



Message

FROM THE MAYOR

Aurukun has been hosting some very exciting visitors including rugby league legend Matt Bowen and the Governor of Queensland, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey, in recent weeks.

Next month we get to hear Dan Sultan thanks to the Queensland Music Festival. It really is a great honour to have these guests in our community as they get to know the people of Aurukun and often share their skills and knowledge with us.

Congratulations to Aurukun Chief Executive Officer Bernie McCarthy on receiving a Public Service Medal in recognition of his service and leadership to local government over 47 years. Bernie has worked tirelessly to improve the social and economic outlook of Aurukun during his four years as CEO.

We will farewell one of the Council's long-serving employees, Airport Manager Steve Topping. Steve has worked in many different roles for the Council and has been a loyal and hard-working employee who is always a pleasure to deal with. He has a great many friends in Aurukun so I am sure we will continue to see him after he retires.

Our community is moving forward in so many ways and I am especially pleased to see the refurbishment of the Wo'uw Ko'alam Community Centre which I know will become a valuable asset for Aurukun's residents.

Amrun is also moving forward and including our community where ever possible. Traditional Owners have participated in a job preview program at the Amrun Project site to gain an insight in to the roles available to support the accommodation village. Participants stay in the camp for 24 hours where they are exposed to different roles and experience village life. The whole community is getting a peak at what the site will look like thanks to 3D technology which Amrun is showing to the community on June 28.

I am especially delighted to see there will be two Aurukun photos in Member for Leichhardt Warren Entsch's 2017-18 calendar. It is great to see that recognition of our community.

Next month is the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) and our Wik and Kugu artists will be a highlight of the program as they join in artist talks and demonstrate their famous ku' carvings. I look forward to talking about their wonderful work with guests from around the world at CIAF.

Yours in local government
Mayor Dereck Walpo

Aurukun CEO Earns Medal

Aurukun Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Bernie McCarthy has been awarded a Public Service Medal in recognition of his service and leadership to local government over 47 years.

Mayor Dereck Walpo congratulated Bernie on working tirelessly to improve the social and economic outlook of Aurukun during his four years as CEO.

"A number of major capital works have been undertaken to improve the social and economic outlook of Aurukun including reticulated water and waste management infrastructure, improvement of the road network, the acquisition and refurbishment of Wuungkam Lodge and its restaurant, refurbishment of our Indigenous Knowledge Centre and Administration Centre, and the acquisition of commercial premises in Cairns," he said.

"Bernie successfully lobbied with government departments, agencies and stakeholders for the 4G network which has allowed small business operations to improve, facilitated online education studies and enabled our community to be better connected with the outside world.

"He has overseen the implementation of a community safety strategy which included CCTV, an audit of street lighting and employee housing improvements.

"Bernie is a strong advocate for communicating positive messages about the community to residents and external stakeholders which has improved community pride in Aurukun.

"The successful completion of these projects and Bernie's advocacy for Aurukun in association with other departments and stakeholders has assisted in enhancing the quality of lifestyle for our residents, helped in settling community unrest and improved interaction of families and clan groups.

"There is constructive cooperation with all State and Federal agencies thanks to Bernie's determination for a positive working relationship that extends to the community's funded stakeholders and non-government organisations."

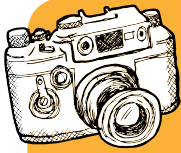


Dan Sultan Concert

Award-winning musician Dan Sultan will give a free concert in Aurukun on July 7 at the rugby field.

The Queensland Music Festival is bringing the soul rocker to three North Queensland Indigenous communities as part of NAIDOC Week. Sultan will bring his electrifying blues-rock, gospel and soul to these three remote Indigenous communities for a special series of concerts and workshops for young people and local musicians. In Aurukun, students involved in QMF's ongoing instrumental and youth programs will get to jam with major stars.





Scenic Aurukun

Residents around the Leichhardt electorate will enjoy images of Aurukun when they open their 2017-18 calendar. Aurukun has two of the 14 pics in the calendar with CEO Bernie McCarthy's sunset shot and Steven Pelham's image of Bruce Bell's paintbrush holder making it in.



Photographer: Steven Pelham



Photographer: Bernie McCarthy

Member for Leichhardt Warren Entsch congratulated the winners saying he hoped they enjoy seeing their entries in the calendar which goes to 10,000 businesses in the Leichhardt electorate.

"It was wonderful to see the range of entries and talent from Aurukun, both into my Leichhardt Community Calendar competition and Aurukun Shire Council's 'Why I Love Aurukun Photo Competition'," he says.

"Bernie McCarthy's shot captured an iconic Pandanus tree silhouetted against the sunset from the Western Cape, and Steven Pelham's image really drew on the artistic heritage that is so strong in Aurukun.

"It helps when you have such a beautiful natural environment around Aurukun, as well as the Indigenous culture and history that inspires photographers."



Community Centre

The \$2.1 million refurbishment of the Wo'uw Ko'alam Community Centre has started which will give the equivalent of six full-time jobs to Aurukun residents. Funded by the State Government's Strategic Housing Development Program, the redevelopment by Cairns-based company HC Building and Construction is being coordinated by the Department of State Development.

Refurbishment works also include new flooring and air-conditioning in the function rooms, internal and external painting, new all-abilities access, and landscaping. The Centre will provide a much needed all-weather community facility where training programs, cultural activities and celebrations can be held undercover. Expressions of interest have been called to see if any commercial activities such as catering may be operated from there.

New Cemetery Soon

The new cemetery adjacent to the airport is being developed in preparation for burials as the old cemetery is nearing the completion of its life. Its location is in a much higher and drier area better suited for the community's burial needs.



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❖ ALL DOGS MUST BE REGISTERED

❖ IF YOUR DOG IS NOT REGISTERED IT MAY BE IMPOUNDED.



❖ YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY A FINE

❖ COME IN TO THE COUNCIL OFFICE TO REGISTER YOUR DOG - \$30 per year



Dog registration is free for desexed dogs

Farewell Steve

Airport Manager Steve Topping leaves Aurukun next month after 18 years of working for the Council.

Steve will be joining his wife Vicky in Cooktown where he plans to spend much of his time fishing. Vicky also worked for the Council, notching up a decade before retiring.

Steve started as the Council's outstation coordinator before a number of roles including deputy works manager, works manager, and takeaway person. He has been at the airport for nine years.

"I like being my own boss. Everyone knows I run the airport and planes get turned around as quick as possible thanks to the great workers out there helping me," he says.

"I enjoy my workmates and the oldies of Aurukun. The people are so friendly, they would do anything for you.

"Fishing and camping are my favourite activities. I've seen barra bigger than people. My mate caught and tossed back a 1.6m-long barra in the Love River."

Steve is so well known that there is an outstation hut called Steve's hut where he regularly stays with the blessing of the Traditional Owners and he has another favourite camp spot on the Archer River. He is pictured with a cobia from a recent fishing trip.



Governor's Visit

The Governor of Queensland, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey, and his wife Mrs Kaye de Jersey visited Aurukun on June 13 to lend support and encouragement to the community.

After a briefing with the Aurukun Shire Council, Mr de Jersey met with some of the Wik elders, the Family Responsibilities Commission, and with the Wik women.

He visited Aurukun State School where he said hello to the Pre-Preps in their classroom, observed the older students during their lessons, talked to children in the playground and had morning tea with the staff.

At the Wik and Kugu Gallery the Governor spoke to the artists and watched them working on carvings for the Cairns and Indigenous Art Fair.



On Track For CIAF

The Wik and Kugu Art Centre will have 35 pieces of art on display at the Cairns and Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) on July 14-16 after the Curator accepted all work submitted for the exhibition. This is a great coup for the Wik and Kugu artists.

Roderick Yunkaporta, Garry, Bevan, Leigh and Lex Namponan, Bruce Bell, David Marpoondin and Vernon Marbendinar will be attending with Manager Robin Maxwell. There will be artists talks with three Wik and Kugu artists taking part and on Friday and Saturday there will be demonstrations of our artists carving their famous ku'.

God's Eyes will be among the art by the ladies from the Women's Art Centre on display at KickArts during CIAF. Their exhibition is called Ngan Aurukun Wanch Aak Puul Ngantan Yumpenan (We are Aurukun women making the stories of our country) and features 20 pieces including stunning paintings.

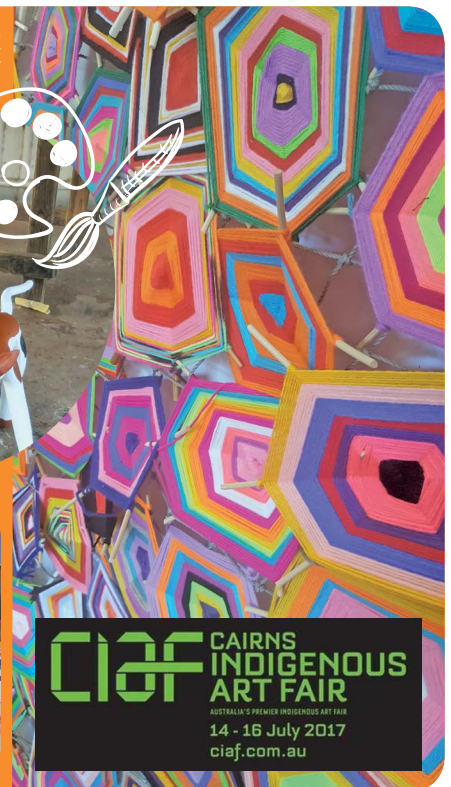
Artist: Leigh Namponan

Artist: Leigh Namponan

Artist: Georgina Kepple



(Below) Artist: Lex Namponan
(Right) The Women's Art Centre will exhibit God's eyes and paintings during CIAF



CIAF CAIRNS
INDIGENOUS
ART FAIR
AUSTRALIA'S PREMIER INDIGENOUS ART FAIR
14 - 16 July 2017
ciaf.com.au



Events Calendar

There are a variety of exciting events for 2017, so get them in your diaries now!

- Aug 4** Aurukun Day Celebrations
- Sept 3** River to Ramp Run
- Oct 13** Welcome to Newcomers
- Nov 11** Remembrance Day
- Dec 9** Aurukun Christmas Event

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



Matt Bowen + Kathy Owokran (Wik Waya Traditional Owner & Land & Sea Advisor for the Amrun Land & Sea Management Program) + Nikki Suey (Bechtel Indigenous Coordinator)

Amrun Employment

The Aurukun community turned out in force to learn about employment opportunities at Amrun and meet Matt Bowen at the Amrun Recruitment Roadshow Presentation.

Matt toured the Amrun Mine Site where Uncle Tony Kerindun performed a Welcome to Country. He met Wik Waya Traditional Owners and did a presentation at the Aurukun State School assembly.



Matt Bowen & Kids



Rosie Woolia, Matt Bowen, Douglas Ahlers

Be a Patrolman

The Australian Army's 51st Battalion is looking for Aurukun residents to become qualified 51 FNQR patrolmen in time for ANZAC Day next year.

You may have recently seen some soldiers at their patrol base near the airport and with some boats on the water. B Coy 51 FNQR, in close liaison with the Mayor, CEO and other community leaders, are planning on visiting Aurukun at least monthly over the next 12 months.

They will have a display at Aurukun Day on August 4 and then in September will set up a dedicated recruiting table in town for a few days with the intent of signing up at least 10 locals as paid part-time patrolmen.

Those selected will train locally for a few months and graduate as qualified 51 FNQR patrolmen in time for ANZAC Day next year. Clothing, meals, accommodation and training are all free, and the pay is tax free.

If you are interested, call the Bravo Company duty officer on 0429 385 306.



Stanley Kalkeeyorta by Noel Waterman



Wik Whispers

The 'Why I Love Aurukun Amateur Photo Competition' was successful in adding many new Facebook likes and followers to the page which will assist with Council's aim to show people everywhere that Aurukun is a community of people who value their cultural heritage and are proud to live in our town. **The photograph of Stanley Kalkeeyorta by Noel Waterman** was overwhelmingly the People's Choice in the Photo competition with an enormous 7697 votes. That was almost twice the number of people who like the pic of Matt Bowen in Aurukun which reached 4025 people.

Do you know what's going on in your community? Make sure you like the Aurukun Shire Council Facebook page to keep up to date with community events and notices that affect you. We love seeing pictures of life in Aurukun and the rich culture of our people so please share any photos with Liz Inglis. Email them to liz@lizinglismedia.com.

Glencore has been conducting post-wet season environmental surveys around Aurukun with the valuable support of a team of local field assistants from the community. Discussions also were held with different families who speak for country within the Aurukun Bauxite Project area.

2017 Aurukun Shire Council Meetings



18 July | 24 July (Special Budget Meeting)
15 August | 12 September | 24 October
21 November | 12 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



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