

MySpace Blog Entry

Jenny Cooper

Across the Great Divide

Cass and I went to see Silverchair and Powderfinger last night for Reconciliation Australia's Across the Great Divide. It was awesome on so many levels. Cass has loved Powderfinger since she was about 12 and this is the first time she's seen them, and they were AWESOME. We sometimes muck around singing their songs on Singstar so it was fun to be with her for it, we sang and danced and rocked and laughed and she sang all the way home :)

But as huge as that is, that there was a consciousness of Reconciliation among the audience, and especially from Powderfinger was really heartening. They have a video playing at the end of the concert with people talking about how to address the issues faced by Indigenous people now, to right the wrongs and to heal the past. It's so important, and yet so often ignored. I wish it could all be healed with music and song, but it needs so much more than that. It needs participation.

Those interested can check out www.reconcile.org.au and join in the conversation, show support, share their views, and I would encourage everyone to do so.

Those interested in Indigenous issues, human issues, human rights issues can not ignore the suffering that continues, the ignorance that breeds discrimination, or the truth of Australia's history, stolen lands, stolen children, stolen rights, stolen wages, stolen heart. Every step forward is important, every step back a tragedy. Australia seemed to be waking up to reality when the Deaths in Custody report highlighted the unequal proportion of Stolen children among them. The Bringing Them Home Report issued 54 recommendations to address the issues and redress the wrongs, but 10 years later only two of those recommendations have been implemented both of them by ATSIC, See the National Sorry Day Committee's web-site www.nsdcc.org.au

Again, and still, we are commissioning reports, and using the outcomes for political gain without proper consultation or compassion. We need more highlighting of the issues... thank you Silverchair & Powderfinger, thank you Reconciliation Australia, thank you for raising the awareness, for putting on the concert and thank you 98.9fm for letting me and Cass win tickets to be a part of it.