

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 2017

COMMUNITY WATER MONITORING COMING TO AN END

In 2003 a group of 20 local residents volunteered to begin a monthly water quality monitoring program in Currimundi Lake, creeks and canals. Lake Kawana was added to the program in 2006 and Lake Kawana canal in 2013.

The Caloundra Council and then the Sunshine Coast Council strongly supported the program with equipment and an annual grant. More important was the personal and professional support from members of the Council Waterways Team who shared with us the same concern and commitment to improving the health of the waterways and ecosystem.

Volunteers learned to use Horiba equipment to measure water quality indicators: temperature, pH, electrical conductivity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and salinity. Results were collated and for a number of years were stored in the Unidap online database with reports presented at meetings of the Currimundi Catchment Care Group and at Training Days.

Over the life of the program there have been 46 volunteers.



When volunteers needed to leave the program, others took their place and their strong interest in the water quality of the Currimundi waterways spurred the program to continue for 14 years. Other programs evolved from community interest in the waterways – building coir log retention walls along eroded banks, fish surveys along the lake and canals, seagrass and mangrove mapping, bird surveys, the 6 Knots-No Wash public education campaign, Clean Up the Currimundi, planting to sustain and improve the ecosystem. Other national groups have viewed these programs on our website and based their environmental actions on what we have achieved.

Some monitors undertook certificate courses in water quality analysis. Some spent many hours learning how to calibrate equipment on a weekly and monthly roster. Each new volunteer was trained to use the Horiba and Annual Training Days commenced in 2006 to update skills and knowledge. Time for testing, training, calibrating the Horiba, ordering chemicals, collating and reporting, added to more than 350 hours each year, all given freely. It is certainly a measure of dedication that 12 residents who started with the program are still monitoring or calibrating after 14 years.

In April 2017 the CCG Management Committee decided to wind up the water monitoring program at the end of the financial year. The long-serving Water Monitoring Coordinator, David Allan (pictured right), had previously indicated his plan to leave the role. Other key issues are that funding for the Unidap database was withdrawn about 18 months ago with no replacement database developed as yet, and Council now contracts other agencies to monitor water quality at specific sites in the catchment. There is therefore no longer a need for the community based program to continue.

There will be a final workshop for all past and present water monitors on Friday 30 June to review all the achievements and projects undertaken over the past 14 years. Currimundi Catchment Care Group is enormously proud of the achievements of the program. Water monitors have both given and learnt a lot about the essence of the Currimundi catchment as they acted as observers and recorders along the many waterways. It is also fair to say that there have been many benefits to the ecosystem and the community that enjoys it.

The program has been a great example of citizen science. Enormous thanks go to David and Jenny Allan in developing and coordinating the program over the past decade, and to every individual that has contributed over the past 14 years.



TAWNY FROGMOUTH - CAN YOU SEE IT?

Tawny frogmouths are a popular sighting in the parks around Currimundi Lake because of their very clever camouflaging. This tawny frogmouth was spotted in Gamban Esplanade recently by a sharp-eyed weeding group.

The tawny frogmouth was first described in 1801 by English naturalist John Latham. Although related to owls, their closest relatives are oilbirds, potoos, owl-nightjars, and true nightjars. They are large, big-headed birds that measure from 34 to 53 cm and weigh up to 680 gm. Their eyes are large, yellow and frontally placed, a trait shared by owls. They perch low on tree branches during the day camouflaged as part of the tree, and will often choose a broken part of a tree branch to perch on.

These birds are carnivorous and considered to be one of Australia's most effective pest control birds. Their diet is made up of nocturnal insects, worms, slugs, snails and small reptiles. They usually mate for life with the breeding season from August to December and the laying of up to three eggs.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL

This year marks both the 50th anniversary of the naming of the Sunshine Coast and 50 years of celebrating our glorious local wildflowers through an annual festival in Spring. It's a time to explore the rich biodiversity of Sunshine Coast native wildflowers in their natural habitat. Local community and environmental groups organise volunteer guided walks at various locations on the Sunshine Coast.

To mark the festival anniversary, the Sunshine Coast Council will host a festival launch event on Sunday 20 August with presentations, displays and afternoon tea. Currimundi Catchment Care Group will host a walk on Sunday 27 August. Council will publish a Wildflower Festival Guide closer to the festival with full details of all the events closer to Spring.

Do you have a favourite local wildflower? There are plenty to choose from in the Currimundi Catchment. From the beautiful, almost iridescent purple Hovea (above left) to the fly-eating Drosera (pictured right) there are so many to see in our beautiful natural areas.



LIGHTS ON THE LAKE 2017 CAN YOU HELP?

This laser light show was the finale to Lights on the Lake 2016 and illustrates the fact that this popular annual Community Festival for the Currimundi Lake Region has grown so rapidly that we now need more volunteers to help organising the event.

- Do you have project management or event management experience?
 - OR Would you like to join a community based team to help organise the event?
 - OR Could you spend a few hours on the day helping set up, help out during the event, or packing up after the close at 8pm?



We have a job for everyone regardless of experience. It's an opportunity to give something back to your community and have fun doing it. The Organising Group starts meeting in early September and the event will be held on 10 December.

To express interest, contact Tony 5438 8267 or cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au

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



Emily, Saleena, Daphne and Lynne with some of their Boomerang Bags

USE BOOMERANG BAGS AND REDUCE PLASTIC LITTER

It is estimated that 900 million single-use plastic shopping bags are used in Queensland each year. Most of these end up in landfill, however around two per cent of the bags are littered, which means up to 16 million bags entering the environment in Queensland each year. To reduce these effects the Queensland Government has announced that it will ban single use plastic bags from July 2018.

There is a group of Currimundi locals who feel passionately about halting the use of plastic bags and they're not waiting till 30 June 2018. Led by coordinator, Lynne Baker, they've started a Boomerang Bags Community right here in Currimundi.

Boomerang Bags is a national movement that started in 2013 and now consists of a network of communities throughout the country. The idea is to reduce plastic bag use by making fabric bags with repurposed fabric, and introduce these into local stores so that shoppers can use them instead of plastic every time they go shopping.

And many members of our community are behind this initiative. Since publication of an article in the Sunshine Coast Daily a few months ago, Boomerang Bags Currimundi has received many donations of fabric, thread, a sewing machine and an overlocker. The Currimundi Community Kindergarten has come on board by allowing the group to meet there one evening a fortnight, and members of the group donate their time and equipment to cut, sew, iron and produce the bags.

Glenys and Kaye from CCCG joined the group for a recent evening session and assisted in the production of 40 colourful bags. Boomerang Bags estimates that 10 cloth shopping bags will prevent over 5500 plastic bags from being used each year, so just from that one evening, these bags will lead to the replacement of 22,000 plastic bags every year. Not a bad effort!

If you'd like to become involved by joining the group, making bags at home, or donating goods, please contact Lynne on 5491 9957 or email: lynnebaker4@bigpond.com.

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CALENDAR 2018

There are always many Currimundi locals out in the catchment photographing our beautiful area. Your photographs could be featured in our 2018 Currimundi Catchment Calendar. The requirements are included on the CCCG website at:

<http://www.currimundicatchment.org.au/cccg/portfolio-item/currimundi-calendar-2/>.

If you'd like to submit a photograph, check that it complies with the requirements and email by 30 September to: calendar@currimundicatchment.org.au.

MYSTERIOUS SAND CRATERS

Have you noticed that there are often small round indentations in the sand along Currimundi Lake water's edge? Sometimes you see them randomly spaced and sometimes in a straight line about a meter apart. No - they're not caused by UFO's. They are in fact the evidence of estuary stingrays looking for food. The rays draw in water through large pumping spiracles on top of their head and squirt it out into the sand through the gill slits underneath. This disturbs the sand and reveals prey such as crustaceans, worms and molluscs which are then sucked into the mouth.

The Estuary Stingray is plain brown in colour with a row of small thorns running down the middle of the back and tail. It grows to about 120 cm across the body and has a long whip-like tail. They are not venomous but their tail can contain bacteria and if stung you should clean the area thoroughly.



According to the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage, the Estuary Stingray is listed as **Near Threatened** and is a high priority for conservation. Estuary Stingrays were once common in south-east Queensland estuaries, however rapid urban growth has placed enormous pressure on their habitat.

What can you do to help? Do not kill or injure stingrays. If you catch one, remove the hook and release the ray as soon as possible.

Group Reports

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

We should all be very pleased to hear that from 1 July 2018, Queensland will implement a Container Refund Scheme for drink containers and ban the use of lightweight single-use plastic bags (shopping bags). Both will be great news for our environment and our wildlife. If you have ever joined us on one of our clean-ups you will understand what a scourge these plastic items have been on our land and waterways. The measures won't solve all the problems caused by plastic pollution, but they are a step forward. There are things you can do too. Make sure your household is recycling plastic responsibly, help prevent plastic from entering the waterways by picking up litter and don't use balloons near the beach or waterways. Every little bit helps.

Our little group could use some help. We're looking for new members at our meetings and to help us run the group. We appreciate all the support we already get from the community. But if you think you could spare a few hours a month or have some skills like website or social media, or administrative skills, why not put them to use for your community? Our contact details are in this newsletter.
President, Tony

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

This term has seen FOCL working with young people from the Currimundi Special Education School which has been great. We have not done a lot of planting due to the dry weather but we will be planting in May with the school group. During April we had a visit from the Pelican Waters Garden Club where we had a general discussion about the work we do and what type of plants we use when planting, as well as a discussion about garden escapees. We also had a lovely walk with Ann Moran identifying plants beside the coastal pathway from Cliff Hargreaves Park to the boat ramp.

There has been some erosion control done beside the coastal pathway. The new fence protecting the vegetation from Hargreaves Street back to the playground is working extremely well. Our program for the year has been done up until August. It was decided that we would wait to see what the weather will do after this time before we plan any further ahead. We would welcome some new volunteers as the weeds are still growing quite fast! Our working bees are twice a month - second Tuesday and last Saturday starting at 8.00 am.

There is still one marine turtle nest to hatch on Currimundi Beach, but due to cooler weather this will take longer than other nests this year. **Chair, Rhondda**

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

President Ron is away but wants to remind everyone that National Tree Day planting at Little Mountain has been scheduled for Sunday 30 July this year. This is a great day for families to contribute to adding to the 20 acres of planting that has been going on since 2007.

As usual Council will prepare the site ready for planting and provide all tools, gloves and materials. Makes sure you wear covered footwear and a hat and bring a water bottle. Check Council's website for details closer to the time.

KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Roadworks at the intersection of Woodlands Blvd and Kawana Way Link Road are now complete. It appears these works have had little impact on the heavy congestion at school drop-off and pick-up times at Pacific Lutheran College, although traffic on the Link Road and Kawana Way seems somewhat improved.

Some of the open bush areas adjacent to the northern edge of the Kawana Forest development have now been planted with native trees which seem to have survived the recent, extended dry spell. Council also cleared the bush walking track in this area following recent high winds. Palm fronds and small trees across the track made the walk difficult along with the very high number of mosquitoes.

KaFRA's Annual General Meeting for 2017 will be held in August at a date yet to be set.
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: 10 July, 11 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: 4 June, 7 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