

Mayor's Message



Community safety is a right for residents in Aurukun's township, but it is not something we can achieve unless the whole community works together to make it happen.

Aurukun Shire Council is committed to developing a Community Safety Plan with the assistance of members of our community and stakeholders.

I encourage everyone to have their say and take ownership of the changes we need to make to ensure our families can live peacefully in the place they call home.

We all have a responsibility to care for our children and our Elders, to treat our neighbours the way we would like to be treated and to be respectful of the service agencies and their staff who are here to assist our people.

This plan should not only reduce crime, it should change our perception of community safety and build resilience within our community.

Have your say and let's work together to bring about the change we are yearning for in Aurukun.

Christmas is fast approaching in what has been a very tough year for so many people. I encourage you to be kind to each other and to enjoy your time with family throughout the festive season.

Best wishes for a safe and happy 2021. God bless everyone in Aurukun.

Keri Tamwoy
Aurukun Shire Council Mayor

Community Safety Plan

Aurukun residents and stakeholders are invited to help develop a Community Safety Plan with consultations underway in the community.

Aurukun Shire Council Mayor Keri Tamwoy said the plan would document both the current and future response to community safety to improve the standard of living in the Aurukun township.

"Dr Chris McLaughlin of Culturev8 has been engaged by Council to consult with the community to develop the plan," she said.

"Last month Dr McLaughlin and council representatives had a stall in the Business Centre to help residents have their say and complete the survey.

"The Community Safety Plan will outline how Council will seek to enhance perceptions of safety, reduce crime and build community resilience.

"The strategic framework for this plan needs to reflect the current conditions in Aurukun and the wider Western Cape region as well as capture additional initiatives to effectively improve our standard of living.

"I urge all members of our community to have their say to ensure the plan meets



local needs and trust both residents and stakeholders will value being part of this planning phase."

The Community Safety Plan will feed into the Council's Corporate Plan once it is adopted in the New Year.

Have your say:

Stakeholder Survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JJVL8FV>

Resident Survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JNFZS5T>

Contact Dr Chris McLaughlin on
0400 726 329 or chris@culturev8.com.au



Youth Leader Elected

Jayden Marrott, 22, has been elected to the Aurukun Shire Council following a byelection on 31 October.

A founding member of the Aurukun Youth Advisory Committee, Cr Marrott said he wanted to show that young people can make a change in their community.

"We need more young people to be involved in creating change," he said.

"I went away to boarding school and found there wasn't much for the 12 to 18 year age group to do when they returned home from school.

"I want to encourage activities on country, sporting opportunities and training that will lead to jobs."

From the Wanam clan, Cr Marrott has been a resident of Aurukun since 2010. He was born in Cairns, but spent much of his time in his family's communities of Aurukun and Pormpuraaw.

He boarded at Ipswich Grammar from years 8 to 12 and then attended John Paul College to participate in their sporting Horizons Program.

After graduating in 2016 Cr Marrott worked for community agencies and the Aurukun Shire Council in various roles. He is currently part of the Bama Services crew remodelling the Aurukun dump.

He and his partner Atima Bin-Juda have a 10-month-old daughter Minimana Marrott, and returned from Hammond Island in the Torres Strait two months ago after spending time with Ms Bin-Juda's family.





NGANGK MIN Festival

More than 400 people attended the Ngangk Min Festival, meaning happy place, under a COVID-Safe plan outdoors at Wo'uw Ko'alam Community Centre on 5 September. Cooktown band Black Image was a great hit with the crowd. Fiona Kelinda won the lucky door prize of a trip for two with Skytrans. The volunteers and sponsors of the Aurukun Shire Council event were thanked the next day with breakfast at the Aak Muwnchanak Splash Park.



DEADLY EMPLOYEES



Deadly Employee

Congratulations to Aurukun Shire Council Deadly Employee for the Third Quarter, **Ethel Gibley**, who was commended for her role at the Chivaree Centre where she helps the Manager and Client Services Coordinator with her excellent computer skills. Ethel has a very good attendance record. Second place was **Anne Boundy** who is the go-to and fix-it person for a wide range of staff. She is a very patient teacher and is a great asset for Council with her great knowledge of operations across many areas. Third place was Finn O'Mahony who never fails to provide a solution to any ICT issues with endless patience and a positive attitude.



Tyson Kerindun with his partner Renata Pamtoonda and son Darius

Deadly Safety Award

Congratulations to Deadly Safety Award winner for the Third Quarter, groundsman **Tyson Kerindun**, who was rewarded for keeping his work areas tidy and clear of clutter. Tyson shows initiative and does a good job without supervision. Second place was **Dalton Agie Snr** for his safe driving when delivering meals and transporting Chivaree Centre clients. Third place was Chivaree Centre driver Brian Darkan who works very safely and thoughtfully when transporting clients. He opens and closes the door, ensures the walkway is clear and listens carefully to any requests.

UM THURPAK FESTIVAL

Performer Justin Wellington entertained around 400 people at Aurukun's Um Thurpak Festival, meaning the lead to the wet season, on 31 October. The Aurukun Shire Council event was very well coordinated and supervised. Thank you to Bill Rodgers and his team of volunteers for their work and special thanks to all the sponsors: Skytrans, Cape York Employment Services, OHub, Bama Services, Erscon Engineering, ALPA's Island & Cape, Rio Tinto, Trinity Petroleum and WCCCA.





Thumarrie Fairies



Vera Koomeeta's painting of a beautiful lagoon in her country, Thumarrie, has been installed in the Cairns office of Aurukun Shire Council for guests to enjoy. Thumarrie is south of Aurukun Township with four main rivers in between – the Love River, then the Kirk River, followed by the Knox River and the North Kendall River. Vera says Thumarrie is about 2km to the south of Kirk River and 500m inland from the beach. Her grandparents told her about the Tom Thumb fairies which live in the lagoon. "My old people called these fairies Nguuthalpal. The lagoon is protected by the surrounding whispering oaks and mud mulch which is very soft to walk on. My Thumarrie lagoon is also rich in beauty with colourful waterlilies and sparkling crystal water. My country is forbidden for anyone to enter. There are other story places nearby that we don't want to be disturbed."



Gaining Experience

Year 12 student Sherlana Wolmby, who attends Stuartholme School in Brisbane, spent the school holidays doing work experience at the Chivaree Centre. Sherlana was part of Aurukun Shire Council's School Work Placement Program for boarding students seeking job opportunities with Council. The students are paid while they gain exposure to Council workplaces and experiences, giving them an insight into the varied programs and services Council provides.



Former Mayor Honoured



Aurukun Shire Mayor Keri Tamwoy presented the inaugural Alison Woolla Memorial Award in honour of her late mother at the Local Government Association of Queensland Annual Conference on the Gold Coast yesterday. Alison Woolla was a former Mayor of Aurukun and dynamic reform leader who supported members of her community who were experiencing abuse. May Ballie and Myrtle Foote were the joint winners of the award for their work founding Pormpur Paanthu (Women's House) in Pormpuraaw.

Old Mission House

This painting of the old Aurukun Mission House was gifted to the Mayor by a relative of the artist, Sister Alison Cameron. Her niece Bev Brown wanted the painting to return to Aurukun as Sister Cameron's heart belonged with the Aurukun people and her ashes were scattered over Aurukun from a plane. The house was built in the early 1900s as the home of the Mission Superintendent. It became the first administration office of Aurukun Shire when the Council was formed in 1978. The bank and post office also operated from the premises which burnt to the ground in 1992. The Aurukun Supermarket now stands on the site.



Councillors Network

Aurukun Shire Mayor Keri Tamwoy, Cr Craig Koomeeta, Cr Kempo Tamwoy, Cr Delys Yunkaporta and CEO Bernie McCarthy attended the 124th Local Government Association of Queensland Annual Conference on the Gold Coast. The conference is a massive three days filled with opportunities for LGAQ members to network, learn and connect with each other.



AURUKUN RIVER TO BOAT RAMP FUN RUN 2020



Congratulations to the winners and the all-important finishers in the 2020 River to Ramp Run at Aurukun. It was great to see a contingent from Weipa compete.

Runners male: Masters 1 Noel Waterman, 2 Tim Jones; Open 18+ 1 Dylan Burns, 2 Gabe Waterman, 3 Gary Lloyd; Child 1 Chucky Tarpitch.

Runners female: Masters 1 Rhonda Joliffe, 2 Annette McPherson, 3 Kathy Ona; Open 18+ Wilco Jacobsz, 2 Megan Hooper, 3 Emily Tryhorn.

Walkers Male: Open 18+ 1 Andrew Ramage, 2 Ruben Kooiman, 3 Zane Mercieca; Junior 1 Max Emmett; Child 1 Robert Kepple, 2 Ezakiah Yarrak, 3 Zavien Kawopath.

Walkers female: Open 18+ Vera Judin, 2 Corrine Virapin, 3 Gina Jones; Child 1 Shakayla Kerindun, 2 Naveah Wester, 3 Zara Burke.

Thank you to our sponsors: Skytrans, Rio Tinto, Island and Cape, Kang Kang Café, CHC Pty Ltd, SeaSwift, Preston Law, Glencore, Sodexo, OHUB and Cape York Employment.



Wik Whispers

Refuelling your vehicle in Aurukun will be much more comfortable in the wet season now that work has been completed to upgrade the retail fuel depot from dirt to concrete. It will also help to minimise the dust during the dry season. The boundary fence has been replaced and all work was funded by the Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation.

Pathways have been laid along the Aurukun waterfront making access to this leisure area much easier for many members of the community. The work was done with Works 4 Queensland funding.

The Aurukun Justice Group works with the Aurukun police to solve community issues. Sergeant Stuart Greenwell and Justice Group members Harriet Pootchemunka and Noreen Walmbeng met recently to discuss local issues.

Community Police Officer Paddy Bell assisted Kate Smith from One Health Veterinary Solutions with house-to-house visits and animal care in the Aurukun township. One Health provides veterinary health visits, surgical services and council management support to remote Indigenous communities.

Aurukun stopped to remember the 11 Aurukun men who enlisted with the Torres Strait Infantry as part of the Remembrance Day commemorations today. Mayor Keri Tamwoy spoke about remembering the 102,800 Australians who gave their lives for their country and the significance of the day.

Each month Aurukun Shire Council's Chivaree Centre hosts a luncheon for all Aurukun senior citizens. Jock Eundatumweakin and Lois Toikalkin received lucky door prizes. Olive Kepple sang the Grace with the Elders joining in. A big thank you to new Head Cook Robert Walker and also the Assistant Cook Virginia Namponan for preparing the meal.



Aurukun Shire Council Meetings

15 December • 16 February

Upcoming Events

- **3 December**
Aurukun Community Christmas Function
- **26 January**
Australia Day



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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