



Black Diggers of Logan

Partnering with the local community to capture and share the untold stories of the First World War



What is Black Diggers of Logan?

- Three short documentaries
- Four Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service men:
 - Pte Valentine Hare
 - Pte Jack Pollard
 - Pte George Watego
 - Pte Murray Watego
- Total running time: 36 minutes
- Freely accessible on Logan City Council website and YouTube



VALENTINE HARE



MURRAY WATEGO



JACK POLLARD



GEORGE WATEGO

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City of Logan

- Large and rapidly growing local government area
- 300,000+ residents
- Culturally diverse – 215 different nationalities, ethnicities and cultural groups identified
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community (2011 census):
 - 7,795 residents
 - 2.8% of the population (higher than the national average of 2.5%)



Logan City Council

- City of Choice initiatives
- Reconciliation Action Plan – endorsed June 2015

Libraries and Cultural Services

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy 2013 – 2018
 - Nyeumba Meta Advisory Group
 - Nyeumba Meta Collection
 - Yarning with our mob
 - Reconciliation Book Club
 - Exhibitions and displays
 - *Our Aunties and Uncles* digital stories



Concept development

NEED

Community need to collect more stories



RESOURCES

Queensland Anzac Centenary Grants program



INSPIRATION

QLD Theatre Company's play *Black Diggers*



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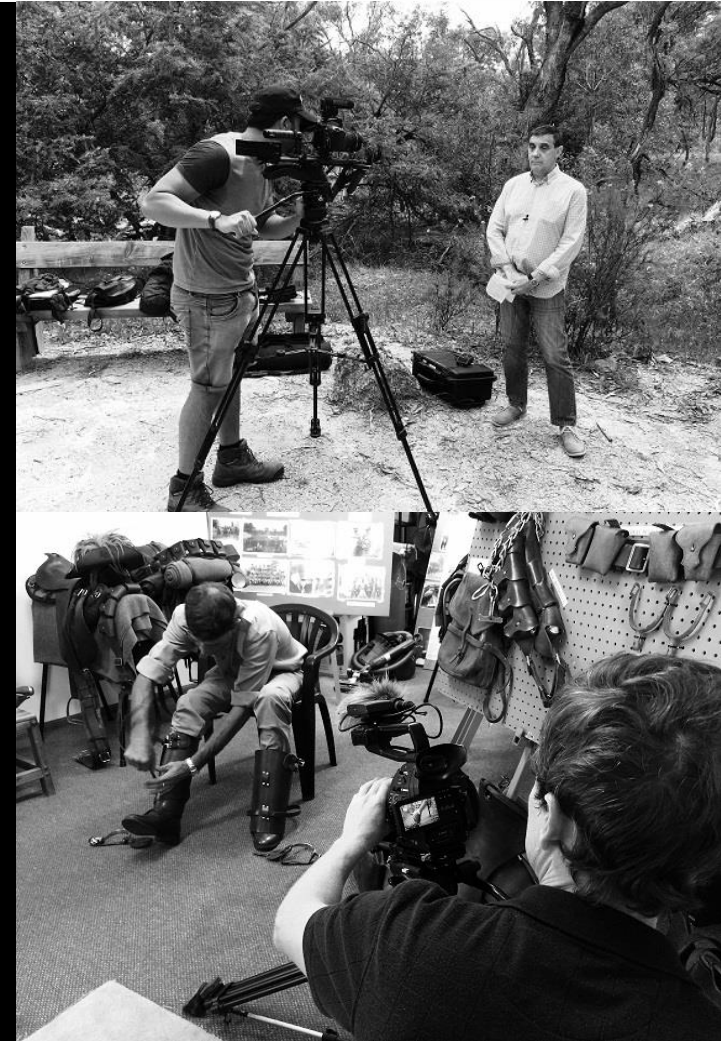


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Processes

- Nomination process
- Indigenous film maker
- Research
- Sourcing material for films:
images, footage
- Relationships
- Premiere screening
- Promotion



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The stories: Case study Valentine Hare

- Family did not know Valentine's whereabouts
- Lost contact in early 1920s
- Spent many years trying to locate him without success
- No knowledge of wife, children, final resting place
- No existing photo of him
- It was as if he had vanished



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Research

- National Archives of Australia
 - Service record
 - DVA record – date of birth and death
- Births, Deaths and Marriages
 - Death certificate
- Cairns cemetery records
 - Final resting place
- State Library of Queensland
 - Portrait of Valentine



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Successes

- Premiered to a full house of over 200 family, friends and community members
- Stories broadcast nationally and internationally on NITV and Asia Pacific NITV-SBS
- Local, state and national media coverage
- Silver Award at National Trust Queensland Heritage Awards 2015 in category Agency Conservation Programs
- Over 500 hits on YouTube
- *Black Diggers of Logan Historypin project*



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Family outcomes

- Information not known about ancestors was found
- Legacy - stories have been recorded for future generations
- Recognition – untold stories are now being told
- New information uncovered is adding to our nation's growing understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contribution to the First World War



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Valentine Hare



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