

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 Tony on 5438 8267



Spring 2017

COMMUNITY AND COUNCIL WORKING TOGETHER

Both Currimundi Catchment Care Group and Friends of Currimundi Lake have regular working bees aimed at removing weeds and planting native plants to protect the creek banks and provide habitat for our wildlife. All work is done in partnership with Council.

Something people may not be aware of is that, although the areas alongside the Currimundi Lake and creeks form quite a narrow stretch, they are managed by two separate areas of Council, each with a different focus and objectives:

- 1. Parks and Gardens** - have responsibility for one metre either side of the concrete path (ensuring it is clear and maintained for public access and safety) and any formal garden beds. The crews with the task of maintaining these areas do not have sufficient time or staff for hand weeding or the ongoing watering of new plants. That's where community groups step in.
- 2. Natural Areas** – have responsibility for Creek and Lake banks, and all the “non-formal” areas nearby. Their focus is on protecting banks from erosion, removal of invasive weeds, encouraging natural revegetation, promoting wildlife habitat (leaving logs and dead trees with hollows etc) and planting local endemic plants.

Council staff members from each team provide invaluable guidance in identifying the different sections, the worst weeds to be removed, the most suitable plants and locations for planting, and overall, helping to make a plan.

They also provide all the materials needed for community working bees – tools, plants, water crystals, gloves. Their encouragement and support is exceptional. Thank you so much to our Council staff, we truly appreciate all you do for us.

CCCG Working Bees are on the first Sunday of the month from 3-5pm. FOCL Working Bees are on the second Wednesday and last Saturday of each month.

Everyone is welcome to come and join the community working bees. Please check meeting place details via website, phone or email.



WATER MONITORING PROGRAM ENDS

On the last day of the financial year, 30 June, the Currimundi Catchment Water Monitoring Program ceased and monitors came together for a farewell workshop and morning tea. We reviewed the history of the program, discussed the issues concerning water quality in the Currimundi waterways and finished with a video of the past 14 years of operation.

The success of the program is due to the commitment of the residents involved and their interest in improving water quality and the environment. The Horiba U-52, all calibration tools and chemicals, have now been passed on loan to Cerran Fawns, Maroochy Waterwatch which is a “sister group” to CCCG.



SUNSHINE COAST WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL 50 YEAR CELEBRATION



CCCG members Dot and Kaye with Dot's booklet

2017 marks two significant 50th anniversaries for the Sunshine Coast. The first is the actual naming of the Sunshine Coast, formerly known as the North Coast. The second is the 50th anniversary of the Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival.

Sunshine Coast Council launched the celebrations for the 50th Wildflower Festival on 27 August in Caloundra, with a range of interesting displays, talks, and craft-fun making eco-art with Bush Critters. There was a big focus on the life and work of Kathleen McArthur, writer, artist and pioneer conservationist who spent much of her life on the Coast illustrating, protecting and promoting local wildflowers.

It was very appropriate that CCCG was there to help local wildflower expert Dot Crane give out her booklet *Mandara Meander* describing the wonderful wildflowers she finds in just one pocket of the conservation park named after Kathleen McArthur on the shores of Lake Currimundi.

Each year the Council coordinates a series of walks and activities to celebrate our wonderful local wildflowers. CCCG conducted a walk through the beautiful Leacy's Bushland Reserve on 27 August. Seventeen visitors and four guides wandered through the tall timbers of Swamp mahogany, Cabbage palm, Bloodwood and Melaleuca woodlands.

The purple Hovea flowers and scattered blue flax lily added colour to the under growth near the creek overlooking Meridan Plains. The Allocasuarinas had their rusty gold male flowers and small red female flowers visible on separate trees. Hop bush with their three-sided fruit and scrambling lily with its delicate white flowers could be seen along the tracks. Native violets and ground ferns were surviving the dry conditions. Wattle flowers perfumed the fresh forest air. King parrots visited just before the walk started and whip birds were heard. It was a lovely morning spent discovering a patch of remnant forest with people passionate about wildlife.



The walkers set out on the Leacy bushland track.



IT'S OFFICIAL - CASH FOR CONTAINERS IS IN SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAGS ARE OUT

On 5 September 2017 Queensland's Parliament passed the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017, which introduces both a container refund scheme and a ban on single-use plastic bags from 1 July 2018.

The container refund scheme will see most drink containers between 150 ml and 3 litres eligible for a 10c refund, though some containers for wine, milk and juice will be exempt. Refunds will be available when empty eligible containers are returned to designated container refund points across the

state, with reverse vending machines likely to play a significant role in the scheme. Meanwhile, all retailers will be obliged not to supply consumers with single-use plastic shopping bags, including degradable and biodegradable bags.

It's pleasing to see that both sides of Parliament voted for these changes demonstrating commitment to our wildlife, especially marine creatures like turtles, sea birds and dugongs.



A NEW ARRIVAL

FOCL President Rhondda has told us that during Working Bees a new plant has been discovered in the area. A specimen was sent to the Queensland Herbarium and the reply was that it is a native and grows from Ballina in NSW through to Torres Strait. It is *Guilandina bonduc* formerly known as *Caesalpinia bonduc* and commonly known as Grey Nicker because of its grey seeds.

It has a pantropical or "all tropics" distribution which means it can be found in tropical regions around the world. The seeds drift on coastal currents and retain viability for several years. Rhondda suspects it was washed in on the high tides in Feb/March. Be aware as it is an extremely prickly plant.



NATIONAL TREE DAY AT LITTLE MOUNTAIN



What a lovely day to plant a tree or two. But would you believe the total number of trees planted was around 1300! Thanks to the 120 plus people who helped out at Bancroft Red Gum Reserve, Little Mountain on National Tree Day, Sunday 30 July. Sunshine Coast Council teamed up with Planet Ark to host the event and Caloundra Lions provided a sausage sizzle. Travelling musicians created a 'planting' atmosphere along with many face painted monsters.

The sight of countless happy families showed that this is a great way to get in touch with nature and give something back to our environment.

Local Councillors Peter Cox and Tim Dwyer, pictured right, were among the participants while Jade and children Ruby and William really did their bit for our beautiful environment. Thanks to all concerned!



NO BREAD PLEASE!

Feeding native birds can be an enchanting wildlife experience for people and may lead to a lifelong interest. However it is definitely not necessary for their health and may even be harmful. In particular the practice of feeding bread to swans and ducks is something to be avoided. Mouldy bread is toxic to swans and ducks and can cause a condition called angel wing, and may even kill them.

Bread is certainly convenient and a very small amount of fresh bread would probably do no harm. However people often throw large amounts of bread to birds, even emptying bread bags on to grass or into water for birds to eat. This bread is likely to mould very quickly and become a danger to them. In addition, it will soon rot and attract unwanted pests.

It's preferable not to feed wild birds at all, but if you do, then be responsible and give them nutritious food that will not inadvertently harm them. Shredded lettuce, corn and peas are a few things they love.

For more information on feeding swans and ducks, visit www.wildliferescues.com.au, click on Feeding Native Birds and see the *Feeding Swans and Ducks section.'



This year's brood of black swans snapped by Marion at Ivadale Lakes in July

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS NOW FOR 2018 CURRIMUNDI CALENDAR

Don't forget to send in your photograph/s for consideration for our 2018 wall calendar by 30 September to: calendar@currimundicatchment.org.au.

Technical requirements are set out on the Currimundi Catchment Care Group website. Calendars will be for sale for \$10 and successful photographers will receive a free calendar.



LIGHTS ON THE LAKE 2017

Lights on the Lake will be back on the shores of Currimundi Lake on Sunday 10 December 2017, 4 pm to 8 pm.

So get your kayaks and canoes decorated for the lighting competition and water parade, get involved in the many kids activities or pack your picnic rug and settle in for an afternoon of free entertainment on the grass at Crummunda Park. Check our facebook page for updates: www/facebook.com/lightsonthelakefestival.



Bendigo Bank's mascot, Piggy, and the team will be at Lights on the Lake again to help out. Bendigo Bank has provided over \$220,000 to groups in the Caloundra area and we're very glad that Lights on the Lake is one of them.

Group Reports

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

Isn't Spring is a wonderful time of year to live in our little pocket of the Sunshine Coast? We are fortunate to enjoy such wonderful weather, beautiful beaches, parks and the few remaining patches of natural bushland. CCCG recently hosted a walk through Leacy's Bushland Reserve (off Mimosa Crescent) for the 50th Anniversary Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival. It was exciting to see such a gem surviving in the midst of suburbia. I also attended Council's launch of the Festival, where we were reminded of the great contribution local environmental pioneer, artist and wildflower expert Kathleen McArthur made to the protection of our local and State-wide environment. Currimundi Lake (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park on the north shore of the Lake was named after her. Both these areas are well worth a visit with friends and family. They are easy walks and offer an enjoyable experience observing the wildflowers, native plants and trees and bird-life.

I am proud to announce that once again CCCG has successfully entered into an Environmental Levy Partnership for 2018 to 2020 with Sunshine Coast Council. This funding is vital for our small, volunteer group to achieve our goals of improving water quality, limiting erosion and protecting the local environment. We can only do this though with the help of the Community. **President, Tony**

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

Although it has been very dry, we have managed to do some plantings with children from the Special Education School. We have had to do some bucket brigades and also with the help of Council we have managed to keep the water up to our plants. Some of you may have noticed the lovely grass trees planted in Cliff Hargreaves Park and also in Hargreaves Street.

The Lake has closed naturally and Council will open it in mid-September. The Currimundi Sport and Recreation Association is holding an Interactive Day on 7 October from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm with displays from local groups such as Friends of Currimundi Lake, Currimundi Neighbourhood Watch, Currimundi Catchment Care Group, and the Sunshine Coast Turtlecare Group, as well as interaction with bowls, yoga and line dancing.

I have been contacted by Ian Thomson about their planned 'Paddle against Plastic' in November. If we are able we will join them to help do some work on Currimundi Lake. **President, Rhondda**

KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

At the recent Annual General Meeting held 27 August 2017, we were delighted to honour outgoing president Greg Chambers, his wife Lyn, Annie Sharp, and Trevor Scrimshaw with life membership of KaFRA for their service to the Kawana Forest community over many years.

New sub-committees are in place working together with the executive team and the first committee meeting was held 4 September. We are working towards preparing for the annual KaFRA family Christmas party and improving safety for all residents. **Alana**

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

Another successful National Tree Day planting. We are proud of the fact we have planted more than 15,000 trees, shrubs and grasses in Bancroft's Red Gum Environmental Reserve since the start of the program in 2007.

Residential growth in the Parklands area is coming to a close with Churches of Christ preparing for a 96 bed Residential Aged Care and community facility with meeting rooms and pool. Palm Lakes are preparing the site at the western end of Village Way for 276 homes, a 120 bed aged care building with community facilities under way. The 7-Eleven variety and petrol station will open soon!

All residents are encouraged to attend our regular meetings with Cr Peter Cox, usually in June and December. Any questions or input please contact me. **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: 13 November

Contact: President Tony, 5438 8267

Email: cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au

Website: www.currimundicatchment.org.au/cccg

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: 3 October, 5 December

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 Glenn 0412 286 156

Email: gsmith@gideons.org.au

Website: www.kafra.org.au

Meeting Place bookings: 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