

# 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.



## Summer 2014

### LIGHTS ON THE LAKE - 7 DECEMBER



Caloundra Bendigo Bank Manager, Troy McDonald, and mascot Piggy, meet with Currimundi Catchment Care Group President, Tony Moorhead, at Currimundi Lake

Manager of the Caloundra **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branch of Bendigo Bank, Troy McDonald, said the Bank is delighted and proud to be a major sponsor of *Lights on the Lake 2014*.

"The Bank is an integral part of the Currimundi, Caloundra and Kawana community because all profit is invested back into supporting local groups and events like *Lights on the Lake*," he said. "You could say, we're run by the community as it is locals who decide where the profits are spent."

"As well as *Lights on the Lake*, we support a range of organisations such as the Caloundra Junior Rugby Union, Paraplegic Benefit Fund, Queensland Air Museum, Caloundra Community Centre and Caloundra Triathlon to name just a few. So far we have contributed over \$270,000 directly back into the local community," said Troy.

The additional support from Bendigo Bank will help to make this event even more special. There'll be activities for all ages, including supervised children's activities, community information displays, a drumming circle, arts and craft stalls, live entertainment and great food.

Santa will be arriving from across the Lake around 6pm and everyone will be lined up along the shores of Currimundi Lake at nightfall for the beautiful procession of kayaks and canoes decorated with Christmas lights. There are prizes to be won for the best decorated boats and best costume.

As parking is very limited, the Organising Group asks people to consider walking, cycling, paddling or catching a bus to the event. Because of the large crowds we ask all people to ensure children are supervised, and think twice before bringing your pet pooch who would probably be happier left at home.

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

**When:** 4-8 pm, Sunday 7 December

**To register for the water procession:**

**website:** [www.currimundicatchment.org.au/lights-on-lake](http://www.currimundicatchment.org.au/lights-on-lake)

**email:** [cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au), or call 5438 8267.



### NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED

Can you help to deliver this Newsletter? It's just a couple of hours 4 times a year, and this could be your way of helping the environment. The areas most in need are **Birtinya** and **Talara**. Please call Joan on 5493 2698.

### THANKS ELOISE!

Mid-2014 saw Eloise Blake complete her time as editor of Currimundi Lake Catchment News after 10 years in the role.

Key achievements include increasing the circulation of the newsletter from 4,000 to over 8,000, a Froggies Highly Commended Award for Environmental Communication in 2009, and introducing the new-look format in 2014.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**6 Knots, No Wash Campaign:**

1 - 7 December

**CCCG AGM:** 2 February 2015

**FOCL AGM:** 4 February 2015

**International Earth Day:** 22 April

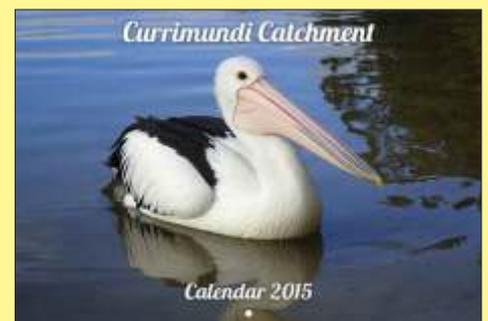
**National Seaweed:** 1-7 March

### CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

1 MARCH 2015

Currimundi Catchment Care Group, Friends of Currimundi Lake and Parklands Community Group will all be organising a clean up event. So please contact one of these groups to get involved in the largest community event in Australia.

### CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CALENDAR 2015



Thank you to all the photographers who provided images of our beautiful catchment for the 2015 Calendar.

The Calendar is available for \$10, and you can purchase a copy at the Currimundi Catchment Care Group and Bendigo Bank stalls at Lights on the Lake, or order one by phone 5491 2601, or email: [cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au).

## “6 KNOTS - NO WASH” MEANS SLOW DOWN TO PREVENT EROSION



Speeding along Currimundi Lake may be fun but the wash from this boat will contribute to erosion of the banks and eventually to trees toppling into the lake.



If you're out boating, look behind to make sure there are no waves from your boat strong enough to wash up on the banks of the lake and creeks. And if you have visitors for the holidays remind them of the need to slow down on the waterways. That way you'll all be keeping boat wash to a minimum to ensure the waterways will be here for many years to come.

Don't destroy what you came to enjoy!

This is a legal speed limit. Maritime Safety Queensland, Fisheries Queensland and Water Police can impose an **on-the-spot fine of 3 penalty units (currently \$341)** for exceeding 6 knots or creating a wash capable of causing a marine incident.

### WHAT'S IN A NAME?



The name Currimundi comes from the language of the Gubbi Gubbi people, the indigenous inhabitants of this area. Different spellings of the word appear in historical records, but the meaning is a place of flying foxes.

The land was surveyed in 1845 and the first European settler was Thomas Ballinger in 1861. He settled on the southern side of the lake and ran sheep on the land including Battery Hill which was named during the 1880s when the land was fortified because of fears that the Russians would invade Australia.

In more recent times, the Battery Hill name was retained in recognition of the area's World War Two history, where Australian troops undertook artillery training in the vicinity of Currimundi and Battery Hill.

The name Kawana was adopted in the late 1950s and is an Aboriginal word for flowers, although not from the Gubbi Gubbi language, and some years later Wurtulla was named, meaning southward.

### WE LOVE CURRIMUNDI



*We Love Currimundi* is a community Facebook page founded by Tim and Fiona Gregory of Century 21 Coastal. They've also started the Currimundi Connect Business

Networking Group which has announced a fundraising initiative to assist the funding of *Lights on the Lake 2015*.

The Networking Group is selling *We Love Currimundi* bumper stickers for \$2.00 each, and is also working on further fundraising initiatives through the year with a focus on giving back to their community. Why not buy 5 stickers for \$10 and share them with friends and family. To order bumper stickers, email Fiona at: [fiona@welovecurrimundi.com.au](mailto:fiona@welovecurrimundi.com.au) or call 0419 646 851.

### SUMMER WATER QUALITY TIPS

Spring is a special time to enjoy the Currimundi waterways, fishing, swimming, boating and visual beauty of the waterways, their vegetation and landscapes. Critical to this enjoyment is the quality of the water.

The water quality monitoring program reports for early Spring showed that water clarity was quite high due mostly to low rainfall. 100 percent of water samples tested achieved guideline targets for acidity-alkalinity and the level of dissolved oxygen was normal for this time of the year.

While water quality may vary from hour to hour, day to day and by season there are some things we can all do to protect the waterways and improve water quality this Summer. These practices will also protect marine life and lead to safer enjoyment in the waterways.

If you have exposed soil from construction or landscaping projects, seed the area with grass or ground cover to prevent erosion and run-off into the waterways

Mulch the leaves in your yard using a lawnmower and stop them from blowing into the street where they will build up in stormwater drains

Don't throw palm fronds and other garden waste into the water

Wash the car on grass to prevent the chemicals from flowing into the waterways

Place used doggy bags into bins rather than leaving them on the beach or in parks

When you picnic by the waterway, put your rubbish in the bin or take it home

Avoid taking balloons to parks and areas near the waterways.



**CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP** is looking for new members. We have a many interesting projects coming up in 2015 including a fish survey, mangrove mapping, installation of coir log walls, water monitoring, tree planting, weed busting and much more.

We're looking for people with all kinds of skills from hands-on outdoor work to computer-based activities. If you think this might suit you, contact Tony at [info@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:info@currimundicatchment.org.au) or 5438 8267. Our first meeting in 2015 is 2 February. All welcome!

## WALLUM GARDENS, PARKLANDS

Local residents of Parklands in Little Mountain consider themselves fortunate to have access to a lovely local park - Wallum Gardens. At first glance it is an attractive park surrounding a large pond with a footpath and grassed areas, trees, shrubs, water lilies and birdlife. On further investigation it seems this has not occurred merely by chance.

The water body started its life as a silt pond to collect runoff occurring when the area was first developed for housing. The pond area was dug out, but edges were not well-defined, and mowing of the grassed area occurred only intermittently. Exotic and native waterplants proliferated and became a problem, and there were high levels of sedimentation and recurring algal blooms.

This led to the formation of the Parklands Community Group approximately nine years ago, a group of local people with an interest in improving the appearance and function of the pond, as well as other local issues. As a result of their approaches to Council, many improvements have been made over the years - rocks have been placed around the pond, water plants are cut and removed twice a year and grass is regularly mowed.

However in spite of these improvements, the Parklands Community Group still has major concerns about the function of the pond, observing high levels of sedimentation and poor water quality. The pond receives water via a number of storm water inlets from the nearby residential area. The primary inlet is a concrete lined channel from Parklands Boulevard which flows into a forebay lined with rocks and it is this area that has led to many of the problems with excessive sedimentation.

In June this year Council carried out major investigations to define the current state of the water body. It agreed with the Community Group that changes were needed and is expected to undertake remedial action within the next 12 months. Action will focus on improving the quality of water inflow and changes to the forebay area to prevent flow of sediment into the main pond.

If you're wondering about the relevance of this pond to Currimundi Lake, the pond has a single outlet channel at the northern tip which flows into adjacent bushland, and eventually water flows into Currimundi Creek South Arm and then on into the lake.

Well done Parklands Community Group! And congratulations to key members Ron Burnett and Dot Billingham who this year received a Queensland Day Award from local member, the Honourable Jarrod Bleijie, for their contribution to the community.



## ACTIVE BIRDLIFE



Kathleen McArthur Park is a haven for birds both large and small. Marion Coleman recently photographed this yellow-tailed black cockatoo making a meal of the silky oak flowers, and a delightful variegated wren.

But what about birds visiting our backyards? Debate still rages about whether it's a good idea to feed birds and other wildlife in your backyard, but Summer's here and it's pretty hot.



The native birds and butterflies that visit your yard need fresh water. You could help them out by providing a bird-bath. Make sure it's high enough to be safe from predators, then sit back and enjoy the fun as grateful wildlife come to drink and play.

## RIVERSWEEP CLEANED UP

On a beautiful morning on 12 October, a group of 30 people in canoes and kayaks set out for the annual clean-up event from the water. As usual we were surprised by how much rubbish there is, with plastic bait bags, drink bottles and cans and cigarette butts being the worst offenders.

Thanks also to the Suncoast Seniors Recreational Kayaking Club who collected rubbish during one of their weekly paddles which took place in Currimundi Creek South Arm on 20 October. Every little bit helps!



# Group Reports

## Currimundi Catchment Care Group

I am pleased to announce that Currimundi Catchment Care Group have entered into an Environmental Levy Partnership with Sunshine Coast Council for the next three years. The partnership continues many years of close and productive cooperation with the Council. It will fund our major projects and activities including printing this newsletter, our community water quality monitoring program, erosion control work, some administration costs like running our website, printing and storage costs and annual projects like Clean Up Australia Day and Riversweep.

CCCG have long recognised the importance of supporting students studying in the field of environmental science and related subjects. They are the conservationists of the future who will carry on caring for our environment. During the last couple of months we have visited Kawana State College to talk to year 11 science students. We were thrilled to learn that a Masters Degree student from the Netherlands had chosen the Currimundi Catchment as her thesis subject. We have been working closely with Yolanda while she spends six months at the University of Sunshine Coast to complete her research. We have also assisted a University of Queensland Master's student on her thesis also focussing on our catchment and our group.

**President, Tony**

## Friends of Currimundi Lake

This term we have hosted Yolanda Arkesteijn, a post graduate student from the Netherlands who is studying the Currimundi Catchment as part of her study in International Land and Water Management. Her final report is expected shortly.

As usual we are pulling out weeds, and although the weeds are still prolific, native plants are seeding far earlier partly because of the dry and warmer weather. Vandals have again removed about twenty of our small native plants, a growing problem in our area as well as trees being cut indiscriminately. Asparagus weed is being targeted in the Currimundi Lake (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park, assisted by a small group from the Green Army Program. The final working bee for this year will be on 10 December, starting again on 10 February 2015.

The first turtle at Mon Repos has arrived - a flat back. We will have monitors on the beach each day, but if you see turtle tracks on the Currimundi/Ballinger Beaches please ring me on 5437 6481 as I am the Coordinator for these beaches.

Erosion along the foreshores of the lake will be a major issue this summer with the increase of visitors over the holiday break. Hopefully the new fence will be up by then. We ask everyone to please be kind to our environment and our sea creatures over the Christmas period by being responsible with your litter. Have a great and safe Christmas.

**President, Rhondda**

## Parklands Community Group

The 2014 National Tree Day site has the best strike rate of the many we have undertaken. Council have provided a few extra trays of plants to fill in a few gaps and we will move the McGrath tree guards to encourage a more upright growth. Everything is shooting and many of the native hibiscus have bloomed.

Council have completed a restoration of the west side of the Parklands Boulevard ditch in a manner that will eliminate gouging and scoring of the base. Also they added some bitumen to eliminate the drop-off along the bicycle path edge. Good job!

The "Little Mountain" signs at Caloundra Road have received special treatment so we can now read them at night. Your friends at Parklands wish to offer special Christmas and Holiday wishes to everyone and look forward to great New Year. Thanks for all your support and efforts in keeping up appearances in the neighbourhood.

**President, Ron**

## Kawana Forest Residents Association

Planning for KaFRA's seventh annual Family Christmas party is well advanced. It will be held on Sunday 30 November between 3.00 and 6.00pm at the Kawana Forest Meeting Place on Woodlands Boulevard. There will be activities for young children, some puzzles for the older ones, Santa of course will make an appearance, raffles for a hamper and other prizes, as well as a lucky door hamper. There will be a sausage/rissoles BBQ for a modest "donation". If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Greg on 0419 822 663 by 26 November.

**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 second Monday of every odd month.

**Next Meeting: AGM 2 February 2015**

☎ President Tony 5438 8267  
[www.currimundicatchment.org.au/cccg](http://www.currimundicatchment.org.au/cccg)  
[www.facebook.com/currimundicatchment](https://www.facebook.com/currimundicatchment)  
email: [cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au)



### 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 first Tuesday of every even month.

**Next Meeting: AGM 4 February 2015**

☎ 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](http://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**