

SUBURBS WITHIN THE CURRIMUNDI LAKE CATCHMENT INCLUDE:

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

Points of Interest:

- Fish Survey
- Coir Log Walls
- Kawana Lake
- FOCL 25 years old
- Seagrass and Mangroves

Coming up:

- Currimundi Lake Kayaking Adventure - **2 June**
- World Environment Day - **5 June**
- Water Monitors Training Day - **20 June**
- National Tree Day - **28 July**
- Creekside Wildflower Walk - **25 August**
- Weedbuster Week - **2-8 September**

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

WINTER 2013

CCCG Inc ABN 77 276 084 162

KAYAKING FOR WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

What: Currimundi Lake Kayaking Adventure
When: Sunday 2 June, 10am – 12noon
Where: Crummunda Park, Coongarra Esplanade, Wurtulla



World Environment Day is celebrated each year to remind us of our natural environment. In the Currimundi catchment we are privileged to be surrounded by so many natural assets with waterways, walkways, green belts and remnant bushlands. One of the best ways to enjoy the different ecosystems is by paddling along the waterways.

If you have a kayak or canoe (or can hire/borrow one) celebrate World Environment Day by joining Currimundi Catchment Care Group on a guided tour. Take a leisurely paddle under the Ahern Bridge and into Currimundi Creek South Arm following the Currimundi Canoe Trail returning to Crummunda Park. If time permits, we'll also paddle into the North Arm. The pace will be suitable for all ages but children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult and wear a flotation device.



There are barbeques, toilets and outdoor showers in Crummunda Park for everyone's convenience. For further information, contact David on 5493 9695 or email cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au

NATIONAL TREE DAY

When: Sunday 28 July, Register from 8.00am, Start at 8.30am – 11.30am
Where: Bancroft's Red Gum Reserve, Daintree Boulevard, Little Mountain

This is a joint project between Currimundi Catchment Care Group, Parklands Community Group, Sunshine Coast Council and iLandscape. We are hoping to plant another 1,000 to 2,000 native trees and plants to complement plantings from three previous National Tree Day events. This is a big project and even more trees will be added in future years. So your help would be appreciated.

After the planting there will be a sausage sizzle by the Lions Club and kid's activities ie face painting, a jumping castle and more. It will be a great outing for families and a chance to make a difference to our local environment. Bring a hat, sunscreen, closed in shoes and some water.

WILDFLOWER WALK

When: Sunday 25 August at 9.30am
Where: Creekside area, Currimundi

Currimundi Catchment Care Group will once again conduct a guided Wildflower Walk in the Creekside area of Currimundi as part of the Sunshine Coast Council's Programme of Events for the Spring Wildflower Festival.

Further details and bookings will be available from 1 August on our website www.currimundicatchment.org.au/cccgwordpress or by ringing Tony on 5438 8267.

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

FISH SURVEY RESULTS



In April, Currimundi Catchment Care Group partnered with Pitman Research and Consulting, Sunshine Coast Council and Unitywater to plan and deliver a successful fish survey in the Currimundi waterways. Thanks to the team of 12 who caught, counted, classified according to species, measured and returned the fish to the waterways.

The purpose of the survey was to determine the abundance and diversity of fish and to compare the results with earlier studies. Nets were used in nine estuarine sites, nets and traps were used

in one fresh water site and electrofishing was used in two fresh water sites. Water quality was sampled simultaneously and presented as expected.

More than 4,500 fish and one stingray were sampled in the estuarine sites with 40 different species identified. Almost 2,500 fish and two turtles were sampled at the fresh water sites with 16 species identified. The dominant fish by numbers were the estuary perchlet followed by the southern herring.

Interestingly, while Currimundi Lake, creeks and canals are interconnected allowing fish to move around the waterways, the fish communities in the creeks were relatively different from those in the lake and canals and one canal, where more than 850 mullet were caught, was different from the other two canals and the lake.

Compared with earlier studies this survey sampled more diverse species and some species sampled in the earlier studies were not present in this study and vice versa.

Fishing is a popular recreation in the Currimundi catchment with optimists throwing in a line hoping for their next meal. In order to have an abundance and diversity of fish species, the community needs to protect the waterways not only for the fish but also for biodiversity, water quality and the whole ecosystem. Remember, "no habitat - no fish". When fishing only take what you need and dispose of your rubbish appropriately.



COIR LOG WALL SUCCESS



Three successful outcomes were achieved with another 90 metres of coir log retention wall being completed along Currimundi Lake. The first was the stabilisation of eroded banks and their enhancement by planting erosion resistant plants.

The unexpected attendance of so many residents who had never done any of this type of construction before, some gave up their own work to do so, was the second successful outcome.

There were 33 volunteers on day one and 28 volunteers on day two. It showed that the community values our aims and actions for environmental protection and wanted to be a part of it.

The third successful outcome was the number of council staff, some who work at desks most days, who came to help carry logs, hammer stakes, cart soil, dig and plant 600 tube stock. This was the best example of council-community partnership at the grass-roots level as we blended together in productive work teams. Thanks to everyone who contributed to these outcomes.



DID YOU KNOW: Lake Kawana and its canals are part of the Currimundi Lake Catchment.

Water flows from Lake Kawana into Currimundi Lake so the health of Lake Kawana directly affects the water downstream. It's important no matter where you live to practice good environmental actions ie collect rubbish, wash cars on lawns not driveways/streets, use fertilisers, herbicides and insecticides sparingly and only in dry weather, dispose of lawn clippings and garden waste correctly, collect dog droppings and dispose of oil, paint, cleaners and chemicals safely. If we all do our bit we will all benefit!

25 YEARS - FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

Friends of Currimundi Lake (FOCL) started 25 years ago as an environmental group known as the Currimundi Lake Restoration Committee. The group changed its name to Friends of Currimundi Lake in 1998/9. A celebration will be held later in the year to commemorate this achievement. If anyone has any photos of the group between 1988 and 1998, FOCL would love a copy for their records. Please contact Rhonda on 5437 6481.

SEAGRASS AND MANGROVE PROJECTS

Much has been written about the loss of seagrasses across the world due to a range of conditions including degraded water quality caused by excess nutrients, sediments and chemical run-off into the water. However little is known about seagrass in the Currimundi waterways.

Seagrasses are found in shallow coastal waters and can provide a habitat for a variety of marine creatures including fish. During the recent fish survey in the Currimundi waterways, small seagrass beds were identified. Currimundi Catchment Care Group is planning to map the seagrass beds and monitor them over a number of years to identify any changes and relate these to environmental trends across the catchment.



A project will also be started to map the mangroves in the Currimundi catchment and monitor their growth and distribution over several years. Mangroves are growing in the intertidal areas of Currimundi Lake and creeks where they play an essential role in preventing shoreline erosion and provide nursery grounds, shelter and food for fish. There are 39 species of mangroves in Queensland. Our first tasks will be to identify the species growing in the Currimundi waterways, photograph them at different stages of development and map their locations.

DID YOU KNOW: **World Environment Day** began in 1972 and is on **5 June** every year. It aims to create global positive environmental change by encouraging individuals to take responsibility regarding environmental issues and encourages political attention and action. It's a day for people from all walks of life to come together to ensure a cleaner, greener and brighter outlook for themselves and future generations.



This year's theme is **'Think Eat Save'** which is an anti-food waste and food loss campaign to encourage you to reduce your 'foodprint', by being aware of the environmental impact of your food choices. Eg buy organic foods that don't use chemicals in their production, buy locally produced foods to limit transportation emissions and use what you have in the fridge/pantry before buying more to avoid waste. So **think** before you **eat** and help **save** our environment!

Every year 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted, 1 in 7 people in the world go to bed hungry and more than 20,000 children under the age of 5 die daily from starvation. While the planet struggles to provide us with resources to sustain its 7 billion people it is estimated a third of global food production is either wasted or lost, which means that all the resources and inputs used in the production of that food are also lost. Global food production occupies 25% of all habitable land and is responsible for 70% of freshwater consumption, 80% of deforestation and 30% of greenhouse gas emissions. It is the largest single driver of biodiversity loss and land-use change.

Ref. United Nations Environment Programme

THE NEXT ENVIRONMENTAL GUARDIANS

As we are the current guardians of our natural assets, who will be the guardians in 20 years when most of our remnant bushland, rainforest and floodplains will be cut down for road and rail corridors or sand mining?

The goals of Currimundi Catchment Care Group (CCCG) are to improve water quality, reduce erosion and improve the environment. How can the group encourage the youth of today to value these goals and work to achieve them into the future?

Fortunately, more schools in our catchment are teaching about valuing the natural environment and inviting CCCG members to support their studies. Last term students from the Lighthouse Centre of Caloundra High School were guided through Crummunda Park and Creekside to identify the local fauna and flora and to learn about the work of CCCG. This term members will be visiting the school for an anti-litter lesson and kite painting morning.



It is encouraging to listen to the interest these students have shown about nesting turtles on Currimundi and Wurtulla beaches, reporting fishing spots and stocks, why lomandras are great clumping plants, what hides in the many nesting boxes, distinguishing Indian Mynas and Noisy Miners and where the waterways flow. Our future is in their hands and education is the best strategy.

Currimundi Catchment Care Group Inc (CCCG)

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

Meetings: 7.00pm at Talara Primary College Library, Talara Street, Currimundi on the 2nd Monday of every odd month.

Next Meetings: 8 July,
9 September

Contact: Secretary
Kym 5493 4398

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 Meetings: 4 June,
6 August

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 or 131 444
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

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

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP REPORT



It has been an exciting couple of months since our last report. Our members, Council staff and local residents put in an exceptional effort to continue the coir log wall in Noel Burns Park. The spirit of co-operation was tremendous. Everyone had fun and left satisfied knowing that we had once again done a great job helping to protect our local environment.

We also joined environmental consultant Kris Pitman to conduct our fish survey. This was a great opportunity to assess the state of fish populations in the Currimundi catchment. For several years we have co-ordinated water quality monitoring which measures one aspect of the health of the waterways. Having the chance to assess the abundance, variety and size of fish in the system gives us another aspect to look at. We are hoping to conduct seagrass and mangrove mapping in the system, which should give us an all-round understanding of how well our waterways are coping with the pressures of urban development and growing populations in the region. Thanks to Unitywater and Sunshine Coast Council who sponsored the fish survey and provided invaluable assistance.

Tony, President

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE REPORT



Working bees have been very busy on both sides of the Lake. The Caloundra High School Special Education section will be joining us in the near future for a planting day. The Richmond Birdwing butterfly vines that were planted by the Caloundra Primary School have really taken off this year with all the rain.

A new sign depicting scenes and information on Currimundi Lake from the 1940's to present day is in the design stage and will be placed at or near Cliff Hargreaves Park in the Watson Street area.

The return of two pelicans to the Lake and quite a few fish being caught recently appears great for the Lake. Erosion is still occurring on the north shore and along the beach. We still have two turtle nests to hatch out at Currimundi, but because the sand is getting too cool, there is a chance these nests will not hatch.

By the time this newsletter goes to print, the Tidy Towns National Awards will have been decided. The Awards are being hosted by Caloundra, and as two of our members are a part of the Tidy Towns team, it is quite an exciting time.

Rhondda, President

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP REPORT

The pathway from the Wallum Gardens pond north to Bancroft's Red Gum Reserve and back onto Lakeshore Place will probably be completed by the time you receive this newsletter.

We are preparing for the National Tree Day planting in Bancroft's Red Gum Reserve on Daintree Boulevard with an expectation to be working in the area for the next few years. The previous three years of your volunteer efforts are astoundingly evident. Please come and contribute on Sunday 28 July.

More Wattles are dying and being removed from around the pond and Peter is planting different species of trees in the area. Why not stop and talk to him about his efforts!

Your suggestions are welcome for things and activities in our community. Please send your ideas to me at rburnett@bigpond.net.au or 5491 7905.

Ron, President

KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION REPORT

The big news for Kawana Forest Residents' Association (KaFRA) at the moment is the opening of the newly constructed Community Centre in Woodlands Boulevard. The official opening by Sunshine Coast Council will be on Monday 27 May and this will be followed by a KaFRA sponsored community opening on Saturday 1 June.

We have recently renewed our Memorandum of Understanding with Council on landscaping issues. Under this agreement, KaFRA has obtained approval from Council to undertake some maintenance work in the parks in Kawana Forest. The current work involves sanding and recoating all of the wooden furniture/bollards, which is aimed at keeping the parks looking great.

The date for our combined Clean Up and Weedbuster Day is yet to be fixed. **Greg, President**

Please pass on or recycle

The production of 'Currimundi Lake Catchment News' is funded by the Sunshine Coast Council Community Partnership Funding Program and opinions expressed are not those of Council.