



# Events Calendar

There are a variety of exciting events left for 2016, so get them in your diaries now!

- |     |    |   |
|-----|----|---|
| Oct | 3  | <b>Queen's Birthday</b><br>Public Holiday |
| Oct | 7  | <b>PCYC Community Open Day</b>            |
| Nov | 11 | <b>Remembrance Day</b>                    |
| Nov | 14 | <b>Koolkan Graduation</b>                 |
| Nov | 22 | <b>IKC Opening</b>                        |
| Dec | 10 | <b>Community Christmas Celebration</b>    |
| Dec | 25 | <b>Christmas Day</b><br>Public Holiday    |
| Dec | 26 | <b>Boxing Day</b><br>Public Holiday       |

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

## Council Meetings

Aurukun Shire Council will meet on the following dates in 2016:

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| 20 September | 27 October  |
| 15 November  | 13 December |

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](mailto:liz@lizinglismedia.com)



Wik and Kugu Art Centre artists (from left) Garry Namponan, Leigh Namponan, Bevan Namponan, Roderick Yunkaporta and Lex Namponan.

## Dogs in Demand

Art galleries snapped up \$60,000 worth of work by Aurukun's Wik and Kugu Art Centre artists at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) and orders were placed for another \$30,000 worth of sculptures.

More than 50,000 people visit CIAF and the work of Aurukun's Wik and Kugu artists gives this diverse audience an insight into the community's rich culture.

Sculptures by the Namponan brothers – Garry, Leigh, Bevan and Lex – as well as those by David Marpoondin, Vernon Marbendinar, Bruce Bell and Kenneth Bruce Wolmby were sold. The artists attended CIAF under the guidance of carver Uncle Roderick Yunkaporta.

Garry Namponan has been carving Ku' (camp dogs) for more than a decade after being taught by his father Angus who also did bark painting. Garry's work has long been in demand at exhibitions around the country and he is proud that his younger brothers are following his artistic pursuit.

Leigh Namponan carved the largest Ku', called Brutus, which is based on one of his dogs at home. "I mostly carve camp dogs because they are my totem and my grandmother's totem," he says.

New to CIAF this year were Garry's ochre and acrylic paintings, which feature the Ku' markings. "It is a technique I worked on especially for CIAF and uses body painting designs," he says.

Garry's paintings and camp dogs also featured at KickArts in Cairns with the exhibition Pich – pichan held during CIAF.



## Sports Day

The Aurukun school sports day was a great event and lots of fun for the kids. The school's three houses are named after Aurukun's three rivers the Ward, Archer and Watson. Ward came out on top at the end of the day followed by Archer.

Many of the 141 students who participated were cheered on by their parents and members of the community as they participated in a march, running, high jump, shotput, long jump and novelty events including hula hoop throwing.



## Wik Whispers



Queensland State of Origin captain **Johnathan Thurston's** support for Aurukun on national television has been a great motivator for our children and a favourite video on Facebook. He urged Aurukun's children to believe in themselves and keep turning up to school. We really appreciate his support as he is a great role model.



Congratulations to **Nicole Coates** and **Noel Waterman** for winning the **Aurukun Fun Run**. It was a great morning with more than 50 participants walking and running. Thanks to our generous sponsors for the great entry packs including a singlet and a Skytrans airfare for the winners.



Aurukun is looking great thanks to the entrants in the annual **Best Garden in the Village (BGITV) competition**. **Best Garden in the Village: Delma Peemuggina**. Runner up: **George Koo-oila/Eric Wolmby**. Most Interesting: **Loretta Kepple**. Runner up: **Deidre Kerindun**. Best Edible Garden: **Kay Tybingoompa**. Runner up: **Lynette Addi**. Overall Encouragement Award: **Chris Woolla**.



# Wik Kath

ISSUE 6, SEPTEMBER 2016

Growing Respect, Community & Leaders!



## Message FROM THE MAYOR

**Aurukun is moving forward towards a better future with a number of projects completed in recent months. Especially exciting**

**is the opening of the Wik Mungkan Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) giving our community services like book lending and free WiFi that are taken for granted in urban areas.**

It will also become a repository for the community's history and a centre for community discussion with the introduction of a weekly local radio broadcast. Most of all I look forward to seeing the smiles on children's faces at story time as they learn to develop a love of reading.

The PCYC sports centre is a wonderful new facility that is engaging our youth in sporting activities and giving some of our adults some fun as well with social basketball.

Events like Aurukun Day and the River to Ramp Fun Run attracted larger numbers this year demonstrating that locals are keen to come together as a community to celebrate their history and have a bit of healthy fun.

The CCTV security system is operating around the clock in Aurukun with 65 cameras in 24 locations around our community.

Students are back at the Aurukun school and the number of children attending the Koolkan Early Childhood Centre & Family Support Hub is increasing.

Work has progressed with the laying of fibre optics to give Aurukun reliable communications, yet another positive step towards the economic development of the community.

We have a number of new staff on board at Aurukun Shire Council and I welcome them into our community.

Aurukun is working towards a peaceful and productive future and Aurukun Shire Council looks forward to this journey with each and every one of you.

**Yours in local government**  
Mayor Dereck Walpo



## IKC OPENS

Manager Jacki D'Arcy and State Library of Queensland Project Officer Joshua Kitchens get the IKC ready for the community.

**Aurukun's Wik Mungkan Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) has opened and no-one is more excited than its new manager Jacki D'Arcy.**

Traditional library services including book lending, children's story time and free WiFi internet access plus State Library services will be available. The IKC also has three laptops and three iPads available for use by IKC members.

Community radio broadcasting will begin soon and Jacki is keen to get the Aurukun community involved in the programming. This will supplement Black Star Radio which has been operating in Aurukun for many years.

IKCs are important keeping places of Indigenous culture and history. They provide a space for community members to hold cultural events, to get together to yarn and to share knowledge.

Over the coming months Aurukun's Wik Mungkan IKC will be working together with community members to develop its cultural collection and programs.

Jacki has a PhD in History and worked in records and archive management after a stint of teacher training on Mornington Island.

"I've done a lot of work in Native Title with the Bunurong community on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria so I am excited to be working with the Wik people. I will search other collections to ensure the IKC becomes a repository for all material about Aurukun and its people," she says.

"My main goal with the Wik Mungkan IKC is to make it community friendly so it is a place for all ages as well as for visitors who want to read more about Aurukun and the Wik people. I want to have close working relationships with the aged care and childcare facilities, PCYC and the school.

"The IKC will run school holiday programs, programs for senior citizens on technology and a few fun things like Talk Like a Pirate Day. There will be a book club for various age groups and a First Five Forever program to engage children up to five years of age with reading.

"This will be an important facility for the Aurukun community which will also improve people's capacity to do things for themselves by giving them access to a computer where they can do their Centrelink reporting and other tasks."



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



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Aurukun Community Newsletter

[aurukun.qld.gov.au](http://aurukun.qld.gov.au)





## Aurukun Shire Council New Staff

Two former Chief Executive Officers of Indigenous communities and a previous Chair of the Weipa Town Authority are among the new staff at Aurukun Shire Council.

Former Weipa Town Authority Chair **Peter McCulkin** is the **Workplace Health Safety & Training Officer**, former CEO **Jayne Gilbert** is the **Director of Community Services** and former Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council CEO **Alan Neilan** is the **Business Development Officer**.



**Alan Neilan**  
Business Development Officer

Alan was the Chief Executive Officer of Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council for three years and previously with the Department of Communities North, West Queensland Housing Service Centre, Bynoe Community Advancement Coop Society Ltd and Pormpuraaw Community Council.

Involving Traditional Owners in tourism and encouraging business investment in Aurukun are among the opportunities Alan will be pursuing.

"There is much interest in tourism whether it is fly-in day tours to meet the Wik and Kugu artists behind the internationally-renowned Aurukun Ku' camp dog sculptures, fishing charters or Traditional Owners taking visitors out on country," he says.

"Aurukun's wetlands are larger than those at Kakadu so there are many possibilities to open these up to tourism and give an authentic Indigenous experience in a spectacular wilderness area."



**Jayne Gilbert**  
Director of Community Services

After battling to grow vegies in the desert, Jayne Gilbert is delighted to have green grass and bananas growing in her yard at Aurukun.

"I enjoy gardening and fishing so I am happy to be on the coast again after five years in the West Australian desert," she says.

Jayne is even more passionate about working with disengaged youth and hopes to make a contribution to the Aurukun community through her role.

"The opportunity to help was what made me apply for the job."

"The opening of the Indigenous Knowledge Centre is very exciting and I want to make sure we encourage young people to get involved with it. I think a lot of older people will come on board and I am hoping to see people in the community learn library skills that could lead to employment opportunities."



**Peter McCulkin**  
Workplace Health Safety and Training Officer

Peter was Ranger Operations Manager for the Torres Strait Regional Authority until recently and has worked in Weipa since 1998, with 35 years in various State Government roles including as a fisheries officer with Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol.

"I have a very close relationship with the old rangers here in Aurukun as I was involved in their training in the early days and their work with the conservation of marine turtles at risk from ghost nets," he says.

Peter is busy working on the Council's strategy for a safer workplace and says workplace health and safety is not a one-man job, but a team effort. He now has nominations for a health and safety representative and soon will establish a health and safety committee.

"Workplace health and safety has got to be a cultural shift that comes from the ground up and the top down. People think safety, but it doesn't always translate to the workplace so we need to implement change with consultation and involvement to ensure absolute buy in."

They join **Jacki D'Arcy** who is managing the Indigenous Knowledge Centre, Koolkan Early Childhood Centre & Family Support Hub Director **Rebekah Farmer**, Executive Assistant to the CEO and Mayor **Steph Atkinson** and Human Resources Officer **Jordan Berg**.

**Jordan Berg** grew up in Cairns and worked with the North Queensland Primary Health Care Network before joining the Council.

**Steph Atkinson** spent her earliest years in remote East Arnhem land communities. She worked as a project officer at a southern university and in the private sector before returning to take up positions in several Northern Territory communities and then moving to Queensland to become Executive Manager at Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council.

## Aurukun Day

Aurukun's school children joined the historical celebrations for Aurukun Day boosting the event's numbers to 200 this year.

Each year the community marks the arrival of the Presbyterian Missionaries to establish the Archer River Mission on August 4, 1904.

A giant water slide, fairy floss, face painting and a visit by former Broncos player Darren Smith as well as health care checks were all part of the activities.

Mayor Dereck Walpo says the Aurukun school encouraged the children to participate and he was delighted to see their Book Fair stall as part of the event in the town square.

"Our community's service providers also joined in and I would like to thank them for being such an important part of our community," he says.

"Aurukun Shire Council thanks Skytrans, PCYC, RFDS, Qld Health, Glencore and Apunipima for their assistance in hosting the event."



## Koolkan Kids

Staff in the babies' room at the Koolkan Early Childhood Centre & Family Support Hub have been developing their early childhood skills with the assistance of mentor Ferne van Zyl from the Montessori Children's Foundation. Ready to learn about interactive play are (from left) Virginia Namponan holding Aaron Wolmby, Ferne van Zyl, Fairlyynn Jacob holding Jaques Yunkaporta and Pim Hall holding Patricia Hall.

The number of children attending the Koolkan Early Childhood Centre & Family Support Hub has tripled since Director Rebekah Farmer arrived in August.

With 22 years' experience in the field of early childhood, including 10 years working on early childhood projects in the Northern Territory and the Solomon Islands, Rebekah wants Aurukun's young children to be given the best possible start in life.

Rebekah, who is undertaking a PhD exploring the remote Indigenous experience with early childhood education in the Northern Territory, wants to empower staff, focus on team building and involve families in the Hub.

"We are starting to build the capacity of service with numbers up from six to 17-20 kids a day. Our operating hours have increased so we open at 7.45am and close at 4pm to cater for working families," she says.

"It is great to see some of the families are staying and playing with their kids and we have four or five parents starting to do that now."

"We have a good team of staff who are regular and reliable and beginning to feel ownership of the centre. They are turning up on time and getting on with their daily tasks."

"We are working on team building and relationship development with things such as the Koolkan Fishing Club, where the staff go fishing together, and getting the staff involved in cooking at the centre, for example we all contribute to cooking a roast lunch on Fridays."

"We need to get it right here for the staff, families and communities to work towards a sustainable future for the service."



## Wuungkam Lodge Reception

Ph: 07 4060 6814



## Wuungkam Lodge

Newly appointed accommodation managers **Dennis Cartwright** and **Elena Karoll** are looking forward to working with Aurukun Shire Council to make sure the Cape York community becomes a tourism destination.

The couple's company Kondo Korp Pty Ltd has won the contract to manage Wuungkam Lodge and Kooth Pach Guest House.

Dennis and Elena are committed to providing local people with job opportunities and offering quality service and good food.

Dennis is a qualified chef and TAFE teacher who has owned a number of restaurants and been the state and site manager for an international mining and catering company as well as the general manager and licensee for hotels, motels, apartments and resorts.

An international pastry chef, Elena has a keen eye for detail ensuring excellent guest services and satisfaction with rooms and facilities.

Their main focus will be to bring the standards of the food and service up at Wuungkam Lodge to help prepare Aurukun for tourism.