



**CO-CONVENORS' REPORT
TO ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING
30 OCTOBER 2013**

2013 in Review

It's been a VERY busy year for BTHWA!

- ✿ Sorry Day 26th May 2013**
- ✿ State Stolen Generations Forum 16-18/08/2013**
- ✿ Collard Family legal case documentary**
- ✿ Support for Healing Centre proposal and grant**
- ✿ Reconciliation WA Secretariat**
- ✿ Neville House lobbying**
- ✿ NSGA involvement**

Sorry Day 2013



Sorry Day 2013

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*Truth, Justice & Healing
for Stolen Generations*

Join us in commemorating the history of forcible removal of Aboriginal children and its effect on Aboriginal families and communities. Let's commit to working together to ensure proper reconciliation in this country.

Sunday 26 May

9.30 - 10.30am

Wellington Square, East Perth

Morning refreshments to follow at AADS
(across the road from Wellington Square)

Welcome to country

Healing ceremony

Guest Speakers

Halo Dancers

**BRINGING
THEM
HOME**



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Sorry Day 2013



Sorry Day 2013



WA Stolen Generations Alliance

**Outcomes of State Forum
16-18th August 2013**

Justice Actions

- ✿ Establish group to monitor funds given out for Stolen Generations to ensure money gets spent on the ground
- ✿ What funding buckets are there and what new buckets can we access?
- ✿ Claim Neville House back – already paid for!
- ✿ Look at options to repair Mission Sites
- ✿ Advocate for justice reinvestment
- ✿ Removals policy defined as crimes against Aboriginal women
- ✿ Removals policy = kidnapping and genocide
- ✿ Colonisation lead to decimation of Aboriginal men
- ✿ Need to explore legal options through International Court of Justice (Human Rights Convention?)

Truth Actions

- ✿ Tell our stories
- ✿ Reconnect younger people to Stolen Generations stories
- ✿ Develop self care policies/practices
- ✿ Advocate for Stolen Generations school curricular to be used (talk to Bernie Ryder about his work with Norman Moore)
- ✿ Recommend one minutes silence for Stolen Generations who have passed with Welcome To Country
- ✿ Access to Mission records need to be opened up
- ✿ Write a history of WA laws of removals
- ✿ Talk to Simon Forrest about a keeping place for records (Research by Jan Goodacre - now Jan James)
- ✿ Does DAA Family History Unit have Church archival records
- ✿ Refer to “Our Culture – Our Future” by Terri Jancke

Healing Actions

- ✿ Rebuild and reclaim languages and cultures
- ✿ Develop collaboration model between DYHS, Yorgum and AADS
- ✿ Educate on trans-generational trauma
- ✿ How do we tell people how they can re-connect?
- ✿ Commission memorials to Stolen Generations (at all Missions, including Register of children sent to these Missions and publicise the location)
- ✿ Forward focus on the grannies
- ✿ Healing programs are available – roll them out - but they must belong to the community!
- ✿ We need healing/caring programs for Carers
- ✿ Risk management – open wounds
- ✿ Ensure financial support for Royal Commission into sexual abuse of children
- ✿ We need to acknowledge the burden of healing, especially on senior carers
- ✿ Safeguard the Alliance – include in Credo
- ✿ Capture data – self identify
- ✿ PATS Scheme – need to lobby to ensure proper funding continues (talk to AWCH)

WA Stolen Generations Alliance

- ✿ Form strategic partnerships to assist them to take up our cause
- ✿ Never forget that we belong to each other!
- ✿ Do we use Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal model?
- ✿ Define representation in regions and organisations (membership) – important to maintain inclusion and give voice to the wider community
- ✿ Define connection with NSGA – two way relationship!
- ✿ Who is going to drive WA Alliance establishment?
- ✿ How do we maintain strong communication across the State?
- ✿ Each Region to define its organisation, membership and representations – discuss during phone link-up
- ✿ Agree on Constitution – Associations Incorporation Act?
- ✿ Organise Phone Link-up for 16th September

State Forum



State Forum



Documentary about Collard Family Legal Case

❁ Family Fractured: A Documentary

- ❁ In the late fifties and early sixties, nine of Don and Sylvia Collard's children were taken by the Native Welfare Department and raised in Sister Kate's children's home or in white families. The couple told themselves that the children were being educated and cared for, as a way to deal with their loss. However some of the children faced terrible abuse, and the trauma the children faced, plus the grief that Don and Sylvia felt, have etched indelible scars in the heart of this family.
- ❁ Two generations later the family fractures are still being felt.
- ❁ The Collards along with the Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS) and Lavan Legal have taken out a writ against the WA government, suing them for damages caused by the removal of the children. With nine plaintiffs (Don and Sylvia and seven of their children) this David and Goliath battle, due to start early next year, is going to be the biggest stolen generation claim case in Australia's history. Chief Justice Martin has suggested that, as an important test case, the court be web streamed.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation

Healing Centres Design and Development Funding

**Funding Guide
July 2013**



HealingFoundation

Strong Spirit • Strong Culture • Strong People

Boomerang House





Reconciliation

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- BTHWA instrumental in establishment of RWA and in obtaining funding for Secretariat
- Strong Board commitment to Stolen Generations issues
- RWA Executive Officer has provided strong support for organisation of State Stolen Generations Forum and other BTH issues

YOKAI!! – a Reconciliation WA Initiative



Derbarl Yerrigan Health Campus Aboriginal Network

A proposal to establish and co-locate Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services - with partner Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and Reconciliation Bodies – to develop a Collaborative Community Development ‘healing’ project.

The Network



Other Initiatives (Contd)

- ✿ Rotary Reconciliation activities strong in Stolen Generations support
- ✿ Support to other organisations in building Stolen Recognitions support into Reconciliation Action Plans
- ✿ BTHCWA Justice Reinvestment advocacy includes emphasis on Stolen Generations
- ✿ BTHCWA On-demand cultural awareness program rich in Stolen Generations advocacy – and finances some of what we do

Other Initiatives (Contd)

- ✿ Noongar Radio reciprocal support allowed us to disseminate Stolen Generations messages to a broad range of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal peoples
- ✿ Good relationships with senior editorial staff at the West Australian Newspaper allowed us and our like-minded supporters to publish periodic Opinion pieces related to Stolen Generations and other Aboriginal community issues