

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 9,000 households and businesses within the Currimundi Catchment. If you can help with distribution please phone Joan on 5493 2698.



Winter 2015

THREE METRES GONE THROUGH BANK EROSION

Specialist consultancy firm, Alluvium Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, used sophisticated aerial laser imaging to reliably estimate the extent of erosion occurring in Currimundi Creek South Arm. The results are quite alarming and show that extensive areas of the creek bank have retreated by over 3 metres since 2001.

The two major causes are urban development with insufficient control over stormwater run-off, and wave wash from motorised boats. The areas most affected came as no surprise to members of the community who have been raising these issues with Council for some years. The banks experiencing the worst levels of erosion are in the area receiving run off from the open concrete channel from the IRT Retirement Village, banks that face storm water outlets, and an area where boats commonly make a U-turn to head downstream.

The study has recommended that Council implement strategies to address the causes of erosion and to repair damage. In particular it has recommended

- development of a boat wash management strategy
- development of a riparian management strategy
- water flow management as part of all new developments in the catchment
- bank stabilisation works such as rock walls or coir log walls in high risk locations
- retrofitting existing stormwater drains.

This is compelling independent evidence of the level of erosion that has occurred in a very short period of time, and it is sincerely hoped that Council will implement the recommendations as soon as possible to halt this ongoing damage.



Currimundi Creek South Arm. How much more will we lose?

YOU CAN REPORT SPEEDING BOATS

Every year in our Summer newsletter we remind readers that there is a 6 knot speed limit in the Lake and Creeks, and that the wash from speeding boats is a major cause of bank erosion.

Recently a local resident took short videos of two speeding boats on his phone, clearly showing the boat registration numbers and boat wash caused. Boating and Fisheries staff visited the resident and used the video evidence to assist in the prosecution process.



You can report speeding boats to Queensland Boating and Fisheries on 5444 4599, Maritime Safety Queensland on 5452 1825 and Water Police on 5457 6711. Any of these agencies can impose a fine of 3 penalty units (currently \$341).

WATER MONITORING TRAINING DAY

The 10th Annual Training Day for water monitors for the monthly Currimundi Catchment water-monitoring program is being held on Wednesday 17 June at the Lake Kawana Community Centre. The program for this mini-conference includes presentations on Council's Catchment Action plans, water quality project on recreation waters, storm water quality project, and the annual report on the Currimundi catchment water quality program.

This training day is for current and prospective water monitors. If you are interested in being a water monitor in the monthly water quality monitoring program, then this training day will give you the knowledge and skills to join the program. There are limited positions available so please ring David on 5493 9695 to register.

NATIONAL TREE DAY

The National Tree Day planting events in Little Mountain will continue this year with a planting scheduled for Sunday 26 July, from 8.00 am to 11.00 am. Access to the site is from the new section of Village Way, just past Caloundra Rise Retirement Village.

Our usual friends from Geckos Wildlife will be on hand to entertain everyone and we'll finish with a sausage sizzle. Please remember to wear covered shoes and appropriate clothing. Council will provide gloves and light refreshments and all necessary planting equipment and material. For more information contact Ron on 0448 517 905.

SECOND FISH SURVEY

Currimundi Catchment Care Group members recently assisted Sunshine Coast Council with the second fish survey of Currimundi Lake and catchment. You may have seen us working with consultant fish ecologist Kris Pittman and Council Waterways team officers using a boat and nets to catch, count and classify fish at various sites in the lake, creeks and canals in mid-April. This year's survey will add to data collected in the first survey coordinated by Currimundi Catchment Care Group in April 2013.



It will be interesting to see how this set of results compare to previous catches and what conclusions we can draw about the health of the catchment. All fish were returned to the water after cataloguing. The activity drew a lot of interested onlookers including local fishermen, kayakers, families, and a white faced heron looking for a free lunch. The final report is yet to be completed but initial results seem encouraging, with a good variety of species, sizes and age-groups identified.



COIR LOG WALL PROJECT HELP NEEDED

Residents are invited to come and work with Currimundi Catchment Care Group and Council to do maintenance on sections of the coir log wall.

This project which began in 2009 shows that coir logs are a very effective erosion control strategy. The vegetation planted in the coir logs and on the bank is flourishing, strengthening the bank and filtering storm water run-off, thus providing habitat for various land and aquatic creatures.

We need as many volunteers as possible to come and join us from Monday 25 May to Wednesday 27 May at 8.30am at Mulloka Esplanade, Wurtulla. Please wear suitable work clothes, footwear and hat and just turn up for sign on.



Gloves and tools will be supplied and lunch is provided to thank all volunteers.

WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL WALKS

When: Sunday 30 August from 9.30am to 11.00am
Meet: Pinehurst Park, cnr Pinehurst and Mimosa Crescent, Currimundi

Come and join Currimundi Catchment Care Group for the popular guided walk through Leacys Bushland Reserve - one of the last secluded bushland retreats in an urbanised area. You'll walk through tall timbers, shaded woods, hidden wildflowers and hopefully see birds and other wildlife. It's flat easy walking, but some areas can remain wet after rain, so walkers are advised to wear enclosed shoes and sun protection and bring a water bottle. To book a space, please email cccinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au.

As part of the Wildflower Festival, there'll also be walks in Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park, Currimundi and Ben Bennett Bushland Park, Caloundra. Check Sunshine Coast Council website for details.

MANGROVE MONITORING PROJECT

The Currimundi Catchment Care Group began a three to five year project to monitor mangroves in the Currimundi Lake and creeks in October 2013. The monitoring has involved the development of a long-term visual record of mangrove communities in the Currimundi waterways, identification of species, and changes in mangrove extent and condition. Educational resources have been developed to be used with schools to help students understand the ecosystem value of mangroves.

In the first week of May, Currimundi Catchment Care Group members conducted their fourth monitoring activity which took four volunteers about an hour videoing the banks. This monitoring activity confirmed that there are two species of mangroves in the Currimundi waterways - grey mangroves and red mangroves - that grow in patches scattered along the water line. Mangroves are in good health with grey mangroves forming the dominant species on the south bank of the lake and an increasing number of red mangroves on the north bank of the lake.



REEF, RANGE AND RED DUST CONFERENCE, CALOUNDRA

Plans are well underway for the Landcare Conference in Caloundra on 31 August to 2 September at the Events Centre. Currimundi Creek/Lake is one of the field trips, available only to people registered for the Conference. This is a great opportunity for volunteer groups in the Currimundi Lake Catchment area organising the trip to showcase our beautiful area.

There are five other trips being organised, plus plenary sessions, key speakers, the Queensland Landcare Awards night, Landcare Dinner and the Welcoming evening. If you are able to attend the conference it would be great. For more information contact Rhondda 5437 5481.

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

KATHLEEN McARTHUR CONSERVATION PARK

Situated beside the ocean on the north side of Currimundi Lake, this park is named after Kathleen McArthur (1915-2001), a local artist, conservationist and founding member of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland formed in 1962. These wallum heathlands had been used as a firing range during World War 2 and Kathleen McArthur campaigned successfully to have the area protected.

The Park is known for its short walks, wildflowers, coastal birds, and views of the ocean beach and Lake. It's a favourite location for the Springtime wildflower walks when there are many brightly coloured heathland flowers, several different carnivorous plants growing close to the ground, and also tiny stunning metallic blue orchids.



There are many champions of the park. Among them is local resident, Dot Crane, who is legendary for her vast knowledge of the plants and animals in the Currimundi Lake area. Take a walk with Dot and you'll be regaled with the number and species of birdlife that visit the area. She refers to sightings of many water birds, including little and great egrets, little black cormorants, Brahminy kites, pelicans, ospreys, and white-faced herons that breed in the park. On land there are scrub turkeys, brown honeyeaters, white-cheeked honeyeaters and nesting tawny frogmouths. Wattle and friar birds are always in the park, drongos are regulars, while corellas, galahs and yellow-tailed black cockatoos fly over and visit. And it's one of the few remaining areas where many small birds are still found, including the rainbow bee-eater, mistletoe bird, silvereye and grey fantail.



Dot Crane with a bearded heath in full flower

Dot is concerned that in spite of Kathleen McArthur Park's protected status there has been noticeable deterioration in recent years due to a number of factors, including: the presence of foxes, cats and dogs; people riding on motor cycles and destroying vegetation to create paths to the water; illegal camp-fires burning valuable mulch; and littering, especially balloons and plastic bait bags that end up in the Lake and become a threat to turtles and other marine and birdlife.

Litter has also led to a proliferation of crows that have scared away many of the glossy black cockatoos and smaller birds, while destruction of the vegetation has led to paperbarks and wattles taking over some areas of heathland where ground orchids and carnivorous plants were previously found.

But there's still much to enjoy. Make a visit to Kathleen McArthur Park and you'll be in for a rare glimpse into what this country looked like before development. Help to preserve what is left - go only on foot and stay on the formed tracks, don't litter, and if you see rubbish please pick it up and dispose of it to help our birdlife and turtles.



A mistletoe bird photographed in Kathleen McArthur Park by Marion Coleman

There are two coming opportunities for a guided walk through Kathleen McArthur Park.

Currimundi Catchment Care Group is organising a guided bird watching walk on Sunday 8 June, 8.00am to 10.30am. Meet at the viewing platform in Crummunda Park (cnr Coongarra Esp and Bareki St).

Queensland Wildlife Preservation Society will conduct a guided wildflower walk on 29 August as part of the Wildflower Festival. Details will be on the Sunshine Coast Council website.

And if you would like to help with ongoing maintenance of Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park, there is a monthly weeding working bee coordinated by Friends of Currimundi Lake and National Parks rangers on the first Wednesday of each month. Meet at the park entrance at the eastern end of Coongarra Esplanade, Wurtulla. Next events are 1 July, 5 August and 2 September. Wear covered shoes, hat and bring a water bottle. Tools and morning tea provided.

CLEAN AND WEED



This monthly Currimundi Catchment Care Group activity continues. An enjoyable afternoon working together to help keep on top of invasive weeds in various parks in the catchment, and allowing the shrubs and trees to thrive. Next event scheduled for 14 June 3.00pm – 5.00pm, Moondara Park, Vista Place, Wurtulla. Check the Currimundi Catchment Care Group website for further details and upcoming dates and locations.

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Group Reports

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

I am always impressed by the way members of our community step up and contribute their time, effort and skills to caring for our local environment. Whether it's picking up rubbish while out for a walk, helping with regular water monitoring, joining one of the activities organised by Currimundi Catchment Care Group or other local groups, or attending our meetings – we can all make meaningful contributions in our own way. Thank you. There are details in this newsletter about more opportunities for people to contribute and we always love to welcome new people to our events.

Our eBulletin is proving very popular. About once a month we send a brief email newsletter with details of upcoming events, activities and news. You can sign up to receive the eBulletin on the home page of our website. See the 'Stay Up to Date' button on the right hand side of the home page at www.currimundicatchment.org.au/cccg. You might also check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/currimundicatchmentcaregroup.

President, Tony

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

In April, members of CCCG and FOCL met in Gamban Avenue for weeding and revegetation. The first meeting saw us take out approximately 30 bags of weeds, then the second meeting we planted over 100 plants in two vulnerable sections. These were areas where the banks were being eroded by people taking their canoes to the water and also by fishing people. I would like to say thank you to the CCCG people for helping us, and I look forward to other joint projects.

Our working bees are going well, both in the Conservation Park and in our area. During the big blow and wet weather we lost a couple of trees, but also the weeds are growing fast and prolifically. The other lot of new plants put in towards the front of the lake are going well. I was also able to attend the second coastal forum in May which was very interesting. The presentation on Marine debris was an eye opener and also the presentation on the monitoring of bull sharks.

Coming events are the National Tree Planting Day, further targeted weed areas, a controlled burn in the Conservation park, a bag of weeds for three native plants from the Council, and the landcare conference in September. Currimundi Creek/Lake Catchment will be one of the Field Trips at the conference. Thank you everyone for your support and help.

Chair, Rhondda

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

The annual National Tree Day planting, which is always well-attended and a great day out for families, is scheduled for Sunday 26 July, 2015 - see article on page 1.

Council will be completing drainage work on the Wallum Gardens Pond to remove silt deposit downstream from the bridge, and construct a bund or berm in the water to capture future silt deposits to make silt removal easier in future. Council has completed repair work of the inlet drain for the second Ivadale pond.

Peter Cox, Councillor for Division 3, will be holding his regular half yearly meeting at 31 Peony Circuit chez Dot and Peter Billingham, starting at 8:30 am. Everyone in the neighbourhood is invited to bring their ideas and questions for the Parklands area. Questions? Contact Ron (0448 517 905) or Dot (5491 1863).

President, Ron

KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The recent heavy rain event has caused much dirty water runoff from the Retirement Village development site and completely flooded the cycle/walking track adjacent to the forest on the north of the estate. This flooding seems greater than with previous such events and will be raised (again) with Council.

The KaFRA Annual General Meeting will be held in July at a date yet to be fixed. 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.

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: 13 July, 14 September

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: 2 June, 4 August

Contact: President Rhondda 5437 6481

Email: foclinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au

Website: www.currimundicatchment.org.au

Parklands Community Group

Contact: President Ron 5491 7905

Email: rburnett@bigpond.net

Kawana Forest Residents' Association (KaFRA)

Contact: President Greg 0419 822 663

Email: gela.chambers@bigpond.com

Website: www.kafra.org.au

Meeting Place Hire: Mike 5443 7281

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