

June 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 all -

As you may be aware, the Queensland Government has released the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry's final report, From Pressure to Purpose: Reforming Child Protection in Queensland. This report contains 52 recommendations that, if implemented as outlined, have the potential to significantly reshape the child protection system and impact long-term outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, families and communities. It presents opportunities for generational reform, but also carries significant risks if implementation is not led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, families, communities and the community-controlled sector. The Queensland Government is expected to publicly respond by early August, outlining which recommendations it supports. Our peak body Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP) are leading our Sector's response to the Inquiry report and speaking with CEOs from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations like MARABISDA to let the Government know how the implementation of these recommendations will affect our communities for generations to come.



MARABISDA has welcomed more new Staff on board - Piccaninny have welcomed Kahmia Raikaki to their Team - Kahmia will be taking on the role of Family Time Worker. Her responsibilities will be aligned with the new Family Contact Room, liaising with parents, carers and children and supervising and coordinating these visits.

Greta Pauling has also started with the Indigenous Family Wellbeing Team filling the big shoes that Henry left behind. We welcome Greta and look forward to working with and learning from her experience in this workspace.

As we head into 50 Years of NAIDOC Celebrations this year, I've also been reflecting back on the 30 odd years of Mackay NAIDOC Celebrations that I've attended or been personally involved in organising. Thank you to this year's organising Committee - it's such a big job and a voluntary one as Committee members give up their time to make sure that the community has a wonderful and safe NAIDOC Street Parade and Family Day. They also coordinate a NAIDOC Events Calendar that's distributed to community and should be available on many of our community organisations' facebook pages. We have included a copy in this Newsletter for you.



UPCOMING EVENTS



NAIDOC WEEK
50 YEARS DEADLY
5-12 JULY 2026

NAIDOC BRO AM GOLF

4 Ball Ambrose Golf



Saturday, July 4th

Melalucca Golf Course

7:15am Enrol
8:00am Tee off



contact:
megan@marabisda.org.au

NAIDOC ACTIVITIES - KIDS IN CARE



Piccaninny Foster & Kinship Care

Wednesday, July 8th

2/17 Macalister Street,
Mackay



contact:
megan@marabisda.org.au

NAIDOC FAMILY FUN DAY

Friday, July 10th
Queens Park
11am-3pm



COME VISIT OUR
MARABISDA STALL!

- Children's Activities
- Resources
- All programs there for any enquires

Thanks everyone and Happy NAIDOC

MACKAY NAIDOC INCORPORATED

NAIDOC WEEK 2026

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please note: Event details are subject to change. Additional events may be added.

 Date	 Time	 Event	 Location
Tuesday 30 June 2026	10:00am – 2:00pm	ATSICHS NAIDOC Family Fun Day	Milton Street High School Hall/Oval
Wednesday 1 July 2026	6:00pm – 10:00pm	Elders Evening (BOOKED OUT)	Ocean International Hotel
Thursday 2 July 2026	6pm – 10pm	Mr & Miss NAIDOC / NAIDOC Business Awards	Ocean International Hotel
Saturday 4 July 2026	7:15am Registration 8:00am Tee Off	Bro AM Golf Day	Melaleuca Golf Course
Monday 6 July 2026	9am	Flag Raising Ceremony, Performance & Community Stalls	MRC Front Lawns
Tuesday 7 July 2026	9:30am – 12:30pm	NAIDOC Playgroup	MCFC Celeber Drive
Tuesday 7 July 2026	10:00am	Flag Raising Ceremony	Northern Beaches Police Station
Tuesday 7 July 2026	4:00pm – 8:00pm	NAIDOC Celebrations	PCYC Norris Road
Wednesday 8 July 2026	10:00am – 11:30am	Elders Morning Tea	Yamadi 46 McCallister Street
Thursday 9 July 2026	10:00am – 1:00pm	MHHS NAIDOC Celebrations	Mackay Base Hospital Courtyard
Thursday 9 July 2026	12:00pm – 5:00pm	Stall Set Up For Family Day	Queens Park
Friday 10 July 2026	Gather 9:00am / Step Off 10:00am	NAIDOC Street Parade	Macalister Street
Friday 10 July 2026	11:00am – 3:00pm	NAIDOC Family Fun Day	Queens Park



For updates and enquiries:
mackaynaidoc2026@gmail.com

program spotlight!

MEET THE DA TEAM



Janee
MANAGER



Kerri
DELEGATED
AUTHORITY
PRACTITIONER



Tarita
DELEGATED
AUTHORITY
PRACTITIONER

Delegated Authority

We are looking forward to celebrating NAIDOC with all our families 50 YEARS OF DEADLY.

We continue to work hard for our families, bringing the – Hope Healing & Holding My Hand.

We are working with our children & families to achieve their goals. 😊

If you would like to self-refer – Please speak to 1 on our Practitioners.



client success story

In November 2022, my children were 10, 6, 2 and 6 months old and they were removed from my care.

"My relationship with the children's mother was very toxic, there was domestic violence and we were both using drugs.

Any parent who has had a child removed from their care will tell you it is one of the most painful circumstances they have ever dealt with.

I vividly remember the moment I really realised my children would no longer be with me. I

couldn't just hold them or talk to them whenever I wanted to; I had to have permission.

After my children were removed, some time had passed by, I woke up this one morning, and I thought, this is not what I wanted. I ended my relationship with their mother and went to the Child Safety Office and asked them, "What do I need to do to get my children back?"

Child Safety told me I need to get counselling for the Domestic Violence and Drug use. I would also need to get stable accommodation, get a job, and get my own car. It was from that point that I really started working towards doing everything I could to get my children back.

It took some time, but I worked hard to change. I worked hard to get my children back. I worked hard to be someone that my children would be proud of. I worked hard to be a better person for myself. My children deserved to have a father that stepped up, so I stepped up.

I stepped up by getting a job, and I was then able to buy a car. Then, I was able to get a house, with the help of Child Safety, the Department of Housing and Community organisations supporting my application.

I was referred to MARABISDA and I participated in the family programs that they have there.

When I was having issues with getting extra Family contact with my children, I was referred to the Delegated Authority Program that MARABISDA has. The Delegated Authority Program is there to help people like me to see my kids. They help children to see their Kin, like Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Cousins.

Since receiving support from MARABISDA's DA Program:

- I was able to have increased contact with my children.
- Then I was able to start to have unsupervised contact with my children.
- Then I was able to have my two older children reunified with me. At the beginning of this year, they were both able to live with me fulltime.
- I have now been working towards the reunification of my two younger children into my care fulltime.

I've learned that support is there if I need it, and me not reaching out for help in the very beginning was the biggest mistake I made. For so long, I felt my life was out of control. Now I know I'm where I'm supposed to be with my children, my own little family, and our life together.

Parenting Tip

Talking with children

- Talking with our children helps them learn to speak, teaches conversation and social skills, boosts their self-esteem and promotes their intellectual development.
- Talk with your child about things they are interested in.
- Share ideas and information about what you are doing.
- Listen to your child and show that you are interested.
- Take the time to talk with your children

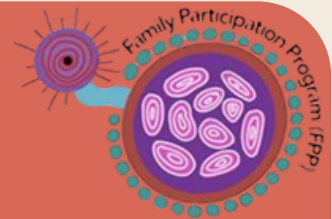
QUOTE OF THE MONTH

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

program updates



FAMILY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM (FPP)



June has been another month of dedication & commitment from our FPP team, they continue to ensure the voices of their families are heard & they actively participate in decision-making, providing culturally safe advocacy & support



INDIGENOUS FAMILY WELLBEING SERVICE (IFWS)

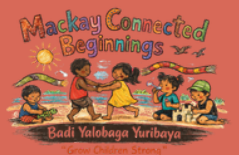
Our IFWS team has had another month where they continue to get out into community & support our local families and businesses

This month they attended the ATSICHS family fun day with a very popular weaving workshop, it was the perfect day & an amazing turn out!



MACKAY CONNECTED BEGINNINGS

The Badi Yalobaga Yuribaya team has had a busy month!



Thank you to all the families that came along to the 2026 NAIDOC Baby Show, the turn out was absolutely amazing and it was beautiful to celebrate our youngest generation & see families come together for a day filled with smiles and special moments

We also attended the ATSICHS family fun day, & loved seeing all the families & kids coming together for some fun during the school holidays

REMINDER: Our playgroup starts back up on July 16th, please contact Drene on 0432 322 361 for more information!



PICCANINNY KINSHIP & FOSTER CARE

We welcome Kahmia Raikaki onboard as our new Family Connection Support Worker!

Kahmia will be supporting families through our Cultural Family Contact Centre, providing safe, meaningful family contact, & ensuring all visits run smoothly

We are super excited for families to see the hard work that's been going on behind the scenes to create our beautiful contact centre

REMINDER: BRO AM is on this Saturday! 7.15am enrol, 8am start!

DELEGATED AUTHORITY

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ABORIGINAL TORRES STRAIT ISLAND DOMESTIC FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAM (ATSIDFVSS)

Our ATSIDFVSS team continues to provide support to Indigenous families across the community, we are committed to creating safe spaces, and walking alongside clients through their journeys

If you are in need of support, please contact the Marabinda office (07) 4848 1060



TRADING TRACKS

We are pleased to welcome Shae Ridgeway to the QTT team as our new Business Development Officer. Shae, a proud Worimi and South Sea Islander woman, commenced with us on 22 June 2026. We are excited to have her join the team and look forward to the valuable knowledge, experience, and community connections she will bring to the program.

The QTT office is currently located on Brisbane Street and will soon be relocating to **Victoria Street**.

During this transition period, you can find us at: **35 Milton Street, MARABINDA Office.**

We will provide further updates regarding our permanent move and new office details as they become available



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

SELF REFER HERE



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

Aunty Sonetta's Recipe CURRY CHEESE BALL

Ingredients:

1 x packet 250g Philadelphia cheese
200g diced bacon (may need to cut smaller)
2 x 250g packets of grated cheese
Small mixed colour capsicums (add how much you'd like)
Shallots (add how much you'd like)
1 x teaspoon gherkin relish
Curry Powder
Paprika



Method:

1. Pull all ingredients in a bowl together and mix through (you need to use your hands for everything to mix properly)
2. Break the mixture up into two to make 2 x cheese balls
3. Sprinkle curry powder & paprika on a board or table and roll the cheese ball until it is covered

Check out our new brochure designs!

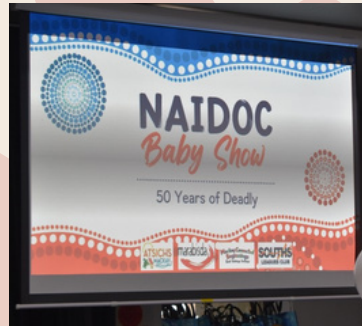


What have we been up to?

Piccaninny Foster Kinship Dinner



Mackay Connected Beginnings Baby Show



ATSICHS Family Fun Day



Marabisa Word Search

PROGRAM THEME: PICCANINNY FOSTER & KINSHIP CARE

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

- FOSTER
- KINSHIP
- NURTURE
- SAFETY

Understanding matters

Did you know...

research has proven that breastfed babies have a higher IQ than bottle fed babies!

PROVIDED BY INDIGENOUS FAMILY
WELLBEING SERVICE

**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

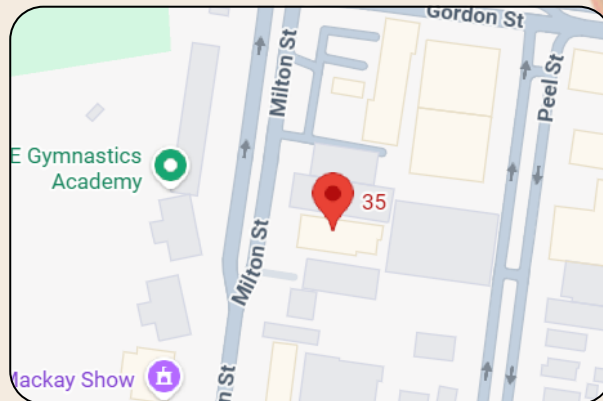
contact us!



ABN 32094705973

PH 07 4848 1060

EMAIL ADMIN@MARABISDA.ORG.AU



MARABISDA WEBSITE



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MARABISDA INSTAGRAM

