

August 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.



A welcome message from our CEO



Adrienne Barnett

The months are flying by now and I can't believe September is nearly here - that means the Indigenous Rugby League Carnival will be the next big thing happening for Murris here in Mackay. We are visited from mob all over the State to participate in this annual event that is much anticipated by many. I would love to know the economic benefit the Carnival brings to Mackay, as there are at least a couple of thousand people here for 3 days staying in motels, eating out and some partying in the nightclubs! We're looking forward to seeing visiting mob and enjoying the atmosphere the Carnival brings. Thanks to the Mackay Stallions again for all their hard work in organising and bringing the Carnival to Mackay.



We also had a visit this month from Knowmore Legal Service - they were out and about to remind people of the upcoming deadline for claims under The National Redress Scheme. The Scheme was established by the Australian Government in response to one of the key recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

If you are eligible for the Scheme, you may be able to receive a monetary payment up to \$150,000, counselling and psychological support, depending on your location and a direct personal response from the responsible institution.

Knowmore are a free and confidential legal service and provide support to people who have survived child sexual abuse. They acknowledge that many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have also experienced intergenerational trauma from government child removal policies, so they are able to work with Murris in a culturally safe and trauma-informed way. Murris can speak with one of their Aboriginal Engagement Advisors. You can call them 1800 605 762 to speak with an Aboriginal Engagement Advisor about a possible claim before next year's deadline.

Trading Tracks have moved office to Suite 3, 123 Victoria Street (the old Suncorp Building) and are ready to help any aspiring First Nations business owners and entrepreneurs achieve their vision. Shardai, Kerry and Shae can help if you are just starting

Congratulations to Shae at Trading Tracks who has won CQ Trainee Of The Year and will be off to Brisbane for the Queensland Training Awards later this year. Shae completed her traineeship with Mackay Regional Council before taking the big step of changing employers. Congratulations again Shae from all of us at MARABISDA and we thank you for choosing to come and work with us!



Read about Shae's journey [HERE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SARINA MEN'S GROUP

EVERY TUESDAY
10AM



CONTACT: PETER
0422 349 540



FIRST NATIONS BUSINESS EXPO

THURSDAY, OCT 22

8:15AM-2:00PM

MECC, NORTH FOYER

Register Attendance [HERE](#)

RSVP by Oct 16th

ISAAC FAMILY WELLBEING DAY

DAY 1 - DYSART

OCT 1ST
10AM-2PM
CENTENARY PARK

DAY 2 - MORANBAH

OCT 2ND
9AM-1PM
TED ROLFE OVAL

MEET THE MCB TEAM

program spotlight!

Mackay Connected Beginnings

Badi Yalobaga Yuribaya kicked off August with celebrations for our 4th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day, in partnership with Mackay Children and Family Centre (MCFC) and Slade Point State School! Our families enjoyed playgroup fun at John Breen Park and a magical morning at "Picnic in the Gardens – Children's Book Week 2026: A Symphony of Stories" at the beautiful Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, with everyone getting into the spirit by dressing as their favourite book characters. Team Badi has also been out and about visiting Eden Academy Beaconsfield, Eden Academy Kerrisdale and Lady Gowrie Bucasia Community Kindergarten for storytime, activities and opportunities to connect our little learners with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. We can't wait to see more of our wonderful families next month!



MANAGER



KINDERGARTEN
ENGAGEMENT OFFICER



CULTURAL
ENGAGEMENT OFFICER



CULTURAL
ENGAGEMENT OFFICER



success story of August

"Every child deserves the right support to feel confident, included and ready for their next big adventure." One of our deadly little learners has taken an important step towards a confident start to Big School!

After first connecting with Badi Yalobaga Yuribaya – Mackay Connected Beginnings through playgroup, our team continued building a trusting relationship with bub and Mum and supported the family through the early childhood education enrolment process. Working alongside Mum and relevant early childhood services, the pathway has now led to an Early Childhood Development Program (ECDP) Kindergarten placement, where bub will have access to specialist expertise and tailored supports to help build skills, confidence and participation.

ECDP brings together professionals who can work with children and families early, helping to identify and put appropriate supports in place before children transition to Prep. For this little learner and their family, this means starting the journey to Big School with a team around them and the opportunity for the right supports to be in place from the beginning.

From a first hello at playgroup to a brighter pathway to Big School—this is what connection, advocacy and walking alongside families can achieve.

Parenting Tips

- **Boost Self-Esteem:** Praise small accomplishments and let kids try tasks on their own
- **Set Clear Limits:** Establish simple house rules and follow through with consistent, calm consequences
- **Prioritize Connection:** Spend special, distraction-free time together every single day
- **Model Good Behaviour:** Show kindness, honesty and respect because children copy what they see

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"For Aboriginal leaders, the social and moral obligation that comes with community leadership is life-long. Those who lead, who have authority, must care for and look after those who come behind."

Patrick Dodson

program updates



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



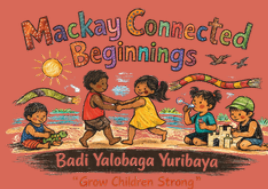
Our Family Wellbeing and Family Participation Programs have been out and about supporting our community, attending events such as the Together for Shelter Homeless Expo and delivering an amazing Youth Program in Sarina.

The team are now busy planning for the Isaac Family Wellbeing Day on the 1st & 2nd of October! If you're in the Isaac region, come along and connect with organisations supporting your community. There'll be something for everyone, including a colour run, jumping castles, sausage sizzle, giveaways, face painting and balloons!

We look forward to seeing you there! ❤️

MACKAY CONNECTED BEGINNINGS

Mackay Connected Beginnings has been keeping busy with their fortnightly playgroups, with new term dates coming soon! The team are also planning some exciting events for later in the year, so stay tuned. In the meantime, you can catch them supporting local events, including Party in the Park for Child Protection Week on 9 September at Queens Park



August Trauma Tip

There's a special kind of Olympic sport in Australian households every weekday morning, and somehow it never makes the actual Olympics. It's called **Getting the Kids to School**, and if it were scored, we'd all take gold in Chaos Management

But buried in all that chaos are little pockets of gold. The five minutes in the car where your usually quiet teenager suddenly tells you something real, because eye contact isn't required. The same "love you, bye!" ritual every single morning, word for word.

So next time you're negotiating with a six year old about cereal at 7:15am, take a breath. Pause for just a second before the next round starts. It's mayhem. But somewhere in there, it's also one of the best parts of your day.

Source: Trauma Assist 22nd Edition Empowered Magazine



[ACCESS HERE](#)



PICCANINNY KINSHIP & FOSTER CARE

2/17 Macalister Street

We are also excited to share that Piccaninny's Family Connection Safe Place Room is now up and running, providing a welcoming and supportive environment where children and families can come together for family contact visits.

Together, we can help children stay connected with the people who matter most. ❤️

DELEGATED AUTHORITY

DA Team were excited to see so many families from the community attend National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day. Thank you to Connected Beginnings for hosting and Slade Point School for opening their school for celebrating our children of community. A big shout out to all the big and little people that contributed to our Art Piece on Canvas - which we hope to have in our office soon. Our next Community engagement is getting ready for Child Protection Week in September.



ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM (ATSIFDVSS)

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family and Domestic Violence Support Service (ATSIFDVSS) was invited to participate in the Sarina Indigenous Family Wellbeing Service (IFWS) Men's Group on Tuesday, 25 August 2026.

Male Domestic Violence Support Worker Lyndon Francis travelled to Sarina to meet with participants and discuss how the ATSIFDVSS program, along with MARABISDA's broader range of services, supports individuals and families throughout the region.

Lyndon and the Men's Group Lead Facilitator, Peter Warcon, provided an overview of MARABISDA's programs and explained how participants and their family members could access support. Lyndon highlighted the important work delivered by ATSIFDVSS to women and men experiencing domestic and family violence across the regional communities.

The discussion included information about programs and services available through MARABISDA, including:

- The Men's Respondent Program
- Weaving Stories – Our Women's Journey of Healing
- Trauma-Informed Counselling
- Referral pathways to other appropriate support services

Peter and Lyndon also spoke about the importance of culturally safe groups such as the IFWS Men's Group. The group provides a supportive environment where men can express themselves openly, share their experiences and participate in respectful and challenging conversations without judgement.

The Men's Group also connects participants with trusted community organisations and respected community members. Through a culturally responsive approach, participants can access mental health support, strengthen their social and emotional wellbeing, receive advice and encouragement, and maintain meaningful connections with community and culture.

Lyndon appreciated the opportunity to meet with the participants and looks forward to continuing his engagement with the Sarina IFWS Men's Group through further conversations and activities.

TRADING TRACKS



Trading Tracks has officially moved into our new office at 123 Victoria Street, Mackay. We're excited to be settling into the new space and continuing to support Indigenous businesses across the Mackay and Isaac regions.

We're also celebrating a fantastic achievement from our QTT team! Our BDO, Shae Ridgeway, was recently named a finalist in both the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year and Bob Marshman Trainee of the Year categories at the Central Queensland Training Awards regional finals. The QTT team travelled to Rockhampton to celebrate with Shae and were absolutely thrilled when she took home the Bob Marshman Trainee of the Year Award! We couldn't be prouder of Shae and all that she has achieved since completing her traineeship with Mackay Regional Council and joining the QTT team.



Marabisda Programs

Visit our website to learn more about our Marabisda programs!

MARABISDA WEBSITE

Feel free to enquire if you're looking for support, if we can't support you, we will refer you to others who can



**CHECK OUT MARABISDA'S
INDIGENOUS ARTIST CHARLI BLISS
BACK IN HER HOME TOWN VISITING
THE OFFICE!**



A Little Help for Mum

Newborn skin is delicate and frequent bathing can contribute to dryness. For many babies, a few baths each week is enough.

You can keep your baby clean between baths by gently cleaning areas such as their face, neck folds, hands and nappy area.

Tip: Pay special attention to skin folds around the neck, armpits and groin, where milk, sweat and moisture can collect.

If your baby's skin becomes very dry, cracked, weepy or irritated, speak with your child health nurse or GP.

What have we been up to?

Sarina Youth Program



National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day



CASA Together For Shelter Homeless Expo



Yarnz Network



Picnic in the Gardens



EVENT FLYERS

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 BREEN 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

play matters **marabisda** **Mackay Connected Beginnings**
the heart & science of play Badi Yalobaga Yuribaya

MACKAY, ISAAC & WHITSUNDAY FIRST NATIONS BUSINESS EXPO 2026

MACKAY ENTERTAINMENT AND CONVENTION CENTRE, NORTH FOYER **OCT 22ND** **8:15AM-2:00PM**

MEET AND CONNECT WITH INDIGENOUS BUSINESSES TO DISCOVER OPPORTUNITIES TO:

- BUILD MEANINGFUL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS
- ACCESS SUPPLY CHAINS AND PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES
- STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION AND REGIONAL GROWTH
- SUPPORT INDIGENOUS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BUSINESS SUCCESS

HEAR DIRECTLY FROM OUR PROCUREMENT PANEL:

- NORTH QUEENSLAND BULK PORTS
- CBUILD
- STANDMORE
- MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL
- QUEENSLAND PROCUREMENT POLICY

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION

 CLICK [HERE](#) RSVP BY OCT 16TH

THIS EVENT PROVIDES A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND YOUR PROFESSIONAL NETWORK AND EXPLORE PATHWAYS FOR COLLABORATION AND PROCUREMENT.

MAKING THE CONNECTION WITH INDIGENOUS BUSINESS CONTRIBUTES TO STRONGER LOCAL ECONOMIES, SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS, AND SHARED PROSPERITY FOR OUR REGIONS.

LOCAL and CONNECTED
INDIGENOUS BUSINESS MONTH 2026

BULK PORTS **DELIVERING FOR AUSTRALIA** **Queensland Government** **TRADING TRACKS** **marabisda**

ISAAC FAMILY WELLBEING FUN DAY
CENTENARY PARK, DYSART
OCT 1ST | 10AM-2PM

COLOUR RUN **FACE PAINT**
SAUSAGE SIZZLE **GIFT BAGS**
LOCAL SUPPORT SERVICES

marabisda **Carudala**

Visit us at these upcoming events!



We love getting out into the community and attending events hosted by other local organisations. It's a great opportunity for our team to connect with community, build relationships, share information and show our support for the incredible work happening across our region.

By coming together, we can strengthen connections between local services and help make sure our community knows about the support, opportunities and organisations available to them. We're proud to be part of a community that continues to come together, support one another and create positive change.

Party in the Park

Wednesday, September 9
9am to 11:30am | Queens Park

Free Event

Join us to celebrate Child Protection Week - connect with playgroups and meet children's service providers and other parents in a fun and relaxed environment.

CHILDREN'S PROTECTION WEEK **Mackay FAMILY SUPPORT ALLIANCE** **Mackay REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Join our R U OK? event

mind
 Help, hope and purpose

help us start the conversation

WHEN: Thursday 10 September 2026 8.30am - 2.00pm

Location Lambert's Beach - Ram Chandra Park - Pacific Esplanade, Slade Point, (Near first BBQ)

Contact Gayle Clifford for more info
 gayle.clifford@mindaustralia.org.au
 (07) 4846 1463 or 0428 808 456

Ask R U OK? ANY DAY

R U OK? is encouraging all Australians to create space for meaningful conversations, any day of the year. Join us to learn how you can start more life-changing conversations.

LOCK IN
SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER

Run for M.L. Life

Botanical Gardens

Marabisa Word Search

PROGRAM THEME: ATSIDFVSS

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

- HEALING
- SUPPORT
- HOPE
- COURAGE
- SAFETY
- EMPOWERMENT
- CARE
- RESILIENCE

Understanding matters



Did you know...

Piccaninny is a Foster and Kinship Care Service dedicated to supporting children, families, and carers in our community.

Currently, Piccaninny supports 86 carers and 103 children in foster and kinship care placements. To help ensure placements remain stable and successful, our Carer Support Workers conduct monthly home visits, providing guidance, encouragement, and practical support to carers and children.

At Piccaninny, we strongly believe that children should remain connected to their families and communities wherever it is safe and appropriate to do so. Kinship care can provide children with the opportunity to stay connected to their culture, family, and important relationships.

If you know a child who is involved with Child Safety and you are a family member, relative, or someone known to the child, and you are willing and able to provide a safe and caring home, we encourage you to speak with our friendly team at:

Piccaninny Foster and Kinship Care Service
2/17 Macalister Street

Piccaninny

Foster and Kinship Care Service

PROVIDED BY PICCANINNY FOSTER & KINSHIP CARE

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!



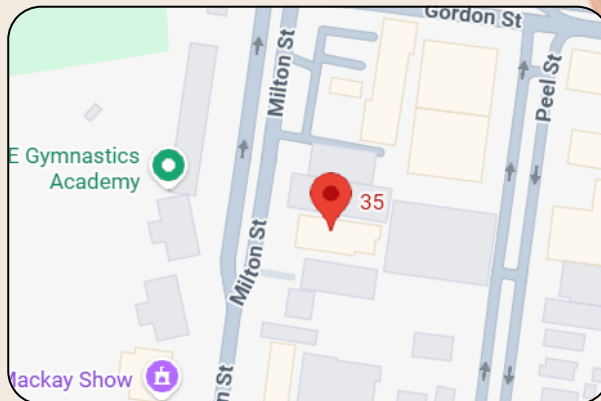
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