



Wilk Kesh



Message

FROM THE MAYOR

With 2015 almost over, let's reflect back on progress that has occurred in Aurukun Shire.

The Sam Kerindun Snr.

Business Precinct continues to operate well and we look forward to the Government Hub relocating there during 2016. Aurukun means business and we seek to develop employment opportunities and attract business within our Shire, particularly with the news of the exciting Amrun mining project.

Wuungkam Lodge redevelopment is almost complete and the heavy bookings and excellent customer feedback are proof that this Council business is working well. Pikkuws restaurant is now the icing on the cake, and it is great to sit down for a meal and socially interact with our fellow Aurukunians.

The Wik and Kugu Art Centre is currently under temporary management while we recruit a permanent manager. The participation of local artists continues and in order to support their work, Council asks that you purchase art through the centre and not through street sales.

Council continues to lobby for telecommunications to be drastically improved. It must be a partnership of state, federal, and local government, community stakeholders and Telstra to achieve the permanent long-term rectification of this problem and all parties need to make significant financial contributions.

Once again Council has achieved an unqualified report from the Queensland Audit Office. This highlights that Council's financial and operational processes continue at a high standard.

All residents are reminded that the Council elections will be held on 19 March 2016. Make sure you are enrolled to vote. Forms are available at the Post Office and Council offices. Like to stand for election? Contact CEO Bernie McCarthy for more information on nominating for Council elections.

Council continues to operate as the main employer and leading community agency. We look forward to serving the people of Aurukun for the future!

Yours in local government
Mayor Dereck Walpo



NQ Cowboys champion Thurston visits Aurukun



Johnathan Thurston, officially the best rugby league player in the world, visited Aurukun in late November in a special visit to our community.

Thurston arrived in the community thanks to Skytrans, and visited the school and the arts centre, before a special community welcome in the Town Square.

The North Queensland Cowboys, Queensland Maroons and Australian Kangaroos legend was then farewelled at Aurukun airport.

"It was an unforgettable experience for everyone in Aurukun to have someone of JT's stature visit our community," said Mayor Dereck Walpo.

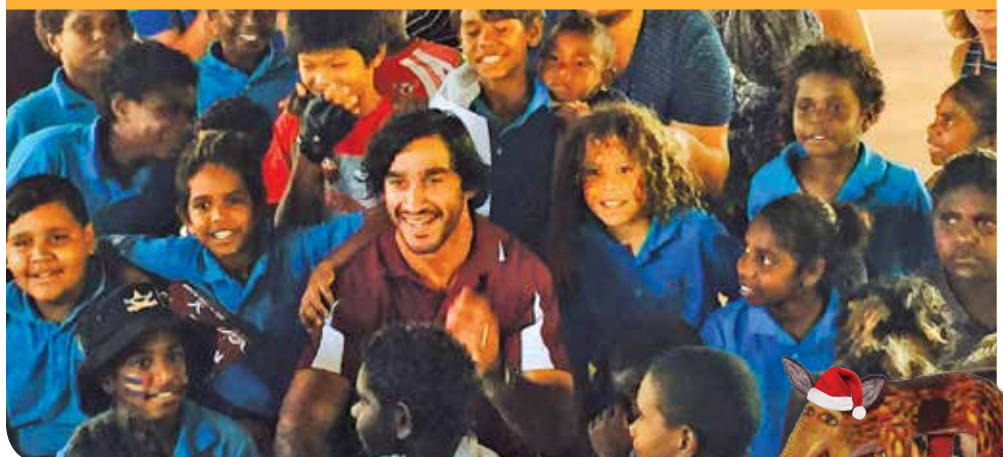
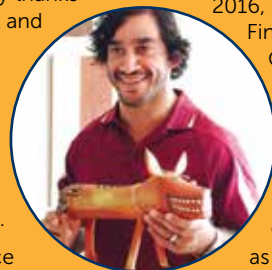
"JT is a rugby league legend and an inspiration to all Indigenous Australians, and we'd like to thank Skytrans and the North Queensland Cowboys for helping to make it happen, and for JT to spare his time to come and see us.

"His visit will live long in the memories for everyone who met this great human being."

Thurston, 32, had an unforgettable year in 2016, highlighted with his NRL Grand Final-winning field goal as his North Queensland Cowboys side won their first ever NRL premiership with a dramatic win over the Brisbane Broncos.

Thurston also crowned a perfect year by winning the State of Origin series with Queensland, as well as clinching the Dally M Medal for a record fourth time, the Clive Churchill Medal for best player in the Grand Final, and the Golden Boot Award for world player of the year for a record third time.

Thurston's visit followed another exciting moment a few weeks earlier when the NRL Premiership trophy toured Aurukun.





Best Garden in the Village competition

Despite the heat in Aurukun, the annual Best Garden In The Village competition still managed 15 entries!

"For a community that is so dry at this time of year, it was great to see the amount of greenery in the garden entrants," said Mayor Dereck Walpo.

"We had a few new entries this year who took out the prizes, and it was great to see more people stepping up.

"It was a positive day for the Aurukun community members, and we know next year's event will be bigger and better as each year we get more and more entrants."

The winners of the Aurukun competition were:

Best Garden: Colin Peemuggina
(Runner-up: Doris Poonkamelya)

Most Interesting: Loretta Keppel
(Runner-up: Fred Kerindun)

Best Edible: Neil Peinkinna
(Runner-up: Kay Tybingoompa)

Encouragement Award: Bobbi Adidi



Pikkuws restaurant opens

Aurukun celebrated the opening night of its new 'Pikkuws Restaurant' at Wuungkam Lodge in late November.

Customers can enjoy the terrific menu at Pikkuws that includes juicy steaks, fresh fish, burgers and the house specialty, freshly-made pizzas produced by our wonderful chef, all the way from Italy (of course!).

"This is another big step forward for our wonderful community – we hope you'll drop by soon!" said Aurukun Mayor Dereck Walpo.



Aurukun Men's Shed continues to grow

The Aurukun Men's Shed continues to thrive thanks to the support of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The men are also branching out into other activities, helping to co-manage the nearby market garden.

"The Men's Shed continues to grow from strength to strength – it's such a positive community resource," said Council Chief Executive Officer Bernie McCarthy.



First ever Aurukun Fun Run hailed a success

More than 30 people took part in Aurukun's inaugural 7km River To

Ramp Fun Run from the Ward River to the Aurukun Boat Ramp – helping to promote healthy lifestyles and physical activity.

Jack Potter (pictured) was the Open Men's champion and overall winner, running the 7km in a superb time of 30 minutes and 8 seconds, with **Harry Westera** second in 31mins 29secs.

Rhonda McNaught clinched the Master's Women's and overall women's winner titles in 35mins 35secs, with **Charmaine Jeffrey** (36mins 6secs) winning the Open Women's category, ahead of **Paula Howe** (39mins 24 secs).

The next Fun Run will be held in July 2016.



Welcome to our new Government Champion

Mr Michael Schaumburg is the Director-General of the Department of State Development and the new Government Champion for Aurukun.

Prior to starting in his role as Director-General, Michael has had a long and distinguished career in both the public service and in private enterprise.

Most recently he was the Project Director of the Abbot Point Growth Gateway Project for the Department of State Development, a critical project, which will see the opening up of the Galilee Coal Basin in Central Queensland.

He is focused on outcomes and is passionate about ensuring the people of Aurukun have access to the necessary resources required to provide opportunities for the community to grow and prosper into the future.

We look forward to working with you Michael to further improve our beautiful community!



Art Centre Alive!

Superb creative work continues to thrive at the Wik and Kugu Arts & Crafts Centre. Aurukun Shire Council looks forward to more beautiful artwork coming out of the centre.

In other Arts news, check out this great portrait of Aurukun elder Mavis Ngallametta by artist Bruce Bell! This image of Mavis - an accomplished painter in her own right - has been named as a finalist in the People's Choice Award category at the prestigious Kilgour Art Prize run by the Newcastle Art Gallery.

Also, stay tuned for news on the appointment of a new Arts Manager and assistant Arts Manager to take the Arts Centre forward into the future.



Mavis Ngallametta portrait by Aurukun artist Bruce Bell

Council supports \$2.6bn Rio Tinto bauxite expansion

Aurukun Shire Council has declared its support for the \$2.6 billion bauxite mine expansion on Cape York.

In early December, Rio Tinto gave board approval of the Amrun bauxite project, formerly known as South of Embley, which is expected to create 1,100 jobs in Far North Queensland.

Aurukun Mayor Dereck Walpo said Council welcomed the development and he hoped it would lead to economic and social benefits for his community.

"I believe this is an enormous opportunity which will hopefully benefit all Aurukun people, and lead to a better future for our community," said Mayor Walpo.

"Aside from the jobs and training opportunities, I think there will be some extra benefits for local businesses, such as the supermarket, takeaway shops, restaurant and our accommodation, and other flow-on industries associated with mining.

"This should all lead to a healthier Aurukun and a better lifestyle for our residents."

Mayor Walpo said Council also hoped to work closely with Rio Tinto on assisting in the economic development of the region.

"There are various important issues to discuss, such as the ongoing protection and maintenance of roadwork and training of our people to take up jobs in the future" said Mayor Walpo.

"We're keen to work in joint cooperation with Rio Tinto on infrastructure improvement, such as roads, drainage, sewerage and housing.

"These are exciting times for Cape York and its communities, and my people should take a lot of confidence out of this news - I have no doubt there are good times ahead for Aurukun."

Remembrance Day at Aurukun

This year, 11 November marked the 97th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914-18).

Aurukun held its own Remembrance Day ceremony at 11am, having a minute's silence and wreath laying in the 100th year since the Anzac landing.

"It was timely that we acknowledged the Aurukun men who enlisted for World War 2," said Mayor Dereck Walpo.

"Their names are shown on our community's memorial plaque which was erected 2 years ago.

"Also, the 100th Anzac plaques were only erected this year and they proudly depict the Torres Strait infantry in which Aurukun men enlisted.

"Thank you to everyone who turned out in Aurukun to pay their respects."

This event is proudly supported by the Queensland Government.



CCTV tender out now

Aurukun Shire Council is seeking tenders for the design and installation of a complete CCTV system, including CCTV cameras, video recorder, camera poles and associated cabling hardware and software, for the township.

The tender process is a result of extensive work by the Council team during the course of 2015.

This has included two separate visits to Palm Island to inspect their elaborate CCTV system, and to discuss CCTV with Palm Island Shire Council and Queensland Police Service. It is worth noting that Palm Island has had a significant decrease in crime since their installation of CCTV.

Queensland Police Service, the **Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP)** and the Department of Premier and Cabinet have all been supportive of the installation of CCTV in Aurukun through discussions.

Tenders close on 6 January, with a decision expected to be made in late January.



Early Childhood Centre Update



Check out the Koolkan Childcare Centre kids having a watermelon feast, with a huge thanks to Phillip for sharing a delicious watermelon grown in the Men's Shed garden.

The CYAAA pre-prep and Koolkan kindy kids loved it!



Events Calendar

There are a variety of exciting events planned for Aurukun in the latter part of 2016, so get them in your diaries now!

Here are the key events in Aurukun in 2016:

- Jan  **New Year's Day**
Public Holiday
- Jan  **Australia Day Celebrations** Public Holiday
- Feb  **Aurukun Newcomers get together**
- Mar  **Clean Up Aurukun (Australia) Day**
- Mar  **Easter** Public Holiday
- Apr  **Anzac Day** Public Holiday
- May  **Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign**
- May  **Labour Day** Public Holiday
- Jun  **Battle of the Bands**
- Jul  **River to Ramp Fun Run**
- Jul  **NAIDOC Week**
- Aug  **Aurukun Day**
Local Public Holiday
- Sept  **Careers' Expo**
- Oct  **Queen's Birthday**
Public Holiday
- Oct  **Aurukun Newcomers Get Together**
- Nov  **Remembrance Day**
- Dec  **Community Christmas Celebration**
- Dec  **Christmas Day**
Public Holiday
- Dec  **Boxing Day** Public Holiday

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



Now that's a fish!

This huge barramundi was recently caught by hand at Wallaby Island by Stanley Watt – they surely don't come much bigger than this!

Photo is courtesy of Aak Puul Ngantam (APN), who do a great job out on country, helping families of the Aurukun community return to their traditional homelands.

New PCYC Manager

Please give a warm welcome to Sargeant Glenn Compain, the new PCYC Aurukun Branch Manager.



Glenn joins other PCYC staff who continue to do a great job providing activities and engagement with local youth.

You can contact PCYC Aurukun via email: Glenn.Compain@pcyc.org.au or georgina.jenkins@pcyc.org.au



Wik Whispers

🔊 Tune into your local **Black Star community radio** station at **107.7FM** for news and great music.

🔊 **Cyclone season** – Don't forget we're now in cyclone season – visit www.getready.qld.gov.au to get you and your family prepared.

🔊 Don't forget – Aurukun Shire Council's **Business Development/Grants Officer (BDGO)** Graham Poon is available to assist residents if they wish to develop a business idea or need some free advice? It's part of Council's corporate plan to assist economic development. You can contact Graham on **0428 852 472** or email BDGO@aurukun.qld.gov.au

🔊 A very important request by some Traditional Owners is that **permission is required when entering Families country**. All outstations are off limits unless permitted or asked by Traditional Owners, as is for any adjoining rivers, lagoons etc. Your consideration and respect in these matters would be appreciated.

🔊 A quick note regarding the commencement of the **Barramundi breeding season**. The Queensland Government advises that between the dates of **7 October and 1 February** the targeting of the species must stop. You are encouraged to refrain from using lures, and live or frozen baits are recommended. Fines apply if this advice is ignored.



Photo courtesy of Ian Davis

🔊 **Sunset at Oban** – check out this great photo of fishing at sunset at Oban Beach.

🔊 **Register to vote now!** The next Local Government Elections are on **Saturday 19 March**, when you will decide on who are the Mayor and councillors for Aurukun until 2020.

In Queensland it is compulsory for all eligible people to enrol and vote in Federal, State and Local Government elections.

You can enrol online at www.aec.gov.au/enrol or you can complete and return an enrolment form to Electoral Commission of Queensland. Enrolment forms are also available at the Aurukun Post Office and Aurukun Shire Council offices.

🔊 **Aurukun Shire Council** will be closed from **4.15pm on Christmas Eve** and will re-open at **8am on Monday 4 January**.

🔊 **Aurukun Shire Council meeting dates announced for 2016** – 16 February, 15 March, 19 April, 17 May, 21 June, 23 June (Special Budget Meeting), 19 July, 16 August, 20 September, 25 October, 15 November, 13 December.

Welcome to Wik Kath

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 gavinb@pageonepr.com.au



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