

Artwork by Aunty Denise Proud

Truth-Telling

MITCHELTON LIBRARY

37 Heliopolis Parade, Mitchelton QLD 4053

**Monthly on Sunday
afternoons
throughout 2024 for
a Truth-Telling
journey toward
Treaty.**

Speakers will
be sharing
their life
stories,
followed by
Q&A and
light
refreshments



2:30 – 4:30PM

Save the Date

Feb 11	Jul 14
Mar 10	Aug 11
Apr 7	Sep 8
May 5	Oct 6
June 2	Nov 3

Join us in August to listen to Marshall Saunders and Dormo Boys Michael and David Wragge, and Uncle Robert West as they share their truth.

What was occurring in the dormitories was largely hidden to the Australian white population, especially in the city. Historians have repeatedly highlighted the goal of segregation, to 'remove blacks both mentally and physically from the landscape occupied by white Australians' (Blake p.162).

The stories of those who lived in the dormitories of Barambah and later Cherbourg, tell of the harshness and injustice of these institutions. Cherbourg was starkly divided by a fence, never to be crossed without permission with threat of severe punishment for disobeying this edict. The fence ensured there was a racial and functional separation between the Aboriginal people and white management. But the fence provided another motivation to the Aboriginal residents – to reshape their lives together and form a new sense of community.

For the dormitory boys, the separation from family and culture was even starker. But within their oppressive environment, they created their own ways of survival and quality of life. The enduring legacy for them include memories of being brothers, of laughter and fun together; of finding ways to challenge the system and get away with it; of working together to get what they needed to survive their arduous pathway and emerge with some enjoyment in life.

For some, half a century later, their stories are only now beginning to emerge. The safety of being with the 'domo boys', opens the door for men, now in their later lives, to revisit and share their pain and stories.

RSVP to Rosalie by Thursday 8th August
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