

Yorkeys Knob Matters

President's Report

Wellness Centre:

Our special public meeting called early this year made the position of the Yorkeys Knob community very clear in its objection to the proposal for a wellness centre to be developed on land at the intersection of Buckley St and Dowsett Cl. With a 15 day time-frame for community submissions to be submitted, there were 142 lodged with Cairns Regional Council. Of these, 141 strongly opposed the development and 1 supported it.

YKRA formed a sub-committee to monitor developments with Council and the proponents but this appeared to stall in April where the last notification was placed on Council's website. Subsequent follow up with the Council resulted in the website being brought back up to date in line with requirements. The present position is that the developer has been given an extension until the 24 September in which to reply to a comprehensive series of questions for further assessment. Having read the bulk of the considered submissions by many people in Yorkeys Knob, it appears that the Council has presented many of these concerns to the developer for answer. We will continue to monitor this proposal carefully.

The Yorkeys Knob Residents Association is only as strong as its membership and as such, it may be a reminder for local residents who have considered joining for the first time, or renewing membership if it has lapsed, by contacting via the email above.

Christmas 2021:

Following the absence of a Christmas event in Yorkeys Knob last year due to Covid, the residents association has commenced planning for an event this year. At present, a small organizing committee has been formed with a tentative date set for Saturday evening the 27 November. This date is proposed to avoid a clash with other events with our northern beaches neighbours. A meeting has been scheduled with Council regarding permits and so on, with more information to follow.

Knob Beach on the ABC:Yorkeys

Local residents Vick and Karen recently sent their photo of Yorkeys Knob Beach from their morning walk. It was exciting to see this on the morning news weather on the 17 August.



NEXT MONTHLY MEETING 7.30PM TUESDAY 28th SEPTEMBER, 2021
At the Yorkeys Knob Community Centre.

Adrian Gover
President



Sea bird enjoying a meal before excavation commences soon on the boat ramp

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**YORKEYS
KNOB
RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION
INC.**



Proposed speed limit changes

Council has had numerous requests to change the 2.4 kilometre section of 100 kph zone to 80 kph on Yorkeys Knob Road. I'm looking to gauge the community feeling on this. It's worth noting that a speed limit change would add 22 seconds to your trip.

Please forward your feedback to myself at r.coghlan@cairns.qld.gov.au

Cr Rhonda Coughlan
Division 8
Cairns Regional Council



Local policing

The Yorkeys Knob Residents Association wrote to the Queensland Police Service in August following concerns raised about perceived increases in local crime and anti-social behaviour following the closure of the Yorkeys Knob Police Beat.

Senior Sergeant Lukin, the officer in charge of Smithfield Police Station contacted the association to discuss the concerns. The police are phasing out the need for officers to work alone and as such, removing the single police beats. These are planned to be replaced by mobile police beats that will be placed in various locations around a geographical area as part of an election promise at the last state election. Single unit policing faces increased risks to officer safety, necessitating this to be restricted to daylight hours only. S/Sgt Lukin reviewed recent crime statistics for Yorkeys Knob and advised, that if anything, crime had generally reduced, however did discuss the possibility of many anti-social issues going largely unreported by the community. He encouraged people to report issues by either

- **000** for urgent/ immediate/ life threatening situations,
- by phone to Police Link on **131 444**, or
- online at **police.qld.gov.au**

By reporting incidents or concerns, police are able to gather a more accurate view of priority areas which assists in staffing allocations going forward.

The Yorkeys Knob Police Beat building is currently owned by the Queensland Government and is likely to be returned to the state's Dept of Public Works as property ownership is not a core role of the Police Service.

Senior Sergeant Lukin has opened up a line of communication between the Yorkeys Knob Residents Association and his office for any significant issues that may occur in the future.



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Construction of new bike path into Yorkeys Knob

Drivers between Yorkeys Knob and Smithfield will have been watching the progress of the designated bike path joining Varley Street Yorkeys Knob with McGregor Road Smithfield. This forms a link to the Northern Beaches Leisure Trail (see <https://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/council/major-projects/leisure-trail>) that ultimately aims to link the northern beaches with Cairns city. This 3 metre wide section of the path is approximately 3km and features extensions to culverts and drains across Dunne Road, a street lit road crossing on Dunne Road, bollards, fencing, landscaping and so on, to provide a safer bike trail separated from the road. Funding has primarily been sourced by Cairns Regional Council from the Queensland State Government to complete this section of the trail. The project is expected to be completed by the end of October 2021.



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Meet the Locals



In times of Covid uncertainty, it became very difficult to touch, feel, experience and purchase local arts. With this in mind, in July 2020, along with founding artists Liz D’Achille, Sharlene Blakeney and Diana Tangey (with the help of Yorkeys Knob Workshop Hub), The Gifting Gnome was born.

This local space now allows over 25 artists to share their creativity, not only with the purchasing public, but also with students wanting to learn and create. Additionally, The Gifting Gnome is now the proud home to the ever popular “Dogtique Boutique” with its hand crafted pet apparel and accessories. It seems we have finally found a good use for this little hidden corner shop in Village on Varley and in March 2021, the shop itself was purchased by The Gifting Gnome facilitator, Peta Smerdon to ensure the longevity of the cooperative.

David Stephens
Secretary YKRA

Boat fire emergency in Yorkeys Knob—clean up

Maritime Services Queensland is still working with salvage contractors, attempting to remove the debris following the boat fire that was mentioned last month. The photo below was taken on Monday 6th September, more than 6 weeks after the initial incident on Saturday 24th July. It is understood that the debris is still there at the time of writing, creating a hazard for beach users, particularly kite surfers, not to mention the environmental harm. It would make you wonder if the wreckage would be still in situ for so long in a major or capital city.



Image of boat fire taken on Saturday 24th July 2021



Yorkeys Knob Boating Club

Yorkeys Knob Boating Club & Half Moon Bay Marina
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