

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1967 REFERENDUM THE 1967

MUCH ACHIEVED, STILL MUCH TO DO



**JOHN BERTO
and LISA MUMBIN**

“ I’m from the Jawoyn tribe. It’s a pretty big tribe. Our land covers 55,000m². I was born in Katherine.

My elders talked about the referendum a lot. But we went on from that to the Barunga

Statement, which demanded Indigenous rights by way of a Treaty and was handed to Bob Hawke in 1991. It’s in Parliament House in Canberra for all to see.

Our elders were very strong in fighting for

their country – Jawoyn country. The fight meant everything to us. They had a vision for our people’s future.

- Lisa Mumbin, Jawoyn Association Chair

My mother was from Utopia. She was part of the Stolen Generations – she was taken to the Tiwi Islands at the age of 11 and didn’t see her family again for 41 years.

The referendum was a milestone in the history of Indigenous people. My mother talked about it often. She was married to a whitefella; they had

to get permission from the Protector of Native Affairs to get married. The referendum gave the Commonwealth the power to legislate for Indigenous people and this led to the Land Rights Act, which eventually allowed the Jawoyn to win back Nitmiluk. And then there was the Mabo native title decision.

The referendum has given Indigenous people opportunities and has helped secure the Jawoyn’s future. ”

- John Berto, Jawoyn Association CEO

CELEBRATING
50
YEARS

May 27: the day two discriminatory sections in our Constitution were removed after a vote overwhelmingly in favour