

Mayor's Message



Good day my fellow Wik families,

In view of recent events, I feel the need to write this serious letter to you.

It concerns me greatly as your Mayor that I see the safety in our community is not improving. It continues to get worse.



I ask you the following questions for everyone to consider:

- How can we continue to have unrest with fighting and arguing between our Clans and Families?
- Why can't we live in a peaceful and positive environment?
- Why have we seen recent disputes between families result in two more houses being damaged by fire?
- How can we overcome housing shortages when 11 houses have been burnt by fire in the past 20 months?
- Do we expect Government to fund new houses and other infrastructure when we continue to damage them?
- Do we believe that Government will continue to provide necessary funding to the Aurukun community when all Wik people cannot demonstrate that they are responsible?

I implore you to take check of how you lead your lives, make sure there is healthy food for you and your family. It is time for everyone to step up and be accountable.

Our children are watching us, parents are the first educators of their children, we must be positive role models for them.

I look forward to discussing any concerns that you may have, Enough is enough... let's all move positively forward in 2021 and beyond.

Keri Tamwoy, Aurukun Shire Council Mayor

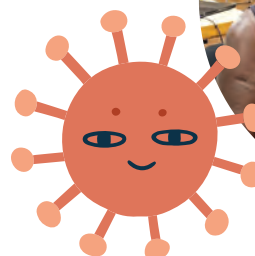
Aurukun Shire Council with the support of NAKAC, FRC, Elders, APN, Community Justice Group, WWASP, Women's Group, Youth Group, Koolkan Aurukun State School, Police, Whole of Government:

- **Ask** everyone to take responsibility for their actions
- **Show** respect to people who have come to Aurukun to provide services for our community
- **Ensure** our children go to school EVERY DAY
- **Encourage** all younger people to seek employment and not rely on benefits from the Government
- **Stop** the fighting and violence
- **Stop** the vandalism and damage
- **Stop** the anti-social behaviours
- **Stop** the sly grog coming in
- **Stop** binge drinking
- **Stop** the drugs

Get the COVID-19 vaccine

Have you had the jab?

Doris Poonkamelya received her first Pfizer vaccine when the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service team set up a vaccination clinic in Aurukun. The next clinic will be 13-17 September. Protect you and your community from COVID-19 by making a booking at the Primary Health Care Centre. A third clinic will be held on 11-15 October for second doses of the vaccine.



Council budget approved ✓

Aurukun Shire Council has approved the annual budget for the 2021/22 financial year at a Special Council meeting held on Tuesday 27 July. Mayor Keri Tamwoy outlined the importance of the budget saying it was key to ensuring the ongoing operation of the many services that Council operates for the benefit of the whole Aurukun township. The spending includes \$1.2 million to implement goals included in the Community Safety Plan.

Mayor Tamwoy presented the plan to Aurukun Ministerial Champion Di Farmer and Government Champion Rachel Hunter when they visited the community.



Di Farmer, Mayor Tamwoy, Rachel Hunter



Events celebrate Aurukun life

Artwork: 'Thumarrie' by Vera Koomeeta

Hundreds of community members have enjoyed Aurukun Shire Council functions at the Wo'uw Ko'alam Community Centre recently. Two festivals, the Ngangk Min Festival and the Onchan Min Festival, were wonderful celebrations of the change of seasons in Cape York, while Aurukun Day celebrated the positive things in our community.



CEO search starts



Bernie McCarthy



The search is on for a new Aurukun Shire Council Chief Executive Officer with Bernie McCarthy announcing he will retire on 30 November 2021, after 50 years in local government. Bernie has been the Council's CEO for the past nine years and was Grants Officer for 20 months in 2003-2004.

Bernie's first job in local government was as a labourer for the Mclvor Shire Council in Victoria. However, he left his home town to enter administration beginning work on 4 January 1971 with the Seymour Shire Council.

After 20 years' work in Victoria, Bernie took a contract position as a deputy CEO on Mornington Island in 1992. He enjoyed working with the local people, loved the traditional art, and still says the fishing was the best he has ever experienced.

It was the start of 30 years working in remote Indigenous communities in Queensland and the Northern Territory. A keen global traveller, Bernie enjoyed learning about different cultures.

While working for the now defunct Yulara Shire Council in Central Australia, Bernie met his wife Wendy and ran in the Olympic Torch Relay. His son Bryn was born in Darwin while Bernie was working on Bathurst Island, while daughter Kate was born in

Cairns and lived in the Torres Strait where Bernie worked for more than six years.

Bernie received a Public Service Medal in 2017 for his service to local government.

During his time in Aurukun, Bernie has overseen the installation of key community infrastructure including CCTV, high-speed internet, the Business Centre, Chivaree Aged Care Centre, the re-opening of the swimming pool which has been transformed into the splash park, the refurbishment of the former tavern as a community centre, and the redevelopment of the airport terminal.

He has enjoyed watching the growing demand for art from the Wik and Kugu Arts Centre and seeing the social benefit from the expansion of the community event program.



DEADLY EMPLOYEES



David Hall & Jonah Yunkaporta

Deadly Employees

Congratulations to the winners and place getters of the Aurukun Shire Council Deadly Awards.

In the Second Quarter Airport assistant **Jonah Yunkaporta** won the Deadly Employee Award for his willingness to assist passengers and share his local knowledge.

David Hall came second for helping new Council employees find their way around and feel welcome.

Third place went to **Carol Marpoondin** for her work cleaning at the Koolkan Childcare Centre where she is always early and willing to take on new tasks.



Carol Marpoondin

Deadly Safety Award

Rob Raglus was the winner of the Deadly Safety Award after he instigated a huge clean-up of the mechanics' workshop making it much safer for staff and visitors.

Aaron Hole came second for enthusiastically embracing the stores supervisor role and improving the accessibility, efficiency and safety of the Council's stores.

Third was **Terry Woolla** who looks out for the safety of his team and speaks up about potential hazards.

Electrician **Ruben Kooiman** was the winner of the Employee Awards for Safety in the First Quarter and his new offside **Ben Green** came second while **Dalton Agie Snr** from Chivaree Centre came third.



Ruben Kooiman & Ben Green

Upgrade for water plant

Tenders have closed for the upgrade of the community's water treatment plant. The project will upgrade the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system to improve response times when alerts occur, replace the existing water shed with a new purpose-built structure and relocate the dosing equipment.



Fuel Station complete

The upgrade of the Aurukun Retail Fuel Station has been completed giving our community a much safer and more comfortable place to fuel vehicles during the wet season. Works included concreting the driveways, replacing the boundary fence, improving lighting for afterhours accessibility, repainting the bowser shed and installing new information and warning signs. Initial works were funded by Work 4 Queensland and the final stage was funded through the Queensland Government's Building our Regions.



Laura Quinkan Dance Festival

Aurukun's traditional dance team were among 25 dance troupes showcasing their culture through traditional dance at the Laura Quinkan Dance Festival in July. The festival is held every two years on a traditional Bora ground where Cape York Peninsula families met over many thousands of years to exchange knowledge and history.



2021 Aurukun Shire Council Meetings

**21 September • 18 October
16 November • 14 December**

AURUKUN RIVER TO BOAT RAMP FUN RUN & CONCERT 11 SEPTEMBER

GET INVOLVED
GET ACTIVE
GET FIT
AND READY

YOU
CAN RUN
OR WALK



Wik Whispers



The clients at Aurukun's Chivaree Centre were treated to a surprise visit by Troy Cassar-Daley who stopped in to have breakfast with the Elders. His visit followed a very successful performance in the community the night before. The visit was documented by NITV.



Under 8s Week was heaps of fun at the Koolkan Early

Childhood Centre with the kids getting their hands into colourful slime and stretching out with some yoga.



Well done to Waynead Wolmby who is on track to complete

his October marathon as part of his Indigenous Marathon Project journey. Waynead completed a 25km run with half of his team mates in Cairns and the other half running in Darwin.



Sydney Modern, the new building alongside the Gallery

of New South Wales, has commissioned 30 camp dog carvings from artists at the Wik and Kugu Arts Centre. This will be great exposure for Aurukun's artists in Sydney.



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

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