

After two years of boat building, F&B's 8.0 m diesel project boat, *Dusty Rover*, was launched last August, and began its northern cruise from Townsville in November. Since then it has been based at the Port Hinchinbrook Marina, before continuing on to Cairns. This month, working from Half Moon Bay Marina, we take a closer look at what makes Yorkeys Knob so special . . .

Yorkeys Knob, FNQ

Story and pics by Peter Webster and Ruth Cunningham.

Yorkeys Knob is a small community some 20 miles north of Cairns. It's a very pretty rainforest and sugar cane area, epitomising the tropical image of Far North Queensland almost everywhere you look.

The Half Moon Bay marina nestles under a distinctive hill (properly known as Yorkeys Point, but you can guess what everybody calls it) right on the end of a small peninsular at the start of what is known as the 'northern beaches' area of Cairns.

Lush green cane fields fringed by verdant, thick rainforest give way to a tiny community thatched through the trees with varying degrees of difficulty, depending on the lay of the land.

There is some astonishing

architecture to be seen in this community, especially around Yorkeys itself. Rainforest clings to the side of near cliff faces while pole houses of intricate design look out across the ocean to the east, or back over the rich green valley stretching down to Cairns in the south.

When we delivered *Dusty Rover* from the Cairns Yacht Squadron in Trinity Inlet around to Yorkeys Knob, it was (typically) a bit of a rushed job, allowing no time at all to explore the Yorkeys Knob area itself.

This trip was different. We had to spend quite a lot of time waiting for various trades people to complete a number of jobs, and together with the unfriendly 30-35 knot winds offshore, gave us the opportunity to finally

explore this area itself, as distinct from the more general Cairns region further to the south.

I'm not sure whether it's correct to describe Yorkeys Knob as a suburb of Cairns or a township in its own right (neither description is particularly apt in any event) but Yorkeys is most definitely a separate community within the wider Cairns region. It's a dormitory of Cairns with an underlying boating theme boosted by the presence of an excellent berthing-only marina.

Half Moon Bay Marina dominates the local community in every sense of the word.

Hundreds of people, be they residents, transient boatowners or tourists come and go from the marina each week, and in the



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Right: Half Moon Bay Marina at Yorkeys Knob, looking south back down to Cairns Below: Yorkeys Point, just in front of the marina.

