

## TRIBUTE TO 'KINCHELA BOYS HOME' SURVIVORS ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MONUMENTS AND SITES

On the 18 April 2021, around 25 Australia ICOMOS members and colleagues who attended the NSW International Day of Monuments and Sites event held at the Big Dig Archaeology Centre had a very special and emotional afternoon. We were privileged for hearing the stories of the survivors of the Kinchela Boys Home. They 'Unlocked the Past to Free the Future'. Their story well fitted to this year's theme of the Day 'Complex Pasts: Divers Futures'.

Kinchela Boys Home is one of the most notorious institutions associated with the Stolen Generations. From 1924 to 1970, under the authority of the New South Wales Aborigines Protection Board and its successor, the Aborigines Welfare Board, between 400 and 600 young boys (and a small number of girls in its first year of operation) were incarcerated at the Kinchela Aborigines Boys' Training Home (Kinchela Boys Home) on the Mid North Coast of NSW. The intent was to re-program them to become 'white', an act tantamount to cultural genocide.

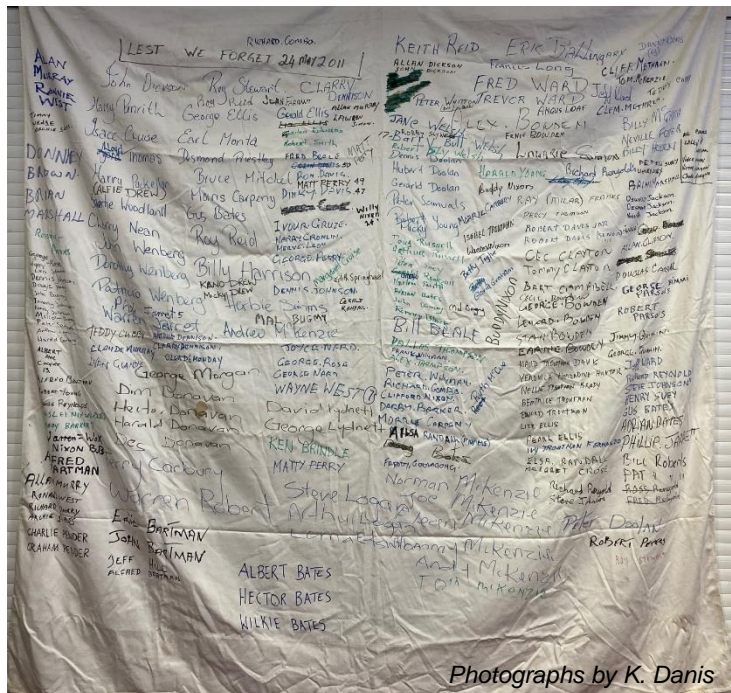
The author of the 'Kinchela Boys Home' Conservation Management Plan and an eminent member of Australia ICOMOS Alan Croker together with a few members of the Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation (KBHAC) Uncles Michael Welsh, Bobby Young, Allan Cooper, and the CEO Tiffany McComsey shared and told their stories. Uncle Michael said that this is a process of healing for them to overcome the harsh and hostile conditions of the Kinchela Boys Home institution, which was a place of physical hardship, punishment, cruelty, alienation and abuse (cultural, physical, psychological and sexual).

In 2012, the former Kinchela Boys Home site was listed on the NSW State Heritage Register in recognition of its significance in the history of NSW. Today, the former Kinchela Boys Home site is a place of deep significance to survivors, their families, the communities they were taken from, the communities in the Macleay valley and broader community. As part of a long and complex healing process, the site and its deeply personal values must be recognised and respected by wider Australia.

THANK YOU...Uncle Michael, Uncle Bobby, and Uncle Allan for sharing with us your stories, the lasting physical and emotional trauma, and allowing us to be part of your healing process and honour the legacies of those who lost their lives. Thank you also to the members of the Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation for joining us, to Alan Croker for accepting the idea of presenting the stories of the Kinchela Boys Home survivors on the Day, and to Bruce Dawbin and Louise Cox for organising the event.

For detailed information on the Kinchela Boys Home see <https://kinchelaboyshome.org.au/>

Kerime Danis  
M.ICOMOS (NSW)





## ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MONUMENTS & SITES 2021

# COMPLEX PASTS: DIVERSE FUTURES

### KINCHELA BOYS HOME - A JOURNEY TOWARDS HEALING

The legacy of the former Kinchela Aboriginal Boys' Training Home is an inspiring story of resistance and survival, and is testament to the brotherhood that was forged within the institution. The power of this brotherhood, founded on the collective identity, shared suffering and experiences of the men, continues as a source of strength and the basis for healing.

The process of preparing a conservation management plan for this significant Stolen Generation site has been, and continues to be, an important part of this journey of truth telling and healing.

This presentation by Alan Croker in association with Survivors and the CEO from the Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation will lead the conversation on the 2021 theme of the Day - **Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures.**

**Time & Date:** 4pm Sunday 18 April, 2021

**Location:** The Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre, 110 Cumberland St, Sydney

**Cost:** \$11.58 ICOMOS Members | \$16.83 Non-members (includes booking fee)

**Register Online:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nsw-18-april-event-kinchela-boys-home-a-journey-towards-healing-tickets-149987971059>

**This is an in person COVID-Safe event, pre-registration is essential.**

**Refreshments will be provided.**

