



Events Calendar

There are a variety of exciting events for 2017, so get them in your diaries now!

Jan	26	Australia Day BBQ & Awards Public Holiday
Feb	16	Welcome to Newcomers
Mar	5	Aurukun Clean Up Day
Apr	25	Anzac Day Public Holiday
Jul	9	NAIDOC Fun Day
Jul	16	River to Ramp Fun Run
Aug	4	Aurukun Day Celebrations
Oct	13	Welcome to Newcomers
Nov	11	Remembrance Day
Nov	19	Aurukun Clean Up Day
Dec	9	Aurukun Christmas Event

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

2017 Aurukun Shire Council Meetings

21 February | 21 March | 18 April | 16 May
20 June | 18 July | 19 July (Budget)
15 August | 12 September | 24 October
21 November | 12 December

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 tiz@lizinglismedia.com



Glenn Compain & Leonard Yusia

Join 1+1

Aurukun's Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) is encouraging the community to get fit with a new program aimed at doubling the number of people using the facility.

Branch manager Sgt Glenn Compain said the 1+1 program was designed to get Aurukun's service providers to team up with members of the community and do circuit training together.

"I am challenging government and non-government agencies in the community to bring along a local client or staff member to the PCYC on Tuesdays," he said.

"They can set aside an hour or two to improve their health and fitness and at the same time build a relationship with the community they serve."

"I am aiming for 10 agencies in Aurukun to participate and that would equate to 20 people doing circuit training."

"Aurukun has the best gym in Cape York with a diverse range of new equipment which can be used under the supervision of Sport and Recreation Officer Leonard Yusia who can assist with personal training."

Aurukun Mayor Dereck Walpo commended Sgt Glenn Compain for devising the program to encourage healthier lifestyles in the community.

"We are fortunate to have such a wonderful new facility for Aurukun and Sgt Compain is doing a great job encouraging people to make use of it," he said.

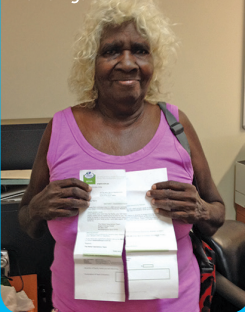
Sgt Compain said the 1+1 program followed the successful introduction of interagency basketball games with a local team on Wednesdays at 6-8pm.

The 1+1 Program is every Tuesday at 6-8pm. The gym is now open from 1pm to 8pm and can be used by making a gold coin donation. Everyone must wear shoes and bring a towel.



Wik Whispers

Mavis Ngallametta



Q Mavis Ngallametta is looking forward to a cooler summer after receiving \$80 worth of power cards from Ergon Energy. The staff at Chivaree Centre helped Mavis apply for the pensioner rebate which she said would make a big difference to her budget, especially with the early onset of summer weather on the Cape.

Q The Mayors of Indigenous communities throughout Cape York Peninsula and Torres Strait have met to reinvigorate their alliance. To acknowledge the support of the Torres Strait, the group's name has changed to the Torres Cape Indigenous Mayors Alliance.

Q Bruce Bell's owl carvings were a hit with Australian singer-songwriter Katie Noonan when she visited the Wik and Kugu Art Centre in Aurukun. Katie was very taken with an owl featuring glitter on its eyes which she dubbed "The Disco Owl". The talented performer also visited the ladies at the Akay Koo'oil Women's Arts Centre where she bought a painting.

Artist: Bruce Bell



Q Aurukun is prepared for potential fires after Rural Fire Service training officer Jamie Haskell inducted volunteers. Volunteers Darrus and Anthony, who work for the Council, were shown how to operate the new Aurukun fire truck.

Keep Aurukun Access Road Clean

Grab a bag from Council reception and bring it back with cans and rubbish from the Peninsula Development Road intersection.



Wik Kath

ISSUE 7, DECEMBER 2016

Growing Respect, Community & Leaders!



(L-R) Councillors: Doris Poonkamelya, Vera Koomeeta, Ada Woola, Mayor Dereck Walpo & Edgar Kerindun

The entire community will benefit from reliable high-speed internet with installation close to completion. This will make everyday tasks like banking simpler, dramatically increase the entertainment and leisure options for our remote community and most importantly be conducive to new businesses setting up in Aurukun.

I am looking forward to a happy and positive 2017 for Aurukun. Our community has had many highs and lows over the past year, but I am confident we will be celebrating many more wonderful achievements in the next 12 months.

Our children will have a new start when school resumes with Mike Ennis commencing as Principal of the Queensland Education Department-run school. I urge the community to be a part of their children's education by joining the Parents and Citizens Committee when it resumes next year.

Merry CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

Tourism offers an incredible opportunity for Traditional Owners to start a business and share their culture and I am pleased to see plans moving forward. Cape York Alliance, Cape York Sustainable Futures and Tourism Cape York recently held a tourism and business enterprise workshop for our community.

Access to Aurukun is improving with a Memorandum of Understanding between Rio Tinto and Aurukun Shire Council resulting in \$3.8 million being spent over four years to maintain and improve the Aurukun Access Road.

Our Wik and Kugu artists are enjoying a growing demand for their work and their ku' (camp dog) carvings were among the most popular pieces of art at the Cairns and Indigenous Art Fair this year.

Library services have returned with the opening of the Wik Mungkan Indigenous Knowledge Centre which also gives our community access to the internet and school holiday activities for our children.

The new PCYC facilities boast the best gym equipment in Cape York and have some great programs aimed at encouraging our community to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

I wish you and your family a happy and safe festive season and a prosperous New Year.

Yours in local government
Mayor Dereck Walpo

IKC CELEBRATIONS

Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Curtis Pitt officially opened the Wik Mungkan Indigenous Knowledge Centre in Aurukun on November 24.

More than 70 people attended including Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Director General Clare O'Connor and State Library Queensland Executive Director of Regional Access and Public Libraries Louise Denoon.

Mayor Dereck Walpo said it was a very exciting time for Aurukun as the Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) had a long history in the community, having first opened on November 20, 2002.

"Over the past year, Aurukun Shire Council, in partnership with the State Library of Queensland, has committed significant resources to the refurbishment of the building to revitalise the IKC and ensure its relevance to community needs," he said.

"Since September, we have had a steady stream of visitors to the Centre with 59 new members signing up and I hope many more will make good use of this wonderful facility and cultural learning environment."

Mayor Walpo welcomed newly appointed IKC coordinator Priscilla Blanco who has worked as a teacher's aide and health care worker throughout Cape York Peninsula and was the team leader for Act for Kids in Aurukun.

Ms Blanco, from Aurukun's Winchanam clan, said she spent most of her childhood holidays in Aurukun as her grandfather, William Hudson, was a stockman who worked in the community and its outstations.

The \$120,000 refurbishment by Aurukun Shire Council received \$28,000 from the State Government. The Council has a partnership with the State Library of Queensland for the operation of the IKC. This includes almost \$40,000 in funding towards staff, materials, the First 5 Forever program, promotional and membership initiatives, and assistance to reactivate the Indigenous Knowledge Centre via an arts and culture program.



Mayor Dereck Walpo, Curtis Pitt & Priscilla Blanco



Josh Kitchens, Priscilla Blanco & Louise Denoon



Alicia Topping, Jordan Berg, Alana Tier, Curtis Pitt & Bernie McCarthy



To read this newsletter online, or for more information on any of the articles, visit www.aurukun.qld.gov.au or call (07) 4060 6800.



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Aurukun Community Newsletter

aurukun.qld.gov.au



New Streets

Aurukun Shire Council has chosen new street names for our community. Three of these names will be for the new community housing subdivision that joins on to Airport Drive and the remaining three names will be used for future housing subdivisions.



(L-R) Cairns Mayor Bob Manning, Aurukun Mayor Dereck Walpo & Curtis Pitt



Cairns Office Opens

Aurukun Shire Council celebrated the opening of its Cairns office with about 50 people including Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Curtis Pitt and Cairns Mayor Bob Manning on September 22.

Aurukun Mayor Dereck Walpo said the new office would accommodate Council's eight Cairns-based support staff including business development, grants management, finance, purchasing, payroll and information technology functions.

"These staff visit Aurukun on a regular rotation basis and all senior management staff are located in Aurukun Shire Council's head office in the Aurukun community," he said.

"The Cairns-based staff provide much-needed support for the Council, the management team and their colleagues based in Aurukun.

"This new office will provide significant financial, administrative and cost-saving benefits for the council as our property investment will cease outgoing rent-related costs and increase profits through council leasing any unused space.

"This strategic and financially-sound business decision will mean savings of about \$100,000 per annum."



Koolkan Celebrates

The Koolkan Class of 2016 held a graduation ceremony to celebrate their achievements with 21 children attending in graduation caps.

Mayor Dereck Walpo presented the certificates in front of proud parents and staff.

This event grew from a parent idea and it was great to see parents get involved in the preparations and the ceremony.

After the ceremony, the families enjoyed a meal together at the Koolkan Early Childhood Centre.

It has been a wonderful year of positive changes at Koolkan, with all staff and families looking forward to more family events in the future.



Australia Day Awards



Nominations are invited for the 2017 Aurukun Shire Council Australia Day Awards.

Citizen of the Year recognises outstanding members of the community for their personal endeavours, achievements, and community involvement, while the Young Citizen of the Year recognises those aged 25 or younger.

Australian citizens living in the Aurukun Shire Council local government area, who have not received an award in the same category, are eligible.

Nominations close 4pm, Friday January 13.

Lest We Forget

Aurukun paused at 11am on November 11 to remember those who have lost their lives in armed conflicts around the world. Thanks to the many participants and volunteers who helped make the Remembrance Day event successful for our community.



Sculptures in Demand

Wik and Kugu bird sculptures will feature alongside crocodile and dog sculptures in an exhibition at the Maunsell Wickes Gallery in Sydney's historic Paddington in December.

Director Dominic Maunsell said his customers were becoming increasingly aware of Aurukun art.

"The birds will also feature in our special Christmas show which each year offers the best and brightest of everything our gallery has," he said.

The sculptures are by Vernon Marbendar, Roderick Yunkaporta, Justin Watt and the Namponan brothers – Garry, Bevan, Leigh, Lex and Leo.

A family of dogs carved by Vernon is also on display at Vivien Anderson Gallery on St Kilda Rd in Melbourne. Mum, Dad and the five pups have been delighting passers-by from the gallery front window.

It has been a wonderful year of positive changes at Koolkan, with all staff and families looking forward to more family events in the future.

