

WILPENA FRIENDS

AUGUST 2013



Friends gathering at the ocean at Cronulla, Sydney

7 Sisters Dreaming (for sale)

ADNYAMATHANHA NEWS

Dear Friends and Elders,

Recently, the Sydney people who came to the Wilpena gathering met to reignite the flame of their Wilpena experience. Deb came down from Qld to meet as well. Many thanks to Jenny for organising this special event. The Adelaide group is hopeful of a reunion in the future to be coordinated by Kim. Since the gathering in March, Uncle Charlie has held a community gathering of Adnyamathanha people in Port Augusta that led to the call for a General Meeting of Adnyamathanha

Traditional Lands Association (ATLA) members with the resolution to stand down the current Board of Directors and elect a new group. Approx. 15% of members signed the petition. At present this call to action is with the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations for a decision. Meanwhile, Uncles Charlie & Wilfred have set up a fighting fund with your donations to help with running costs. We were able to contribute \$2,520 (many thanks) to establish the fund and thus far it has covered fuel expenses to collect signatures from every town in Country.

They are very appreciative of our support and our continuing love, energy and spirit we send to them. You can now send donations direct (see below). Uncle Ken has been ill on and off; Auntie Margaret had a successful op on her toe; Uncle Wilfred says he's a changed man (for the better) since our gathering; Uncle Charlie has stepped in to a strong leadership role; Uncle Trevor has lots of orders to make walking sticks; and all the Elders look forward to next time!

Bank Account details for donations to the fighting fund:

Name: Wadumathanha (Yuras from the Past)
Bank: Westpac, Commercial Rd, Port Augusta
BSB: 735065
A/C: 603942



Elders enjoy Hands Around the World Festival

By Amy Moran
Transcontinental News
April 10, 2013



COME TOGETHER: Brother and sister Ken and Beatrice McKenzie are two of the 50 Adnyamathanha elders who took part in the recent Hands Around the World festival, and said it was a great opportunity for people to come together, share stories, culture and music. They would like to see the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association support the festival if it was to return in the future.

Mr McKenzie said people came together to sing and share stories and he and Ms McKenzie both hoped to see the festival held again in the future.

Ms Nanschild believed Mr Coulthard had stopped ATLA's support of the festival for "personal reasons", which he denied.

A Hands Around the World participant has spoken out against the Adnyamathanha Traditional Land Association's boycott of the recent cultural festival.

Local Adnyamathanha elders' brother and sister Ken and Beatrice McKenzie visited Rawnsley Park for a few days while the first Hands Around the World festival took place in the region, and both agreed it was a great experience.

Ms McKenzie said it was "wrong" of ATLA chairperson Vince Coulthard to oppose the festival for cultural reasons, as her grandfather had "taken the law" out of that country more than 60 years ago.

"Awakened spirits, that's what people were worried about, what they were doing at the festival wouldn't have awakened any spirits," Ms McKenzie said.

"It was really beautiful, for those who didn't come I'd like to see them join us next time," Mr McKenzie said.

He said the division the festival had caused amongst the Adnyamathanha community had "hurt" him.

"I hope we can come together again," Mr McKenzie said.

But event co-organiser Deborah Nanschild said the festival organisers had no responsibility for the rift the dispute over the event had caused in the Adnyamathanha community.

"The organisers are not involved with or responsible for whatever has happened to Adnyamathanha families as a result of ATLA" she said.

She travelled from New South Wales to attend the festival after supporting Adnyamathanha elders taking part and also wanted to see Hands Around the World take place in the region again.

She said people falling in love with the land and the elders who attended were one of the highlights of the week.

About 50 Adnyamathanha elders took part in the festival which saw an average of 120 people take part across the five days.

Vince Coulthard was contacted by The Transcontinental however he refused to answer any questions.

*We send our love and prayers to
all Adnyamathanha families &
hope more can join us for the 2014
Festival*