

Harmony's Story.

In 1999, Harmony met Blackfoot Waheela.

On a holiday down south, Harmony and her previous partner John, ended up lost and going the opposite direction on an expressway out the back of the Gold Coast. They decided to go with flow and visit a friend in a community in nth NSW. They arrived at the community and visited their friend. The friend introduced a gentleman by the name of 'Waheela' who was living with their friend at the time. Waheela was teaching him to carve to get exhibition together.

Harmony had a couple of very interesting days with Waheela.

She noticed two young children, 2 and 4. mucking around whilst the adults chatting, Waheela suggests kids go for sleep on his bed, mum naturally laughs as it was unrealistic for the kids to sleep at 11.00am. The kids lie down and sleep till 3.00pm giving adults all day to interact. This is very interesting. He introduced himself with a wooden staff, stating, 'I am Blackfoot Waheela, 1st Shaman of the Rainbow, Last of the totem pole carvers of the Haidi tribe' Blackfoot being the staff, Waheela being himself. Waheela and Harmony had a connection that they both felt but could not explain at the time.

Blackfoot, the staff, was seen by Harmony with Waheela in a photograph, when he had just started carving on it as a teenager. Blackfoot is the story of Waheelas life.

Waheela explains that Australia's east coast is still part of pacific rim. He was primarily here to put totem poles up around the pacific rim. In doing so, his objective to unite the tribes of Rainbow. His particular Totem poles at the time are to protect the land from water's.

He told about international gathering of the rainbow to be held in Tenterfield and invites Harmony to come to the gathering.

Harmony met with him again at the gathering, Again, Introducing himself to the gathering as the '1st shaman of the Rainbow', as there were many claiming to be shaman at the gathering. He became disillusioned by what he experienced and saw; relative to peoples understanding of the Rainbow Tribe. He carved a totem pole at the gathering in Tenterfield, training another of our friends, Clive, as a master carver, but as he wasn't allowed to use a tree of his choice, the totem could never have the appropriate significance for him or the land.

Disillusions; Disappointed with the Rainbow gatherings because they had little idea of the Rainbow concept . One sided expectations. Everyone coming to him with their problems but he had no body to go to seek assistance. He felt that the whole original philosophy had been lost. In is disillusionment, being an old man, he ran away and wanted to start a new life. Disillusioned with the people but not the philosophy.

He ended up on Harmony's doorstep in Mackay as he was still on his mission of bringing the tribes of the Rainbow together with Blackfoot.

Upon arrival in Mackay, he was offered work with Children sharing survival skills, and staying with Harmony's family at home which made him happy. All he really wanted was to be loved, and have a family. He wanted to stay here forever. He trained John as a master carver. Still on mission to carve

a totem pole for the Sydney Olympics. He suggested during that time and after visits to where we are now, that he wanted to be buried on Pandurunga.

His visit lasted about 5 months. During his stay, he shared his understanding of Rainbow.

End of Vietnam war . 2000 men from all over the world going back to their own countries are in Hanoi airport waiting to leave. The 2000 guys made a pact. 'When they got back to their own countries, vow to never be in the horrible situation that they had shared and that no child should ever share their same misfortunes.' They were very upset that it was all about drugs and money and that they could see this and that they had to be a part of it and had no say in it.

We need to teach the children how to survive in Babylon, the society we now live in. We need to gather for a month, each year to experience living the life we wish to live. They called themselves Warriors of the Rainbow.

Some of the 'fundamental guidelines' for the gatherings were :

2 mile walk in to gathering.

There is to be no hierarchy.

All peoples are accepted. It's about working with the good in people and working with what you have.

Various councils are formed for decision making process and that if you wish to be involved in a particular decision making process, you need to be involved from the beginning of the process.

Everybody is to be responsible for the hygiene of their own plate, bowl, cup , knife, fork and spoon.

Responsible for each other's welfare.

Chai, tea and coffee house all day.

2 meals a day. Noon and sunset. Communal meals are prepared in communal kitchens. Served to circle of gathering. After evening meal is had, the magic hat goes round for peoples to donate monies for the continuation of the gatherings meals. There is an all day fruit house which usually serves as breakfast.

Depending on size of gatherings as to how many separate kitchens are on offer.

After the hat goes round, people who have something to share, state their opportunity. eg. I'm doing palm reading down by the river tomorrow around mid morning. Come on down if you wish to participate.

The rumour guy who carries all the rumours. If you have a rumour, you tell the rumour guy about it and that if you want to find out a truth, you go to the rumour guy for clarity.

The 2000 men were aware of the Hopi prophecy, and decided to call themselves Rainbow warriors and they would build the bridge to unite all tribes relative to the prophecy.

Because Waheela was the grandson of the Shaman of the Haida tribe, he already had great responsibility passed to him by his grandfather, represented by bear claw necklace and grandfathers wrist bones threaded onto the same mala. It was because of this that he took on the responsibility of being the 1st shaman of the Rainbow.

Without any money, he travelled around the world 6 times in 30 years. Going to gathering and individual tribes in Russia, Sth America, Sth Africa Japan, Pacific rim etc. etc., on his mission of uniting the tribes which in turn, building the rainbow bridge.

From each of the tribes he would visit, he would add a token representation from the tribe to his staff, Blackfoot. Blackfoot is a symbol of the uniting and bridge building of the rainbow.

When Waheela arrived in Australia, he was still on his mission of uniting the tribes. The Original culture in Australia was the last of the tribes for him to unite, so he visited the Black Mountains near Cook Town, but failed to meet with any indigenous tribe so he went to NSW where this essay begins

After living with Harmony and family for 3 months, a visit to immigration to sort out his affairs, his visa had lapsed, he was announced an alien, which Waheela thought was a great honour to classed an Alien. In discussion with immigration, he handed over his passport to them and was told that if he was to go to New Zealand that he could then come back to Australia . With most avenues shut down for keeping him in the country, Harmony decided to marry him as an effort to keep him in the country. . He did not want to leave at all as he had almost completed his life's mission, was living with family and was the happiest he had ever been. He did not want to leave but he was running out of time. He and Harmony had planned to get married in New Zealand.

Whilst organizing marriage plans, a ceremony was conducted, here in Mackay, where Waheela gave Harmony Blackfoot as a wedding present and He named Harmony, ' Medicine Bowl'. He explained that with Blackfoot, the staff, there are certain responsibilities like Blackfoot could not stay locked away in a cupboard, it has to be walked in public, that Harmony has to hold women's circle and explain to the women how they are doing wrong by their men. and that there is the last tribe to be included in Blackfoot's reality. This was never explained in detail as to how this was to occur.

It was at this time, Waheela had starting making a new staff. Waheela must have known that his time in Aus was nearly up.

When arriving at Brisbane airport for Harmony and Waheela to go to New Zealand, Waheela received his passport and was given a special ticket that was written in code with no words on it. They were told to only offer this ticket if there was a major problem on arriving in NZ. Upon arrival in N, they were pulled aside by immigration straight away and were told that Waheela was not welcome there as he was announced an Alien in Aus. They handed over the coded ticket and after checking the code, NZ immigration came back and said that this is a one way, first class ticket to Los Angeles courtesy of the Australian Gov. This was the last time Harmony saw Waheela. They did keep in contact by phone.

Harmony started holding women's circle straight away still holds women's circle but around 2003, at a local folk music festival which we both are involved in the production of, a woman who Harmony had never seen before and has not seen since, came up to Harmony and told her to come with her and follow her NOW. It was a very inconvenient time as the opening of the festival was just about to begin and a very busy time for her but the women insisted. She took her down to the creek where she danced around Harmony beating her drum and went into a trance, Waheela plus someone else's presence came through and the woman said.... 'You are being observed, what you are doing is great. We are all very pleased with you and this is an initiation for you to carry the name of Female shaman of the Rainbow in Australia.' There also came a confirmation that Harmony was to still walk Blackfoot and incorporate the last tribe. (please understand that these word are not quite right as this sort of experience is profound and is combined with the feelings of the moment which included celebration and joy)

In May 2004, not hearing from Waheela for about a year, Harmony was at the Wintermoon festival again where a different woman called Harmony over to say she had a message for her. Waheela wants you to know from the other side that he is still watching over you and always will. He is on the other side now.

The last tribe had still not blessed Blackfoot. Please read our Yarrabah Solar Eclipse story for more on the story of Blackfoot.

It was around 2005-6 that Harmony met Luke and become good friends. They got together around 2011.

Please read our Yarrabah experience as our coming together of histories.

Thanks