



Wile Kath



Message

FROM THE MAYOR

Aurukun Shire Council is now back in full swing for 2015!

This will certainly be a busy year and Council has already commenced lobbying the new State Government on major community

issues, which include housing, funding, employment, training, and a final decision on the Aurukun mining lease.

It is pleasing that the new Skytrans company is flying the new, larger Dash 8 planes, and Council supports the new Skytrans in its efforts to be approved as the permanent air service provider to Aurukun.

Council is encouraged by the positive response to the new management of the Wik & Kugu Arts Centre. It is fantastic

to see the re-engagement of local artists. You are urged to buy artworks through the centre, as this is beneficial to the artists' prices and their development.

Sly grog continues to be a major problem for the local community. It is time that you Wik people show strength and do not waste money on alcohol and provide the 'spineless jellyfish' sellers with illegal money. You are urged to attend regular community meetings to hear the positive message on a happy and healthy non-alcohol lifestyle.

On a real positive note, I urge everyone to get behind the 100th year celebration on ANZAC landing. This is a historic celebration for Australia and I look forward to a great crowd at our local service.

Finally, we are now in the fourth year of the current Council and we look forward to achieving many more goals as we move forward to the 2016 elections.

Yours in local government
Mayor Dereck Walpo



Plaques to commemorate 100th ANZAC Anniversary

Aurukun Shire Council is celebrating the historic 100th Anniversary of ANZAC by unveiling two specially-cast bronze plaques on ANZAC Day this year (25 April).

A special event will be held at the remote Far North Queensland community's ANZAC memorial site to commemorate Aurukun's linkages to ANZAC.

The plaques were mainly funded through Queensland Government's ANZAC Centenary Grants Program, and will be placed either side of the honour roll at Aurukun's ANZAC memorial.

The Mayor of Aurukun, Cr Dereck Walpo, said the magnificent plaques celebrate Aurukun's connection to its brothers in the Torres Strait, where soldiers from Aurukun joined the defence contingent in the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion.

"The two plaques depict local soldiers in uniform and an appropriate Australian military crest," said Mayor Walpo.

"We make a special effort to always engage the youth in the community so that they are properly educated about Aurukun's efforts in World War One and World War Two for Australia.

"We want to acknowledge and pay respect to the people of Aurukun who have served Australia."

During World War Two, 11 Aurukun men enlisted and joined the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion, which played a vital role in protecting the maritime borders of Far North Queensland, and supporting the effort against Japanese forces in Papua New Guinea.

It is not well known that after Darwin, Horn Island in the Torres Strait was the second most attacked piece of Australian territory during World War Two.

"The Torres Strait Light Infantry, which our Aurukun soldiers joined, greatly assisted with their local knowledge of geographic and sea conditions, especially in the Cape York region, which was targeted for very heavy bombing by the enemy during World War Two," said Mayor Walpo.

"To this day, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander soldiers continue to display a strong tradition of service in the Australian Defence Force.

"The loyalty and commitment of our Indigenous soldiers has helped establish what it is to be Australian."



In all, 870 men from Cape York and the Torres Strait served with the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion. The 11 men from Aurukun who joined up were:

- Johnny Bandicootcha
- Charlie Bob Ngakyunkwokka
- Billy Buttons Woolla
- Callum Woolla
- Billy Comprabar
- Johnnie Lac Lac Ampeybegin
- Charlie Warnkoola
- Billy Panjee Peinkyekka
- Sandy Pootchemunka
- Tommy Toikalkin
- Frank Wolmby.





Council Continues to Advance Bauxite Project

Aurukun Shire Council continues to work with Glencore, traditional owners and the Aurukun community to progress the Aurukun Bauxite Project.

Glencore successfully finalised a Development Agreement with the Queensland Government last December.

At present, Aurukun Shire Council is awaiting further advice from the new Queensland Government regarding progressing the project.

Glencore is one of the world's largest natural resources companies and provides work for over 19,000 people across Australia.

Project Director Julian Farrugia said the company was keen to work with community members to understand their views and recognised that the direct involvement of the people of Aurukun will be vital to the future success of the Project.

"This project is at a very early stage but through our visits over the past 18 months we understand that traditional owners want to be involved as the project develops," he said.

"We place a lot of importance on the views of the community, and in particular, those families who can speak for the country within the potential project area.

"During 2014 we were focused on finalising our agreement with the Queensland Government, but we didn't want to raise false hopes in the community in case agreement could not be reached.

"Now that has been completed, our focus for 2015 is to lay the foundation for a strong and honest relationship."

"We want to work in partnership with the community to make informed decisions on

what this project might mean for Aurukun and the Wik and Wik Way people, as well as for our company.

As part of its focus on community engagement, Glencore recently appointed Scott McIntyre to their team. Scott spent five years in Weipa and worked closely with traditional owners in Aurukun, particularly the Wik Way people.

"A lot of people in Aurukun will already know Scott from his previous time in the community. We are looking forward to combining his understanding of, and respect for, the Wik and Wik Way community and culture with Glencore's approach to this project," Julian said.

Glencore is currently looking at an initial small-scale bauxite mine, located 40 kilometres north of the town, producing up to six million tonnes per year over 20 years.

"Our team is working to understand if this mine, with the potential for future expansion, can work," Julian said.

"Any mining activity has to make economic sense but, in Aurukun, it will also need to make a real contribution to the community's desire for a strong and sustainable local economy.

"There is still a long way to go before we can decide if the project is able to be built, but we are excited by this opportunity and are looking forward to working with the community."

Glencore's project team can be contacted by email at Aurukun@glencore.com.au.

For more details about Glencore, visit www.glencore.com



Aurukun Community Celebrates OAM Recipients

The Aurukun community is celebrating after five local residents were awarded prestigious Medals of the Order of Australia (OAMs) for their 'services to the Indigenous community of Cape York Peninsula'.

Three Aurukun Shire Council councillors – Cr Ada Woolla, Cr Edgar Kerindun and Cr Vera Koomeeta – received OAMs, as did Doris Poonkameyla and Sarah Wolmby.

Aurukun Shire Council Mayor Dereck Walpo said the OAMs were special recognition for not only the recipients, but for the community of Aurukun in general.

For more details about the Australia Day awards, visit www.itsanhonour.gov.au



Aurukun Using Social Media to Communicate With Residents

Aurukun Shire Council is overcoming the challenge of community engagement in a remote area of Australia by successfully engaging with its residents via social media.

The council began its Facebook page less than 12 months ago to positively engage its youth, and has already achieved impressive reach, highlighting the positive news stories of the community.

Since the page's launch in June 2014, Aurukun Shire Council's most popular post has reached an audience of almost 1,000.

With Aurukun's population numbering just 1,400, the Facebook page has significant reach locally within the region, and even overseas – it has also gained coverage in national publication Local Government Focus.

Aurukun Shire Council Mayor Dereck Walpo said the Indigenous community had embraced social media as a form of communication.

"Last year, we recognised the benefits of social media as an inexpensive and user friendly tool which could reach the immediate community and the broader public," said Mayor Walpo.

"By sharing positive aspects and pictures of everyday life in Aurukun, events, career opportunities and local art, we (the council) grew an online community built around positive engagement.

"We have encouraged Aurukun Shire Council staff to engage with the updates on their own Facebook accounts, creating a roll-on effect within the community.

"As a result, we have increased 'Likes' on the page, and have also had a steady increase in page hits.

"We have been very pleased with the interaction and community response to our Facebook page to date.

"The cost has been low in terms of a cash expense, and while it has necessitated a fair degree of time and resources to establish and maintain an engaging presence, the time investment has paid excellent dividends in terms of increasing community engagement and stakeholder communication.

"For one of our key target audiences – namely our younger residents – social media is considered a crucial method of interaction."



Billy's Latest Success Story from Policing Program



An Aurukun resident is celebrating after landing a Police Liaison Officer position with

Queensland Police Service having first started in the community's successful Community Policing Program.

Billy Koo'ola joined Aurukun Shire Council as a Community Police Officer when the program first started in 2013.

The program, developed in collaboration and with the full support of the Queensland Police Service (QPS), was created as a community capacity-building program designed as an opportunity to provide a pathway for local Aurukun community members.

Through the guidance provided from both the QPS and the contracted GSS Security Guard Rex Creed, Billy excelled as a Community Police Officer.

"Before too long Billy emerged as one of the lead officers, and became a stable and constant force among the team," said Aurukun Mayor Dereck Walpo.

Billy was recently thrust into a Senior Community Police Officer role, where he went about leading the team of Community Police Officers along with two other fellow officers who were also promoted to these lead roles.

"Through these efforts another prime opportunity emerged, and Billy's value and positive impact in our community in relation to law enforcement was too much for the Queensland Police force to ignore," said Mayor Walpo.

"Billy was recently offered a Police Liaison Officer's position here in Aurukun at the local police station, and did not hesitate to take up the opportunity.

"For Aurukun Shire Council it is farewell to Billy, but we are all so proud of him, forging a pathway for his fellow Community Police Officers and community members.

"From all of us at Aurukun Shire Council, our congratulations go to Billy, and we wish him the best of luck in his new position here in the community as a Police Liaison Officer.

"He's genuinely earned it."



Healthy Choice Rewards to Increase Fruit and Vegetable Consumption in Aurukun

Apunipima Cape York Health Council and Island & Cape Retail Enterprises have teamed up to introduce a new Healthy Choice Reward scheme in Aurukun.

Launched in late March, the Healthy Choice Reward scheme is designed to increase consumption of fruit and vegetables in remote communities.

Developed around a voucher system, similar to that used by Coles and Woolworths for fuel, anyone in Aurukun who purchases \$20 of fruit and vegetables at the Island & Cape store is rewarded with a \$10 voucher off their next purchase of fruit and veg.

The scheme is being introduced as part of a collaborative research initiative between Apunipima, Island & Cape Retail Enterprises, Menzies School of Health Research and James Cook University.

The aim of the scheme is to contribute to evidence that will be used to inform economic policy addressing healthy food consumption in remote communities.

Apunipima's Community Nutritionist Cara Polson said of the initiative "Most people know that eating fruit and vegetables are important for good health and can help to protect us from developing a chronic disease but in remote communities cost is often a barrier.

"International studies show that offering financial rewards when purchasing healthy foods or drinks encourages people to switch to healthier options and that is what we are hoping to see here.

"We have \$15,000 invested in this trial, the like of which has never been seen in Cape York communities before and it is only with the support of Island & Cape Retail Enterprises that we are able to make this happen.

Island & Cape Retail Enterprises General Manager Kim Nona said: "Island & Cape and Apunipima have worked together for a number of years to improve nutrition in remote communities in Far North Queensland.

"We see this exciting, new initiative as another positive step forward in encouraging healthier choices in the communities we serve."

Wik and Kugu Arts Centre

This edition's featured artwork is by

Nathan Ampeybejan



Nathan has been working hard at Wik and Kugu Art Centre creating new large scale works in his very signature style!

Artist: Nathan Ampeybejan
Title: Crocodile and Barramundi
Size: 210x125cm
Price: \$1950

The story of the work:

The story is about the barra and the two crocodiles. One is a freshwater and the other a saltwater crocodile. The barramundi got married to the fres water crocodile and the big boss came, he was a wild man, the saltwater crocodile! He took the barra as his wife, he stole her from the fresh water crocodile.

The headdresses in the painting are from the feathers of the white crane, which is the mother in law for the salt water crocodile.

All the dots in the painting represent all of the five clans in Aurukun. Everyone is in this story, no one is missing out in this painting. (words by Nathan Ampeybejan)



Please contact the Art Centre for sales enquiries or commissions on (07) 4060 6843.



Early Childhood Centre Update

This year's Koolkan Childcare Centre Easter Hat Parade was bigger than ever! Organisations such as Island and Cape Supermarket, Apunipima, CYAAA, PCYC, Indigenous Advisory Council, and the Parenting Hub all joined the Childcare Centre to put on this amazing family event, which was held in the Town Square.

A great crowd saw the school band perform with a little help from the Prep classes, a fantastic performance from Joel Ross with the didgeridoo, the actual Easter Hat Parade where the children showed off their beautiful creations, and finally a big sausage sizzle, chocolate Easter eggs and face painting.

Thanks to everyone who came along and who took part!

2015 Events Calendar



There are a variety of exciting events planned for Aurukun in 2015, so get them in your diaries now!

Here are the key events in Aurukun in 2015 for April through to June:

- Apr**  **25** Anzac Day
100th Anniversary Event
(Public Holiday)
- Jun**  **6** Aurukun Community Concert
- Jun**  **8** Queen's Birthday
(Public Holiday)
- Aug**  **4** Aurukun Day

Visit <http://aurukun.qld.gov.au/for-visitors/events/community-events> for a full list of dates.



Allcomers Gathering

A big thanks to everyone who came along to the latest allcomers gathering at the Aurukun Shire Council HACC Centre.

It was a great night, with plenty of people in attendance. It's always wonderful when we can come together in our community for a more relaxed social event.

Aurukun Community Concert - 6 June

Aurukun Shire Council will hold its biggest ever community concert on Saturday 6 June after successfully obtaining \$25,000 funding from the PCYC's Indigenous Active Today – Stronger Communities Tomorrow Grants Program.

The Wik Rock concert – to be held on the Queen's Birthday weekend – will include high-profile musicians, a battle of the bands contest, and a hip hop competition.

A planning committee has already been formed for Aurukun's largest event of the year, with several ideas already discussed, including hip hop dance facilitators to visit the community during the week of the concert, as well as food stalls and other entertainment on the day.

Aurukun Shire Council Mayor Dereck Walpo said the event would be a great chance for the community to come together in

a fun environment.

"Our community is developing and moving in the right direction all the time, and this is another excellent example of how we're striving to be the best we can," said Mayor Walpo.

"I'd also like to say a huge thank you to Glencore and Rio Tinto Alcan, who are major sponsors for the event, and their support will help make this the best day possible."

Sponsorship opportunities for the 2015 Aurukun Community Concert are now available, and all non-government organisations, community organisations, and businesses can be involved.



All organisations interested in sponsorship should contact Jason Holt, Director of Community Services, on (07) 4060 6817 or email Dircom@aurukun.qld.gov.au

For those businesses in Cairns which are interested in sponsorship, please contact Graham Poon, Business Development/Grants Officer, on (07) 4047 6702 or email BDGO@aurukun.qld.gov.au




Clean Up Australia - 15 March


Community residents joined forces to help clean up Aurukun as part of Clean Up Aurukun/Australia Day on 15 March.

The helpers did a great job cleaning up rubbish and tidying the streets, and were rewarded with a BBQ for their hard work.

Wik Whispers

 Annual report available for download
The 2013-14 Aurukun Shire Council Annual Report is now available for download from www.aurukun.qld.gov.au

 ASC YouTube channel launched
Aurukun Shire Council is thrilled to have launched its own YouTube channel. This is a great visual way to find out all about what's happening in our beautiful community! Enjoy!
www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEMuhPnZVQo

 **BREAKING NEWS**
Alcohol Management Plan Survey
JCU researchers will be in Aurukun to speak with people at work, after work, at the shop, or around the community from **25-29 May**. The survey will take 10-20 minutes. Aurukun residents - have your say!

If you would like to suggest stories for the next edition of Wik Kath, please email gavinb@pageonepr.com.au



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