



Message FROM THE MAYOR

I congratulate Aurukun Shire Councillors who were recently re-elected. I am most pleased that the Aurukun

community has verified the progress that the Aurukun Council continues to make. We have set many goals to aspire to achieve over the next four years.

Some of the main goals are:

- CCTV township project
- Access road sealing and maintenance project
- Telecommunications major upgrade
- Seniors housing project
- Calling for EOIs for the Three Rivers Community Centre (old Tavern)
- Full participation and cooperation with the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee
- Fostering and implementing strategies to provide a safe community for all residents of Aurukun particularly youth
- Improvement in sly grog issues with significant reduction in this illegal practice
- Active community involvement through Indigenous Knowledge Centre/Library and QRAM community radio
- Job and training opportunities from Amrun mining and other possibilities
- Business development projects to provide employment and training for Aurukun people
- Improve liaison with the Traditional Owner organisation NAKAC and endeavour to hold regular meetings with them.

Additionally Council will continue to work to achieve the goals of the ASC Corporate Plan 2014/2019.

Council looks forward to the support of the local community as it seeks to improve the quality of life for all Aurukun residents.

**Yours in local government
Mayor Dereck Walpo**

CCTV Underway



Work has started on the manufacture of a CCTV system for the township of Aurukun with the system expected to be in operation in July.

Aurukun Mayor Dereck Walpo said plans for the installation of the CCTV system were progressing well with SAPE Industries currently manufacturing the system in its Townsville workshop.

"They anticipate bringing the state-of-the-art system to Aurukun on May 3 and taking eight weeks to install it with a completion date scheduled for June 30," he said.

"While the new system will not totally eliminate crime and anti-social behaviour in the township, Aurukun Shire Council is confident that a substantial reduction may occur.

"CCTV is part of a broader strategy to improve life in Aurukun as it has a proven track record in making security initiatives more effective in other areas including Palm Island, Cairns and Mt Isa.

"We are working hard with the Queensland Police Service to improve security together which includes Aurukun Shire Council hiring private security guards and funding the successful Community Police program employing local residents.

"Our focus includes refurbishing infrastructure to provide safe and welcoming places for members of the community to gather.

"We are assisting the establishment of a Police Citizens Youth Club within the Aurukun Sports Centre and Aurukun's library is being refurbished as an Indigenous Knowledge Centre which will engage residents through community radio and other initiatives.

"Expressions of interest will be invited to refurbish the Three Rivers Community Centre and provide a community engagement facility.

"Of course employment is high on the agenda and Council is proactively lobbying for business development to provide employment and training opportunities through initiatives such as the recent Aurukun Means Business Workshop."

"CCTV has proven very successful in many different locations in Queensland and around the world in stopping crime and making communities safer. The new CCTV system will make Aurukun safer for everyone who lives in and visits the community, and is a great example of what can be achieved when local, state and commonwealth governments work collaboratively together."

A/Chief Supt Rhys Newton, District Officer, Far North District



Dogs on show

Aurukun's famous sculptures and paintings are being snapped up by Brisbane art lovers with seven pieces bought on the first day of an exhibition at the Woolloongabba Art Gallery.

Aurukun Mayor Dereck Walpo said Wik and Kugu artists David Marpoondin, Lex Namponan, Bevan Namponan, Leigh Namponan and Garry Namponan created 20 sculptures and paintings which included birds, a crocodile and the highly acclaimed Aurukun dogs.

Member for Leichhardt Warren Entsch said from an arts perspective, the Aurukun Dogs had made the Aurukun community stand out from the rest.

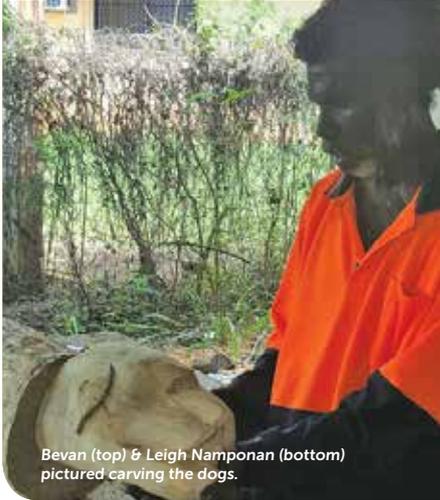
"While the other art in this exhibition will be greatly appreciated, it has been the unique nature of the Aurukun Dogs which has attracted discerning collectors from around the world to personally travel to Aurukun – hoping to secure one of these unique and magnificent pieces of art," he said.

"The Aurukun Dogs will, without a doubt, keep the international focus on indigenous art firmly centred on Aurukun."

The Woolloongabba Art Gallery Exhibition is the Wik and Kugu Art Centre's first show for 2016 and will be closely followed by shows in Melbourne and the Cairns Indigenous Arts Fair in July.

Garry is currently working on some development works for his upcoming solo show with Kick Arts Contemporary Art in Cairns during CIAF 2016.

He is using the markings he created for his dog sculptures as the basis for a design on new pre-stretched canvas from Create Art which he is painting with ochre and acrylic binders.



Bevan (top) & Leigh Namponan (bottom) pictured carving the dogs.



Garry Namponan and his striking dog marking paintings.



Council takes office

Aurukun's Mayor and Councillors have been sworn in and held their first meeting since the Local Government election. Pictured at the ceremony are Mayor Dereck Walpo and Councillors (from left) Ada Woolla, Vera Koomeeta, Doris Poonkamelya and Edgar Kerindun.

Cr Kerindun was elected Deputy Mayor and appointed to the Transportation and Infrastructure and the Training and Employment portfolios.

Mayor Walpo was appointed to the Health, Business Development, Community Safety and Environment portfolios.

Cr Koomeeta was appointed to the Sports and Recreation and the Education Services portfolios.

Cr Poonkamelya was appointed to the Housing and Community Services portfolios.

Cr Woolla was appointed to the Arts, Craft and Culture portfolio.

Happy Feet...



There are plenty of happy feet at Koolkan Aurukun Community School thanks to Noosa shoe maker Holster which donated 270 pairs of shoes to the community as part of the Happy Feet Project.

Tess Moore started the project after spending two years teaching Prep at Aurukun and seeing many of the children without shoes.

Teacher Lauren Zahoran said the students were delighted with the donation and were proudly wearing the shoes.

"It's been wonderful to see the children return to school in their new shoes and wear them with pride," she said.

"There's been a few blisters and lessons in shoe tying but nothing has taken the smile off their faces."





Aurukun means business

Business interest in the Cape York community of Aurukun has increased following a workshop hosted by Aurukun Shire Council on February 8-9.

Aurukun Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Bernie McCarthy said the Aurukun Means Business Workshop coincided with a visit by Rio Tinto to gauge the supply capability of Aurukun for the \$2.7 billion Amrun bauxite project and outline the business and employment opportunities that would arise from it.

"We had an overwhelming response to the workshop by outside companies and organisations from all around Australia with more than 60 people, including local businesses and residents, participating on the first day and about 75 attending on the second day," he said.

"Aurukun Shire Council hosted the sessions and provided town tours for workshop participants and Rio Tinto.

"The participants included smaller contractors through to large companies

from around Queensland and Western Australia.

"We spoke to these companies about the business opportunities in Aurukun which include housing construction, sewerage and road upgrades, refurbishment of the Sports Centre and Three Rivers Community Centre, training of staff, tourism in conjunction with Traditional Owners, cleaning and industrial estate development.

"Already we have had inquiries from companies looking at the viability of setting up in Aurukun both for work in Aurukun as well as business associated with the Amrun project.

"Attendees were advised that if their only interest was only the Amrun project, that they should attend the Rio sessions in Cairns or Weipa so we were delighted that so many came to Aurukun to see what opportunities were available in our township."



Rangers inspire kids

Aurukun's younger generation showed a keen interest in the activities of the APN Rangers at an Open Shed Day during the school holidays.

The rangers talked to the 22 children about what they did on country which helped them learn where their families came from and what animals were special. Four videos of the activities undertaken by the Rangers were shown and everyone enjoyed a barbecue lunch cooked by the PCYC.



Celebrating our ladies

The Women's Arts Centre has been named Akay Koo'oilala after a wonderful Aurukun artist who has inspired many of the community's women to learn to paint. Sadly Akay passed away in 2014 but her work can be seen at the Wik & Kugu Art Centre. She began painting a week before her 87th birthday as a way of telling the story of her home, Ti Tree Outstation, or Kookam-Tha'iy. It was an important site for her people. They gathered food there so many of her paintings depicted the flowers and fruits she so fondly remembered.

The Akay Koo'oilala Arts Centre celebrated International Women's Day with a morning tea (pictured). Elders joined representatives of Cape York Employment, local service providers and Family Responsibility Commissioners and Councillors for a morning tea of cakes and cheesecakes kindly donated by Island & Cape Retail Enterprises. Women of all ages access the centre for daily creative activities.





Events Calendar

There are a variety of exciting events planned for 2016, so get them in your diaries now!

- Apr**  **Anzac Day**
Public Holiday
- May**  **Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign**
- May**  **Labour Day**
Public Holiday
- Jul**  **River to Ramp Fun Run**
- Jul**  **NAIDOC Week**
- Jul**  **Aurukun Show Holiday**
Cairns Show
- Aug**  **Aurukun Day**
Local Public Holiday
- Sept**  **Careers' Expo**
- Oct**  **Queen's Birthday**
Public Holiday
- Oct**  **Aurukun Newcomers Get Together**
- Nov**  **Remembrance Day**
- Dec**  **Community Christmas Celebration**
- Dec**  **Christmas Day**
Public Holiday
- Dec**  **Boxing Day**
Public Holiday

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

Council meetings

Aurukun Shire Council will meet on the following dates in 2016:

17 May • 20 June • 9 July • 16 August, 20 September • 27 October, 15 November • 13 December



Welcome Dean

Meet the Indigenous Knowledge Centre Coordinator Dean Hegarty who has been busy unpacking books and helping get the Centre established.

While maintenance works are still underway in the former library building Dean has been focusing on getting a local radio program up and running for Aurukun. The programming will be available through Blackstar's network on 107.7.

When it gets underway you will be able to get all the latest news on what's going on in your community including updates from the Mayor, grocery specials and some great yarns from our community members.



School's in for Scott

Engagement with Aurukun school students and their families is a priority for Scott Fatnowna who

has just completed his first term as Head of Campus (Acting Principal) at Koolkan Aurukun Community School.

Scott has spent the past 20 years in Arnhem Land working at Numbulwar and Gapuwiyak schools where attendance rates have grown to 88 per cent and an increasing number of students are completing Year 12 and successfully finding work.

"I am one of eight new teaching staff at Aurukun who have been taking the time to get to know the people in the community which includes visiting the homes of their students," he said.

"The first half of the year is an observation and review process so I can learn what people see as important and I can try to build a culture that is inclusive of all the issues and barriers to school attendance.

"I have been fortunate to have tremendous support from the community which has been helped by my mother's bloodline coming from Aurukun and having connections with the Chevathun and Taisman families.

"This is the first time I have walked on this country, but because of my bloodline I'm told daily of people feeling proud to have family sitting in this position.

"I decided to come here a long time ago, but I'm glad I waited until I became a principal because it gives me much more authority to sort out the challenges experienced in Aurukun."



Aurukun will hold an Anzac Day ceremony on April 25. Meet at the Police Station at 7.45am to get ready for the march which will start at 8am and proceed along Kang Kang Road to the Town Square (outside the shop).

The Anzac Day ceremony will include speeches, the Ode of Remembrance and the Last Post. Afterwards everyone is invited to a barbecue.

Wik Whispers

 The Koolkan kids with their new shoes they received as part of the Happy Feet project were overwhelming Facebook favourites. Their cheery faces as they proudly showed off their new shoes were seen by almost 15,000 people.

 Congratulations to Skytrans on its first birthday. Aurukun looks forward to marking many more with you. Being described as the jewel in the Skytrans crown was a great compliment given at the celebration!

 The Aurukun Shire Council Annual Report 2014-15 is now available online. Look for it under the Council tab.

 The Aurukun Training Centre is open for meetings and conferences for up to 60 people now that the new folding doors for the adjoining rooms have been installed with the support of the Australian Government. Bookings can be made through the Council on 4060 6855.

Welcome to the latest edition of 'Wik Kath' – your community newsletter highlighting all the positive news and achievements happening in Aurukun!

'Wik Kath' means 'the story' in English.

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



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