

Mayor's Message



It was wonderful to see our community come together for the opening of the new Aurukun Airport Terminal in October and to feel the pride that Aurukun was deserving of such a wonderful asset.

I was especially pleased to see the five clans together under one roof celebrating the achievement.

Our special guests, Aurukun Ministerial Champion Di Farmer and Government Champion Rachel Hunter, were honoured to be the first passengers to arrive in the terminal and to be a part of such a welcoming cultural display.

My family and I are very proud to have the terminal's passenger lounge named after my late mother Alison Woolla who served as the Mayor of Aurukun in 1983-85 and 1991-94.

Who can forget the little shed from where we flew away to boarding school back in the 1980s. Then in the 1990s we had a bigger facility, but escaping the tropical heat and the tropical rain was always challenging.

I wish to compliment the old Council for having the foresight to plan a larger modern air conditioned facility. Community consultation was undertaken in late 2019 and the response from local people was positive.

Then the newly elected Council in March 2020 gave the stamp of approval for this airport terminal project to proceed. Fortunately State Government funding allocated through the Works For Queensland program was approved and Council was then able to proceed with this building project.

It has been pleasing to see locally based builder Cameron Herbert Constructions be granted this project and come up with the fine building that we see today. Expressions of interest are being called to operate the kiosk and I hope to see local people taking advantage of this opportunity.

Keri Tamwoy
Aurukun Shire
Council Mayor



Cr Jayden Marrott, Government Champion Rachel Hunter, Ministerial Champion Di Farmer, Cr Delys Yunkaporta, Mayor Keri Tamwoy, Cr Kempo Tamwoy

Aurukun Airport Terminal opens

The new Aurukun Airport Terminal has opened offering increased safety and air-conditioned comfort for the more than 10,000 passengers a year that travel to and from the remote Cape York Peninsula Indigenous community.

Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development the Ministerial Champion for Aurukun Di Farmer joined Aurukun Mayor Keri Tamwoy to officially open the Aurukun Shire Council asset on October 19.

"The terminal upgrade has been a priority project for Aurukun, so it's wonderful to see this facility which will support future growth and be of great benefit to the community, now open," Minister Farmer said.

Touring the terminal with the community's Government Champion and Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet Rachel Hunter, Minister Farmer said the Queensland Government provided more than \$2.9 million for the upgrade, as part of the Works for Queensland program.

The Aurukun Champions were greeted by Elders, Councillors, and community members who followed a pathway decorated with a series of dots leading to and through the airport terminal. The dots represent Aurukun's three rivers which also feature in the Council logo.

The stunning red ochre-coloured aluminium airside entrance is inspired by the water lilies

in Aurukun's extensive wetlands which feature in the Council's logo. A second timber water lily sculpture is suspended from the ceiling in the passenger waiting lounge.

Mayor Tamwoy proudly showed guests through to the Alison Woolla Memorial Passenger Lounge, named after her late mother who served two terms as the Mayor of Aurukun.

"Aviation access is critical for our community with around 620 residents regularly needing to fly to Cairns for medical treatment and business," Mayor Tamwoy said.

"Multiple service providers also fly into Aurukun on Skytrans and charter flights as well as the Royal Flying Doctor Service amounting to more than 750 flights each week before the pandemic.

"The new Aurukun Airport Terminal is substantially larger than its predecessor and the enclosed air-conditioned building has comfortable seating, functional office space, improved onloading and offloading facilities, a security inspection space, internal bathrooms, a waiting room for aircraft staff, and formal car parking areas."

Designed by Gordon Gould Ipson Architects, Aurukun Airport Terminal was built by Cameron Herbert Constructions with SMEC the Project Manager.

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Tuesday 19 October

AURUKUN AIRPORT TERMINAL OFFICIAL GRAND OPENING



Tribute to Alison Woolla

The Alison Woolla Memorial Passenger Lounge was named after Aurukun's first female mayor, the late Alison Woolla, who served two terms in 1983-85 and 1991-94.

The mother of current Mayor Keri Tamwoy, Alison was regarded as a dynamic reform leader who took a stand against the grog that was destroying families, and welcomed people experiencing abuse to stay in her home.

Her work in supporting members of her community has been recognised with the Local Government Association of Queensland's Alison Woolla Memorial Award introduced in 2020 to acknowledge the work being done to stop domestic violence.

During her time as Mayor, Alison brought Meals on Wheels to Aurukun, creating employment for local ladies to do the cooking and securing a bus to transport the meals. This led to the building of aged care units in the community.

A member of the former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, Alison's strength and determination also led to her becoming one of the claimants in Wik Peoples vs The State of Queensland which led to the 1996 historical decision by the High Court of Australia granting Native Title to the Wik People.

Alison also took pride in practising her Wik culture and would spend hours under the mango tree in her yard with various aunties, young mums, and grandmas, drinking tea and weaving baskets, fruit bowls and mats.

They would also make grass skirts for the Wik cultural dancers. Alison was a strong believer in attending the Laura Dance Festival which was a meeting place for Traditional Owners from across Cape York Peninsula to share their culture. She was very proud that the Aurukun dancers regularly won the festival performance during her tenure as Mayor.

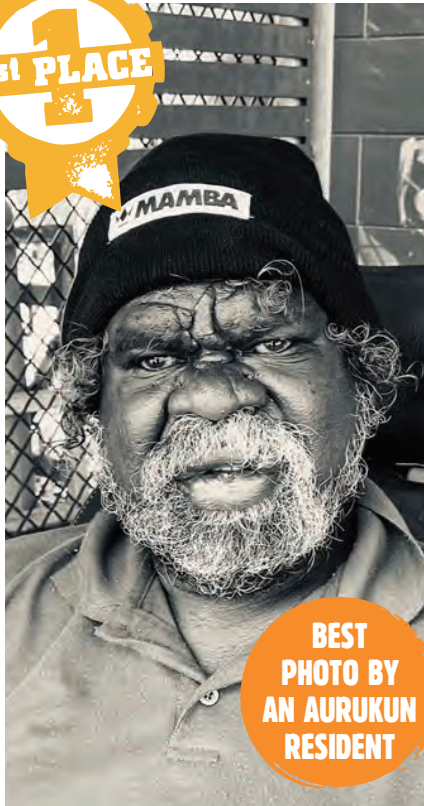


LIVING IN AURUKUN

5TH ANNUAL PHOTO COMPETITION



Aurukun scenery and characters featured in the winning entries of the 2021 Aurukun Photo Competition



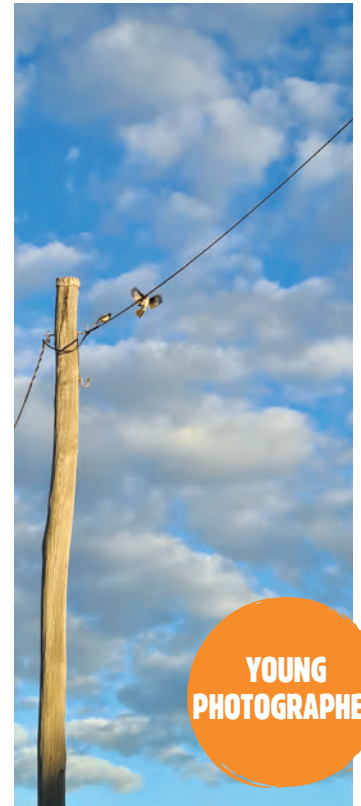
BEST PHOTO BY AN AURUKUN RESIDENT

Aurukun Character: Tim Jones



BEST PHOTO IN THE COMPETITION

Top: Favourite Activity: Lucy Ryff • Aurukun at Work: Bill Rodgers
Bottom: Best Scene: Sonia Waller



YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER

Kristian Ryan



Best Scene: Kristine Ryan



Aurukun at Work: Shawna Dalton



Aurukun Character: Leona Yunkaporta



Favourite Activity: Andrew Ramage



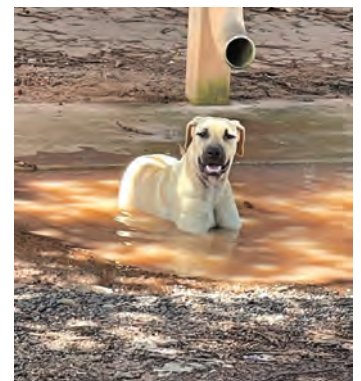
Aurukun at Work: Justine Whiteman



Best Scene: Sonia Waller



Favourite Activity: Kristine Ryan



Aurukun Character: Tim Jones

Thank you to the sponsors: Skytrans • CBC Staff Selection • Black Star Radio • Cape York Employment • Kang Kang Café

DEADLY AWARDS



Carol Marpoondin



David Hall & Jonah Yunkaporta



Paul Dodds



Paul Dodds



Heston Korkatain



Lisa Dole



Bill Rodgers



Ruben Kooiman & Ben Green

There was some strong competition for the Aurukun Shire Council employee awards for the third quarter with more than a dozen nominations for some very deserving staff. Congratulations to the winners and place getters.

The Deadly Employee Award went to **Human Resources Officer Lisa Dole** who was nominated for going above and beyond for others. **Plumbing Supervisor Paul Dodds** received the Deadly Safety Award for his diligence and came second in the Deadly Employee Award for his positive attitude and thoroughness.

Heston Korkatain took second place in the Deadly Safety Award for always wearing the correct PPE while working within multiple areas of the Technical Service Department. **Wo'uw Ko'alam Community Centre Manager Bill Rodgers** was third while third place in the Deadly Employee Awards went to **Irwin Yunkaporta** from the Parks and Gardens team.



Wik Whispers

Althea Koomeeta is very excited to be going to Clayfield College in Brisbane next year to start working towards her goal of becoming a lawyer. The 12-year-old Aurukun resident is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 so she can keep herself and her community safe from the virus. Well done Althea!



Justin Wellington was a big hit with the large crowd at the Um Thurpak Festival. Kang Kang Café did a great job at the food and drink counter in the Wo'uw Ko'alam Community Centre. Eve from Island and Cape and Laura from Rio Tinto presented the Lucky Door Prizes. Shauna Yusia won a Skytrans airfare, Helen Walmbeng won a mower, and Herbert Hudson won the esky. A big thank you to the sponsors and volunteers. Angus Pambeagan, Noel Waterman, Adam Yunkaporta and Andrew Prigmore assisted during the night while Luke, Laura and Steve from the Rio Tinto team were popular with their children's activity table.



Aurukun's Waynead Wolmby has graduated the Indigenous Marathon Project

after running his first marathon on October 24. He completed the 42.2km run on Arrente Country in Alice Springs in 5 hours, 46 minutes and three seconds. Well done Waynead!



The shade sail installation over the Aak Munchannak splash park is

now complete providing some relief from the sun during the day. The colours are a reflection of the water and the earth. The works were funded in partnership with the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.



2021 Aurukun Shire Council Meetings

15 Nov • 14 Dec • 27 Jan

Upcoming Events

- **22-26 November**
Aurukun Get Ready Pre-Cyclone Clean Up
- **1 December**
Aurukun State School Wik Awards Say Day
- **2 December**
Community Christmas Party
- **9 December**
ASC Employees Christmas Function
- **17 December**
Christmas Lights Competition winners announced



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