

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 2015

LIGHTS ON THE LAKE - 6 DECEMBER



Caloundra Community Bank Branch Manager, Pip Fawcett (right), and mascot Piggy, met with Glenys from the Currimundi Catchment Care Group, to try out some Christmas decorations.

Preparations are well underway for this year's *Lights on the Lake*, with groups and families busily organising boats to light up the night at the popular Christmas festival.

Caloundra **Community Bank**[®] Branch is again on board as a major sponsor of *Lights on the Lake* and will partner with Dicky Beach Surf Life Saving Club to decorate an inflatable rescue boat.

Caloundra **Community Bank**[®] Branch Manager, Pip Fawcett, said the team was in no doubt about entering a boat this year after sponsoring last year's event and seeing just how special the night was for the whole community.

Currimundi Catchment Care Group President, Tony Moorhead, said the event continued to attract new interest from locals and community groups year after year. "Each year we ask ourselves how we can top the previous year's event. This year we have made plans to add more to the teenage entertainment with a Young Entertainers Show," he said.

The festival will have activities for all ages, including supervised children's activities, community information displays, arts and craft stalls, live entertainment and great food. Santa will be arriving from across the Lake around 5.45 pm 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 lighting.

Parking is very limited, so please consider walking, cycling, paddling or catching a bus to the event. Because of the large crowds make sure all children are supervised, and pets would probably be happier left at home.

Where: Crummunda Park, Coongarra Esplanade, Wurtulla

When: 4-8 pm, Sunday 6 December

Three ways to register for the water procession:

website: www.currimundicatchment.org.au/lights-on-lake

email: cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au, or **call** 5438 8267.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY 6 MARCH 2016

Why not get involved in cleaning up your patch. Contact one of the groups in the catchment - Currimundi Catchment Care Group, Friends of Currimundi Lake or Parklands Community Group - to do your bit to help our local waterway. You'll be part of the largest community event in Australia.

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CALENDAR 2016



The 2016 calendar is another winner thanks to all the photographers who provided images of our beautiful catchment. It's a reminder that we live in a stunning environment with birds, plants, flowers, walks and of course our cherished Currimundi waterway

The Calendar is available for \$10, and you can purchase a copy at *Lights on the Lake* at the Caloundra **Community Bank**[®] Branch stall or Currimundi Catchment Care Group lights stall, or you can order one by phone 5438 8267, or at: cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au.



YOUNG ENTERTAINERS SHOW

For the first time this year, *Lights on the Lake* is asking young singers and musicians to step up and showcase their talents in The Young Entertainers Show. The Show will be held from 6 – 6.45pm on the Grass Circle, with the most popular act to perform on the Main Stage at 7.30pm.

Individuals or groups of up to three members are invited to perform one number at the show. Sound equipment will be provided. To enter, please forward a short video clip of your performance to allan7@primus.com.au together with contact details. For further details contact Jenny on 5493 9695.

ACT NOW TO HALT BANK EROSION FROM BOAT WASH



As every year goes by there is more and more awareness about the severity of bank erosion caused by boat wash. In our Winter newsletter we reported on an independent study that presented compelling evidence on the level of

erosion that has occurred in a very short period of time in Currimundi Creek South Arm. In one narrow area of the creek, the bank had retreated by about 3 metres because of boat wash caused by boats doing a U-turn to return in the direction of the lake.

The study recommended that Council implement strategies to address the causes of erosion, including the development of a boat wash management strategy.

Until this strategy is developed there are actions that community members can take NOW to prevent further bank erosion.

If you have a motorised boat:

- keep your speed under 6 knots
- in the narrower parts of the waterway, look behind to make sure there are no waves from your boat strong enough to wash up on the banks
- slow right down when performing U-turns
- ensure that all family members and others using your boat follow these practices

If you see a speeding boat, you can report it to

- Queensland Boating and Fisheries on 5444 4599
- Maritime Safety Queensland on 5452 1825
- Water Police on 5457 6711

If possible include a photograph or video of the speeding boat to assist in the prosecution process. Any of these agencies can impose a fine of 3 penalty units (currently \$341).

LAKE OPEN AGAIN



People wasted no time in jumping into the fast flowing water once the lake was reopened on 6 October after a 6 week closure aimed at reducing biting midge larvae.

Council claims the exercise as a great success in that the final

result was a 91% reduction in midge larvae. Council officers will continue to survey the lake's tidal zones to gain further knowledge of larval biology in the system and how quickly populations manifest to further improve the program in the future.

However there have always been community concerns that the lake closure may lead to problems in other areas, including the effects on water quality, bank stability and mangroves. Council has indicated that these matters will be included in ongoing monitoring associated with the closure, and we hope to see evidence of this in the coming analysis.

Stay up-to-date with news and events.
www.currimundicatchment.org.au/cccg
or: [facebook.com/currimundicatchmentcaregroup](https://www.facebook.com/currimundicatchmentcaregroup)

FLYING INSECTS BEWARE!

There's a certain plant that's been causing a lot of interest in Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park over recent months. It's a carnivorous plant from the group known as Sundews. This one is *Drosera spatulata*, the spoon-leaved sundew. At first glance it appears to be a red flower lying almost flat on the ground, but what appear to be petals are actually spoon shaped leaves.



The plant feeds on insects, which are attracted to its bright colour and the glistening drops of mucilage loaded with a sugary substance, covering its leaves. It has evolved this carnivorous behaviour in response to its habitat, which is usually poor in nutrients,



particularly nitrogen. Once an insect is stuck to the leaves, the tentacles curl around it and the plant uses enzymes to dissolve the insect. Then the plant extracts nutrients from the insect's body, in particular ammonia which contains nitrogen, to replace the nitrogen that other plants absorb from the soil.

MERIDAN PLAINS SAND EXTRACTION UPDATE

The Meridan Plains sand extraction area lies between Caloundra Road to the south, Mooloolah River to the north, Bruce Highway to the west and Meridan Plains housing to the east. Total area is 1095 hectares with 714 hectares for extraction. The site has multiple owners and contains a sand deposit which could be mined over 60 years to provide sand for the construction industry in South East Queensland. Hanson Construction Materials Pty Ltd commenced overburden removal in late 2014 from one of the lots (37ha).

Extraction of sand from the total site would result in the creation of 12 artificial lakes located in the Mooloolah River floodplains very close to the river.

Since early 2014, Sunshine Coast Environment Council (SCEC) has carried out detailed reviews of investigations to date. Their main concern is inadequate modelling of the effect on water levels in the Mooloolah River. Groundwater levels adjacent to the river could drop below bed levels with detrimental effects on trees and vegetation. Bank instability and erosion could follow. The small buffer distances between lakes and particularly the river have also been highlighted. Contaminants in the extraction ponds could travel via the groundwater in only a few days.

Council is currently addressing the issues raised. SCEC has also established contact with Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, whose local office is responsible for monitoring the environmental management of the site.

SCEC research to date indicates that effects on the Currimundi Lake system should be minimal. Additional storage in the final lake system may affect minor overflow events but larger flood events will still provide significant flows through the Currimundi system. It should be noted that the overland flows are now controlled by the culverts under the Kawana motorway extension to Caloundra Road.

MANGROVE MONITORING WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT?

The term "mangroves" refers to trees, shrubs and ferns and includes various highly salt-tolerant plant species which grow in inter-tidal zones, ie submerged at high tide and dry at low tide.

Currimundi Catchment Care Group commenced a three to five year study of mangroves in Currimundi Lake and creeks in October 2013 with the aim of surveying the distribution, extent and condition of mangroves and identifying changes over time.

The study uses the Shoreline Video Assessment Method (SVAM) developed for use in the MangroveWatch program. The method includes videoing the shoreline, capturing images from the waterline to the top of the tree line, taking still photographs of animals, landscape points of interest, objects on the water and recording their GPS locations.

Mangroves are protected by Queensland law and should never be removed from the waterways. There 39 species of mangrove in Queensland. In the Currimundi catchment there are two: Grey Mangrove (*Avicennia marina*) and Red or Stilted Mangrove (*Rhizophora stylosa*).

The Grey Mangrove has vertical peg-like roots that can be seen at low tide protruding from the mud or sand, and can stretch 20 to 30 metres from individual trees. The species can tolerate high salinity by excreting salts through its leaves. The mangroves grow in patches of three to ten saplings or trees with no dense continuous shoreline coverage of mangroves. Red or Stilted Mangroves are surrounded by dense areas of seedlings, and the growth from seedlings to saplings to trees is slow.

Findings in the Currimundi system are:

- Tall Grey Mangroves can be found in two areas of the catchment while all others of this species around the lake are stunted.
- Red Mangrove seedlings thrive in patches in Currimundi Creek North Arm.
- There is one small mixed mangrove community of Grey and Red Mangroves in the system.
- Red Mangroves thrive in black mud while Grey mangroves grow in sandy-mud. This is usually the opposite in other parts of the Queensland coastline.
- The mangroves do not stretch to the tidal limit in either of the creeks.
- Observations of the colour of mangrove leaves and density of tree canopies suggest that the mangroves are healthy.
- There has been a small increase in the number of Red Mangroves growing in the catchment over the last two years.
- Birds and insects feed and shelter amongst the mangroves and crabs move in and out of their holes seeking food.



Grey mangroves line the creek behind Toyota



Measuring a Red Mangrove

YOUR PETS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

According to the RSPCA, approximately 63% of Australian households own a pet. Most people try very hard to be responsible pet owners, and when it comes to minimising the effect of pets on the natural environment, there are a couple of very specific things you can do.

First and foremost, make sure your pet doesn't roam. That way they won't chase, frighten, attack or kill birds and other wildlife. To achieve this, have your pets desexed and install appropriate fencing or an enclosure on your property.

Secondly, when exercising dogs, ensure they are kept on a leash unless in a designated off-leash area, and carry a bag to pick up and dispose of dog faeces, so that it doesn't foul our parks, waterways or beaches.

The Council website contains a huge amount of useful material to aid pet owners in meeting their responsibilities, but note that you are required to register your pet and there are fines that may be imposed for not doing so. Fines may also be imposed for pets that are found roaming, pets that are impounded, and dog owners may be fined for exercising dogs in public without carrying a bag to dispose of waste.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

All Currimundi Catchment community groups rely on the assistance of our local volunteers – delivering newsletters, testing local water quality, attending activities and much more.

To say "Thank You" Currimundi Catchment Care Group recently hosted a morning tea at Ivadale Lakes. Many had not been to this park before and were delighted with the bird life, the serenity, and of course the quality of those home baked goodies!! Ron and Alex were on hand to provide lots of information about the local flora and to learn how this system connects to Currimundi Lake. To all who have helped us care for our local environment, "thank you" and we look forward to seeing you all in 2016.

Group Reports

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

The last few months have flown by. Council has reopened the lake after a lengthy closure and reports that the closure was very successful in reducing midge larvae numbers by 91%. We had a very successful Riversweep in October with 20 people cleaning up in kayaks, canoes and on land. It was great to see several young families join us for the event.

Summer has taken hold now and we prepare for Christmas and an influx of visitors to our beautiful beaches and lake. The increased numbers from visitors and locals using the waterways will put increased pressure on our already under pressure system. As locals we can help reduce the pressure with a few simple measures and reminders to our young ones as they enjoy our fabulous playground. Please stay off the dunes and fragile banks of the lake – use the designated pathways and access points. Clean up after your picnics and parties, take home or dispose of thoughtfully your bait bags, used fishing line and hooks, and pick up any rubbish you notice lying around before it washes into the lake or ocean. Leave balloons at home - they can be very harmful if they get in the waterways. Most importantly, enjoy yourselves and have a happy Christmas and new year.

Tony, President

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

Reef, Range, Red Dust Landcare Conference has gone, and the turtle season is almost on our beaches. Summer also brings out more people to enjoy our beautiful Currimundi area, Lake and beaches, which also brings environment problems.

This month we had one of our largest working bees with many weeds bagged. Our last working bee for 2015 will be on 9 December, then starting again in February 2016. Although we are not totally on top of Asparagus fern, we are winning, but in its place especially with the warmer and moist weather, Singapore Daisy has decided to step up to the front line again. I thought we had a problem with ongoing small colonies of Mother-of Millions popping up, however after a trip down to Goondiwindi via Milmerran, our little colonies look so small, which gives us hope. Our working bees with the Conservation Park on the north shore will be continued next year.

The extra new fencing is working very well, but we do need to continue this work. It is amazing the amount of natural revegetation that is happening inside these parallel fences. The new seat at the Lifesavers Tower has not happened yet, but this will add to a lovely experience for people who are unable to walk on the beach.

I would like to ask people visiting during the summer months to please look after our beautiful area by not leaving litter behind, be aware that plastic and balloons are hazards to our marine animals, including turtles who nest on our beaches. Also please take care on our dunes and vegetation.

To all our volunteers, thank you so much for your support, and on behalf of Friends of Currimundi Lake, Merry Christmas and Happy New year. **Rhondda, President**

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

We invite any and all residents to our semi-annual meeting with Cr Peter Cox Wednesday 10 December 2015 at Wallum Gardens Pond, chez Dot Billingham, 31 Peony Circuit at 8:30 am. Bring your local questions and interest. Also if you have an interest in a request to Council to plant trees on your street we would like your feedback. Planting would be part of the Council program and designed to improve the streetscape and general environment.

A special THANKS to the individual who has taken on the weekly duty of cleaning the rubbish dropped from mostly passing motorists along Parklands Blvd from Village Way to Creekwood roundabout. Please come to our meeting and identify yourself or stay in the shadows! Good Work.

The 15 new homes project behind the shops is moving along. We always welcome new residents in our the Parklands community just as we encourage and welcome the new residents of Creekwood and Ivaldale Lakes.

We are pleased with the work and effort of LGM contractors who are maintaining the parks by cutting and whipper snipping our area. **Ron, 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 second Monday of every odd month.

Next Meeting: AGM 1 February 2016

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 first Tuesday of every even month.

Next Meeting: AGM 9 February 2016

Contact: President Rhondda 5437 6481

Email: focinfo@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