

SUBURBS WITHIN THE CURRIMUNDI LAKE CATCHMENT INCLUDE:

Aroona, Battery Hill, Birtinya, Bokarina, Currimundi, Little Mountain, Meridan Plains, Wurtulla.

**Points of Interest:**

- Can we ever be butt free?
- Whale sightings at Currimundi Beach
- Currimundi Catchment website
- Indian Myna pest

**Seasons Greetings to all!**



**Coming up:**

- 6 Knots, No Wash Campaign - 3 - 9 December
- Lights on the Lake - 9 December
- CCCG AGM - 21 January 2013
- FOCL AGM - 5 February 2013
- Clean Up Australia Day - 3 March 2013
- Seaweek - 3 - 9 March 2013

To report wildlife emergencies, including sick, injured or distressed marine life, phone:

**1300 130 372**

or

**1300 264 625**



This is a community newsletter voluntarily produced by Currimundi Catchment Care Group Inc. **Distributors needed, please phone Joan on 5493 2698.** Current distribution 8,250

# CURRIMUNDI LAKE CATCHMENT NEWS

**SUMMER 2012**

## LIGHTS ON THE LAKE COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

**When: 4pm to 8pm, Sunday 9 December**

**Where: Crummunda Park, Coongarra Esp, Wurtulla**



The north shore of Currimundi Lake will come to life when locals come together for the FREE family event - **Lights on the Lake**. It will showcase the natural beauty of Currimundi Lake and provide an opportunity for the community to celebrate the festive spirit. Bring a blanket and set up in front of the entertainment stage for a great evening, but please remember it is a family event, so it will be alcohol free.

There will be supervised children's activities, music and singing from local entertainers, zumba sessions, art and craft gift stalls, delicious food and displays by local community groups. You can bring a torch or lamp (no flames or candles) or buy novelty lights at the event. The evening will conclude with a water procession of decorated canoes and kayaks, lit up to provide a great spectacle, paddling around the Lake accompanied by carols from the crowd and entertainers. **There will be prizes for best decorated watercraft and best costumes. Kids - dress up and you could win a prize!**

**To join the water procession**, call Kaye on 5438 8267, download an entry form from [www.currimundicatchment.org.au/lights-on-lake/](http://www.currimundicatchment.org.au/lights-on-lake/), or register at the event before 6pm. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult in their watercraft or an accompanying watercraft and people under 18 must have a responsible adult authorise their entry.

This event is organised by community representatives and organisations including Currimundi Catchment Care Group, Lake Currimundi-Kawana Lions Club and supported by Neighbourhood Watch groups. Funding is provided by Council's Festive Season Events grant. For more information email [cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au).

## 6 KNOTS – NO WASH

Each year at this time Currimundi Catchment Care Group organises the education program and media campaign "**6 Knots – No Wash**", highlighting the legal speed limit for boats on Currimundi Lake, Creeks and Canals. 6 knots is equivalent to a brisk walking pace.

Wave wash from powered boats has caused an enormous amount of erosion to the banks along Currimundi Lake and its Creeks. So if you're out on a boat enjoying Currimundi Lake, take care not to create a wash and please remind any holiday visitors about the speed limit.

Be warned - Queensland's Maritime Safety, Fisheries and Water Police can all impose an **on-the-spot fine of \$330** for exceeding 6 knots or creating a wash capable of causing a marine incident. Waterskiing on Currimundi Lake also incurs a **\$330 on-the-spot fine**.

## SAND MINE - HAVE YOUR SAY

Council's Draft Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2012 is your opportunity to have a say in the future of the community you want to live in. With the Meridan Plains Extractive Resource (Sand Mine) planned to 'occur' on your door step, you may want to have your say.

If you have concerns about the impact the Sand Mine will have regarding flooding, dust, noise, wildlife, etc as well as the effects on Currimundi Lake and its Creeks and the Mooloolah River over the next 80 – 100 years and beyond, lodge a submission to Council.

**Submissions close on 14 December.** Visit [www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au), view Draft Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme. See Local Area Map – the Extraction Resource area is in Red. Read Text Content Part 3 - 3.9 Natural Resources Theme. Contact Council on 5475 7526 for further information.

Visit [www.currimundicatchment.org.au](http://www.currimundicatchment.org.au) for the Currimundi Lake Catchment Website

## CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY – 3 MARCH 2013

Thank you to everyone who participated in Clean Up Australia Day this year. It would be great to see you again next year and anyone else who can give a couple of hours picking up rubbish in your local area. This family friendly activity really does make a difference to the environment and the health of our waterways. So please put the date in your diary and join us at one of the Currimundi Catchment Clean Up Australia Day sites:

1. **Currimundi Catchment Care Group:** Starts at 9.00am at the park on the corner of Regatta Boulevard and The Decks, Wurtulla followed by the usual sausage sizzle at 11am.
2. **Friends of Currimundi Lake:** Starts at 8.30am at the Rotunda in Cliff Hargreaves Park, Currimundi finishing with refreshments at 11am.
3. **Parklands Community Group:** Starts at 8.30am at the Wallum Gardens BBQ, Peony Court, Little Mountain.

These events plus others on the Sunshine Coast will be registered on the Clean Up Australia Day website [www.cleanup.org.au/](http://www.cleanup.org.au/). You can even organise your own event or one for your school or community group with help from the Clean Up Australia Day organisers.

## CAN AUSTRALIA EVER BECOME BUTT FREE?



On 18 October, Australia had its first National Butt Free Day, organised by Butt Free Australia, to focus attention on the problem of discarded cigarette butts in our environment. **7 billion cigarette butts are littered annually in Australia.** Cigarette butts are Australia's most littered item, consistently recorded by 'Keep Australia Beautiful' research as being around 50% of the total number of items littered nationally every year. During Riversweep one volunteer collected these butts (pictured) from under a single seat in a park by Currimundi Lake.

Each butt contains remnants of tobacco and paper, as well as the filter. Filters are made of plastic filaments which degrade very slowly (from 2 months to 15 years) depending on exposure to air and water. They are designed to accumulate particulate smoke components, including toxic chemicals such as cadmium, lead, arsenic and zinc which are leached as they decompose, contributing to soil and water pollution and impacting on wildlife habitat.

It is estimated that around 1 in 10 cigarette butts are carried into our waterways, as they are small and lightweight. They have been found in the stomachs of fish, birds, whales and other animals who mistake them for food, instead swallowing harmful plastic and toxic chemicals. Discarded cigarettes and butts are also a common cause of fires which are a particular threat at this time of the year.

One cigarette butt is a small thing but 7 billion cigarette butts a year are a 'big thing'. So please, if you smoke, *butt it then bin it* and take a personal ashtray when you're out and about. To find out more visit [www.butfree.org.au](http://www.butfree.org.au)

*Ref. Butt Free Australia*

## RIVERSWEEP CLEANED UP ON SUNDAY 14 OCTOBER



It was a beautiful sunny morning to be out on Currimundi Lake for Currimundi Catchment Care Group's annual Riversweep event. 20 people joined us in kayaks, canoes and on foot to clean up the Lake, both arms of Currimundi Creek and the canals. Council's Waterways Team were a great help with their boat to ferry rubbish and people about and to collect the larger items.

It was pleasing to see that the waters and banks were relatively clean, but we still managed to find lots of **bait bags, fishing line, a chair, abandoned crab pot, old inflatable boat, chip packets, drink bottles and hundreds of cigarette butts.** These items are potentially deadly to fish, turtles and birds, so please, take home your rubbish and fishing leftovers. Thanks to everyone who came along.

## KITES AT THE CALOUNDRA FRINGE FESTIVAL

The Currimundi Catchment Care Group's annual kite painting event in June – Flying High for World Environment Day - was washed out this year, leaving the group with several boxes of unpainted kites.

What better way to put these to good use than to set up a stall at the Caloundra Fringe Festival on 29 September. The stall attracted kids of all ages creating colourful designs on their kites to reflect all the natural things we love about Currimundi Lake – birds, fish, turtles and as the picture shows.....mermaids!!

It was another great way to remind people of our anti-litter message – **that kites make a great alternative to balloons for outdoor events.** They don't burst and enter the waterways where they can be eaten by marine life - they go home with you ready for the next outdoor event.



## WHALE SIGHTINGS AT CURRIMUNDI BEACH

Holiday makers and locals received a special treat at the start of the September school holidays this year. A pod of three humpback whales, most likely a mother and her calves were seen breaching at the breaker line at the entrance to Currimundi Lake. They remained close to the shoreline for about an hour, providing those who witnessed this event with a special experience to remember and many holiday snaps to take home. Did you know mothers nurse their calves for almost a year and calves don't stop growing until they are 10 years old?



While it is not common to see whales so close to the open beaches here on the Sunshine Coast, an increase has been witnessed in recent years. Normally whales travel within a few kilometres of the coastline.

## WHAT YOU CAN FIND ON OUR WEBSITE

If you Google **Currimundi Catchment** or go to [www.currimundicatchment.org.au](http://www.currimundicatchment.org.au) you will find the Currimundi Catchment website with a new look and better access to important information and news about your catchment. From there you will find the websites for **Currimundi Catchment Care Group** and **Friends of Currimundi Lake**.

Check out where your suburb fits in the catchment, learn about how to protect our land and waterways, find links to organisations with similar interests or contact details for helping injured animals. You can read our current newsletter online or find past editions if you have missed one. Lights on the Lake has its own page on the website where you can find details of the event and download an entry form to pre-register for the water procession.

## INDIAN MYNAS ARE A PEST



Indian Mynas (*Acridotheres tristis*) are an introduced pest and compete aggressively for nesting hollows which displaces, out-competes and excludes many wildlife species, especially hollow-dependent animals such as parrots and gliders, throwing their young and eggs to the ground and killing or destroying them. They can also threaten human health when nesting in roofs of houses.

Indian Myna populations are increasing in numbers and are spreading into many areas. They are chocolate brown with a black head, yellow beak, yellow eye skin and yellow legs, and have large white wing patches and under tail feathers best seen in flight. They mate for life and are long lived. They're active by day and sleep at night in large communal roosts. They lay blue eggs and their nests are messy and made of a variety of materials including grasses, rubbish, plastic, feathers and leaves. Indian Mynas are opportunistic scavengers, feeding on almost anything, including meat, food scraps, insects, fruit, grains, pet food, berries and may eat the fledglings of other birds. They feed mainly on the ground.

**Please don't mistake these birds for Native Noisy Miners (*Manorina melanocephala*), which are grey in colour.**



**What to do if you see an Indian Myna:** Contact Sunshine Coast Council on 5475 7272 and advise where and when you saw Indian Mynas. Also go to [www.feralscan.org.au/mynascan/default](http://www.feralscan.org.au/mynascan/default) and record your sighting. This new Australia-wide community website will assist communities, local government and pest controllers to control Indian Mynas and reduce the damage/problems they cause.

*Ref. Sunshine Coast Council, Feral Scan, Indian Myna Eradication Program*

## WATER MONITORING PROGRAM

The wetlands, creeks, canals and Lake of the Currimundi Catchment are the lifeblood of our local environment. The community based monthly water monitoring program commenced in 2003 and today monitoring is conducted at 20 sites involving 22 monitors and results are uploaded to the Unidap website.



The water monitoring program tests for levels of dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, turbidity (clarity) and temperature. Assessment is also made of water flow and erosion. Each site is given a green, amber or red light depending on quality standards. Some sites in Currimundi Creek South Arm and at the junction of the creek and Lake are regularly on red or amber for turbidity. Oxygen levels can be consistently low at a number of sites.

The volume of water coming down the creeks is increasing as housing and road works divert ground water into stormwater drains. Acid sulphate soils underlie the catchment and housing development disturbs these soils resulting in a lower pH level in the waterways. Turbidity levels rise during and immediately after rainfall events as loads of sediment are delivered into the waterways.

**Would you like to join our water monitoring group?** We need a new volunteer to monitor along Currimundi Creek North Arm once a month. Training, support and much appreciation will be given. If you can help please ring David on 5493 9695 or email [cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au) for further information.

## Currimundi Catchment Care Group Inc (CCCG)

Coveres the catchments of Currimundi Lake, Creeks and Canals and Lake Kawana.

**Meetings:** 7.00pm at Caloundra Community Centre, 78 Buderim St, Currimundi on the 2nd Monday of every odd month.

**Next Meeting:** AGM 21 January, 11 March

**Contact:** Secretary Kym 5493 4398

## Friends of Currimundi Lake (FOCL)

Coveres 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:** 4 Dec, AGM 5 February

**Contact:** President Rhondda 5437 6481

## Parklands Community Group: 5491 7905

**Kawana Forest Residents' Association (KaFRA): 0419 822 663**

## Other Contacts:

**Sunshine Coast Council: 5475 7272** 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 559 067** 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

## CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP REPORT



This year has flown by but I can look back on my first year as President of Currimundi Catchment Care Group with pride to be associated with a group of volunteers who cheerfully toil to improve our local environment and protect our waterways. During the year we have planted trees and native bushes in degraded natural areas and beautiful parks, cleaned up rubbish on land and on the water, removed weeds, flown kites to promote environmental messages, built coir log walls to prevent bank erosion, conducted a fish survey, talked to school students about the environment, conducted monthly water monitoring, published and distributed four newsletters and so much more. There has been some hard work but it is always fun and rewarding. I would like to thank all our members plus all the local community members who joined us for our events, or who help protect our wonderful neighbourhood their own way by picking up rubbish on their daily walks or planting native trees in their yards.

I am also looking forward to Lights on the Lake on 9 December and hope to meet many of you there. This is a great chance for local families to join together and celebrate the festive season our own way – in the park and on the Lake.

**President, Tony**

## FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE REPORT



A two year discussion project has recently become a reality. The project is to monitor the coffee rock on the northern shore of Currimundi Lake for possible erosion. This project was approved through the Currimundi Dynamics group and also with support from the Parks and Wildlife Department. This site will be set up in the next month and all data collected will go to Council and Currimundi Catchment Care Group.

Currimundi Lake closed itself about 6 times this year - a bit frustrating for Council. However the recent strong winds are putting a lot of sand back on the beaches.

The marine turtle season will be starting soon. As Currimundi Beach is in the area we care for, I would ask people walking the beach at night to be aware that nesting turtles will be coming in to lay their eggs. If you see a turtle, please stand or sit quietly and then please ring me on 5437 6481 or 0427 376 481. Fires on the beach are illegal, so if you see one, please ring the police on 5413 8700.



We will finish our working bees for 2012 in December and commence again in February 2013. We have 3 working bees a month and welcome volunteers. Thank you to all our volunteers for 2012 and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**President, Rhondda**

## PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP REPORT

We had a good maintenance day distributing mulch along the bank and under trees, and planting more trees and shrubs. We are now waiting for Council to dump some more mulch along the path side of the drain which we will spread. Bruce, our Council rep for Parks and Gardens has been generous in providing more trees and shrubs for our plantings. The Zone One, Natural Areas Team have completed a request to fill in some areas of the walking trail/firebreak along the west side of Bancroft's Red Gum Reserve on the outside of our National Tree Day plantings.

On Monday 10 December, our Councillor Peter Cox will rock up at 31 Peony Circuit, Little Mountain at 8.30am to review the past six month's activities of Council, particularly their impacts on Parklands. If you wish to join us please RSVP Ron on 5491 7905 and bring your comments, issues and ideas.

**President, Ron**

## KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION REPORT

We held a combined Weedbusters and Clean Up Day in July and although the wet conditions prevented going too far into the surrounding bushland there were about 10 bags of weeds collected. The streets and parks were relatively rubbish free – a great sign that people are becoming more 'litter conscious'. The majority of the rubbish collected comprised of free property publications, although broken bottles are an ongoing concern around the playground equipment.

Council has been asked to provide 'No Dumping' signs along the cycle/pedestrian track adjacent to the forest as residents still persist in dumping their garden waste in the forest.

The bush walk through the forest is again open and it is worthwhile taking the time to have a wander through the native forest.

**President, Greg**