

Yarrabah

On a holiday trip up to Kuranda, to visit one of Harmony's cousins, around mid 2012, we had no idea of the events that were about to unfold.

We were sitting down having a cuppa with friends when one of Harmony's cousins friends, Lisa, dropped in for a visit. We started chatting about the Wintermoon Festival that we had just been involved in when Lisa mentioned that she had some friends, The Rare Earth Foundation, where wanting to put on a 'Global Elders Gathering' for the full solar eclipse at an Australian Original community near Cairns. Because of our combined festival experience, she suggested that we meet with REF founders and visit the site to offer some advice with the set up.

Meeting with Rahm and Meluka, (REF) on site, Kings beach, Yarrabah, within a few days of meeting Lisa, we were confronted with what we deemed to be a very challenging site. There was a lot of rubbish to clear then there was the logistical challenge of temporarily housing 150 odd elders in very soft sand. Not being able to commit to help the group full time, we offered a few tips at the meeting and said we could come back 10 days out from the gathering to help.

We arrived in Yarrabah 10 days out and got straight into helping with the construction of the accommodation and camp kitchens. It is amazing what can be achieved with limited funds and a committed group of volunteers with the same goal. There were a few dramas with local residents and elders but Rahm and Meluka were able to iron out all problems allowing the physical stuff to get done. A few days out, the weather was perfect, everything was on track and the site looked and felt great.

The elders started to arrive for the 5 day event and the excitement was building. We noticed that the breeze had picked up a little but payed very little attention to this at the time. The Elders kept on arriving and the breeze kept on gaining in intensity, very noticeably now. By the time everyone was in, the wind coming off the ocean was about 25 knots. Here we go.

At the gathering, there were approx 120 elders including representatives from Japan, Tahiti, New Zealand, Nth America, Sth America, Fiji, plus others and a large representation from our Australian Original culture. Ceremony, talks and workshops filled the first few days, Harmony even got to talk about Blackfoot, and everyone was looking forward to the big ceremony during the eclipse. A ceremony that we think was last performed approx 26,000 years ago. I do apologize for my vagueness on time as we had entered into timelessness for the period that we were there.

On eclipse morning, with the wind still blowing, we all gathered down on the beach for the ceremony to bring in the new flame. Fire is very significant with Australian Original culture and most tribes have a 'Keeper of the Flame'. The eclipse represents the going out of the old flame and the bringing in of the new flame. A large circle of people gathered around a smaller circle in the centre where the Yarrabah chief, Uncle Bob, sang and chanted to clap sticks whilst standing in a bucket of water so he wouldn't burn up while reaching the sun for the new flame. Circles moved in and out whilst the chanting and singing continued during the event of the eclipse. Women were invited in to the inner circle which we believe to be very unusual for Australian Original culture. Over 100 Lumerian crystals formed a large external circle which we also believe to have never occurred in the history of our Australian Original culture.

When the ceremony was complete and the sunlight had returned to normal, some of us heard some screaming from the accommodation area so Rahm rushed to investigate. A Gentleman Elder from Nowra, Southern NSW, Chief Keeper of the old flame had died during the ceremony in his bed. There was the obvious dramatic events that then unfolded during the rest of the day with ambulances, coroners, police etc. but something larger was unfolding.

Immediately, it bought up the situation of who was going to perform cleansing ceremony on the deceased Elder as there was no body from his tribe there who could perform the appropriate ceremony. The deceased elder had also left behind 3 teenagers that needed a lot of support and a way to get home, with no direct family support. He had also left a culture with no Keeper of the flame. The Elders at the gathering had to decide what to do. This situation superseded, any land right claim feuds between tribes and bought together tribes that have had communication breakdowns for over twenty years. They had to work it out there and then. Cultural tradition was morphing into new ways before our very eyes.

Cleansing ceremony was performed, the teenagers were taken into Yarrabah and looked after, monies were raised to get them home and meetings were taking place to work out the situation of the new 'Keeper of the Flame'.

It was decided by the Elders that everybody who was present at the ceremony was to be the new 'Keeper's of the flame' and to take this story back to where they come from and share the story.

The gathering came to an end and the Elders started their journeys home. The wind weakening as each one left the site over a couple of days. During this time, Uncle Bob came up to Harmony and requested Blackfoot. Sorry, I get goose bumps every time i get to this bit of the story, even though I got more goose bumps in the 10 days of Yarrabah than in my whole life. Uncle Bob painted onto Blackfoot the 'Fire bird', their symbol of the first bringer of the flame to the Original culture.

To our understanding, this brings the final instalment to Blackfoot Waheelas story.

Please understand that what is written here is not every detail of the gathering and that many other profound situations occurred. I don't think that written words will ever be able to explain exactly what went down over the gathering. You had to be there. I ask anyone who reads this, who was there and wish to share their story to please contact us.

Thanks

Please also understand that I refer to the Australian indigenous community as Originies. By placing the letters AB in front of Original, negates the word, from a quantum language perspective. eg. Abstract refers to ; not of structure.

