

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 9,500 households and businesses within the Currimundi Catchment. If you can help with distribution please phone Tony on 5438 8267.



Winter 2018

PLASTIC BAG BAN 1 JULY

Supermarkets will not provide lightweight plastic shopping bags from 1 July and our marine and bird life will be eternally grateful. Many of you are well and truly prepared for the change but some people will still struggle when it becomes a reality.

Here's some hints to help you through

- Always carry a shopping bag that folds into a very small size for unintended purchases, and keep it in your bag or on your belt.
- Always carry cloth shopping bags or cane baskets in your car boot.
- Put a sign on your dashboard to remind you to take the bags when you park your car.
- If you forget your bags, load groceries into a trolley and pack them into the bags in your boot.
- If you don't have cloth bags with you, ask for a cardboard box.
- If all the above fail and you really MUST buy a bag, buy a sturdy green bag not a heavy plastic bag which could end up being even worse for the environment.

The Bin Liner Dilemma!

Many of you use lightweight shopping bags as bin liners. So a ban on these bags will mean rethinking bin liners and the way you manage waste.

Before deciding which bin liner to switch to, try to reduce the amount of rubbish going into your bin. An estimated 85% of an average household's waste can be put in the recycling bin or composted.

Keep a container on your kitchen bench for fruit and vegetable scraps and put this in a compost bin or worm farm or simply dig them into your garden.

Ensure that any packaging that can be recycled is placed into the yellow topped recycling bin. Soft plastics and things like cellophane wrappers and chip bags can be collected separately and taken to the recycling bin at Coles Caloundra.

Try lining your bin with newspaper. If there is smelly rubbish that is likely to attract flies, wrap it in newspaper and leave in your freezer until rubbish collection day.

You can purchase bin liners online that are totally compostable and work out at around 13 cents per bag. And if you follow the hints above you'll only have one bag per week, ie 13 cents a week.

Good luck!

SPARE A THOUGHT FOR OUR BUSINESSES

We've been focussing strongly on how we, as individuals, will need to change our behaviour to go totally free of single use shopping bags, but businesses will also have to rise to the challenge.

This ban will affect all retailers that currently use light-weight plastic bags, including plastic, biodegradable, compostable, and degradable bags. Produce bags - the light plastic bags used to separate fruit and vegetables, will remain in use.

Boomerang Bags Caloundra has been supplying its hand-made cloth shopping bags to a number of local businesses for nearly 3 years now and many have become enthusiastic supporters. Wurtulla Fruit and Veg is one business that readily adopted the bags early on and manager Susan Hocken is one of their most vocal supporters.



Susan Hocken, Manager of Wurtulla Fruit and Veg, with some donated cloth Boomerang Bags

Susan said she was impressed by the commitment of the group in producing the bags on a voluntary basis. "It's also fostered a sense of community, with many customers becoming supporters by using the bags on a regular basis and even donating fabrics towards production of more bags," she said.

Susan said it has encouraged their business to think about how else to minimise the effect of plastic on the environment. "We've started using biodegradable produce bags that break down in landfill. And where we package produce for sale, we encourage customers to return packaging such as plastic trays and punnets to us for reuse."

So be prepared on 1 July and have a thought for the businesses where you shop – they'll all be coping with the change.

CREEKWOOD VISITOR

Currimundi Catchment Care Group member, Michael Bugden, who lives close to the Creekwood wetland, had a surprise visitor at his front door on arriving home from work recently. Standing at his doorstep was a freshwater turtle. Michael was able to get a couple of good pics, but when he returned to his doorstep to have a better look, the turtle had disappeared. Michael compared his photographs with online references and concluded the most likely species was a Krefft's River Turtle (*Emydura macquarii krefftii*). The Sunshine Coast Council's Lakes & Wetlands Technical Officer agreed with this conclusion.



Kreffts River Turtle in Creekwood



Creekwood wetland in late afternoon light

How it got there is a mystery, but these freshwater native turtles are known to move easily between lake systems and drainage lines.

It's heartening to know that birds and other fauna are thriving in the Creekwood wetland, which was established by the developer, AV Jennings, to clean the stormwater discharges of the development.

The vegetation in this wetland is still establishing and it is expected that ownership and maintenance will be transferred from AV Jennings to Council some time in 2019.

Wetlands such as this, which start their life as a practical solution to stormwater runoff, usually end up becoming well-loved parts of their community. Of course the water from this wetland will eventually make its way to Currimundi Lake and then into the ocean.

WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL WALKS

On 26 August, Currimundi Catchment Care Group volunteers will host a guided walk through Leacy's Bushland Reserve in Currimundi. Come along and enjoy the diversity of the flora which occurs in a relatively small area - from open woodland with huge old swamp box trees which provide great habitat to wildlife, tall eucalypts, to wetter areas with palms, vines, melaleucas, and rainforest species.

The Wildlife Preservation Society will host the ever-popular walk through the Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park, where you'll see an amazing diversity of wallum heathland wildflowers. Check the Council program or website for the final date. Pictured right is the walking track through Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park in full flower in 2017 photographed by Neill McPherson.



TREE PLANTING IN THE CATCHMENT

Every July for the past 7 years there has been a major National Tree Day planting event at Bancroft's Environmental Red Gum Reserve in the Little Mountain area. This has attracted tremendous community involvement with families and people of all ages participating. This planting has now concluded and Council will be moving its focus to other parts of the Coast. We hope to have a detailed article outlining the success of this restoration work in our next newsletter.

National Tree Day planting this year will be a more modest event in conjunction with our regular working bees. Further details will be posted on the CCCG website closer to the time and will also be provided in our e-newsletter.

Meanwhile Division 3 Councillor Peter Cox, announced on 1 May that contractors have completed planting over 1400 native plants in a 0.5 hectare area of Leacy's Bushland Reserve, which is visible from the Kawana Way Link Road. It is opposite the Meridan Sports Fields as shown in the map.

This was part of a Currimundi Creek Revegetation Project funded through Council's Environment Levy!

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CALENDAR 2019

We love receiving your photographs for our annual Catchment Calendar. If you'd like to submit a photograph for the 2019 Calendar, firstly check the requirements on the CCCG website at: <http://www.currimundicatchment.org.au/cccg/portfolio-item/currimundi-calendar-2/>.

If your photograph meets these requirements, please email a high-resolution image (at least 1 MB) by 30 September to calendar@currimundicatchment.org.au.



Aerial image provided by Cr Peter Cox

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



Jay and Samara get stuck into removing some nasty weeds, watched on by their miniature schnauzer Peppa

continue enjoying their fishing if they're polluting the waterways like that?"

She says adults can get as much out of group activities as the kids. "I enjoy the fresh air, the exercise and the satisfying feeling of doing something small to help with a bigger environmental picture.

"I work full-time, so it's lovely for me to spend some quality time with the kids on a Saturday or Sunday while simultaneously helping the environment. Plus a lot of the activities come with goodie giveaways and a sausage sizzle; so that is a nice little incentive!"

Like a lot of parents, Bec does worry her children are spending too much time on screens. "The group offers a nice and easy antidote to all the screens in our lives. Getting involved is simply a matter of turning up and grabbing a pair of gloves, the committee members are always so welcoming and it's so good to have a break from technology!"

TRANSFORMING KIDS FROM SCREEN ADDICTS INTO GUARDIANS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Currimundi mum Bec Marshall thinks she's found the cure for screen-addicted kids. Get them outside with the Currimundi Catchment Care Group!

Bec and her two children Jay, 10, and Samara, 6, have been involved in various group activities for the past three years. The trio has taken part in tree-planting, weeding working bees, waterway clean-ups on kayaks and they even get to play postman every quarter doing deliveries of this very newsletter.

"The kids get a real kick out of it all," Bec said. "They're outdoors in nature, oohing at a giant golden orb spider or aahing at a gross piece of lake litter.

"The working bees are rewarding because you can stand back at the end and see a patch of earth that you cleared, hoping the natives win.

"My kids like riding their bikes past tree-planting sites weeks and months later to see something they put in the ground take hold and flourish.

"We love living in Currimundi. We walk our dog on the pathways, we ride our bikes to the lake and local playgrounds and we take our kayaks out on the water. We get so much enjoyment from this place, and when you think about it, nature is supplying that joy. I believe we've got a duty to repay the favour.

"I'm always confused and sad when I see empty plastic packets of bait messing up the lake. I just don't get it. How do fishermen expect to



Jay and Samara play postman with newsletter deliveries.

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP WORKING BEES

Our working bees are held on a Sunday afternoon once a month. Together we remove invasive, strangling, smothering weeds – allowing space and sunlight for native vegetation to re-establish. We often focus on "garden escapees" such as asparagus fern, which is a prickly plant with red berries that spreads quickly and establishes large root systems.

The working bees are an enjoyable and satisfying way to engage with our local environment (even when you're cursing that asparagus fern root that defies all efforts to remove it).

For upcoming dates and locations check the website, or be listed for the regular CCCG emails.

See you there.



Bill, Terry, and Cas, FOCL Working Bee members with the new buggy provided by Council

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE WORKING BEES

Weeding Bees are held on the second Wednesday and the last Saturday of each month, starting at 8.00am.

If you have some spare time we are always looking for volunteers to help keep our area clean and beautiful for our community.

"Smoko" is provided for all our workers. Contact Rhondda 5437 6481 or Ruth 5493 7903 for information.



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

Group Reports

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

It's that time of year again when we have some of those spectacular days that remind me why I live here on the Sunshine Coast. Bright clear days, blue skies, sparkling waterways and our wonderful beaches. We are fortunate that so many of our residents value this special place and help to keep it clean and healthy.

Are you ready for the plastic bag ban starting 1 July? It may cause some temporary problems while we all adapt, but it will be a great boon for the environment - see the front page for some great tips. We can't wait for the next big step - the container refund scheme which has been deferred to 1 November this year. These new measures will go a long way to reducing the plastic pollution that is choking our waterways and natural areas and endangering our wildlife.

It's a great time of year to join us for one of our monthly working bees. We like to work with local residents who identify a nearby area that needs some care and attention. We get advice from Council about the best way to tackle a particular invasive weed, go in and tidy things up as a group and hand-over to locals to keep an eye on the area and perhaps follow-up with a little light watering of new plants or to report returning problems. If you know of an area near you that you think could benefit from some work, let us know with a call to 5438 8267 or email cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au.
President, Tony

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

Our working bees are going well, with quite a few bags of Gloriosa Lily being removed with the tubers included. The team has also been planting. Our working bee group is very excited about the new buggy supplied by Council. This has been a big help as we don't have Cliff and his buggy anymore.

Cliff's Deck, as it is known, has been very well frequented, but some clever people have scratched their names onto the rail which is a shame. The Lake has been interesting in the last few weeks by closing itself off a few times. Nature still at work. We will also see some new works happening across from the Currimundi Car Park where the Council will be doing some new beautification works in this area, especially where there is some erosion near the Norfolk Pines.

The turtle season has finished for Currimundi and most of the other beaches. We had eight nests hatching out successfully. Street and residential lighting is becoming a big problem for our turtles coming in to lay and also for the hatchlings going to the sea.
Chair, Rhondda

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

As winter approaches we expect to see less activity round the neighbourhood. But then again Palm Lakes Resort retirement village is in full swing building houses, and the Church of Christ retirement village and community centre is progressing with a minister in place to bring the facility to the community.

The pond at Dot Billingham Park has been cleared of some natural growth and the drain from Parklands Boulevard to and from the pond to the bush has been cleared of grasses and weeds.

Every July for the past 7 years there has been a major National Tree Day planting event at Bancroft's Environmental Red Gum Reserve. This has attracted tremendous community involvement with families and people of all ages participating. This planting has now concluded and while we're disappointed, we realise that Council sees a need to move its focus to other parts of the Coast.

We are looking for someone to join our band of 20 walkers to deliver this newsletter in the new Creekwood community, just four times a year. Please contact me, Ron at 0448 517 905 to discuss your community opportunity.
President, Ron

KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Kawana Forest residents are invited to join us for an all ages afternoon of fun in Kurrajong Park on 2 June. Catch up with neighbours and watch from the sidelines or join in on the facilitated games. Bring some gold coins and grab a sausage and drink. Check the flier delivered to your letterbox for more detail.
President, Glenn



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: 9 July, 10 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: 5 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 Glenn 0412 286 156

Email: gsmith@gideons.org.au

Website: www.kafra.org.au

Meeting Place Hire: Josephine Marciniak 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