

Yorkeys Knob Matters

SEPTEMBER 2025

Yorkeys knob Residents Association Inc.

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AN OPEN LETTER FROM DR MICHAEL POWELL TO YKRA MEMBERS, RESIDENTS AND OTHERS

I am writing to let you know of recent events that have occurred in the YKRA Management Committee. President Paul Johnston has resigned from the Committee to recover from a recent operation. Secretary David Stephens has decided that he is stepping down to focus on coordinating the YKRA Twilight Festival to be held on November 29, 2025. He will also continue to represent YKRA involvement in the placing of a sign commemorating the crash of a B17 bomber off Yorkeys Knob Beach in 1942. On behalf of the Association, the Committee thank Paul and David for their service.

There has been some rearrangement of roles. I have become president, Daniela Vavrova is vice president, Lou Dykstra is Secretary and Brett Dykstra will continue as Treasurer. The Committee will function essentially in caretaker mode until the October AGM, when a new Committee will be elected. We will be holding the August meeting as usual, but there will NOT be a meeting in September.

We are very concerned about the steadily diminishing number of YKRA members and consequently the authority of our voice in representing the community in advocating to protect its interests. The current state of membership is such that the future of the Association is uncertain. Unless membership is increased, it may be that the Association will be wound up due to lack of interest and involvement. This would be at the 2026 AGM at the earliest, so we have time to turn things around.

There is still much to do. We currently have a real opportunity to have a cyclone refuge shelter constructed here in Yorkeys Knob. YKRA needs to come up with a strong case for this, and as we all know, the need exists. Daniela Vavrova's Living History Project is midway through its development and is a significant contribution to our community.

There are many in the community who are concerned about the extent of social housing being built in Yorkeys Knob. We want to be sure that our town retains its feel and character. The Yorkeys Knob festival events we have all enjoyed so much over recent years will not be continued after the November 29 Festival this year unless circumstances change.

Continued Over Page

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

Yorkeys Knob Matters

Continued Here...

YKRA in one form or another has represented the interests of the community for more than fifty years and has considerable success in vigorously opposing bad development proposals. Our strength is through numbers in the Association. Politicians of all levels of government respond to the voice of the community. I do hope that you carefully consider these matters. If you are a resident of Yorkeys Knob, please consider signing up as a member; it may be the best \$5.00 that you ever spent.

Dr Michael Powell
President YKRA

YKRA MEMBERSHIP

Membership for YKRA is due.

If you have already paid please ignore.

If you wish to continue being a member please pay via the bank or via cash at any of our meetings:

YKRA Banking Details

BSB: 633 000

Account: 233 515 485

YORKEYS KNOB LIVING HISTORY PROJECT

The Yorkeys Knob Living History Project (YKLHP) is well underway, with exciting progress to share. One major outcome—the community book supported by the Yorkeys Knob Residents Association (YKRA)—is now nearing its first full draft. This milestone has only been possible thanks to the dedicated Book Team, who have contributed countless hours of research, writing, and sourcing invaluable information.

We are aiming to launch the book in March 2026, alongside other project outcomes. The interviews conducted so far have proven to be truly priceless, offering an abundance of personal stories and testimonies.

Bringing these together requires time, reflection, and care—but with such a committed team,

the process has been both achievable and rewarding. Many interviewees are currently reviewing their contributions, preparing them for preview.

Another exciting element is the interactive map, which is steadily taking shape. Once content is finalised, we will purchase the one-year license to ensure the most effective use of this resource. The map will be globally accessible, allowing us to continue collecting stories and expanding this living archive. It too will be showcased in March 2026.

Creative outcomes are also in progress—paintings, photographs, and collages are being prepared for installation as part of the March 2026 launch.

Perhaps the most inspiring aspect of YKLHP is the spirit behind it: a collective and collaborative effort by Yorkeys Knob residents. The project is a testament to the strength, resilience, and pride of this community in preserving its living memory for future generations. We cannot wait to share these outcomes with you.

To contribute or get in touch: Please contact Daniela at:

E: daniela.vavrova@me.com

M: 0420 593 462



Yorkeys Knob Matters

HOONING AT YORKEYS KNOB BOAT RAMP - WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT?

The prevalence of hooning at Yorkeys Knob Boat ramp is increasing to the point where it is becoming an almost daily occurrence. There are multiple variations in this activity, ranging from a single vehicle to numbers exceeding twenty vehicles. Most events occur in the late evening but can happen at any time. The most common activities are racing at high speed along Yorkeys Knob boat ramp access road and Buckley Street and/or doing burnouts on the road or in the boat ramp parking area. Many of these vehicles have loud exhausts which are audible for up to a kilometre.

Aside from the noise and damage to the pavement through burnouts, the speed some of these vehicles attain is estimated at well in excess of 100km/hr, which is obviously a danger to themselves and the community.

The official advice is to report each incident to the Police through Police link on 131 444, or online: Go to police.qld.gov.au/ and follow the links. However, there can be lengthy delays in getting through on the phone and the online reporting facility is complex and takes time to fill out.

Recently Council installed speed monitoring device monitoring along in Buckley Street for a month in which they recorded an average speed of 48.5km/hr. However, for unknown reasons the device was located near the intersection of Buckley Street with Varley Street where it would be difficult to impossible for a vehicle to travel at high speed, giving a misleading record of the true situation.

This problem was created by the construction of the new boat ramp. TMR must have considered this issue during construction and taken the decision not to install traffic management devices along the boat ramp access road. The problem was foreseeable and preventable, yet nothing happened.

The solution is NOT that the affected residents spend their time reporting on a situation that we and the authorities are all aware of. There

are a range of mitigation measures available to TMR that would reduce or eliminate this stupid activity. In the meantime, I ask that you report each incident to the Police. Alternatively, if you forward me details through YKRA of any event that you witness or that affect you, for example through the noise, I will ensure that the authorities are made aware of your complaint.

Dr Michael Powell



Yorkeys Knob Matters

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF SEPTEMBER YKRA MEETING

Please note that the September meeting of the Residents Association has been cancelled.

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting to be held on October 28, 2025 at the Community hall commencing at 7.00pm.



YKRA COMMITTEE ELECTION

October is election time for the YKRA Committee.

Now is the time to think about joining the Committee. It's an important part of the work that is done for the Yorkeys Knob community.

You must be a financial member of the YKRA to be nominated.

DRAFT MINUTES OF YORKEYS KNOB RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING 26TH AUGUST, 2025

Welcome by Michael to existing and new members. Acknowledgments etc.

Apologies: Alan & Jenny Cullington, Paul Johnson

Minutes of the last meeting: Accepted by Leena Mallinen, seconded by Patricia Kearny

Correspondence:

Request by Absolute Art Group for donations of prizes of \$150.

As this was the 2nd Art Group who meet at the community hall and hold an exhibition and we have already agreed to provide two vouchers of \$50 from Local Businesses to the first group it was agreed by the committee and members to offer the same.

Memories Cafe have offered (after the meeting) to provide one of the vouchers.

Treasures report:

Appreciation and recognition to Hillebrand Real Estate for their donation of \$400.

Report was presented and accepted Nicola Strange and seconded by Daniela Vavrova.

AGENDA

Changes To the Committee

Michael addressed changes to the committee. Paul Johnson has stepped down due to health issues and has had his big toe removed. He has also resigned from his work as the operation was very serious and he will need significant time to recuperate. His contribution as President was recognised and appreciated.

David Stephens has also stepped down from his position of Secretary in order to concentrate on the festival and also to work with Michael Musemeci in the erection of a sign towards the Southern end of the Esplanade in commemoration of the B17 bomber that went down off Yorkeys Knob Beach. His contribution in his role of Secretary was appreciated as were his efforts to run the festivals to date.

The existing committee has stepped up in order to maintain a quorum and to keep the YKRA going until the upcoming election in October.

Michael Powell has stepped up to the position of Acting President. Daniela Vavrova has stepped up to Acting Vice President. Lou Dykstra has stepped up to Acting Secretary and Brett Dykstra continues in his position as Treasurer.

In October these positions will be open for new candidates who are encouraged to come forward.

NO MEETING IN SEPTEMBER, NEXT MEETING WILL BE THE AGM IN OCTOBER.

Mike and David's Meeting with Bree James Multi Function Shelter at YK School

Mike and David, as previously organised, met with Rhonda Coghlan and Bree James to discuss a grant application for a Cyclone/flood Refuge Centre.

Yorkeys Knob Matters

There was a grant application for this building submitted under the Federal Government Go for Gold program a couple of years ago that was unsuccessful.

Bree James & Rhonda were very supportive of the case being put forward for funding. Michael is sure she will be of great assistance in seeing a grant approved. Bree is also the Minister for Tourism.

The last grant proposal was supported by Craig Crawford and was to be multi purpose, being related to Sports and Recreation and to include a generator, kitchen and toilet facilities in the event of a disaster i.e. cyclone, storm surge. It was commented by Ross Parisi that the School was not an ideal spot as it is vulnerable to flood and there are other places it could be built.

Michael will pursue the matter. Ross found it difficult to understand why this is not approached though his organisation which included Machans and Holloways Beach.

Daniela - Update on the YK Living History Project

Daniela is continuing her collaborative collective of interviews of residents which are proving to be extremely valuable and informative on the living history of Yorkeys Knob.

There are many people still to see before the chapters are finalised. There is fact checking to be done, but she pointed out that after many years many people's memories of events are quite unique and not always accurate but very much part of our history as they are. Interviews are people's testimonies and include feelings and emotions and reveal the resilience of the community.

The interactive map continues to be updated and material for its appearance is assembled. There will be an incorporation of photographs, videos and art works.

The first draft of the book will be available in November. Editing and correcting will take place with the professional text editor and should be completed by December 2025. The publisher will be engaged in January 2026. The book launch and presentation will be in March 2026.

Daniela is hoping to provide a sneak preview of the map prior to these dates.

The book launch and full presentation of the Living History project will be hosted by the YK Boating Club with installations & an art auction in March 2026. The celebration and presentation will be for one week for everyone to attend.

Issues Related to 89 Cunningham St (Old School Master's House)

Lou Dykstra has written letters and spoken with two departments at Council and also with the RSPCA. There is a dangerous dog on the premises which is kept in a cage that meets with minimum standards.

A second dog roams free. The residents of the house are abusive to neighbours across the road and passing pedestrian traffic. The property is situated in a very exposed area both fronting onto Cunningham Street and backing onto the community park. These houses are supposedly let out as Crisis housing maybe on a short term basis.

One of the neighbours and a YKRA member has also been in contact with Access Community Housing who Council have given over the property to manage. They have been unresponsive to those contacts so far and the tenants don't appear to have been issued with any breaches.

There have been numerous complaints put forward to the Council and Police. Emma Anderson and Lou will collaboratively follow up with Access Community housing as the next step. Council is CC'ing them in all communications so far. Lou has suggested to Council that these tenants are not appropriate for the location.

Signage at the End of Morgan St

Signage and a barricade have been erected at the end of Morgan Street blocking the cull-de-sac which was not been put in place by Council.

The barricade has the owner's rubbish behind it. Photos have been sent to Rhonda Coghlan and she is now following up.

Yorkeys Knob Matters

Yorkeys Knob Boat Ramp Hooning

Mike has spoken with a number of neighbours in the vicinity of the Boat Ramp entrance who are concerned with the ongoing noise coming from the area and the risk of an accident due to the high speeds.

Cars can be heard revving up and racing along the boat ramp access road at high speed. Other members commented that you can hear them revving up coming down Varley Street and along Buckley Street.

A recent event of two vehicles performing burnouts in the car/trailer parking area during daylight was captured on Surveillance cameras and reported to the police, with the council providing camera footage.

No response has been forthcoming from QPS. There is concern about safety of people in the area during the times this is happening. Disappointment was expressed that nothing seems to be happening. It was stressed to members the need to log incidences with QPS.

Mike explained the necessity of reporting and hopes to create a log & spread sheet of incident times. Members who commented included Frank Fisher and Adrian Gover.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Air Traffic Australia Looking for Feedback

Ian Stephens spoke about increasing air traffic in the area. Over the years there has been a massive increase in traffic.

Ian's point was that the Australian Airport Authority is asking for feedback and this can be provided online at airservicesaustralia.com,

Increase in Unacceptable Behaviour in YK

It was hoped that we could have a return of a resident police officer in the area.

The resident police house was previously sold. This is unfortunate as they were fabulous at liaising with the members of the community behaving badly.

It was suggested that it would be great if we could have a Police Liaison Officer in the area.

Leena suggested that we write to the Superintendent of Police about having a regular police beat.

Water Pressure

David Stephens commented on a problem with water pressure and larger unit complexes are being expected to put in water tanks which is extremely expensive to owners. The water supply into Yorkeys Knob is actually in need of upgrading.

YK Festival Update - David Stephens

The Christmas Festival is due to take place on the 29th of November. Council has provided a grant of \$5000 in sponsorship. Thank you to Council for their support as well as local business for their sponsorships as this is appreciated.

Food truck, entertainment bookings are underway with emails to stall holders to follow. David to liaise with Michael on distribution of pamphlets. Everything is on track for the festival.

B17 Aircraft Crash Commemoration Sign on Sims Esplanade

Wording has been submitted to Council for approval. This sign will also include a QR Code.

It will be the anniversary of the crash on the 16th of August. On that date in 2026 there will be a presentation of the Sign. For the occasion, The American Consulate will be invited as well as family members of the aircrew on board.

Meeting closed at 8:40pm.



Yorkeys Knob Matters

BARRON RIVER BUZZ

This month my team met with several residents in the Yorkeys Knob community to discuss concerns about ongoing dredging. While this is ultimately a Council matter, we are working closely with your local Councilor to ensure the issue is properly addressed. The LNP have committed \$1 million dollars towards building a rock groyne.

Thank you to those who have raised concerns regarding the ongoing noise and dangerous driving behaviour around the Boat Ramp entrance. We understand the frustration and the very real safety risks posed by vehicles revving, racing, and performing burnouts in the area.

While it is disappointing that little action has been seen to date, the most effective way to ensure resources are allocated to this issue is through consistent and detailed reporting. Every incident should be logged with QPS so that a clear record of frequency and severity can be built. Please include make, model and license plate if you have the details.

By working together and reporting every occurrence, we can provide the evidence needed to push for stronger enforcement and greater safety measures in our community.

Office of Bree James MP
Member for Barron River



YORKEYS KNOB WORDFIND

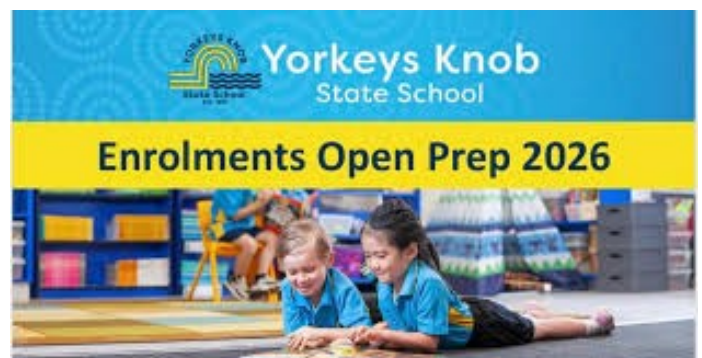
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SHOPPING

YORKEYS KNOB STATE SCHOOL



Yorkeys Knob Matters

CELEBRATING YORKEYS PHOTOGRAPHERS

Lets celebrate all things glorious about Yorkey's Knob. All budding photographers submit your photos to be published in the Yorkeys Knob Matters.

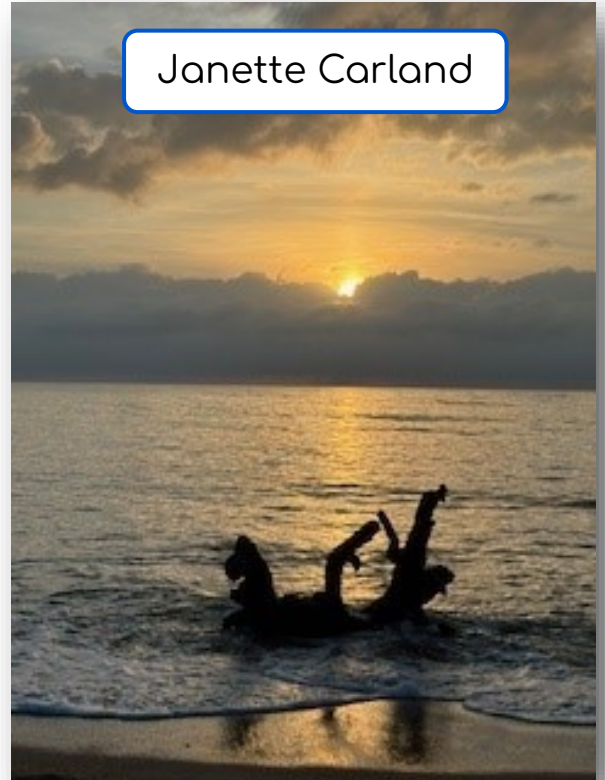
The rules:

1. Must be somewhere in Yorkeys Knob
2. Scenery only, not people.

Please send as a PNG to this email address and add your name.

All photo submissions belong to the photographer and are subject to copyright.

Janette Carland



David Keam



Daniela Vavrova



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