



Mayor's  
Welcome

Aurukun Shire Council is continually investing in making our community a better place for Wik and Kugu people to live and work so they can be close to the country that connects them with their culture and family.

It is part of our local government role to develop infrastructure, deliver and facilitate essential services, and strengthen the community through access to education, jobs and economic development.

Redeveloping the Aurukun Airport is an exciting step forward for our community which relies on aviation access. It follows the successful redevelopment of the former tavern into a well utilised community facility. Please have your say on the Airport plan.

Council's leadership role in the community ensures there is a clear vision for the future to take Aurukun forward. Please read the Aurukun Shire Council Corporate Plan 2020-2025 to understand how we can all move forward together on a positive path for our community and our children.

The local government election is on March 28, 2020 and I urge local people to think about serving their community by becoming a councillor. Training is mandatory for all candidates and Council will assist in making this accessible. Please join us at the next meeting on December to understand what a councillor does.

I am delighted to see how many of the Council's local workforce have undertaken training in the last few months to upgrade their skills and help them progress in their employment.

Aurukun Shire Council has several vacancies and I encourage local people to apply, even if they do not have the experience. We are committed to on-the-job training to ensure Aurukun has a skilled workforce to assist in the economic development of our community.

Read the Aurukun Shire Council Corporate Plan 2020-2025: [www.aurukun.qld.gov.au/council/documents/corporate-plan/](http://www.aurukun.qld.gov.au/council/documents/corporate-plan/)

Best wishes for a happy and safe festive season.

**Yours in local government,  
Mayor Dereck Walpo**



## Airport Design Unveiled

**Aurukun residents and stakeholders are being asked for feedback on plans to redevelop the airport into a welcoming and functional asset for the remote Cape York community.**

The environmentally-friendly design allows for future growth, improved work conditions for staff and air crews, and easier maintenance at the Council-owned airport which caters to more than 750 flights and around 10,000 passengers per year.

Consultants SMEC/PDR and Gordon Gould Ipson Architects have designed a modern airport terminal that will serve the community well into the future allowing for passenger screening, the possibility of increased traffic to nearby mining sites, and the potential for tourism.

The new design has an enclosed airconditioned building with more seating, improved office space, a small kiosk, improved onloading and offloading facilities, security inspection space, internal toilets, a waiting room for aircraft staff and formal car parking areas.

New Aurukun murals will be incorporated into the design which will feature more local art highlighting the talent of the community's Wik and Kugu artists.

Passengers arriving at Aurukun will walk through a red earth-coloured aluminium screen with a waterlily-shaped opening while people entering the airport from Aurukun will follow a winding pathway incorporating the Three Rivers artwork in the Council logo.

The lore poles and two memorial plaques will be together in a memorial garden where the public can reflect and pay their respects as they enter the building.

The Aurukun Airport plans can be seen at an information stall at the Aurukun Supermarket on **November 30 and December 6 at 10am**. Public submissions close at midday on December 9.



MERRY  
Christmas

# Training and Local Employment

Congratulations to the Aurukun Shire Council workers across our many departments who have completed training in the past few months. Training is an important part of staff development and can help workers move forward into other careers.

The training has included:

- Outdoor power equipment maintenance
- Food handling
- Snake handling
- Security training
- First aid
- Mental health first aid
- Comply with infection prevention and control
- Domestic violence alert training
- Diploma Early Childhood Education and Care units



Aurukun Shire Council also has a strategy to promote local youth employment through the implementation of the Work Engagement Program and the School Leavers Employment Program.



*Angus Pambegan from the Chivaree Centre completed training in outdoor power equipment maintenance.*

Currently 65% of Council's staff are Indigenous and Council strives to employ local people wherever possible.

Current vacancies:

- Group Leader – Koolkan Childcare Centre
- Assistant Children's Services Worker - Playgroup
- Assistant Local Laws and Animal Control
- Splash Park Supervisor
- Cleaners – various positions
- Bus Driver – Chivaree Centre
- Administration Assistant – Chivaree Centre

Training will be supplied to the successful applicants so no experience is necessary.



## CCTV in Full Swing

Ruben Kooiman and Qantas MacKinlay from Aurukun Shire Council's electrical team have put in a great effort to keep the community safe by maintaining the CCTV system. They now have each of the 84 cameras spread throughout Aurukun operating at 100% capacity. This is the first time since the CCTV system was installed in 2016 that it has been fully functional. Well done!



## Cultural Resource

Young Wik and Kugu people will be able to learn about the cultural and economic importance of their traditional country on a smart phone in the future. Aurukun families have agreed to digitise AAK: Aboriginal estates and clans between the Embley and Edward Rivers, a cultural resource produced by anthropologists Peter Sutton and David Martin with the help of the Wik and Kugu people. Aak Puul Ngantam (APN) will seek funding for the project. APN's Sandy Whyte and David Martin are pictured with one of the few remaining volumes of AAK, which means 'place', or 'country' as well as 'time'.



## Tasty Lunch

Minh ochangan or mudshells were on the menu as part of Aurukun Shire Council's IKC holiday program. This group of Wik boys collected nearly two bags of the tasty treats from the mangroves and shared them with the community for lunch.



*Healthy bush foods means a healthy life!*



# UM THURPAK



# FESTIVAL

More than 500 people attended Aurukun Shire Council's Um Thurpack Festival celebrating the time before the wet season begins. Cape York band Black Magic had the crowd up dancing. Thank you to the volunteers who helped behind the scenes at this free community event.

Thanks also to our sponsors: Rio Tinto, Sea Swift, WCCA Southern Regional Trust, Skytrans, ALPA Stores, Glencore, RRM Pty Ltd, OHub, Cairns Hardware, CHC Pty Ltd, Erscon Engineering and Pacific Toyota.



*Community Celebrations*



Garry Namponan

## Shark Tales

Wik and Kugu artist Garry Namponan has completed two paintings of his totem, the river whaler shark, called Nyiingkuchan in Wik Mungkan for a group exhibition themed around sharks. Called Shiver, the exhibition at Oncespace Gallery in Brisbane's Highgate Hill is on December 4-21 and January 15-31.

This freshwater shark is an important totem of the Apalech ceremonial groups and is still sung and danced at house openings today. The freshwater shark inhabits the Archer River and is hunted during the wet season.



## School Values

Koolkan Aurukun State School students and staff have spent the past term working with a new set of school values to link in with the work already done by Wik Kath Min with the community's values.

Developed with support from Wik Kath Min,

*the values are:*

1. We are Peaceful in all we say and do
2. We are Happy when we learn and help others
3. We are Proud of ourselves and our place

The school's language team translated the values and a Willy Wagtail was chosen to represent the new messages.

For the first week of term, all classes were based around learning experiences to develop understanding of the values. Each morning Mr Yunkaporta and Ms Ena from the IKC attended the school assemblies to help the whole school practise saying the values in Wik Mungkan. The values have been taught through Positive Behaviour for Learning.



Three ladies from Chivaree Centre recently attended the Tarnathi Painted Stories Art Exhibition as exhibitors.

Jean Walmbeng (pictured), Janet Koongotema and Nita Yunkaporta told

their stories through their paintings which were exhibited at Handorf, South Australia.

The State Library of Queensland Library Shop has become a major stockist for Wik and Kugu merchandise and has ordered a range of smaller carvings from the Council-run Wik and Kugu Arts Centre to promote Aurukun arts and culture.



Aim for 10,000 steps a day for a longer, healthier life. Apunipima and Aurukun Shire Council have erected signs around the community to help you work out how many steps you achieve when walking.

The Queensland Police Service's 'Look to the Stars Project' visited the Chivaree Centre and spent time with Janet Koongometa, Henry Peinkinna, Olive Kepple, Jock Gothachalkenin, Stanley Monday and Nita Yunkaporta having a yarn about their stories. The team consisted of Officer in Charge Sergeant Wayne Rasmussen, Mandy Lear and Gilimbaa Creative.

Alair Pambegan, Nathan Ampeybegin and Wesley Ampeybegin are working on a substantial Walkaln (Bonefish) installation to be exhibited at the FNQ ARTNOW Biennial 2019 at the Cairns Art Gallery from December 13 to February 2. Walkaln (Ancestral Being) is one of the most important totems or ancestral beings of the Winchanam clan and this is the first time since the passing of Arthur Pambegan for the artists to create bonefish carvings for a public show.



## Events Calendar



There are a variety of exciting events for 2019, so get them in your diaries now!

- Dec 5** Community Christmas Function
- Dec 20** Christmas Lights Competition Winners Announced
- Jan 26** Australia Day celebration



Photo by: Noal Waterman

Visit [aurukun.qld.gov.au/for-visitors/events/community-events](http://aurukun.qld.gov.au/for-visitors/events/community-events) for a full list of dates.



Congratulations to Gabriel Waterman and Serena Davie for winning the Open category of Aurukun Shire Council's River to Ramp Run. A big thank you to the volunteers who manned water stations and helped the event run smoothly.



Travis Ngakunkwokka



Con



Gabriel Waterman



Serena Davie



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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)