



KUPIDABIN NEWS NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2022

Dear Friends, Old and New

The end of another year is coming up very quickly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year – it has got to get better! Many Thanks to my Committee and Volunteers through 2022. To those of you who have made donations to KWCT your support is very, very much appreciated. The Performers, Facilitators and Participants at our Gathering of the Four Winds in September thank you all for making it such a memorable occasion.

Watch our FaceBook Page and Web site for the Gathering date for 2023 – still to be decided.

On Friday 9th. December Des and I with Sherrie and Chris attended the Christmas Party at Kupidabin for the Students attending the W.I.L.L.S. Program been run by Annie Lane here for the past 3years. W.I.L.L.S. stands for They will Succeed – They will Achieve - They will Thrive. This was their last year at Kupidabin due to a drastic cut in the NDIS funding for the students. It was a very happy but sad occasion. Des and I present an Award each year – ‘Maureen and Des Pickstone Award of Excellence’ The recipient this year was Bradman Dux- He also received a Trophy from Annie. 6 months ago Bradman was set on the road to ‘Juvey’- Annie took him into her program-he went back to school and he also received a High Achievement Award at the school breakup as well. I met his parents and they were overwhelmed by the change in him. It is a shame, but Annie and her Support Workers are continuing their work by going into the homes on a one-on-one basis which is leaving our Cultural Centre available for bookings during the week which may suit some Community Organizations. KWCT will continue to support the Students and when our Trust Fund is healthy our aim is to set up a Scholarship Fund for those who need help to further their Career Path.

Maureen and Des Pickstone Award of Excellence was awarded to - Zac Hodges 2020 - Jai O'Brien 2021 - Bradman Dux 2022

T.S.I. Initiation Ceremony here at Kupidabin Wednesday 14th. December. What an amazing day! Such Great Organization! Joyce –Sandai’s sister in-law did all the catering for approx 60 guests including children. There were last-minute cancellations due to an Elders death in the Islands and Family members having to stay at home. The attendees at Kupidabin were all from different Islands in the Torres Strait and this was depicted in the different shirts and dresses they wore with their Island Totems in the fabric Sandai is going to send professional photos when she has them, I have the TSI. Boys raising our new flags – Joyce the cook

looking on. – a photo of TSI families enjoying the sunshine – I had a photo taken with a group of the TSI Elders- unfortunately, Des was not well enough to attend but I had a lovely afternoon sitting on the veranda –listening to the Island Music and watching the children play and what beautiful dark skinned babies!! It was very relaxing. Elder's Comment: Uncle George "WHAT A MAGICAL PLACE"



PEACE Fire Ceremony is held on the 7th Day of every month at 7pm
Everybody Welcome – Children from 8 years- Meditate while Fire burns down - Pray for your loved ones and for Peace around the world – Join our Members for Fellowship - \$5.00 donation for Light Supper No Charge for Ceremony More info give me a Call or Text.

Kupidabin 2023 Events Program for the Year will be released EARLY February after our Committee Meeting on Sunday 29th January Keep checking our Kupidabin FaceBook Page and Web site.

I am repeating this request again for the interest of new friends and readers

Some of you have heard about the documentary Film Vanessa has been working on to 'Tell My Story' interviewing people and videoing our Gathering in September

This film, when ready to launch, will be shown around the world and I hope will create more awareness of Kupidabin and my Vision.

Vanessa has prepared a 'SYNOPSIS' WHICH SHE WOULD LIKE YOU TO COMMENT ON AND SHARE WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND THROUGH YOUR NETWORKS. The more comments the quicker the film will be produced. Click on the link below.

<https://inspireflix.com/story/maureens-journey-the-land-that-healed-her/> (Takes a little while to download.)

INSPIREFLIX a charity-based film production has heard about the Gatherings that we hold and would love to capture my story to share with the world. I need your help. INSPIREFLIX can only film so many stories with the funds they receive. For my story to be filmed I need people to comment on their website. When we have the most comments they can film the story. The company ask for a donation to produce the film – but only a small donation of 10-20 dollars is fine.

Thank you for your continuing Love and Support

Peace Fire Ceremony goes to Aotearoa.

My friends and I gather on the 7th of each month at Kupidabin around a ceremonial fire and share thoughts of peace and healing for ourselves and for the world. After each peace fire ceremony, ashes are gathered and added to the following month's fire contributing to the story and perpetuating the energy and intention.

In October, I was fortunate enough to take ashes from our fire to Kawhai on the north island of Aotearoa to share it with some beautiful truth-seekers at my cousin's spiritual retreat. Two more monthly peace fire ceremonies are now being held as a result and the positive energy is spreading far and wide.

When we open our circle, we call in spirits and energies from local animals that have been observed and resonate with thoughts of our own lives. While the origin and tradition of our ceremony is indigenous American, we are not of that blood and have no strict linear tradition to follow (of which there are many) and we have been invited by elders to follow our hearts and make the ceremony our own. While visiting Kawhai I was fortunate enough to connect with these animals:

The Puuriri moth, which is as big as my hand and is born with no mouth reminds me to be mindful of what I put in my body.

The Kereruu pigeon, which like all pigeons are close cousins of the white dove made me reflect on peace and hope.

Kootare (kingfisher) is ever watchful over the riverbank. My cousin's retreat was in part about manifesting destiny and the kingfisher reminds us to be vigilant of opportunity.

Terehu (dolphin) brings virtues of playfulness. Reminds us that connecting as family and bonding through play is powerful.

My daughter, Dominique spoke very well in front of 30 people she didn't know when she explained the story of the peace fire's origin and the process of the meditation. She understands the significance of the ceremony and the ritual. She displayed a very humble and balanced approach and she made her father extremely proud.

My friends and I find that gathering to sit in circle regularly grounds us. Brings us back to a place of peace and serves as a reminder that the scurry of mind that is the day to day is not all there is. If I had the space and the white boards to begin to tell you all about the everything and how much more there is... but that's a story for another time... To sit in circle is to be an equal amongst your peers. No-one sits at the head and no-one sits at the foot. Each person feels held by the circle and is invited to share their truth and the circle holds loving space. The Betreaters (shout out to my awesome cousin the amazing Jacqui Be! And those at her retreats are Betreaters) thoroughly enjoyed the ceremony. It's always beautiful to hear new comers express gratitude at having been introduced to circle. Usually, it's on their lips in the first ceremony and remains a preface to sharing in ceremonies many years on. I saw a lot of this during our trip to New Zealand and I feel we contributed to it. Seeing

people blossom. Eyes coming up. Smiles turning up to permanent grins. Hearts opening to brand new possibilities. And the hugs!

We followed the peace fire with a korero about different modalities of healing and I explained the particular modalities that I personally find the most beneficial. We then re-lit the fire and moved on to our drumming circle. We birthed 10 medicine drums for the occasion and each one had a different personality. Shout out to my super resourceful and crazy talented mother who really came through for me! And so nice to connect with her on this level. And to see her now attending drum circles (goosebumps so happy!). It was cold (for us Aussies) and it was a challenge to keep the drums warm however trying to was half the fun. We beat our drums loud and fast! We danced in the moonlight. We bathed each other in healing drum vibrations. It was most triumphant!

Dominique and I were very happy to bring ashes from the peace fire in Aotearoa back home to add to the fire on the 7th of January, completing another cycle, adding another dimension to our circle and closing out that adventure. Much love and gratitude to Maureen and Des Pickstone for creating the opportunity for this learning and growth. We dedicate each of our ceremonies to your health and happiness. We love you very much.

Aaron O'Neill.

Many Blessings

Maureen Pickstone
Trustee
Kupidabin Wilderness Charitable Trust.
0402 092 741

P.S. We are still looking for a Reliable, Strong, Active Person to BE A Caretaker for Kupidabin Maintenance of the Grounds etc. 2 days a week when required.
Call or Text me on 0402 092 741 Anytime
Many Thanks

Maureen.