

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 2016

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY 6 MARCH 2016

Currimundi Catchment Care Group had a very successful event at Ivaldale Lakes with 34 people signing on. It was great to see so



many kids who, we discovered, had a very keen eye for rubbish, and were even more handy in sorting **almost 500 drink containers** into glass, plastic and cans.



The Friends of Currimundi Lake Clean Up site was also well patronised with 32 people registering to clean up the south side of Currimundi Lake. This area has a combination of bush areas, beach and sand dunes, as well as roads and open areas. Six wheelie bins were filled to the top, as well as large items that would not fit into the bins. It was lovely to see children helping out.

There was one notable litter item at Currimundi apart from plastic bottles, and that was the number of doggie bags that were picked up on top and behind the dunes and also beside the footpaths that lead down to the beach. These bags are on the increase, possibly because of the growing number of dogs visiting, and maybe the owners know to pick up after their canine friends but are not sure what to do with the bags. Please, please put them in the bins!

Thanks to all the willing clean up workers for their participation, and we look forward to seeing you at our meetings, or working bees or both. Thanks also to Council for providing rubbish bags, gloves, implements, and free (non-plastic) water bottles.

DATES TO REMEMBER

CCCG Clean and Weed - 3 April, 1 May
FOCL Working Bee - 13 April
World Water Day - 22 March
Earth Hour - 8.30pm 28 March
World Turtle Day - 23 May

CURRIMUNDI CREEK SOUTH ARM EROSION STUDY UPDATE

Following receipt of the report last year on the extent of erosion in Currimundi Creek South Arm, Council has awarded a contract to Alluvium Consulting to determine the most appropriate bank stabilisation and vegetation options to ensure bank stability in this vulnerable waterway. It is likely the recommended program will include staged works over a 5-10 year period based on Council's budgetary constraints.

The report is expected by the middle of this year and there will be a community workshop to present findings and provide the opportunity for input. Council also hopes to involve the community in any plantings that may be required as part of the riparian management plan.

TIME FOR A CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME?

Some very disheartening news about the extent of litter on Queensland beaches emerged recently. According to the Clean up Australia Day Rubbish Report for 2015, the amount of litter on registered Queensland beaches doubled between the clean up events in 2014 and 2015. The most common items are drink cans and bottles, food packaging, plastic bags and cigarette butts.

Add this to the fact that Queensland has been named the most littered mainland state for the sixth consecutive year and it's bad news all round for the Sunshine State (Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index).

While it would be nice to believe the Sunshine Coast is different from other areas of the State, the results of our catchment clean-ups tell a different story and we need to face the fact that litter is an ever increasing problem.



This image shows the 500 or so drink containers found in only one clean-up site in our catchment. And while it's individuals doing the littering, changing behaviours such as this has to start from the top. That's why the Currimundi Catchment Care Group supports the introduction of a container deposit scheme. And we're not alone. A recent reader's poll by the Sunshine Coast Daily showed over 95% of respondents support the introduction of the scheme.

So we're calling for leadership from our State and Local Governments. Bring in a Cash for Containers scheme and show Queenslanders you mean business in stopping litter!

CONTAMINATION IN OYSTER CREEK

On Sunday 31 January, nearby residents were shocked to see that Oyster Creek had turned white (the small creek and stormwater drain running from Doondoon St to the Currimundi Lake behind the Toyota Dealership near the Nicklin Way bridge).

After initial difficulty locating someone to talk to on a Sunday, calls to Cr Peter Cox and the Council Emergency After-Hours line resulted in quick action from Council with a boom set up within hours across the mouth of the Lake to prevent pollutants entering the main waterbody. Fortunately the creek had returned to normal by next morning and it appears the pollutants were not toxic to marine life or vegetation.

Despite investigations by Council, the exact cause of the spill or contamination was never determined but it is likely to have been careless handling or accidental spillage of house paint into the stormwater system. We were lucky this time but the incident reinforces how important it is to be vigilant for potentially serious risks like this to water quality and our environment.

If you ever see anything like this please take action immediately and report your concerns to Council.



The milky white water in Oyster Creek after contamination

Council has also developed a useful Fact Sheet entitled **Smart Paint Disposal**, which contains a wealth of information on safe clean-up and disposal of paint and associated painting tools. To obtain a copy, contact Customer Service on 5475 7272.

Thanks to community members Tony, Kaye and Rhondda for their quick action in alerting Council on this occasion.

LIGHTS ON THE LAKE 2015 ANOTHER SHINING SUCCESS



The 2015 Lights on the Lake festival was another shining example of community spirit. Thousands of people of all ages set out their picnic rugs in Crummunda Park and settled in to enjoy the event.

We are so grateful to our major sponsors *Sunshine Coast Council* and *Caloundra Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank*. Also to IGA Wurtulla, State Member for Kawana, *Jarrold Belijie MP*, drumming circle sponsor *Jo Mollinger Real Estate*, MC *Tim Burns*, judge and Council representative, *Cr Peter Cox*, entertainers - *The Camilleri Family*, *Uke Crazy People*, *Dance Energy Studios*, *Dance Obsession*, *Ken O'Shea*, *Dave Stygall* and *Jembe Johnno*, and to all the local organisations who provided support or donated goods, services or prizes: *Gillett Electrical*, *Bangkok by Night*, *Bunnings Caloundra*, *Club Kawana*, *Currimundi Chemmart*, *Currimundi Domino's Pizza*, *Currimundi News*, *Donut King*

Stockland, *Foodstore Kawana*, *JC Hire*, *Jenkinson Family*, *Kentucky Fried Chicken Wurtulla*, *McDonalds Currimundi*, *Pacific Lutheran College*, *Pizza Hut Currimundi*, *Tai Chi for Health*, *Unitywater*, *We love Currimundi*, *Zaraffara's Coffee Currimundi*.

And a big thank you to the 38 water parade entrants and 150 plus volunteers who helped make the event such an outstanding success. We look forward to seeing you all again at Lights on the Lake 2016.

CLEAN AND WEED

This year Currimundi Catchment Care Group is continuing to focus on areas around Creekside Boulevard Bridge. The scruffy, bare, weedy spots are now beautifully mulched and planted with species that should not only look good, but also provide ongoing food supplies and shelter for our smaller birds.

Our next focus will be preventing some nasty garden escapees from getting into Leacy's Bushland Reserve. How good it will be to stop them before they have a chance to take up residence in this pristine area.

Upcoming dates are:

Sunday 3 April 3.30-5.30pm

Sunday 1 May 3-5.00pm

Please check the website for locations closer to the date, or sign up for our regular eBulletins. All welcome. We supply tools and gloves. Thank you to everyone who has participated so far – what a dedicated, joyous and growing bunch. Those weeds had just better beware!!

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

WATCH OUT FOR THIS ONE!

Coral creeper (*Barleria repens*) is a creeping shrubby plant from Africa that is an emerging weed of urban bushland, riparian vegetation and coastal sand dunes. In the wild it tends to form dense infestations in the understorey.



It reproduces by seeds and also via its rooting stems, both of which are commonly spread from gardens into bushland via dumped garden waste and by mowers and slashers.

So if you see this plant in a nursery please don't take it home, and if you have it in your garden you may think about removing it in a Council waste bin.

TURTLECARE - PROTECTING MARINE TURTLES ON OUR BEACHES



Loggerhead hatchlings on Currimundi Beach

As many of you will know, it is the marine turtle breeding season on the Sunshine Coast. The marine turtles that breed on our beaches are Loggerheads and sometimes Green turtles. This season starts about November and will go through to about April. The season comprises the laying of eggs, and then waiting for the hatchlings to appear around the 60 day time period with about 120 hatchlings emerging from each nest and heading out to sea.

There are quite a few dangers for these hatchlings before they get to the sea such as foxes, birds, crabs, wild seas and sometimes human interference. There are also dangers in the ocean as well which leads to a survival rate of 1 in 1000. This is why there is a very dedicated band of people, known as the TurtleCare volunteers, who go into action at this time of the year to support and protect the nests and hatchlings until they emerge and get into the water. In this period data is also collected for research and understanding of how these marine animals live, and also how it is possible to lift the survival rate.

All these people are trained in the duties that they perform. Each morning, rain or shine, our turtles can count on these people being there to protect the nests and hatchlings as they hatch. Since November, collectively they have walked 2141 kilometres. This is the equivalent of walking from Caloundra to Lockhart (approximately 250km south of the tip of Queensland). As a team these people have almost walked the entire Queensland coastline this year to ensure that our turtles are protected. Not included in this is the number of hours that are spent sitting on the beaches at night and early morning protecting the nests at hatchling emergence time.

There is a wonderful sense of comraderie between these people for six months of the year, as they meet to discuss and fiercely protect these endangered marine animals.

In the 2016 turtle nesting season, Wurtulla Beach had the only green turtle nest on the stretch from Buddina to Shelly Beach. It hatched late on Saturday 20 February with a few more on Sunday, then on Monday at dusk many locals were excited to see five beautiful hatchlings make it to the rather wild ocean.



Green hatchlings make a run for it at Wurtulla

WATER BIRDS BREEDING IN THE CATCHMENT



Most people love watching birds in their neighbourhood, especially during their breeding phase.

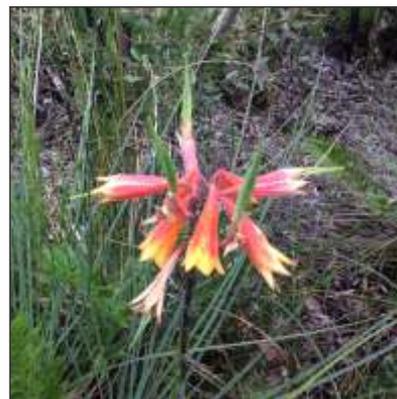
Around the Lake we've seen white faced herons with half grown young near the viewing platform most mornings. On the negative side there are white ibis and a few Indian minahs right on the Lake.

In the Little Mountain area there are swans nesting in Ivaldale Lakes and lots of dusky moorhen chicks getting a good feed from their parents. What a wonderful world we live in!



AND SUMMER WILDFLOWERS

The prime time for wildflowers in Kathleen Macarthur Park is during late Winter and early Spring, however there were 37 stands of Christmas bells in the Mandara section of the Park from November to February.



CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CALENDAR 2017

Photographs of birds and flowers like these from our regular contributors Marion and Dot, showcase the beauty of our catchment. If you have any photographs you'd like to submit for the 2017 Calendar, please send them by email to:

cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au.

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



 Sunshine Coast COUNCIL

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

Group Reports

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

I would like to thank everyone who joined us for our Clean Up Australia day event at Little Mountain. It was quite an eye-opener for me. I thought we had selected quite a clean and well looked after area as our site. However our little team of 24 adults and 10 children still managed to find 17 bags of general waste and almost 500 drink containers in two hours. A magnificent effort but goes to show there is a lot of hidden litter in our environment and neighbourhoods – in the bushes, waterways and off the beaten path. It also lends weight to the case for a drinks container deposit scheme.

We held our Annual general meeting in early February. I would like to take this opportunity to thank two members of our management team who stood down this year after many years of service to the group and community. Thanks former Secretary Kym and long-serving Water Monitoring Coordinator David. I look forward to continuing to lead our little band of volunteers for another year as we do our bit to protect our local environment and engage the community's help to value and cherish our special neighbourhood.

Tony, President

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

Working bees have started for Friends of Currimundi Lake and have been well attended. Some plans for the year are being looked at with the group, and we may have some news of these for the next newsletter. Weeds are growing strongly, but some plants such as trees and shrubs are struggling as the rain we are receiving is not enough to get to the sub-soil. So far this year the tea tree swamp area of Coondibah has not had water in it because the rain we have had is not significant enough to fill it. This is a haven for a few of our native frogs.

We also had a scare earlier last month when an unidentified substance was released into the drain on the eastern side of Nicklin Way. See article on page 2.

Our turtle season on Currimundi is going full pelt with 8 nests. There have been a couple of mishaps with the mesh on some nests being either removed or pulled up by unknown people. This sort of tampering carries very hefty fines if anyone is caught doing anything to the nests who are not qualified to do so.

Thank you everyone for your support and look forward to seeing you at either our meetings, or working bees or both. **Please note the working bee scheduled for Easter Saturday, 26th March is cancelled.**

Rhondda, President

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

We've had some work done through Cr Peter Cox on the very bumpy path from the shops to Wallum Gardens pond. Council have completed a temporary fix removing irregular asphalt and laying a new bed with the expectation of undertaking a permanent repair in the 2016/17 budget year.

Also reconstruction of the ditch behind the bus stop on Parklands Boulevard will install a permanent concrete base to Village Way, similar to other side. Maintenance will be easier in future.

New houses are being built behind the Parklands shops and day care centre. Welcome to our new neighbours!!

Get ready for National Tree Day 31 July 2016 next to last year site at the end of Village Way. Check out your handy work, see how your trees are growing and see the growth of trees since 2009!!!

Ron, President

KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Kawana Forest subdivision is very nearly complete with the IRT (retirement) complex due to open in a few months. The local business precinct is near full occupancy, and there is a new operator - Corso - in the restaurant/coffee shop.

KaFRA continues a very positive relationship with the Sunshine Coast Council in all landscaping matters and there have been some suggestions that we may have some forest re-generation projects immediately adjacent to the residential areas. Household garden rubbish being dumped in the forest areas is an on-going problem and Council has provided additional signage to try to stop this. KaFRA will again hold a Clean-up/Weedbuster day later in the year in the cooler months.

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/cccg

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/currimundicatchmentcaregroup



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: 5 April

Contact: President Rhondda 5437 6481

Website: www.currimundicatchment.org.au/focl

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 & Heritage Protection: 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