

CURRIMUNDI LAKE CATCHMENT NEWS



This is a community newsletter voluntarily produced by Currimundi Catchment Care Group Inc. ABN 77 276 084 162. It is printed on sustainable forest paper and distributed by volunteers to 8,500 households and businesses within the Currimundi Catchment. If you can help with distribution please phone Joan on 5493 2698.

Spring 2014

RIVERSWEEP – CLEAN UP THE CURRIMUNDI

Bring your kayak or canoe to help clean up the Currimundi Lake, creek and canals. For several years now, Currimundi Catchment Care Group have coordinated this water based clean up and it's always fun to get out on the water in our beautiful spring weather and do some good for your local environment at the same time. There will be plenty of jobs for people who don't have access to a kayak or canoe too. We will finish with a sausage sizzle in the park to reward the workers.



When: 9 am – 11 am, Sunday 12 October

Where: Pontoon at western end of Noel Burns Park, Mulloka Esplanade, Wurtulla

DATES TO REMEMBER

- World Parks Day - 20 September
- World Maritime Day - 26 September
- World Habitat Day - 6 October
- Bird Week - 18-24 October
- National Water Week - 20-26 October
- National Recycling Week - 10-16 November
- World Fisheries Day - 21 November
- International Volunteer Day - 5 December

WEEDBUSTERS

Don't let this.....



Like many popular house plants, mother-in-law's tongue (*Sansevieria Trifasciata*) is usually spread through people dumping their garden waste in parks, open areas or near creeks. If you have one of these in a pot at home, that's where it should stay. And when you want to dispose of it, make sure you compost it or place it in a Council green waste bin. Plants such as

this multiply rapidly once established and are hard to eradicate.

become this.....



As well as plants from overseas, even native plants from other parts of Queensland and Australia have the potential to become weeds, so treat any new plant with caution. Plants bought for aquariums can also become weeds in our waterways and must never be disposed into creeks, waterways or drains. For more information go to the Sunshine Coast Council website or download their useful brochure:

www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/addfiles/documents/environment/olab_34-60.pdf

VOLUNTEERS KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON THE WATERWAYS

The 9th Annual Training and Discussion Day for water quality monitors was held on 19 June to review water quality results for 2013, share information about local waterways and monitoring practices and extend their understanding of the dynamics of water quality.

The 22 participants discussed results from individual monitoring sites and results across the catchment, and seasonal effects on water quality such as temperature, rainfall events and stormwater impacts on water quality. Monthly reports by water monitors include weather conditions, rainfall events, characteristics of watercolour and condition and extent of litter and pollution. The 20 site-monitoring program enables water monitors to determine what is "normal" for their monitoring site, to identify natural variability of water quality and to identify issues that may be impacting on water quality.

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LIGHTS ON THE LAKE 2014

Time to start getting those canoes and kayaks ready for the annual Lights on the Lake event held on the shores of Currimundi Lake. This year promises to be bigger and better than ever with four hours of live entertainment, a drumming circle, supervised children's activities, appearances from Hugo the Turtle and Santa, as well as many vibrant food and market stalls.

What: Lights on the Lake

When: 4pm to 8pm, Sunday 7 December 2014

Where: Crummunda Park, Coongarra Esplanade, Wurtulla

CHECK OUT THE NEW INTERPRETIVE SIGN AT CURRIMUNDI LAKE



Cr Peter Cox with volunteers Gail, Kaye, Rhondda and Dot

Currimundi Catchment Care Group member Dot Crane cut the ribbon at the launch of the Interpretive Sign installed at Cliff Hargreaves Park on 29 May. Council provided funding and assistance with the design and a group of community members provided input on the content of the sign.

The individual leaves in the sign provide information on the things that make Currimundi Lake such a special place, including history, local flora and fauna, the changing seasons and ecosystem.



VOLUNTEERS KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON THE WATERWAYS *from page 1*

Guest speakers on the day were Sunshine Coast Council officers from the Waterways Team, Drainage Services and Management and Catchment Management. Their presentations on the topics of water quality, erosion and sediment control initiatives and common water quality issues investigated by Council highlighted how Council responds to problems regarding water quality and the actions taken to prevent and limit problems.

The water-monitoring program, commenced in 2003, is funded by a Council-Community Environment Partnership. David Allan, coordinator of the program, said "Monitoring the quality of water is fundamental to understanding the health of the environment in the catchment. This vital program is only possible because of the efforts of 20 dedicated community volunteers who get out each month and test the water quality and ensure the water monitoring equipment operates accurately. We also have a very productive working relationship with Council officers."



2,000 TREES PLANTED – THANK YOU

Over 200 people attended the National Tree Day event at Bancrofts Red Gum Environmental Reserve at Little Mountain on 27 July. It was wonderful to see so many locals and young families working together and having fun while helping the environment. The planting this year of over 2,000 native plants was part of an ongoing project to revegetate degraded land in the area and build a corridor for wildlife and nature lovers to enjoy into the future. Everyone contributed to the day being a huge success and it was a wonderful example of the valuable partnerships that exist between Sunshine Coast Council and the community.

Thanks Rhonda and Council team, Parklands Community Group, Currimundi Catchment Care Group, Lions Club of Caloundra and Sunshine Toyota for help on the day.



BIRD WATCHING FOR WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

There's no better way to celebrate World Environment Day than enjoying our beautiful environment at Currimundi Lake. Twenty-one people braved the chilly breeze on 8 June, spotting (or hearing) twenty-five bird species. The highlights were the Pacific Baza who seemed determined to be noticed by our group, appearing both in Kathleen McArthur and Crummunda Park; the tawny frogmouth who struck a pose that ensured he was the most photographed critter of the day; the wildflowers, already in full bloom; and of course, the anecdotes and knowledge of our guides. Thanks to Kym, Joan, Graeme and Dot from Currimundi Catchment Care Group, Rob and Marina of U3A BirdWatchers and Judy from Friends of Ben Bennett Park who ensured everyone walked away enjoying the day and learning / seeing something new.



Pacific Baza or Crested Hawk

WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL

Once again Currimundi Catchment Care Group volunteers provided a guided walk as part of the Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival. This annual Festival is a wonderful way to find new paths and learn about the local environment in a safe and enjoyable way.



The magnificent Woolly Aotus in full flower

20 people enjoyed the Currimundi Catchment Care Group walk through the beautiful Leacys Bushland Reserve in Currimundi on Saturday 30 August. This bushland reserve is such a special place – a remnant forest showing the land that was, filled with magnificent old trees, new foliage and birdsong.

Special thanks to our wonderful guides Phil, Alex and David, and to Jude and Margaret from Friends of Ben Bennett for their support and assistance.

Stay up-to-date with news and events.
www.currimundicatchment.org.au/cccg
or: [facebook.com/currimundicatchmentcaregroup](https://www.facebook.com/currimundicatchmentcaregroup)

RIPARIAN VEGETATION ON BIRTINYA ISLAND CLEARED BY DEVELOPER



Cleared area near intersection of North Arm and Pangali Canal

Many members of the community felt betrayed by the destruction of vegetation making up the riparian zone along a section on the eastern side of Currimundi Creek North Arm, by Stockland, developer of Birtinya Island.

Plans approved by Council for the development clearly show the vegetation along this section of the creek as "Conservation Open Space". The explanation provided by Stockland as to why this vegetation clearing had been approved indicates that the developer considered the existing vegetation would require significant maintenance, there was danger of falling branches near the waterfront pathway that is required as part of the development, and there was a need for a firebreak. Further the developer states that the area is to be revegetated.

This is sorely disappointing given Council's own *Waterways and Coastal Management Strategy* stresses the challenges faced by clearing of riparian

vegetation to accommodate development and infrastructure. The Strategy states that healthy, vegetated riparian zones are necessary to protect riverbed and bank stability, regulate temperature and light levels, and filter overland flows.

Is this another example of trees being cleared to enable enhanced water views from nearby lots and perhaps a boat launch or other direct access to the water? We sincerely hope that revegetation will meet the needs of a riparian zone and not just the aesthetic requirements of the development.

WHAT IS A RIPARIAN ZONE?

A riparian zone is the interface between land and a river or stream, and usually consists of a narrow strip of land that lines the borders of a waterway. The riparian vegetation fringing freshwater rivers and creeks has a number of important functions. It binds the banks against erosion and collapse, reduces the effects of flooding events, acts as a filter of sediments, nutrients and pollutants, provides shade to maintain cooler water temperatures and dim and patchy lighting where aquatic animals and fish can hide from predators.

This photograph of Currimundi Lake looking west from the mouth, shows the riparian zone reasonably well intact in most areas.



CURRIMUNDI LAKE ADVISORY GROUP

Representatives from 4 community groups and one State Government Department met with Councillors Peter Cox and Rick Baberowski on 5 June to form an Advisory Group to address the recommendations of the Currimundi Lake Dynamics Study by Professor Tomlinson on the management of the Currimundi Catchment including Currimundi Lake and Beach.

Friends of Currimundi Lake
Currimundi Catchment Care Group
Parklands Community Group
Kawana Forest Residents Association
Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sports & Racing

Matters addressed in the Dynamics Study include: Water quality; Infrastructure; Erosion; Integration of Lake Kawana and canals; Water craft management; Biting midge control; Hydrodynamic modelling; Water level monitoring; Entrance Management; Community involvement; Shoreline erosion management; Climate change.

The Group discussed a community strategy to educate and inform the community of the impact of pollutants that travel through Gross Pollutant Traps / SQUIDS to our waterways, and requested Council to improve Gross Pollutant Traps / SQUIDS around the Lake Currimundi Catchment.

WANTED
Newsletter distributor for Parklands area. Please phone Ron on 5491 7905.

LEARNING ABOUT A SPECIAL PLACE

Six classes of Talara Primary College year 3 students visited Noel Burns Park recently to learn more about their local environment for their 'A Special Place' study project. The kids discussed why the park and Lake are so important, threats to the health of the environment, and ways they and their families can help protect these precious assets. Tony, Kaye and Joan from Currimundi Catchment Care Group led lively discussions and showed them some of the interesting things to be found in the park and lake shore. Tony commented 'The Talara kids were bright, enthusiastic and very well behaved. They are a



credit to their school and community. It was tremendous fun'. Teaching our young ones about the environment is a real investment in the future.



This project has been assisted through the Sunshine Coast Council Grants Program.

Group Reports

Currimundi Catchment Care Group

As the season mellows from our mild winter to a glorious spring, the wildflowers blossom and birds rejoice, I am reminded how lucky we locals are to live in such a beautiful spot. We are also lucky to have so many volunteers willing to help protect and enhance our local natural areas, parks, waterways and beaches. Joining one of these groups, either as a member or just coming along to an event like the recent National Tree Day planting is one way you can give something back to your community. As the families who helped us plant 2,000 native plants will confirm – it can be a fun and rewarding time too.

There are other ways you can help too. These small steps can often be combined with your normal routine. Take a rubbish bag with you when you take the dog for a walk or take the kids to the beach. Stay off the sand dunes and fragile Lake and creek banks. Be careful how you dispose of garden waste. Minimise use of fertilisers and chemicals on your lawns to reduce run-off into the waterways. Clean out leaves and rubbish from storm drain grates when you're mowing your footpath or carrying out garden maintenance. All of these little things, when repeated thousands of times across our catchment will make a big difference.

Tony, President

Friends of Currimundi Lake

Our weeding and revegetation group has been very busy. Recent planting behind the recreation area in Cliff Hargreaves Park will protect the foreshores which were being seriously eroded from continual use. We are hoping for further fencing which will also be planted out. Working bee numbers are increasing however we always welcome more people to our happy and productive group.

We have had a request from a student in the Netherlands to visit and see what we are doing with the Lake. This young lady will be visiting in early October. Through our internet web site she is studying Currimundi Lake!

Erosion on the foreshores of the lake, and litter affecting the waterways and beaches are increasing problems and with the summer months on their way, this will be escalated by people use.

The Lake was closed in August for midge control but due to heavy rain had to be reopened to protect people further upstream from being flooded. It was then closed again in early September. I know there is a worry about the cost and manipulation of the lake, but we support this method over the use of chemicals which are not an option when it concerns the environment and people.

President, Rhondda

Parklands Community Group

Thanks and congratulations to all those who got their hands dirty on National Tree Day. Over 200 people and more than 2200 plants in the ground! The rains came at the right time and more walkers appear to be taking the opportunity to inspect the various plantings started in 2009.

Council has completed an engineering review of Wallum Gardens pond and the second Ivadale pond. Minor remedial work to address silt build-up is expected to be undertaken in the next 12 months. Drainage improvements are underway to stabilize the Open Channel, western side of Parklands Blvd between Village Way and Discovery Drive channel, reducing the erosion and attempting to control the debris collection at the culverts.

Discussions are continuing with Council on walking trails to link Parklands, Creekwood and Ivadale to the coast along the existing Currimundi Lake trails, and to the north behind Kawana Forest then to Mooloolah National Park.

President, Ron

Kawana Forest Residents Association

The recent combined clean-up/weed buster day on 10 August was well attended. The amount of rubbish collected was not huge, and hopefully indicates that the community is now more 'rubbish aware'. Residents are reminded that discarded rubbish ends up in our drains and waterways or affects our native vegetation.

Please visit our new improved KaFRA website: <http://www.kafra.org.au/>

President, Greg



Contacts



**Currimundi
Catchment Care
Group Inc. (CCCG)**

covers 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: 10 November

☎ President Tony 5438 8267
www.currimundicatchment.org.au/cccg



**Friends of
Currimundi Lake
(FOCL)**

covers the area
south of Currimundi 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: 7 October, 2 December

☎ President Rhondda 5437 6481
[www.currimundicatchment.org.au/
foclwordpress](http://www.currimundicatchment.org.au/foclwordpress)

Parklands Community Group

☎ President Ron 5491 7905

Kawana Forest Residents' Association (KaFRA)

☎ President Greg 0419 822 663
www.kafra.org.au

Others:

Sunshine Coast Council: 5475 7272
for issues regarding 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 OR

1300 264 625 to report wildlife
emergencies, including sick, injured or
distressed marine life.

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**