homees and Corporation have developed and are delivering, which are growing both in context and content as we progress our own healing, came from what they as a group had experienced as children under past government assimilation policies, and what was taken from them in their primary and early adolescent years, many decades have now passed into history/ the memories of those times are hard to erase, and is at the forefront of the intergenerational trauma their families are suffering now.



Women's Business in Wildflower Country 2018.  
Presented to the National Healing Foundation 2018.

# Homees Healing Homees

Those Sister Kate's Homees that worked together at the start of the Corporation's work and worked hard to advance its credibility to be seen as a valid Stolen Generations group who want to help our people, knew they had to firstly formulate a healing program to address their own needs and that of their families in trauma recovery to be able to both gain knowledge, understanding and experience to progress the healing of other people across our community.

They were also mindful that to make a difference, it may take many years of hard work, trial and error before our Corporation would be seen as a beneficial healing operative in the future. That said though, what SKHKAC have been successful to date in doing, is to focus on the foundation of our strategy to heal ourselves as a Stolen Generations collective, with our program Homees Healing Homees, which entails a multifaceted initiative that addresses a range of issues affecting us and that have impacted on our younger generations.

There are various forms of healing that we have considered, which include a focus on our cultural identity and pride, and a sense of place of belonging, an important element in our healing and recovery. A further focus that we have now incorporated in our programs, is the Accredited Course in Holistic Counselling: Mind-Body Medicine that we have aligned with the LiFe Academy Institute in the Perth metropolitan suburb of Joondalup, to engage our SKHK members in the course, to provide them with an opportunity to achieve further in their individual healing and to acquire qualifications for future employment.

The CEO of the LiFe Academy is also a Co-Founder with her husband, who have supported Aboriginal people for many years, including working alongside an older SK Homee and Noongar Elder Ken Colbung (R.I.P.), to establish a positive working relationship with Aboriginal people that now spans thirty years, a great feat in the light of reconciliation and conciliatory programs.

The course has enabled many SK Homees and descendants to acquire a set of skills in Counselling and Wildflower Therapy, where now this forms the basis of our SK members having the required knowledge and qualifications to heal ourselves and each other, which is proving very beneficial due to SKHKAC having their own qualified facilitators now to deliver our programs at a high level of duty of care.

Further to this, there are now a group of SK Homees and descendants who have secured positions in several major Aboriginal organisations by having this qualification including working in both men, women and juvenile detention facilities with the Department of Corrective Services.

# Homees Healing Homees

## Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation – A Stolen Generations Operative

### SKHKAC Program Model: (cultural healing, empowerment and leadership)

The SKHKAC cultural healing, empowerment and leadership program model, is framed within a cultural construct and grounded in cultural values, principles and protocols, generated from a need to heal and empower our families.

### SKHKAC Application Methodology (program delivery):



The programs are evaluated to ascertain the benefits to our clients, and though the majority of our programs are Indigenous focused, SKHKAC also offer programs that are community engagement based for the collective community.

### SKHKAC Program Delivery:

Our program delivery model is a stepped approach to providing a cultural model of care to deliver low intensity early intervention programs to address cultural, social and emotional wellbeing which is recognised within the Closing the Gap Framework, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023, Indigenous Australians' Health Programme (IAHP), Primary Health Networks (PHNS) and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOS), as being the foundation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples cultural, social, physical and mental health.

From the early organic development of program content to addressing the needs of Home Kids and descendants, SKHKAC has further defined its program design of culturally relevant programs to reflect its strategic positioning – with the idea of Closing the Gap in varying ways that are culturally appropriate and beneficial to our members and collective Aboriginal families which is the main aim of SKHKAC's KPIs – as outlined on the following page:

# Homees Healing Homees

- Connecting back to culture, identity and nurturing a strong sense of pride in who you are and where you fit within one's own immediate and wider community
- Stronger understanding of the importance of family and bonding within family structures/developing unified approaches to roles and responsibilities (supporting and respecting male and female positions, and each other)
- Respecting the positions and knowledge sharing roles of Elders (families and wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities)
- Generating hope, purpose and achievement in SELF around lifestyle choices and change (implementing positive strategies to follow)
- Setting positive examples for younger generations (identifying cultural and family responsibilities, and obligations to their wellbeing)
- Developing capacity building and leadership across varying age groups (individual – men and women/family/younger generations)
- Strengthening self-esteem, confidence and resilience for self-determination

SKHKAC have also had the opportunity to forge positive relationships, specifically with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples, who are working towards building cultural healing programs in both local, regional, state, national and international community engagement initiatives that focus on the cultural healing/teaching-learning (education), acknowledgment and aiding in the cultural, social and emotional well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children.

Sister Kate's Home Kids Programs also focus on reconnecting our members and Aboriginal families to country with our Back to Country Cultural Healing Bush Camps, which have proven to be of great benefit in healing the trauma of our collective people.

A series of 'in bush - sitting on country' programs SKHKAC have delivered:

- Reuniting SKHK Families – Kondinin, Wheatbelt WA 2011
- Burning the Balga and Kep (water) Ceremony – Swan River Recreation Centre 2012
- Black Wattle Retreat: Healing Our Elders (mental health focus for men and women) – Toodyay, WA 2012
- Empowerment of SKHK Families and children – Bickley Recreational Centre 2013
- Stolen Generations Cultural Gathering – Suicide Prevention, Reconnecting with Family and Community Harmony and Unity – Moora, WA 2013
- Bibbulman Healing Pit – healing Aboriginal families, ceremonial site, 2014
- A&TSI Family Healing Ceremony – Joondalup 2015

# Homees Healing Homees

- Noongar Women's Healing Gathering – Minnowarra Park, Armadale 2016
- Noongar Women's Healing Pits Ceremony – Joondalup 2017
- Yorga Gathering: Wellbeing, Strengthening the Sisterhood and Uniting Cultures – Tomato Lake Park, Carlisle 2018
- Women's Business Cultural Healing Bush Camp – Joondalup 2018
- Men's Business Cultural Healing Bush Camp – Joondalup 2018

SKHKAC, though primarily set up to address trauma recovery for our members, is offering a range of healing and capacity building programs for other Stolen Generations groups and those staff members and voluntary workers who are Stolen Generations descendants or from same backgrounds as outlined by Alta Winmar, SKHKAC Coordinator of Programs.

...‘As a Stolen Generations descendant of both my parents and grandparents, I understand the traumatic history of my family, the Sister Kate's Homees and their families including the wider Aboriginal community because I see the impact everyday. Not just in my job with SKHKAC but in families related to me, in the streets and in the high number of our older people in prison and our youth and children in institutional care. The impact of the assimilation policies on our people and the high level of incarceration that prevails today of our people and youth I liken to a nuclear explosion – the effect has been catastrophic and the basis of the intergenerational trauma we see in our communities today. However, the SKHKAC Cultural Healing Programs are providing a step towards reconnecting to our old ways of cultural identity and pride, and a sense of belonging in our countries and this is proving to be of immense value’...

**This Book outlines some of the success stories of Homees Healing Homees, and with the help and support of the significant other, this opportunity may not have been possible.**

We sincerely thank everyone who has helped us along the way as the SK Homee family – walking with us on our healing journey, supporting us in our endeavours and to aid us all in both realising our collective strengths and capacity to reach our Vision of acquiring the Bush Block for our Corporation and building our Place of Healing for our families and all those people who are in need of healing.

**Tjalaminu Mia**

*CEO – Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation*



## Coolungar Thieves

*Nih! Listen! Can you hear  
the anguish cry of a mother's tears  
streaming down a face contorted  
with fear*

*Shoosh! Hear her now plead  
to hard men in black suits  
who invaded her womb  
to steal her precious fruit*

*Be quiet! And you will hear  
a breeze whispering through  
ghostly trees*

*'Tis the whimper of stolen children  
who have vivid memories  
of poor mummy and daddy  
falling to their knees  
begging the Wajella's God  
to please – set our Coolungars free*

*Bellai Manatj! Beware  
of their bold cold stares  
those icy snake eyes  
are looking down there  
little sister and baby brother  
lay hidden, right there  
don't move, don't breathe, be still  
the Devil is near*

*Mummy! Daddy! Here they come  
– run!*

*scattered seeds in the breeze*

*Head for Yonga creek  
where Great uncle will be  
Great uncle won't let the Wajellas  
take thee*

*he'll fight to the last  
like he did at Gallipoli,*

*but even uncle couldn't beat  
this force mightier than we  
could ever imagine  
in our wildest dreams  
thus, with batons they sunk  
proud Unc' to his knees  
into the belly of the beast they flung  
brother boy and me*

*Nyorn! My poor uncle  
laying sprawled  
by the sacred waterhole  
blood dripping from a wound  
that cut deep to his soul  
He once fought for freedom  
in another's country  
now laying broken in his heartland  
denied justice and dignity*

*Shhh! Quiet now coolungars –  
don't fret for mummy's song  
the briddea will hear you  
and preach that 'tis wrong  
to pine for lesser beings  
with paganistic ways  
he'll flog us, in the name of Jesus  
then for our souls he will pray*

*Faraway, camp quiet, no children  
like a midnight cemetery  
tears hard like gravel  
too painful to set free  
vacant stunned faces  
still unable to believe  
the evil, cruel arrogance  
of those demonic  
Coolungar Thieves*

**GRAEME 'BINDARI' DIXON  
(B. 1955 – D. 2010 – R.I.P. BROTHER BOY)**

End Note: The poem is one of many that Graeme has written over several decades, to both share his perspective on the Stolen Generations – a Sister Kate's Home Kid and survivor himself; and to aid those who suffer the impact of intergenerational trauma from that part of Australia's dark history.

## Sharing our Voices

SK Homees  
and descendants

## SK Homees and Descendants



**Kimberley Spratt** *SK Homee*

I am a SK Homee and was in Sister Kate's Home back in the '60s with my siblings and I am glad those days are behind us now; and being a member of SKHKAC has been a great experience so far because when we attend the different programs our Corporation stages around the different areas even up in the regions, it gives us all a chance to catch up and reconnect. I attended the Cultural Healing Bush Camp in Moora in 2013 and that was a great achievement for us Homee families because of the many Stolen Gens who attended from all around Australia, providing some great cultural activists around healing, so as a Homee family, we should be very proud of what we have achieved over this last decade.



**Deanne Tann** *SK Homee Descendant*

I feel quite proud to be asked to participate in this book because it gives me a chance as a SK Homee descendant to share my views about the great work our Corporation does for our members and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and wider community around our healing, empowerment and leadership programs which to date have been well received by everyone who has participated in them. As people are now aware, our Corporation is a major Stolen Generations group in Western Australia and has been delivering cultural healing programs for a number of years now with some great results for our families and community, and though it has been hard work for our Board and staff, it is also very satisfying to know that we as a service provider for our members and many other people is now paying off in a big way. Just knowing that we will be building a Place of Healing in the city limits on a site that has great meaning for our parents, grandparents and uncles and aunties who once lived at the Sister Kate's Home and played on the Bush Block when they were kids, makes me feel connected to a bigger family network which is nurturing in quite a few ways, that sometimes is hard to explain but the Place of Healing will also offer many opportunities for our people because the site is ancient bush and to utilise it for healing and cultural teaching and learning especially for children has many advantages so these children will grow up with a clearer understanding of their cultural identity as well, other children from other cultures including adults will get to know more about our people, the struggles they had to endure but also the positive things about what country means to us – that it is at the Centre of all Aboriginal people's cultural heritage – I am proud of our Corporation and the work it does and congratulate all SK Homees and their families for working hard to get us where we are today – Happy 10 year Anniversary SKHKAC!



**Kim Pearson** *SK Homee Descendant*

As a Sister Kate's Homee descendant I feel very happy that things have moved along this far in our Corporation's progress toward our Vision to develop the Bush Block to provide a Place of Healing for our Homee families and the wider community. The concept plan that was launched earlier this year has great potential across a range of possibilities and would provide a number of positive outcomes for not just SK Homee families but the wider community too – providing a range of fabulous opportunities that could possibly rival other similar places like Kings Park if a tourist package was included to sit with what our Corporation is envisaging for the site. I am also happy that an aged care and young people's program is being considered as well as a cultural and environmental focus, as I feel this is an important aspect for Homee descendants now and in the future. There are a number of economic opportunities that could be viable for the Bush Block and this is to aid capital costs to both maintain the site as well as provide a range of services for our families and other people who will utilise the Place of Healing. I am also glad that I am a member of our Corporation, and to be a part of this history making venture for our Bush Block. The pride I feel too, to be included in this book to share my thoughts around both the concept plan and what it can offer so many people is empowering for me and I appreciate this wonderful opportunity to feel connected to other SK Homees, as an extended family member. Congratulations all SK Homees and descendants – we have done a good job over this last decade to get where we are – Happy Birthday SKHKAC!

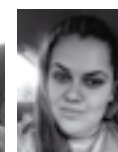
## Lindsay Dixon, Keanu & Kailani Whitby



*SK Homee*



*SK Homee Descendant*



*SK Homee Descendant*

A ten-year journey with much success and pride with the SKHKAC family joining ranks in diligence and desire for the wellbeing and healing from the past wrongs upon the SKHKAC families. I am a Sister Kate's Homee and I'm writing on behalf of myself, my son Keanu Whitby

and daughter Kailani Whitby who are SK Homee descendants. From beginning to the present time, I have volunteered with my family many hours in support of SKHKAC and its Vision where the Board and Staff have worked hard to get us this far – and where they have with the support of many SK families and Elders, achieved some great outcomes; our cultural healing bush camps, healing empowerment and leadership programs including the several DVDs and booklets produced. A 10-year achievement with success and pride. Congratulations SKHKAC on the 10th Year Anniversary. Hats off to all families!



## Maxine Ingram-Clinch *SK Homee Descendant*

I am a SK Homee descendant, and my mother is one of the Founding members of SKHKAC, supporting the Vision from the initial start of the Corporation with a small group of SK Homees 1954-1975, who gathered support which has produced a new fabulous group over the last 10 years to bring the Vision of building our Place of Healing on the Bush Block to life. I was a Director for a year then stepped down for work experience with our cultural healing program; a major Stolen Generations Gathering in Moora 2013 – what a great experience! I am amazed how much I learned while in both roles; being surrounded by such compassionate and intelligent people has had a wonderful impact on mine and my children's lives. I would like to thank everyone who helped me grow so I can also be there in the future to guide the next generation.



## Rachelle Eldridge *SK Homee Descendant*

My mother was placed at the Sister Kate's Children's Home for Aboriginal kids with her brothers and sister back in the late '50s, where it was seen by the wider community as a place for unwanted children or kids with light-coloured skin who were to grow up white. I know in my heart this was so wrong, the government doing this to Aboriginal families and I get upset especially knowing it happened to my mum and her siblings as it has caused them so much pain and damage. My mum didn't share any of that part of her life with me and my sister till later because she didn't want to project any of the negative feelings she carried around onto us.

I am so glad that those days are behind us now and though there is still a lot of hurt and confusion in our community about this all happening to our families, I am happy to think that our Stolen Generations Corporation is established to help heal us and working hard to help all our people heal – that's why myself and my daughter and my young son support all the healing programs that our Homee staff put on for our members and the wider Aboriginal community, because we all need healing at one level or another – so, Well Done everyone of us who are part of the SKHKAC – and, Happy 10 Year Anniversary, looking forward to many more years of positive things to come in the future.



## Yagan Dixon *SK Homee Descendant*

As a SK Homee descendant, it's great to celebrate our Corporation's 10 Year Anniversary, especially its concept plan for our Place of Healing on the Bush Block because it offers healing for everyone which I think is a positive outcome from all the hard work over the last decade – Well Done SKHKAC!



## Gillian King *SK Homee Descendant*

My name is Gillian King I was born in Darwin N.T. I am the eldest of 3 daughters to my mother Cathy Culbong (R.I.P). My mother is a Noongar Yorgar from Narrogin and my father is a Gurindj from Alice Springs. I am also the 2nd generation descendant of the Stolen Generations. My mother was placed in Sister Kate's in 1962 at the age of 12 years old. Being a Homee 2nd generation descendant has given me insight into the trauma that my mother had experienced growing up, whilst in "care". Some of these experiences had been passed down to myself and 2 sisters, known as "Intergenerational trauma".

It is because of these experiences I am currently employed at an organization to which I can assist people who are a part of the Stolen Generations. I have found with Reunifications, Graveside Reunions and Back to Country programs, I am able to assist with our people's healing journey to move forward. Due to my mother's experiences in Sister Kate's, I see this as giving back. My mum would be very happy and proud that I'm a part of the SKHKAC and that we are celebrating 10 years of healing and I feel as do my children, that it is a privilege to be on this healing journey with SK Homees and their kids.

Here is a quote from my mother:

"To have a will to achieve to be strong for myself and my children. I think one of the things that helps is for people to get together and talk things through. Talking always helps," Cathy Culbong.



## Lynette Ingram *SK Homee*

I am a SK Home Kid and former Director of SKHKAC – and I am proud of the achievements the Corporation and staff have accomplished, especially building the Place of Healing, which will be a great benefit for the needs of all Aboriginal people, and I feel the opening of the Place of Healing will be our greatest accomplishment – Happy 10th Year Anniversary SKHKAC!



## Chris Dixon *SK Homee*

Being one of the Ex Directors for the last 10 years has been an amazing journey for the SKHKAC, all the Homees have been so resilient towards the ups and downs of this particular journey: all of our strength and abilities will pay off to the end result, the Place of Healing built on the Bush Block for all Aboriginal and non-Indigenous people.



## Jamaine Whitby *SK Homee Descendant*

I've been supporting SKHKAC since it began delivering the community engagement programs when my dad was a Director back in the early development days of the Corporation and I've witnessed some great achievements over those years, especially the value of the different types of gatherings, yarning circles, wildflower healing workshops and the cultural healing bush camps. I've come to realise that these types of gatherings where SK Homees and their families come together to reconnect, heal, yarn up and just enjoy being on country together seems to generate a sense of extended family, support for each other and a level of unity which is great to see, and now with the concept plan for our Place of Healing being endorsed by our members and supported by a wide range of stakeholders in the Queens Park area including the City of Canning, makes me happy because we as SK Homee descendants can now start supporting further the Vision of our parents, grandparents, uncles and aunties who have worked hard over the last decade to get us this far in bringing to life their Dream for the Bush Block, which will help heal the wounds of the past of SK Homees, address issues affecting our younger generations but also to include other parts of the wider community in our healing programs which is a good outcome for everyone.



## Amy Groves *SK Homee Descendant*

As a Sister Kate's Homee descendant who has supported and participated in the cultural healing programs since I was fifteen and now nearing twenty-four, I have learnt a lot over the years about historical facts around the assimilation policies of the past and from my involvement with SKHKAC, I have received so many positive outcomes for myself and my young daughter as well; so has my partner and his young boy. I sincerely thank our Corporation for providing the many opportunities that have helped me and my family. Happy 10 Year Anniversary SKHKAC, can't wait until our Place of Healing is up and running.



## Shelly Dixon *SK Homee Descendant*

I and my family have been supporting our Corporation and its healing programs for a number of years now and I have found they have been of great benefit to me as a Homee descendant because when we are all together for healing and yarning, especially at the women and children only gatherings, we learn so much that wasn't really mentioned at school or celebrated in our families – and because I now know the reasons behind this which caused much pain because of the past history; how our people were treated in the past and the hurt our older families still feel from those days, it makes it more meaningful that we are doing what we are to resolve those times. I am happy though now that we can move on in a positive way and the healing programs allow for us to do that as a group which now includes me and my children as part of the SKHKAC extended family.



## Kyleena Miller *SK Homee Descendant*

It's really great being part of the Sister Kate's Homee family because our Corporation's focus is around healing and it's empowering all our members especially our young fellas – and I am proud of all the achievements we have made as a collective Homee family over the last ten years, and this is just the start of an amazing journey. Once when we get our Place of Healing up and running on the Bush Block, SKHKAC will be unstoppable – Happy Birthday to all us!



## Beverley Councillor *SK Homee*

Both my brother and I, along with our siblings were placed in Sister Kate's Home when we were young, where we grew up with many other Aboriginal kids from around WA. It has been a while since then but we have not forgotten each other, so it is good to know that the Homees are coming back together build a Place of Healing on the Bush Block, where the concept plan was showcased at the community gathering earlier this year – a wonderful thing because we got to celebrate this great achievement in our collective healing with the wider community. Well done to all us Homees and our families – a great Milestone for all the hard work and commitment over these last ten years!



## Rebecca Spratt *SK Homee*

I am very proud to be part of the Sister Kate's Homees and also so happy that we have come back together to heal and support each other from those earlier hurtful days when we were in the Home. We have a connection and support each other in our trauma recovery journeys which is ongoing now due to our healing and empowerment programs.

One other thing I'm also proud of is that my niece Dezerae Miller was both Director and Deputy Chair on our Corporation Board, where she worked with other Directors and staff to build our governance. This was a great opportunity and experience for her as a SK Homee descendant. She also worked with TJ on the NEP and worked in our town of Northam with community members and Elders, where we did healing with our community, her grandmother, my mum and my family. It's great that several SK Homee parents are still with us, supporting our programs and community events – she is one of only a hand of our parents still living and seeing them at our women's camps gives us all a sense of comfort and strength.

We are nearly there in our journey as Homees, we just need to keep our eye on the goal of getting our land signed over to our Corporation and our Place of Healing built on the Bush Block – Ya! – Go! Homees Go!



## Andrea Kean *SK Homee Descendant*

I am so grateful to assist and continue to assist in the SKHKAC birth and its growth thus far. This Corporation plays an important role in our community through its cultural programs and services, as they evoke the feeling of hope, safety and connection back to our cultural grass roots. I cannot wait for the day that the Place of Healing is up and running, where we have a fixed location that is nurturing our culture by providing healing to our wounded community using methods that our ancestors have used for generations.

I became involved in SKHKAC in the early days taking on some of the administrative duties where there were a handful of people volunteering their time to bring the Vision to life; several years later I was appointed as Deputy Chair Director and had the honour of assisting in the strategy components for SKHKAC during my term. I am so emotional knowing how far we have come and that we can almost touch the end Vision we have had in our hearts and minds for so long. Thank you to all those involved and driving the Vision from the very beginning – we are almost there!



## Dylan Groves *SK Homee Descendant*

Well Done SKHKAC – a decade in the making of our Corporation and delivering our healing programs to our SK Homee families which have proven to be a positive thing to happen for our mob.

I can attest that our programs are of worth because I attended a men's cultural healing bush camp held by our Corporation where I was privy to an insight into our Noongar heritage that wasn't taught at school – and to go country to learn the truth about our history, our land and some of our cultural protocols and practices was a highlight for me, so thank you for that opportunity – and as things move along with our Place of Healing, other young fellas will have the opportunity too like I had, to experience firsthand what our culture has to offer people on the healing journeys right there on our Bush Block.



## Jessica Lister *SK Homee Descendant*

I am so proud to help celebrate SKHKAC 10 year Anniversary. I am a Homee descendant and am very honoured to have been part of a vision and movement of healing and acknowledgment to our culture and history. To have a Place of Healing that our mob can call our own will continue to inspire positive outcomes and create everlasting opportunities for the future of our people.



## Dezerae Miller *SK Homee Descendant*

I've been a SK Homee descendant member of our Corporation for a number of years now, and what a great experience it has been so far. I didn't know about the SK Homees, their descendants or their Vision and what they were planning to do until I met a SK Homee at a women's bush camp up in Hydin – over the flames of the campfire we all had a yarn around back in 2012.

The woman was a SK Home Kid – Tjalaminu Mia, but everyone knows her as Tj. She is a very special sister to me now. I instinctly felt that I knew her as soon as I set eyes on her, though I hadn't met her in my life. We both didn't know each other before that night and camp, but I knew she wanted to talk to me and this happened as she was driving out of town. I am so glad she pulled over to introduce herself further and relayed where she worked and what the SKHKAC was and were doing for our people were and hoping to achieve in the future.

It feels like it was destiny because she didn't know that my father and aunties were in Sister Kate's Home when they were young and so I feel in some way, we were destined to meet because from there, our relationship has grown. I have experienced with my big Homee families, some wonderful opportunities to reconnect with the wider SK Homee family, as well as work alongside older Homees and our Elders to progress our collective Vision of getting the Bush Block divested to our Corporation and building our Place of Healing.

I was, for a short time both a Director and Deputy Chair on the Board, where I worked with other Directors to get some of the Corporation's governance in place as well, and developed some of our cultural healing programs, which have been very beneficial not just for myself and my children but for all my family members who have participated in them.

It's wonderful that we have worked together to get this far in our collective healing journey – SK Homees and descendants alike, and though it's been a pretty hard road to travel over this past decade, the triumph of what we have learnt and achieved for us all is momentous; and now being able to celebrate our 10 years anniversary with this book and the planned community gathering launch event in December is a fabulous outcome of achievement.

So to all my Homee family: let's celebrate big at the event because we have made it to another Milestone in our healing – Too Mooditj!





## Rachel Bennell *SK Homee Descendant*

I am the daughter of Rebecca Spratt and Raphael Edgill, where my mum was a Stolen Generations who lived at the Sister Kate's Children's Home for many years. My mum has memories of those times; some good, some bad but I think through it all, she has grown to be a stronger Noongar woman.

Together, with the hard work and loving support throughout the years, SK Homees and their families can now look back at the past, yet still work hard to move past it - healing themselves and getting stronger to get out from under that oppressive time in their lives - and strive for a brighter future together as a SK Homee family.

So, thank you SK Homees for all the love and support you have given my family and all other Aboriginal community members through the healing programs you provide for us all.



## Tyla Ronan-King *SK Homee Descendant*

I am both Noongar and Yamitji on both sides of my family. My grandmothers were taken away as children and now are seen as part of the Stolen Generations, which makes me a Stolen Generations descendant.

My Nan, Catherine Culbong, a Noongar woman, was placed in the Sister Kate's Children's Home when she was twelve years old - a sad story in our family as I have witnessed the effects of the trauma this has caused and how it has manifested in breaking down the family structure and the unity family can provide.

This in turn has provoked me to seek out more understanding regarding how this happened and why it still happens with some of our Aboriginal families today.

Due to these things still happening to our people, I decided to become a qualified Mind-Body-Medicine Holistic Counsellor, and what I hope to do with this qualification, is to unify and heal descendants effected by intergenerational trauma, by furthering my learning in this area and bring healing in my family first - and then, to the wider Aboriginal community, as I believe we all now have a responsibility to rebuild and strengthen ourselves in order to grow as a collective.



## Esandra Colbung *SK Homee Descendant*

I am a SK Homee descendant, the daughter of SK Homee Ken Colbung who was very supportive of SKHKAC in the early days of its development and though he has passed away now (R.I.P), would be very happy to know that the Corporation has grown in strength over these past ten years as a major Stolen Generations

service provider organisation for its members and the wider Aboriginal community; delivering some great healing and empowerment programs to our families.

He would also be so proud of the Corporation in its commitment and hard work that has resulted in developing the concept plan for our Place of Healing on the Bush Block - a place that he often talked about; playing their with the other kids from the Home when they were young.

He always felt that the Bush Block had potential for the SK Home Kids and he was right because the Place of Healing will and does generate a sense of place of belonging for all the SK Homees and their families, especially for the kids that lived at the Home from 1934-1975 - just on forty years, and I am happy to think that myself and my family are now part of the SK Homee family supporting our Corporation and its endeavours.

I am also, like my father, a Custodian for traditional Aboriginal heritage sites in the Perth metropolitan region and have also had involvement as a SKHKAC member, attending our cultural healing bush camps in Country with my children and grandchildren, and coming together with other SK Homee families at these times makes us all feel that we are part of a bigger family network which is a good feeling.

I have recently completed a Double Diploma in Community Service and Counselling and I was happy to do my Practicum with SKHKAC, which also gave me a range of opportunities to see how the Corporation worked as well, a chance to work with members in trauma healing, including getting to work and know some of our Enders who are SK Homee parents, where several of them are in their '90s.

Being part of this book has made me happier because just knowing that it gives all us SK Homees and their descendants who are contributors, a chance to share our feelings and voices around the SKHKAC achievements, and I wish all of our SK Homee family a Happy 10th Birthday - with many more to come!



Noongar Connections to the Derbal Yirrigan (Swan River)

The artwork came from many hands painting Country - a collective healing and reconciliation program piece presented to the Mayor, City of Armadale 2015.



*Breaking the Chains of Silence* © 2006

## Breaking the Chains of Silence

*I will not be bound by the injustice of the past  
I am here in this moment  
I will not be chained or stand silent  
I have a voice  
I will not look back with regret  
I stand up and face my actions  
I will not shed tears of defeat  
I will shed them to heal your hurt  
I will break the chains that bind me silent  
I will speak up  
I fight for you*

*ALTA WINMAR*

## Things I learned from the Noongar



I am an African-American female and this is my story of what I learned about being Black in America. This is a lesson that I had to go all the way to Australia to learn.

I had to travel to Australia and meet Australian Aboriginals, Black Fellas, people who don't look anything like me, to understand what it means to really be proud of being Black in America. It has always been easy for me to be proud of who I am partly because I grew up in a military community. The places where I grew up, I saw Hispanics, Whites, Asians, and Blacks, all living and playing together. I was never made aware, or pointed out that I was Black even though it was an obvious fact. This all changed when I left the military community. I was singled out and pointed at for being Black but 'talking White'. Many people I encountered tried to place me in a box and tell me what I could and could not do or be as an African-American female. I was never taught to see myself as different and grew up believing that I was just as good as everybody else. Some times were easier than others because I had to prove my worth over and over again to those who couldn't see past my gender coupled with my color.

I joined the military and traveled extensively and invariably found myself looking at my 'Blackness' through the eyes of others. I was beyond excited to visit the African country of Rwanda in 2015, thinking that I would feel an instant connection to the Continent that my ancestors hailed from. I was shocked to realize that I didn't feel an instantaneous connection. Don't get me wrong, I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and was thought of on more than one occasion to be a native of Rwanda by the locals, but I felt like a tourist. I was in a place where everybody looked like me but the only thing we had in common was our color. I didn't know the language, I didn't know the customs, I didn't know the traditions. Conversations were had between me and the several Rwandan citizens about how they felt about African-Americans and I was shocked that they believed that, even with the advent of slavery, we in America had gotten the better of the deal. In my heart I disagreed. Even though I was seen only as an African-American in America, I had lost my 'African' heritage. I had lost my 'African' language; those traditions and customs that made me 'African' had been stripped away. I had even lost my ancestry and had no idea where on the great Continent of Africa my ancestors even came from. I have only the color of my skin to connect me to the vastness of the African world.



What I learned is that the Noongar people are a very proud people with a very proud history. They have endured tragedy, overcome adversity, survived hardships, and yet are still standing and fighting to regain their rightful place on the global stage.

Not so for the Aboriginals of Australia. During my research on transgenerational trauma, I was fortunate enough to visit and be accepted by members of the Noongar Nation, the largest Family Kinship Group in Western Australia. The Noongar know exactly who they are and where they come from. They remember intricate family kinship ties and can trace their lineage back hundreds of years. The Noongar, like other Aboriginals, call themselves 'Black Fellows' and are extremely proud of their Black ancestry. Preparing to conduct interviews with the original inhabitants of Australia, I waited excitedly to see the 'Black Fellows' that I'd heard so much about. When several Caucasian women lined up to be interviewed, I was figured that the Black Fellows were going to come later. As the interview began, I realized that this woman, whose skin didn't look at all like my skin, was telling me her story of being Black. I didn't stop the interviews and one by one, every woman on my list told me varying stories about how they had been treated because of their Black heritage.

Once the individual interviews were over, we met in a group setting and I asked why they believed that they were Black. I asked why would they tell anyone that they were Black when they could have 'passed' as White in a society that looked down on them as Blacks. The response was instantaneous and unified. These women were proud of their Black heritage and had fought to be seen as such. There was no shame about being Black; in fact, they saw it as an honor to be a part of such a great history and culture. They told me stories of their grandparents and extended family members who taught them how to live in the Australian Outback.

They reminisced about yarning circles where they would tell stories about past achievements in Aboriginal history, specifically the Noongar Nation. They laughed and promised to show me prominent places that held great significance to the Noongar. They talked sadly about the territories that once held and were now buried under mortar, steel, and concrete. They told me about warm summer nights under a star-studded moonlit sky without the addition of man-made lights.

**They shared themselves with me and I understood that to them, being Black was so much more than the color of their skin. It meant having a sense of belonging; a sense of being tied to a place that spoke through the blood that had been shed, a place where their ancestors had been born, lived, walked, loved, and died. A place that they could truly call home.**

What I learned is that the Noongar people are a very proud people with a very proud history. They have endured tragedy, overcome adversity, survived hardships, and yet are still standing and fighting to regain their rightful place on the global stage. For over one hundred years, the Australian government pursued a single minded policy of forced assimilation of Australia's Indigenous population. Though now officially discontinued, the effects of this policy have left Aboriginal populations still struggling to overcome decades of marginalization, oppression, racism, and indentured servitude. Forced assimilation policies have caused the loss of many Aboriginals' rich traditions, aided in the decline of unique Aboriginal cultures; some of which will never be recovered, and contributed to the cultural and spiritual genocide being experienced by survivors.

Despite the appalling traumas they have endured, survivors and extended families of the Sister Kate's Home Kids, members of the Noongar Family Kinship Group, welcomed me into their hearts and homes with open arms. They shared personal experiences, both individually and collectively. The stories that I heard included horrific tales of physical, sexual, mental, and emotional abuse perpetrated by care-givers, social services organizations, government agencies and officials, and other institutions that should have protected them. Genocide and widespread violence was used as a tool to strip them of their Aboriginal identity in the name of colonizing Australia. The story of The Stolen Generations is not just a story to them but is their lived experience.

During my visit, I watched and listened as they made plans to renew themselves and come to a Place of Healing. I saw them reach out to one another as well as to others to promote healing through community involvement. The wounds that they have suffered are helping them to relate to others who are hurting. At the center of the healing movement is Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation (SKHKAC). SKHKAC is a non-profit organization formed by survivors and family members of Sister Kate's Home Kids and is dedicated to providing a place for healing that is accessible to everyone. They regularly sponsor cultural trips to the outback, engage in community-based initiatives designed to support the local communities, and are preparing to develop a Healing Centre that will promote trauma recovery.

I left America to learn about Australian Aboriginals and their history of trans-generational trauma. I went to Perth, Western Australia to hear the stories and to see what they could tell me about what it meant to suffer through extreme trauma and have it continue to distort every area and aspect of daily life. I am pleased to report that I learned and received so much more than I ever imagined. I am humbled and honored by the Noongar Nation and the people I came to admire and adore in Perth.

**I gained a new appreciation for their resilience, their strength, and their commitment to rising above the hurts of the past in order to be exactly who they were created to be; the Heart of a Nation. Because of who they are and what I learned from them, I can be a better me.**

During my time in Australia, I interviewed over 17 members of the Noongar Nation and met many, many more. Like here in America, the skin tones vastly varied, the pride with which they carried themselves as Black Fellows was consistent. It was there that I came to understand that I didn't need to reach back to Africa to be validated as a Black person. My heritage, my history, the place where my forefathers had been born, lived walked, and loved; the blood that my ancestor shed had been shed on American soil. America is my native land and I'm finally okay with that. You may still see me as an African-American and you'd be wrong. I'm simply an American.

**Dr Karen Brown PhD**  
*Linc, International Founder*



Voices of our Elders

strong supporters  
of our programs





**Beryl Dixon** *SKHKAC Parent*

As a parent of one of the families of the Sister Kate's Home Kids, I have supported their programs for quite a few years now and I am happy to have been on this journey with them – it's been 10 years and this booklet is both to celebrate that fact and to also acknowledge their hard work and the great achievements they have made collectively as a Stolen Generations group. I am 92 years old and I hope I am still here to see the Bush Block given to the Corporation, so they can achieve their Vision of building their Place of Healing.



**Rita Moody** *SKHKAC Parent*

I am a Stolen Generations survivor; a New Norcia Mission Kid and a SK Homee parent. I have had a pretty hard life over the years and have survived some of my children who died early which only compounded the already ingrained hurt I was feeling at that time in my life. But as with all other Mission Kids, and our parents including the wider Aboriginal community and their families, we have experienced similar things over the years but are now trying to move past the hurts of the past.

On a more positive note, we are now moving more positively into a new era with the SK Homees and their families, which my family are now a part of, and I would like to congratulate all of us in the achievements and examples we are setting by the SKHK Corporation, and their plans to build a Place of Healing on the Bush Block for us all.



**Cetana Colbung** *SKHKAC Supporter*

It's a wonderful thing that 10 years ago, Tjalaminu Mia and other SK Homees started a healing and empowering movement for their fellow SK Homees and families. I remember visiting the Queens Park Bush Block site with my husband Noongar Elder and older SK Homee Ken Colbung (R.I.P.) many years ago, and he would be happy to know that the SK Homees have progressed their Vision in building the Place of Healing. He would also be greatly impressed at the variety of healing programs and engagement events that SKHKAC hold because they are always well organised, welcoming and enriching with cultural experience and people are always very happy at these gatherings. I have much respect for Tjalaminu's stoic dedication and who I see as being very affectionate and supportive to her people and it's great to see her striving with all other SK Homees to bring healing to SK families and the wider community.



**Margaret Culbong** *SKHKAC Supporter*

My involvement with Sister Kate's Home started when my sisters were taken into care by the Child Welfare in the 1960s. We chose Sister Kate's (my father and I) under pressure from the Native Welfare Department due to my young age, looking after my younger sisters and brothers – though I feel myself and my father were managing as a family, but we were just one of the many Aboriginal families living in and around Narrogin at the time, and we were all being continuously checked upon by that government department; and we thought Sister Kate's might be the better choice than the Missions.

At the time, Sister Kate's was specially set up for quarter-cast children: fair-skinned Aboriginal kids. Over the years, the Sister Kate's Home changed their ways and attitude to establish a support system for children released from the Home in the 1970s – but the damage was already done. That support system was set up to ease the stress and mental health issues that became apparent when ex-Homees found it very stressful to live in two worlds – the black world and the white world on their release from the Home.

Mental health was a major factor back then, as it is today – bringing about the suicides and other health conditions that you see happening today, which are caused by stress and pressures imposed on the kids back in those days, which is very evident in our families, in the public domain – our collective communities today. It was very difficult growing up in a white man's world, and it is still like this for our people now, trying to reconnect to our traditional law and culture in our present society, with most things white still dominating us.

Traditional Noongar law is very strong and thinking back how it used to be from the stories my Elders told me, has brought back strong memories of the past but things have shifted and we need to, as a people, understand the ever-changing ways of newcomers to our lands where I feel, that the laws that operate and control Aboriginal people to this very day, are genocidal laws and legislations, not of our culture or country but the new Australia.

However, the SKHKAC are a Stolen Generations group that are trying to address all the health and mental health issues that are prevailing in our communities today through their cultural healing programs that the Home Kids have developed, and are delivering to all our people on a regular basis, which is great to see, and it's their 10 Year Anniversary this year, the year of the Anniversary of Indigenous Human Rights universally, and what a wonderful year to celebrate their achievements.

## Ode to Our Children

*Ngalang moolyak Noongarang nidja boodjera*  
We are the First People of Country  
*Yeyi, koram man-ya-na*  
Now, Yesterday, and Tomorrow  
*Maamarang djinanginy wer*  
Our ancestors watch, and feel  
*Kaaditj ngala koort warabiny*  
Our sadness and sorrow  
*Ngarda malidji ngala wininy*  
Under the Shadow (of our lives)  
*Nganalak nobiny wortan-koorl*  
Our young ones have turned away  
*Balang koort banyadak; mandjoo koorliny*  
Their hearts heavy; lost in decay  
*Yoowart balang moortang maat kaaditj*  
Not from their culture or Aboriginal way  
*Bandang yoowart bookart-yen*  
But all is not lost — a new day is dawning  
*Nidjak benang koorliny boorda kwop*  
For a better future, our babies drawing  
*Ngala maawit koorlangka baranginy*  
On the strength of our People  
*Ngalang moortang Kwidjar-ak*  
Young, old — men and women alike  
*Nobiny Koorakor- maaman yokal mokiny*  
Whose voices; now calling  
*Baulap maya, yeyi mirawiny*  
To follow (in) the foot prints  
*Djena bidi koorl ngalang kaadadjiny*  
Of our cultural ways  
*Moortang woonyak koordak kwobadjil*  
Family, love, respect and honor  
*Moortang koorliny, Ngaangkan baadadjil*  
Darkness fading from Old Fella SUN's rays  
*Yinang kaaditji baranginy — Yinang kedala nidjuk*  
Bringing new hope — to a brand new day

TJALAMINU MIA  
TRANSLATED INTO NOONGAR LANGUAGE BY:  
YIBIYUNG (ROMA WINMAR)

## Healing on Country

sharing our  
cultural ways

## A Stolen Generations Operative

SKHKAC have also developed and delivered a series of Back to Country Cultural Healing Bush Camps for families/men and women 2011-2018.

The camps are specifically designed for families and/or gender-based cultural programs that provide a wide range of cultural practices/activities that have been positive outcome based for clients in a multitude of ways:

- Yarning Circles/Sharing-up life and family histories and experiences and individual journeys including issues impacting participants' cultural, social, and emotional wellbeing
- Walking Country: visiting men's and women's business sites and sharing cultural knowledge, practices, language, and protocols. Cultural teaching and learning of song, dance and ceremony (important within cultural grounding), which also includes traditional food/medicine and bush tucker activities (importance of providing for families from both a traditional and contemporary perspective)
- Identifying major issues affecting the men and women's lives and that of their younger generations, and how to address impacting issues
- Participate in Noongar Water and Healing Pit Ceremonies
- Participate in Group Activities: traditional carving of stone axes and didgeridoos/tapping and digging sticks production
- Life-Planning: discussion on various strategies to enable a positive way forward to support changing current life-styles (individually/family)
- Networking: information sharing about a wide range of services and programs that are available within Aboriginal organisations/other service provider agencies, especially for men/younger males and women/younger females that aid them and their families' healing and social services (cultural, social and emotional wellbeing)

The bush camps range from one to four days, and are proving to be of great value and benefit to our SK Homee families and wider client base, and are now an essential program with our program deliverables, where due to the camps being culturally multi-focused and delivered in major Noongar significant sites in the metro area and regional WA, participants are provided a wealth of knowledge by various Elders from those areas, experiencing a diverse range of hands-on cultural activities, proving to be of great benefit to our members – whose human rights of cultural identity and pride in their cultural heritage was once denied them as children.

## Cultural, Social & Emotional Wellbeing Outcomes

SKHKAC programs are grounded in healing, empowerment and leadership development of our SK members and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, wrapped around identified core elements of progressive beneficial outcomes, generated from:

- Sharing cultural knowledge – higher levels of individual/family and community empowerment
- A developed/increased social knowledge on a range of family social service
- A developed/increased social connectedness within supportive and safe environments within wider communities
- Increased awareness of other services that aid empowerment of the SELF, enabling better life-style choices in a multitude of ways (connecting to self, family, community and all-important factors around cultural identity and pride)
- Created Pathways; better value of cultural inclusion outcomes in the wider community at varying levels (having the confidence to participate in non-Indigenous events/activities – Self, family and community, and sharing cultural knowledge with others/developed stronger links with wider community)
- Being able to participate and feel included in and a part of community events (gatherings, talk-fests around important community issues, especially if the focus is on Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander families and culture/country/communities)

SKHKAC are one of five Community Partner organisations, who are also funded by the Department of Social Services (DSS) – funds distributed through Communicare Inc. (all being service provider agencies in Armadale and metro area), developed and deliver a series of community programs to families/their clients – and, where SKHKAC having delivered programs over the last seven years around cultural sharing, reconciliation and community unity initiatives, that also include sharing, reconciliation and community unity initiatives that also include art-based programs within a community wide focus, as outlined below:

- Turning to Culture to Heal – NAIDOC Event, Bentley Community Centre 2011
- Schools Banner Project – worked with 5 primary schools in the Armadale and Westfield areas (Challis, Grovelands, Gwynne Park, Neerigen Brook and Westfield) to produce a series of 10 banners that were produced by 5 females and 5 male Aboriginal students in 2012

## Women's Cultural Healing Bush Camp

SKHKAC hold a women's cultural healing bush camp, to aid in healing and strengthening of cultural values; providing a positive space to enable women to connect as sisters, share their life experiences and empower them as primary carers within family structures. The camps also provided a series of opportunities that both reconnect women to cultural healing practices, protocols, and knowledge where they engage in a campfire yarning circle, art workshops, life-skills discussions, and a Bibbulmun Wildflower Pit Ceremony.

These events are proving to be successful cultural initiatives for women and the Stolen Generations, including supporters (Friends of the Sister Kate's Home Kids), where there has been a number of requests to hold further same-like bush camps both in the metro area and regional WA.



*Younger generations enjoying the art workshop*



*Campfire Yarning Circle family gathering*



*Water and Wildflower Ceremony*

## The Importance of Cultural Healing and Identity

...."I have supported the cultural programs SK Home Kids put on for families over a number of years now and the cultural healing bush camps have been a wonderful way to help our younger generations to culturally know who they are, connect to country and learn important protocols of respect. I am very proud to see the little coolungars show cultural pride when they participate in some of the camp activities; they seem to understand without being told, the importance of cultural silence needed in the ceremonies, and it is very good to see. We need more of these types of bush camps for our families and younger generations as I think they help with their and our people's cultural identity"...



### **Beryl Dixon (92 years)**

*Senior Noongar Elder and a surviving mother of SK Home Kids*

## Cultural Connection: Sisters Together Strong

The experience in this particular camp was absolutely phenomenal as we had over 50 people participate in the gathering held by SKHKAC. We had a number of women and children in the camp who are members of the Stolen Generations, with a large number who also happen to be from the Sister Kate Homees group. Everyone introduced themselves while having a yarn and a cuppa, where many were in the Home together as children or related to each other, - women connecting with each other from the past, (which was great to see). As a SKHKAC facilitator, I was very humbled to be a part of this camp, as I had family members who attended the gathering, so for me, it was also a wonderful experience for my family to see me working in a professional and cultural capacity. At this gathering, I had 3 of my aunties attend and also 5 female first cousins and 6 nephews (all under 12 years of age - a cultural protocol for a women's business gathering) and 3 nieces.



I would like to add that this cultural healing camp is probably the first experience most of my family have had, and to be able to participate in it was very enlightening to see. During the camp, I observed cultural pride and a sense of belonging within participants, especially the ones who haven't had opportunities like this before - it was very powerful to see the innate cultural knowledge where during the ceremonies of the wild flower healing pits, the young people and older women showed this cultural and spiritual silence like they have been doing this every day, when in fact, this was their first cultural experience.

**This tells me that this is ingrained within us at a deeper cultural level than we are aware of - and, as Aboriginal people, given the right opportunities and place to practice our cultural knowledge, we can bring ourselves and our communities closer together for healing and help empower them for a more positive future.**

*~ In Unity As One ~*

### **Dezerae Miller**

*SK Homee Descendant*



## We; women of the land



**Program:** Healing our Families in Country

"I think it's very important that all Aboriginal kids know their culture and how country can play a role in their cultural identity. It was really good to see some of the Aboriginal families of Armadale do a pit healing together – afterwards, everyone said they felt calm, grounded and refreshed."

**Esandra Colbung**

*Custodian Bibbulman Healing Pits, WA*



## My Family, My People, My Country



My great-grandmother, Laura Jacobs, used to travel around Northam, Goomalling, Toodyay and York and other places, as a midwife delivering babies for our community. The sacred birthing sites are still there and are even identified by the shire. My family has histories throughout WA and links to different regions and customs.

It has been a long journey from my childhood experiences of being stolen from family, taken to Sister Kate's Home, surviving abuse and then breaking free to start a new life. Sister Kate's was a smoke screen for abusing children of all ages. Not only was I stolen and placed there, but also my son. The strength we have had to have to keep going in the face of the oppression, racism and stolen childhood has come through our culture and our Country, neither of which we have ever forgotten.

The journey with the fellow survivors of Sister Kate's Home with the Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation over the past ten years has been a joyful and tearful reunion with those who are the only ones to truly understand what we went through and how we survived. We all have amazing stories to tell, and perhaps today we will be believed. In wonderful cultural events and bush camps, like the one at Moora where we honoured the old camps, mission survival and burial places of our family members, we have celebrated our survival and our culture.

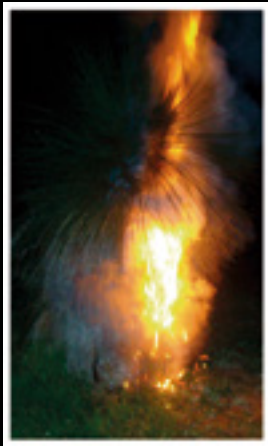
Last year we had the most amazing Women's Healing Bush Camp in Wanneroo. With ceremony and ancient practices, we healed three women of the stolen generations with the healing power of flowers, love and Country. The outcomes have been three new women, empowered in their own lives, having released burdens of the past. One was a niece of mine and I am so inspired by the strong road she has taken since this healing.

The hard work of the members, staff, the board and volunteers of the Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation are still powering up for more healing work in the new year and I look forward to being part of it and the return of the land to us to make a stable place of healing for our people.

**Gladys Penny**

*SK Homee*

## Spirit of our Ancestors



*...“May the Spirit of our Ancestors,  
the strength and wisdom  
of our Elders  
and the warmth and light  
of our camp fires  
inspire our hearts and lead our people towards a  
better future”...*

*TJALAMINU MIA*

## Benefits for all People

developing strong  
working relationships  
and support networks  
to aid in our Vision

## Forging New Alliances

SKHKAC also provide opportunities for clients to participate at a deeper level of evaluation – sharing the benefits to clients via Stories of Most Significant Change (individual evaluations; from notes/reflections of client's experiences from participating in one day programs to longer term program engagement – where clients are encouraged to write down details of their journey in their journals and share their experiences, and, if the programs have value, grounded in the benefits they identify for them, their families and their communities.

SKHKAC Collaborations: (a snapshot of some of the service provider agencies, government departments, local government agencies, shire councils, educational facilities, after-school care operatives and Aboriginal and non-Indigenous organisations, academia and the general wider community; that SKHKAC have worked for/partnered with:

- Champion Centre – COA, Armadale and the Aboriginal community in the region
- Minnawarra Community Centre, Armadale
- School of Indigenous Studies, UWA – and, National Empowerment Project (NEP) Program
- Media Unit, Murdoch University
- Aboriginal Community Liaison Unit, Edith Cowan University
- Centre for Aboriginal Studies, Curtin University
- Kondinin Shire Council and all major Service Infrastructure Provider Agencies, and the Aboriginal community in the region
- Moora Shire Council and major Service Infrastructure Provider Agencies, and the Aboriginal community
- Northam Health Services and the Aboriginal Community in the region
- Communicare Inc, Cannington
- Gosnells Shire Council and the Aboriginal community in the region
- MACC Centre, Kwinana and the Aboriginal community
- WA Mental Health Commission and Federal Mental Health Minister's Department
- Australia Defence Force (Army/Navy) Community Engagement Unit
- LiFE Academy, Joondalup – Train the Healer (Mind, Body, Medicine and Wildflower Therapy)
- Ken Colbung Cultural Foundation, Joondalup
- North-Metropolitan TAFE – Indigenous Student Placement Program

## Working Alongside Others

### **Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation – Historical Background: A Stolen Generation Operative** *continued*

- Black Russian Productions (Noongar Film Making Enterprise – Production of a series of SKHKAC Community Engagement DVDs)
- Healing Our Spirit World-Wide Conference – SKHKAC Key Note Speaker, New Zealand 2015
- People Who Care: Aboriginal Elder's Program (developed by SKHKAC)
- Black Wattle Retreat, Toodyay
- National Healing Foundation, ACT
- Aboriginal Health Unit, WA Health Department
- Derbal Yerrigan Aboriginal Health Services (Stolen Generations)
- Aboriginal Alcohol & Drug Services (AADS)
- Boodjari Yorga Family Care Program, Armadale Hospital
- Yorgum Stolen Generations Link-Up Services (Eastern States Aboriginal organisations initiative)
- Home Integrated Program for Parents and Youngsters - HIPPY (children school ready/parents work ready initiative)
- Noongbi Aboriginal Corporation, Queensland (NEP Program Community Evaluation 2017)
- Cherbourg and Kuranda Aboriginal Communities (NEP Program Evaluation 2017)
- SKHKAC/NEP – UWA (Evidence Based Research Report 2017)
- AITSIS Conference 2012
- WA Disabilities Commission (Staff Team Building Workshop – Medina/Kwinana offices)
- Save the Children, Armadale
- Hope Community Agency, Armadale
- Relationships Australia
- Langford Aboriginal Association (LAA)
- Dumbartung Aboriginal Corporation
- Marr Mooritj Aboriginal Health Worker Foundation
- Ab-Music, Clontarf College, Waterford
- Regional Home Help Care Services, Northam/Toodyay and Perth
- National Stolen Generations Alliance
- International Indigenous Children's Right to Education
- SBS/INTV (Cover Stories)

## Two Worlds Connecting



Nyinyeran was a Noongar Yued Elder, wife of Elder Benee Yowlee who first met Captain Grey in the early days of the colony and believed him to be his son returned to him. To dismiss any doubt, he knew that the mother, Nyinyeran would definitely know. There was a gathering and Nyinyeran made her way through the people to Grey and threw her arms around him kissing him and claiming him as her son. Grey was said to be changed by this for the rest of his life. What a different history we would all have now if the love, acceptance and generosity of Nyinyeran had been met with the same from the colonists. In honour of Nyinyeran I offer this song.

### Nyinyeran

*Nyinyeran he had feet of clay, but you kissed him anyway  
White he came, in ships of grey, you embraced him anyway  
The Mother of us all shone through your hands*

*As you held his  
Nyinyeran, hold my hand*

*(Nyinyeran sings)  
Come into the sun you are pale  
and the salt of the sea I'll wash away  
Don't you know me?*

*Our hearts were close inside the womb  
Can you feel mine beating now?  
I am your mother, hear my voice from back in time  
Do you know me?*

*Nyinyeran, you gave a gift the janga don't understand  
Men of Grey now walk the land  
Nyinyeran, hold my hand  
May I, in my life, earn your hand  
Nyinyeran, please hold my hand  
Embrace me, Nyinyeran, I've come back*

**KADAMBII BARNAO**

## Holistic Counselling, Mind-Body Medicine and Training the Healers of the Future

In 1984 Kadambii Barnao, the CEO of LiFE Academy met Ken Colbung OA, MBE, a Sister Kate's Home Kid head of the Gnangara Aboriginal Community. She was working as a volunteer to provide a Kindy and later began a Women's Education Program to provide a pathway to meaningful work. One day she provided healing relief for Ken's Eldest Step Daughter using the wildflowers with which she trained others. From that day the relationship became deeper as each revealed their own tradition of wildflower healing. Kadambii worked as a volunteer for Ken for 25 years.



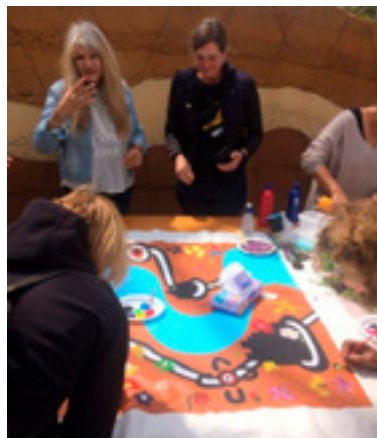
One day a Homee graduate from Kadambii's registered training LiFE Academy, introduced her to Tjalaminu Mia, then Head of programs of SKHKAC, and the rest is history. From 2011, SKHKAC has been in partnership with the LiFE Academy to provide physical and mental health workshops, as well as a program called Train the Healer.

Holistic counselling is about viewing a person as a whole being; body, mind and spirit, all equally important aspects of a human being. Concepts such as "soul sickness", suggesting the separation from Country, Culture and Elders, of being kept from a healthy spiritual expression, can then be seen as essential and not peripheral to overall health. The relationship between mind, body and spirit then acknowledges a deeper healing process, escaping the intellectual approach.

Mind-Body Medicine uses Holistic Counselling as well as modern medical science to understand the interplay of mind and body. Examples are a person in physical pain or disability may often battle with feelings of being overwhelmed, disempowered or hopelessness, or a person who doesn't look after themselves due to low self-esteem. Many Homees and descendants have completed the Wildflower Essence unit for Certificate IV in Holistic Counselling and Mind-Body Medicine. Using wildflowers of Country, they learn to relieve stress and pain, enable sleep and a peaceful mood. Trainees and graduates have healed each other, Elders and the wider community in clinic practicums, conferences and community events. The power of Country is evident in the faces of relief and happiness during these processes.



# Holistic Counselling, Mind-Body Medicine and Training the Healers of the Future



*SKHKAC would like, on behalf of the SKHKAC Board to acknowledge our Elders, who have supported SK Homees and their families over the last decade in their healing journey and we sincerely thank you all for your time and tireless efforts to empower our families and to progress our Vision.*

**Senior Elders supporting SKHKAC initiatives: Beryl Dixon, Margaret Culbong, Roma Winmar, Liz Hayden, Lindsay and Bettina Caylan, Uma Wright, Cetana Colbung, Mary Pearson and Rita Moody.**

## Photo Gallery

sharing our programs,  
cultural healing,  
education and  
teaching-learning  
initiatives

## Photo Gallery sharing the voice and the visual...

2011

This section is for events that SKHKAC have held since becoming a service provider agency so that members and a wider community can both remember some of the programs they attended and participated in, as well, to inform those who have not had the chance to support SKHKAC in its programs, but are privy to what we have staged for SK Homees and their families, including other A&TIS families and the wider community.



*Sister Kate's Home Kids and the wider community celebrating the Inaugural Launch of their cultural healing programs – NAIDOC Week, Cannington, 2011*



2012



*Sister Kate's Home Kids – coming to share in the Christmas Festival Season of Good Will, Armadale 2012*

## Photo Gallery sharing the voice and the visual...

2013

SKHKAC provide opportunities for both our Elders and Cultural Knowledge Holders who work with our families around sharing knowledge and cultural heritage and our cultural identity. A high number of our cultural facilitators are Stolen Generations survivors themselves who have either retained the cultural knowledge they were taught when they were children or have, like many of our older SK Homees, gravitated to connect to senior Noongar people to learn about our cultural history to address their own trauma and in doing so, have become a major resource for our cultural healing and knowledge sharing programs.



*You are special  
You are you  
and you matter*

**Noona kwobiny noona keyen  
wer noona birdiya**

**LYNETTE INGRAM &  
MAXINE INGRAM-CLINCH**



## Photo Gallery sharing the voice and the visual...

2014



### Sisters Sitting on the Ground Together



#### re-connecting to country, culture and traditional ways of healing

...“I feel really blessed to have been part of the healing programs the Sister Kate’s Home Kids have put on for us in Armadale over the last five years – it’s been a real healing journey for us all and I am also happy that we are starting to do more women’s business so we can teach our young yorgas about their culture”...

#### Madge Hill

Senior Noongar Elder - Armadale, WA

*You need to nurture and love  
the child within,*

*to change the present  
and future adult*

**Djinang koorlang koort bwora'mila yeyi**

**Noongarang boordawan koorl**

*DEZERAÉ MILLER*

## Photo Gallery sharing the voice and the visual...

2015



### National Empowerment Project

Sister Kate’s Home Kids were approached in 2013 by the Director of NEP/UWA Professor Pat Dudgeon, to consider to be one of the 11 sites around Australia, set up to address issues impacting

*Healing Our Spirit World Wide Conference, New Zealand 2015.*

on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families including suicide prevention. Due to a high number of SK Homees and their younger generations living in the towns of Northam/Toodyay, as well as the high rate of suicide in the region, the Corporation confirmed its participation in the NEP Cultural, Social and Emotional Wellbeing program in 2014. This became a bedrock in our further support of the program by working with NEP to produce all consultancy site reports, development of their website, and the community program and facilitators handbook.

Recently, SKHKAC also secured a research consultancy from NEP/UWA to evaluate the pilot programs which were rolled out in 2014-2016 in Kuranda and Cherbourg communities in Queensland, where we have handed the findings outcome Report to the NEP Director.

SKHKAC has also developed, managed, and produced a NEP Community Re-Engagement Resource Tool DVD, and holds co-copyright with NEP/UWA. The DVD will be launched in July this year in Northam/Toodyay during their NAIDOC Week celebrations. The Corporation is currently in negotiations to source funding to roll-out the program in Northam/Toodyay in the latter part of 2017.

*The joy of life is in the wonder of creation*

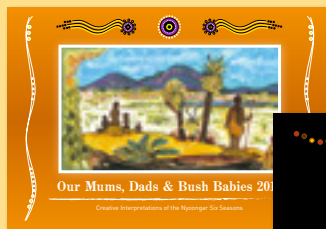
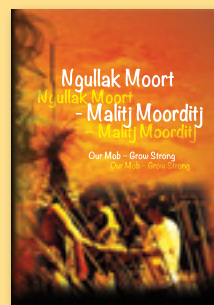
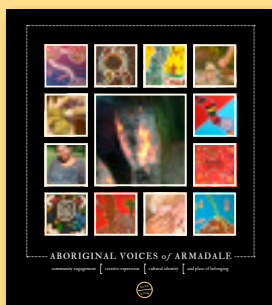
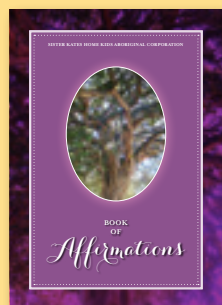
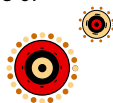
**Kwobadjil ngandabat  
oonak kadjin boodjera waarniny**

*LINDSAY DIXON*

## SKHKAC Cultural Calendar Project

2016

SKHKAC is one of five service provider agencies who make up the Communicare Communities for Children Community Partners initiative, which has been running out of Armadale for a number of years now with great success. SKHKAC have been delivering a range of cultural based programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families since 2012, working with Elders, Primary Schools, Boordjari Yorga Family Care Services at the Armadale Hospital, School Mates After-School Care and the Champion Centre, City of Armadale. There have been some fabulous outcomes for our families in the region with a range of programs and community events SKHKAC will be staging in Armadale in 2019.



## Photo Gallery sharing the voice and the visual...

2017

### Sister Kate's Homee Family Picnic 2017

SKHKAC hold a wide range of events throughout the year delivering our programs across the metro area and throughout regional WA, as well as special events just for our Sister Kate's families.



These programs and social gatherings have been very successful with many of our families and their younger generations in attendance - celebrating reconnecting with other SK Home Kids, sharing aspects of their lives through family-friendly yarning circles, art workshops and sporting activities - with the events proving to be both rich in personal stories and inspirational in hearing some of the adversity Homees have faced whilst securing their achievements in life.



*The essence of Aboriginal spirituality is in the strength  
and connection to your family*

*Knowing who you are and where you've journeyed  
strengthens your sense of cultural belonging*

**Nyoonak Noongaral wirn moordawin  
moortang dandjoo koorl**

**Kaadadjiny noonadar maat-bidi baalang  
djinang noonook nyin**

**CHERYL PHILLIPS & CARMEL CULBONG**



## Photo Gallery sharing the voice and the visual...

### 2018 SKHKAC Stakeholders Community Gathering Event - Sharing Our Bush Block Concept Plan

Following on from our last update of the Corporation's Vision for the Bush Block outlined in our last newsletter, there has been a high level of activity; sharing our concept plan with a wide range of SK Homees and descendants starting with the General Meeting for members in 2017, and then other Stolen Generations groups, community stakeholders in Queens Park, Cannington and the metro area, Aboriginal and non-Indigenous organisations, local government, City of Canning and SWALSC, which resulted in positive comments from everyone.

SKHKAC in collaboration with Urban Design Landscape Architecture (UDLA) have completed a community stakeholders consultancy which produced great results - and feedback was shared at a community and cultural gathering at the Queens Park Primary School, with the Hon. Ken Wyatt, AM MP opening the event as the SKHKAC Patron.

There were over 140 people who attended the event, who engaged in the cultural ceremonies, a Q&A around the concept plan, winding up the event with lunch, yarning circle, and family catch-ups. SK Homees and community members alike enjoyed the gathering, and the feedback was overwhelming positive, with everyone happy they celebrated this major Milestone with the SK Homee families, and look forward to the next milestone.



*Yonga Boys Cultural Group dancing to celebrate SK Home Kids Milestone, a highlight of the Community Gathering.*



*Minister Ken Wyatt, Noongar Whadjuk Elder Aunty Margaret Culbong and Tjalaminu Mia, CEO, SKHKAC.*



*Glenn Pearson Chairperson SKHKAC addressing participants on Bush Block concept plan at Community Share-Up.*

## Photo Gallery sharing the voice and the visual...

### 2018 SKHKAC Regional, National and International Engagement

SKHKAC has attended a series of forums and conferences throughout Australia and overseas: Northern Territory, Queensland, ACT - Canberra, New Zealand and Hawaii/ USA as panel members, presenters, and Key Note Speakers, which have been funded by the agencies or organisations staging the proceedings, and which has enabled the Corporation to promote the Place of Healing and our programs. These have also provided SKHKAC to develop strong alliances with other Indigenous healing centres around the world, securing collaborations that further progress the Corporation's Vision around future international engagement alliance programs and research.



*2nd National and 2nd International Suicide Prevention Conferences held in Perth, WA and sponsored by the University of Western Australia.*

## Friends of the Sister Kate's Home Kids; Testimonials



I was first invited to meet TJ and Alta at SKHKAC in December 2016, where we discussed our values, aspirations, beliefs and goals both as individuals and also as the representatives of our respective organisations. At the end of our meeting we found that we have similar views in many things and I felt a deep connection with the two sisters. We were invited to be SKHKAC's Friends and felt honoured and privileged to have earned this trust and friendship. Since then we have been invited to share and celebrate the many achievements, including the launch of the remarkable Book of Affirmations with its soul touching words, and we have gladly taken these opportunities to strengthen our connection.

**Saras Mohann**

*Sathya Sai Organisation*



I feel privileged to be called a Friend by the members of the SKHKAC. Through them I have discovered a new and inspiring dimension to what it means to be Australian.

I have attended several events they have hosted over the past three years: a community "sharing up" forum, meet ups in the park, a women's wildflower healing camp, the Bush Block concept plan community gathering and meet ups in the park and the new office headquarters.

The generosity I have experienced from the SK Homees in sharing their traditional knowledge and their natural family oriented hospitality is special. It is special because it is positive and genuine; it demonstrates inner strength and love, and a confidence in the future, which is all the more remarkable flowing, as it does, from the pain and darkness of the past. It is special for me because it fits with my personal spiritual belief in the heart-to-heart connection between us all, the common language of love and the magnificence of the created world.

These are the first people of our nation, worthy of our respect. These people have a long established bond with our country of Australia. They are willing to share their wisdom and understanding with us all. The question arises, are we ready to accept and apply it? I value the friendship of the SKHKAC highly and look forward to being able to share in the continuation of their journey.

**Margaret van Hennekeler**

*Sathya Sai International Organisation*

## Friends of the Sister Kate's Home Kids; Testimonials



The connection I have experienced over the last two years as being a Friend of SKHKAC has been truly uplifting and has left a deep impact on me.

I am moved by the respect demonstrated for their elders and the love shown by the elders to the younger generations, which sets a wonderful example to those in the wider community. The members of SKHKAC have been most gracious and inclusive of me as a sister and I find it a healing experience to be in the presence of their unity and commitment.

As an Australian, I have a deep love and gratitude for my country and this has been strengthened through experiencing through SKHKAC, the spiritual connection to the land of our first people. I know that we all need this connection to be continued and rebuilt in order for our present day culture to thrive and our relationship with Mother Earth and her people to be healed.

**Jenny Monson**

*Sathya Sai International Organisation of Australia*



For more than five years it has been my pleasure to witness and participate in the beautiful relationship between the LiFE Academy and Sister Kate's. The cooperation and collaboration between the two organisations has resulted in beautiful healing experiences which have clearly sent significant ripples throughout the Perth community.

Highlights include Pit Healing ceremonies with participants engaging with ancient healing practices at sacred sites, pamper days for Elders providing much needed respite and support, joyous community celebrations, training in life skills, holistic counseling and Mind-Body Medicine, nutrition and of course the HIPPY programme which provided opportunity for growth and learning for both parents and children in a nurturing and culturally sensitive environment.

Being part of this rewarding and mutually supportive relationship has been such a tremendous pleasure for me. I've had the opportunity to connect with and learn from Aboriginal people with such a wealth of knowledge and wisdom. Their resilience and courage is an inspiration. I look forward to seeing what emerges in the future from this significant partnership.

**Karun Cowper**

*Administrator Programs – LiFE Academy*

## A Journey with the Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation



I have been privileged to be involved with the SKHKAC at both a professional and personal level for the past few years and have witnessed their journey from the early days of a fledgling organisation under the auspice of Communicare, to today having a strong independent Board and dedicated staff that are making a real difference.

SKHKAC has always had a very clear vision to support the needs of former residents of Sister Kate's and their descendants as well as the broader community, with a clear focus on those impacted by government policies that resulted in what is now known as the stolen generations. The organisation obviously has a great potential asset in the Bush Block at Queens Park and it is exciting to see the plans for the place of healing coming closer to fruition.

Over the past 12 months, SKHKAC has formed a close working relationship with WSP Australia, the company where I work, which has had benefits for both parties. This has included the provision of a series of cultural workshops for WSP staff in Perth. Tjalaminu Mia, CEO of SKHKAC, has also provided additional in-house cultural advisory services and presentations to support staff in engaging with the Aboriginal community and to promote increased cultural awareness.

Despite having several strings to their bow, SKHKAC remains focused on the needs of its members. Their programs and services continue to evolve and are based on a holistic approach to promoting improved physical, mental and spiritual well-being. I have personally experienced the bush camp and yarning circles and the significant impact of and growing demand for their services, not only demonstrates the important need that is being met but is testament to the hard work and commitment of the Board and its staff.

**Trevor Tann**

*WSP – Principal Consultant*

## SKHKAC Achievements

a decade of productivity  
and service provision



# SKHKAC

## FACT SHEET

### VISION

An important aspect of our purpose is the Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation's Vision to build a Place of Healing for the Homees and their families, all members of the Stolen Generations and the wider community.

The Place of Healing has several components; specifically designed programs for SK Homees and their families, with a strong focus on cultural teaching - learning and healing, physical and mental health care, empowerment, capacity building and leadership development for families and communities. The site will also be an economic sustainable enterprise initiative, that delivers a series of programs that will aid in maintaining the land.

The Corporation generally will be showcasing innovative and progressive programs at the local, regional, national and international level, which includes cultural and environmental healing services that are imbedded with SKHKAC philosophies, and will attract a high level of service provider agencies who want to extend their own services to include an Indigenous cultural healing experience for their clients.

### MISSION

Since 2011, SKHKAC have provided programs that address the intergenerational trauma and recovery of the Sister Kates Home Kids and their descendants, other Stolen Generations groups and the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community; with an emphasis on generating a sense of hope, connection to culture, country and place of belonging, and strengthening cultural identity and pride, to aid in our peoples cultural, social and emotional wellbeing.

### VALUES

A major aim is to work holistically with our families, their children and our collective clients, including initiating collaborations with other service provider agencies, state/federal and local government departments and community grass-roots organisations in collective advocacy for individual and family empowerment and wellbeing and community reconciliation and unity. The programs are specifically designed to help strengthen self-esteem, resilience and capacity building for self-determination.

Through our SKHKAC programs; healing and empowering our people and nurturing leadership within individual and collective community members (succession plan for younger generations), SKHKAC are committed to providing a range of opportunities for our people, to work together in alliance with other Aboriginal organisations and the wider community, to build positive cultural pathways that lead to a better future for us all.



## SKHKAC

### HEALING AND EMPOWERING OUR PEOPLE

Cultural Healing and  
Cultural Recovery

Strengthening Cultural Identity  
Pride and Self-determination

Capacity Building, Empowerment  
and Leadership

Individual and Family Counselling  
and Community Unity



### CONTACT INFORMATION

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## SKHKAC PROGRAM HISTORY

SKHKAC has developed and delivered a series of programs since 2011 and have been acknowledged for the benefits provided to both the Sister Kates Home Kids and their families, other Stolen Generations groups and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and wider community, through reconciliation and community unity programs.

### CURRENT PROGRAMS:

#### (Healing, Empowerment and Leadership)

- Elders and Community Yarning Circles (metro area and regional WA)
- NAIDOC Week Events
- Art and Creative Expression Workshops
- Wildflower Essence Workshops (mind-body medicine to alleviate acculturative stress and stress related illnesses)
- Food for Medicine; Self and Family Care Workshops
- Cultural Healing Bush Camps (metro area and regional WA)
- Men and Women's Business and Community Gatherings (metro area and regional WA)
- Bibbulmun Healing Pits—traditional Noongar healing practice
- Series of Collective Programs—For Stronger Homee Families (bush block initiatives)
- Stolen Generations Gathering (metro area/regional WA)
- Creative Writing and Media Initiatives (DVD productions and published books)
- SKHKAC Communities for Children Program
- SKHKAC School and After-School-Care—cultural teaching/learning/sharing Programs
- Collaboration Research and Evaluation Projects—(metro area, regional WA and National initiatives)
- Local, National and International Exchange and Community Engagement Initiatives
- Fee for Service: a series of programs that are specifically developed and delivered to a range of clients (service provider agencies/government/other)

### FUTURE PROGRAMS:

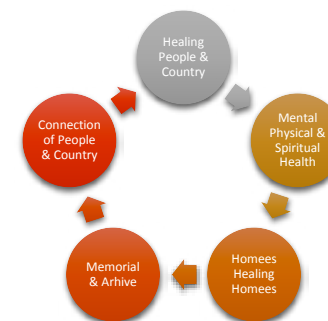
- Train the Healer: Holistic Counselling and Mind-Body Medicine— a SKHKAC and LIFE Academy initiative
- Healing the Stolen Generations: Intergenerational Trauma and Recovery Program
- Healing the Stolen Generations Psyche: Succession Plan for SK Homee Descendants—enabling for stronger leaders in our younger generations within SK Homee Family
- SKHKAC Oral History Publication: Wounded Heart Healing
- SKHKAC Historical Documentary Film: The Untold Story of the Sister Kates Home Kids
- National and International Place of Healing Alliance: SKHKAC Place of Healing as an International Healing Hub
- National and International Cultural Exchange and Gatherings Program
- SKHKAC Place of Healing, which is all accessible (caters to SKHKAC members, other Stolen Generations groups and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and wider community to be established on the Bush Block





## COMMUNICATING OUR SERVICES

Our Communication Plan has been developed to manage and co-ordinate the communication activities arising from the Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation business development and program delivery for the SKHKAC members and their families and a wider range of stakeholders; other Stolen Generations groups and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community including local government, government departments, health and mental health services, aged care facilities and corporate operatives.



The over-arching communication plan for SKHKAC is to continuously identify areas of holistic community engagement and service provision that Closes the Gap on both a regular and needs basis.

This displays to our members and stakeholders that our service provision and community engagement initiatives are making a difference in a Stepped-Approach addressing the physical and mental health and cultural, social and emotional wellbeing of the SKHKAC families and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the metro and regional areas in Western Australia including within several forums at the national and international level.

It also provides a range of cultural and current programs for a wider audience, which includes a multitude of opportunities for other organisations and agencies who have identified in their services and professional domains, gaps in their needs and requirements to affirm holistic inclusive good practices around working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at the professional and community level, including their individual Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs).

## SKHKAC VISION

To provide a 'Place of Healing' for former residents of Sister Kate's Home Kids, their descendants, all members of the Stolen Generations and the wider community.

## SKHKAC VALUES

- Connecting people with Culture and Country
- Healing People and Country
- Maintaining mental, physical and spiritual health
- Homees healing Homees and
- Memorial and archive.

### **SKHKAC MISSION**

The SKHKAC 'Place of Healing' will be supported and funded through the delivery of healing and cultural services that provide a sustainable revenue that aligns with our Vision and are consistent with our Values.

### **WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE BEST OUTCOMES**

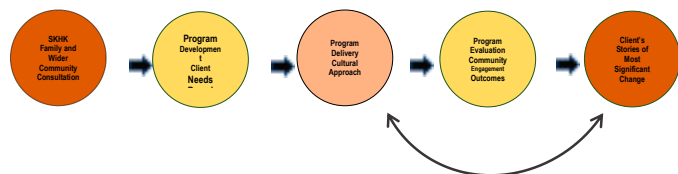
SKHKAC's aim is to strengthen both community, professional and corporate relationships with other Stolen Generations groups, service provider agencies and corporate organisations by ensuring all work colleagues and clients feel included, connected and inspired by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia, especially in Western Australia as our base of operations.

Our individual and collective knowledge both culturally and in the area of community engagement, strengths, capacities and tools equip our Corporation to deliver a wide range of programs including cultural engagement and awareness initiatives that Close the Gap in various areas and requirements that are needs based for clients and corporate bodies.

Coupled with the knowledge of individual SKHKAC staff, our services provide a range of techniques held by our facilitators, to ensure positive interactive dialogue and engaging learning experiences providing a series of positive outcomes for our clients.

SKHKAC's engagement process and methodology is a 5 Step-Approach that has resulted in positive community engagement and empowerment through cultural education.

#### **SKHKAC Service and Program Delivery Module**



### **ABOUT US - KEY MESSAGES and OUTCOMES**

#### **Key Messages**

SKHKAC has developed a unique series of services that engage clients at varying levels of participation, which has resulted in nurturing their interest due to our services being user-friendly and encouraging exploration of First Nation cultural history as a continuum but also impacting issues of trans-generational trauma – that has affected and is continuing to affect the cultural, social and emotional wellbeing of our people.

How information is transferred:

- Cultural knowledge sharing
- Educating for a better understanding of Aboriginal people (pre and post history), cultural protocols and practices
- Introducing clients to a once forbidden world of engagement between cultures (Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal)
- Moving past racism – introduction to methods of fruitful dialogue and beneficial engagement practices
- Nurture strong ideas of the collective human family – what does this mean around acceptance, tolerance and respect.

As a Stolen Generations Corporation that also has an enterprise focus, we have over the last decade, delivered

a series of culturally focused programs for our Sister Kate's members, wider client base in the metropolitan area, regional WA and at a national and international level with a wide range of positive outcomes for our Sister Kate's Home Kids families and the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

This now has been coupled with a high level of interactive engagement with other service provider agencies including the corporate world, specifically developing and designing a range of culturally focused and creative programs for their staff to 'Close the Gap' on several fronts for users, including reviews of their RAPs.

We at SKHKAC, feel that cultural sharing is invaluable as it enables people to develop a strong understanding, appreciation and knowledge base of Aboriginal people, their culture and what Country means to them – with focus on how people can work together on journeys of engagement at the community grassroots level, resulting in positive outcomes for personal and professional growth.



WA Disability Services  
Staff Team Building Workshop  
Coburn, 2016



Cultural Sharing: relaying the Sister  
Kate's Home Kids Story – a Stolen  
Generations Perspective  
Wanslea Child and Family Services, 2018



WSP Cultural Awareness Program  
Yagan Memorial Park, 2018

### **SKHKAC PROGRAM HISTORY**

SKHKAC has developed and delivered a series of programs since 2011 and has been acknowledged for the benefits provided to both the Sister Kates Home Kids and their families, other Stolen Generations groups and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and wider community, through reconciliation and community unity programs.

#### **QUOTES from Members of the Aboriginal Community:**

... "I feel really blessed to have been part of the healing programs the Sister Kate's Home Kids have put on for us in Armadale over the last five years - it's been a real healing journey for us all and I am also happy that we are starting to do more women's business, so we can teach our young yorga's about their culture..."

**Madge Hill**  
Senior Noongar Elder  
Armadale

..."I think it's very important that all Aboriginal kids know their culture and how country can play a role in their cultural identity..."

**Esandra Colbung**  
SKHK Descendant

#### CURRENT PROGRAMS

##### **(Healing, Empowerment and Leadership)**

- Elders and Community Yarning Circles (metro area and regional WA)
- NAIDOC Week Events, including Reconciliation and Sorry Day Events and Share-Ups
- Art and Creative Expression Workshops
- Wildflower Essence Workshops (mind-body medicine to alleviate acculturative stress and stress related illnesses)
- Cultural Healing Bush Camps (metro area and regional WA)
- Men's and Women's Business and Community Gatherings (metro area and regional WA)
- Series of Collective Programs—For Stronger Homee Families (bush block initiatives)
- Stolen Generations Gathering (metro area/regional WA)
- Creative Writing and Media Initiatives (DVD productions and published books)
- SKHKAC School and After-School-Care—cultural teaching/learning/sharing programs
- Collaboration Research and Evaluation Projects - (metro area, regional WA and National initiatives)
- Local, National and International Exchange and Community Engagement initiatives
- Fee for Service: a series of programs that are specifically developed and delivered to a range of clients (service provider agencies/government/other)



SKHKAC Cultural Healing Bush Camp  
Joondalup, 2014



SKHKAC HIPPIY DVD Launch &  
Community Cultural Engagement Event  
Armadale, 2014

#### FEE FOR SERVICE

Due to the originality and creativeness of our community engagement and cultural awareness initiatives, our process is to:

- Promote (individual/group/organisations/tourist industry/corporate world/other)
- Consult (needs based)
- Develop (purpose focus)
- Design (creative/innovative)
- Deliver (site preference/walking country/yarning circles - sharing-up sessions/hands on participation)
- Celebrate (Finale events - cultural participation certificates/artwork unveilings/cultural corroboree) and
- Confirm Fee for Service (timeframe of interface engagement/context/content/outcome)

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

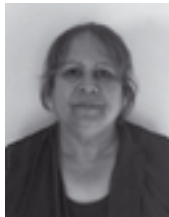
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End Word:

Straddling Two Worlds

slowly moving out  
of trauma

## The Search: Sue Khan-Cornwall Shares Up



Stolen Generations survivor Susan Khan-Cornwall shares up her journey (Sue's mum was a Sister Kate's Home Kid, and Sue and her brothers were also stolen, to Marribank Mission, Carrolup).

March 2017. A couple of days ago I started to think: what if I found what I was looking for? What if I stopped searching? What would happen?

I have always searched; searched and searched. In the beginning I definitely needed to search to save my sanity. I was looking for a better life and a better way of being, living and feeling – to keep going. I wasn't where I wanted to be – meaning, everything was on top of me, and I was searching desperately to find a way out, so I could get out, out of the mess that encompassed me and my life. A mess of my life, my emotions, my outlook – everything was rolled up and I needed to sort it out and sort myself out.

I was trying to reach somewhere, I think – but where? I really don't know. On one level, the destination wasn't visible, it was unclear and I couldn't imagine it or what it would look and feel like.

Maybe I searched for a place and for people who wanted me and cared for me. I needed a place to be, I needed nurturing, to be nurtured, I needed to grow up, I needed support and guidance because I was young and vulnerable and innocent.

I needed my parents and have always needed them and always will. I understand that now, and that's maybe because I have grown up in my understanding. Maybe I don't need to search anymore because I understand.

Where to from here? Maybe I have helped myself to sort out and recreate some sort of life for myself now that is peaceful. Maybe I'm much more peaceful inside.

**Susan Khan-Cornwall**  
SKHKAC Homee Descendant



Susan Khan-Cornwall and her mother  
Mena Hart c.1961

## The Wounded Heart Healing

*Looking back  
to a traumatic past  
drenched in heartbreak  
sorrow,  
and tears of despair  
no different or rare  
but common  
for all our people – old and young  
from the colonial spear  
ripping through our hearts  
so fair (fare)  
extending the hand of friendship  
caught in the white man's snare*

*A long road traveled  
painful, shadowed  
with no care  
from the others  
for the Wounded Heart  
of our beloved families  
and countries;  
Bleeding  
laid bare – everywhere*

*But we as a people  
resilient and strong  
fought back  
to shine through  
the oppressor's  
indulged haze;*

*we knew the wrong  
their words shared,  
and turned our backs  
once again  
to take up our  
Old People's ways*

*Re-assessing  
Re-possessing  
Re-connecting  
Re-affirming  
our cultural identity;  
healing our hearts, and  
wounds of the past*

*Now standing strong  
walking, ground firm  
into a positive future*

*Again extending  
the hand of friendship –  
wanting to aid  
in the healing  
of the collective*

*No fear  
hearts re-joining  
in the triumph so clear  
to us all –  
In Unity – arms linked  
United  
We Stand Proud and Tall!*

*TJALAMINU MIA*



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- Engineers Without Borders
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moondoowin,  
kwidjajil, kwyngat.  
ngatti ngullak bidi...

heal, empower, lead.  
our journey continues...