

# Yorkeys Knob Matters

## President's Report

June has been a very big month in Yorkeys Knob with the annual Festival of the Knob featured on our beautiful beachfront for the first time. The event was nothing short of huge and I believe the biggest we have seen, if not ever, then for a very long time. People of Yorkeys Knob flocked to the festival in company of visitors to our community. A full schedule of stage entertainment kicked off at 10am and continued until 4pm. Market stalls lined the promenade along Sims Esplanade offering products and services as well as the vintage cars and motor cycles. The food and beverage area continued for additional time until 6.30pm.

We have received some great feedback relating to the improved accessibility for people in wheel chairs on the concrete path, stallholders appreciating the extended food and beverage area which enabled refreshment after packing up, and many general comments about the sheer size and diversity of activities of the festival.

Leading up to the festival, I was made aware of some discontent expressed on a local social media platform which unfortunately had shared some untrue information. I appreciate the ability of everyone to have a view and I'm confident that the numbers of feet on the ground at the event spoke volumes as to the interest in the festival's updated format.

This year, we presented two awards within Yorkeys Knob. The Resident of the Year was awarded to Dr Michael Powell in recognition of his tireless efforts to help protect the local natural environment. The Business of the Year was awarded to Café Yorkeys for his friendly service and excellent meals. It was great to hear that the residents association's past president came along to see the awards.

Organising and running an event as large as this one requires a lot of volunteer effort and of course money, to hire equipment and services. This year, we were very much appreciative of the financial support of a number of local businesses, Solahart Cairns, MacAlister Brewing Company, Hillebrand Property Group, Yorkeys Knob Boating Club, The Gifting Gnome, and Yorkeys Medical. In addition to the financial sponsors were the wonderful local cafes, restaurants, and businesses who provided a terrific list of raffle prizes.

Our volunteers on the day assisted with everything from setting up to pulling down the equipment, first aid, raffle sales, and assisting with the placement of the huge number of market stalls. My report wouldn't be complete without fully acknowledging the tireless work of the YKRA secretary, David Stephens, for his coordination and preparation leading up to, during and following the event. A truly mammoth task.

**NEXT MONTHLY MEETING 7.30PM TUESDAY 26th July, 2022**  
**At the Yorkeys Knob Community Centre.**

**Adrian Gover**  
**President**



Rides for the kids and classic cars at the Festival of the Knob

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**YORKEYS KNOB**  
**RESIDENTS**  
**ASSOCIATION**





Fig tree cut back on Buckley Street, left significantly unbalanced to make way for power lines

## Has Asthma caught your breath?

Asthma is a common condition affecting just under 2.7 million people in Australia, or 10.7% of the population. It is a condition that causes inflammation and swelling of the airways, with symptoms including shortness of breath, wheeze, cough, and tightness in the chest. Common triggers include allergens like dust or pet dander, certain foods, or to exercise. There is no cure for asthma, but appropriate treatment can reduce the frequency of asthma attacks and can help those with asthma have a better quality of life.

The National Asthma Council of Australia recommends that everyone with asthma should have their own written asthma action plan. This plan gives clear instructions on how to manage asthma, and what to do if you do have a flare-up or asthma attack. Please feel free to come and see us at Yorkeys Medical to discuss treatment for your asthma, asthma management plans, or if you have any questions regarding asthma or your general health. We are aware it can be a frightening experience for people during an asthma flare and we'd like to do our best to help you avoid these situations. Having the right information and the right tools at home can help prevent deterioration and hospital admissions.

**Dr Katie Williamson**  
**BSc(Hons); MBBS; FRACGP; FARGP; PCME**  
**Yorkeys Medical 4220 9884**

## Yorkeys Knob to Smithfield Bike Path

Over recent months we have been watching the completion of the cycleway between Yorkeys Knob and Smithfield. With the last gap in the trail completed with the construction of a bridge over an under road watercourse on Dunne Road, the path has been open for use. Having tested it out for myself, much to the amusement of friends, the path is a casual meander along the journey, feeling safe being separated from the roadway. On contacting Cr Coghlan of Cairns Regional Council, she said, "It's a great path running from Yorkeys Knob to Smithfield. I'm particularly happy that it now provides a much safer riding alternative for the children of Yorkeys to ride their bikes to Smithfield High."

## Ergon Tree "Trimming"

Many people in Yorkeys Knob will have noticed the activity of the Ergon tree trimming around power lines in our suburb. A drive around the area highlights the comparison between underground and above ground electricity supply. Some streets have a mix of both, such as Buckley St which is above ground from Varley St to number 30, then it goes underground until number 40 where it comes back above ground again. It makes you wonder if there can be a better way than scarring our streetscape by so much disfiguring of vegetation.

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## Wellness Centre Update

YKRA wrote to Council in April seeking advice as to why the developer of the foreign owned wellness centre continues to receive extensions to respond to Council's notice of intention to refuse the development application made last November. The reasons for Council's position is in line with the concerns raised by the huge number of submissions made by people in this community. This correspondence has not been responded to as at the time of writing this article (30 June). The recent extension granted by Council was until the 24 June, however on that date, a further extension has been granted by Council to the developer until the new date of 30 September 2022. It certainly appears that foreign owned developments rate much higher to our Council officials than the importance of the local community.

## Fee Changes for the Community Centre

Last year, the Yorkeys Knob Activity Group, who managed the Yorkeys Knob Community Centre, were replaced with the Council taking over the running of the facility. At that time, user groups were advised that not for profit groups would be exempt from the usual hall hiring fees. Users, such as Absolute Art, made application and registered as an incorporated association to enable their not for profit status and also secured public liability insurance, at significant expense. This group is a group of older aged people in their 70s and 80s. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, advice was received from Council that a review has been made on hall usage and now not for profit groups will be charged a hall hiring fee. The new fees are out of reach for groups such as Absolute Art, who are predominantly on aged and other pensions. Representations have been made by the Yorkeys Knob Residents Association to seek reconsideration of this policy to move it from a blanket cost, to a case by case basis for each user group.

## Social Housing Update for Cunningham Street

The Yorkeys Knob Residents Association has continued its dialogue with the Qld Housing Dept in relation to the proposed Social Housing development at 64-68 Cunningham St. Attempts are continuing to have a representative of the dept attend the scene to advise clearly the expected vegetation removal. The proposal is a mix of 2 & 3 storey structures with the height of buildings on the rest of Cunningham St being 1 & 2 storey. Advice has been received that the Cairns Plan 2015 provides for a possible 4 storey development, making the social housing structure under that height. The state government is not required to submit a development application to Council for this development. It must be stressed that the Yorkeys Knob Residents Association supports the need for more social housing to meet community needs.



Artist impression of the proposed social housing development for Cunningham Street

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## Coldrake corruption report

“In the wake of handing down a landmark report on accountability issues in Queensland's public sector, Professor Peter Coldrake says his review reveals a culture of public servants paying a high price for providing frank and fearless advice.” *Source ABC News Comment:* In the course of interaction with officers of the Dept of Transport and Main Roads over the development of the new Yorkeys Knob Boat Ramp, Boat Ramp Action Group members were told that the boat ramp will be made to happen no matter the cost. It makes you wonder how much frank and fearless advice was given when more suitable and less expensive options were canvassed.

## Youth Activity Space—Old School Park



Location on Old School Park of the Youth Activity Space

The Youth Activity Space project has advanced further with the site and design now confirmed. With some concerns raised that this will attract anti-social behaviour from young people, with comparisons being drawn to the Coastwatchers Park in Trinity Beach. The Yorkeys Knob proposal is significantly smaller than Coastwatchers with a maximum height of 1.2 metres. This design is expected to attract a younger user group. Council fielded five responses (four written and one phone call). Further, two concept designs were advertised and a design selected. See the concept drawing below.

Cairns Council’s Community Spaces officer provided an overview of questions raised by the community and the subsequent responses which were shared in the recent June YKRA monthly meeting. Funding has been secured for this project and it is now awaiting development.

The youth activity space progressed after members of the Yorkeys Knob community lobbied Council for a skate type facility for several years. In 2019 a petition with over 900 signatures on it was received by Council noting the strong support and advocacy of the Yorkeys Knob Residents Association and Councillor support.

The current YKRA committee acknowledge the strong support given by the previous committee in getting this project off the ground.



### Yorkeys Knob Boating Club

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