



Message

FROM THE MAYOR

What a great start to the year for Aurukun to have its first Citizens of the Year awarded and strong attendance at our school.

Citizen of the Year Fred Morris Kerindun and Young Citizen of the Year Ian Peinkinna are a great example to our younger generations about the importance of a good work ethic and taking pride in their community.

It is vital that we instil these values in our children and this involves making sure all children go to school every day.

Aurukun is very fortunate to be a recipient of the Federal Government's Remote School Attendance Strategy which is employing ten local people and supplying two buses to help our children attend school.

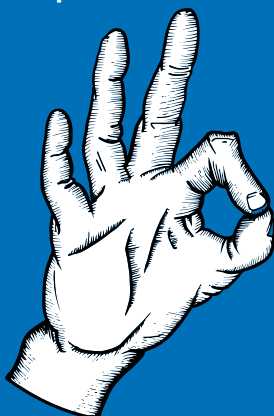
I urge the community to get behind this initiative and have their children ready for the bus when it arrives in the morning.

I also hope to see families participating in the Aurukun State School P&C. We had a great roll up at the February meeting and it would be good to see more people at the AGM in March.

Remember it's your school and this is your opportunity to have a say in how it operates.

Stay safe during the wet season and remember – if it's flooded forget it!

Yours in local government
Mayor Dereck Walpo



Top Citizens Awarded

Fred Morris Kerindun is Aurukun's inaugural Citizen of the Year and Ian Peinkinna is the first Young Citizen of the Year.

Aurukun Shire Council Mayor Dereck Walpo said the Council was recognising the community's quiet achievers for the first time as part of the nation's Australia Day celebrations.

"These men are an inspiration to our community as they demonstrate a solid work ethic and show pride in themselves and their community," he said.



"I congratulate Fred and Ian and hope they inspire others to be outstanding citizens for Aurukun.

"**Fred Morris Kerindun** has been working for 46 years for the Aurukun community starting back in the mission days, then worked for Aurukun Community Incorporation, followed by the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) and now Aurukun Shire Council.

"He has raised three daughters in Aurukun and sets an example for our younger generation with his excellent work ethic and pride in presentation of his house and garden.

"**Ian Peinkinna** attended school in Aurukun and is currently employed by the council as a trades assistant where he shows a high level of maturity.

"He is 19 years of age and has been earmarked for a plumbing apprenticeship as he has a great work ethic and is enthusiastic about his work and popular with his work mates."



Remembering Life Stories

Chivaree Centre clients have been recording and painting their stories as part of the *Life Stories* workshop developed by Manager Zuzana Orme with art therapist Gina Allain and linguist Louise Ashmore from the Pama Language Centre.

Silas Wolmby chose to record his oral stories while Rebecca Wolmby, Louis Toikalkin, Mavis Ngallametta, Jean Walmbeng, Cecil Walmbeng and Pearl Walmbeng painted their stories.

The ancestral languages recorded during the workshop included Wik-Mungkan, Wik-Ngathan, Wik-Alken and Kugu Uwanh.

These recordings and paintings will be developed into a *Life Stories* DVD and other resources to assist the retention of language and culture.

Wik and Kugu language experts and artists will present the outcomes from The *Life Stories* workshop at the **5th International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation Vital Voices: Linking Language & Wellbeing** at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa, Honolulu on March 2-5.



Mural for Amrun

Rio Tinto commissioned nine Wik and Kugu artists to paint a large mural for their Amrun office featuring the totems of the Wik Way people.

The artists chose to separate the mural into four story boards that tell the story of the Wik Way people and each will be accompanied by a story board telling the story in Wik and English.

Bruce Bell and Dave Marpoondin worked together on the first board, the second is by Roderick Yunkaporta and Garry Namponan, the third by Leigh and Leo Namponan and the fourth by Vernon Marbendinar, Bevan Namponan and Sammy Kerindun.

Local wildlife including birds and fish are included in the paintings which also depict dancing, a spirit man, and a ghost man.



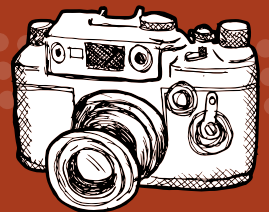
Photo Competition

We think Aurukun would make a great postcard with our spectacular sunsets, amazing wetlands and wonderful cultural activities. Send us your favourite image and you could win a prize in the Aurukun Shire Council Why I Love Aurukun Amateur Photo Competition.

The competition is creating much excitement with Skytrans, Black Star Radio, Aurukun Shire Council, and APN sponsoring the prizes.

Categories:

- Best photo by an Aurukun resident – Return airfare to Cairns
- Best Photo – \$250
- Aurukun Character – \$150
- Favourite Activity – \$150
- Best Scene – \$150
- Aurukun at Work – \$150
- People's Choice – \$150
- Junior Photographer – \$150



Send your entries to ea@aurukun.qld.gov.au or upload them to the Why I Love Aurukun Amateur Photo Competition event on the Aurukun Shire Council Facebook page by March 14.

Steven Pelham submitted this great photo of Traditional Owner Uncle Tony Kerindun at Amban Outstation which he took in July 2016.



Back to School



Two colourful Remote School Attendance buses will soon be driven around the top and bottom end of Aurukun to pick up students on school days.



The buses will operate as part of the Federal Government's Remote School Attendance Strategy which will employ ten local people who will be trained as school attendance officers and supervisors. These local people will be working with families and carers to help all Aurukun children attend school every day.

Aurukun State School Principal Mike Ennis said the buses would bring students to the school for the fun school health and nutrition program from 8am to 8.30am each morning before class. The program includes physical activities and games and a healthy breakfast.

"School will then start at 8.30am with a roll call so the teams can take the buses out into the community again with the absentee list and check with their families in case the students need support and encouragement to come to school," he said.

"Aurukun State School has had a great start to the year with 148 Prep to Year 6 students returning to school the first week, a big improvement in primary school daily attendance.

"Since then attendance been consistently strong, even on days with poor weather, which is excellent. Thank you to the community for supporting your school with such good attendance."

Students and their families joined in the recent School Fun Day and were treated to a visit from some of the Cowboys players who talked about school attendance, health and exercise and gave hands-on touch footy tips.



New School Focus

Aurukun State School has six clear priorities following the February P&C meeting which was attended by 41 people. The priorities are to:

- Build respectful school and community partnerships
- Develop a whole school curriculum and teaching plan
- Improve student attendance
- Improve student behaviour
- Develop a whole school social and emotional well-being plan
- Build staff capacity through ongoing quality professional development



School Principal Mike Ennis said the P&C gave strong support for the school's new waterlily logo and asked for the words "Koolkan Aurukun Community School" to be added to it.

"The AGM will be held in March and I encourage all community members to attend" he said.

IKC Visit



Coding and robotics workshops could be run for Aurukun State School secondary students at the Wik Mungkan Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC).

The workshops are part of the STEM.I.AM program which aims to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students choosing to study Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) at university.

Aurukun high school teacher Kay Ennis and a group of Year 7-10 students attended an informal induction at the IKC to learn about the educational and community services provided there.

Kay recommended the STEM.I.AM program to her students after participating in it at a previous school.

IKC coordinator Priscilla Blanco said she hoped to include IKC activities that aligned with the school's curriculum and expand on the materials taught to the students in their online lessons through computer technology.










Other community courses to be held at the IKC include First Five Forever to get young children reading and Tech Savvy programs to improve computer literacy.





Events Calendar

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

- Mar  **2** **Welcome to Newcomers**
- Mar  **5** **Aurukun Clean Up Day**
- Apr  **25** **Anzac Day**
Public Holiday
- Jul  **9** **NAIDOC Fun Day**
- Aug  **4** **Aurukun Day Celebrations**
- Aug  **16** **River to Ramp Fun**
- Oct  **13** **Welcome to Newcomers**
- Nov  **11** **Remembrance 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 March | 20 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 liz@lizinglismedia.com



Aim High

Apunipima Cape York Health Council and the Apunipima Australian Indigenous All Stars Basketball team worked together to deliver healthy lifestyle information and hands-on basketball skills to around 60 Aurukun young people as part of the local Police Citizen Youth Club's School Holiday Program.

Apunipima All Stars Head Coach Joel Khalu,

Apunipima Health Promotion Officer Andrew Packer and Apunipima Tackling Indigenous Smoking Health Workers Josh Mene and Jordan Toikalkin talked about the risks of smoking, benefits of quitting, the importance of attending school and why it matters to make healthy choices.

After the talks, the young people enjoyed a healthy snack and got down to an afternoon of activity, including basketball drills and games.

Joel Khalu, who led the All Stars to victory over the Maoris in last year's best of three Trans-Tasman Tournament, said the 'clinics' were an opportunity to pass on a serious message in a fun environment.

"I talked to the participants about my own story – playing basketball, leading teams – and how that has been possible through making healthy choices, such as being active, eating well, and not smoking," he said.

"It was great to talk to them about why it matters to make good choices and the good results that come from resisting what looks easy at the time. Having goals, working towards them, not getting distracted – these are the things that change lives."

"Combining healthy lifestyle messages with healthy activities is a great way of not only telling these stories, but actually showing young people what it means to be healthy," added Josh.

"We hope that with the assistance from Joel who coaches the Australian Indigenous All Stars, that it reinforces our key messages and shows these young people that if you live a healthy lifestyle, it can not only benefit you, but be a positive influence on your family and community."



Wik Whispers

Community members have made six short films to tell their stories of Aurukun. Jayden Marrot, Topsy Bowenda, Herbert Yunkaporta, Cr Vera Koomeeta and her granddaughter Althea were part of the project with Bacon Factory Films, which is funded by the Queensland Government. They were shown film interview techniques, how to make a video, radio editing and podcasts. They will soon be loaded on the council website.

Work by Wik and Kugu artists including Bruce Bell will feature at Pandanus Gallery in Peppers Beach Club & Spa at Palm Cove in April. Dates to be advised.

Pet owners are urged to make sure their animals are secure at home and are registered with the Council. Wandering dogs are a constant issue in Aurukun with threatening behaviour by some animals and dog bites. Remember dogs cannot be out on the street without a leash.

Koolkan Early Childhood Centre staff delivered gifts to the Koolkan children who were unable to attend the Christmas party. This was made possible with the arrival of the new ute funded by the Queensland Government's Department of Education and Training.



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.



www.facebook.com/AurukunShireCouncil

