

# Wik Kath



## Message FROM THE MAYOR

Our busy year continues for Aurukun Shire Council. The 2015/16 annual budget has recently been adopted and we can now get into

undertaking facility improvements as well as providing the necessary resources to ensure that Council continues to provide the full range of community services that are already offered.

I am pleased to see the dramatic improvement that has been made with the quality and production by our highly skilled artists. The promotion of Aurukun art is currently putting the message out there into the art world. The engagement of so many local artists is to be commended and the resources that Council has put into the centre is a great example of supporting local employment. All residents are encouraged to buy artworks through the centre as this greatly assists the artists' prices and their development.

Sly grog continues to be a major problem for the local community. If we are to change our quality of life we need a dramatic change to the alcohol situation. I am also most concerned with other substances coming into our community. I encourage all residents to look out for any untoward activity. If your suspicions are aroused please report to the local police.

Thanks for everyone getting behind the Aurukun Day celebration on 4 August. This great community day included a BBQ, entertainment and enjoyable activities.

I urge residents to tidy up your properties and around the streets and public areas. We need to have pride in our town and improve our quality of life.

Finally in its final year, the current Council looks forward to achieving many more goals before the 2016 elections.

Don't forget to check out Council's website and Facebook. You will be greatly surprised by the many positive outcomes that are being achieved around our vibrant community.

**Yours in local government  
Mayor Dereck Walpo**



## Christine Anu headlines first ever Wik Rock concert

**Famous Indigenous singer Christine Anu headlined Aurukun Shire Council's highly successful inaugural Wik Rock concert last month.**

Aurukun's biggest ever community concert saw Anu headline a whole day of entertainment, including the Indigenous Hip Hop Project and a Battle of the Bands.

Anu, who has Torres Strait Islander heritage, has been nominated for an incredible 16 ARIA (Australian Recording Industry Association) awards since her first album *Stylin' Up* was released 20 years ago this month.

Her big break was the release of *My Island Home* in the 1990s, a song originally recorded by the Warumpi Band almost a decade before.

The 45-year-old is currently on a national tour to celebrate her 20 years in the music industry.

Aurukun Shire Council Mayor Dereck Walpo said he was thrilled Anu performed in this remote Far North Queensland community.

"We're absolutely delighted that someone of Christine's legendary status accepted our invitation to perform at this historic event," said Mayor Walpo.

"It was a massive day and night for everyone in Aurukun, and there was a great turn-out.

"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.

"I'd also like to say a huge thank you to the PCYC Indigenous Programs, Glencore, Rio Tinto and Apunipima Cape York Health Council, who were major contributors to the event – without their support, this event would not have been possible.

"I would also like to thank Island and Cape, Bendigo Bank and Skytrans, who have also been instrumental in providing the support we needed to make this event a possibility.

"This concert was a great chance for the community to come together in a fun environment.

**"It was a massive day and night for everyone in Aurukun, and there was a great turn-out."**







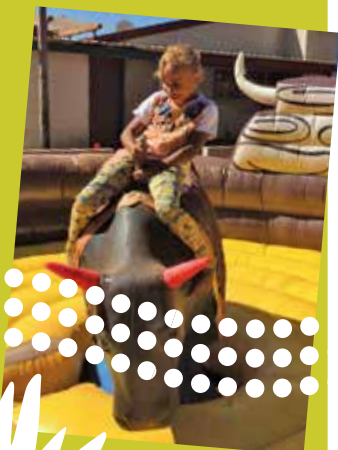
## Local Artist gets pride of place in Canberra

A MAJOR work by an accomplished Aurukun artist has been hung in Parliament House, bringing the vibrant colours and landscapes of the Western Cape to Australia's capital.

The painting, *Bush Fire at Ngak-Pungarichan* (2013) by Mavis Ngallametta, was purchased by the Parliament House Art Collection late last year.

Last month, it was officially unveiled by Leichhardt MP Warren Entsch together with the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Bronwyn Bishop MP, and Hasluck MP Ken Wyatt.

## Aurukun Day 4 AUGUST 2015



## Aurukun Councillors presented OAMs by Governor of Queensland



Three Aurukun Shire Council councillors recently attended a special ceremony in Cairns, as they were presented with their prestigious Order of Australia Medals (OAMs) by the Governor of Queensland (His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey) for their 'services to the Indigenous community of Cape York Peninsula'.

Cr Ada Woolla, Cr Edgar Kerindun and Cr Vera Koomeeta all received OAMs at the Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort ceremony, while two other Aurukun residents – Doris Poonkameyla and Sarah Wolmby – had also previously been awarded medals in January's initial announcement.

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.

"We are so proud of our new OAMs, and their awards are thoroughly deserved," said Mayor Walpo.

"We are a small community, so to see so many local residents receiving an OAM this year is quite incredible.

"We're passionate about making our community the best it can possibly be, and I think these awards are another reflection of that.

"On behalf of all Aurukun residents, I'd like to offer our congratulations to all five recipients on their special achievement."



Cr Ada Woolla, Cr Edgar Kerindun & Cr Vera Koomeeta

## Healthy Choice Rewards

Aurukun Shire Council and Apunipima Cape York Health Council are very excited to be able to announce that the Aurukun Healthy Choice Rewards offer has been extended.

As part of the healthy eating campaign, customers are encouraged to spend less on fresh fruit and veg at Aurukun's Island & Cape store.

Instead of having to spend \$20 on fresh fruit and veg to receive their reward, customers now have to only spend \$15 on fresh fruit and veg to receive a \$10 Healthy Choice Reward. It can be redeemed for up to 3 days from date of purchase.

The offer is now available – so go to your Island & Cape store + get your \$10 Healthy Choice Reward!



## "This Place called Aurukun"

When Chris Byrne, the maintenance supervisor with Aurukun Shire Council relaxes, he writes poetry. Just read this wonderful piece he wrote about Aurukun.

Wonderland and wilderness,  
bound in nature's cocoon,  
What an extraordinary place,  
This place called Aurukun.

Its spirit and heart beats  
A strong and vibrant tune,  
It's like no other I've seen,  
This place called Aurukun.

Just as the seasons bring  
welcome sunshine,  
followed by thunder  
and lightning abound,  
This heart beat brings  
an Eden, a paradise,  
together with a flurry  
and furor,  
'tis here to be found.

Its spirit and heart beats,  
A strong and vibrant tune,  
It's a wondrous place  
This place called Aurukun.



## Wik and Kugu Arts Centre

This edition's featured artwork is by

*Laurie Ngallametta*



Laurie is an emerging artist at Wik and Kugu - he is a sculptor and painter. Laurie creates artwork in the style of his uncles Joe Ngallametta and Joel Ngallametta, who also created Thap yongk (Law Poles) using natural ochre on milkwood and paintings of ceremonial body paint designs with ochre on canvas.

Laurie has been named as a finalist in the Telstra Art Awards for 2015 and we wish him all the best at the awards.

**Artist:** Laurie Ngallametta  
**Title:** Thap Yongk  
**Size:** 80cm to 2metres  
**Price:** Dependant on size, various sizes currently available at the art centre

### THAP YONGK (Law Poles)

From a traditional point of view, law poles were produced for ceremony and left behind to the elements in the tropical rainforest. These sculptures often represented characters that featured in the Dreaming stories belonging to the community of the maker of the poles.

These milkwood sculptures represent inverted trees; the branches and leaves are hidden under the earth, while the roots stick out of the ground. The Thapa yongk enable the spirit to return to the earth.

The hidden tree branches symbolise the many Dreaming stories and laws that connect people to the land at to each other. Usually these law poles can be seen only by men, but Joe Ngallametta (Laurie Ngallametta's grandfather) gave his personal permission to display the poles in a public context.

*Description published in Before Time Today in 2010 - written by Georges Petitjean.*

For more enquiries about Laurie's work or to purchase, please contact Wik & Kugu Art Centre at [arts@aurukun.qld.gov.au](mailto:arts@aurukun.qld.gov.au) or on (07) 4060 6843

## Local Fare Scheme

From Monday 20 July, the Queensland Government Local Fare Scheme allows an airfare discount of up to \$400 for return air travel administered through participating airlines and local Councils from selected airports in Cape York and the Torres Strait.

Local residents who have lived in Aurukun for 3 or more years can receive up to \$400 off return bookings when travelling between the following airports:

**Cape York to: Aurukun, Coen, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Northern Peninsula, Pormpuraaw, Weipa and Cairns.**

The scheme aims to improve the standard of

living of local residents by making air travel to neighbouring communities to access health, education and employment facilities more affordable.

To be eligible for the scheme, local Aurukun residents, who can apply at either Council or the post office, will be required to provide a letter from Aurukun Shire Council to prove they have been a resident in the community for a minimum of 3 years.

### To book your return flight

**Step 1:** Visit your Aurukun Shire Council offices to get your Letter of Eligibility, which will be approved by the Mayor.

**Step 2:** Book your airfare through a local ticketing agent and present your Letter of Eligibility when making the booking.

For more information, visit [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Travel-and-transport/Local-Fare-Scheme-Far-North-Queensland](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Travel-and-transport/Local-Fare-Scheme-Far-North-Queensland) or speak to the local agent.

## Council Launches New Logo

Aurukun Shire Council has a new look after unveiling a brand new logo to move the community positively forward into the 21st Century.

At a Special Meeting on 8 May 2015, Aurukun Shire Council officially adopted a new logo after considering a number of possible concepts.

The logo was approved after detailed consultation with the local community and Council staff over a number of months.

Aurukun Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Bernie McCarthy said the purpose of the new logo is to replace the current outdated Council logo with a modern, corporate and professional look.



"The new logo represents all elements of the Aurukun community: symbolism to the name (waterlily), the landscape (three rivers) and Indigenous markings (dots)," said Mr McCarthy.

"The Indigenous markings represent Aurukun's five clans, and the best symbolism of this was through the use of dots.

"The colours are reflective of not only the landscape, but also the community."

The new logo will have many identification uses, including signage, uniforms, vehicles, email signatures, letterheads, advertising, souvenirs, website, and social media channels such as Facebook.





## Early Childhood Centre Update



**DAMPER WITH DELINA!** Aurukun's Koolkan Childcare Centre children and staff recently made damper with Delina! Children practised counting out the ingredients, talked about the mixture, and how it felt as it changed. As a group, the children talked about staying healthy, taking turns and staying safe in the kitchen. In the afternoon, everyone had fresh fruit and damper - it was yum!

It's also great to have sisters Jennifer and Janice Yunkaporta working at Koolkan Childcare Centre! How good is it to have local staff with amazing qualifications running this service for Aurukun kids and community. Deadly!!!!



## Council Adopts 2015-16 Budget

Aurukun Shire Council's 2015/16 budget has been adopted with caution in challenging financial times.

The capital budget for 2015/2016 financial year totals \$3.788M

The highlights of Aurukun Shire Council's 2015/2016 budget are as follows:

- Council estimated it will spend \$800K in this year for Community Police, without getting any subsidies from the State, either directly or through the Police Department. Lobbying action is being taken to redress this inequity.
- In accordance with its asset management plan, Council is committed to upgrading its infrastructure assets to a higher standard, to provide better service to the community.
- Council will implement recording and reporting efficiencies, to ensure that all costs are correctly allocated to their relevant areas.
- Without the above initiatives, and progressive improvements in operating methodologies, Council's long-term sustainability forecast

indicates a continuation of operating losses over the period under review. Council is taking a proactive approach to rectify this problem.

- Council will continue to identify, and follow up, new revenue streams that will provide a net additional benefit to Aurukun Shire.
- Council has set an exciting and challenging task to complete development of our accommodation facilities.
- The fees and charges have been increased generally at 3%, with some remaining at their present level.

Finally, I thank our Corporate Services staff particularly Chief Accountant Tom Ortiz for the preparation of the budget with valuable input from Aurukun Shire Directors and the Chief Executive Officer.

**Yours in local government**  
**Mayor Dereck Walpo**  
**Aurukun Shire Council**

## Aurukun Art Leading The Way

Aurukun art has been leading the way across a variety of art shows and media over the past month.

A huge coup for Aurukun art came when it was chosen to promote a major event – this time the prestigious honour as showcase art for the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair.

The artwork formed the major branding for CIAF, including posters, brochures and website.

The CURRENTS exhibition at Tanks Arts Centre in Cairns, which is part of CIAF, focuses on trends and movements in Queensland Indigenous arts centres. Aurukun dog sculptures are also being utilised to promote the exhibition.

Finally, what an incredible and deserved honour for our amazing Aurukun artists to feature as front page and focus story in The Courier-Mail's statewide QWeekend magazine.

"It's so good to see our incredible artists getting the recognition and profile they deserve!", said Wik & Kugu Art Centre Director Lucy Bond.

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



## Events Calendar

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

- |      |       |                            |
|------|-------|----------------------------|
| Sept | 8-9   | Aurukun Roundtable         |
| Sept | 19-22 | Aurukun NAIDOC Celebration |
| Nov  | 11    | Careers Expo               |
| Dec  | 11    | Christmas Celebration      |

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

## Welcome to Wik Kath

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 [gavinb@pageonepr.com.au](mailto:gavinb@pageonepr.com.au)



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