

Yorkeys Knob Matters

President's Report

At the end of October, the Yorkeys Knob Residents Association held its Annual General Meeting. The meeting led to a few changes with the new committee going forward with:

- President: Adrian Gover
- Vice President: Lenny Kangas
- Secretary: David Stephens
- Treasurer: Brett Dykstra
- Member: Alan Cullington
- Member: Liz Wiseman
- Member: Dorothy Sibly

Your new committee looks forward to working within our community into 2023.

A public meeting was held on Monday 31st October in relation to the proposed development at 46-50 Buckley St Yorkeys Knob. This is generally referred to as the Wellness Centre proposal. The developer has resubmitted their application with modifications, and council has instructed a public comment period be commenced. The meeting was unanimous in its opposition to the proposed development on an array of issues including the impact on the local natural environment with the property clearing, inadequate parking, poor access via Dowsett Close, extreme changes to visual amenity, particularly with size, scope and proximity to the property boundary—within 1.5 metres on the north and west boundary, and impacts to the general community use of Buckley Street—including patrons of the Yorkeys Knob Boat Club opposite, the adjacent boat ramp and the little beach adjacent to the boat ramp.

Have your say about the proposed development application by email to: submissions@cairns.qld.gov.au or Cairns Regional Council PO Box 359 Cairns Qld 4870. Valid submissions will reference the property address and DA no 10151-2020 and don't forget to provide your name for future contact if needed.

Another year is coming to a close, and with this, your association is well advanced in preparations for the 2022 Twilight Christmas Markets on Sims Esplanade. Check out more information in this newsletter and updates throughout November.

Next meeting 7.30PM TUESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

**Adrian Gover
President**



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The popular Japanese Drummers will feature at this year's Twilight Christmas Markets on Saturday 26 November 4-8pm

Inside this issue

Wellness Centre	2
Flood Cameras.....	3
Cassowary Awards.....	3
Speed Monitor	3
Twilight Christmas Markets.....	4

**YORKEYS KNOB
RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION**



Proposed Wellness Centre 46-50 Buckley St Yorkeys Knob—An ecological perspective

46-50 Buckley St Yorkeys Knob is a large parcel of land about 1.2 hectares in area, located on the northwest corner of Yorkeys Knob headland opposite the Yorkeys Knob Boating Club. The entire site is covered with native vegetation that is mapped by the QLD State government as being of a type and condition to that existing there before European settlement, and is habitat for a large number of species of plants and wildlife.

The site forms a large and important part of the remaining native vegetation on Yorkeys Knob hill which is still sufficiently extensive to function together as a viable ecological unit. The abundance of lush vegetation and wildlife, particularly birds is a delight to observe and a key part of the amenity of this area, highly valued by many residents.

The proposed Wellness Centre comprises 38 units and a large Central Facilities building. If it goes ahead, it will require clearing of a substantial part of the site including removal of about 20 large trees. This loss could potentially impact on the viability of the vegetation cover on the hill to function as a viable ecological community, with the diversity and abundance of wildlife declining accordingly.

The amount of native vegetation on Yorkeys Knob hill is by no means extensive or necessarily in good condition. The extent of removal of vegetation for the Wellness Centre could potentially breach an ecological threshold whereby the remaining area is less or no longer viable habitat for key species, setting in motion a process of decline in presence and/or abundance of numerous species that may not be evident for some time.

The documents published by Council in relation to the application to date reveal that this risk has not been identified or a risk assessment carried out. The application therefore potentially fails a fundamental requirement of the Planning Act which requires that development must be ecologically sustainable. The proposal also appears to fail to meet Council Planning Scheme objectives in regard to protection of biodiversity and management of natural resources in an ecologically sustainable manner.

If you believe that the above scenario is a risk, please let Council know of your concerns by making a submission on the proposed development before November 18, 2022. The email address for submissions is submissions@cairns.qld.gov.au The development proposal reference is 10151/2020.

Dr Michael Powell
YKRA member



46-50 Buckley St showing Remnant extent RE7.11.49 (sclerophyll open forest)(left dark green) ; RE 7.11.7a (complex notophyll vine forest)(right light green)



Block D will bisect existing patch of RE7.11.7a with adverse impacts- reduction in area, fragmentation, increased edge effect



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Flood Cameras

I've had a few questions from the community on the new camera located on/near the access Rd into Yorkeys Knob at the intersection of Dunne Rd. This is purely a flood camera, which has been jointly funded and installed by the State and Federal Governments. This is for both residents and Emergency services in a flood event.

The live footage can be accessed through from the Disaster Dashboard on the Cairns Regional Council website which can assist the community in making informed decisions on roads connectivity in regards to a flood event.



Flood camera at the intersection of

Cassowary Awards

Cairns Regional Council has been recognised for its commitment to conserving and protecting the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area through a Chair's Award at the 19th Cassowary Awards.

Hosted by the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA), the Cassowary Awards is the only awards program in Australia to recognise excellence in community contributions to World Heritage management.

Council was recognised for leadership in sustainability, advocacy and engaging young people through initiatives such as the Climate Change strategy 2030, Cairns Ecofiesta, Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy and the Smart Green Economy project.

The award was presented by WTMA Chair, Chrissy Grant, during an event at Tjapukai NOW on Djabugay Country in Smithfield.

Ms Grant said the Cassowary Awards were a night to gather and pay tribute to champions of the Wet Tropics.

"Cairns Regional Council has set the benchmark for local governments everywhere with their commitment to achieving net zero emissions by 2030.



Cr Coghlan

Cr Rhonda Coghlan

Division 8, Cairns Regional Council

(For both articles above)

Speed "Smiley Face" monitor

Residents and visitors to Yorkeys Knob will be well aware of the speed monitor on Varley Street for some time now. These signs are designed to be deployed and moved to areas of need. Over recent months, several residents have expressed concerns about traffic speed in the vicinity of the Yorkeys Knob shopping precinct. It is unknown if speed is in fact an issue, or merely a perception due to the increased traffic, particularly heavy vehicles for the boat ramp development.

A meeting was arranged with Cairns Regional Council engineers to discuss possible solutions. A decision was made to move the existing speed monitor to the shopping precinct to gather data to determine if speed is in fact an issue or not. The association will continue to liaise with council to gather these results.



Speed camera moved to shopping precinct on Varley Street



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YORKEYS JUDO & TRAINING DOJO, 2000-2022





Twilight Christmas Markets

Residents and visitors are welcome to attend our 2022 Twilight Christmas Markets. Building on the strength of last year, the Sims Esplanade Parklands will again become the venue for our community Christmas gathering. This year we wish to thank the Cairns Regional Council for a community funding grant to help put this big event together. Money raised from the day will go toward the recently purchased Automated External Defibrillator (AED) as part of the Heart of the Nation program, putting these life saving tools in ready access locations across Australia.

The event will feature entertainment on stage. This includes:

- Jazzuleles
- Yorkeys Knob State School Choir
- Cosi Fashion Show
- Gifting Gnome Dog Show
- Zumba Z-Crew Fitness
- Japanese Drummers
- Cairns String Orchestra

There will be market stalls providing fabulous Christmas gift ideas, and our great food and beverage area. This year, we will have trouble choosing between:

- Smoke N Steel
- German Sausages
- The Frying Dutchies
- Whatever.

Add to this, refreshments from M&G Espresso Gourmet Tea and Coffee, then for something a little stronger, Macalister Brewing Co are returning for wine and locally produced beers. A little message from Santa even advises a special Yorkeys Knob Christmas brew is on the menu. If all of these food and beverage options still leaves you wondering about how to enjoy the twilight on our beautiful beachfront park, Narrow Tracks Distilling will be with us for the first time, providing refreshing locally produced gin cocktails.

We are delighted to again welcome Wonder Fair Amusements with rides for the children. The first 50 children to the Yorkeys Knob Residents Association marquee, next to the stage, at 4.30pm will receive a free ride ticket.

Make sure you're on the beach at 5pm for the arrival of Santa, with the help of the wonderful paddlers from the Hekili Outrigger Canoe Club

Put in your diary, Saturday 26 November, 2022, 4pm - 8pm



1E, 455 Varley St Yorkeys Knob
Ph: 4081 0810
E: reception@hpgcairns.com.au

Yorkeys Knob Boating Club

Yorkeys Knob Boating Club & Half Moon Bay Marina
P: 40557711 F: 40557074
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