

SUBURBS WITHIN THE CURRIMUNDI LAKE CATCHMENT INCLUDE: Aroona, Battery Hill, Birtinya, Bokarina, Currimundi, Little Mountain, Meridan Plains, Wurtulla.

CURRIMUNDI LAKE CATCHMENT NEWS

SUMMER 2011

CCCG Inc ABN 77 276 084 162

Points of Interest:

- Ban on mass release of helium balloons
- It's Turtle Season
- Clean Up Australia Day 2012 venues
- Kings of Clean
- Riverprize Win

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL



Coming Up:

- Lights on the Lake **11 December 2011**
- CCCG Annual General Meeting **30 January 2012**
- FOCL Annual General Meeting - **7 February 2012**
- Clean Up Australia Day - **4 March 2012**

To report wildlife emergencies, pollution incidents and marine strandings, phone: **1300 130 372**



This is a community newsletter voluntarily produced by Currimundi Catchment Care Group Inc.

Current distribution **7,500.**

ENVIRONMENTAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Currimundi Catchment Care Group along with Friends of Currimundi Lake, Lake Currimundi/Kawana Lions Club and Sunshine Coast Council are proud to invite the community and visitors to a unique way to celebrate the start of the festive season –

Lights on the Lake

This free event is designed to showcase the natural beauty of Currimundi Lake and provide an opportunity for the community and visitors to celebrate the Christmas holiday spirit. It will be held on **Sunday 11 December, between 4 and 8 pm at Crummunda Park, Wurtulla.**



As this falls on the first weekend of the school holidays, the event is guaranteed to provide a fun and relaxing time for families. There will be supervised Children's Activities, Community Information Displays, Local Arts and Crafts, Live Entertainment and a variety of Food Stalls.

When night falls the event will close with a procession of kayaks and canoes decorated with lights paddling along Currimundi Lake. To participate in the procession please register by downloading the registration form from the Lights on the Lake website at www.currimundicatchment.org.au/lightsonthelake.html, contacting Kaye on 5438 8367 or registering at the event. There will be prizes for the best decorated watercraft.

Please note that no naked flames or candles are allowed on watercraft or any other area of the event, however everyone is invited to bring their own festive lights or purchase some of the lights available at the event. Bring a rug to sit on and torch too.

Come along and share in the Christmas spirit at Currimundi Lake. For more information contact David on 5493 9695.



Decorated Christmas Tree in Crummunda Park

6 KNOTS – NO WASH

For the fourth year Currimundi Catchment Care Group will be organising an education program and media campaign highlighting "6 Knots – No Wash", the legal speed limit for boats on Currimundi Lake, creeks and canals. The campaign will run from 5 – 11 December finishing with the **Light on the Lake** event.

Boating activities usually increase over the school holidays and this campaign is a timely reminder to follow the law so everyone can enjoy the Currimundi waterways and stay safe whilst protecting fragile banks and fish habitats.

Be warned that Queensland's Maritime Safety can impose an **on-the-spot fine of \$300** for exceeding 6 knots or creating a wash capable of causing a marine incident. Waterskiing in any form is also prohibited on Currimundi Lake and also incurs a **\$300 on-the-spot fine.**

By everyone following the 6 Knots – No Wash speed limit, we will help preserve our beautiful Currimundi waterways for generations to come.

Visit www.currimundicatchment.org.au for the Currimundi Lake Catchment Website

COUNCIL BAN ON RELEASE OF HELIUM BALLOONS

Following weeks of public consultation Sunshine Coast Council has amended its local laws to create a cohesive set of local laws for the entire coast. One issue identified during the consultation was that deliberate release of helium filled balloons was environmentally irresponsible and harmful.

Cr Keryn Jones said the consultation phase showed that some residents wanted the issue addressed and subsequent public discussion showed that a great many people understand that balloons and balloon string can be harmful to marine and bird life. Council Events Strategy identifies that balloon releases will not be allowed at events on Council land. This local law now takes that a step further and prohibits the release anywhere in the region.

The continued use of balloons by businesses to attract attention to their products is a simple but not secure practice, particularly near our waterways. There are alternatives such as flags that are just as effective and much safer for the environment and marine life.

Currimundi Catchment Care Group welcomes the new law and will continue to promote other ways to achieve the same results without harming the environment. An example is the kite flying day at Currimundi Beach introduced as a fun and safe way to decorate the sky during World Environment Day in June. *Ref. Sunshine Coast Council*

IT'S TURTLE SEASON



Summer is the time when turtles come to nest on Currimundi and Wurtulla beaches. Emerging hatchlings are generally seen from mid-January until late March, or even April depending on the season. The main species nesting on our beaches are the Loggerhead turtle and less frequently the Green turtle. If you are lucky enough to come across an emerging nest please take care not to disturb the hatchlings and report the sighting to the Sunshine Coast Turtle Care Coordinator on 0437 559067. To learn more about these beautiful visitors to our shores visit www.turtlecare.com.au.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY – Sunday 4 March 2012

Don't miss Clean Up Australia Day next year by diarising **4 March 2012** now! The whole family is invited to make a difference to the local environment. It's easy to collect rubbish, just bring your gloves, hat and water and wear suitable footwear.

There will be three Clean Up sites in the Currimundi Catchment for you to choose from:

- 1. Currimundi Catchment Care Group:** Meet at the BBQ at the western end of Crummunda Park, Wurtulla at 9.00am, followed by a BBQ at 11.00am. Watercraft welcome to clean up along Currimundi Lake's banks.
- 2. Friends of Currimundi Lake:** Meet at the Rotunda in Cliff Hargreaves Park, Currimundi at 8.30am, followed by refreshments at 11.00am.
- 3. Parklands Community Group:** Meet at Wallum Gardens BBQ, Peony Circuit, Little Mountain at 8.30am.

As well as participating in Clean Up Australia Day on 4 March 2011, if you know of an area that needs cleaning up go to www.cleanup.org.au/au/CleanUpEvents/year-round-clean-ups.html to find out about the 'Clean Up Australia Every Day' campaign, where they help you organise your own clean up day at any time of the year. This is for communities, schools and businesses. *Ref. Clean Up Australia*

TEN THINGS TO DO IN THE CATCHMENT

1. Paddle the Canoe Trail along the Currimundi waterways.
2. Burn off calories walking the connecting network of paths on both sides of Currimundi Lake.
3. Explore Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park for its diversity of wildflowers.
4. Picnic in one of the many parks with family and friends.
5. View the public art in Noel Burns and Crummunda Parks.
6. Explore Bancroft Park, Little Mountain to view the trees that have been planted on National Tree Day over the last three years.
7. Bicycle the Creekside pathway to Kawana Forest, walk through the rainforest and investigate the three different ecosystems and then return via Birtinya Island.
8. Fish from the banks of Currimundi Lake and creeks.
9. Get up early and, using the Sunshine Coast Council's *Currimundi Lake Bird Checklist*, go bird watching and see if you can identify 10 birds.
10. Swim in the calm waters of Currimundi Lake or catch a wave along the beaches.



Remember - Take water, Slip Slop Slap and go with a friend.

KINGS OF CLEAN

Caloundra has once again earned the Keep Australia Beautiful top award for Queensland. Caloundra repeated the success of 2008 by winning the title of Queensland's Tidiest Town 2011. The award was presented to the Caloundra entry representatives by Her Excellency, The Governor of Queensland, Ms Penny Wensley, AC, Patron of Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland at a gala event at the Gold Coast on 3 October 2011. Caloundra was represented by Sunshine Coast Deputy Mayor Tim Dwyer, Environment Portfolio Cr Keryn Jones, Graham, Irene and Rhondda. Colin and Richard represented the Tidy Towns Group at a Caloundra media event the next morning.

The Tidy Towns idea started 40 years ago when Keep Australia Beautiful approached Local Government entities to start a competition between towns to clean up litter. This has evolved into a far wider scope which now contains 11 criteria covering a range of aspects in keeping a town tidy.

The Caloundra Tidy Towns Group, after deciding to enter Caloundra (all suburbs within postcode 4551), started collecting data in November 2010. The team consisted of Colin, Richard, Graham and Rhondda from Friends of Currimundi Lake. The Chamber of Commerce paid for the submission and a DVD. The graphics and printing were done by EMS Design of Maroochydore. Sunshine Coast Council came on board as well as the Caloundra Weekly.

Judging was done on 23 August by Laura Willmott, Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland. Laura was met by the group, Cr Jones, the Chamber of Commerce and other members of the community at the Caloundra Events Centre. Channel 7 and the Caloundra Weekly represented the media. After the welcome, Colin and Rhondda escorted Laura on the judging route, meeting with Richard and Graham at strategic points along the route.



Some of the areas Keep Australia Beautiful was interested in were the Resource Recovery Centre, Stadium, Lighthouse, Pacific Lutheran College, Kings Beach and Currimundi Lake.

The finals will be held sometime next year in Canberra where Caloundra will be competing against other State finalists for Australia's Tidiest Town. Wish us luck!

SUNSHINE COAST GROUP WINS NATIONAL RIVERPRIZE

Currimundi Catchment Care Group is proud to be a member of the Sunshine Coast Rivers Initiative which recently won the prestigious National Riverprize award for 2011.

The Sunshine Coast Rivers Initiative comprises 30 local groups and government departments, headed by Sunshine Coast Council, dedicated to preserving our region's waterways. The group aims to ensure:

- waterways are valued
- pollution is reduced
- degraded habitats are restored
- sustainable land use practices are adopted
- on-river activities are well managed.

The initiative unites an impressive collection of achievements involving improvements to creek-side vegetation, in-stream habitat and land management practices as well as a range of waterway health planning and research projects.



Riverprize is the world's most prestigious environmental award, giving recognition, reward and support to those who have developed and implemented outstanding, visionary and sustainable programs in river management. Sunshine Coast Rivers Initiative was announced as the winner on 27 September at the Riverprize Gala Dinner during the 14th International Riversymposium in Brisbane. The award includes prize-money of \$195,000 which will be used on a number of innovative waterways management and improvement projects across the Sunshine Coast.

We should all be proud to live in a region that values its waterways and has been recognised as a world leader in the steps we are taking to ensure their protection.

Ref. Sunshine Coast Council & International River Foundation

AGM DATES FOR 2012

Currimundi Catchment Care Group's AGM is Monday 30 January 2012.

Friends of Currimundi Lake's AGM is Tuesday 7 February 2012.

Elections will be held for all committee positions. Everybody is welcome.

Currimundi Catchment Care Group Inc (CCCG) covers Currimundi Lake, Creeks and Canal Catchments.

Meetings: 7.00pm at Caloundra Community Centre, Buderim St, Currimundi on the 2nd Monday of every odd month.

Next Meeting: AGM 30 January, 12 March
Contact: Secretary
Jenny 5493 9695

Friends of Currimundi Lake (FOCL) covers the area south of the Lake from the beach to Nicklin Way bridge.

Meetings: 7.30pm at Currimundi Recreation Hall cnr Currimundi Rd & Ilya St, Currimundi on the 1st Tuesday of every even month.

Next Meeting: 6 Dec, AGM 7 February
Contact: President
Rhondda 5437 6481

Parklands Community Group: 5491 7905

Kawana Forest Residents' Association (KaFRA): 0419 822663

Other Contacts:

Sunshine Coast Regional Council
Caloundra: 5420 8200
for reporting issues about Currimundi Lake and its Catchment.

Kawana Police: 5413 8700

Queensland Boating & Fisheries Patrol: 5444 4599 to report speeding boats.

TurtleCare: 0437 559067 to report turtle tracks or nests.

Department of Environment & Resource Management (DERM): 1300 130 372 to report spills, dumping or anything suspicious in our waterways.

Wilvos: 5441 6200 24 hour hotline for injured wildlife.

Fishwatch Hotline: 1800 017 116 to report unlawful fishing activities.

Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital: 1800 334 350

Please pass on or recycle

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in "Currimundi Lake Catchment News" are not necessarily those of CCCG Inc



CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP REPORT

The festive season is upon us and this brings with it an influx of visitors that translates into a positive impact on the economy, an increase in social activities and unfortunately, an increase in litter and rubbish within the Currimundi Catchment. It would be great if ten thousand hands collected one piece of litter per day. The result might be a litter-free Currimundi Catchment and a healthier environment for our wildlife.

Please remind our visitors to keep to the 6 knots – no wash speed limit on the waterways, to pick up after their dogs and keep them on leads where indicated, to value the natural vegetation along the waterways and to make use of our multitude of walkways.

Put 11th December on your calendar and bring your family and visitors dressed in festive gear, a blanket, a torch, carol-singing voices, a kayak if you have one and enjoy our wonderful summer community event - **Lights on the Lake**.
David, President



FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE REPORT

Friends of Currimundi Lake (FOCL) have been weeding and planting as well as working with schools in the area. The Caloundra Tidy Towns win has been a big excitement for Caloundra and a lot of our work is tied in with the Tidy Towns criteria.

We have just completed an inventory of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly vines planted by the Caloundra Primary School and FOCL, with a very successful growth rate. Some exciting news is that a Richmond Birdwing butterfly has been sighted on the big vine in the Hargreaves yard and a lady in Currimundi reported that she had these butterflies in her yard. If the lady in question could please ring me on 5437 6481 as to where her butterflies are located, it would be very much appreciated.

November will see the final working bee with the Caloundra Primary School and Erosion Day with the Talara Primary School for this year. The last working bee in Kathleen McArthur Park with EPA will be on 7 December. All these programs will be continued in 2012 as well as the possibility that we will start monitoring the coffee rock on the north shore of Currimundi Lake for erosion.

The turtle season is fast approaching. If anyone would like to be morning monitors on Currimundi Beach, I would love to hear from you.

We are looking forward to the Lights on the Lake evening. Come and join us. This year FOCL will be joining with Currimundi NHW Group to have a Christmas Dinner Get-together.

I would like to thank all the volunteers that have helped throughout the year and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and my wish is for some more lovely volunteers.
Rhondda, President

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP REPORT

Following our tremendously successful National Tree Day planting, a group of about 20 locals did a little extra planting and filled in a few bare spots between the Wallum Gardens bridge towards the shops. Some grasses and a few flowering bushes were planted with Dot and Peter assuming the duty of watering for the next month. Thanks to Council for supplying the plants and equipment.

The National Tree Day site is powering along and Council will be completing an abutting area of about a hectare as part of their replanting program in the very near future.

The drain behind Daintree Court, north from Village Way has been cleaned to remove some of the bulrushes (typha) and other weeds. Some of the wet spots along the path will be addressed making it a pleasant walk from Village Way to the planting sites and connecting to St James Court, Lakeshore Place and up the drain to Wallum Gardens pond and picnic area and along the path to the shops back on Village Way at Parklands Blvd.

Please send along your comments about things in the area by contacting me on 5491 7905 or 0448 517 905. **Happy Holidays and enjoy the summer.**
Ron, President

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