



Message FROM THE MAYOR

Our community has enjoyed much success over the past 12 months starting with our first Australia Day Citizenship Awards which will be run again next year.

*merry
Christmas*

The Wik and Kugu Art Centre received the Cairns Regional Art Centre Award and artist Garry Namponan won the Premier's Award for Excellence at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF). Bruce Bell and Garry Namponan also received the Thancoupie Bursary Award.

Chief Executive Officer Bernie McCarthy was a worthy recipient of the Public Service Medal in recognition of his service and leadership to local government over 47 years.

Aurukun's closed-circuit television (CCTV) security system, which is successfully reducing anti-social behaviour in the community, won the 2017 Australian Security Industry Awards for Excellence.

Next year we celebrate a major milestone – the 40th anniversary of Aurukun Shire Council. We are planning events throughout the year for the community to be involved in.

We will also be progressing our plans for economic development, employment and training. Projects include the completion of the Aurukun Access road sealing, development of the second MacKenzie Camp for service providers and construction of a new subdivision.

On behalf of the Aurukun Shire Councillors I wish the community, staff and stakeholders an enjoyable Christmas and a successful new year.

Yours in local government, Mayor Dereck Walpo

Top Students

Going to school regularly has paid off for 19 Aurukun State School students who were treated to a trip to Dreamworld and an insight into boarding school life after achieving 90-100% attendance.

Supervisor Kathy Ona said it was the first time all but one of the Year 1-6 students had travelled by plane from Aurukun to a city.

"It was a positive experience as they are now looking forward to attending boarding school as high school students," she said.

"They experienced staying at a boarding school, eating in dining halls, sharing rooms and travelling in a big city. The students were hosted by Djarragun College in Cairns and Runaway Bay Sports Centre on the Gold Coast.

"Aurukun students boarding at John Paul College gave them a tour of the school, we visited Aurukun's sister primary school, McGregor State School, and Marsden State School.

"The students were hosted by The Former Origin Greats ARTIE (Achieving Results for Indigenous Education) Academy.

"They were received well everywhere they went and we often had members of the public wanting to know who they were."



2018 Australia Day Awards

Nominations are open for Aurukun's 2018 Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year.

The Australia Day awards recognise people for their personal endeavours, achievements and community involvement. Past recipients and elected representatives cannot be nominated. Forms are available at the Council office and must be submitted by **4pm January 12.**





WARRIOR TRAINING

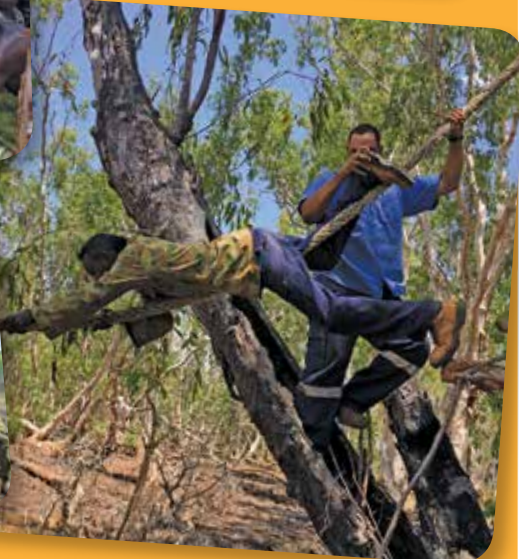
Cadets in the Kapani Warrior Program head to Wujal Wujal this month for their next round of activities.

The job readiness program gets participants job ready for a career in Defence and helps prepare them for whatever career or occupational path they may choose.

Warrant Officer Allen Jolly from 51st Battalion, Far North Queensland Regiment said there had been 12 expressions of interest in the Program which is training men in Aurukun to re-establish the Aurukun army unit.

"We have a lot of keen fellas who have been learning to work together as a team and have established friendships through the program.

"Training will continue in February and March so we can have qualified patrolmen in Aurukun by the end of March."



CCTV Award

Aurukun's CCTV, which is reducing anti-social behaviour in the community, has won a 2017 Australian Security Industry Excellence award.

Installer Tyson Swarbrick from SAPE Industries accepted the trophy for a Special Security Event or Project worth more than \$500,000.

The CCTV is owned by Aurukun Shire Council and operated around the clock by Aurukun Police as part of a broader strategy to improve life in Aurukun.

The CCTV system is used extensively by the Aurukun Police to assist in crime prevention and identify offenders.

The ability to play back footage of actual occurrences in this community has dramatically reduced large scale unrest and ongoing community tensions.

Infrastructure damage and vandalism of Council property has been considerably reduced since the installation and there have been no vehicle thefts since October last year.



Rescue Crew

A new local team will keep you safe on the water during the festive season.

Darrus Wolmby (pictured) is the Aurukun Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) President, Rex Ngakyunkwokka is Vice President, Neil Peinkinna is Operations Officer and Mick Mcleod is the unit training co-ordinator who also looks after boat maintenance.

Previous Captain, Steve Topping, recruited and encouraged these local men to train and take charge of this very important service for their community.

Darrus has his full coxswain ticket and Rex will soon complete his radio communications training to get his coxswain ticket.



Artists a Hit

Wik and Kugu artists Garry Namponan, Bevan Namponan, Leigh Namponan, Lex Namponan, Vernon Marbendinar and Roderick Yunkaporta were treated like rock stars by art lovers at the National Gallery of Victoria Patron's Dinner in November.

The dinner was held in conjunction with the Past Legacy: Present Tense exhibition which includes 15 Wik and Kugu ku', Aurukun's famous camp dog carvings.

The eight Wik and Kugu artists attracted attention everywhere they went on the trip which included the Point Leo Estate Sculpture Park, Melbourne Zoo and the conservation area of the National Gallery.

Seeing their work on display was a highlight for the artists who undertook the professional development trip after winning the \$10,000 Art Centre Prize in the inaugural Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) Art Awards.

Skytrans assisted with airfares and in return the artists carved model planes for Skytrans to give as corporate gifts.



Holiday Activities

The PCYC School Holiday Program starts on **December 11** with fun activities from **Monday to Friday 10am-1pm and 2-6pm.**

There will be basketball, touch, Edor, Oztag and futsal games as well as music and art. On **Friday December 22** the program ends with a family BBQ in the afternoon.

Mixed sports will be held at **1-6pm** and a movie screened at **4-6pm on December 27-29.**

The program resumes on **January 2** and continues until **January 19** with a hockey clinic on **January 15-16.**



Signs Progressing

Aurukun Shire Council provided six bus stop signs at the request of Aurukun State School to help our community's children get to school every day.

The signs are part of the current township signage project which is a responsibility of local government.

Installation of the signs has been completed as part of the ongoing positive community strategy for Aurukun.

Over drinks and nibbles, games of pool and table tennis, about 50 newcomers met and exchanged stories about their experiences in moving to Aurukun.

They were from Aurukun State School, Department of Housing and Public Works, Apunipima Health, contractors, Ergon, local agencies, Queensland Productivity Commission and Council.

The Quiz, presided over by the affable and unflinching Acting Director of Community Services Alan Neilan, was challenging and resulted in a draw between teams from Housing and Aurukun State School.

Each team received a \$30 prize voucher from Kang Kang Café. The highlight of the night was the cutting of the Welcome Cake kindly provided by Tim Jones of Kang Kang Café.

New friendships were made and the general consensus was that events such as this are invaluable in enabling newcomers to feel welcome, establish networks, make friendships and enjoy the conviviality of the Aurukun community.



WELCOME NEWCOMERS



Events Calendar

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

- Jan  26 **Australia Day**
- Mar  1 **Welcome to Newcomers Function**
- Mar  3 **Aurukun Clean Up Day**

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

2018 Aurukun Shire Council Meetings

20 February
20 March | 17 April
15 May | 19 June



Wik Whispers

Q A Wik name is needed for the road that runs from the sport centre to the entrance of Aurukun, currently nicknamed Bauxite Boulevard. Council would appreciate suggestions from the community.



Q Students from Aurukun State School marched down Kang Kang Road to kick off their Athletics

Day this morning. The three teams were as noisy as they were colourful, chanting their team songs and enjoying the applause of the community who had gathered to watch the march past.

Q Mobile phones can now get service at Big Lake and Blue Lagoon following a major investment by APN Cape York of \$120,000. UHF radio coverage is also available across the majority of the Southern Wik Homelands. Signs will be installed showing which channel to use.



Q A Wik and Kugu ku' carving has been attracting a lot of attention in California where he now

lives. Alison Hussey contacted Aurukun's Art Centre to buy a camp dog and selected Garry Namponan's ku' "Max". Alison was thrilled with her purchase: "Our dog is enjoying his new home because he's been getting a lot of compliments!"

Q Aurukun State School students are helping choose a language name for the senior units under construction. Five people have expressed their interest in moving into the units which will be operated by the Department of Housing and Public Works.



Q Enyan Circuit, which means peaceful in Wik language, is a new 15-lot community housing estate being

developed in Aurukun by the State Government. When completed these homes will be a great boost to housing for local people. All housing allocations are managed through the Department of Housing and Public Works.

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.



www.facebook.com/AurukunShireCouncil

