

Yorkeys Knob Matters

AUGUST 2026

Yorkeys Knob Residents' Association Inc

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Welcome to the August edition of our newsletter. There is plenty to report this month.

In conjunction with Yorkeys Knob Boating Club, we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of Cairns by burying a Time Capsule to be opened 100 years from now. This is an exciting and worthy project. We thank the Boat Club for allowing us to place the capsule in their memorial garden.

We are making good progress with development of a Disaster Resilience Plan in partnership with Yorkeys Knob Boating Club, Yorkeys Medical, Centacare and Cairns Council. This is a complex multi faceted task that is being carried out by a competent experienced committee headed by Michelle Taillier.

There is a memorial ceremony at the newly erected sign on the Groyne for the B17 bomber which crashed off Yorkeys Knob in 1942, with the loss of the entire crew.

The African Tulip tree (*Spadothea campanulata*) is native to central Africa. It is a beautiful vigorous tropical tree that is becoming established across Cairns, easily recognisable by its bright red flowers.

Unfortunately, is a highly invasive, alien species, among the top 30 listed terrestrial weeds in the world. Think about that. It is causing serious problems in Asia, Indonesia, and across the Pacific Islands. If unchecked it will eventually become dominant in the landscape, however there is currently no action being taken to address this threat.

I am delighted to report that the application for motor cruiser Tropic Seas to be listed on the Australian Register of Heritage Vessels has been successful because of its role in the initiation and development of big game fishing and reef tourism in North Queensland. Tropic Seas is owned by local Darren Brice and is berthed in the Yorkeys Knob Boating Club Marina.

Finally, we have Bree James column to round out the issue. Thanks Bree!

I hope that you enjoy the read

Dr Michael Powell President

Important contacts:



Police, Fire, Ambulance

Emergency: 000



State Emergency Service

132500



Cairns Regional Council

1300 692 247

cairns.qld.gov.au



Ergon Energy: 131670



Queensland Government

Transport & Main Roads

131940

tmr.qld.gov.au

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2026 YORKEYS KNOB TIME CAPSULE EVENT - *Reflecting Upon Cairns – Celebrating 150 Years*

The Yorkeys Knob Time Capsule was inspired by the Yorkeys Knob Living History Project, a community-driven archive of memories, stories, photographs and artefacts that preserves the unique identity of this coastal village. The project demonstrates that our history lives not only in official records, but also in the experiences of the people who have called Yorkeys Knob home. You can explore the project and accompanying book here: <https://arcg.is/1Di4mi0>.

Time capsules have long been created to preserve a snapshot of life for future generations. They remind us that every generation becomes part of history and that the decisions, achievements and everyday lives of today's community will one day be viewed as the past. By placing objects, documents and digital memories into a time capsule, we create a lasting message for those who will live after us, inviting them to understand who we were, what we valued and how we shaped our community.

Although Yorkeys Knob is officially 106 years old, based on land division records, its story extends much further through the lives of the Traditional Owners, early settlers and generations of families who have contributed to its character. This Time Capsule will honour that shared history by collecting artefacts of local and personal significance — both physical and digital — from residents, community organisations and local groups. We also hope to include contributions from students of Yorkeys Knob State School and the Yirganydji People, ensuring that diverse voices become part of this legacy.

The Time Capsule will be buried for **100 years**, to be opened in **2126**, allowing future generations to discover how the people of 2026 celebrated the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Cairns and what life in Yorkeys Knob meant to us.

The public Time Capsule Ceremony will take place on **Saturday, 10 October 2026**, commemorating the proclamation of the northern port at Trinity Bay by Queensland Governor William Wellington Cairns in October 1876, after whom the city of Cairns was named.

The ceremony will include guest speakers, the official burial of the Time Capsule and community participation, marking a memorable occasion of reflection, celebration and hope for the future.

The event itself will become part of the historical record as witnesses gather to celebrate this unique moment.

A detailed program of speakers and activities will be released in September 2026.

Date and Time:

Saturday, 10th of October 2026, commencing at 10.00 am

Venue:

Yorkeys Knob Boating Club Memorial Garden

Following the ceremony:

Light refreshments on the Boating Club deck.

YORKEYS KNOB DISASTER RESILIENCE GROUP

We are making good progress with development of a Disaster Resilience Plan in partnership with Yorkeys Knob Boating Club, Yorkeys Medical, Centacare and Cairns Council. This is a complex multi-faceted task that is being carried out by a competent experienced committee headed by Michelle Taillier.

A Draft Disaster Resilience Plan has been produced, which will be circulated for approval by the Committee, prior to being published. Issues of appropriate insurance cover during operations under emergency conditions have been addressed and working guidelines for volunteers are being developed.

Potentially vulnerable people in Yorkeys Knob have been interviewed and their details obtained. These will be digitally stored securely on a Password protected system, with access restricted to key personnel. The list is predicted to grow as word gets around.

We have a skills register that contains a list of candidates who have put their name down to volunteer to assist residents in an emergency event. They are being interviewed by Allan Cullington, and must possess a Blue Card which can be obtained free of charge through YKRA.

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YORKEYS KNOB DISASTER RESILIENCE GROUP (YKDRG)

Partners, Centacare are holding a workshop on person centred emergency plans for the YKDRG on August 15, 9.30 to 12.30 with another workshop being held for the general public in September. If you want to participate, please contact YKRA to register your interest.

YKRA are going to obtain a Royal Flying Doctor Service RFDS medical chest for use in emergencies, either through Yorkeys Medical, or by application ourselves.

Negotiations with our various partners are ongoing and Michelle will liaise with other disaster resilience groups.

B17 BOMBER CRASH SIGN AND MEMORIAL SERVICE

YKRA have sponsored production and installation of a sign to mark this terrible event that occurred off the Yorkeys Knob beach at night in 1942. The aircraft was conducting trials of nighttime flare drops for guiding bombers to their target, when a flare ignited and caused a fire that rapidly spread throughout the aircraft causing it to crash into the sea just off Yorkeys Knob beach with loss of all on board.

The sign has been installed by Cairns Council on the Groyne path. There will be an unveiling ceremony at the sign from 10.00 am Sunday August 16. Representatives from the USA, RAAF, Cairns Council, the Mareeba Muster and Cairns Legacy will be in attendance.

For further information contact David Stephens by email:

davidstephens56@gmail.com.



THE AFRICAN TULIP TREE (*Spadothea campanulata*)

African Tulip trees are native to tropical Africa, but are now present and established in Asia, Indonesia and the Pacific Islands causing widespread damage to ecosystems through outcompeting and displacing native species. The African tulip tree is present in Cairns and can be readily observed around Cairns when they are in flower. There are at least 16 mature trees present on Yorkeys Knob headland. African Tulip trees have highly efficient wind dispersed seeds that can spread on prevailing wind and currents for hundreds of kilometres, that germinate and establish readily in both disturbed areas and intact rainforest. The nectar of their flower is fatally toxic to the native stingless bees that are critically important ecological keystones in the Far North Queensland (FNQ) tropical rainforests.

The species is classified a Category 3 Restricted Invasive Plant in Queensland (Biosecurity Act, 2014), which means that it is illegal to sell, give away as a gift, trade, or release into the environment. However, the Cairns Region Biosecurity Plan 2025 – 2030 details the hazard this tree poses, classifies it as a high-risk species, but does not consider it a priority for action.

Given its international status of the African tulip tree as one of the world's most invasive weeds, the history of spread and environmental damage in numerous other countries and the impacts of its nectar on our native stingless bees, an appropriately resourced plan to manage the weed is needed to manage the growing population here in Cairns before it is too late. Too late is unfortunately likely to be measured in years to decades.



African Tulips at the TMR stockpile site corner of Captain Cook Highway and Yorkeys Knob Rd

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TROPIC SEAS HERITAGE LISTING

Tropic Seas is a 50-foot steel motor cruiser designed and built in Cairns in 1947 by the legendary Vince Vlasoff, after whom the coral reef off Cairns is named. Starting from the late 1940's Vince and his associates pioneered recreational tourism in Far North Queensland through crocodile hunting, big game fishing, and reef tourism.

Vince owned and operated Tropic Seas for almost 40 years during which time it operated as a charter boat taking groups of hunters up the Cape to hunt crocodiles and on the reef on fishing expeditions, the latter activity leading to the development of big game marlin fishing. David Attenborough's first Australian reef trip and dive in 1957 was on Tropic Seas.

Vince and fellow adventurer Lloyd Greig conceived, designed, built and installed the underwater observatory at Green Island which operated from 1954 to 2012, during which time it received an estimated 3.5 million visitors including the royal entourage on their 1970 visit to Cairns. Tropic Seas towed the 70-tonne facility from its construction site on Trinity Inlet to Green Island and served as the mother ship during its installation, an impossible achievement in today's world.

Vince played a role in the 1960 discovery of the Endeavour's cannons and anchor jettisoned by Captain Cook when the ship went aground on a coral reef north of Cape Tribulation in 1770. Tropic Seas was used to retrieve the artefacts in 1969.

Overall incredible story and thanks to its current owner Darren Brice, the legacy of Tropic Seas is now secured.

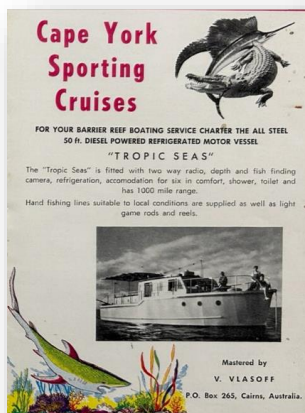
BREE JAMES COLUMN

This month has been another busy one across Barron River.

We recently delivered three new SES emergency communication trailers for Far North Queensland through local Smithfield company Airbridge Networks, owned by Speewah local Doug. These state-of-the-art trailers can restore communications within minutes during disasters and deliver essential supplies when communities become isolated. The Jasper floods showed us firsthand how challenging dealing with a natural disaster is, let alone with a lack of communications that occurred in Yorkey's Knob and other areas impacted. Who knew that a chance meeting at the Speewah Tavern would lead to rolling out a statewide solution that's now being looked at by other states. Well done Dougie and your team, you are creating incredible technology to help our first responders.

Families continue to benefit from the success of the Play On! Sports Vouchers program. In Barron River alone, 2,125 vouchers have been redeemed, helping local children participate in sport while providing meaningful cost-of-living relief for parents. With the next round opening soon, I encourage local families to get ready to apply. Whether your children play golf, rugby, football, netball or any other sport, these vouchers are helping more young people get active and involved in their community.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support. Until next month,



(Left) Tropic Seas in the 1940's and 2026 in Yorkeys Knob Marina (Centre)

(Right) Tropic Seas preparing to tow the Underwater observatory from Trinity Inlet to Green Island

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THANK YOU TO OUR LOCAL SPONSORS

If possible please support those who support us.

These local businesses are proud to be a part of our local community.



1E, 455 Varley St Yorkeys Knob

Ph: 4081 0810

E: reception@hpgcairns.com.au



SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE

\$5 Social Membership available at Half Moon Bay Golf Club

SEE THE TEAM IN THE GOLF SHOP TO JOIN!



Find us on Facebook



Memories Cafe @ Yorkeys Knob

Shop 7, 471-475 Varley Street, near LJ Hooker.
Open 7 Days a Week
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Kitchen Closes at 11:30am with cabinet delights to tickle your tastebuds after that.

Memories Cafe @ Yorkeys Knob - Where every plate and cup tell a story...

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Yorkeys Knob Boating Club

Yorkeys Knob Boating Club & Half Moon Bay Marina
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Shop 7, 455 Varley Street, Yorkeys Knob, QLD 4878

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YORKEYS KNOB RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FORM



yorkeysknob.com

YORKEYS KNOB RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.

EMAIL: residentsykra@gmail.com

MAIL: PO Box 256, Yorkeys Knob QLD 4878

WEB: www.yorkeysknob.com

ABN: 77 301 468 681

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____
Yorkeys Knob, QLD 4878

POST ADDRESS: _____
(if different)

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: / /

Members must be over 18 years of age and a resident of Yorkeys Knob.

COST: \$5.00 PER FINANCIAL YEAR

Payment can be made at our monthly meetings or electronically to:

BSB: 633000

ACC: 113530539

NAME: Yorkeys Knob Residents Association

IMPORTANT: If paying by internet banking, provide the name of applicant as a reference and email a copy of this form and details of payment to residentsykra@gmail.com or bring the completed form to a monthly meeting.