

Yorkeys Knob Matters

President's Report

It would be fair to say that no one expected the end to 2023 that we were going to have. TC Jasper came and went ahead of Christmas, with many giving a sigh of relief, but then came the following rain. Record levels fell upon Far North Queensland, resulting in evacuations and significant flood damage.

Yorkeys Knob was not immune to the impacts of the region's flooding. All locals are aware of the lack of electricity, communications and isolation and their impact on the people who faced the challenge of water inundation to homes and local streets. Over the immediate few days of the flood event, there were incredibly inspirational stories of people within the community helping each other, but just as much, many stories of heartache, stress and loss.

The drone of portable generators could be heard throughout this suburb, but not everyone was fortunate enough to have one, so perishable foods succumbed to the tropical heat for many people. At the height of the flooding event, the Yorkeys Knob Boating Club was able to remain open, with their industrial sized generators providing power. As many people had to leave their homes, with the risk of inundation, many of these people made their way to the boat club, the only open public space in Yorkeys Knob. Here, people were provided shelter, access to electricity to charge phones, then at times, enough phone reception to let others know they were OK.

As the evening approached, it was found that some people in refuge at the club had no other place to go. Manager Krisztina stood up to the challenge to develop an answer. Initial inquiries by the boat club and others in this community found that access to the community centre in Wattle Street was not possible due to the new electronic booking and locking systems. A plan was developed where police were brought in by boat to remain in the club premises overnight to ensure the safety of people spending the night there, high and dry. Over the following few days, the club remained open providing a safe, dry place with meals available and power to keep personal communications alive.

There were certainly some issues that have been raised within this community following this event in relation to the disaster response and planning. I will be sharing a more formal invitation soon about creating a public meeting at our next monthly meeting to facilitate a debrief of this event, hoping to gain information and insights into the issues, positive and negative, to hopefully contribute to improved responses in future.

Next meeting 7.30pm TUESDAY 30th JANUARY 2024
Yorkeys Knob Community Centre

Adrian Gover
President



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YORKEYS KNOB
RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION



Important contacts:



Police, Fire, Ambulance
Emergency: 000



State Emergency Service
12500



Cairns Regional Council
1300 692 247
cairns.qld.gov.au



Ergon Energy: 131670



Queensland Government

Transport & Main Roads
131940
tmr.qld.gov.au

TC Jasper Debrief

The residents association is currently preparing for a TC Jasper community debrief at the January monthly meeting. This will welcome all members of our community, irrespective of YKRA membership or not. Cr Coghlan has advised that she expects to be in attendance and an invitation is extended to the state member for Barron, Mr Crawford MP. Some of the preliminary topics to be discussed will be:

- Access to the existing community buildings in emergency
- Impacts of developments on known flood plains and related planning
- New building design—slab or elevated housing
- SES in Yorkeys Knob
- Projects that the community can do to improve future impacts
- Disconnection of power supply with no fore warning
- Cleanup operations—Free roadside dumping but fees apply in transfer station

These suggested topics are not final, but give a concept for the meeting. I appreciate that many people, particularly those who have been directly flood affected, may feel let down, or even anger over their situation. This debrief is being proposed as a constructive opportunity to come together to see what has worked, what has not worked, and what can we suggest for improvement in the future.

No two disaster situations are ever the same and with this, no two situations will have the same team of people responding, so there can't be a definitive text book for everything, but providing constructive feedback may assist in the future.

TC Jasper Photo Images



Photos shared by Di Morris, Kerry Heaney, David Stephens and the YKRA Facebook page



TC Jasper Photo Images cont..



Dine in or take away
Salads, Pizzas,
Burgers, Fish & Chips
and Coffee

Open
Tue-Fri 10am - 8pm
Sat-Sun 11am - 8pm
Mon Closed

Ph 4055 8221

YORKEYS JUDO & TRAINING DOJO
2000-2023



TC Jasper Assistance Posters

The association sought information from the Cairns Disaster Centre and circulated the below posters by email, our Facebook page and printed for posting throughout the community. It has been hoped that people have been able to receive assistance from the service providers.

Do You Need Clean Up Help?

Help with clearing out your home call Cairns
Clean Up Crew: 1300 396 102

The CCUC are like the Mud Army. They will help you move rubbish (anything that will fit in a wheelbarrow) and put it on the kerb for later collection and generally clean up around your home.

Help with hosing out around your house - call the
SES on 13 25 00

The SES and Rural Fire Service can high pressure hose out affected areas. They will not rip out carpets, remove heavy items or hose down your house. They do not always have availability but will help when they can.

All Other Help:

Community Recovery Hotline – 1800 173 349 –
Open 24/7 to help you with recovery advice.

The Community Recovery Hotline can also offer advice on Personal Hardship Assistance Grants which are now available to residents who have been affected by Tropical Cyclone Jasper. The following grants have been activated for this event.

- Emergency Hardship Assistance*
- Essential Household Contents Grant*
- Structural Assistance Grant*
- Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme*
- Eligibility criteria applies

To check your eligibility and submit an application:
Visit www.qld.gov.au/DisasterHelp

General information check the Cairns Disaster / Recovery Dashboard

For general and local information on recovery and ongoing disaster updates

www.disaster.cairns.qld.gov.au



If you are suffering hardship or require emotional support as a result of the tropical cyclone, assistance is available. You may be eligible for financial* or other assistance to help you get back on your feet.

Community Recovery Hubs are a place where residents who are experiencing hardship can apply for grants and obtain emotional and wellbeing support.

Our Community Recovery workers will assist with grant applications and offer referrals to other community organisations and government agencies for further assistance.

Visit a Community Recovery hub

Trinity Bay Sports Hall
Trinity Bay State High School
Eureka Street, Manunda
Closed Christmas Day 25 December
and Boxing Day 26 December
Re-open Wednesday 27 December
9am to 4pm Daily

Visit a Community Recovery pop-up hub

Holloways Beach Sporting Complex
Wistaria Street, Holloways Beach
Re-open from Wednesday 27 December
9am to 4pm

Machans Beach State School
61 Machans Street, Machans Beach
Re-open from Wednesday 27 December
9am to 4pm

More information

- Apply for grants:
www.qld.gov.au/DisasterHelp
- Scan the QR code to access
information or visit the website
above.
- Call the Community Recovery
Hotline on 1800 173 349



24 December 2023



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
PO Box 100, Yorkeys Knob, 4878
www.ykbc.com.au



"The Best Nautical Address in the
North"