

Yorkeys Knob Matters

President's Report

A public meeting was held on Tuesday 29th August, just before the regular monthly meeting as part of the association's commitment to keep the community informed of any progress or changes to the development application for a proposed Wellness Centre on Buckley Street. The meeting was attended by 68 people, with Cr Rhonda Coghlan and Mr Ed Johnson—Director Planning, Growth and Sustainability Directorate. The association raised concerns regarding the time taken to consider the development proposal, with several extensions granted to the developer to provide information over the past 3 years since the application was initiated.

A presentation was given by local biologists Dr Michael Powell and Ms Leena Malinen. The presentation gave an overview of the proposed site, with advice on changes since the initial plan. Since then, proposed car parking has increased on the site with the removal of the spa centre, however the actual footprint remains essentially the same, with significant access issues, and with impacts on boundaries and the significant rainforest existing on the site.

Following the presentation, questions were taken from the floor to the presenters, as well as Mr Johnson and Cr Coghlan. It was clear in the meeting that the significant opposition to this proposal has not changed. Mr Johnson took the opportunity to explain the application process to the forum then responded to several questions, while Cr Coghlan advised the forum that she is unable to comment on the application until it is time for it to be considered by all councilors with subsequent vote.

It has been noticed that several publications have focused on the ethnicity of the owner/ developer of this proposal, being a foreign entity. The association is focused on the inappropriateness of this development on the site, irrespective of the proponent's back ground, and we will continue to monitor and advise on this proposal to our community.

ALSO: A big thank you goes out to our local advertisers for this newsletter. Their support enables the ongoing colour printing of this newsletter for distribution around the community, in addition to the online versions.

Next meeting 7.30PM TUESDAY 26th SEPTEMBER
Yorkeys Knob Community Centre

Adrian Gover
President



Residents attended the public meeting concerning the Wellness Centre proposal

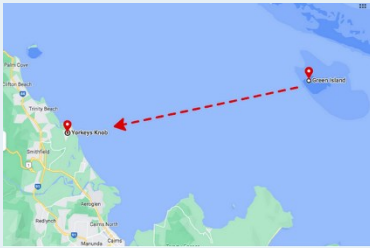
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**YORKEYS KNOB
RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION**



Swimming the Gap—Yorkeys newest claim to fame



Swim Green Island to Yorkeys Knob



Yorkeys swimmer Kaname Woodfield with husband Russell

Yorkeys Knob has a new claim to fame as one end of Australia's longest ocean marathon event, **Swimming the Gap**, to be held on Saturday the 23rd of September.

Swimming the Gap is a fundraising swim which raises funds for AFL Cape York House Foundation, to help close the Indigenous education gap experienced by young people in FNQ's remote communities.

Now in its third year, the 27km swim from Green Island to Yorkeys Knob is Australia's longest open water ocean swim, claiming the title from WA's Pub to Port.

Beloved Yorkeys Knob swimming teacher, Kaname Woodfield will make her second attempt to finish the challenge after her 2022 swim was aborted two hours from shore when a strong current pulled her south, making it too dangerous to complete with the fading light.

Yorkeys Knob residents are invited to welcome the swimmers in at a community bbq from 3pm on Saturday 23rd September at the Yorkeys Knob foreshore main beach (near the life guard area), with a post event celebration at the Yorkeys Knob Boating Club.

To follow the swim, "Like" the Swimming the Gap Facebook page, or to make a donation, visit: swimmingthegap.mycause.com.au

Nicole Gibson

Organiser and Yorkeys Knob Resident

A Note From Our Doctor—Shingles & Post Herpetic Pain

Shingles is caused by the reactivation of the varicella zoster virus which is the same virus that causes chickenpox. After a person gets chickenpox (usually in childhood) and recovers, the virus remains 'hidden' and asleep in your body for life, usually without causing disease and can reactivate or awaken later in life, resulting in shingles.

Shingles can cause a painful, blistering rash; which often form in a line following a nerve (dermatome) on one side of the body including the face. While most people recover fully, up to 25% of people can experience serious complications such as long-lasting nerve pain, eye disease and neurological problems.

Up to 99.5% of adults 50 years and older already have the virus that can cause shingles and up to 1 in 3 risk developing shingles in their lifetime.

Shingles occurs most commonly in adults from 50 of years of age. Your risk of shingles increases as you get older due to natural decline in your immune system function.

Shingles can be passed to anyone who has not been vaccinated against chickenpox. Shingles vaccination is provided free of charge by the Federal Government for people over the age of 70 and over the age of 50 for First Nations peoples.

For more information about shingles please book an appointment to speak with your doctor.

Jeni Jones RN Practice Nurse

Yorkeys Medical



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Yorkeys Knob Medical Raises Alarm On Power Outages

Yorkeys Knob, Cairns Region - The co-owners of Yorkeys Medical, a critical healthcare facility that has newly served the Yorkeys Knob community, have voiced their deep concerns over recurring power outages. These disruptions have not only impacted their ability to provide timely medical care but have led to a worrying rise in cold chain breaches.

For the past few years, Yorkeys Medical has become a beacon of health support for residents in Yorkeys Knob and the neighboring areas. However, a distressing trend has emerged with the facility encountering an escalating number of power outages. This surge in power interruptions has resulted in the clinic reporting the highest number of cold chain breaches in the entire Cairns region.

Cold chain breaches can have dire implications. Critical medications and vaccines, fundamental to the services Yorkeys Medical offers, are put at risk during these breaches. Many patients, dependent on these medications, are now faced with potentially serious health risks due to these inconsistent power supplies.

“It's concerning that our unyielding efforts to protect and nurture the health of our community are jeopardized by factors outside our control,” remarked the co-owners.

The frequent power interruptions have heavily weighed down on the commitment of Yorkeys Medical to offer uncompromised quality healthcare services. In light of these challenges, an earnest plea has been made to the State Government. The facility's owners have stressed the importance of focusing on the electricity supply's maintenance and reliability in the region, as the current scenario directly threatens the well-being of Yorkeys Knob residents.

A call to action has been issued, urging for urgent intervention to bolster the reliability of the electricity supply. This move is expected to not only elevate the healthcare service quality but also safeguard the health and well-being of local residents. The message is clear: Yorkeys Knob needs and deserves a robust power infrastructure to sustain vital services, such as medical care.

The co-owners of Yorkeys Medical have expressed their willingness to engage in discussions to unearth potential solutions, aiming to minimize the negative impacts of power outages. They emphasize the ripple effect a dependable electricity supply will have, boosting the overall health and vitality of the region.

The community now awaits a proactive response and collaborative efforts to address this pressing concern.

*Dr Lee Jones
Yorkeys Medical*



The reliability of our power supply is being examined



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Power Supply Examination

Concerns raised by Yorkeys Medical affect the whole community, not only the practice. Following their approach, Cairns Regional Council Division 8 Cr Rhonda Coghlan advised the Yorkeys Knob Residents Association August meeting that she has referred the issue to the office of state member, Craig Crawford MP, as the power supply falls within the state responsibility.

YKRA contacted Emma Oliveri from Ergon Energy for information concerning the number of power outages in Yorkeys Knob over the past 12 months and the following has been provided:

Ergon Energy crews have responded to four significant emergency outages affecting customers at Yorkeys Knob in the last twelve months.

Vehicle accident – 20 July 2023

Around 1740 customers lost power at around 7:30pm when a vehicle hit a power pole, causing extensive damage to the electricity network. Ergon Energy crews worked through the night on emergency repairs and power was safely restored at 1:21am.

Tree on powerlines – 21 March 2023

Around 1740 customers lost power for two hours after vegetation fell on powerlines.

Customer report of wires down – 18 February 2023

Power was interrupted to around 1900 customers for safety reasons after a report of fallen powerlines. Once crews had verified there were in fact no wires down, power was restored after less than 50 minutes. When it comes to reports of life-threatening faults, we cannot take any chances. It is always better to be safe than sorry.

Storm-related outage – 17 January 2023

Crews had to replace some blown fuses caused by lightning strikes. Power went off at 4:30pm and was safely restored by 6:45pm. On the same day there was a momentary outage lasting just a few seconds, possibly caused by lightning strikes.

Network protection system

It is helpful to understand a bit about Ergon's network protection system, which operates like the safety switch in your home, but on a much grander scale.

It is triggered when it senses something is wrong, like contact from a vehicle, vegetation or lightning strike.

If there's no network damage and it's safe to re-energise, we can restore supply promptly by reclosing circuit breakers.

If there is damage to the network, it takes longer because crews have to find and fix it before we can safely restore supply.

Ergon Energy further supplied advice regarding storm season preparations, that is timely for inclusion in the next newsletter in October.



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