



Message

FROM THE MAYOR

Dog owners in Aurukun need to do the right thing and keep their dogs under control. A young woman was hospitalised recently after a dog attack which is completely unacceptable. The Animal Control Officer was assisted by the

Queensland Police Service to put down numerous dogs following the attack and we will continue to take a strong stance on vicious animals.

An average of eight dogs a week are being impounded because owners are continuing to ignore Council bylaws about pet ownership. This shows a lack of respect to fellow community members who are being put at risk by dogs wandering around the town.

Council reminds all dog owners that:

- ASC requires all dogs over three months to be registered.
- ASC requires a permit to keep more than two dogs.
- ASC will not tolerate any dogs off lead outside the owner's property.
- ASC has no tolerance for any dog attack and any guilty owners will be charged.
- ASC requires all employers to have a duty of care for their employees by warning them about the risks of wandering dogs.



The quarterly visiting vet service provides free de-sexing for both male and female dogs of local owners and these visits will be extended next financial year. Council intends to expand the dog pound's capacity in the next financial year and hopefully funding can be provided for this facility.

Dog owners are reminded that anywhere outside their property is deemed to be a public area where dogs are not allowed off a leash. This includes parks, the school, clinic, supermarket, business centre, all roads and streets.

Community housing tenants must request the Housing Public Works Office to rectify any fencing problems so dogs do not roam.

Visitors and residents should always carry a stick and walk in pairs. Report any menacing dogs to council with the date and time of any incident so the Police can follow up on CCTV footage.

Yours in local government
Mayor Dereck Walpo

Dog attacks will not be tolerated in the Aurukun community. Strict penalties will apply.



Mayor Dereck Walpo
& Nick Pootchemunka



Marina Schaeffer
& Anne Boundy



Mayor Dereck Walpo
& Michael Thompson

Deadly Awards

Nick Pootchemunka is Aurukun Shire Council's inaugural Deadly Employee for the first quarter. Nick's outstanding punctuality and consistent attendance earned him the award which also recognised him as a team player who showed initiative and remained calm.

Runner-up was Anne Boundy who was commended for her excellent management of creditors and consistent attendance. It was also noted that there were no issues raised in the recent audit.

Third place was awarded to Michael Thompson who has a solid work ethic and a positive, enthusiastic attitude towards providing community services.

Nominations are open for the next quarterly awards which will be announced in April. Nomination forms are available at the council office. The Annual Deadly Employee Award winners will be announced in December.

Thanks to the sponsors of the 2018 ASC Deadly Employee Awards:

Skytrans, Builders North, Bryant, Koppen Construction, Cameron Herbert Constructions, GSS Asset Management, Precruitment, Good Guys, Preston Law, Koala Court Holiday Apartments and Southern Cross Safety & Workwear.

Get Running

Four Aurukun youths will be sponsored to join the 2018 National Indigenous Deadly Running Championships in Uluru on June 16.



The Indigenous Marathon Foundation is offering this opportunity of a lifetime to represent your community at this incredible event.

To be selected you need to have a high attendance record at school and commitment to the Aurukun Deadly Runners Club.

The Club meets every Wednesday from 5.30pm to 6.30pm at the PCYC for a session on the rugby field.

All ages and all fitness levels are welcome, including those who prefer to walk. A social barbecue will be held afterwards.

Bring yourself, a friend and a water bottle down to the rugby field each Wednesday to help motivate our youth and the Aurukun community to get fit and healthy together.





n Patrol

Aurukun's new army patrol will be a part of our community's Anzac Day celebrations on April 25.

Curtis Ornyengaia (left), **Tawu Marrott** (centre), **Nick Pootchemunka** (right), Celestine Fisher and Jayden Marrott will form the nucleus of the Aurukun army patrol.

The five participated in the Kapani Warrior program before being sworn in as members of the Australian Army.

They will learn basic soldiering skills such as weapon handling and navigation.

Once qualified, they will have the opportunity to work with Maritime Border Command, the Royal Australian Navy and Border Force in detecting illegal activity within Australian waters in the Torres Strait.

School Attendance

Are your kids on the yellow bus? More than 150 children are attending Aurukun State School regularly and the challenge is on to increase that number further.

The National Employment Services Association held a training workshop with the Aurukun Koolkan Community School Remote School Attendance Strategy team to assist in their important role of getting children to school every day.

Aurukun State School's Attendance Team is calling for prizes to give to students who make significant improvements at school and a letter is being circulated throughout the community seeking support to get children to school on the yellow buses.

These are initiatives of the school attendance stakeholder day this month to create an action plan to approve attendance rates. Stakeholders including the Aurukun Shire Council, Cape York Employment, Cape York Partnerships, PCYC, the Family Responsibilities Commission, Justice and Attorney General and APN all came along to contribute their support.



School Priorities

Wik Mungkan will be part of the Aurukun State School curriculum as included in the school's priorities for 2018.

The list of priorities was endorsed by a well-attended P&C Meeting this month.



They are to improve:

- ✓ **Student Attendance:** The school will continue to employ local Attendance Officers and arrange bus pickups every morning.
- ✓ **Student Reading:** The school will implement their whole school reading program.
- ✓ **Student Behaviour:** The school will continue with their Positive Behaviour for Learning Plan including the High 5 strategies for dealing with teasing.
- ✓ **School Community Engagement:** Through continued P&C Meetings and the implementation of the school's First Language Project.

Celebrating Women



Aunty Irene Pootchemunka, Granny Mavis Ngallametta and "Mumma Archer" Dawn Bandicootcha were among the ladies honoured at Aurukun's International Women's Day Celebrations at O Hub.

Students from the IKC Flexi Program did some cooking and cupcake decoration for the event.



Cemetery Opens

Work is close to completion on the new Aurukun cemetery with grave sites in the process of being numbered as the old cemetery has run out of plots.

Aak Ngench Thayan, which means sacred place, has been built on higher and drier land on Obon Road.

The rising water table and inundation that occurred at the old cemetery created problems with burials in the past.

Partially funded by the Western Cape Communities Trust, the cemetery has been landscaped with fragrant jasmine and will be ready for burials in the next month or so.

The cemetery development plan is available for inspection at the Council office.

IKC Open



Dozens of community members have dropped in to the IKC for internet access, to read a book or just to have a yarn with students and others about any ideas they might have for projects in the future.

Coordinator Noel Waterman has been welcoming people at the centre for the past month and is preparing for an opening celebration during the week before Easter.

Noel has a Bachelor Degree in Learning Management from Central Queensland University and is well known to the Aurukun community, having worked in various roles since the mid 1980s, including teaching at the school and working on the Aurukun outstations.

He has significant knowledge of the Wik culture and language and has organised community cultural activities with Aurukun's traditional dancers. They attended Laura Dance Festival, Western Cape College Residential Campus Cultural Day and Napranum NAIDOC Celebrations Dance Festival.

Noel is an avid runner and enjoys competing in the annual Aurukun River to Ramp Run.

He has plans for a traditional Dugout Canoe project along with spear making, grass skirts for Maalp making and other traditional bush crafts and activities. Opportunities for traditional dance activities similar to last year's Weipa and Napranum trips are also being talked about.

A wooden rowing boat frame has been salvaged and will be relocated to the IKC to be restored, possibly alongside the Dugout Canoe Project, to offer both a traditional and contemporary view of wooden boat building.

Linguist Louise Ashmore has taken up residence in the back room next to the radio broadcast room where she will run her Keeping Language Program, engaging elders, students and community members in her exciting work.

The IKC will be open over the school holidays so drop in and talk to Noel about the many activities underway.

Aurukun Police Officer Billy Kooila gives IKC coordinator Noel Waterman and teacher Evelyn a lift in the Police wagon to check out the dam near town with the IKC Flexi students. They loved jumping into the Police wagon and jumping into the dam too.



Flexible Learning

Online activities in numeracy and literacy are among the programs for students attending the Aurukun State School Flexible Learning Program at the Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC).

A core group of 13 students are enrolled in the program, while 21 school-aged youth have attended at different times during February.

Traditional art and cultural activities are included to support the social and emotional wellbeing of the students.

This has included visits to the men's and women's art centres, the Men's Shed, APN Rangers, cooking at Cape York Enterprises and the language program at Chivaree where the students have been able to engage with elders and the wider community.

The students enjoyed helping the Wik and Kugu artists prepare poles for the Commonwealth Games Reconciliation in Schools Art Project "Five Clans Lore Poles" which will be unveiled at Aurukun State School this month.

They also helped collect milkwood for the artists to carve, cooked for the International Women's Day Celebration and received vaccinations from Queensland Health.



Flexi student Jose Nawakie giving the finishing touches to the undercoats for the Commonwealth Games Reconciliation in Queensland Schools Five Clans Poles project at the Men's Art Centre.



The kids loved jumping in the dam.



Flexi students Garth & Jimmy collecting Milkwood for carving with men from the Arts Centre.



Flexi students Garth, Tao & Ethan checking out Percy Koonutta's artwork at the Language and Art program at Chivaree.



Older brothers Hilton & Eric doing some shared learning with younger boys Garth & Jose.



Flexi students Ethan, Christian & Leon helping James the plumber.



Events Calendar

There are a variety of exciting events for 2018, so get them in your diaries now!

- April 25** Anzac Day Ceremony
- May** Community Concert
- May 30** Aurukun Photo Competition Launch
- Jun 9** Aurukun Photo Competition Winners Announced & BBQ
- Jul 20** Aurukun Show Holiday

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

2018 Aurukun Shire Council Meetings



April 17 | May 15 | June 19 | July 17

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 liz@lizinglismedia.com



Top Citizens of the Year



Aurukun State School groundsman Lawrence Woolla and the community's first Police Liaison Officer Billy Koo'lla have been named Aurukun's Citizens of the Year, while emerging leader Jimilla Dix is the Young Citizen of the Year.

Lawrence Woolla was nominated by the school's senior leadership team for being an excellent role model for the students. He consistently goes above and beyond his duties to make the school a better place for all kids, interacts positively with the students, staff and supervisors, keeps the grounds clean and tidy throughout all seasons and has maintained regular and punctual workplace attendance over many years.

Billy Koo'lla has been Aurukun's Police Liaison Officer for the past two years after working for Aurukun Shire Council as a Community Police Officer for more than a decade, and is an approved carer through the Department of Communities (Child Safety).

Billy is well respected by very senior police, his work colleagues, community members and government officials, and his professionalism has seen him called upon to assist with policing responses and cultural advice in Cairns.

His role as a senior Police Liaison Officer, cultural advisor and community leader is extremely challenging, but he maintains a strong work ethic, wears his uniform with

pride and is an exceptional community member and leader.

Jimilla Dix has an honourary leadership role on the Aurukun Youth Advisory committee, represented Aurukun at the Power Shift Indigenous Youth Summit in Melbourne in 2017 and at the recent Cape York Land Council Summit in Palm Cove.

Jimilla regularly provides highly valued input to service provider forums including the interagency network and school attendance taskforce, and is leading the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships' Youth Employment Program in Aurukun.

Her analytical and solution-focused approach to social and economic development in Aurukun has earned Jimilla much respect and led to her being earmarked as an emerging community leader. A strong example of the possibilities available to young women in Aurukun, Jimilla also demonstrates her commitment to the safety and well-being of young children as a foster carer.



Wik Whispers

CPO Training

Crowd control and first aid training has been completed by Aurukun's Community Police Officers as part of their Certificate 2 in Security Operations. Carl Severin from RAM Training Services took the officers through their paces.



Airport Estate B

has been renamed Kleidon Park after former Aurukun Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Gary Kleidon. Gary served from 1994 to 2007 and also has a street named after him in Aurukun.



Alan Neilan has been formally appointed as the permanent Director Community Services.

We wish Alan well in this position which encompasses Community Police, Aged Care, Child Care, IKC, Business Development, Grants Lobbying, Funerals Assistance, Community Events, Animal Control and Environment Health.



Aurukun

copped a soaking in February, but the wet weather was a hit on Facebook. More than 1000 people were reached with each wet weather post and a phenomenal 10,000 people were reached with a pic of a police car beside flooded Myall Creek as the wet weather set in.



To read this newsletter online, or for more information on any of the articles, visit www.aurukun.qld.gov.au or call (07) 4060 6800.



www.facebook.com/AurukunShireCouncil