

SUBURBS WITHIN THE CURRIMUNDI LAKE CATCHMENT INCLUDE:

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

Points of Interest:

- Black Swans
- CCCG E Bulletins
- Seagrass Monitoring
- Mangrove Mapping
- Riversweep
- Brush Turkeys

Seasons Greetings to all!



Coming up:

- 6 Knots, No Wash Campaign - **2 - 8 December**
- Lights on the Lake - **8 December**
- CCCG AGM - **20 January 2014**
- FOCL AGM - **4 February 2014**
- Clean Up Australia Day - **2 March 2014**
- Seaweek - **2 - 8 March 2014**

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 8,500

CURRIMUNDI LAKE CATCHMENT NEWS

SUMMER 2013

LIGHTS ON THE LAKE COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

When: Sunday 8 December 2013, 4pm – 8pm

Where: Crummunda Park, Coongarra Esplanade, Wurtulla

Lights on the Lake is a FREE family event for all ages which takes place on the shores of Currimundi Lake. There will be music and entertainment throughout the event and supervised kids' activities from 4 – 6pm. Come and try your hand beating out a rhythm in the free drumming circle from 5 – 6pm. Hugo the Turtle will entertain throughout the park reminding everyone that this is an environmentally friendly event.

A variety of food stalls to suit most tastes will be available, including ice cream and coffee. If you prefer, bring a picnic and set up on a blanket and enjoy the entertainment. It's a perfect opportunity to get the family or a group of friends together and celebrate the spirit of Christmas whilst enjoying the environment. Don't miss watching the water parade of decorated watercraft on the Lake from dusk.

There will be arts and crafts stalls featuring affordable and original work from local artists. If you have trouble finding the right gift for the person who has everything, you're sure to find something interesting from the range of unique handcrafted items on offer. It's a chance to do your Christmas shopping while supporting local artists.

Santa will arrive from across the Lake around 6pm before the water parade of festooned kayaks and canoes commencing as darkness falls. **To participate in the water parade please register in advance at www.currimundicatchment.org.au/lights-on-lake or on the day before 5.30pm.** Please be aware for safety, an adult must accompany children under the age of 13 years either in the same watercraft or a partner watercraft and children under 13 years must wear a safety flotation device. There will be prizes for best decorated watercraft.



If you live nearby consider walking, cycling or paddling to the event as parking is limited. The park is right next to bus stops on Nicklin Way. It's a wonderful chance for our community to get out and have an enjoyable afternoon in our own beautiful part of the world. The event is organised by Currimundi Catchment Care Group and Lake Currimundi-Kawana Lions Club and is supported by Sunshine Coast Council.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY – 2 MARCH 2014

Sunday 2 March may seem a long way off, but we encourage you to put Clean Up Australia Day in your diary, to help clean up at one of these sites in the Currimundi Lake catchment:

Currimundi Catchment Care Group: Starts at 9.00am at the BBQ deck on the shore of Lake Kawana, just south of the Lake Kawana Community Centre on Sportsman's Parade, Kawana Waters, followed by a sausage sizzle at 11.00am.

Friends of Currimundi Lake: Starts at 8.30am from Cliff Hargreaves Park Currimundi. Covering the southern shores of Currimundi Lake, Currimundi Beach, Coastal Pathway to Coondibah Bridge and Currimundi Road to the northern side of the Currimundi School.

Parklands Community Group: Starts at 8.30am, meeting at Little Mountain's Wallum Gardens pond BBQ on Peony Circuit until 11.30am, finishing with a sausage sizzle.

This is a simple way to make an environmental difference. Last year approx. 550,000 volunteers removed over 16,000 tonnes of rubbish at 7,341 sites across Australia. We can do even better! We encourage schools and businesses to organise their own Clean Up Day at any time of year by visiting www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/about/about-the-event/year-round-clean-up

Ref. Clean Up Australia

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

SEAGRASS MAPPING IN CURRIMUNDI LAKE

On 1 November, members of Currimundi Catchment Care Group began monitoring the health and distribution of seagrass within Currimundi Lake. Each site was monitored using similar methodology to that developed by Seagrass-Watch which co-ordinates the monitoring of seagrass internationally. The data collected will be compared with future monitoring events to observe whether seagrass is increasing or decreasing within the Lake and to monitor changes in seagrass health. Seagrass has also been identified in Baroona Canal and further monitoring efforts will begin there in the near future.

Seagrass meadows can provide a range of environmental benefits. For example, they are effective nutrient sinks which buffer and filter nutrient and chemical inputs to marine environments, therefore reducing the severity of algal blooms and improving water quality. They also provide important nursery habitat for many marine animals such as juvenile fish.

Seagrass areas are also valuable bio-indicators as declines in seagrass health are often related to broader declines of water quality within a catchment. Most of the sites monitored appeared to be in poor health and covered with algae which can reduce photosynthesis of the plant. The incidence of algae may be attributed to low tides and higher temperatures than usual in shallow waters over the last month and the nutrient contained in the sediment of the lake bed.



DON'T FEED THE SWANS

It has been observed that the numbers of Australian Black Swans are increasing in our waterways. There are often a dozen black swans swimming together accompanied by ducks and they are a lovely sight to see - they move in the water with such grace.



However, people have begun feeding the swans (and ducks) bread, which has no nutritional value at all even though it is tempting to them. They naturally feed on vegetable matter, aquatic plants and grasses.

Please don't feed the swans (or ducks) as they fall into the habit of not foraging for their food and suffer malnutrition and disease. It also puts them in danger from people and their pets and uneaten bread floats around the waterways making a gluggy mess. Also the droppings of birds that eat bread can go into the waterway and cause blue-green algae.

BALLOON OR JELLYFISH

Currimundi Catchment Care Group have been warning locals about the dangers of balloons near waterways for some time and recommend using kites instead of balloons as 'kites are colourful, kites fly high, but kites go home with their owners'. So if you're planning a party or event at the beach, in our parks or near waterways, **please don't use balloons**. If you see an escaped one, pick it up and bin it before it becomes turtle food.

Check out this photo of a balloon and a jellyfish – can you tell which is which? What chance do marine animals such as our endangered marine turtles have of spotting the difference between what they can eat and what will kill them!



Thank goodness the release of balloons has been banned here on the Sunshine Coast. Hopefully photos such as this one will help to educate people about why burst balloons are so dangerous to our wildlife. *Ref. Coolum Coast Care*

CCCG EMAIL BULLETINS

Currimundi Catchment Care Group has recently introduced a subscription email bulletin. The emails will be sent to anyone who subscribes on our website about once or twice a month with reminders of coming events, recent happenings in the catchment and interesting snippets about the local environment from our website. We will still use the *Currimundi Lake Catchment News* as our main newsletter but if you'd like to keep in touch with our activities, you can sign up on our website's front page 'Stay Up to date' or go directly to www.currimundicatchment.org.au/cccg/subscribe.

6 KNOTS NO WASH

As the school holidays approach and our thoughts turn to fishing, paddling, swimming and boating on our beautiful Currimundi Lake and its Creeks, it is timely to remember that **the speed limit is 6 knots**.

Apart from the obvious danger of speeding boats, their wash can be a hazard for the many other users of the Lake. It also causes erosion to the fragile banks. We need to look after our own backyard and remind visitors how important it is, so we'll always have a beautiful environmental asset for everyone to enjoy.

MANGROVE MAPPING IN CURRIMUNDI LAKE CATCHMENT

On 17 October, four members of Currimundi Catchment Care Group set out in a tinnie to determine baseline data on the locations of mangroves, their physical characteristics and the diversity of species in Currimundi Lake and creeks. Two of the members had recently participated in a training program with MangroveWatch who developed the mangrove mapping methodology.

The day was considered a great success with the entire shoreline of Currimundi Lake and Currimundi Creek north and south arms videoed. The presence of mangroves and other vegetation was recorded along with GPS readings and photographs. Two mangrove species were identified in the system - the red mangrove and grey mangrove.

There were a few surprises including mangrove seedlings growing in cracks of coffee rock near Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park and amongst sedges on coffee rock near Sunjewel Environmental Park, increased seedling numbers in Currimundi Creek south arm and some beautiful mature mangroves in Currimundi Creek north arm - well worth a visit.



Mangroves are important to the environment as they indicate the health of waterways and provide habitat for fish to live, feed and breed. Mangroves also help filter runoff and reduce bank erosion. Follow up studies will be undertaken to examine changes in the growth of mangroves, their distribution and mangrove health, which will be analysed by university researchers and students.

RIVERSWEEP – CLEANING UP THE CURRIMUNDI

On a glorious Spring morning in October a small group of paddlers set out to collect rubbish from Currimundi Lake, its creeks and canals for Currimundi Catchment Care Group's annual Riversweep event. It was great to see several new faces come along and help out. Some said they enjoy paddling and swimming in the area and felt it only right to give a little back by helping out with the clean-up.

While it was heartening to see that overall the Lake and waterways were pretty clean, there was still plenty of rubbish collected. Plastic bait bags, fishing line, cigarette butts, drink cans and bottles were the most common item found. It was disappointing and surprising to see that some people seem to think it's okay to dump their palm fronds and garden waste in the canals or creeks.

Our waterways are a wonderful natural asset that we should treasure, not use as a dumping ground.

AUSTRALIAN BRUSH-TURKEY



Also known as scrub turkeys or wild turkeys, the Australian Brush-Turkey (*Alectura lathami*) is often seen in our gardens. They are protected by law and are part of Australia's natural heritage. **Please don't feed them!**

Brush Turkeys are large birds. They have mainly black body plumage, a bare red head, yellow throat wattle and laterally flattened tails. They generally inhabit rainforests and wet sclerophyll forests but can also be found in drier scrubs. They remain in a particular locality throughout the year where they breed and forage in the leaf litter for fruits, seeds and small animals.

Using vegetation gathered from the forest floor, males build large mounds (up to 4m wide and 2m high) for females to lay between 18 to 24 eggs with intervals of 2 to 3 days between the laying of each egg. As the vegetation decomposes it keeps the eggs warm. The male maintains the temperature by removing or adding layers to the mound. The chicks hatch after 7 weeks, dig their way out of the mound and are self-sufficient. They hatch fully feathered and can fly within a few hours.

Ref. Birds in Backyards, Wildlife Queensland



2013 QLD REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENT & COMMUNITY AWARDS

Currimundi Catchment Care Group (CCCG) was amongst the ten semi-finalists for the Environment and Landcare section of the Queensland Regional Achievement and Community Awards this year. There were over 190 nominations across all Awards, which applaud and encourage those working in rural and regional areas helping to support and enhance social, economic, commercial or environmental prosperity of their region. While CCCG did not win the final, it was encouraging to see that a local group of volunteers were up there in the judging. Congratulations! You certainly exemplify the Awards' motto 'Stand up and be counted'.

Currimundi Catchment Care Group Inc (CCCG)

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

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

Next Meeting: AGM 20 January, 10 March

Contact: Secretary Kym 5493 4398

Friends of Currimundi Lake (FOCL)

Cover 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: 3 Dec, AGM 4 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 or 131444
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



It has been an exciting and productive year for us, thanks to the contribution from our volunteer members and the community. We have continued to focus on activities that work towards our three core objectives – **improving water quality, limiting erosion and protecting the environment** in our catchment. Throughout the year, you, the local community have helped us achieve these objectives by joining with us at meetings, clean up and planting events and looking after our neighbourhood with actions like picking up litter as you walk and play.

In September we received a visit from fifteen year 9 students from St Eugene's College, Burpengary as part of their Service to the Community initiative. We helped them plant native plants in Noel Burns Park, Wurtulla. It was wonderful to see their genuine enthusiasm and excitement at helping the environment and improving the park for the benefit of everyone.

It has been exciting to see some of our new projects like the fish survey, mangrove and seagrass mapping add to our knowledge and understanding of the health of the catchment. We have employed scientific methods to observe, record and analyse data from our own neighbourhood – citizen scientists in action!

Tony, President

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE REPORT



Some of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Vines that the Caloundra Primary School children helped plant are flowering this year. Also the planting that was done near the pathway to the Lifeguard's Tower is beginning to look good with small banksias and casuarinas growing. Our big event, 25 years of volunteering in the conservation arena, was held on 16 November. Visit the website for photos.

Many bags of weeds were removed from the Alice Street area and this will be an ongoing revegetation area for next year. The area behind the toilets in Cliff Hargreaves Park is being restored, with Council providing a new fence, soil and sand and we will plant over the next three months. There is some erosion between Alice and Bull Streets, which will be addressed in the new year.

Erosion on the north shore of Currimundi Lake is becoming a very real and dangerous problem and is being assessed by Queensland Parks and Wildlife and ourselves. The surveying being done by both parties is an ongoing project.

I would like to thank our working bee group for all their hard work, Council for their support and all members of the community who helped and supported our very stalwart Deputy President, Cliff who has had two strokes. Cliff our thoughts are with you and your family. Merry Christmas to everyone.

Rhondda, President

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

The road works on Parklands Blvd continues with expectation for easier access to Meridan State School for both drivers and walkers. Also the earth moving machines have been quiet in the construction sites of AV Jennings and Drinnan at the end of Springs Drive. A short road access is being built from the end of Village Way to the westerly property, but am not sure if it means any development will start.

Council are gearing up for our 2014 National Tree Day project alongside the earlier 2009 site. Details will be advised next year. This year's National Tree Day planting is growing nicely.

Council's Waterways folk should be organising an engineering study of Wallum Gardens pond and one in the Ivadale area, but more on that when we have details. Merry Christmas everyone.

Ron, President

KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION REPORT

The Kawana Forest Residents' Association website is now up and working and the task ahead is to place as much information as possible on the site. Check it out on www.kafra.org.au.

Our Christmas Party will be held on 24 November at the Kawana Forest Meeting Place and we will be joined this year by the Sunshine 60 & Better Group. The party is primarily aimed at the children but it is an opportunity for all Kawana Forest residents to get together and share some festive activities. Our AGM will be held early in 2014 to elect a new Executive Management committee.

Greg, President