



The future of fuel in Yackandandah

This is the first of a series of information bulletins to keep the community informed about the Yackandandah Petrol Station. In case you hadn't heard, the previous operators of the Yackandandah Petrol Station announced that it was to close on 15 March because it was not a viable business.

So, a group of local people got together and decided to do something about it and took over the business on Monday 18 March.

WHO WE ARE:

We have formed a company called the Yackandandah Community Development Company (YCDCo). The directors are David Norman, Mark McKenzie-McHarg, Glenn Clark, Andrew Earl, Cameron McKern, Phillip Newman and David Larkin.

The company has been set up on a semi-commercial/semi-community bases. Our sole purpose at the moment is to try to sort out a long-term fuel supply solution for the Yackandandah community.

Our structure is such that 50% of any profit we make will be channelled back into local community causes or projects. Given that we are presently losing money, we are yet to even think about how any profit might be used in the community – first things first – sort out the fuel problem!

THE SHORT-TERM 'BAND-AID' SOLUTION:

The first thing we have done with support from the Indigo Shire Council is to make sure the petrol station stays open in the short term. The Shire's support has been greatly appreciated. They have underwritten the fuel suppliers account and are subsidising 50% of the operating losses we incur in running the petrol station for a period of 3 months only. They are also helping with publicity and have kindly printed and distributed this newsletter.

We have achieved our first goal and petrol has continued flowing. We've got Andrew Earl managing the site and he'll even wash your windscreen and check your oil (an old fashioned idea we know!).

The present opening hours are:

Monday to Friday	7:30 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday	8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Sunday	9:00 am to 4:00 pm

The station is now open longer hours. Initially we kept the hours as they were when we took over but since have gone back to all-day opening. We also open earlier now (7:30 am) to catch people going to work.

So, now we've got 3 months to do our research and try to sort out a long term solution for fuel supply in Yackandandah.

Since we have taken over the business, the volumes we have sold have remain unchanged.

THE THINGS WE KNOW:

There are 2 things we know for sure:

1. The petrol station as it is now on the present site is not a viable business. We know that it has poor infrastructure and small tank capacity. All these things impact on the price we have to charge for fuel and where we sit in comparison to bigger outlets in town. The nature of the petroleum industry is that retail fuel margins are very tight.

2. We also know that a vibrant tourist town like Yackandandah needs and can support a petrol station and that losing it would be bad news.

OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE:

At first glance, there may appear to be simple solutions to all this but there is a lot more to it, especially in relation to the complex regulatory and compliance issues. We are working these issues through.

There are 3 key issues in this:

1. Increasing community use – it is literally a case of “use it or lose it”

2. EFT card-swipe petrol bowsers. EFT bowsers are very expensive technology and have a number of associated issues to do with risk, community safety and compliance.

3. Alternative sites – we are looking at alternative sites to set up a totally new fuel station for Yackandandah.

When we know more about these options, we'll inform the community.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

Spread the word locally, support us and, above all, buy locally.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS WE WANT TO KEEP FUEL AVAILABLE IN YACKANDANDAH AND THAT MEANS ... USE IT OR LOSE IT!

WHO TO CONTACT:

If you want more information, please contact and of the following:

- David LarkinRear P.O. (02) 6027 1956
- Cameron McKernRear P.O. (02) 6027 1385
- Mark McKenzie-McHargRear P.O. (02) 6027 0777
- Glenn ClarkSupermarket (02) 6027 1230
- David NormanRear P.O. (02) 6027 0612
- Phillip NewmanResident..... (02) 6027 1949
- Andrew EarlPetrol Station... (02) 6027 1472

use it..or lose it!