



ASC Newsletter

Regular newsletter of Aurukun Shire Council, Cape York, Qld. Issue 1, March 2013

Mayor's Message

Mayor Dereck Walpo is keen to see that ASC promote the positive things happening in Aurukun. He considers that the developing community has a great future and provides Aurukun people with excellent opportunities as they move forward in 2013. Council sees a need for better communication within Council and the community. Communication considers that it will be bolstered by the ASC newsletter and new website in the near future. Please remember that any one may attend council meetings to see what goes on. He intends to conduct ongoing public briefings on a Friday morning in the town square.



Mayor Walpo meeting with ABC FNQ Radio news reporter Kirsty Nancarrow and station manager, Debbie Kalik on a recent visit to the Cairns ABC studio.

Local Laws

Council is introducing local laws to reflect our community needs. Council will now have laws to manage unwanted and unhealthy animals and make sure that our pets are fenced in, clean and vaccinated. Council intends to remove the leatherbacks and control breeding in the Shire. The Local Laws will also give Council control over the harbour, Three Rivers and the barge. This means as the mining companies become more active in the Shire that Council will charge fees for the use of the harbour and the barge and control how the mining companies can use them. Most importantly Council will also have control over who comes into the Shire and who can be removed for things like alcohol offences. These laws will give Council the powers to protect traditional activities, manage cyclones, fires, public health and protect the environment. Council will look after the Shire for the benefit of its community. It was pleasing to see 200 residents attend a community consultation meeting on Wednesday 27 February 2013 to discuss these proposed laws.

Projects Updates

CBD Precinct

The exciting \$3.6m building is due to be completed on 31 March 2013. Council has invited the Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney, Local Government David Crisafulli and Federal Minister Jenny Macklin to officially open this building in early May. All community residents are invited to attend. Council encourages local dancers to provide a warm cultural welcome by participating in the opening ceremony. Council will soon be moving the bank and post office to this new location.

HACC Facility

The foundation slab has been completed on this \$4.5m facility. Construction will commence in earnest in April. Estimated completion date is late 2013.

New Cemetery is due to commence shortly and should be completed by late 2013.

War Memorial

Layout has been finalised after consultation with Mayor and planning group. Design incorporates commemorative wall and plaque, plinth and three flagpoles. Materials have been ordered and project is scheduled for completion in next couple of months.

Council Offices - Work on completion of covered area at front of the council offices is being done with completion by end of March.

Radio Transmitter Repairs

Repairs to damage caused to the radio transmitter during Cyclone Oswald have been completed. Three radio stations now available are:
FM 88.0 – Vision, FM 102.9 – ABC FM, 107.7 - Blackstar

Barge Landing Upgrade

Planning for upgrading the barge landing area has progressed well with the next step being application for environmental approval. Proposal includes reinforced concrete ramp and hard stand area, navigation aid and mooring points. This project is currently advertised for tender and is due to commence in the near future.

Town Planning Scheme

Aurukun Shire planning scheme is close to completion. When this occurs you as residents will have your chance to make comment when the draft scheme is put out for public consultation for a period of 3 months. It is important that you submit your comments and thoughts on the way that you wish to see the Aurukun develop in future years. All other Indigenous councils in Queensland are required to adopt a planning scheme.

Road Closure Notice

Due to additional rainfall received, Aurukun Access Road has been closed to all traffic at different times. This may occur again if we experience more heavy rain.

Staff Vacancies

- Full time Cleaning Supervisor – must have good mentoring/computer skills.
- Full time Electrician – must have full Class A license
- Full time Female Carer at the HACC – must be willing to undergo training

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY TIP:

- Don't become dehydrated in this hot weather. We all need to drink up to 3 litres of water per day.
- Check your urine against the colour chart:

	Well hydrated		Drink more water		<u>URGENT</u> <u>Drink more</u> <u>water</u>

Arts

Dev Lengjel is the new art centre manager and would like to invite everyone to visit. Recently the art gallery of Bendigo has purchased two of their artists' creations. The art centre is taking on the community approach and has workshops planned with the men's group from the Wellbeing centre and the youth through Qld Health. The idea is to get the community to Laura, which is probably the most important event on NQ cultural calendar. It would be great to be part of that journey this year. They have inquiries from three major galleries in NSW, Victoria and Perth. Mavis Ngalametta is doing great things and has just been commissioned to produce works for the SA Gallery. In all Aurukun is represented in many public and private collections and is a vibrant industry. The art centre is offering weaving workshops with Rebecca Wolmby teaching the participants all about the pandanus and how to dye them naturally, with roots gathered locally. Then of course the weaving itself as it has been practised for thousands of years. In the future they hope to offer more workshops like carving with their renowned sculptors. If you know anyone that is an artist or would like to try their hand at something new send them along to the centre.



Wesley Ampeybegin and "dog" art piece

Naming of Streets

Council has named the two streets off Apalech Drive as “Francis Drive” and “Gladys Close”.

For future naming of streets, Council invites the community to nominate names to be held in a “Future Street Name Register”. Please submit names to CEO and give reasons for the proposed naming.

Business Development / Grants Officer

Bill Watson started working with ASC in October, 2012. He is based in our Cairns Office, but hopes to visit the community regularly. He is to deliver efficient and effective identification, planning, collaboration, implementation and evaluation of business development and grant funding opportunities that will provide additional opportunities and jobs with ASC, the Aurukun community and related sites. In short that means simply: planning for jobs and applying for funds.

Briefly past employment 1985 to 1990 – Operations Manager with Bougainville Development Corporation, North Solomons Province, PNG. This Corporation invested in local establishment of firms benefitting from the economic spin-offs of the mining activity. 1990 to present – Various senior positions with Indigenous Local Government including Yarrabah, Kowanyama, and now Aurukun.

He will be submitting the normal state and commonwealth grants which come up from time to time. Since starting he has been involved in: completion of Council’s annual report; gathering information and documents for Council’s new website; applying for grants including the eSubs for the Indigenous broadcasting program (our RIBS Operation), Arts Centre application under the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support; applying for funds under the Indigenous Justice Program.

In the near future, he will be trying to source non-government funds from numerous philanthropic sources once Council’s not-for-profit arm is properly registered.

Senior ASC Management

Bernie McCarthy has been appointed Acting CEO for a period of 6 months. He has worked for Aurukun Shire back in 2003/4 as the Grants Officer. He has been CEO at Torres (QLD), Bathurst Island (NT), Yulara (NT), Mataranka (NT), Queenscliffe (VIC) and held senior positions at Tungamah, Seymour (VIC) and Mornington Island (QLD) shires. Also he has recently been a Principal Advisor with the Department of Local Government. He is enjoying the challenge of working with Aurukun Shire as it is going through this progressive development period.

Ron Fenner has been appointed Acting Director of Corporate and Community Services Officer. He has worked for Aurukun Shire back in 1992/95 as Deputy CEO. He has a long career in local government throughout Queensland. Most recently he was CEO at Woorabinda. Other council where has worked include Pormpuraaw, Sarina, Aramac, Blackall, Mount Morgan, Nebo, Quilpie and Etheridge plus a stint in private enterprise as a Human Resources Manager.

Rob Love

Rob Love has been appointed Acting Director of Technical Services. He has been working as Works Manager for Aurukun Shire. Previously he worked here in Aurukun with contracting company CTE and before that with many other private engineering companies and with Brisbane City Council many years ago.

New ASC Organisation Structure

Since becoming Mayor of Aurukun in June 2012, Cr Walpo has expressed a desire to examine the organisational structure of the Aurukun Shire Council with a view to refocusing on the business of council in Aurukun. It is perceived that the organisation has over time shifted its focus towards greater provision of services from Cairns at the expense of Council's operations in its own community in Aurukun.

The driving philosophy of the newly adopted organisation structure is to acknowledge that the role of the CEO is to direct the operations of the Council to build a better community in Aurukun. This involves more than directing the operations of the Council and extends to assisting the elected Mayor and Councillors to develop a vision for the future of the community and to develop strategies and plans to achieve that vision.

To enable the CEO to carry out this role, the Council has created two senior roles, Director Corporate & Community Services and Director Technical Services, to direct the day to day operations of the Council and to assist where necessary the CEO in fulfilling his role. These roles will be located in Aurukun. In the next two weeks Council will be advertising both Directors positions and wishes to make permanent appointments by end of May. Other permanent positions to be advertised in this process will be Office Manager and Chief Accountant.

Cyclone Oswald at the HACC centre

Cyclone Oswald surprised everyone when it made landfall. This situation left the HACC Centre with about 20 old people to be transported home after lunch one at a time and the weather becoming increasingly wet and wild.

Clients were dressed stylishly in "Garbage Bag Raincoats", provided with supplies, and transported home with instructions to stay safely at home.

Staff members were left without electricity in their homes. To their credit, staff still turned up for work for the next two days and prepared and delivered a hot meal to all clients in their home.

This also gave them the opportunity to check that each client was okay.

The roof damage at the Respite Centre was quickly repaired by Council and it was back to normal services by Thursday. Oswald was a good little practice run which has left us better prepared for the next cyclone.

Special Achievement

Congratulations to Neil Peinkinna on recently achieving his plumbing apprenticeship. Council commends him on this great effort and looks forward to other local persons following in his footsteps.

Disaster Management

At its recent meeting the Local Disaster Management Group resolved to recognise the excellent work done by ASC employees Steve Vella, Rob Love, Rodney Endres and Steve Topping during the recent Cyclone Oswald. Their efforts should be greatly appreciated by whole community. The Group also acknowledged that the text messages provided by Sgt Brendon McMahon worked very well during cyclone.

Island and Cape Tour



Mayor Walpo inspecting Island and Cape stores (Cairns) with Manager John Smith

Fluoridation of Aurukun Water Supply

After public consultation and strong community support, Council has resolved to proceed with the fluoridation of the town water supply. Capital will be provided by government and the operational cost is to be included in the 2013/2014 Budget.

Community Disturbance

Council has discussed the recent community disturbance issue and agreed that a procedure for any similar event be included in the Aurukun Community Safety Plan. Council will also adopt procedures for this type of event to cover its employees in its Workplace Health and Safety Plan.

Community Celebration for the successful upgrading of the Aurukun Airport

Council has accepted an offer of a community celebration to be held in the town square in June 2013. Look forward to further details in the next few months.

Memorandum of Understanding – Power Savvy

Michael Miller (Power Savvy, Ergon) has informed Council of the savings that could be made by community residents and that Ergon is happy to employ two people part time for their program which will explain to community residents the benefits of Power Savvy (reducing power usage). Council confirmed that it wishes to proceed with the Memorandum of Understanding and that this program be commenced as soon as possible.

Animal Control

Lock up your dogs. They must be kept in the owners' yard. Dogs should not be lying out on street. Council will be running an education program over the next few months. Also if you have sick dogs please contact Kerri, 4060 6800. Please do the right thing. Any feedback is welcome.

Upcoming events

- Every Friday is Tropical Friday, finish your week off by wearing your best tropical shirt, see Mayor's message.
- Next council meeting is on 19 March, you are welcome to come along
- 15 April – WCCCA meeting
- 16 April – Ordinary Council meeting
- 23 April – DLG Legislation training
- 25 April – Anzac Day ceremony
- 6 - 8 May – Official opening of Sam Kerindun Snr Business Precinct
- 21 May - Ordinary Council meeting

Please advise dates of any future major community events.

Council has recently discussed the possibility of more community events such as Market Days, Career Days and other events being held to bring our community together. Please submit any ideas that you may have.

Council contacts

- ASC Aurukun office 4060 6800
- ASC Cairns office 4047 6700
- Child Care 4060 6051
- HACC 4060 6253
- Library 4060 6833
- Animal control 4060 6800
- Arts centre 4060 6843
- Airport 4060 6167
- Works 4060 6826
- Post office 4060 6816

Please check out ASC developing website; www.aurukun.qld.gov

Feedback

We would love to hear any comments from you on our fledgling newsletter

Please phone CEO on 4060 6800 or email council@aurukun.qld.gov.au