



Message FROM THE MAYOR

Aurukun Shire Council has handed down its 2017-18 budget based on responsible financial management that

keeps core services at their current level and improves infrastructure such as roads, water and waste. Unique to Aurukun is more than \$1 million of Council revenue being spent on the provision of safety services including CCTV, security guards, street lighting and community police.

Approved capital projects will include:

- Roadworks – mainly sealing sections of Aurukun Access Road
- Sewerage pump station
- Expansion of the MacKenzie and Airport Contractors Camp
- Workshop Depot drainage and pavement
- Staff Housing Precinct
- Supermarket floor coverings
- Arts Centre refurbishment
- Wo'um Ko'alam Community Centre refurbishment
- Council Depot bulk fuel tank

There are a number of other required capital projects which have been included in the budget but will not proceed without necessary funding being obtained.

Council will endeavour to not spend beyond its means. Aurukun Shire has a heavy reliance on government grants and this revenue must be maintained. Thus, any other operational expenditure cannot be enforced upon Council without Aurukun Shire being financially sustainable. Many of our community services and facilities such as the bank, post office, airport and animal control run at a loss or breakeven point. Any new facilities coming on stream need to be on a user pay basis.

**Yours in local government
Mayor Dereck Walpo**



Happy Anniversary

Aurukun Shire Council will celebrate 40 years as a local government entity in 2018 and we are planning a year of festivities to mark the occasion. Some of the activities under consideration by Council are:

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| 1. Gala event | 10. Back to Aurukun function for past staff and families |
| 2. From January 1, 2018 all email signatures will say "Celebrating 40 years of Local Government" | 11. Brand all Council events in 2018 with 40 Year Celebration logo |
| 3. Bike race around the Aurukun circuit | 12. Photo display at IKC of any old photos relating to Council functions |
| 4. Tree planting in identified parks and Council reserves | 13. Social event at the waterfront |
| 5. Commemorative shirt and cap | 14. Banner poles along Kang Kang Road |
| 6. Community concert | 15. Aurukun Shire Council flag and raising ceremony. |
| 7. Video Council activities for social media | 16. Art exhibition at the Wik and Kugu Art Centre |
| 8. Launch Keeping Culture Project | 17. Open garden competition |
| 9. Outdoor film screening | |



Get Running



The River to Ramp Run returns on Sunday September 10 at 8am.

Get your registration form from the Aurukun Shire Council office. You can walk or run the 7.2km to be in the running for some great prizes and then join in the free barbecue.

Thanks to our sponsors Skytrans, Rio Tinto, Glencore, Sea Swift, Trinity Petroleum, Island & Cape, Erscon, PCYC, Cape York Employment, Kang Kang Store and Aurukun State School. Last year's winners Noel Waterman and Nicole Coates are pictured.



Koolkan Outing

The Koolkan kids were treated to a day at the beach fishing, building sand castles and learning about keeping safe around the water. After a picnic of fruit and crackers they had a great time checking out the bait fish in the fishing bucket and watching Margo pull in a trevally.



Every Day Counts!

Aurukun State School's Attendance Officers are visiting the families of students on bikes after the school purchased two bicycles.

The bikes make it easier to get around the community to talk to families about how important school is for their children and to encourage shops not to serve children who should be in school.

Two yellow school buses are continuing to "beep and greet" families as do an 8am run and an 8.30am run to pick up children for school. Senior Constable Jake Hafner and Detective Senior Constable Ben Rauter helped drive the yellow bus to pick students up for school.

Students are eagerly awaiting the arrival of Cowboys merchandise as the school is sponsored by The Cowboys try for five program. Every classroom has an attendance display and teachers speak to students every day about their attendance.



Community Centre

The Wo'uw Ko'alam Community Centre keys have been handed over to Aurukun Shire Council and will be open for public use later in 2017.

Funded by the Department of State Development, the former tavern building is earmarked for community engagement events.

Aurukun residents were employed in the construction of the community centre which has new flooring, air-conditioning, internal and external painting, new all-abilities access and landscaping.

Contact Aurukun Shire Council to discuss how your organisation could utilise the Centre.



Artists Awarded



Aurukun's 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).

Queensland Premier and Minister for the Arts Annastacia Palaszczuk said the judging panel selected Mr Namponan for his body of work which shows an exceptional quality and narrative that transitions from sculpture through to painting.

"Mr Namponan is renowned for his Ku' (camp dog) sculptures and abstracted painted canvases and will receive \$15,000 to support the continued development of his art practice," the Premier said.

Bruce Bell and Garry Namponan also received the Thancoupie Bursary Award. They will travel to Sydney and spend a week one-on-one with successful Indigenous artist Tony Albert tutoring them in upskilling their painting techniques.

The artists who travelled to Cairns for CIAF talked to many people about their work and were a big hit with onlookers when they did demonstrations of how they make their famous ku. Among their customers was the Premier who bought a camp dog carving for her desk in Brisbane.



Women's Art



A spectacular wall hanging made up of colourful god's eyes created by the ladies at the Akay Koo'oilu Women's Art Centre will hang in the National Gallery of Victoria.

The hanging was part of the Ngan Aurukun Wanch Aak Puul Ngantan Yumpenan (We are Aurukun women making the stories of our country) exhibition at KickArts in Cairns.

It featured paintings by senior artist Jean Walmbeng and emerging artists Bettina Pootchemunka, Flora Woolla, Georgina Keppel, Francesca Walmbeng and Sheryl Panulkan.

Artist Georgina Keppel became a media star by sharing the story behind her series of lily paintings called Miy Korth.





Events Calendar

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

- Sept 10 River to Ramp Run**
- Oct 12 Welcome to Newcomers**
- Nov 11 Remembrance Day**
- Dec 9 Christmas Event**

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



They are causing problems:

- In the airport reserve
- In public areas
- On the waterfront

Everyone please do the right thing!



Rocking Aurukun

Dan Sultan and his band were the biggest music event to hit Aurukun in many years. A big thank you to the Queensland Music Festival for bringing them to our community.

They spent a couple of days in Aurukun visiting the Wik and Kugu Art Centre where they purchased an assortment of art including camp dog carvings.

in between shooting hoops at the PCYC with Aurukun's kids, the guys loved jamming with some of our musically talented youngsters who took to guitars and drums like seasoned musos.



Wik Whispers

Mayor Derek Walpo and Aurukun Shire Council CEO Bernie McCarthy attended the Queensland Police Service and Indigenous Mayors Summit. The Mayor asked for the current police presence to be maintained and for foot patrols to be continued in the community. Improved relationships between police and communities in the past decade was discussed as was the need to work together to stamp out sly grogging and drugs.

Dan Sultan's visit boosted Aurukun Shire Council's Facebook page with the video of Aurukun kids jamming with the Dan Sultan band attracting 4196 likes plus 139 reactions, comments and shares. The community police officers in their new uniforms were also a favourite with 2761 likes.



Maree Kalkeeyorta



Work continues on the reconstruction and improvement of Aurukun Access Road in preparation for bitumen sealing later this year. The QRA and CIMA funded works will provide a much needed improvement to the Aurukun Access Road. These great photos were taken earlier this year by consulting engineers ERSCON.

Actress Miranda Tapsell, best known for her roles in The Sapphires and Love Child was delighted to receive a feather bouquet from Aurukun's Wik and Kugu Art Centre. Created by Harriet Pootchemunka, the bouquet was presented to Miranda at her birthday celebration in Darwin.



Miranda Tapsell

Mayor Derek Walpo and Councillor Ada Woolla stayed at Government House as guests of the Governor of Queensland, Hon Paul de Jersey and his wife Kaye de Jersey. The guests were given a tour of the residence and gardens and were shown the Governor's study at Government House where Aurukun dog sculptures have pride of place.

2017 Aurukun Shire Council Meetings



18 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



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.



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