



Wilk Kath

ISSUE 2, MAY 2018

Growing Respect, Community & Leaders!



Message FROM THE MAYOR

Happy birthday Aurukun Shire Council! On May 22 it will be the 40th anniversary of the creation of our local government

authority and we want the whole community to celebrate.

Our 40th anniversary events include bringing award-winning folk pop duo Busby Marou to Aurukun in August for a community concert.

It was fitting that our Anzac Day ceremony was the best attended this year with more than 300 people coming together to remember our Anzacs. As a community we are very proud of our first Army graduates and enjoyed seeing them looking so smart in their uniforms.

As part of the 40th celebrations we have introduced the Annual Deadly Employee Awards with awards given out each quarter and an overall winner to be selected in December. The first two rounds have been very successful and I congratulate the winners on their strong work ethic.

Next up will be the Aurukun Photo Competition which we introduced last year with great success. I'm looking forward to seeing more magnificent images of the scenery and life of Aurukun.

**Yours in local government
Mayor Dereck Walpo**

FREE Concert

Featuring:

Busby Marou



Busby Marou will be performing their chart-topping songs in the community on Saturday August 25 to help celebrate the Aurukun Shire Council 40th anniversary celebrations.

The duo have been performing around Queensland as part of their Got Your Back tour featuring the many hits from *Postcards From The Shellhouse* which debuted at #1 on the National ARIA charts.

The pair are from Rockhampton and won the Deadly Award for Most Promising

New Talent in Music after releasing their debut self-titled album.

Jeremy Marou is a Torres Strait islander whose childhood experience with Murray Island song and dance has inspired his melodies. His extraordinary guitar playing is complemented by his expertise on every instrument he touches, which works beautifully with Thomas Busby's distinctly Australian way of sharing stories.

**Thank you to our Gold sponsors:
Glencore, Skytrans, Rio Tinto, Sea Swift and Preston Law.**

Photo Comp Returns

This striking image of the Aurukun waterfront was one of the entries by Elena Karoll in last year's competition.

The I Love Aurukun Photo competition is back so get snapping! **The competition opens on May 21 and closes on June 30.** Make sure your camera or phone is set to a high resolution of at least 300kB, but preferably 1MB or more so we can reproduce your images. Images can be emailed to EA@aurukun.qld.gov.au or bring your camera into the Council office with its computer compatible cord and we will download it for you.

Categories:

- **Best photo by an Aurukun resident:** Return airfare to Cairns
- **Best Photo:** \$250
- **Aurukun Character:** \$150
- **Favourite Activity:** \$150
- **Best Scene:** \$150
- **Aurukun at Work:** \$150
- **People's Choice:** \$150
- **Junior Photographer (U13):** \$150

Thank you to our generous sponsors Skytrans and Black Star Radio.



Photographer: Elena Karoll



Aurukun Facts

Population:
1269 (2016 Census)

Indigenous Population:
90.4%

Area:
7375 sq km

Average Temperature Range:
21.4C – 32.4C

Average Rainfall:
1648mm per year

Chairperson

Donald Peinkinna
April 1979 – February 1983

Alison Woolla
March 1983 – March 1985

Fred Kerindun
April 1985 – March 1988

Dennie Bowenda
April 1988 – March 1991

Alison Woolla
April 1991 – March 1994

Mayor

Jacob Wolmby
April 1994 – November 1996

Dereck Walpo
November 1996 – March 1997

Jonathan Korkaktain
April 1997 – March 2000

Jacob Wolmby
April 2000 – March 2004

Neville Pootchemunka
April 2004 – April 2012

Angus Kerindun
April 2012 – May 2012

Derek Walpo
June 2012 – current



Post Office

Aurukun Shire Council

The Premier visited Aurukun on August 11 to meet with the community and Council issued a statement saying they would refuse Queensland Government money and not accept State Government laws. Instead they would seek Commonwealth

Government finance and legislation for self-management and land title. In August the State Government dismissed the Council.

Help was sought from the Commonwealth Government which passed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Queensland Reserves and Communities Self-Management) Act 1978. This legislation was designed to stop Queensland's Department of Aboriginal and Islander Advancement from assuming control of the communities and to allow them to move towards self-management. The Queensland Government responded by degazetting the two Aboriginal reserves which effectively negated the Federal legislation.

A compromise was reached between the State and Federal governments and Queensland passed the Local Government (Aboriginal Lands) Act 1978 which provided Aurukun and Mornington Island with limited local government status. An elected Aboriginal council lasted just one month before an administrator was appointed.

On September 18 in 2013 the State Government handed over about 750,000 hectares of Aboriginal freehold land, one of the largest land transfers on the Government's history. The lease was cancelled and Aurukun Shire Council became the trustee of the town area and its reserves. The bulk of the land is held in trust by Ngan Aak-Kunch for the future benefit of the Wik, Wik Way and Kugu people. It cannot be bought or sold, but can be developed and leased for economic development and environmental protection.

Sources:

A Brief History of Government Administration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in Queensland by Kathy Frankland. Extract from: Records Guide Volume 1: A Guide to Queensland Government Records Relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. Queensland State Archives and Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs, 1994

1978 Cabinet Records

Peter Sutton Biography on Donald Daratchimbar Peinkinna (Pyenken) (1925-1988)

The Queensland Government proclaimed the Shire of Aurukun on May 22, 1978 and granted the new Council Aboriginal Land Lease No. 1 for 50 years. The township was located on the site of the original Aurukun Mission which was established in 1904 by the Presbyterian Church on an Aboriginal reserve.

People from all over Cape York were relocated there, with many taken against their will. The Church, which later became the Uniting Church, administered the Mission under the Queensland Aborigines Act. In 1974 the Aurukun Council began to partly manage the community after the mission's Sydney headquarters suggested they take over full self-management, something the Council felt they were not quite ready for.

Donald Daratchimbar Peinkinna (Pyenken) became Chairman after a brief stint by Richard Kelinda who resigned. Under Mr Peinkinna's leadership the council sought freehold title to the Aurukun reserve and fought an unsuccessful legal battle with the Queensland Government after it facilitated bauxite mining on Aurukun land.

In 1978 the Queensland Government decided to take control of both the Aurukun and Mornington Island reserves. Both local Aboriginal councils objected and were backed by the Uniting Church which had been managing both the communities.



Council Building

Anzac Pride

Pride in Aurukun's new Army recruits contributed to a record crowd of 300 at the community's ninth Anzac Day service.

The local boys in uniform worked with the 51st Battalion through the Kapani Warrior program to become patrolmen for Aurukun.

It was the first time the community had an Army bugler join the service with his haunting rendition of The Last Post setting the mood in Aurukun Town Square.

Aurukun police marched from the station and were joined by the general community with several laying wreaths as part of the ceremony.

During World War II, 11 Aurukun men enlisted and joined the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion which played a vital role in protecting the maritime borders of Far North Queensland and supporting the effort against Japanese forces in Papua New Guinea.

The Torres Strait Light Infantry greatly assisted with their local knowledge of geographic and sea conditions, especially in the Cape York region, which was targeted for very heavy bombing by the enemy during World War II.

The 11 men from Aurukun who joined up were: **Johnny Bandicootcha, Charlie Bob Ngakyunkwokka, Billy Buttons Woolla, Callum Woolla, Billy Comprabar, Johnnie Lac Lac Ampeybegan, Charlie Warnkoola, Billy Panjee Peinkyekka, Sandy Pootchemunka, Tommy Toikalkin and Frank Wolmby.**



WAYNE ROBERTS



RHONDA JOLLIFFE



DICK WILSON

★ DEADLY AWARDS ★

Carpenter Wayne Roberts is the winner of the second Aurukun Shire Council Deadly Employee Awards. Administration Manager Rhonda Jolliffe came second and Community Police Officer Dick Wilson was third.

Wayne has a strong attendance record and a good attitude at work where he is interested in making changes to Building Services procedures to help the Council move forward. The documentation required in his role is of a very high standard and Wayne excels in recording information about his daily jobs ensuring the work gets costed faster and invoices are processed quickly.

Rhonda works in the challenging environment of administration where she has performed well for more than three years. She has stepped in to help with cleaning on numerous occasions when the Council has been short staffed. Rhonda is well respected by the community, especially the older residents. She assists at many community events and is one of the main organisers of the Council's successful annual River to Ramp fun run.

Dick is an outstanding Community Police Officer who is based at the business centre where he is always willing to help. He has always been at work on time for every shift and his happy outlook ensures the community is relaxed whenever they are near him.

Nominations are open for the next quarterly awards which will be announced in July. 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, Bryant, Koppen Construction, Cameron Herbert Constructions, GSS Asset Management, Precruitment, Good Guys, Preston Law and Southern Cross Safety & Workwear.





Events Calendar

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

- May**  **Aurukun Photo Competition Launch**
- Jun**  **Aurukun Photo Competition Closes**
- Jul**  **Aurukun Show Holiday**
- Aug**  **Aurukun 40 Years Concert**

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

2018 Aurukun Shire Council Meetings



June 19 | July 17 | August 21

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

🗨️ **Sivyer Park** in Enyan Circuit has been named after Linda Sivyer who was the Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer for 22 years until her retirement in 2014.



Linda received an OAM in 2016 recognising her work in the community which included instigating events like Anzac Day, Aurukun Day and the community Christmas function. Her roles included Kids Club coordinator, funeral organiser, Justice of the Peace and church minister.

Clan Poles

Aurukun's five clans are represented by five Clan Poles standing alongside the flag pole flying the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at Aurukun State School.

The poles were unveiled at a school assembly where elders encouraged the students to join them in a traditional Maalp which is a Wik corroboree.

Funded by a grant from the 2018 Commonwealth Games Reconciliation In Queensland Schools program, each pole displays the traditional body art which adorns Wik dancers when they perform Maalp to tell the stories of their country and people.

Students from the Flexible Learning program at the Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) helped the Wik and Kugu artists prepare the poles which were then painted by the artists.

The project was a collaboration between Education Queensland, the Queensland State Library's IKC and Aurukun Shire Council.



Wik Whispers

🗨️ The STEM Technology Program

visited the IKC to introduce students and community members to robotics, coding, drone flying and virtual reality. A huge amount of interest was shown by all the participants who were enthralled with the latest in tech.



🗨️ **Rio Tinto** supported 36 Year 7 students departing Aurukun for boarding school in 2017 by giving them starter packs to support their transition to living away from community.

🗨️ **AFL training** for all ages is on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays at the Aurukun State School AFL oval around 5pm. Up to 30 players have been attending some sessions. The School bus is rounding up players.



Students at Aurukun State School will participate in choral and musical instrumental music programs with local artists thanks to \$17,500 in funding from Arts Queensland and Education Queensland. The Music Residency Program, delivered by the Queensland Music Festival, builds on the outcomes of the Cape York Instrumental Program.



🗨️ **Well done Sian Pootchemunka** who was the top Pre-Prep attendee at Aurukun State School. She got to meet Cowboy Ray Thompson who played games with the Pre-Prep class.

🗨️ Auntie Irene Pootchemunka

is one of the many community members enjoying the IKC. She watched a 1986 film about the dedication of the Wik Mungkan Bible which featured footage of her late husband



Frank and many other past community leaders and elders. The next generation is in the background relaxing with a book.



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

