



Message from the Mayor

The first edition of Wik Kath for 2019 features some of the many community-minded people we have in Aurukun.

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of one of our humble achievers, Mrs Waal-Waal Ngallametta who was awarded Aurukun's 2019 Citizen of the Year.

As a community we need to look to our youth to step up and grasp leadership roles to take Aurukun and it was with great pleasure that I announced Youth Advisory Council founding member Jayden Marrott as the Junior Citizen of the Year.

Both recipients were selected from a strong field of nominees. I congratulate George Warusam, Janine Chevathun, Waynead Wolmby and Kemuel Tamwoy who received Highly Commended certificates.

We ended 2018 with the announcement of the Deadly Employee award to George Warusam and the Deadly Volunteer to Rhonda Joliffe, two very deserving Aurukun Shire Council employees.

Aurukun is fortunate to have so many outstanding people who take pride in their culture and do so much for our community.

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

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



Respected Elder Laid to Rest



Mrs Ngallametta, Cairns Indigenous Art Fair 2018, Blueclick Photography

Mayor Dereck Walpo said the well-respected Elder was Aurukun's 2019 Citizen of the Year and her passing on January 28 was an enormous loss to the Cape York community.

"Mrs Ngallametta was an outstanding artist who took great pride in ensuring the culture of the Wik, Wik Way and Kugu people was maintained in Aurukun," he said.

"Among her many arts awards was the Australian Council for the Arts 2018 Red Ochre Award for Lifetime Achievement which recognised the contribution she made through weaving, ghost net art and painting.

"She was the winner of the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair's People's Choice Award in 2018 and was a finalist many times in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, winning its General Painting Award in 2013.

Aurukun has sadly bid farewell to acclaimed artist Mrs Waal-Waal Ngallametta at her funeral in the community on February 20.

"Her outstanding body of work portraying the beauty and diversity of life in Aurukun is displayed in galleries and private collections around the world.

"Aurukun's magnificent wetlands were often a subject in her work and she used pigments collected on country to depict her homeland.

"Mrs Ngallametta spent many hours recording her stories and traditions in language and in English to ensure the culture of Aurukun remained strong.

"An elder of the Puch clan, the 74-year-old generously shared her cultural knowledge with visitors and passed it on to the younger generations.

"Her significant contributions to the community include volunteering at cultural events, preparations for house openings and tombstone openings, school events and dance festivals.

"As a community, Aurukun mourns her passing and is thankful for the extraordinary cultural legacy she has left for future generations."



Junior Citizen



Aurukun's Junior Citizen of the Year Jayden Marrott is an outstanding example of the potential for Aurukun's youth to take their community forward.

The 20-year-old is an outgoing and personable young man who has been busy with community work and sport since completing his schooling.

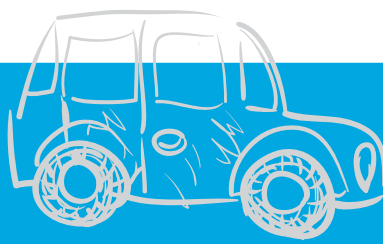
Jayden is a founding member of the Aurukun Youth Advisory committee

and has represented Aurukun at a number of events including being selected to referee at the Affiliated States Championship Rugby League in Brisbane.

He played rugby league for the Griffith Dragons in Brisbane, was the 2017 winner of the Aurukun River to Ramp Run and has been a regular participant in the PCYC Deadly 3s competition in Cairns.



Smooth Driving



Aurukun Access Road has become the longest sealed road in Cape York with the final section of the 79km stretch completed in time for 2019.

The sealing is a major achievement for our community in providing all-weather access from Aurukun township to the boundary of the Shire.

However, it is paramount that the final 26km to the Peninsula Development Road, which is within the Cook Shire, be completed to provide access year-round to Cape York's major arterial road.

Aurukun Shire Council will continue to lobby the State and Federal governments to provide the necessary funds of about \$15 million to complete the last section

of the 106km Aurukun Access Road.

"We are very keen to work with Cook Shire on this project and would like to see the Aurukun Shire Council roads construction crew undertake these works," Mayor Dereck Walpo said.

"Council's Roads Project Supervisor Con Tati has trained a local Indigenous work crew who have worked with contractors on this project and we want to see their expertise continue to be used for projects of this nature.

"The Aurukun Shire Council road construction camp is adjacent to this section of the road making it ideally placed for future work crews."



All-weather Service



Aurukun Shire Council is better equipped to continue work no matter what the weather with a new generator and a cyclone-rated satellite dish.

Abel Pamtoonda is pictured celebrating the installation of a generator which will supply independent power to the Council's office when the community's power supply is disrupted. It will also serve as the Local Disaster Management Group's control room.

Council electricians Qantas and Ruben installed the satellite dish to supply a reliable internet service during heavy rainfall and cloud cover. The service Council selected will provide a 2 Mb per second internet connection which is around 10% of the regular internet connection used by Council in Aurukun.



National Exhibition



The work of Aurukun's artists will feature in a national touring exhibition in 2020 that will also travel to London.

As part of their preparations for the *Belonging* exhibition, the men from the Wik and Kugu Arts Centre and the women from the Akay Koo'oilu Women's Art Centre have been learning how to use a binder with the Aurukun ochres to give their paintings a rich, enduring quality.

Wik and Kugu Arts Centre manager Sabine Hoeng said the artists would be painting their stories and clan designs on Belgian linen which they had stretched and primed ready to work on.

The Indigenous Art Centres Alliance (IACA) secured funding from the Department of communications and Arts through its Indigenous Languages and Arts Program for the *Belonging* project.

A *Belonging* artist residency has been underway with Edwina Circuiti assisting the artists and staff prepare for the commercial market by improving their studio practice, workflows and systems.



Puppy Love

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Young and old dogs from Aurukun are being rehomed with dog lovers around the State thanks to a partnership initiated by Council's Animal Control Officer Wayne Branden.

Wayne is working with Karen Ogilvie of Cape Animal Protection Shelter (CAPS) in Weipa, Jana Dwyer of Happy Tails in Cairns, and Joanna Zukowski in Perth to find the dogs new homes.

There are still dogs roaming the streets of Aurukun which is unacceptable. All dogs need to be registered and kept safely behind fences at your home.

If your dog is de-sexed, the registration is free. The community needs to take ownership of the problem of stray and unwanted dogs.



Neil Peinkinna

Free Concerts

Bands and singers from around Cape York and the Gulf of Carpentaria will be sourced for two free community concerts in Aurukun this year.

Aurukun Shire Council will host the concerts to promote local talent and provide entertainment to the community.

The first concert called Onchan Min, which is Wik for the time following the wet season, will be held in May.

The second, called Um Thurpak, meaning the period before the wet season begins, will be in October.

The concerts will be held in the outdoors area of the Wo'uw Ko'alam Community Centre and local stall holders will sell food.

DEADLY EMPLOYEES



Aged care worker George Warusam is Aurukun Shire Council's Deadly Employee of the Year and Administration Manager Rhonda Jolliffe is the Volunteer of the Year for 2018.

George Warusam is a dedicated employee who was nominated by four different people for his outstanding operational support work at the Chivaree Aged Care, Disability Services and Respite Centre.

He is an active member of the Defence force and is currently assisting with the cadets program in Aurukun. George gives of his time willingly and volunteers at numerous community functions.

Two employees from Parks and Gardens, Nick Pootchemunka and Patrick Bell, came second and third.

Volunteer of the Year Rhonda Jolliffe is at every Council event handing out packs or buttering bread for our annual celebrations including Aurukun Day, the River to Ramp Run, community concerts and Anzac Day.

She takes the lead and coordinates other volunteers to ensure a successful outcome for the community.

Runners-up for the Volunteer awards are Stephanie Waters from Records Management and Katherine Dallachy, the Assistant Manager at Koolkan Child Care.

The Deadly Awards will continue in 2019 with quarterly winners and finalists announced at the end of the year.



George Warusam



Rhonda Jolliffe

New Faces at School

Aurukun State School's new Principal Paula McGuire (back left) has been joined by nine new teachers. Originally from South Australia, she spent 15 years living on South Australia's remote APY Lands working in various school roles at three communities. In 2015, she became the Doomadgee State School Principal. "I am really looking forward to learning about

this school and community and getting to know the staff, students and their families. If you are near the school please come in and say hello," Paula says.

Front row: Teachers Michelle Richards, Shauna Giblet (administration officer), Ruth Caruso, Robyn Scorer, Lucy Ramage and Ellie Clark.



Back row: Executive Principal Paula McGuire, teachers Emma Chandler, Alex Winter, Kendall Ryff (teacher's aide), David Osgarby (linguist), Guy Streatfeild (teacher's aide), teacher Vita Toomalati and Leonard Yusia (teacher's aide). New teacher Tatiana Rhodes was absent for the photograph.



Wik Whispers

Sodexo Remote Sites Australia Pty Ltd has won the tender



to lease Wuungkam Lodge, Pikkuws Restaurant, Kooth Pach Guest House, and the MacKenzie Camps. Sodexo operates mining camps at Amrun, Weipa and many other locations throughout Australia and has a record of engaging local communities to build capacity. Daniel Anderson, who many will know from Amrun, is managing the accommodation. Mayor Dereck Walpo met Sodexo's Nigel Langford (centre) and David Goodwin ahead of Sodexo managing Aurukun's accommodation from March 1.

Aurukun State School students will champion the community's Clean Up Day on March 10 with a focus on local parks. The students wrote to Council asking for the parks to be improved so Council has encouraged them to be a part of the solution. The students will be picked up and given a free BBQ after their hard work.

Uniting Church Presbytery Minister Richard Wallace



has been appointed part-time to Aurukun. Prior to his retirement in 2012, Dr Wallace was Coordinator of the Uniting Aboriginal and Christian Congress National Leadership Training Program and taught at Nungalinya College in Darwin.

Events Calendar 2019

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

- Mar 10** Aurukun Clean Up Day
- Apr 25** Anzac Day Ceremony
- May 17-18** Onchan Min Festival
- Jun 1** Aurukun Photo competition opens

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



2019 Aurukun Shire Council Meetings

March 19 | April 16 | May 21



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