

Fletcher Griffin's yarn with Aunty Flo Watson (17.02.2024)

Aunt Flo's story is one of Courage, resilience, and triumph.

Having been removed from her family as part of the Stolen Generations at only 11 years old to now being able to channel her heartache and experiences to teach others rather than channelling her emotions in a negative way.

The task asks for a brief as to why I have chosen to interview my chosen Elder, I could write an essay!

Aunt Flo for me personally in an inspiration, from owning her own consultancy business, being awarded to Order of Australia medal in 2015, her tireless work in the community to as recently as being awarded the Brisbane NAIDOC Elder of the year LAST YEAR!

I can only hope that with hard work and dedication, I too will achieve great things just like Aunty Flo Watson.

During my yarn with Aunty Flo, I chose to ask her about the Stolen Generations and their Stolen Wages story.

The knowledge I have about the Stolen Generations has been passed down to me by my dad as his grandad was a part of that generation, fortunately he was not stolen. This is one of many subjects I wish was taught in schools alongside the likes of Ned Kelly.

Not only were children stolen but they were put to work and given a bank book where their wages were deposited at the end of each week, these bank books were taken under the pretences that their money would be given back to their communities however, this never happened.

The children were given rations to live that consisted of sago, plain flour, and treacle – Absolutely NO nourishment.

Sadly, even after employing Joshua Creamer, a well-known Aboriginal barrister to act on behalf of the Stolen Generations just a few years ago, they were unable to have the entirety of the Stolen Wages returned to the people and families it belongs to.

Not only were young children ripped from their families, taken from their homes, made to live with and amongst strangers, malnourished, robbed and worked to the bone they, as adults only 6 years ago have been given a 'sorry' and in some cases \$2000 as compensation for a lifetime of heartache, trauma, and pain.

I stand with Aunty Flo Watson and want to educate and teach my generation about the history of our Aboriginal Elders and work together for a brighter future for our people.

