

Mayor's Message



As part of my Council's commitment to improving community safety in the Aurukun Shire, as your Mayor, I am pleased to present Aurukun Shire Council's Community Safety Plan.

In developing our Plan, we listened to you, our valued community residents, as well as our community stakeholders, to better understand your views and perceptions of community safety in our Shire, and to hear what you believed Council should be doing to improve your safety and your perceptions of safety here.

This Community Safety Plan has been developed on the assumption that Governments, both State and Federal, will continue to assist the Aurukun Shire as well as the other 18 Indigenous communities in Queensland to achieve self-determination, whilst at its core acknowledging that change must be led by the community itself, under the current and future leadership of your local Council. We take this responsibility very seriously.

I and your elected Councillors are honoured and committed to advocating improvement in your standard of living and wellbeing, including your safety as residents of the Aurukun Shire. It is intended that this Plan will guide the conversation within Council (and within Government more generally) and provide enhanced focus during strategic planning for our region, for many years to come.

On behalf of my Council, I sincerely thank you for your contribution to this important community initiative, and to the Council's response that shall flow out of it.

Keri Tamwoy
Aurukun Shire Council Mayor



Aurukun Shire Council's Community Safety Plan has identified 19 areas for action.

Community Safety Plan

A targeted law and order review, controlling litter in the Aurukun township and advocating for key performance measures for community service providers are among the recommendations in the Aurukun Shire Council Community Safety Plan.

The Queensland Government-funded plan considers alcohol management as well as wider community safety concerns within the shire.

While 60% of residents generally feel safe in Aurukun Shire, almost 70% believed crime to be a major problem in the community.

The Plan identifies 19 action areas in response to community safety concerns.

The action areas cover policing with recommendations such as a feasibility study for Community Police Officers to be absorbed into the Queensland Police Service model.

Alcohol and drugs is another action area with survey respondents overwhelmingly considering alcohol to be a major influence in accidents, anti-social behaviour, violent crime and disorder in Aurukun.

Respondents generally agreed that the Alcohol Management Plan was not working to prevent alcohol entering the community and alternate models might be tried.

Other concerns included dangerous dogs wandering, gambling, conflict mitigation in town planning and slow internet speeds.



ACTION AREA

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| ✖ Leadership | ✖ Transport | ✖ Tenancy Management |
| ✖ Community Education | ✖ Policing | ✖ Employment |
| ✖ Surveillance | ✖ Vulnerable Groups | ✖ Town Planning |
| ✖ Security | ✖ Provider Performance | ✖ Telecommunications |
| ✖ Drug & Alcohol Management | ✖ Animal Control | ✖ Local Laws |
| ✖ Freight | ✖ Money Management | ✖ Community |
| ✖ Infrastructure | ✖ Community Services | |



Wik Kath



AURUKUN CITIZENS OF THE YEAR



Australia Day



Perry Yunkaporta



Vincent Koomeeta



Waynead Wolmby

Aurukun Citizens of the Year
Perry Yunkaporta and Vincent Koomeeta are Aurukun's Citizens of the Year and Waynead Wolmby is the Young Citizen of the Year.

Perry Yunkaporta

Perry Yunkaporta is an Elder of the Apalech Clan of the Wik Nation and an Elder and ordained Lay Pastor of the Uniting Church of Australia.

During his schooling in Aurukun, Perry became proficient in the reading and writing of Wik Mungkan and today is one of the few fluent readers and writers of this language which is the predominant dialect for the Wik and Wik Way people. Perry is one of the last speakers of the Wik Ngatan and Wik Alkin dialects, making English his fourth language.

As a gifted linguist and knowledgeable bushman, Perry has been the leader of the Woyan Min Bio-Cultural project at the Indigenous Knowledge Centre and directed dozens of short films and videos, all shot on Country and in Wik Mungkan. The films are translated into English subtitles to support the transmission of Traditional Knowledge and the preservation of the Wik Mungkan language.

Perry is a Songman for his Clan's traditional dancing called Malp and is always very passionate in promoting the importance of the Wik heritage and its rightful place in the Australian story.

Vincent Koomeeta

Vincent Koomeeta is the eldest of the late Edwin and Dora Koomeeta's six children and has four children and five grandchildren. Vincent has worked for Apunipima for just over four years as the family support worker with the Social, Emotional, Wellbeing team and recently completed his Certificate III in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice.

Vincent is actively involved in the Wik Warriors and takes great pride in helping organise the men's group. Last month he participated in a workshop that involved men from other communities getting together for men's business.

A respected Elder in the community, Vincent is a source of wisdom and strength for the people of Aurukun, especially in his role as a family support worker. No matter what happens in the community, including COVID-19 and unrest, Vincent has been reliable in assisting families. His work colleagues respect him as a very resourceful, kind, humble and resilient person who never says a bad word about anyone and is always willing to lend a helping hand.

Waynead Wolmby

Waynead Wolmby is studying at Griffith University and is a supporter and mentor to many young secondary school students after completing his secondary schooling at Marist College in Brisbane.

An avid runner, Waynead is a member of the Aurukun Deadly Runners group and competed in the inaugural Indigenous Marathon Foundation event in Aurukun in 2020.

Waynead encourages young people to have an active and healthy lifestyle and has assisted at many PCYC activities. He is always positive about the future of Aurukun and his role in the community.





Champions Visit



A visit to the Koolkan State School was the highlight for Aurukun Ministerial Champion Di Farmer when she visited the community with Aurukun Government Champion and Under Treasurer Rachel Hunter and Ian Mackie, the Deputy Director-General, Department of Seniors and Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.

The group visited the Wik and Kugu Arts Centre where Keith Wikmunea and Garry Namponan showed how the artists create their famous carvings.

They visited the Indigenous Knowledge Centre where they were treated to traditional performance led by Elder Nelson Wolmby, an Apalech dancer from the Wik lands.

Meetings were held with Aurukun Shire Council and with the community to hear concerns and how they could be addressed. Issues raised included improving telecommunications capacity as the Telstra tower is running over capacity which is slowing the 4G service.

Funding for CCTV, Community Police Officers, security guards and the Indigenous Knowledge Centre was also discussed.



Attendance Counts



Congratulations to the 28 Koolkan State School students who achieved 90-100% attendance at school and were always on time for class. The families of these hard-working students enjoyed breakfast at the school and were congratulated by Aurukun Ministerial Champion Di Farmer for making sure every day counts.





Digital Donation

Arthur and his father, renowned Aurukun Artist Alair Pambejan, check out the new Apple devices from The Scots College in Sydney.

Demand for viewing on digital devices far exceeds demand for books at the Aurukun Indigenous Knowledge Centre.

The arrival of a generous donation of laptops, iPads, digital projector and accessories from The Scots College will be a huge boost for the Aurukun community's digital journey.

The digital documenting of Learning on Country opens up contemporary ways of supporting the ongoing intergenerational transmission of knowledge held in the land and in Dreamtime stories. Thank you Scots College!



2021 Aurukun Shire Council Meetings

20 April • 18 May • 15 June

Upcoming Events

- **10 April**
Onchan Min Festival
- **22 April**
Have Your Say Day
- **25 April**
Anzac Day Service



Wik Whispers



The COVID-19 vaccination program is due to be rolled out in Aurukun on 15 May.



Well done to the volunteers who helped collect more than 50 bags of rubbish

around the Aurukun township to mark Step Up to Clean Up Day. The hard-working group enjoyed a barbecue afterwards at the Splash Park.

Aurukun Shire Council is now on Instagram. This account is aimed at younger members of the community. Make sure you follow @aurukunshirecouncil.



Aurukun residents enjoyed a blast from the past at the Indigenous

Knowledge Centre when they helped sort photos, documents and stories stored from Aurukun Shire Council's archives.

Aurukun Airport's staff have completed a five-day airport reporting course at the airport. Trainer Ray Oaklands led Airport Manager Anthony Ryan, Tyson Kerindun and Paul Dodds through the course.

IKC Flexi student and budding musician Leon Yunkaporta gets hands

on setting up the new Rode microphone in the recording space at the IKC in readiness for his upcoming and much anticipated recording sessions.



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



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



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