

John Bond, Secretary, National Sorry Day Committee and Journey of Healing

Charlie, along with ANTaR in the ACT, always supported the initiatives of the Journey of Healing.

Last year in May we needed to publicise the events around Sorry Day in the ACT, but had no funds. Charlie proposed that ANTaR use its slender funds for a send-out to the whole ANTaR ACT list of 2,000. Everyone agreed. Within days the newsletter was written and printed, thirty people met one Saturday morning to fold and address it, and off it went. Hundreds attended the events.

One event was a celebration of the unveiling of the stolen generations memorial. There was a Sea of Hands to welcome everyone. In December, when Michael Long arrived in Canberra at the end of his walk from Melbourne, there was a great big barbecue in Commonwealth Park for Michael and his supporters - 400 people in all, including numerous Federal and ACT politicians. ANTaR and the Journey of Healing had arranged it together.

The welcome and recognition expressed by these events meant a lot to Aboriginal people, whose voices are so often ignored by non-Indigenous society and its political leadership. Charlie understood this, and worked wholeheartedly for change. He did so much, often more than we realised because he was totally uninterested in claiming credit for himself. He just delighted in the outcome.

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