



Wilk Kadh

ISSUE 4, DECEMBER 2018

Growing Respect, Community & Leaders!



Mayor's WELCOME

As we come to the close of Aurukun Shire Council's 40th anniversary year it is a good time to reflect on our

community's achievements, many of which stem from local government. I am especially proud of the commitment some of our young people have towards their future by participating in courses to gain new skills that will help them progress through the workforce.

Our community needs strong leaders and Council is committed to nurturing our youth so they can one day step up and lead Aurukun forward. Good leadership starts with a strong work ethic and the desire to serve your community, something we are rewarding with the Aurukun Shire Council Deadly Employee Awards and Deadly Volunteer Awards.

This mentoring ethos extends all the way down to the youngest members of our community who will start Prep at Aurukun State School in 2019. These children have been visiting the "big school" where they have been finding out what Prep will involve and meeting the staff and students there.

This year we have seen some of our young people enlist as soldiers for Aurukun's 51st Battalion, Far North Queensland Regiment. It makes me very proud to see them representing our community at services for Anzac Day and Remembrance Day.

On December 7 I look forward to congratulating our Deadly Award winners and chatting with community members at the Christmas party on December 8. May everyone in Aurukun enjoy a safe and peaceful festive season.

Yours in local government
Mayor Derek Walpo

Merry Christmas



Welcome TO AURUKUN

More than 40 people attended the November Newcomers function at Pikkuu restaurant. Angela Purcell Gilpin did a fantastic job as MC for the night and Eloise Yunkaporta came up with some great quiz questions.

Developing Leaders

Aurukun Shire Council is developing a program to assist the transition of school leavers and returning students to future careers in their community.

The program will launch at the start of the Christmas school holidays with paid Aurukun Shire Council work experience placements in the workshop, aged care, child care, administration and the Indigenous Knowledge Centre.

Mayor Derek Walpo says Council hopes to provide youth with an employment experience that will encourage them to seek future full-time paid work with Aurukun Shire Council and local businesses, or to further their studies.

"We need to identify the strengths of the senior students at Aurukun State School and returning students and find meaningful work or study that will assist them find employment in Aurukun," he said.

"Council also wants to mentor students and employees who show leadership potential.

"This started with students from Aurukun State School joining councillors for morning tea at our meeting in September.

"Councillors answered questions about their roles and the opportunities for work at the Council.

"We hope this will encourage students to become involved in their community and aspire to leadership roles.

"Young staff members Heston Korkaktain, Ross Wolmby and Nicholas Pootchemunka were also invited to morning tea so they could get a better understanding of how a future in local government could help their community."



Government Champions

We welcomed Aurukun Ministerial Champion Dianne Farmer and Government Champion Rachel Hunter to our community after their appointments were announced.

We are fortunate to have such senior State Government representatives take an interest in our community. **Dianne Farmer** is the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and **Rachel Hunter** is the Director-General of the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning.

Mayor Dereck Walpo, Dianne Farmer, Rachel Hunter



Chambers Art

Cr Vera Koomeeta has created a painting for the Aurukun Shire Council Chambers representing the five clans of Aurukun.

The central circle is the community surrounded by each of the clans, while the two circles within Winchanam.



Special Visit

Special Envoy for Indigenous Affairs Tony Abbott visited Aurukun to discuss school attendance and the Family Responsibilities Commission (FRC).

He met with councillors responsible for FRC and toured Aurukun State School where he met the leadership team.



Moving Service

Soldiers from Aurukun's 51st Battalion, Far North Queensland Regiment were a welcome addition to a meaningful Remembrance Day service in the community. The Queensland Police Service proudly carried the flags and Mayor Dereck Walpo officiated.

Art Sale



Wile Kash

Artistic Opportunity

An installation by Wik and Kugu artist Alair Pambegan has been positioned in the entry of the Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art at the prestigious 9th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art in Brisbane until April 28.

Called **Kalben**, the work portrays the Wik-Mungkan man's ancestral stories and materials collected from the traditional country along the Archer River near the Western Cape York community of Aurukun.

Alair is the son of revered lawman, elder and artist Arthur Koo'ekka Pambegan Jr who was the custodian for two significant Wik-Mungkan ancestral narratives, Walkaln-aw (Bonefish Story Place) and Kalben (Flying Fox Story Place).

As the heir to these artistic traditions, Alair uses the knowledge handed down from his father to create vibrant and innovative interpretations of the traditional stories.

The **Kalben** installation consists of 107 pieces of milkwood, a soft timber collected on country, which Alair has carved to various lengths from 14cm to 41cm and hung with raffia to represent flying fox. He has mixed synthetic polymer paint with natural pigments to reflect the red, white and black stripes used by the Winchanam clan which his father led.

This is a very significant exhibition that will be seen by more than 100,000 people and Alair will attend the opening where he will meet the leading contemporary artists exhibiting at the Triennial. Wik and Kugu Arts Centre Manager Sabine Hoeng, who organised Mr Pambegan's trip, is planning to get more Aurukun artists exhibiting nationally.



Alair Pambegan: Wik and Kugu artist Alair Pambegan painting a commissioned work for an upcoming exhibition.



Kalben: A view from above of a section of Kalben 2016-17



Art Sale



The Wik and Kugu Arts Centre is holding a massive sale with up to 50% off some art.

Stop by the Centre in Aurukun from **December 3-20 from 8am to 6pm** or make an appointment with Manager Sabine Hoeng on 0437 605 105 to visit on the weekend. Items on sale include carvings, paintings, feather flowers, law poles and message sticks.

The Art Centre will be **closed from December 21 to January 2.**





Events Calendar

There are a variety of exciting events for 2018, so get them in your diaries now!

Dec  **2018 ASC Deadly Employee of the Year Awards and Deadly Volunteer of the Year Awards**

Dec  **Aurukun Christmas Celebration**

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

2018 Aurukun Shire Council **Meeting**



December 11

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



Learning New Skills

Aurukun Shire Council employees have been enthusiastically gaining new skills to enhance their job options. Congratulations to Chris Woola and Justine Whiteman for achieving their High Risk Licences in Forklift operations after an Aurukun Shire Council course. Heston Korkaktain is using a log book to record his hours for his licence assessment next year. Congratulations also to popular Community Police Officers Smithy Kepple and Robert Woola who have received their Certificate 2 and 3 in Security Operations.



Heston



Chris



Justine



Wik Whispers



☞ **The Aurukun Senior Units** will be known as **Ngoyngk Min** which is Wik for lovely shade. Adjacent to the Aurukun Shire Council Chivaree Centre for aged care, the units are a Department of Housing and Public Works project and will be operated by them.

☞ **Sprinklers and spray hoses** can only be used between **6am and 8am** under the current water restrictions which will continue until at least 31 December.

☞ **Council will do a kerbside collection** of hard rubbish on **Tuesday 4 December**. Place any unwanted items that might become missiles during a cyclone in front of your home before this date. Household rubbish will not be collected during this annual clean-up.



☞ **Aurukun Shire Council has a new hearse** after receiving a Community Development Grant from the Western Cape Communities Trust for an amount up to \$100,000 to replace the old hearse. The \$80,000 hearse was delivered to Aurukun by Sea Swift and is now in use.



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