

**MARABISDA
MAIL
ISSUE 2 2024**

**UPCOMING DATES
TO REMEMBER
2024**

**National Close the
Gap Day
21st March**

**Harmony Week
18th-24th of March**

**National Sorry Day
26th May**

**National
Reconciliation Week
27 May to 3 June**



LETTER FROM CEO

The MARABISDA Team have been proper busy since coming back from the Christmas break with lots of events, activities, workshops and programs. In February, our Family and Domestic Violence Service in partnership with Aunty Raechel with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships held an Ochre Ribbon Week Workshop. This brought Murri Workers from different Services in the Mackay region to come together to talk through the issues they face in community around domestic and family violence, what barriers or gaps there are in services and resources available, and how we can address those gaps. It was so valuable bringing these frontline workers together as it gave us all the opportunity to learn more from each other and look at what we can do together to meet the needs of our mob. This one gathering resulted in everyone in attendance agreeing that ongoing network meetings for Murri workers need to continue, and there are plans to work together to see how they can influence Government around other services for our community.

The Local Decision-Making Body (LDMB) is a reform initiative of the Queensland Government looking at new ways of engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the State. The purpose of the LDMB is to advise and provide input to the State Government about programs, initiatives, and funding that they may be implementing or about to deliver in the Mackay, and how it will address the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this community. If State Government are genuinely looking to lower the disadvantage and overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the Mackay region, they need to hear from the mob who they are trying to “help”. I suppose this is a step in the right direction, because as we know, if you want to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, you need to listen to us – we know our communities best and we know what we need to make things better for us. The current LDMB has interim membership, and there will soon be an Expression of Interest process advertised for people to apply to become a member should they wish. We are striving to have diverse membership for the LDMB, including Traditional Owners, Torres Strait Islanders, young people, and women. If you would like further information, please contact Yonni at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.

Our Indigenous Family Wellbeing Service has also commenced our Women’s Group (see p.4) – female clients will be meeting together on a fortnightly basis to do Circle Of Security parenting workshops, understanding more about domestic and family violence, guest speakers from other services like ATSICHS AODS, Housing etc., along with other self-care, creative and healing activities.

More big news on the Child Protection side of things – MARABISDA has been confirmed as an appropriate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander entity to undertake Delegated Authority this year. Delegated Authority (or DA) is a process where the functions or powers that the Chief Executive of Child Safety (Director General) holds under the Child Protection Act 1999 are delegated to the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of an appropriate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander entity for an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander child.

Delegated Authority transforms how child protection services are delivered by having the decisions made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders in the sector, rather solely by staff in Child Safety. It also represents a significant opportunity to shift the child safety system and as such, is a high priority action under the “Our Way” Strategy 2017-2037 and supports efforts towards Closing the Gap and implementation of “Safe and Supported: The National Framework for Protecting Australia’s children 2021-2031”. There will be challenging times ahead as we try to navigate our way with Child Safety on this path, but with the support of our peak body QATSICPP and the DA Pilot Sites (who have been the trailblazers in this area and are now well established to advise us starters), I believe our community will have more of a voice in decision making around the connection and safety of our children and families. Thanks everyone – have a great Easter and any questions at all about our work or programs, don’t hesitate to contact us.

Regards
AB



Recipe – Zucchini Slice Roll-Ups

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large zucchini
- 2 Coles Bakery flatbreads
- 6 large slices double-smoked ham, 2 halved
- 80g (2/3 cup) grated pizza cheese
- 2 green shallots, sliced
- 4 eggs
- 125ml (1/2 cup) milk

METHOD

1. Step 1 Preheat oven to 200C/180C fan forced. Grease twelve 80ml (1/3 cup) muffin holes.
2. Trim ends off zucchini and discard. Using a vegetable peeler, cut zucchini into strips.
3. Place 1 flatbread on a board. Top with half of the ham and half of the zucchini, trimming some strips of the zucchini to completely cover the ham. Top with half the cheese and half the shallot. Roll up flatbread to enclose filling, then trim ends. Slice roll into 6 even pieces, then place, cut side up, in prepared muffin holes. Repeat with remaining flatbread and filling.
4. Whisk eggs and milk in a jug. Season. Pour egg mixture over rolls in the pan until holes are about half full. Bake for 20 minutes or until golden and set. Cool in pan for 5 minutes, then turn out and serve warm. Or cool completely and serve at room temperature.

From taste.com

<https://www.taste.com.au/recipes/zucchini-slice-roll-ups-recipe/3tt4bkkc?r=recipes/lunchboxideas&c=ffaa8c27-5423-4f34-a7dd-a143404d6905/Lunch%20box%20ideas>

PICCANINNY FOSTER KINSHIP SERVICE NEWS

Statement of Commitment

The Statement of Commitment (Statement) confirms the commitment of the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs (Child Safety) and Queensland peak child protection agencies (partner agencies) to work together with Queensland's foster and kinship carers to ensure the safety, wellbeing and belonging of children and young people placed in their care.

Through this Statement, Child Safety and peak bodies acknowledge their shared responsibility for children and young people in care and the unique role foster and kinship carers have as volunteers in this partnership. Queensland's child protection system relies on foster and kinship carers volunteering their homes and their care and this Statement outlines a collective commitment to that care being enduring, fulfilling and able to meet the needs of children and young people.

The full Statement of Commitment can be found on the Queensland Foster and Kinship Care or Child Safety websites or google QLD Carers Statement of Commitment

On Thursday 22/02/24 Piccaninny team welcomed carers for a Carers Catch Up.

It was an opportunity to meet and chat with our Piccaninny staff Manager Megan Durante, Carer Support Workers Tina Taylor & Danielle Bobongie and our Kinship Team Jen Tass & Maria Tuialli

It was also an opportunity for our carers to voice their opinions and to provide feedback to our team.

Some of the topics that we talked about

- Centrelink Support
- Processes for family contact
- NDIS
- Blue Cards

We also invited guest speaker Janee Choppy and Bianca Dorante from Connected Beginnings to yarn to carers about the support they can give them with children 5 and under.

Our next Carers Catch Up will be on the 28/03/24



FOSTER CARE Q&A

Do I have to be married? Can same sex couples apply?

Males and females, unmarried, married or de facto, in a same-sex relationship, employed full- or part-time, and from any cultural background can all be carers. Anyone who is dedicated to creating a stable, safe, and supportive environment is welcome to apply to be a foster carer.

Can I still be a foster carer if I'm renting?

Yes. Regardless of whether you own or rent a property, we are searching for carers who can provide children with a secure, stable, and encouraging environment.

Do I need a blue card to become a carer?

All Foster and Kinship carers and any other household members over the age of 18 are required by law to hold a blue card.

Can I still have guests stay over at my house?

Yes, foster parents are still allowed to have short-term visitors stay at their home. In case the guests decide to stay longer in the carer's home or are frequent visitors, although having a primary household elsewhere, they will be deemed adult household members and will need to possess a blue or exemption card as needed by law.

Can I still go on holidays or travel with a foster child?

If the trip does not interfere with the case plan or family contact plans, a foster child may spend up to three nights travelling inside Queensland with their foster carer.

Depending on the type of child protection order, the child may also travel within the state or abroad with the foster carer with permission from the child's guardian (whether guardianship is with Child Safety or the parents).

Reference: Queensland Government. (2021, June 1). Top questions about foster care. Queensland Government. <https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/foster-kinship-care/foster-kinship-care-become-a-carer/foster-kinship-care-top-questions#pl8>

If you are interested in becoming a carer or would like to know more information, call the Piccaninny Team at 07 4848 1060





Lets talk business



Trading Tracks

The Trading Tracks team is once again fully staffed, and we welcomed Clarrisa Kohler into the team in January in the role of Business Development Officer. Clarissa brings over 25 years' experience working in Government and Non-Government sectors, with experience in administration, justice, community and stakeholder engagement and human resource management. Clarissa is a proud Gooreng Gooreng descendant and Australian South Sea Islander. Clarissa is born and raised in Mackay, she has a passion for working with community and enjoys spending time with her family.

The Trading Tracks team will be coordinating Black Coffee events in the Mackay and Isaac Regions in 2024, with the first one held at the Marabisda Office on the 22 February 2024. This networking event is to provide a platform to connect Indigenous business owners and other professionals to come together to yarn with the aim of building relationships and to grow networks.

This year the program for Trading Tracks will focus on the following areas for workshops and events:

- Grant Writing
- Capability Statement
- Tendering for Local Government
- Social Media content and planning
- Supplying to BHP

Follow and like the Trading Tracks Qld Facebook page for event and workshop dates and locations.

If you are wanting to start a business or already are in business and need some extra assistance or guidance, then please contact Stacey or Clarissa at Trading Tracks on (07) 4848 1060 or email admin@qld.tradingtracks.com.au



Support A Local Indigenous Business!

Latoya Latimer Catering

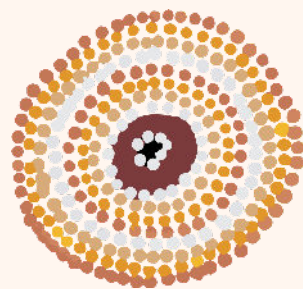
Catering for up to 200 people and can provide corporate catering, parties and special events, catering/grazing boxes, with hot and cold options available.

Contact Latoya on 0421 443 349 or latoyalatimercatering@gmail.com
'Catering Made Affordable'



Indigenous Family Wellbeing Service

Marabinda's Family Wellbeing Team started their Womens' program last week. The program focuses on the wellbeing and mental and physical health of our women. It touches on subjects such as employment and Centrelink support, domestic violence, parenting tips and motherhood and drug and alcohol information. The group also aims to create a social environment where the women can bring their little ones, bond and participate in activities like cooking, craft and wellness journalling. This week the women did some crafty scrapbooking using photos of their children and families. Aunty Sonetta Fewquandie had a chat about motherhood and provided a few tips for mums with babies. Nazareth Ahmat from services Australia also spoke to the women about the support available through Services Australia



PARENTING TIP

Having realistic expectations:

All children are individuals and learn and develop uniquely and at different paces. A child may take longer to learn a new skill such as putting clothes on, toileting or expressing emotions healthily. It's important to understand your child's capabilities and struggles and to be realistic about when your child is ready to learn a new skill.

If you are seeking support for your family, you can self refer to our Family Wellbeing program here;
<https://qld-families-referrals.infoxchangeapps.net.au/>
or google "Indigenous Family Wellbeing Service"

Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) is a holistic perspective of health which incorporates various elements, including:

- Connection to country
- Connection to culture
- Connection to spirit, spirituality, and ancestors
- Connection to body
- Connection to mind and emotions
- Connection to family and kinship
- Connection to community

The SEWB strategy is all about the healthy growth and development of children and young people from infancy to age 18 and throughout life.

All children are at risk, but Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are sadly more so because of their unique circumstances, which include the prevalence of disadvantage, gaps in schooling and life expectancy.


In Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander societies, family, community, and cultural life revolve around the role and upbringing of children. Communities' kinship links, structures, and processes "grow children up" to comprehend and participate in all facets of life. Families and communities have a shared duty in fostering a child's sense of safety. Indigenous Australians make investments in their children in order to preserve their traditions, rituals, and storytelling. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples facing difficulties, kinship, connection to the land, spirituality and heritage, and cultural continuity are all significant protective elements and sources of resilience, strength, and healing.

MARABISDA BINGO!!

Last Friday of every month



AT GOOSIES
NORTH MACKAY



Youpla Group funeral benefits program

On 8 February 2024, the Australian Government announced that the Youpla Support Program will replace the Youpla Group Funeral Benefits Program from 1 July 2024.

The new Youpla Support Program will help former Youpla Group or Aboriginal Community Benefit Fund (ACBF) members affected by the Youpla Group collapse to conduct Sorry Business with dignity.

Up to 30 June 2024

If a loved one has passed away and was a fund member on or after 1 April 2020, families can apply for a funeral benefit payment under the current Youpla Group Funeral Benefits Program.

This benefit payment can be used to help cover funeral costs.

For more information, including eligibility and how to submit an application visit: treasury.gov.au/youpla or call 1800 296 989.

From 1 July 2024

The Youpla Support Program will operate from 1 July 2024 until 1 July 2026.

Under this Program, former Youpla Group members who held an active policy on or after 1 August 2015 can apply to receive a resolution payment.

The resolution payment will help families recover from the financial loss and conduct Sorry Business with dignity.

For more information on the new program visit niaa.gov.au/youpla

You can also subscribe to receive updates for the new Youpla Support Program at: niaa.gov.au/youpla or by contacting the National Indigenous Australians Agency on 1800 079 098.

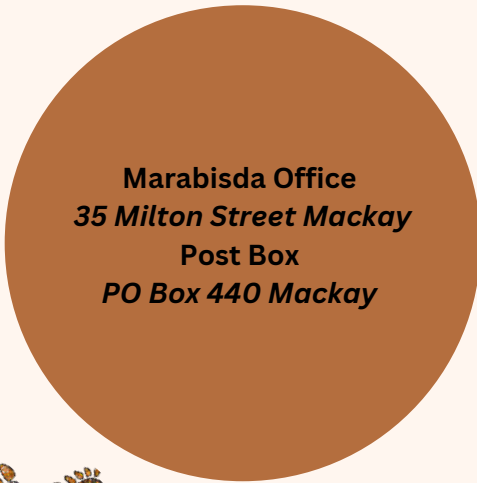
Reference: Australian Government. (2024, January 25). Youpla Support Program. National Indigenous Australians Agency. <https://www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/grants-and-funding/youpla-support-program>



Reference: The healing foundation. (2021). Social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB) is a holistic ... <https://healingfoundation.org.au/app/uploads/2021/08/Social-and-Emotional-Wellbeing.pdf>

Management Committee Members

- Samantha Bliss (Chairperson)
- Adrienne Barnett (Secretary)
- Aice Sambo
- Adam Doull (Vice Chairperson)
- Stacey Kreyts
- Brendan Bishop (Treasurer)



**MARABISDA INC.
Contact Details**

Email: admin@marabisda.org.au
Phone: 07 4848 1060

**Important contacts for Parents
and Carers:**

Foster and Kinship Carer Support

Line 1300 729 309
Mon-Fri 5pm-11.30pm
Sat-Sun-7am- 11.30pm

Child Safety After-Hours Service

1800 177 135
(Emergencies, urgent child
protection matters and critical
incidents)

ParentLine
1300 301 300

(Telephone counselling service for
parents and carers)

Foster Care Queensland

07 3256 6166

Provides information, support and
advocacy to all foster and kinship
carers in QLD

