

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.



Spring 2015

RIVERSWEEP CLEAN UP 2015

Calling canoeists, kayakers, tinnie owners and walkers, from children to mums and dads to grandparents. Come join Currimundi Catchment Care Group to collect rubbish on and around the lake, creeks and canals from 9.00am to 11.00am on Sunday 11 October.

We meet at the western end of Noel Burns Park, Mulloka Esplanade, Wurtulla for sign-on and finish the clean up with a sausage sizzle.



Come and have some fun, meet people you have not met before, help improve the health of the waterways and socialise at the barbecue. Gloves, bags and sunscreen will be supplied. Please wear appropriate clothing and shoes.



MILESTONE FOR VOLUNTEER WATER MONITORING PROGRAM

The Annual Training and Discussion day for water monitors held on 17 June marked the 10th anniversary of the training program, and the final one for Currimundi Catchment Care Group member David Allan as coordinator. The aim of the annual event is to review water quality results for the previous year, share information about recent water monitoring projects on the Sunshine Coast and learn about Council's initiatives in the development of catchment action plans.

David, pictured left, said it was very rewarding to see the training program develop. What started as teaching people in his backyard how to use the monitoring equipment, now has a citizen science focus. "There is great respect on both sides of the fence," he said. "Water monitors have access to up-to-date information from Council officers and other experts, and Council staff recognise the valuable knowledge that volunteers have through their regular testing and familiarity with their own particular patch."

"In the end we're all aiming to protect the health and biodiversity of the catchment and minimise the impact of development on the waterways," he said.

Enormous thanks go to David for developing and coordinating the training program over the past decade, and ensuring its future growth.

COUNCIL OBTAINS GRANT TO INVESTIGATE CURRIMUNDI LAKE

With the assistance of a research grant and using advanced technology, Council will examine the health of the Currimundi waterways and Pumicestone Passage, in partnership with Queensland University of Technology and University of the Sunshine Coast (USC).

This project will use innovative technologies to monitor flowing and still water velocity, height, and basic water quality. Mobile GPS drifters, underwater robots and drones, will be used to provide unique information about foreshores, coastal infrastructure, and waterways.

in relation to Currimundi Lake, it is proposed that data will be collected every six months over three years. The major areas of interest are midge control, erosion and tidal hydrodynamics. Analysis of the data will inform Council decision-making and build a solid platform for additional research by USC students.

It is expected that the GPS drifters will be used on the day the lake is opened after the current midge management closure period.

PHOTOGRAPHS FOR 2016 CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CALENDAR

Don't forget to send in your photograph/s for consideration for our 2016 wall calendar by 30 September to: cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au

Technical requirements as set out on our website:

- Photographs must be landscape, not portrait orientation, and be high resolution and image size.
- Provide details of the location and any particular details relevant to your photograph such as the name of birds, plants or animals.
- Don't crop photographs as they may not reproduce into a larger print size.
- If there are people in a photograph, obtain their permission for the photograph to be reproduced and published.

A free calendar will be given to photographers whose pictures are used. The 2016 calendar will be available for \$10 - a great Christmas gift to show your friends and relatives what a beautiful part of the world we live in.

ANOTHER 2,000 TREES FOR BANCROFTS RESERVE



It was a wonderful morning's community planting for National Tree day at Bancrofts Bushland Reserve in Little Mountain. More than 100 people were involved planting over 2,000 native plants. This event is always a great experience for the whole family, with a wildlife presentation by Geckoes Wildlife after the planting, and a barbeque provided by the Lions Club for all participants.

Thanks also to Rhonda and the Sunshine Coast Council crew, Sunshine Toyota crew for T-shirts and lollies, and volunteers from Mountain Creek High, Currimundi Catchment Care Group, Parklands Community Group and the general community. See you all next year!



WILDFLOWERS GALORE



We're so fortunate to have two beautiful but very different walks in the Currimundi catchment for the Wildflower Festival.

On 30 August, Currimundi Catchment Care Group volunteers hosted a guided walk for about 15 walkers through Leacy's Bushland Reserve in Currimundi. There it was "eyes up" to enjoy this haven for remnant forests that grew in the area before development, and which today provide a buffer to flooding and drainage for the Currimundi catchment.

The group enjoyed the diversity of the flora which occurs in a relatively small area - from open woodland with huge old swamp box trees which provide great habitat to wildlife, tall eucalypts, to wetter areas with palms, vines, melaleucas, and rainforest species.



On 31 August was the ever-popular walk through the Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park, hosted by the Wildlife Preservation Society. In this park, it's definitely "eyes down" to appreciate the huge variety of wildflowers in this heathland.



The massed yellow of the pea flowers *Phyllotus* and *Aotus* was slightly past its best but still impressive, contrasting with white clouds of *Woombye*, *Whitebeard*, *Wedding Bush*, *Rice Flower* and *Devil's Rice*, and interspersed with the occasional pink of *Boronia*. It was a good day for the little purple *Native Iris*, blue *Flax Lilies*, and mauve *Vanilla Lilies*, but not for orchids, although *Sun Orchids* had been seen earlier in the week. The best surprise was along the *Swamp Track* bordering the area recently burnt by *National Parks*, where numerous white *Milkmaids*, pink *Trigger Flowers*, and yellow *Spike Goodenia* had sprung up among the ashes, boding well for regeneration next year.



Thanks go to Currimundi Catchment Care Group members *Bev*, *Alex*, *David* and *Jenny*, to *Jude* and *Margaret* from *Wildlife Preservation Society*, botanist *Ann Moran* who assisted in identifying plants and trees, *Barbara Henderson* of the *Wallum Study Group*, who had a display of her beautiful photographs by the entrance to the Park, and *Marion Coleman* for the wildflower photographs for this newsletter.



LIGHTS ON THE LAKE 2015

Currimundi's biggest outdoor community event will be held again on the shores of Currimundi Lake, 4 pm to 8 pm, on Sunday 6 December.

Yes it's time to get your canoes and kayaks decorated for this year's Lights on the Lake Festival. There'll be heaps of kids activities, live entertainment, a drumming circle, market stalls, and of course a visit from Santa. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates:

www.facebook.com/lightsonthelakefestival



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

OUR BEAUTIFUL BLACK SWANS



Swans coming in to land on Wallum Gardens pond

One of Australia's most iconic birds, the black swan, has been seen in increasing numbers in the Currimundi catchment over recent years. Many people living around the Little Mountain area have been following them with interest as a pair nested on the banks of Wallum Gardens during the winter months.

Black swans prefer to live in permanent wetlands but can be found living in fresh, brackish and salt water lakes. They are herbivorous, and use underwater and emergent vegetation for food and nesting materials. Black swans were once thought to be sedentary, but are now known to be highly nomadic, with migration patterns generally made in response to rainfall or drought. It is pleasing to see that there is no threat of extinction, or significant decline in population for black swans.

Like many water fowl, black swans lose their flight feathers when they moult after breeding, and they are unable to fly for about a month. Their nest consists of a large mound made of reeds, grasses and weeds more than a metre in diameter and up to a metre high. Both parents share the care of the nest and the cygnets.



The family at Ivadale Lakes

Ron Burnett, President of Parklands Community Group, reports that four cygnets hatched from the nest at Wallum Gardens this year and three of these survived. Stories suggest that one youngster was captured by an eel a few days after hatching. The others are duck size now and about half way to fledging. The family of five disappeared from Wallum Gardens when the Council commenced work there, but were later to be found at the second Ivadale pond on the south side of Parklands Boulevard. It will be interesting to see if they reuse the nest at Wallum Gardens to repeat the cycle in future years. Thanks go to Marion Coleman for photographing the swans at each part of their cycle.



Sitting on the nest at Wallum Gardens

WEEDBUSTING



All gardeners worry about weeds. But sometimes the plants you buy for your own garden may become weeds themselves and cause environmental damage when they spread. Some of the worst offenders in the Currimundi catchment and coastal areas are Asparagus Fern, Singapore Daisy, Fishbone Fern, Arrowhead Vine, Mock Orange and Umbrella trees.

This Fishbone fern in a pot can soon turn into a mass of weeds that choke out native plants, if disposed of incorrectly.



Weeds don't stop at your garden fence, and are spread rapidly by birds, wind and water. So have a good look at the plants in your garden, and if they're considered to be weeds, think about removing them. And when you do, make sure you compost them or place them in a Council green waste bin.

Next time you think about buying a new plant or accepting a cutting, check out its status. It may look like a pretty addition to your garden but it could be highly invasive in the natural environment and smother native regeneration. The Sunshine Coast Council website has useful information about weeds and local alternatives including a downloadable brochure - <http://bit.ly/1M4D9O4>

If you'd like to contribute to removing weeds from areas in the Currimundi catchment, Friends of Currimundi Lake organises regular working bee sessions and Currimundi Catchment Care Group organises a monthly Weed and Clean in different parks in the catchment. Contact details on the back page of this newsletter.

LOCAL SCHOOLS LEARN ABOUT OUR CATCHMENT

Tony, Kaye and Joan from Currimundi Catchment Care Group recently hosted six classes of year 3 students from Talara State Primary College in Noel Burns Park on the shores of Lake Currimundi to teach the youngsters about the value of natural assets in their neighbourhood and how they can help care for them. Friends of Currimundi Lake will do a display at Currimundi State School later this year.



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

By now locals will have noticed Currimundi Lake filling up due to the closure of the mouth by Sunshine Coast Council for the midge control strategy. Council closes the Lake when midge larvae levels are high indicating the little biting pests are likely to reach annoying numbers. As the water level rises it floods midge breeding areas. This is a natural alternative to chemical sprays or other control methods. We have some concerns about other impacts of the flooding, particularly whether this saturates banks and may increase erosion, but we are working with Council to observe and understand the impacts. The Lake will be closed for six weeks if all goes to plan. It will be exciting to see Council deploying high-tech gadgets such as GPS 'floaters' when the mouth is opened to measure and record water flows within the system.

I had the pleasure of attending the Reef, Range and Red Dust Landcare Conference held at the Caloundra Events centre this month. It is always inspiring to hear the stories of passionate and innovative people from all over the country who spend their days protecting our natural assets.

President, Tony

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

Since the last report the Lake has been closed for midge control, however with rain runoff, it has filled to capacity. To allow the Lake to remain closed for the full six weeks, two X 340mm pipes have been put in to siphon the extra water off out to sea. These will stay in place until it is time to open the Lake.

Our working bees are going well and are well supported by the community. Siratro, an introduced fodder vine, is getting a strong hold on the dunes near the lifesavers tower, and will need a few working bees to try to eradicate from this area.

FOCL has been asked to do a display at the Currimundi School later this year which we hope to do. Part of the new extension to the fencing program between the foreshores of the Lake and the Coastal Pathway may start in the next couple of weeks. This is to protect the foreshores of the Lake from constant use by people traffic. This area is being denuded of native vegetation which allows for serious erosion of the foreshores of the Lake in this area.

The State Landcare Conference, Reef, Range, Red Dust 2015 was held on 31 August, 1 and 2 September at the Events Centre in Caloundra and was a resounding success. This was the first time that the Australian Coastal Society, the Regional Groups Collective and Queensland Water and Landcarers had joined together. The State Landcare Awards, the Queensland Farmers Awards, and the Reef Award were held at a formal dinner on Tuesday night with the Queensland Premier speaking. There were also 6 field trips, one being the Currimundi Catchment, hosted by Friends of Currimundi Lake and Currimundi Catchment Care Group. As I am the Chair for Queensland Water and Landcarers, the Peak Body for Landcare, and coordinator for the six field trips, it has been a busy time for me, so I will take this moment to thank all the people who helped with the Currimundi Field Trip.

President, Rhondda

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

We had a great result for our annual National Tree Day. We were able to plant 1800 of the 2100 plants with about 100 volunteers. Many thanks to the Mountain Creek High School crew, and Green Army who came back and finished the job.

The Wallum Gardens pond, now with a bund, settlement clean-out area and debris catching grate, is working fine. We are happy Council keeps our pond respectable and the wild life flourishing. In particular we have been watching the black swans breeding cycle with interest. See page 3 for further details.

The Creekwood development is fast approaching completion with major stormwater ponds along Kawana Way near the Meridan overpass. There has been no further information on other projects by Frog Global, Church of Christ (men's shed) and the recently purchased MacPherson property at the end of Village Way, again abutting Kawana Way.

President, Ron



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: 9 November

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: 6 October, 1 December

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)

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