

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.



Autumn 2015

MARCIA CAUSES TEMPORARY DROP IN WATER QUALITY



Recent flooding near the playing fields at Meridan Plains

Heavy rain, followed by the tail end of cyclone Marcia, resulted in extensive urban runoff and increased volumes of water flowing through the Currimundi catchment. Like a monster hose gushing through the channels of creeks, canals and lake, the water carried trees, dirt, untreated sewage, animal waste, plastic bags,

fertilisers, oils and grease, cigarette butts, sediment and other pollutants into the ocean. Water quality dropped to poor. The rain caused 'nuisance' flooding in parts of the catchment and those who entered the waterways ignored safety risks and common sense.

The rainfall events in February degraded the water quality so much that safe water quality levels for swimming probably did not return for at least a week after the rain. Council erected safety signs not only for safety risks but also for the health risks from swimming in polluted waters.

Maintaining water quality to achieve government standards is a challenge and one in which the whole community has a role to play. As the population in the catchment grows and urban development continues, there is a greater need for residents to realize that untreated stormwater that we see running along street gutters ends up in our creeks, canals and lake. All catchment residents have a responsibility to prevent pollutants from leaving their properties to enter the stormwater system.

Improving water quality in the waterways in the long term will require effective erosion and sediment control, filtering of pollutants from stormwater and active vigilance by residents to prevent contaminants from entering the waterways. Currimundi Catchment Care Group has taken many initiatives towards building and developing projects that improve the water quality and limit erosion and details on further projects planned for 2015 are contained on page 3.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Coir Log Wall Project** - 25, 26, 27 May
- Local Clean and Weed** - 12 April, 3 May
- World Water Day** - 22 March
- Earth Hour** - 8.30pm 28 March
- World Turtle Day** - 23 May

PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED FOR 2016 CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CALENDAR

We were thrilled with the response to the 2015 calendar which has been sent all over the world by proud local residents to show their friends and relatives what a beautiful part of the world we live in.

So get those cameras clicking and send in your photographs for consideration for our 2016 wall calendar by 30 September.

Technical requirements are set out on the Currimundi Catchment Care Group website.

Photographs are to be submitted by email to:
cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au

A free calendar will be given to photographers whose pictures are used, and photographers will be acknowledged in the calendar. For more information contact Glenys 0409 483 707.

WHAT'S THAT STUFF ON THE WATER?

This question is often asked when people see "stuff" floating on the surface in the waterways. Some of this stuff may be grass clippings, algae, foam or an oily sheen caused by bacteria. Some of the stuff is seasonal like the yellow pollen of wattle in spring. Scum may appear on the water surface of a morning and burn off with the sun.

Currimundi Catchment Care Group is compiling a photographic record of stuff floating on the water surface in the creeks, canals and lakes. The photographs together with other information will be used in educational programs on water quality. We invite residents to photograph stuff on the water surface, note the date and location of the stuff and email to cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au. Contributions will be acknowledged.



Water surface at Crummunda Park during recent heavy rain

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY



Volunteers at the Cliff Hargreaves Park site.

Two successful clean up events took place around the Lake on Sunday 1 March. 34 helpers registered with Friends of Currimundi Lake at Cliff Hargreaves Park. The volunteers were able to cover the open ground as well as the bush, sand dunes, beach, creek banks and roadside. Children joined their parents to comb the high water line and picked up all the very small pieces of litter that are most dangerous to marine life. The dunes were reasonably clean this year and the general feeling was that this whole area was in better shape. There were no mattresses, tents or very large objects, mainly bottles, cans, and food wrappers. It was encouraging to see young families involved, and the morning concluded with sausages and chips provided by our friends at Cocos. Metal reusable water bottles provided by Sandie from Envirocom were handed out to all helpers.

45 volunteers joined the Currimundi Catchment Care Group site in Crummunda Park and spread out to various parks, Currimundi Lake shore, Nicklin Way, Baroona canal and other areas of the catchment. Most of the rubbish collected consisted of the usual suspects – drink bottles and cans, food wrappers, fishing gear, cigarette butts and assorted plastic. There were also 3 old bikes, several crab-pots and a snake! Yes a snake dumped in a black rubbish bag by some uncaring resident. Fortunately the 2 metre python was released and it seemed healthy and unharmed.

A third clean up in the catchment was organized by Parklands Community Group and focused on Parklands Boulevard in Little Mountain, a route which has unfortunately become a rubbish dump for people going to and from the local shops and working on the housing estates.

Thanks go to all our willing clean up workers for their participation.



Snakes alive

CLEANING UP IS NOT JUST ONCE A YEAR FOR BIRTINYA RESIDENT

In only three years, Birtinya resident Terry Boland has become something of a local legend. Retired and wanting to keep his level of fitness, Terry cycles every morning around the streets of Birtinya. On noticing increasing litter along the roads, Terry now returns about three days a week with a bag and picks up the litter.



Terry said it's worst along Birtinya Boulevard, and the most common items are flavoured milk cartons, chocolate bar wrappers, drink cans and empty beer stubbies.

As you would imagine Terry has become extremely popular within the local community, and has even featured in a short film about his contribution to the local area.

They day I met up with Terry, on returning to the carpark we saw two bags of prawn bait dumped on the

open area in front of the Stockland sales office. True to form Terry swiftly picked them up, emptied the prawns into the canal and disposed of the plastic bags in the bins.

But wait there's more, Terry also works with Currimundi Catchment Care Group as a water monitor and delivering this quarterly newsletter.

Thanks Terry, we wish there were more like you!

SMALL BIRDS NEED YOUR HELP

Walk through Noel Burns Park or Crummunda Park and you will no longer see or hear wrens, little honey eaters, finches, thrushes. Yet these little birds are still present in Kathleen McArthur Regional Park and on the South side of Currimundi Lake. What's the difference?



Silvereye photographed in Kathleen McArthur Park by Marion Coleman

Answer: places to hide - the little birds need protection from aggressive birds such as the noisy miner, and from cats and dogs.

How can we help? Check our own yards. Is there any space for a native shrub or two? What to plant? Little birds love grevilleas, banksias, lillypillies and much more. If we all plant one native shrub, it would make a huge difference.

And if you notice any bare spots on nature strips, verges or in the local parks where you think more shrubs might be suitable, email Currimundi Catchment Care Group. We'll approach Council for approval.

PANEL LOOKING AT CATCHMENT

The Currimundi Lake Dynamics Panel was formed in mid 2013 to look at the Catchment as a whole, and includes representatives from Friends of Currimundi Lake, Currimundi Catchment Care Group, Parklands Community Group, Kawana Forest Residents Association, the community, and Councillors Cox and Baberowski.

The panel has teams investigating topics of Water Quality Monitoring, Sediment and Litter, Erosion, Flooding, Dredging and the Currimundi Weir, with a view to making recommendations to Council to help improve the environment of the Currimundi Lake Catchment.

The panel will make input into prioritising new sediment traps in the Currimundi Lake Catchment, following results of an independent study commissioned by Council to look at water quality in the Maroochy, Mooloolah and Currimundi catchments.



CURRIMUNDI CREEK SOUTH ARM EROSION STUDY

Members of Currimundi Catchment Care Group and Friends of Currimundi Lake joined with other local residents in attending a community consultation meeting on 15 January to provide input to a project to examine erosion in Currimundi Creek South Arm.

Sunshine Coast Council has engaged a specialist consultancy firm, Alluvium Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, to undertake a bank stability study. The aim is to get an understanding of the historical and current geomorphic processes which may be impacting on the bank in this part of the catchment. The study will also develop a range of possible management actions to help reduce bank erosion.

Community members provided anecdotal information on the historical status of the banks and vegetation in this section of Currimundi Creek, and voiced their concerns about current bank erosion. Discussion focussed on changes in turbidity particularly following the construction of the IRT Retirement Village and associated concrete channel, and also the effects of flooding. Several local residents were particularly concerned about the number of speeding boats causing boat wash that erodes the banks.



The Hon Jarrod Bleijie, MP, opens Lights on the Lake 2014

LIGHTS ON THE LAKE 2014 AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS

The Lights on the Lake festival, held on 7 December 2014 on the shores of Currimundi Lake, showed just how important and valuable this event is for engaging community spirit and a sense of belonging. Thousands of people of all ages flocked to Crummunda Park to enjoy the event.

Thanks once again to our major sponsors *Sunshine Coast Council* and *Caloundra Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank*, State Member for *Kawana*, *Jarrod Bleijie MP*, drumming circle sponsor *Jo Mollinger Real Estate*, MC *Howard Montgomery*, entertainers - *Uke Crazy People*, *Scotch and Cider*, *Fitness and Dance Studio Sunshine Coast South*, *Ken O'Shea*, *Mason Hope*, *Dave Stygall* and *Rhythm Culture*, and to all the local organisations who provided support or donated goods, services or prizes: *Accord Electrical*, *Bangkok by Night*, *Blend Salon*, *Bunnings Caloundra*, *Club Kawana*, *Currimundi News*, *Donut King Sunland*, *Frangipani Cutting Crew*, *Friends of Currimundi Lake*, *Ideas Currimundi*, *JC Hire*, *Jo Mollinger Real Estate*, *Kentucky Fried Chicken Wurtulla*, *Lenard's Chicken Currimundi*, *McDonalds Currimundi*, *Pacific Lutheran College*, *Pharmacy for Life Wurtulla*, *Pizza Hut Currimundi*, *Red Rooster Currimundi*, *Swimart*, *Wurtulla*, *Tai Chi for Health*, *The Chicken Spot*, *Unitywater*, *We love Currimundi*, *Wurtulla Fruit & Vegetables*.

And a big thank you to the 150 plus volunteers who helped make the event such an outstanding success. We look forward to organising Lights on the Lake again in 2015.

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP PROJECTS 2015

Mangrove and Seagrass Projects

- to study mangrove and seagrass extent and condition in the lake and creeks in the first two weeks of May and October, and compare with data from studies conducted in 2013.

Fish Survey

- partnering with Council to conduct a fish survey in April to assess their abundance, size and species, and compare to 2013 survey data and earlier studies.

Planting in Crummunda Park

- following Council's installation of a safety fence and steps to access the beach, Currimundi Catchment Care Group will work with Council to plant native vegetation in the area to bind the banks.

Coir Log Wall Extension

- to extend the coir log wall in Noel Burns Park on 25, 26, 27 May

Can you help with the coir log wall project? Residents and visitors are invited to join Currimundi Catchment Care Group and the Council team on one or more of these days from 8.30 am to 2.00 pm including a sausage sizzle. Join us and become a member of a large community team who has contributed to this effective strategy in stabilizing the banks and enabling vegetation to thrive. Contact David for more details on 5493 9695.

CLEAN AND WEED

To help maintain our beautiful pockets of natural vegetation Currimundi Catchment Care Group will coordinate a series of local "Clean and Weed" activities.

12 April 3.30–5.00pm, Stockyard Park, Ivadale Lakes. Meet at the bridge opposite 9 Ivadale Boulevard, near Night Owl shops.

3 May 3.30–5.00pm, Neighbourhood Park, Currimundi. Meet at the corner of Creekside Boulevard and Lomandra Drive.

Everyone welcome. Please bring gloves and water bottles. Is there a park near you that needs a Clean and Weed? If so, please phone or email Currimundi Catchment Care Group.



 **Sunshine Coast**
COUNCIL

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

Group Reports

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

We finished last year on a high note with another successful Lights on the Lake festival. I would like to thank the 150 volunteers who gave their time, talent and effort to stage this vibrant, family-oriented community festival. So often volunteers work behind the scenes and go unnoticed but they play a vital role in our communities. I have the honour again this year to lead one small band of volunteers – the Currimundi Catchment Care Group - who play an important part in caring for our local environment. We also coordinate more than 20 volunteers from the community who conduct water monitoring at various sites in the catchment each month. This newsletter is delivered to your home by one of about 140 volunteer deliverers. Without those volunteers we could not afford to bring this to you.

It was very pleasing to hear many of the people who joined us recently for our Clean Up Australia Day event report that they were thrilled to receive acknowledgement of their efforts from passing cars tooting the horn when they saw the clean up bags or walkers who stopped to say hello and thank you. Let's hope some of those passers-by stop next year and join in.

Tony, President

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

The Working Bee Group have been literally up to their ears in weeds following the rain and warm weather. This year will see us retain our two working bees on the south side of the Lake and also continue our work with the Rangers in Kathleen McArthur Park once a month.

The new fencing in Cliff Hargreaves Park to protect the foreshores of the Lake is working very well, which means we will look at further fencing in the future where we are losing plants and trees due to usage pressure. We will also keep monitoring and surveying of the opposite bank where over 15 metres of foreshore and trees have disappeared in 18 months, including some coffee rock at the northern edge of the mouth of the Lake.

Friends of Currimundi Lake will be joining with other Currimundi catchment groups to have a Field Trip for the State Landcare Conference in Caloundra on 31 August, 1 and 2 September, to include landcare delegates from all over Queensland.

For the next 3 months we will be weeding, planting and surveying, so if anyone wants to join a very proactive and friendly group, we are here!

Rhonda, President

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

Clean Up Australia Day focused on Parklands Boulevard and it is back to "clean". If only we could convince travellers not to throw bottles and debris from their vehicles! This may be even more difficult now with vastly increased traffic numbers from the new shopping centre on Parklands Boulevard that opened in February.

Still waiting for the Wallum Gardens pond and second Ivadale pond to be addressed in the next few months. Let us know when you see Council activity. We are not always informed of the start and works program.

We are looking for new people to participate in our little "unorganized" group so if you have a interest and a few moments to spare, just talking with us about your ideas would be good, please contact Dot or myself.

Ron, President

KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The medium density development and the commercial precinct have now been completed in Kawana Forest. This final development - a retirement complex at the entrance to the Forest - has now commenced, and while the contractor followed normal procedures to minimise any flow-off into the waterways, the massive, recent rain event meant some dirty water flowed into the creeks. When this development is completed Kawana Forest will no longer create issues for the local waterways.

The Kawana Forest Meeting Place is available for hire through Sunshine 60 and Better Group and can be contacted on 5443 7281 for further information. KaFRA's planned combined "Weedbusters and Clean-up Day" will be held later in the year and will be advertised in the local papers and radio.

Greg, President



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: 11 May

Contact: President Tony, 5438 8267

Email: cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au

Website: www.currimundicatchment.org.au

Facebook:

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: 7 April

Contact: President Rhonda 5437 6481

Website: www.currimundicatchment.org.au/ fofcl

Parklands Community Group

Contact: President Ron 5491 7905

Email: rburnett@bigpond.net.au

Kawana Forest Residents' Association (KaFRA)

Contact: President Greg 0419 822 663

Website: 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