

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.



Winter 2014

GET INVOLVED IN UP-COMING LOCAL EVENTS

What: BIRD WATCHING WALK
When: Sunday 8 June from 8.00am to 10.30am
Meet: Viewing Platform in Crummunda Park (corner of Coongarra Esp and Bareki Street, Currimundi)



To celebrate World Environment Day, Currimundi Catchment Care Group invites you on a guided walk through some of the beautiful and diverse bird habitats surrounding Currimundi Lake. The meeting place is a good location for noticing water birds on Currimundi Lake. The wallum scrubland of Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park might reveal wrens, honey eaters, wattle birds or a rainbow bee eater. The walk will end in Crummunda Park, where we might see lorikeets, butcher birds and tawny frogmouths. Please bring some water, binoculars if you have them and sun protection. To book a place, please email ccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au or contact Tony on 5438 8267.

What: TRAINING DAY FOR WATER MONITORS
When: Thursday 19 June at 9am to 12 noon
Where: Meeting Rooms at Kawana Forest Meeting Place, 60 Woodlands Boulevard, Meridan Plains

The purpose of the 9th Annual Training Day is to discuss the findings of the 2013 water monitoring results, learn about common water quality issues investigated by Council, hear about Council water quality, erosion and sediment control initiatives and share information to gain further understanding of the impacts on water quality in the Currimundi Lake catchment. Any community members interested in joining the water monitoring programme or who would like to attend to learn more about the catchment's waterways are very welcome. To attend please ring David on 5493 9695.

What: NATIONAL TREE DAY (Little Mountain)
When: 27 July from 8.00 to 11.30am
Where: Bancroft's Red Gum Reserve, meet at the end of Lakeshore Place

Parklands Community Group and Currimundi Catchment Care Group are again organising National Tree Day. The planting will take place between the 2009 planting site and the South Branch of Currimundi Creek. Plants, tools and equipment will be supplied by Sunshine Coast Council, just remember to wear covered shoes and appropriate clothes. A free sausage sizzle will follow. We expect to see a native animal display by our friends from Geckos. For more information contact Ron on 5491 7905 or 0448 517 905.

What: WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL WALK
When: Saturday 30 August from 9.30am to 11.00am
Meet: Pinehurst Park, cnr Pinehurst Street and Mimosa Crescent, Currimundi

Currimundi Catchment Care Group invites everyone to join them on a guided walk through Leacys Bushland Reserve. This is one of the last secluded bushland retreats in an urbanised area - full of tall timbers, shaded woods,



hidden wildflowers and wildlife. The circular walk is a flat bush pathway but areas can stay wet after rain, so walkers are advised to wear enclosed shoes, sun protection and bring a water bottle. To book a place, please email ccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au or contact Tony on 5438 8267.

FROM THE EDITOR

Have a look at all the opportunities for you and your family to get involved in your local environment. From looking for birds and wildflowers, learning about the water monitoring programme to planting plants and pulling weeds, there is something for everyone. Join in, make some friends and help our environment. Come on your help will make a difference!

Eloise

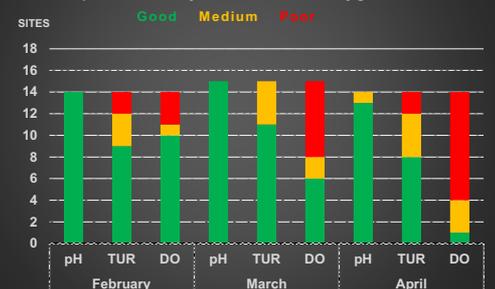
DATES TO REMEMBER

World Environment Day - 5 June
World Oceans Day - 8 June
World Mangrove Day - 26 July
Keep Australia Beautiful Week - 19 - 25 August
National Threatened Species Day - 7 September
National Bilby Day - 14 September

WATER QUALITY RESULTS

(Primary Contact)

pH, Turbidity & Dissolved Oxygen



Currimundi Catchment Care Group provides no warrantee and makes no forecast as to the condition of the waters within Currimundi Lake Catchment.

What: WEEDBUSTER WEEK
When: Morning of Sunday 14 September
Where: Currimundi Marketplace

Currimundi Catchment Care Group will be holding a weed identification and information display to highlight Weedbuster Week and the effect weeds have on the environment. Environmental weeds are plants that invade native ecosystems and adversely affect the survival of indigenous flora and fauna.

You can help by removing common garden plants from your garden which are actually weeds in this part of the world and disposing of them responsibly (see A-Z list of weeds www.daff.qld.gov.au). An example is featured in this newsletter. Please drop by and say hello.





CURRIMUNDI LAKE TREE VANDALISM

Late Monday night (5 May) or early Tuesday morning (6 May) someone/persons cut down, ring barked and cut off branches of trees that were voluntarily planted by Friends of Currimundi Lake (FOCL) and Sunshine Coast Council.

To the horror of the people who care for the foreshores of Currimundi Lake, a wide band of native trees had been vandalised to give a clearer view to the Lake from in front of "The Entrance" high rise units. The perpetrators did not even bother to try and hide what they had done and also dumped some branches in the Lake. Some food vines of the vulnerable Richmond Birdwing Butterfly which had been planted in

partnership with FOCL and Caloundra Primary School have been damaged with one vine in particular, which would have flowered this year, left on the ground in a tangled mess.

FOCL volunteers had spent the previous Saturday weeding and planting in this area, so it was very upsetting for these people who gave up their time to care for this beautiful area. Thank you to the Council staff for their quick response to the carnage and their care. To the people who did this, it is an offence to damage vegetation in local government controlled areas – hope you feel some kind of regret.

IN SEARCH OF GREAT PHOTOS

Photos received so far for the **2015 Currimundi Lake Catchment Calendar** fit the theme of 'highlighting the natural beauty and diversity of the catchment and its inhabitants' and are great environmental photos. **Don't forget to send your great photos in for consideration by 30 September.** The photographers of the twelve photos chosen will receive a free calendar along with acknowledgement in the calendar. For more information contact Glenys on 0409 483 707.

Photographers please remember:

- To provide details of the location and any details relevant to your photo ie name of plants/animals.
- To take photos using high resolution and image size.
- Photos should be in LANDSCAPE not portrait and DON'T CROP photos.
- To obtain permission from any people in the photo for the photo to be reproduced and published.
- To send photos along with relevant details by email to: cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au

TREE CLEARING

Currimundi Catchment Care Group has been contacted recently by community members who were shocked to see large scale tree clearing taking place on developments in Parklands Boulevard, Little Mountain.

Enquiries to Council and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines indicate there is almost no protection over many of these last blocks with natural bushland. Vegetation on these blocks is classified as of "least concern" by Council and no specific approval has been required to fell trees. Developers are also able to use the State Government's *Managing native forest practice: A self-assessable vegetation clearing code* to remove mature native trees without having to lodge a Development Application with a local Council. This is disappointed. It seems neither Council nor the State Government has any effective protection for the remaining bushland in this area. Council has advised that the new Sunshine Coast Planning scheme, effective from 21 May, will provide stronger protection for vegetation. Let's hope this is the case.

COIR LOG WALL SUCCESS

The enthusiastic teamwork of Currimundi Catchment Care Group (CCCG) members, local residents and Council staff proved to be the key to the success of the latest coir log wall extension at Noel Burns Park, Wurtulla on 8 and 9 April.

The coir log wall was extended by 110 metres using 140 coir logs and 110 metres of geofabric and 800 native plants were planted along the riparian zone. The wall is the continuation of an erosion control strategy, commenced in 2009, to stabilise the bank, limit erosion and filter water flowing from the park into Currimundi Lake. From 2009 to 2014 this council-community partnership has installed 350 metres of coir log wall and planted almost 3,000 native plants.

Instead of just watching banks collapse, trees fall in the water and community parkland be lost forever CCCG's Council-Community partnership has showed initiative and lateral thinking in joint planning and implementation. There were times when the work was quite challenging but teamwork and the camaraderie amongst everyone was a joy to experience. Thank you to the many local residents who have participated in this project and special thanks to our Council colleagues. This has been a very successful outcome.



WEED ALERT

Glory Lily (*Gloriosa superba*) also known as Gloriosa or Flame Lily is regarded as one of the 10 most serious invasive garden plants in Australia available for sale in nurseries. It is poisonous to humans, livestock, native animals and pets if eaten. The rootstock is the most toxic part. Queensland Health has it classified as Category 1 (extremely toxic, known to cause injury, permanent disability and death; do not plant; removal and disposal of existing plants is strongly recommended) and Category 3 (irritant to skin or eyes from tubers or sap).



Glory Lily is a climbing tuberous perennial herb and a very serious weed near coastal forests and dune scrubs and strongly competes with native flora. The flowers are bright red, orange or yellow with wavy edged petals that bend backwards and have six prominent spreading stamens. The leaves are bright green and have a tendril-like tip that curls around supporting plants. The fruit is a 3 lobed green capsule containing numerous red spongy seeds. One of the main methods of spreading is by dumping garden refuse.



Please responsibly remove and dispose of this plant from your garden and volunteers take care when working with Glory Lily at working bees.

Ref. Queensland Government, Australian Government, NSW Department of Primary Industries

Stay up-to-date with news and events. Visit www.currimundicatchment.org.au

MERIDAN PLAINS SAND MINE UPDATE

Councillor Peter Cox informed Currimundi Catchment Care Group that Hanson Construction commenced bulk sample excavation works on their site at various locations on 24 March. Hanson Construction advised this would result in 6 pits which would close up over time to create small water holes. The purpose was to determine the extent and quality of their resource. They extracted 12 truck and trailer loads (30 tonne each) transporting them to their Ravensbourne sand plant for processing. They also checked Honey Farm Road was in a suitable condition and imported fill to their site to construct temporary tracks for their trucks.

Background: (provided by Council) The Hanson development application was approved in October 2012 with a change to the flexibility in haulage route construction being approved in January 2014. To date this is the only development application that has been lodged over the Meridan Plains Extraction Resource site. Access to the site is via Sattler and Caloundra Roads to the south and the end use is approximately 23 hectares of lake/wetland. There is a Council-Hanson infrastructure agreement to allow for orderly extraction, while jointly contributing to the infrastructure, water quality and flooding requirements. Hanson anticipates extraction to commence in 2014 however, some operational works approvals are yet to be applied for. Timing may also be dependent upon external factors ie market conditions and construction periods.

A number of studies for the entire Meridan Plains Extraction Resource site ensure progress towards the final lake designs and future management have been identified and progressed. As at April 2014, the studies completed include Hydrogeological Assessment of Impacts, Groundwater Monitoring Program and Acid Soil Impacts. Flood sensitivity and Geotechnical Stability, Climate Impacts and Social Impacts are to be completed. Economic and Financial studies will relate to each Development approval. Once all the studies are completed, Council officers will commence preparation of the Lake Management Plan and Final Landform Design and Site Rehabilitation Plan.

A range of provisions to allow extractive industry operations to occur within the Key Resource Area (sand) at Meridan Plains have been incorporated into the Caloundra City Plan via an amendment process in January 2011 and also apply to the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme due to commence shortly.

NEWS FLASH – Another company has submitted to Council a pre-lodgement for a second sand mine adjacent to the Hanson site.



MANGROVES OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE CATCHMENT

Currimundi Catchment Care Group (CCCG) began the first stage of a mangrove mapping project in 2013 using video, GPS and digital camera equipment to create GPS-linked video recordings of mangroves and other shoreline habitats of Currimundi Lake and creeks and GPS-linked photographic images of various natural assets. This baseline data was collected for future comparative mapping studies to determine any changes in the mangrove communities of the catchment.

The data showed that grey and red mangroves were present in the mapped area. Mangrove ferns were found in an area which was not accessible by boat and therefore were not mapped, but have been a natural part of the habitat for a considerable time and CCCG members have paddled the waterways to investigate them over a number of years.

Earlier this year CCCG conducted land surveys of mangrove communities to extend the shoreline mapping project by gathering data that was not collected originally. The collective data of the two kinds of studies will be used to gain a greater understanding of mangrove communities in the catchment. In February another land survey was undertaken with a group of Unity College students to trial a survey method and to collect data, which will be used to develop educational material for use in CCCG's school programme.

WHAT IS CURRIMUNDI LAKE?

The Currimundi Lake Dynamic Study refers to Currimundi Lake "prior to the major modifications of the last few decades, as an ICOLL (Intermittently Closed and Open Lake or Lagoon).



The entrance was generally closed with a berm of sand blocking any tidal flow between the lake and the ocean. Breaches of this berm would have occurred during high rainfall events or as result of overtopping during high tides or storms. The processes of sand movement along the beach would result in rapid closure of the entrance again.

In its current configuration the lake is generally open to the ocean, albeit only to a limited extent. The lake now has a persistent outflow due to the pumped discharge from Lake Kawana and during spring tides or higher there is also a greater tidal flow."

The study suggests Currimundi Lake is in transition from an ICOLL to an estuary and states the Currimundi Lake system falls into the category of "Mid-estuarine and tidal canals, constructed estuaries, marinas and boat harbours". An estuary is a body of water formed where freshwater from rivers and streams flows into the ocean, mixing with seawater.

NATURAL BUSHLAND AREAS

The Little Mountain and Parklands areas form an important part of the Currimundi Lake catchment. Water from these areas drains into Currimundi Creek South Arm and then into the Lake. This area has been the focus of strong housing development over the past 10 years which has turned a previously semi-rural area into a highly developed suburban one, with even more development planned for the near future.

It is so important to retain sufficient areas of natural bushland, not only along the creek but also corridors of bushland that provide habitat for native fauna and enable their safe movement. Sadly the large mobs of kangaroos that were a common sight in Little Mountain have now all but disappeared, many as road kill victims.

Currimundi Catchment Care Group together with Parkland Community Group, has developed a plan to create new pathways and to connect existing pathways around the waterways and through the remaining bushland so that residents can continue to enjoy walking and exploring the natural assets of the catchment. This plan has been presented to Council for inclusion in their Recreational Trails planning.

WANTED
Newsletter
distributor for
Regatta Park
area Wurtulla.
Please phone
Joanon
54932698.

The production of this newsletter is funded by the Sunshine Coast Council Community Partnership Funding Program and opinions expressed are not those of Council and not necessarily those of CCCG Inc.

Group Reports

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

It was a wonderful experience to be a part of the team of volunteers that put in such an effort to complete our recent coir log wall project in Noel Burns Park. It was inspiring to observe the commitment to the environment and spirit of co-operation and friendship displayed by all involved. This year's project adds another 110 metres of rehabilitated bank to our legacy of environmental protection in the park and catchment.

As our balmy winter season approaches and we enjoy those crisp, clear, sunny days and we find our parks and beaches less crowded, it's a great time to get out and enjoy our wonderful local environment - whether you're walking, cycling, paddling or fishing on the Lake's edge. Remember to care for your neighbourhood - pick up that bit of rubbish and don't take shortcuts that might damage the dunes, banks or vegetation. Take a camera with you while you're out - you just might capture that perfect shot for our calendar project. It is a great way to showcase the beauty in our Currimundi Lake catchment. **President, Tony**

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

I am sickened to advise more than a dozen trees in Cliff Hargreaves Park have been cut down by vandals. Whether it was to improve views or sheer vandalism this destructive behaviour is unacceptable. Most of these plants were planted by either our group or Council to improve the environment. (See article inside)

On a happier note, our working bees have been very well attended and I thank everyone for volunteering their time. Our working bees in Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park and in our area will be continuing and anyone wishing to volunteer for a few hours are very welcome.

We have been considering how to move forward with the Currimundi Lake Dynamics Study and this will be finalised shortly.

Council started on the new pathway from Currimundi/Gothic Parade to meet the Coastal Pathway in Hargreaves Street. This pathway will be a great asset, especially for people's safety as it is a very busy area. We have been working with Council on this plan for some time so it is great to see it all happening.

The turtle season for our area has finished, however we will be having a display table on Environment Day at the Sunshine Coast University on 8 June.

President, Rhondda

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

Council has been active in our neighbourhood. Completing the sidewalk along the east side of Parklands Boulevard connecting Caloundra Road and the bus stop and crossing from the west to the east side at the lights. They also had a contractor spray a substantial groundsel (declared weed) area between the south side of Kawana Link Road and Bancroft's Red Gum Environmental Reserve.

The AV Jennings residential development had a great reception, showcasing the sport recreational facilities. Frog Global, opposite Meridan State School have been criticised for the removal of some significant old trees in preparation for a yet undefined proposal whereas Churches of Christ, the owner of an abutting property, have put out a call for residents willing to help with a **tree planting on 24 May at 12.30 to 2.00pm** to enhance their future residential retirement proposal. All are welcome. Please contact Tim Burns at tim.burns@cofcqld.com.au.

In our continuing efforts to replant Bancroft's Red Gum Reserve, National Tree day is being organised for 27 July. (See front page article) Hope to see you there!

President, Ron

KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Our AGM was held on Sunday 4 May at the Kawana Forest Meeting Place. Although there was a disappointing turn-up, particularly of new members, a new Management Committee was elected. I retained the President's position and Maureen was re-elected as Minutes Secretary. It is obvious we need to investigate new ways of attracting active participation in the Association and this will be a prime concern for the new committee.

The combined "Weedbusters and Clean-up Day" will be held later in the year and will be advertised in the local papers and radio. Please come a join in.

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: 14 July, 8 September

☎ Secretary Kym 5493 4398

www.currimundicatchment.org.au

www.facebook.com/currimundicatchment



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: 3 June, 5 August

☎ President Rhondda 5437 6481

www.currimundicatchment.org.au

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