



# KUPIDABIN NEWS JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2025

Dear Friends

Past and Present, Volunteers and New Friends of Kupidabin Wilderness

Happy New Year and Welcome to 2025

I apologise to you all in 2024 I only wrote 2 newsletters which are on our website if you wish to catch up? This past year has been a very difficult one in many ways personally and health wise. I still have not come to terms that my husband Des is no longer with us though he is very much still here with us 'in spirit'

Our Condolences go out to the Families of Members and Elders who have lost loved ones I have only recently heard of the passing of N.A. Medicine Woman Verlinda Montoya in 2023. It was Verlinda's Vision on Bear Mountain in Canada to come to Qld in 2007 to bring Native American, Maori and First Nation Aboriginal Elders together. This was the beginning of our very successful Gatherings first held in December 2007 and called the Reinbo Gatherings after 'The Rainbow Serpent' After December Gathering in 2009 – The Elders decided to change the date to September as December in Qld was too hot for Interstate and overseas visitors? Name change also to 'Gathering of The Four Winds' as Facilitators and Visitors came from the 'Four Directions.' of Australia and New Zealand. KCAI 9th Gathering is being planned for 19th/20th/21st September 2025 at our First Committee Meeting on Sunday 19th January 10am. Keep an eye on our website [www.kupidabin.org](http://www.kupidabin.org) after our meeting and catch the 'Early Bird' dates for booking the weekend.

Nana Emma Hart was another 'Great Elder' representing the Maori Community at these Gatherings who passed away recently December 24 after a long illness. She will be well remembered by the 56 people Members of Kupidabin- Native American, Maori and Aboriginal Elders K.A.I.A.A (Kiwi – American Indian-Aboriginal- Australian) Te –Tai – Tokerau Cultural Gathering New Zealand 2012. Travelling the North Island over 10 days to Spirit Bay staying in Emma's Family Maraes. I will recount this trip one day on our website – An experience never to be forgotten by all who travelled together.

I am very much looking forward to 2025 and all we are going to achieve at Kupidabin. I am currently planting' the seeds' for my Vision of Kupidabin in the Generations to come. All will be told in future newsletters by the Trustees (KWCT)

Our Focus this year will be on increasing Membership to (KCAI) Kupidabin Cultural Association Inc. Registered 2008-2016 revived in 2023. Kupidabin Trustees are now reaching out to Past Members of KCAI who now have time on their hands to help promote my future Vision for the future development of Kupidabin to be a Place of Natural Beauty – Peaceful and Calming for the many Healing workshops held here.

My Gratitude to the Maori Community for their support and to past Facilitators for their recommendations. Our Bookings to hire Kupidabin Facilities for weekends are coming in very fast this year. We have one weekend left in February 15th /16th and March is fully booked.

## Highlights of 2024

1/ Prior to The International Day of Peace on 21st September 2024 we were advised that our Kupidabin Peace Pole created by Des and Blessed by First Nation Elder Uncle Tex Chapman erected in our Peace Haven Easter weekend 7th April 2007 had been recognised by the World Peace Organization and Kupidabin was on the World Map with directions. Great honour for Des for his creative woodwork to be recognised around the World.

2/ Presentation of an Award Des and I have been presenting to the Student with the highest achievement during the year at Annie Lane's Program for Students on the Autism Spectrum. This year I presented a Trophy and a \$200 Donation to start off Hayden's Bank Account for when he leaves school. Hayden was quite overwhelmed from not going to school. He is attending four days a week and loves it, thanks to Annie and her program. This is the fifth year Des and I have given these awards The Donation is from Kupidabin Trust Account - we also donate towards their Christmas Party at Kupidabin for Students and Families so every time you make a donation whether it be by buying a book or camping overnight etc or just making a donation as some do. You are putting smiles on these Students faces- It is beautiful to see and much appreciated by the Parents.

3/ Presentation of a beautiful canvas Painting by Aboriginal Artist Jane Crawford called "The Secret Kurrajong Tree." Donated for Kupidabin Trust Art Gallery by a Maori Family We have to learn a little more about the History? It is beautiful Art Work .The Trustees are very honoured to receive this beautiful Gift.. Come and Visit

4/ Our Thanks to Samford Community Bendigo Bank for the funding of KCAI Application for much needed New Tables, Chairs and a Dual Oven. Special Thank you also for support - help and Interest shown by Kylie Neville and Annemarie Morgan from the Community Bank. More Bank News and Support available from the Bank will be in my next newsletter.'

## Diary Dates

Peace Fires ( An old Native American Tradition.) held on the 7th Day of every Month at 7pm. In Bad weather will be held indoors with Candles. Donation appreciated \$5.00

Drumming Circles - Dates for 2025 on <https://kupidabin.org>. Indoors also if bad weather. Bring your own Drum or Musical Instrument or just come and enjoy the music and the vibration of the Medicine Drums. Bookings appreciated. Text Aaron 0420 319 454 or Maureen 0402 092 741  
Donation \$10 per person Family of 4 \$25.00

Blessings to all. Maureen Pickstone 0402 092 741

Founding Trustee KWCT

Email: [dnm@kupidabin.com](mailto:dnm@kupidabin.com)