

# Yorkeys Knob Matters

## President's Report

2021 and we have hit the ground running.

You might recall the shorter January edition of *Yorkeys Knob Matters* as we were enjoying our summer holiday, then came the notification of the development application for the Wellness Centre at the intersection of Buckley St and Dowsett Cl.

YKRA members noticed the erection of the notices and contacted the association which put into play quite a busy few weeks. A special edition of the newsletter was distributed electronically recapping a story reported last year and information on the progress of the development application with council. The timeframe available for public comment expires on the 16th February, before the next scheduled YKRA monthly meeting so a public meeting was called. There is more information on the public meeting included in this edition.

The YKRA newsletter distribution includes local media who jumped on to the story resulting in interviews being given to WIN News, NINE News, The Cairns Post and ABC morning radio.



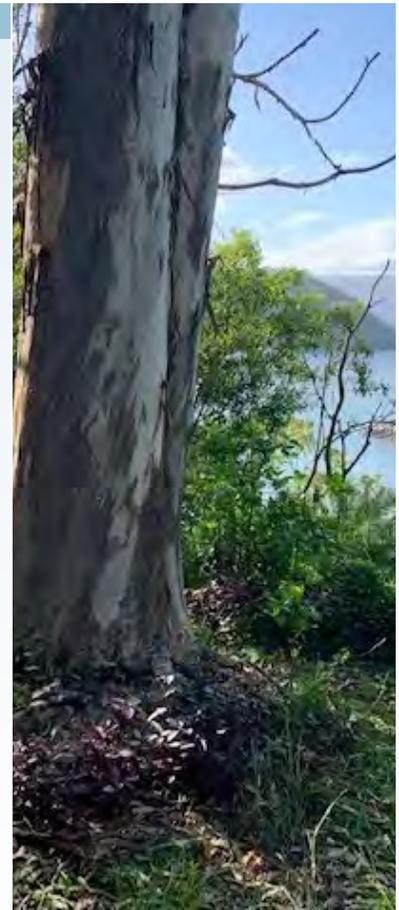
YKRA members and other residents were joined by Cr Coghlan for the meeting. The large turnout was a clear indication of the community concern over this disproportionate foreign owned development on the headland greenspace.

For me it was an added opportunity to meet many people from our community

who came together interested in such an issue. I look forward to meeting again soon at our monthly meetings, as many have chosen to join our community association.

**NEXT MONTHLY MEETING 7.30PM TUESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY, 2021  
At the Yorkeys Knob Community Centre.**

**Adrian Gover  
President**



View from Buckley St proposed development site

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**YORKEYS  
KNOB  
RESIDENTS  
ASSOCIATION  
INC.**

**Important contacts:**



**Police, Fire, Ambulance  
Emergency: 000**



**State Emergency Service  
12500**



**Cairns Regional Council  
1300 692 247  
cairns.qld.gov.au**



**Ergon Energy: 131670**



**Queensland Government**

**Transport & Main Roads  
131940  
tmr.qld.gov.au**

## CCTV in Yorkeys Knob

A Yorkeys Knob resident recently wrote to the Yorkeys Knob Residents Association regarding the possibility of installing a CCTV camera at the entrance/ exit point of Yorkeys Knob on Varley Street as a tool to assist with the investigation of local crime. The association contacted Cairns Regional Council to find out the current policy for installing such cameras in the community.

Mel from council's City Safe unit contacted the YKRA to discuss this matter. The decision to install CCTV must be balanced to ensure public safety concerns are balanced with the privacy of people within our community. Consequently, CCTV is installed in areas of actual or high-risk safety concerns as opposed to general community monitoring. Yorkeys Knob has three CCTV locations:

Buckley Street Boat Ramp/ carpark  
Sims Esplanade northern playground/ amenities block  
Sims Esplanade southern playground/ amenities block  
Council's City Safe unit liaises closely with other local law enforcement agencies, in particular Queensland Police Service. This ensures appropriate site selection for cameras based on accurate crime reporting data and intelligence.



CCTV on Buckley Street

**Information provided by Mel Hardy  
Cairns Regional Council**

## Public Meeting—Buckley St Wellness Centre

On Friday the 22nd of January 2021, notices were erected around the boundary of land at the intersection of Buckley St and Dowsett Cl advising of a proposed Wellness Centre development for that land. The notice advises that an application has been made for a material change of use to the existing low density residential zoning to allow for the Wellness Centre that is to comprise of 48 one and two bedroom apartments totalling in 64 guest bedrooms, 2 exclusive use restaurants (one Chinese style and one Western style), 3 spa centres and reception rooms. A parking allocation of 37 spaces is proposed. Literature provided by New Land Group on behalf of the applicant, New Land Cairns, advises this is one of 12 projects for development over 5 years in Brisbane, Cairns (Yorkeys Knob), Melbourne, Auckland NZ (two), Phuket Thailand, then a further six in the company's home country China.

The parcel of land is a little over 1.1 hectares and is largely vegetated with significant flora and fauna species.

The notice erected at the site advises that public comment is invited to Cairns Regional Council.

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## Public Meeting—Buckley St Wellness Centre cont.

The closing date for public comment is 16 February, 2021 and submissions can be made by email to [council@cairns.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@cairns.qld.gov.au) or post to PO Box 359 Cairns Qld 4870 The development application number is 10151/2020

Due to the tight timeframe from notice to closing date, a public meeting was called for Tuesday the 2nd February at the Yorkeys Knob Community Centre. A capacity crowd attended where the project was discussed. Overwhelmingly, the community of Yorkeys Knob is opposed to the change of use of this land, one of the rare few remaining coastal green spaces in our city. **It is an absolute priority for individuals to write their comments to council** as every submission must be considered by the planning officer in the assessment.

It was resolved that a sub-committee of the Yorkeys Knob Residents Association would be formed to focus on this development proposal. This sub-committee will work on responses to the ongoing development application processes and report back to the YKRA General meetings.

Key concerns about the development discussed in the meeting include:

The proposal is for a high density development situated within a low density residential precinct and does not fit in with the character of the locale.

The buildings are visually bulky, some exceed allowable height limits and the boundary setbacks are inadequate.

There is not enough carparking. Only 37 car park spaces are proposed to be provided, whereas Council's own Codes for Short Term Accommodation require 78.

There is a shortage of car parking space in Buckley Street already and no room for more vehicles

The proposal would result in loss of up to one hectare of bushland which will cause a great deal of stress for all of the creatures that currently utilise this habitat as there is nowhere for them to go.

The entire site is designated by the State Government as Essential habitat for endangered and vulnerable species.

Dowsett Close is a secondary urban street less than 4.5m wide and is not suitable as the access point for this development.

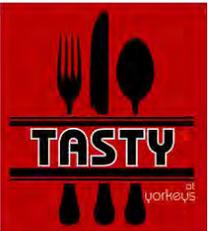
The site is an inappropriate location for a wellness centre as the immediate area is heavily used for multiple recreation and tourism activities.

**It can't be stressed enough, the importance of individual comments and submissions to Council before the 16th February. It doesn't need to be an academic paper, it needs to be your thoughts and opinions.**



Extracts from the New Land Group publication available in the DA documents on Council's website. This advertising flyer is reproduced and accompanies the electronic Yorkeys Knob Matters newsletter

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Ph 4055 8221

**Adrian Gover**  
President, YKRA



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453 Varley Street, Yorkeys Knob 4878  
[vinnbianchi@hotmail.com](mailto:vinnbianchi@hotmail.com)



*Sir Henry looking very handsome in his Thundershirt during his visit to the clinic.*

## Note from our Vet

### ANXIETY AND STRESS REDUCTION

Many dogs may suffer from the effects of anxiety and stress. They can be triggered by many things including loud noises (e.g. thunderstorms, firecrackers), household visitors, nail trims, car travel, vet visits, vacuum cleaners or separation from owners.

Anxious dogs may display behaviours such as excessive panting, trembling, whining or barking, restlessness and pacing, hiding, destructive behaviours or escaping from the yard. You can help your pet through these difficult times by doing a number of things such as:

- Providing a "safe area" such as a crate or box, to help your pet feel more at ease. Allow your pet to go where they feel safe. Remember to close doors and windows.
- Play some soothing music.
- Check boundary fences and gates to ensure that they are secure and that your pet cannot escape through, under or over them.
- Make sure that your pet wears identification, such as an ID tag on the collar, and that microchip details are up to date in the event of your pet escaping the property.
- Never punish your pet for displaying the behaviour during times of stress. Instead, try to engage, distract and reassure your pet that everything is OK, and stay calm yourself.

Thundershirts, also known as anxiety wraps, are also a great tool to help reduce anxiety and stress in dogs. They are designed to help calm anxious dogs with the application of pressure to the dog's torso, mimicking a calming effect similar to swaddling a baby or giving someone a big hug.

Whilst this may not be effective for all, many dogs have responded well to the shirt, especially if used in combination with other anxiety treatments and behaviour modifications.

Just remember, do not place it on your dog straight away in a storm or another high stress time, instead you need to gradually acclimatise your dog with the shirt, placing it on the dog periodically during happy and relaxed times so that your dog does not associate the shirt with high stress/anxious times.

If you need any help managing your pet's anxiety or stress, please contact us on 4057 8677.

*From the Beachside team*

**Ph 4057 8677**

### Yorkeys Knob Boating Club

Yorkeys Knob Boating Club & Half Moon Bay Marina  
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