

April 2026 NEWSLETTER



35 Milton Street, Mackay 07 4848 1060 admin@marabisda.org.au

marabisda.org.au

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work, the Yuwibara people, and pay our respect to their Ancestors, Elders, and future leaders.

 [Marabisda Inc.](#)

 [marabisda](#)

A welcome message from our CEO



Adrienne Barnett

Hi everyone –

After an almost 4-month absence on extended sick leave, I've returned to work in January.

My sick leave was sudden and unexpected and consisted of almost 2 months in Hospital (including a stint in ICU) and another couple of months recovering. This time made me reflect on how we often take good health for granted and great appreciation for our public health system and the Hospital and Health Service here in Mackay.

This time of sickness also led me to reevaluate my priorities and commit to ensuring that I take better care of myself physically, spiritually, and emotionally.

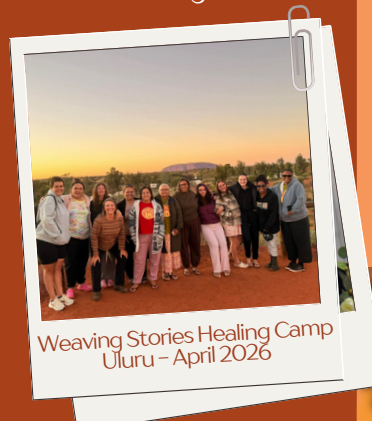
During that time, MARABISDA continued with our great work in supporting our vulnerable families and our very capable and skilled Board of Directors stepped in and supported staff and operations, making sure that we met our commitments to families and funding bodies. Thank you everyone for your help and support during this time.

As a result of this, our staffing levels have increased to take on some of the ever-expanding responsibilities of the organisation, that include HR systems and processes, finance systems and reporting, and our marketing and communications functions.

We welcome Teanna Ramsamy into our Operations Manager role, Jess Hale-Tale as our Finance Officer, and Keely Pitt who has accepted the role of Marketing and Communications Officer. All three of our new staff members make a fantastic contribution to ensuring MARABISDA remains operationally and financially viable and that our services and programs are understood and accessible to community members needing our help.

We've also been busy recruiting to our Piccaninny Foster and Kinship Care Service, Indigenous Family Wellbeing Service, and Family Participation Program and we'll be able to introduce you to these new staff members in our upcoming newsletter editions and facebook page.

I hope you enjoy reading our Newsletter and learning more about our organisation and the services and programs that we deliver – feel free to follow our facebook page to keep up to date on what's happening and get involved in any of our activities and events.



Weaving Stories Healing Camp
Uluru – April 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

BYY Mother's Day Event



May 6th
10am-12.30pm

contact: Sally
0422 249 569

BYY Playgroup



May 7th



9:30am-11:30am

contact: Drene
0432 322 361

Marabisda Cent



Sale

May 23rd
11am Start



Andergrove
Community Hall

MEET THE PICCANINNY TEAM



Megan
MANAGER



Tina
FOSTER CARER
SUPPORT



Danielle
FOSTER CARER
SUPPORT



Nettie
KINSHIP CARER
SUPPORT

program spotlight!

Piccaninny Foster & Kinship Care

Piccaninny's goal is to ensure Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children can grow up safely in their own cultural community. They offer Kinship & Foster care workers to provide advice and support to carers where there is current Child Protection involvement. With their recent move to 2/17 Macalister Street, they have a large focus on family contact & providing a safe place for children.



client success story

In June 2016, a family stepped forward to become Kinship Carers for their great niece, aged 15 months old.

The family identified that cultural protocols, values, and the family's wishes to keep the baby connected to family, culture and community influenced their decision to become Kinship Carers. Initially, the child was cared for by two sisters (great aunties to the child) but after some time, the family chose to have one primary carer.

Carers' primary motivation was her genuine commitment and belief that family-based placements, where possible, are in the best interest of any child requiring an out-of-home placement. From the time the child came into care to now, aged 11, Carer wanted the child to be a happy, healthy child with a stable, consistent and nurturing home environment, which Carer continues to provide.

Over the last 10 years, Carer has had an effective relationship between all members of the care team. By providing ongoing visits, meetings, appointments, multiple Child Safety Officers, the Piccaninny Foster and Kinship Care Service team has supported Carer on the fostering journey.

In March 2026, Carer was finally granted Long Term Guardianship of her great niece. Guardianship will allow Carer to make the final decisions in relation to the child without the assistance of the care team. Carer will no longer be labelled a Carer, only a loving, committed Great Aunt.

Parenting Tip

“Connection before Correction”

Take a moment to connect with your child – get on their level, listen & acknowledge their feelings before correcting their behaviour. Children often respond better when they feel heard or understood.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Our children are our future, keep them strong, keep them connected”

program updates



FAMILY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM (FPP)

FPP helps you understand the worries that Child Safety may have with your family and work with you to keep your family together through a Family Led Decision Making Meeting with your family to discuss and determine how you are going to keep your children safe

Syed has just started his new course of the Circle of Security Parenting Program running every Tuesday – this aims to help parents respond to their child’s emotional needs, fostering resilience and better behaviour overall



INDIGENOUS FAMILY WELLBEING SERVICE (IFWS)

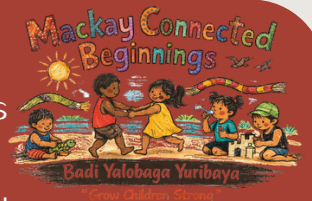
Earlier this month, Marabisda farewelled one of our dedicated Family Wellbeing Support Workers, Henry Viti.

We thank him for his compassion & support, and wish him the very best for the future, he will truly be missed!



MACKAY CONNECTED BEGINNINGS

Hi families, the Badi Yalobaga Yuribaya Team has had a busy and rewarding April. Our team completed car seat training to ensure our bubs can travel safely to appointments, and we kicked off Term 2 playgroup indoors at Hamlet Street, sharing a lovely morning of learning through play, including a respectful ANZAC activity to acknowledge those who served. We’re proud to continue our weekly Badi Yalobaga Yuribaya – Grow Children Strong Radio Hour on My105 every Thursday from 6–7pm, and to have connected with community at events including MCFC Welcome Day, Deadly Choices 10 Year Celebration, and the ATSICHS Colour Run.





PICCANINNY KINSHIP & FOSTER CARE

EXCITING NEWS: PICCANINNY HAVE MOVED!

You can now find us at **2/17 Macalister Street, Mackay**

Our team is also growing – We have Tiomee Ramsamy coming onboard on the 7th of May as a Kinship Carer Support Worker!

We have another role opening up soon that we will be advertising for so please stay tuned.

DELEGATED AUTHORITY

We are now officially a full-strength team of 3 staff! We recently onboarded a DA Manager – Janee Choppy, & DA Practitioner – Kerri Takai. A big shout out to DA practitioner Tarita, our CEO AB & Principal Team Leader Kobi-Lee Ramsamy for sustaining the DA space whilst recruitment was being completed.

We look forward to supporting more families in our community!



ABORIGINAL TORRES STRAIT ISLAND DOMESTIC FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAM (ATSIDFVSS)

Lee, Tiwi & an amazing group of clients have just arrived back from a week away at the Weaving Stories Healing Camp – Uluru. This camp allowed the group to step out of their comfort zone & embrace culture and learning

The ladies had an amazing time and saw some even more amazing sights!



TRADING TRACKS

We are currently working on the 2026 NAIDOC Business Awards – with EOI for nominations live right now!



Check out the form & nominate your Indigenous business [here](#)



We also have our Yarnz Network coming up on the 7th of May for local Indigenous business owners & stakeholders to yarn and connect

Please email if you'd like to register
admin@qld.tradingtracks.com.au



EOI NAIDOC Business Awards Nomination

Marabinda Programs

Piccaninny Kinship & Foster Care	Piccaninny's Kinship & Foster Care workers support with Recruitment of both Foster & Kinship Carers, initial & ongoing training, assessment of carers, high quality carer support, home visits and family contact
Indigenous Family Wellbeing Service	IFWS help Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander families to access culturally responsive support to improve their social, emotional, physical & spiritual wellbeing
Family Participation Program	FPP works as a team with you and your family when Child Safety is involved to help give you a voice & choice about your children. They support & guide you to be involved in the decision-making process for your children
Delegated Authority	Delegated Authority aims to improve the outcomes for and address the disproportionate representation of Indigenous children in the child protection system They walk alongside families, creating family time & connection plans, aiming to support children & parents in developing positive long term relationships
ATSIDFVSS	ATSIDFVSS supports families to overcome trauma and develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to regain control of their lives, families have access to specialised counselling, training in life skills & links to health, legal & specialist services
Mackay Connected Beginnings (Badi Yalobaga Yuribaya)	Badi Yalobaga Yuribaya empowers families, early childhood and health services to work together so Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enter school ready to learn. They are committed to closing the gap in educational outcomes by supporting confident, capable young learners
Trading Tracks	Trading Tracks mission is to build strong, sustainable Indigenous businesses by increasing economic participation and supporting long-term success. The program focuses on developing capability, facilitating access to the right supports, and empowering Indigenous enterprises to grow within their local communities

SELF REFER HERE



Aunty Sonetta's Recipe LAMP CHOP STEW

Ingredients:

- 2 x trays lamb forequarter chop
- 2 x onions
- 2 x heaped teaspoons of Garlic & Ginger
- 4 x large carrots
- 3 x large potatoes
- ¼ Pumpkin
- ¼ Cabbage
- 2 x Beef stock cubes
- Old Cathay soya sauce

Method:

1. Cut fat off chops & cut into pieces keeping some meat on the bones
2. Dice onions
3. Place onions, garlic & ginger in saucepan – fry with a little oil
4. Place lamb chop pieces into pot & cover with water
5. Add two stock cubes
6. Add soya sauce to your preferred colour
7. Cut carrots & dice potatoes
8. Add to stew when chops are nearly tender
9. Cook on medium until chops are tender
10. Cut pumpkin into medium pieces & shred cabbage
11. Add pumpkin & cabbage to stew
 - May need to add more soya sauce
 - Serve with rice



Check out our new brochure designs!



What have we been up to?

Delegated Authority Community of Practice

On the 4th & 5th of March in Meanjin, Our CEO AB & Tarita from our DA Program attended the QATSICPP Delegated Authority Community of Practice where they reflected on the origins of Delegated Authority and its role in strengthening culturally governed decision making, reinforcing the importance of community leadership, cultural authority and shared responsibility in achieving better outcomes for Indigenous families.



Healing our Child and Young People Workshop

On the 26th of March, Lee & Tiwi from our Domestic Violence program attended the QATSICPP workshop focusing on the implementation of Healing our Children and Young People Framework. Participants revisited the framework and explored the critical pillars required for children and young people's healing & identifying strengths and gaps across local and statewide responses.



Deadly Choices x Mackay Base Hospital 10yr Partnership Anniversary Celebration

Marabisda attended this event & brought along a stall. It was a beautiful day with a range of fun activities where community and businesses were able to yarn and connect



Car Seat Training

On the 31st of March, a large group of our team participated in Car Seat Training to refresh their knowledge. Marabisda is ensuring that we are looking after children with safety & care at all times



QATSICPP Site Visit Workshop

QATSICPP visited the Marabisda office to host a "Healing our Children and Young People: Domestic and Family Violence Framework Implementation Workshop"

We would like to thank Annette & Karla for facilitating the session! Our staff had very meaningful discussions to support safer and stronger futures for our community



Aboriginal Hostel Easter BBQ

our Mackay Connected Beginnings & IFWS programs have been working with MCFC to host BBQs at the Aboriginal Hostel

During the week of Easter, they provided gift bags to the children, fun easter egg hunt activities & connected with families



QATSICPP (Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak)

QATSICPP is the peak body in Queensland representing 35 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander community-controlled child protection organisations. It advocates for the rights, safety and wellbeing of First Nations children, young people and families

Their vision is that all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people are physically, emotionally and spiritually strong, live in safe and caring environments within their own families and communities, and are afforded the same life opportunities available to all children and young people to achieve their full potential

Marabinda Word Search

PROGRAM THEME: DELEGATED AUTHORITY

D	A	B	L	O	N	E	F	C	R	E	P	I	L	T
R	E	S	I	N	Y	T	Y	W	N	O	Y	T	R	S
L	U	C	T	W	T	N	D	I	M	B	R	L	H	F
E	M	O	I	R	I	R	P	L	R	I	E	G	B	U
B	L	M	T	S	L	U	N	B	H	U	S	C	O	N
W	E	M	P	N	I	C	S	T	V	A	P	K	F	O
A	D	U	B	E	B	O	J	N	B	M	O	N	C	A
O	G	N	A	I	A	N	N	E	O	P	N	P	M	L
N	K	I	C	R	T	F	H	M	Q	E	S	J	D	U
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P	E	A	O	A	U	D	D	E	I	K	B	Y	A	N
C	Q	T	U	K	O	E	F	W	P	M	I	W	R	S
J	H	I	O	A	C	N	U	O	C	T	L	N	M	P
F	P	O	B	N	C	C	G	P	B	Y	I	E	G	O
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I	L	H	A	M	C	I	F	K	D	B	S	E	G	T

- DECISION MAKING
- RESPONSIBILITY
- TRUST
- EMPOWERMENT

- ACCOUNTABILITY
- SUPERVISION
- CONFIDENCE
- COMMUNICATION

Understanding matters

Did you know...

That our ATSIFDVSS team provides court support to both male and females who have matters before the courts!

We can provide support with DVO applications, LVP (Leaving Violences Program) applications & VOC (Victims of Crime) applications.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY?

Relationships Australia
Mackay Open Day

May 27
11AM-1PM
123 Victoria Street,
Mackay

Empowering Parent
Information Session

May 13
6PM to 7PM
CQU Ooralea, Cook
Theatre

[Register Here](#)

Mackay Show
2026

June 16-18

If you would like to know more information please contact the Coordinator Lee George on 0428 481 326

**PROVIDED BY ABORIGINAL TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
DOMESTIC FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAM**

Mackay & surrounding support services

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB:

providing family programs, volunteer opportunities, crisis support, early childhood management, financial well-being services, food donations, educational workshops, support for multicultural communities and newly arrived migrants

PH 4957 2626

ATSICHS:

ATSICHS Mackay Ltd is committed to providing holistic health care to raise the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ATSICHS Mackay Ltd Service Area.

PH 4957 9400

BRAVEHEARTS:

Our Mission is to provide a coordinated and holistic approach to the prevention and treatment of child sexual abuse.

PH 4953 6600

TOGETHER STRONG CONNECTED CARE:

is a free, culturally safe, community-based initiative targeting Type 2 Diabetes for Aboriginal, Torres Strait, and Australian South Sea Islander people

PH 0477 365 283

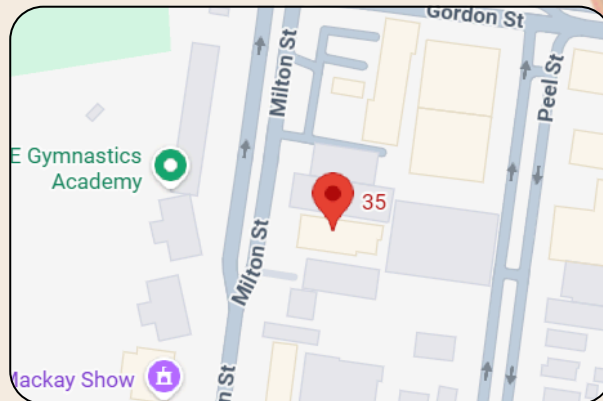
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MARABISDA WEBSITE



MARABISDA FACEBOOK



MARABISDA INSTAGRAM

