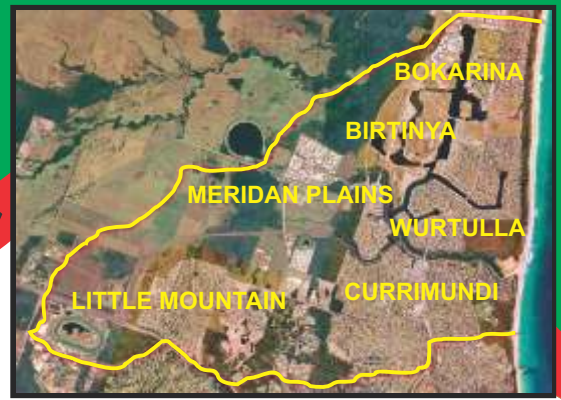


CURRIMUNDI LAKE CATCHMENT NEWS

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 2016

REPORT AIMS TO HALT BANK EROSION IN CURRIMUNDI CREEK SOUTH ARM



This time last year we reported that an independent study by Alluvium Consulting Australia Pty Ltd detected up to 3 metres of bank erosion in parts of Currimundi Creek South Arm since 2001.

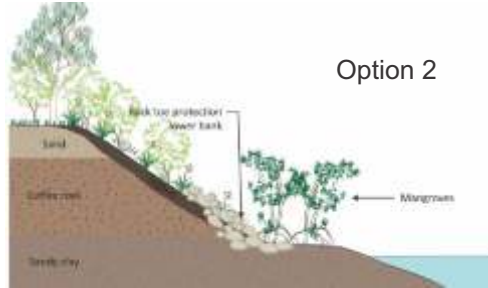
Alluvium was re-engaged to make detailed recommendations on strategies to address the causes and repair damage, and recently met with community representatives to discuss their recommendations.

They report that urban development and the construction of the Kawana Waters canals has resulted in a change in Currimundi Creek South Arm from a mainly fresh water swampy waterway to a tidal estuary. As a result the current land based vegetation is not suitable for growing in the salty water environment. This recent photograph shows that there are no plants growing on the lower parts of the banks because seeds from the existing plants cannot germinate in the salty water environment, and there are no marine plants to take their place.

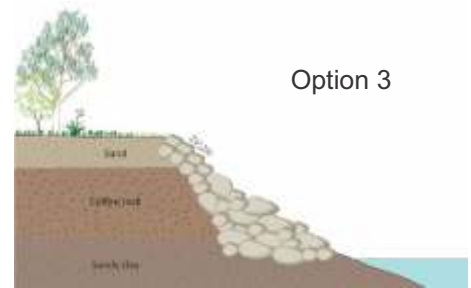
Three treatment options are recommended to address current bank erosion:



Option 1



Option 2



Option 3

Revegetation only - where there is low erosion risk and no major assets under threat.

Bank reprofiling, toe protection and revegetation - to increase the resilience of the system to future bank erosion.

Structural rock bank protection - where bank erosion is a high risk to public and private assets.

We urge Council to implement the recommendations as soon as possible to halt ongoing damage. In addition we support proposals to prohibit access to areas under revegetation, to install formal access pathways and launching points so that there is less informal access and usage.

Finally we urge all residents using this waterway to respect its vulnerable status. If you use a motorised boat, make sure you are not producing a wash, and if you are walking or fishing on the banks, use formal pathways and entry points to reduce further damage to existing vegetation.

NATIONAL TREE DAY - 31 JULY

Since 2007 the community have been busy planting trees, shrubs and grasses mostly in Bancroft's Red Gum Environmental Reserve at the end of Village Way, Little Mountain. With Kawana Link Road as our boundary we have planted close to 20 acres of buffering which has resulted in an increase in habitat for local wildlife. We are about half way to the finish so keep up the wonderful effort.

Council will prepare the site ready for planting and provide all tools, gloves and materials. Face painting will be available and the Caloundra Lions Club will be cooking up a sausage storm free for all participants.

The event will run from 8:30am – 12pm on Sunday, 31 July 2016. For more information contact Dot on 5491 1863 or 0418 727 789, or Rhonda Martin on 0439 702 160. There are plenty of jobs if you can't plant!!!

AND SPEAKING OF TREES...

Sadly Parklands Community Group reports that the mature eucalypt trees on the right side of the entrance to Creekwood Estate in Little Mountain are to be REMOVED! Apparently the original planning approval indicated the removal of these trees and we are very disappointed that Council would have permitted the plan approval with their removal.

Council must endeavour to protect the natural environment in all locations and these trees are a prime example of an area to be protected and preserved. Our elected representatives and staff must do a better job of maintaining our natural environment.

TRIBUTE TO CLIFF HARGREAVES

Rhondda Alexander, President, Friends of Currimundi Lake and Coordinator, Currimundi Neighbourhood Watch.

You will never be replaced Cliff, but we are picking ourselves up and we are moving ahead. The community of Currimundi are coming forward to offer their help, which we are gladly accepting.

Cliff became a part of Friends of Currimundi Lake in 2004 when Currimundi Beach won the State Clean Beach Award - pictured right. This was initiated by Graham Smith and was a joint project of FOCL and Currimundi Catchment Care Group. However before that Cliff was with Currimundi Neighbourhood Watch, where in 2003, I took on the Coordinator's position and Cliff was Deputy Coordinator. Because I do not drive, Cliff became my driver and we became partners in looking out for Currimundi. This invariably saw Cliff and I scooting around Currimundi in his trusty golf buggy looking at 'hot spots' to be reported on.

Nothing was ever too much of a problem to Cliff. It was always "I'll pick you up in 5 minutes and check it out". If Cliff heard or saw something that he thought I should know about, there was always a phone call then a visit and we discussed the problem. He was nearly always cheerful, but sometimes also quite exasperated



Cliff Hargreaves, 27/2/1929 - 20/3/2016

with people who blatantly disobeyed signage or walked away and left their litter behind. Graffiti was another pet hate, especially when the new toilets at Currimundi were graffitied from top to bottom within a week of being finished.

His energy was formidable - when something needed to be done or a phone call had to be made it was done immediately. His handicaps did not stop him, although there were times when he was in quite considerable pain. He was also a perfect gentleman - many were the times he would pick people up in his buggy and ferry them to their car or to wherever they were going. As a motivator, he was exceptional, as he was very good at reminding people of what needed to be done by phone and by keeping very good records - all on paper!

Weeding Bees, Clean Up Australia Day, Neighbourhood Watch and FOCL meetings were never missed by Cliff. To each part of the community he gave his whole, which also included the Amputee Association of which he was President. Cliff was never adverse to using the media to put his views forward, but he never looked for any accolades - it was just something that needed to be done.

I know his cheerful and friendly smile is missed each afternoon when he spent time picking up litter in the Park that carries his name. Currimundi remembers you Cliff and we miss you.



CONNECT TO YOUR CREEK WEEK

Sunshine Coast Council and Unitywater teamed up to celebrate Connect to Your Creek Week in April by hosting a diverse range of waterway events. The aim of this initiative is for residents to form a connection with their local waterways and, in turn, the motivation to value and care about them.

Kayaking on Currimundi Lake was one of the activities organised by Council. On Saturday 16 April a group of 22 people braved the rain to paddle the beautiful Currimundi Lake Canoe Trail.

The Currimundi Lake Canoe Trail is perfect for beginners and family groups because it is so easy to find your way through the sheltered waters. If you'd like to try the Currimundi Canoe Trail, Council has a range of 3 brochures to enhance the experience, including a map of the trail with launching points, and useful information about ecosystems and birdlife. All can be accessed on the Council website.

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



BIRD SPOTTING IN KATHLEEN MCARTHUR PARK

Currimundi Catchment Care Group is organising a guided bird-spotting tour through Kathleen McArthur Park on Saturday 4 June, 8am to 10.30am. All are welcome to join our expert bird-watchers in this popular event, and see birds like this white-cheeked honey eater snapped recently by Marion Coleman.



Meet at the viewing platform in Crummunda Park (corner of Coongarra Esplanade and Bareki Street).

COMMUNITY SPIRIT ALIVE IN KAWANA FOREST

Minimising the effects of development on the natural environment is at the heart of sensitive development in the modern era. Kawana Forest in Meridan Plains is an example of a planned housing and community development where the developer, Council and residents got together to form a group so that all parties could voice their concerns about development issues.

The Kawana Forest Residents Association known as KaFRA, formed in 2007 and throughout the period of development has focussed on protecting the natural and built environment and fostering a sense of belonging and community connectivity. And there was much to do in ensuring that the development of landscaping, parks, public spaces, and community facilities met the needs of residents.

The results speak for themselves. Kawana Forest is a master planned community with a high standard of landscaping, stormwater control, great pathways and a beautiful forest. The storm water control system on the eastern edge of the forest includes a channel through which storm water flows into a bioretention system which includes sections of different vegetation aimed at removing nutrients, bacteria and fine sediments.



The bioretention basin created to filter water run-off

The Kawana Forest development was built on land previously cleared for farming, so there was minimal additional clearing needed. The remaining Kawana Forest itself comprises three different ecosystems which merge into one another: Melaleuca quinquenervia stand (broad leafed paperbark), rainforest, and Eucalyptus grandis (flooded gum or rose gum). These support a limited number of bird species and nesting boxes have been installed at various points in and around the forest.

In spite of the largely good news story, some environmental issues have been noted, including:

- loss of biodiversity, in particular Eastern Grey kangaroos have largely disappeared, many killed on the roads
- garden waste dumping has occurred into the edge of the forest close to housing
- weeds spreading in Kawana Forest
- instances of low water quality in Currimundi Creek North Arm which may be attributable to the water coming out of the bioretention basin.



Kawana Forest Meeting Place, 60 Woodlands Boulevard

In more recent times KaFRA has provided a unified voice to provide input on several major projects that could impact the community, including proposals for a transport link from Sippy Downs, the proposed CAMCOS railway, construction of the Meridan playing fields, and design of roads for the nearby Kawana Hospital.

A valuable community resource that came about through contributions by the developer and Council is the Kawana Forest Meeting Place, a purpose designed facility that can be used for a variety of community needs. It is currently managed by the Sunshine 60 Endeavour Group and is available for booking on 5443 7281.

Each year, there are activities involving the community, including clean-up, weed-busting, meetings with Council, and a Christmas get-together to say thank-you to residents. KaFRA is always happy to welcome new members, so if you live in Kawana Forest and are interested in becoming involved, phone Greg on 0419 822 663.

CLEAN & WEED

With incredible support from Council, this program has grown to include planting and mulching. We recently planted 50 small local native plants in a bare spot near Currimundi Creek South Arm. They should provide food and shelter for wildlife, as well as look spectacular, especially in wildflower season.

Our next focus is to eradicate the arrowhead vine from Pinehurst Park. This garden escapee has already ventured into Leacy's Bushland Reserve and we want to prevent it establishing there.

Upcoming dates are:

Sunday 12 June 3-5pm, Pinehurst Park, Currimundi
Sunday 3 July 3-5pm, Pinehurst Park, Currimundi
Sunday 7 August 3-5pm, Noel Burns Park, Wurtulla.

Activity suitable for all age groups. We supply tools and gloves. Please check the CCCG website for any further details.

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CALENDAR 2017

A few photographs of the catchment are trickling in for the 2017 Calendar. If you have photographs you'd like to submit, please send them by email to cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au. Technical requirements are set out on the CCCG website.

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

Our monthly Clean and Weed working bees have been going well. The aim of these is to control the spread of invasive weeds in our local parks and natural areas and to provide some long-term habitat for native birds and animals. We've been learning a lot as we go along and we have certainly gained a new understanding of just how much work is involved maintaining even small areas. We could use some help though so keep an eye on upcoming working bees in this newsletter, on our website or subscribe to our eBulletin to find out when the next one is coming up.

People all over the world will celebrate World Environment Day in June. In our own part of the world, we will conduct a guided bird-spotting tour through Kathleen McArthur Park on Saturday 4 June (see page 2). I also encourage you to take the family to the World Environment Day Festival at Cotton Tree organised by Sunshine Coast Environment Council on Sunday 5 June. It will be a great day out for the whole family and a fun way to show your support for caring for our environment.

President, Tony

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

In March we lost a very much loved member of FOCL and the community of Currimundi. Cliff Hargreaves passed away suddenly at home. Our thoughts and wishes go to his family in their sorrow, and our thanks to members of the community who have stepped forward to continue his work.

It is great to see some water in the swamp area near Coondibah Creek, as this is a well populated area for a couple of our native frogs. It is also pleasing to advise that we had 66 marine turtle nests for the 2015-16 season, which is the most nests since we have been collecting data, and there were 6,099 hatchlings. On the down side, the Loggerhead turtle is critically endangered internationally.

Biting midge are quite strong near Bull Street drain, and some scum is forming on the sand around the Hargreaves Street drain. Some erosion between Alice Street and the boat ramp will need to be attended to in the near future. Weeds are building up in some places, especially Siratro vine and Silverleaf desmodium but I am happy to say that asparagus fern is on the decline in our area.

There is also good news that the Currimundi Dynamics Group will be continuing with a meeting in June. This group is a combination of people from the Currimundi catchment who are concerned about the bio-diversity of the catchment. Two Councillors also attend these meetings.

Chair, Rhondda

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

Our Community has been busy in recent months. Preliminary work has been undertaken to remove trip hazards on the path from the bridge to the shops at Village Way. Remedial work is now complete on the Wallum Gardens pond and there is less silt and debris flowing into the pond. Some of our swan family have returned although they appear to be favouring the second Ivadale Lakes pond.

Exercise equipment has been installed by Council adjacent to Tall Trees reserve and is being used by the community. The PCG is pleased to invite you to meet and discuss any concerns with our returning Councillor Peter Cox on Wednesday 8 June 2016 starting at 9 am at Dot and Peter Billingham's house, 31 Peony Circuit, adjacent to the bridge at Wallum Gardens pond. Everyone in the neighbourhood is invited to bring their ideas and questions for the Parklands area.

President, Ron

KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Heavy rain over recent months has again completely flooded the cycle/walking track adjacent to the forest on the north of the estate. The flooding of the walking track seems greater than previous such events and will be raised (again) at our next meeting with Councillor Baberowski.

The AGM will be held on 24 July, commencing at 2.00 pm followed by a pizza supper. KaFRA's planned combined "Weedbusters and Clean-up Day" which was to be held later in the year has been cancelled for 2016. We hope to again conduct this event in 2017.

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: 11 July, 12 September

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: 7 June, 2 August

Contact: President Rhondda 5437 6481

Email: foclinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au

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

Email: gela.chambers@bigpond.com

Website: www.kafra.org.au

Meeting Place Hire: 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