

# July 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*

Wadda Mooli all -

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDRENS DAY

August 4<sup>th</sup>  
Slade Point State School Hall  
9:30am-11:30am

- Sausage Sizzle
- Gift Bags
- Activities
- Animals
- Lucky Door Prize
- Face Painting
- Jumping Castles



contact: Zoe 0422 248 984

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

The Family Wellbeing Service and Family Participation Program will be providing an activity in Dysart and Moranbah in the September school holidays. These two events are in partnership with Girudala/Bowen. Through these activities we will promote the services offered at Marabisda and Girudala to let communities know what support they can receive.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE  
DETAILS

## The Yarnz Network

Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>  
2026

MORE DETAILS  
COMING SOON!

Mackay really showed up for our NAIDOC once again. I reckon we have one of the best NAIDOC Family Day celebrations in Queensland with our Deadly Street Parade and big day at Queens Park. A massive THANK YOU to the NAIDOC Committee for 2026 - Auntie Sonetta, Syed, Karlie, Jackson, Nikki and Auntie Mulum from Mackay Regional Council helping us all out. It wouldn't have happened without you and I know from personal experience, it is a demanding and mentally challenging time dealing with all of the requirements of Government agencies and individual community members. We thank you for your dedication to ensuring that all of Mackay got the opportunity to celebrate with us in the Annual Street Parade and Family Day at Queens Park.



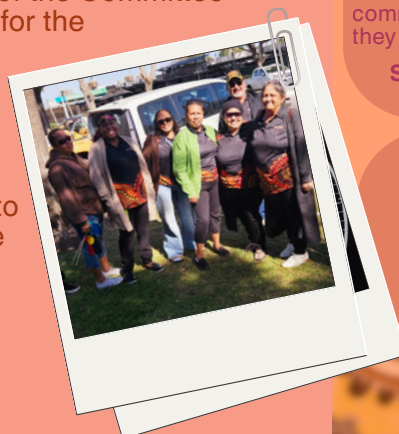
A massive thank you also to all of the community members and community organisations and agencies that arranged and held NAIDOC Week events throughout NAIDOC Week that included the Curtis Bobongie Memorial Bro-Am, the Senior and Junior Mr & Mrs NAIDOC Quests, Mackay NAIDOC Awards Night, Murrioke, ATSICHS NAIDOC Day @ MSHS and PCYC NAIDOC Celebrations just to mention a few. It's always fantastic to see our mob out and

about enjoying themselves and celebrating our community and culture and being proud in who we are and how far we've come

The NAIDOC Committee will be holding an AGM soon and are looking forward to having interested community members attend and put their hands up for Committee positions for the coming year. If you feel you can contribute and would like an opportunity to help mob celebrate, please don't hesitate to make contact with one of the Committee members to find out further details, or keep an eye and ear out for the Annual General Meeting details as these will be announced on my105fm and posted on the Mackay NAIDOC facebook page.

MARABISDA is continuing to help our regional communities celebrate NAIDOC by attending at Moranbah's celebrations on Sunday 26 July 2026. This will be the first time we've been out to Moranbah for their NAIDOC Parade and Market Day and I hope that we can make it out there annually to support our Isaac brothers and sisters in their festivities.

Regards,  
AB



# program spotlight!

## MEET THE IFWS SARINA TEAM

*Sonetta*



MANAGER

*Keisha*



IFWS SARINA  
SUPPORT WORKER

*Peter*



IFWS SARINA  
SUPPORT WORKER

## *Indigenous Family Wellbeing Service Sarina*

We'd like to let everyone know about our Marabisda Indigenous Family Wellbeing Service in Sarina. Our Sarina office has now been open for around 12 months, and we're excited to see more local families accessing support.

Our office is staffed by two dedicated local workers, Keisha Anson and Peter Warcon, who are passionate about supporting their community. They work closely with individuals and families who may need some extra support and are always happy to help.

Keisha and Peter also support families in Middlemount and Clermont, and we're proud to be able to provide services across these communities as well. While it's a long drive, we're committed to making sure families in these areas can access the support they need.

If you're passing by, feel free to drop in and say hello or stop by for a yarn. We'd love to meet you.

If you'd like to refer yourself or someone who may benefit from support, you can make a referral online at:  
<https://familysupportreferral.org.au>



## *Success story of July!*

### **Take a look at the impact made by our Marabisda programs working hand in hand to support community!**

We have a Kinship carer, who is the children's paternal grandmother, who has provided full-time care for her three grandchildren, aged 10, 8, and 7 years, since September 2024. Throughout the placement, the carer has been actively supported by Piccaninny in facilitating the reunification of the children with their father. Additional support has been provided through Family Wellbeing Service, which has worked collaboratively with the father to strengthen his parenting capacity and support the reunification process.

As a result of the coordinated interventions and ongoing support provided to the family, all three children are scheduled to be reunified with their father in early August 2026.

The carer expressed a high level of satisfaction with the support received from Marabisda Services throughout the placement and reunification process. Expressing her positive experience and acknowledgement of the practical guidance, advocacy, and ongoing assistance provided during a significant period of transition for the children and their family.



Always give your child 'Clear, calm instructions' if you want them to do something.

Some examples are: **Stop playing ball in the house, we play with the ball outside. Please pick up the toys. Keep your hands to yourself.**

- Get close to your child.
- Get down to your child's eye level.
- Gain your child's attention.
- Get eye contact if possible.
- Using a calm voice, say exactly what you want your child to do.
- Pause briefly to give your child time to do as you ask.
- Praise co-operation.
- If appropriate, repeat your instruction
- If necessary, back up your instruction with a consequence.

## Parenting Tip

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH



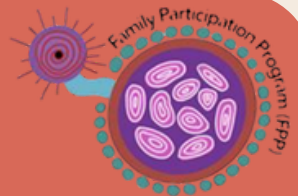
"It's a very Aboriginal thing to do, to give younger people greater responsibilities within the community as they become able to take those responsibilities on. It is a culturally appropriate transfer of roles that involves respect in both directions.. from the younger to the older and the older to the younger"

Jackie Huggins

## program updates



### FAMILY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM (FPP)/INDIGENOUS FAMILY WELLBEING SERVICE (IFWS)

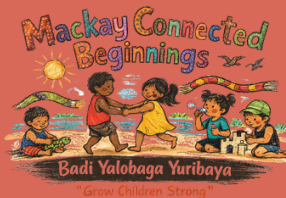


#### Moranbah NAIDOC

Marabisda had an invite from Barada Barna to attend their NAIDOC Celebrations on Sunday 26/07/26 by having a stall at the Moranbah Markets. 8 staff attended and had a great day. Staff participated in their NAIDOC March and some attended the formal gathering to listen to speeches by Barada Barna Chairperson Graeme Budby, Mayor Kelly Vea Vea, and other speakers from the Moranbah community. It was also great seeing other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dancing performances. Marabisda provided our organisation information as well as free give-aways which everyone appreciated. The day was completed by attending the beautiful art display in the Library which was another highlight of this trip.

## MACKAY CONNECTED BEGINNINGS

July was a busy and exciting month for Team Badi Yalobaga Yuribaya as we joined families, services, and Community in celebrating NAIDOC Week across Mackay. A highlight was proudly walking together in the NAIDOC Street Parade and connecting with everyone at the Family Fun Day in Queens Park. We are also excited to welcome Uncle Patrick Thaiday to playgroup this term, where our deadly little learners will connect to culture through song, dance, storytelling, and language.



## 21st Edition Empowered Digital Magazine - Trauma ASSIST



[ACCESS HERE](#)

### WHAT IS ADDICTION?

Addiction is a complex condition characterized by the compulsive use of a substance or engagement in a behaviour despite harmful consequences

### SYMPTOMS OF ADDICTION:

Using the activity to cope, obsessing over the habit, interference with daily life, difficulty controlling behaviour, negative impact on health and relationships, changes in mood or behaviour

IDENTIFYING THESE SYMPTOMS IS A VITAL STEP IN SEEKING HELP AND EMBARKING ON A ROAD TO RECOVERY

"ASKING FOR HELP ISN'T THE MOMENT YOU ADMIT WEAKNESS - IT'S THE MOMENT YOU DECIDE TO TAKE YOUR STRENGTH BACK"



## PICCANINNY KINSHIP & FOSTER CARE

This month, the Piccaninny team is excited to share that our Family Contact Centre is almost ready to open, creating a welcoming space for families to connect.

Our team also attended the two-day Strengthening the Frontline training with Walk About Barber, focusing on mental health and wellbeing. The training equipped staff with valuable tools to support their own wellbeing so they can continue providing the best possible support to our community.

## DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The DA Team was proud to be part of the 2026 NAIDOC celebrations, joining the community on Yuwi Country for a wonderful day of connection, culture, and celebration.

A big thank you to the NAIDOC Committee for their hard work and dedication in organising such a successful event.

Our next community engagement event will be Child Protection Week – 12th–16th September "Every Conversation Matters: Shift Conversation to Action"



## ABORIGINAL TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER DOMESTIC FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAM (ATSIDFVSS)

Lyndon and Lee attended the She Is Not Your Rehab – How to Do the Work professional development workshop facilitated by Matt Brown, founder of the global anti-violence movement She Is Not Your Rehab. The training focused on understanding the impacts of intergenerational trauma, promoting accountability, fostering healthy masculinities, and strengthening trauma-informed responses when working with individuals and families affected by domestic and family violence.

The workshop provided practical strategies for engaging with victim survivors and people using violence through a lens of compassion, responsibility, and healing. Key learnings included recognising the role of unresolved trauma, building authentic therapeutic relationships, encouraging personal accountability, and supporting long-term behavioural change while maintaining victim safety as the highest priority.

Attendance at this training has strengthened the team's capacity to deliver culturally safe, trauma-informed, and evidence-informed services within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family & Domestic Violence Support Service, enhancing engagement with clients experiencing complex trauma and contributing to improved outcomes for individuals, families, and communities.

## TRADING TRACKS

There's lots happening at Queensland Trading Tracks (QTT)! We're excited to welcome back Kerri Bickey and introduce our newest team member Shae Ridgeway, who has hit the ground running supporting our NAIDOC Week celebrations and continuing to strengthen connections with our First Nations business community.



A special shout out to Venita Mooney from Ochre Lens for working tirelessly over the past few weeks capturing NAIDOC celebrations. Vee, we are so proud of you and the amazing work you do!

QTT proudly celebrated the NAIDOC Business Awards alongside the Mr and Miss NAIDOC Awards Night, an incredible evening recognising the achievements, resilience and contributions of our local First Nations community.

Congratulations to our award winners,

**Hale Tass Business Solutions – Small Enterprise Winner**  
**Budby Yaga Group – Large Enterprise Winner**





# Marabinda Programs

|                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Piccaninny Kinship &amp; Foster Care</b>                 | 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                                                                                                         |
| <b>Indigenous Family Wellbeing Service</b>                  | IFWS help Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander families to access culturally responsive support to improve their social, emotional, physical & spiritual wellbeing                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Family Participation Program</b>                         | 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                                                                                                |
| <b>Delegated Authority</b>                                  | Delegated Authority aims to improve the outcomes for and address the disproportionate representation of Indigenous children in the child protection system<br>They walk alongside families, creating family time & connection plans, aiming to support children & parents in developing positive long term relationships  |
| <b>ATSIDFVSS</b>                                            | 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                                                                 |
| <b>Mackay Connected Beginnings (Badi Yalobaga Yuribaya)</b> | 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                               |
| <b>Trading Tracks</b>                                       | 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 CURRIED BEEF

### Ingredients:

|                                     |                    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1.5 kg rump steak                   | Potato             |
| 1 onion                             | Pumpkin            |
| Garlic and ginger (bottle or fresh) | Beans              |
| Soya sauce (old cathay)             | Keens Curry Powder |
| Carrots                             | Gravox             |

### Method:

- 1.5 kg Rump Steak. (depending on how many your feeding) Cut off fat and cut into cubes. (Small pieces)
- Put Onion, a tablespoon of garlic and ginger in pot and fry lightly in a bit of oil.
- Place rump steak in the pot and fry lightly until brown then cover with water.
- Cook until meat nearly tender.
- Add half a cup of soya sauce to meat.
- Add carrots and beans.
- Cook until carrots are tender.
- Add potato.
- Put 3 heaped tablespoons of gravox and 2 heaped tablespoons of curry in a cup. Mix together. Add to pot.
- Stir until slightly thick. Not too thick. We want to have curry zura.
- When potatoes are almost cooked add pumpkin. Mix all together.



## Check out our new business card designs!



# BRAND NEW MARABISDA WEBSITE!

We are incredibly excited to officially launch the new MARABISDA website!

A heartfelt thank you to Savannah from Realm Studio for her dedication, creativity, and the incredible care she put into bringing our vision to life. Savannah beautifully captured the warmth, connection and welcoming nature of the Marabisda brand, creating a website that truly reflects who we are and the communities we support.

It is more than just a website, it is a space that feels inviting, informative and accessible for everyone.

Our website will now be the central place to stay up to date with Marabisda. You'll find our latest newsletters, upcoming events and program information. If you have any questions, feedback or enquiries, please don't hesitate to contact us through the website.

**CHECK OUT OUR BRAND NEW MARABISDA WEBSITE – [HERE](#)**



Support Savannah's local Indigenous business & check out all the amazing work she does!



[Realm Studio](#)



[realmstudio](#)

## EVENT FLYERS

**NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN'S DAY**

📍 SLADE POINT STATE SCHOOL HALL  
9:30AM-11:30AM | **AUGUST 4TH**

• sausage sizzle • local organisations • gift bags  
• activities • animals • lucky door prizes  
• face painting • jumping castles

FOR ANY QUESTIONS  
CONTACT ZOE  
0422 248 984



**BADI YALOBAGA YURIBAYA PLAYGROUP**

TERM 3 2026 FIRST NATIONS BUBS 0-5YRS

Play, learn & grow together in a welcoming space for little ones and their families

**9:30AM-11:30AM**

**JULY 16TH**  
📍 NORTHVIEW PARK, GLENELLA

**JULY 30TH**  
📍 HARBOUR PARK (SURF-CLUB SIDE)

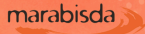
**AUGUST 13TH**  
📍 JOHN GREEN PARK

**AUGUST 27TH – CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK EVENT!**  
"PICNIC IN THE GARDENS" 📍 BOTANICAL GARDENS

**SEPTEMBER 10TH**  
📍 QUEENS PARK

CONTACT DETAILS  
Drene 0432 322 361  
Sally 0422 249 569



**CENSUS**  
Information Day

**MONDAY AUGUST 10TH**  
9AM-11AM  
35 MILTON STREET, MARABISDA OFFICE

**What is the Australian Census?**  
The Census survey happens every five years & collects important information about our communities, it helps services like MARABISDA get the funding we need to continue supporting our mob & helps the government understand the needs of our community.

**Come along for a short education session provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census workers & receive one-on-one support if needed!**

✓ SAUSAGE SIZZLE PROVIDED 

✓ CLIENT TRANSPORT PROVIDED 



# What have we been up to?

## NAIDOC BRO-AM GOLF



## NAIDOC Flag Raising & Fun Day



## Moranbah NAIDOC Celebrations



## "Strengthening the Frontline" 2 Day Training - with Walkabout Barber Brian Dowd





# Marabisda Word Search

PROGRAM THEME: BADI YALOBAGA YURIBAYA

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

- BELONGING
- STRENGTH
- HOPE
- GROWTH

- TRUST
- HEALING
- LEARNING
- IDENTITY



# Understanding matters

*Did you know...*

October is Indigenous Business Month! 🎉 The First Nations Business Expo is returning in October 2026 to celebrate Indigenous Business Month. Stay tuned for registration details!

PROVIDED BY QUEENSLAND TRADING TRACKS



## Mackay & surrounding support services

### CASA:

CASA (Community Accommodation & Support Agency) provides crisis accommodation, community housing, and tenancy support. It helps people find stable homes, prevents homelessness, and offers financial or care programs. **PH 4951 4299**



### 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**



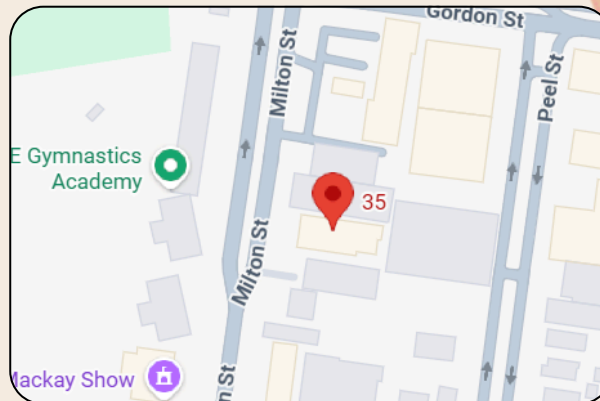
# contact us!



**ABN 32094705973**

**PH 07 4848 1060**

**EMAIL ADMIN@MARABISDA.ORG.AU**



## MARABISDA OFFICE

**35 MILTON STREET, MACKAY  
PO BOX 440 MACKAY 4740**



MARABISDA WEBSITE



MARABISDA FACEBOOK



MARABISDA INSTAGRAM

