

Mayor's Welcome



Our community has shared some wonderful news with the success of Aurukun's first start-up business for 2020. Leonard Yusia is to be commended for showing initiative and asking for help so he could create work for himself and others in our community.

Aurukun Shire Council is encouraging other members of our community to follow Leonard's lead and create a positive future for themselves and their family. There are a number of opportunities available.

Council has just called for Expressions of Interest to clean our many facilities. This would be an excellent opportunity

for a family to build a business from scratch. We really want to see a local person win that contract.

We are also wanting local families or organisations to be registered for community events to conduct food or drink stalls. Council will assist with Safe Food Handling procedures.

Small business is the backbone of many communities and we hope to one day have local people giving tours to visitors and running the kiosk at the proposed airport terminal redevelopment.

Meaningful work is essential to our happiness and prosperity so let's not pass up on the opportunities that are presented to our community to engage in work or create our own business.

In addition to fulfilling work we all need to spend time in our happy place. And for the people of Aurukun this means going out on Country to spend time living off the land and enjoying connecting with the places of our ancestors.

The 4th annual Living in Aurukun photo competition shows just how special our beautiful landscapes and activities like fishing are to people in our community.

We are lucky to live in a beautiful part of the world.

I leave you with these thoughts.

Everything in Heaven and Earth belongs to God.

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land we reside and work on, I acknowledge the five Clan groups of the Wik, Wik Waya and Kuju people and our constant spiritual connection we have with Country.

I pay my respect to all Elders, past, present and emerging and honour their commitment for a better Aurukun and a hopeful future is one we cannot ignore.

I acknowledge that their cultural beliefs, authority and wisdom are still important to our people today.

**Keri Tamwoy**  
**Aurukun Shire Council Mayor**

## Start your Own Business



Yusia Lawn Care has been thriving since Leonard Yusia decided to start his own business so he could work close to home and employ other people living in Aurukun.

He employs Andre Wapau, Zarlee Woolla and Chad Sigai to help tidy up the yards around our community.

"I was tired of working out of town away from my partner and wanted to start something up for the local youths to show them a good work ethic," he said.

"I was cruising around town and seeing high grasses at the homes of old people and I thought I might start a business to help them.

"Many Rivers and Charlie Street from Cape York Employment helped me to set up Yusia Lawn Care and Aurukun Shire Council has given me a contract to keep the old people's yards tidy.

"My clients love it and I am getting good feedback from the community, so I'm getting heaps of jobs cleaning other people's yards.



Leonard Yusia & clients



Zarlee Woolla, Duncan Korkatain, Chad Sigai



Wik Kath



# DEADLY WINNERS

Aurukun Shire Council's most responsible and safest employees have been awarded in the first two quarters of the annual Deadly Awards.

## Congratulations to the Aurukun Shire Council Deadly Award winners for the Second Quarter



Robert Woolla & Tawu Marrott

**First Place Deadly Award – Robert Woolla** has been assisting with tasks outside his normal position as a Community Police Officer. On many occasions Robert has helped tidy up the front Council Grounds when there was no grounds person.

**Second Place Deadly Award – Brett Doolan** has worked tirelessly through the first half of the year repairing damaged houses. During the COVID-19 travel restrictions, Brett took over roles traditionally undertaken by Q-Build to ensure that the highest level of housing services could be delivered to the Aurukun Community.

**Third Place Deadly Award – Fran O'Dwyer** has a strong eye for detail in Payroll. She is always professional in dealing with staff and management and learnt the system quickly.

**First Place Deadly Safety Award – Tawu Marrott** from Aurukun Shire Council's road crew approaches each task in a safe manner and communicates with other staff on any arising safety issues.

**Second Place Deadly Safety Award – Virginia Namponan** kept the Koolkan Childcare Centre clean and free of hazards. Virginia now works at the Chivaree Centre and always wears her closed in shoes to work.

**Third Place Deadly Safety Award – Rosanna Dunn** has been proactive in researching and implementing measures to keep the Cairns office safe since the start of COVID-19. Rosanna instituted clear procedures for handling travel permit submissions in the Cairns Office where community members needed assistance with their applications.

## Congratulations to the Aurukun Shire Council Deadly Award winners for the First Quarter



Dalton Agie

**First Place Deadly Award – Dalton Agie Senior** has not missed one day of work and is always happy to assist beyond his role as the bus driver for the Chivaree Centre. Thanks to his diligence the aged care clients have received consistent help with their transport needs and the delivery of meals.

**Second Place Deadly Award – Fran O'Dwyer** is a calming addition to the office environment who has thrown herself whole heartedly into her new role and holds the record for the earliest payroll payment.

**Third Place Deadly Award – Shaynon Bright** has developed a good rapport with customers and staff, remaining calm and working well under pressure even when customers are rude. She has taken on additional duties, including work at the Bank and Post Office and is an excellent Council representative.

**First Place Deadly Safety Award – Rosanna Dunn** has kept a cool head from the start of the COVID-19 crisis, ordering sanitiser and disinfectant and staking on the task of disinfecting the public areas and kitchen in the Cairns office every day. Importantly, she managed to get toilet paper while dealing calmly with disruptions coming in daily from every supplier.



## Relax at the waterfront

The concrete was barely dry on the Archer River waterfront shelter before Aurukun families started enjoying fishing, cooking and relaxing on the community's prime recreation area. Tables and seats, improved lighting and the slab have been added as part of the Works for Queensland program. Work is continuing with wheelchair accessible picnic tables to be installed and a concrete footpath joining the western shelters to the barge ramp. New BBQ shelters with concrete floors will be installed next with wood-fired BBQs for families to cook their catch.

Concreting will occur around the historical cairn identifying where the missionaries arrived in 1904.



*Celebrating*  
**Aurukun Day '20**

Aurukun's residents celebrated their annual Aurukun Day with around 350 people enjoying the festivities at the Wo'uw Ko'alam Community Centre. Rides, food stalls, face painting, free flu jabs and free haircuts were all part of the fun. Information stalls were set up by Rio Tinto, Glencore, PCYC, AFL, Maritime Safety Queensland, driver licensing and housing. Skytrans donated a lucky door prize of a return trip for two to Cairns.



# LIVING IN AURUKUN

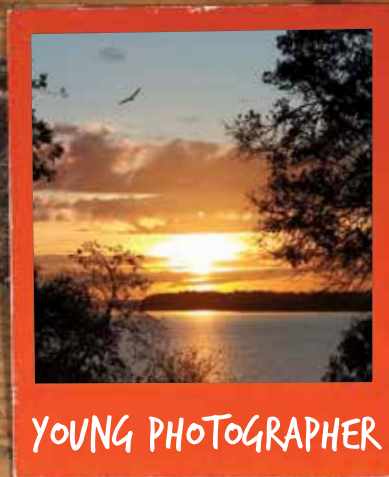
Aurukun Community Newsletter  
ISSUE 2: SEPTEMBER 2020



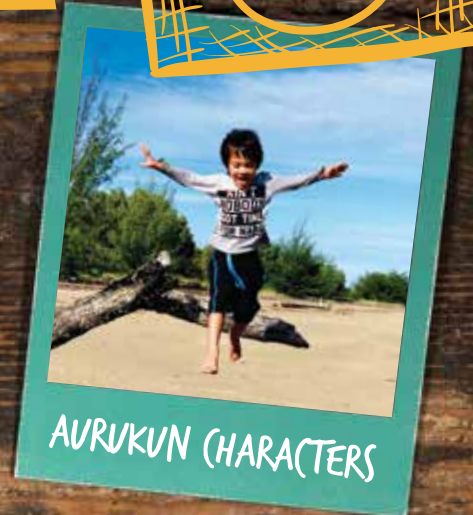
The 4th annual Living in Aurukun Photo competition has delivered some beautiful images of the Wik peoples' country and their lives.



FAVOURITE ACTIVITY



YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER



AURUKUN CHARACTERS

## Congratulations to the winners:

### Aurukun at Work

Hard work pays off

Photographer - Ellie Clark

### Aurukun Characters

Enjoying Life!

Photographer - Kristine Ryan

### Best Scene

Go your own pace

Photographer - Shaynon Bright

### Activity

Miriam doing what she Loves!

Photographer - Kendall Ryff

### Young Photographer

Golden Skies

Photographer - Darlene Rainbow



BEST SCENE



AURUKUN AT WORK

Thanks to our sponsors: Kang Kang Café, BlackStar Radio, CBC Staff Recruitment, Sodexo & Skytrans.



Celebration!





# Aurukun Haircuts

There is no excuse for a bad hair day in Aurukun when the Council's security guard Siaoosi Moeaki is around. Siaoosi was first photographed helping cleaner Shrilene look her best during the COVID-19 restrictions and next Cr Kempo Tamwoy was sporting a new iso haircut. The kids have been Siaoosi's biggest fans with some pretty deadly clip designs. Siaoosi has finally made it home to see his family and will be back next month. We will all be needing a trim by then!



## Wik Whispers




 Aurukun has been doing a great job of recycling through the Containers for Change

scheme. Several thousand containers are collected each time with the record being 13,903 containers. This included a whopping 11,357 aluminium cans. Visit [containersforchange.com.au](http://containersforchange.com.au) to sign up.


The Chivaree Centre and Wo'uwo'alam Community Centre will not use single-use plastic cups, plates and containers once existing stocks are exhausted. This will assist with State Government plans to transition to a ban on single use plastic products from 1 July 2021.



 Aurukun Shire Council Post Office Service Officer Richard Donato and CEO Bernie McCarthy

inspected the new toilet block at the Aak Ngench Thayan (Sacred Place) Cemetery. The modern facility was funded by the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program (LGGSP) and Aurukun Shire Council.

Chivaree Centre is well known for its green-thumbed staff who grow fresh vegetables and herbs for their aged care clients, but now the centre is even greener with solar power. An additional eight solar panels have been added to the existing panels which were yet to be commissioned. While the sun is shining Aurukun Shire Council will save \$138.80 a day in electricity costs.

 The Flexi School students are busy building a new dugout canoe with the help of their Elders at the Aurukun Wik Mungkan Indigenous Knowledge Centre.



## 2020 Aurukun Shire Council Meetings

**15 September • 13 October  
17 November • 15 December**

## Upcoming Events

- **5 September**  
River to Ramp Fun Run
- **5 September**  
Ngangk Min Festival
- **14 October**  
Newcomers Welcome Function
- **31 October**  
Um Thurpak Festival
- **11 November**  
Remembrance Ceremony



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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)