

Message Stick




UAICC National Conference Special Edition

The bi-monthly Magazine of the

The Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress

Our Mission: The UAICC is made up of ordinary people who do extraordinary things with God promoting the wellbeing of Indigenous Australians through: Holistic Evangelism, Justice, Transformation and Empowerment.



'Tomorrows Leader's Today' was the theme for the tri-annual UAICC National Conference recently held at the Alexandra Park Conference on the Sunshine Coast from the 26th June to the 1st July. The ideas, resolutions, faith, and fellowship arising from this significant forum were nothing short of astounding. It was not only the largest UAICC Conference to date (the event was attended by over one hundred and fifty Congress participants from around the country) but was evidenced by a strong sense of determination by all present to identify and implement the avenues and measures necessary to affect positive change to their lives and communities.

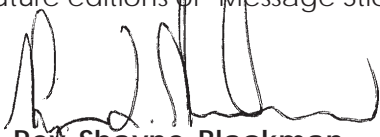
The process of identifying these avenues was based upon a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) model covering five different areas. Participants converged in mixed and regional groups to chart their present environment to then create a ten year vision for 2016 for their respective regions.

Whilst the vision for each region was different they were akin in having a common goal of creating spiritual, social and economic opportunities that would lead to a better quality of life.

The theme of the Conference, "Tomorrows Leader's Today" reflects the growing importance the Indigenous community and Congress is placing in identifying and nurturing its own leadership to drive and sustain change desired by all. In an era when stagnant and even declining socio-economic statistics still continues to confront Aboriginal and Islander people, the need for effective and visionary leadership from within our own communities is more than ever critical. Our youth were very active in articulating their hopes and dreams for the future and brought to the floor some very timely proposals that will no doubt spearhead the creation of opportunities. Our Elders shared their years of wisdom and were recognised for their special place in the life of Congress. I commend all participants for the active roles they played and for embracing a 'whole of Congress' approach that has lead to the progressive resolutions we see today. It is these resolutions in part, that will help guide Congress make further in-roads into the state of Indigenous affairs in the coming years.

We congratulate the election outcomes that saw the new National Chairperson Vince Ross and Deputy Chairperson Ken Sumner instated. On behalf of Congress we offer our respect and gratitude to the outgoing Chairperson Rev Sealin Garlett and look forward to his continuing dedication to the work of Congress.

This special edition of Message Stick has been designed to give readers and introductory insight into the National Conference. We are in the process of generating an official Post UAICC National Conference Report 2006 that will detail the processes, proceedings and resolutions arising from the Conference. If you would like a copy of the report, please send an email to the editor at rpuaicc@bigpond.com. As always if you know someone that would like to subscribe to future editions of 'Message Stick' they can also email the editor at this same email address.



Rev Shayne Blackman
National Administrator

Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress



The UAICC National Conference

The largest ever tri-annual UAICC National Conference was held from the 26th June to the 1st July 2006 at the Alexandra Park Headland Conference Centre on the Sunshine Coast. The theme of the Conference was 'Tomorrows Leaders Today'. The event was attended by over 150 Indigenous Christians involved with Congress ministries from around the country, gathering to explore how they could affect positive change in their communities. The Conference was undergirded by strong fellowship and active services of dedication.



The UAICC Tri-Annual National Conference was attended by well over 150 participants from around the country who were determined to drive and sustain positive change to their communities.

Workshoring Our Realities

In order to identify the steps needed to affect change, the Conference incorporated a series of five workshops on 'Education and Training, Employment, Health, Training Congress Leadership and Resourcing Congress Ministry. The process of the workshops followed participants firstly identifying their present situation, secondly their vision for the year 2016, thirdly what steps and actions need to occur to achieve the vision and lastly what steps/actions need to be considered by the National Conference to achieve the vision. The identification of leadership to drive and sustain change was a key factor in the workshop outcomes.



Workshop participants systematically identify the steps needed to achieve their vision for the year 2016 and thus a better future for their communities.

Sustenance Through Faith and Praise

Worship and praise played a powerful role throughout the conference in undergirding the responses from individuals and groups. In affecting positive change the importance of the spiritual realm in energising and motivating participants played its central role. Worship was conducted throughout and after each day with various groups leading the services through song, praise and teaching focusing on the promise that the Lord brings.



Worship undergirded the many community development initiatives arising from the UAICC National Conference.

Congress Youth Share Hopes and Dreams



'Tomorrows Leader's Today': Young people's issues and solutions were brought to the floor for consideration by Congress youth from around the nation.



Congress youth groups lead songs of praise and worship.



Community Participation

The 2006 UAICC National Conference was the largest ever held to date with participants coming from nearly every community in which Congress has a presence. Through the workshop process, each community was active in articulating their present environment and what needed to be achieved in order to attain their vision for 2016 and thus a brighter future for themselves and their communities. Some of the State participant groups are shown following.



Congress South Australian participants.



Congress New South Wales participants.



Congress Western Australian participants.

Community Participation



Congress Queensland participants.



Congress Central Australian participants.



Some members UAICC National Executive with the National Administrator.



Elders reflect on a presentation by Rev Shayne Blackman.



Community Participation



Chairperson of the NRCC Rev Mawunydjil Garawirtja (left) and Rev Ronang Garrawurra share the progressive work of the council.



Congress Victoria Participants.



Congress Tasmania Participants.



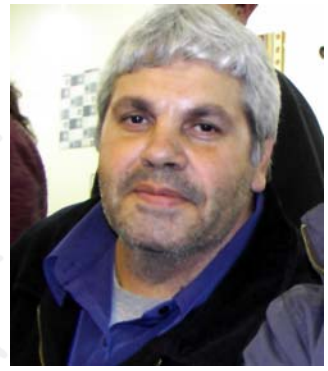
From left: National Women's Coordinator Lurleen Blackman, Cape York and Gulf Elders Ellen Roughsey, Beatrice Koongetema, Harriet Flinders, Ann Wolla and Jenny Springham.

New UAICC National Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

As part of the UAICC constitution, elections were held for the position of National Chairperson and Deputy National Chairperson. After the official voting process, the floor congratulated Vince Ross (Chairperson) and Rev Ken Sumner (Deputy Chairperson). The Conference also paid tribute and respect to the outgoing Chairperson Rev Sealin Garlett.



UAICC National Chairperson Vince Ross



UAICC Deputy National Chairperson Rev Ken Sumner

Renewing the Covenant

The Congress welcomed the incoming President of the Uniting Church Rev Gregor Henderson and Assembly General Secretary Rev Terence Corkin to the Conference to share in worship and to meet various members of the UAICC. Historic Covenantal issues and future developments were discussed. Congress thanks both Rev Gregor Henderson and Rev Terence Corkin for their presence.



Covenant presentations: Rev Gregor Henderson and Rev Shayne Blackman.

- RESPONSE -

Yes I want to support the work of the UAICC.

Rev/Dr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____

Address _____

Enclosed please find cheque/postal order \$ _____ .00

Or Please debit MasterCard VISA

Number _____

Amount \$ _____ .00 Expiry Date ____/____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Please forward to: UAICC National Appeals
PO Box 217, Thuringowa Central
QLD, 4817

Thank you

Message Stick is produced and distributed monthly both in electronic & hard copy format by the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress.

Please forward this and future editions to parties that may be interested in the work and achievements of Congress.

To subscribe for future editions of *Message Stick* please email the editor at: rpuaicc@bigpond.com with 'Subscribe' in the subject line.

UAICC National Office P: (07) 4773 5077
PO Box 217 F: (07) 4773 5307
Thuringowa Central E: rpuaicc@bigpond.com
Queensland 4817 W: <http://nat.uca.org.au/>