



Wik Kath



Message

FROM THE MAYOR

Happy New Year to you all!

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our new

community newsletter Wik Kath, which commences on a bi-monthly basis.

May 2015 be a positive and peaceful year for us all. I urge all residents to be more responsible and ensure that our community problems are reduced and local people, particularly the youth, to seize the opportunity to take up jobs as our community housing apprentices have.

We look forward to our accommodation services project through redevelopment of the Wuungkam Lodge and Kooth Pach Guest House being completed in the first half of 2015. Hopefully the long anticipated PCYC project gets off the ground and its proposed base in the Sport and Recreation complex is completed. The Aurukun Safer Streets project requires a lot more focus during the year; we want all residents to get right behind this.

Also we must continue to appreciate and support our Community Police who are improving their performance all the time. Another desirable project is the Men's Shed being established in the old TAFE property. Possible allocation of the bauxite mining lease is back on the agenda and hopefully this progresses soon after the State election is over.

Finally with health as my Council portfolio, I want all local people to take greater care of themselves, stay healthy and be happy.

I look forward to brighter communications through this newsletter, our Facebook and website sites, and regular community meetings.

Derek Walpo
Mayor of Aurukun



Aurukun Celebrates Trainee Graduates

Aurukun Shire Council has teamed up with Far North Queensland construction company and training provider MiHaven to help Aurukun residents gain full-time employment and apprenticeships.

Eleven local Aurukun community members were recognised at a special graduation ceremony after completing MiHaven's MiLife Change program, which supports unemployed Indigenous people into long-term sustainable employment in the construction industry.

Six of these graduates have successfully completed a Certificate II in Construction, and have received the ultimate prize of full-time employment and an apprenticeship in carpentry.

The star trainees are David Marpoondin, Edmund Woolla, Francis Woolla, Gavin Korkatain, Russell Woolla, and one young local lady, Caitlin Walpo.

The six apprentices will be working with MiHaven and the Council on building another five new homes in Aurukun over the next six months.

Aurukun Shire Council Mayor Dereck Walpo said the council engaged MiHaven to get more local residents into work, and was delighted with the outcome of the program.

"It is great to see so many of our own local Aurukun people benefitting from this opportunity," said Mayor Walpo.

"We've already seen new homes going up over the past few months, and we still have an extremely busy work program ahead of us, which is superb news for our community.

"We'd especially like to thank James Mort and Sarah Mort from MiHaven for the success

of this program, and our congratulations go to all the graduates."

The graduation ceremony, held outside Aurukun Shire Council's offices, also celebrated the success of other trainees who have successfully completed accredited training in Construction and Retail.

These are Andrew Peemunggina, Eduwano Woolla and Leonard Woolla Pootchemunka, who will be receiving a Statement of Attainment in Construction, and Jessie

Woolla and Kathy Marpoondin, who will receive a Statement of Attainment in Retail.

While training with MiHaven, Jessie and Kathy have been working at the MiHaven Workers Camp.

Mr Mort also thanked the many other people in the community and other support

partners including Cape York Enterprises and MEGT, and in particular the Elders Advisory Group that Mr Mort initiated with program mentor Douglas Ahlers and MiHaven mentor Sam Backo.

"The Elders Advisory Group has been pivotal in providing the grass roots community support to the trainees, making them realise the importance of this opportunity of committing to the training program and having at the end a full-time job and career," Mr Mort added.

MiHaven's MiLife Change Program is jointly funded by the Australian Government and the Queensland Department of Education, Training and Employment.

For more details about MiHaven, visit www.mihaven.com.au



For the latest news regarding flight services into Aurukun, visit www.aurukun.qld.gov.au





Welcome to Wik Kath

Welcome to the first edition of 'Wik Kath' – your new community newsletter highlighting all the positive news and achievements happening in Aurukun!

'Wik Kath' means 'the story' in English – a perfect name for your newsletter. We'd like to thank Leon Yeatman, Chief Executive Officer at Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council, for the suggestion, and for everyone else who entered our newsletter naming competition!

If you would like to suggest stories for the next edition of Wik Kath, please email gavinb@pageonepr.com.au by **Friday 27 February 2015**.

2015 Events Calendar



A full list of the exciting variety of events planned for Aurukun in 2015 has now been released. There are so many exciting events happening this year, so get them in your diaries now!

Here are the key events in Aurukun in 2015 for January through to March:

- Jan 26** Australia Day (Public Holiday)
- Feb 19** 1st Aurukun newcomers get together for the year
- Mar 15** Clean up Australia Day

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



New Barge Ramp Road

A big Aurukun thank you to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning for funding the new barge ramp road resealing, through their Royalties for the Regions program.

The local road crew have been hard at work and finished sealing the barge ramp road in late 2014.

"This has been an extremely positive outcome for the community," said Mayor Dereck Walpo.

"I'd like to acknowledge the government effort in making this happen, and it's really great to see the continued success of road development and access to Aurukun.

"We look forward to continuing to seek funding to better improve road infrastructure in our community."



Costa with Aurukun Shire Council staff

Costa Comes to Town

Aurukun was delighted to receive a visit from ABC Gardening Australia celebrity Costa Georgiadis, who was in town to be guest judge for the Cape York Partnership's Pride of Place Best Garden in the Village competition.

Pride of Place (POP) assists families to create happier and healthier outdoor living environments where they can spend quality time together.

Through POP, participants save money and make a financial and 'sweat equity' contribution towards backyard renovation projects. This contribution is matched by the O-Hub, which assists and supports members to undertake their projects.

Increasing sign-ups have indicated that a growing number of community members are striving to take greater pride in their homes and create healthier living spaces for their families.

This year the Best Garden in the Village competition attracted 39 entries across the four welfare reform communities of Aurukun, Coen, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge.

Congratulations to the following Aurukun winners:

- BEST GARDEN IN THE VILLAGE**
 - 1st Chris Woolla & Antoinette Yunkaporta
 - 2nd Fredrick Kerindun
- BEST EDIBLE GARDEN**
 - 1st Deidre Kerindun
 - 2nd Kim Pamtoonda
- MOST INTERESTING GARDEN**
 - 1st Doris Poonkamelya
 - 2nd Angus Kerindun
- OVERALL ENCOURAGEMENT**
 - Kay Tybingoompa & Barbara Bandicootcha



Bond Named as New Arts Centre Manager

Aurukun Shire Council has announced Lucy Bond as the new permanent Arts Manager of the community's Wik and Kugu Arts Centre.

Ms Bond starts in Aurukun in February having previously been Operations Manager at Maningrida Arts and Culture in the remote Northern Territory community.

Chief Executive Officer Bernie McCarthy said the appointment of Ms Bond will help see more residents and visitors involved in the centre.

"We really want to see the Wik and Kugu Arts Centre increase its engagement with local artists, solidify relationships with major art galleries, and increase its sales," said Mr McCarthy.

"We believe Lucy will be able to use her passion, experience and expertise in maximising opportunities for Aboriginal artists in remote areas for the benefit of our community.

"Aurukun is famous for its innovative and imaginative Indigenous artwork, particularly its sculptures and weaving.

"The Council wants to see greater engagement with the many talented artists who live in the Aurukun township.

"We're encouraging local residents and visitors to only purchase authentic artworks through the local centre."

In her role, Ms Bond will be primarily focusing on engaging artists who want to access the arts centre's support and services.

"These are exciting times for Aurukun artists, so I encourage everyone to get on board and enjoy the amazing pieces Aurukun artists produce," said Mr McCarthy.

There has been an arts centre at Aurukun for more than 50 years, and it provides artistic and commercial support for local artists.

Aurukun artists have recently held exhibitions at Kickarts in Cairns, as well as a print exhibition at the Cairns Regional Gallery and a full display at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair.



Christmas Event Another Success

Hol Hol Hol! More than 500 adults and children attended the fun annual Aurukun Christmas event and thoroughly enjoyed themselves with dancing, a fashion parade, jumping castle, popcorn, hot dogs, presents and general good fun!

Special thanks to everyone who helped make this great event so memorable, particularly the small-hard working team led by Jason Holt, Director of Community Services at Aurukun Shire Council.



Aurukun School Awards Night

The 2014 Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy Wik Awards were held at the school in what was a great event to end the school year.

There was a very large turnout with great community support and encouragement. Many awards were given out on the night, ranging from academic achievements through to achievements in great school attendance.

Aurukun Shire Council were very proud sponsors of some of this year's Wik awards, recognising the outstanding work that each and every student put into the 2014 school year! Well done to all students and teachers.



Glenn & Megan Logan

New Managers of Lodge/Guesthouse

Aurukun recently welcomed a couple of new faces to the community – Glenn and Megan Logan.

Glenn and Megan have taken over the management of both Wuungkam Lodge and Kooth Pach Guesthouse accommodation, owned by Council.

The couple, married with four daughters and eight grandchildren, have extensive experience in hospitality and have spent the last 10 years working within Indigenous communities.

They are both really excited about the refurbishment of the accommodation facilities, and the tourism plans the council have for the future of Aurukun.

Under their management, facilities will be upgraded with:

- refurbished rooms
- four more additional rooms
- new air conditioning
- new security system and locks
- restaurant open to public
- 24/7 airport pickup scheme
- local staff employment and training.

This is just the first step in the implementation of Aurukun's exciting new Tourism Strategy, which aims to attract more visitors to the community.

Visit <http://aurukun.qld.gov.au/aurukun-develops-tourism-strategy-to-attract-visitors-to-stunning-cape-york-region> for more details.

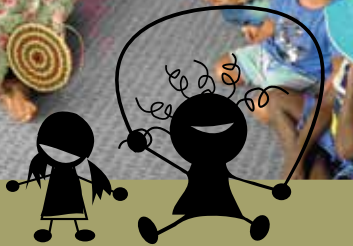
Community Police Program Update



The Aurukun Shire Council Community Police Program continues to go from strength to strength! New community police officers, who work closely with Queensland Police Service, have been recruited, and, the Council will soon be announcing a 'Get To Know Your CPO' program.

This exciting new program will help raise the profile of the great work and support that the Community Police Program provides for the Aurukun community. Stay tuned for more on this in the coming months!





Koolkan Early Childhood Centre Update

It's been another busy few months for the Koolkan Early Childhood Centre.

The centre and the ladies from the Locational Playgroup have restarted their daily locational playgroups around the community.

They have been utilising the veranda space at the health clinic for their playgroup sessions, to promote young parents to bring their children into the health clinic for check-ups.

Ida Bowenda and Gertrude Yunkaporta have also had locational playgroup mornings at the landing, as well as a joint project with the family support worker Diane. These mornings were spent talking and fishing.

The locational playgroup ladies have also begun to introduce a music element to their sessions, by bringing along musical instruments such as ukuleles, rattles and triangles to promote freedom of self-expression for the young children and young parents attending the group.

In late 2014, pre-Preps at Koolkan Childcare Centre went on 'mini adventures' to their new room on the school campus. All the children were so excited to be going to 'big school', which they started last week.

All the staff at Koolkan Childcare Centre will miss Tess, Muriel and all the pre-Prep children!



Community Home Help Centre Update

The Aurukun Community Home Help Centre has been hosting some more fun activities throughout the past few months.

The centre's clients recently enjoyed a weaving activity, producing grass skirts and dillybags which were on display at the centre.

The centre also proved you're never too old to learn all about sun safety, when Aurukun Seniors recently enjoyed a day at the centre learning all about sun protection and the importance of sun safety.

Finally... BINGO! The centre, with thanks to organisers PCYC, held a morning bingo session at the centre, helping clients improve their writing and counting, while having lots of fun at the same time. What a great, fun way to improve your literacy and numeracy skills!



Petero in Aurukun

NRL Footy Legend Visits Aurukun

The PCYC 'Catch Me If You Can' Touch Footy Program launched recently in Aurukun, featuring NRL legend Petero Civoniceva.

The tri-series takes place between Indigenous Aurukun school students and Aurukun police officers at Aurukun Rugby League fields, and is a PCYC initiative.

For more information, contact PCYC Aurukun Indigenous Sport and Rec Coordinator Harry Westera - harry.westera@pcyc.org.au



News in Brief

Aurukun Tourism Action Group – ATAG is currently looking for pro-active people to be part of the group, which will start the development of tourism in Aurukun.

Who should join? Tourism operators interested in developing tours in and around Aurukun, tourism investors, government agencies linked with tourism development, consultants, training organisations, employment organisations, service providers and local community members.

The group has already held a successful inaugural meeting on 18 December, where it was great to see three Traditional Owners in attendance.

For more information, contact Aurukun Shire Council CEO Bernie McCarthy on 4060 6800 or email ceo@aurukun.qld.gov.au



Cyclone Season

Don't forget we're still in cyclone season – visit <https://getready.qld.gov.au> to get you and your family prepared.



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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