

CURRIMUNDI LAKE CATCHMENT NEWS

This is a community newsletter voluntarily produced by Currimundi Catchment Care Group Inc ABN 77 276 084 092. 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.



Autumn 2019

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY 3 MARCH 2019



Currimundi Catchment Care Group based their clean-up at Stockyard Park, Little Mountain, again this year. Some intermittent light rain helped to cool the band of 21 volunteers who collected 3 wheelie bins of general rubbish as well as numerous recyclable items.

We were intrigued to discover whether there would be a reduction in drink containers following the introduction of the Containers for Change Scheme on 1 November 2018. And we weren't disappointed. Plastic, glass and metal drink containers were down from around 500 last year to 104 this year.

However there was an alarming increase in waxed paper cups (think Slurpees or Slushies) to 141 in total. These generally come with plastic straws and indeed we collected 117 plastic straws - most definitely an area that needs to be addressed.

Friends of Currimundi Lake welcomed 29 volunteers to help at the Cliff Hargreaves Park site and cleaned a large area including open ground, bush, sand dunes, beach, creek banks and roadside. As usual there was a wide range of litter varying in size from very small pieces of plastic to a car door!

FOCL have started to analyse the litter collected and will report on progress in future clean ups. They did notice a reduction in plastic straws collected, thanks to the ban by Cocos and Thrillspresso last year. However it was disappointing to see 64 doggy bags littered. Please remember that these should be thrown in the bin whether empty or full.

Thanks everyone who joined the community clean up - also to Cocos Beach Café who provided the sausage sizzle, and Kite Thrills who provided a canoe to clean up the lake.



KIDS CORNER

By Samara Marshall, age 7

I think Clean Up Australia Day is a good time to stop and think about everything the environment gives us.

Clean air to breathe, trees for shade, all sorts of different animals in the water and on the land and beautiful places to play and relax in. I feel happier when I am walking my dog with my family outside in the fresh air, near nature and all the bush turkeys, haha. I love bush turkeys because they make me laugh.

Even though Clean Up Australia is on one day every year, I think every day should be Clean Up Currimundi Day. We should always pick up any rubbish that we see if it's not in a bin!

Even sometimes I pick up rubbish and you should too! Then all the humans and animals will have a nice clean environment to enjoy forever.

WORKING BEES



Singapore daisy in bloom

Lately we have been targeting Singapore Daisy. This hardy plant with its glossy leaves and pretty yellow flowers has been a favourite in backyards and areas prone to erosion. Unfortunately, it has proven to be too hardy and is now classed as a Category 3 environmental weed. Any stem fragment can take root. Stems are often dispersed by dumped garden waste, mowing, or during heavy rain. Once established Singapore Daisy forms a dense carpet smothering native vegetation.

Council staff advise that it has been found on an island in Great Barrier Reef, having drifted from the mainland. Now that is hardy!

It is very time consuming removing this plant as all parts of the plant have to be bagged. Thanks to an incredible number of volunteers the Singapore Daisy in Crummunda Park has met its match. It has been decimated. Yay. We will revisit the area on occasion to prevent its regrowth. Many many thanks to all the helping hands who pulled off this mammoth feat.

Want to join us?

Working Bees are held once a month on a Sunday afternoon. Usually the first Sunday of the month from 3-5pm, but please check our website in advance as dates and sites vary.



LIGHTS ON THE LAKE 2018 SHINING BRIGHT

Thousands of people of all ages turned up to Lights on the Lake on 9 December 2018 – our local festival that has become one of the most well-loved on the Sunshine Coast.

We are grateful to our sponsors Sunshine Coast Council, Caloundra Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank, Audi Centre Sunshine Coast, IGA Wurtulla, State Member for Kawana, the Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP, Bentleys Sunshine Coast, Cocos Beach Cafe and Bunnings Kawana. Jarrod Bleijie also donned a colourful jacket for his role as MC for the event and we thank entertainers – Ken O'Shea, Nyssa Raye, Pineapple Crush, Billy Guy, Jembe Johnno and No Sound Playground for their contribution. Thanks also to all the local organisations who provided support or donated goods, services or prizes: Alby Williams, Bill Alexander, Boomerang Bags Caloundra, Caloundra Coastguard, Caloundra SES Unit, Club Kawana, Currimundi Catchment Care Group, Dicky Beach Surf Lifesaving Club, Dixon Homes Sunshine Coast, Friends of Currimundi Lake, Caloundra Girl Guides, Gillett Electrical, Lions Club of Caloundra, Neighbourhood Watch Groups of Currimundi East and Wurtulla West, Pizza Hut Currimundi, Queensland Reject Shop, Currimundi, Surf Life Saving, Sealife Sunshine Coast, University of Sunshine Coast Paramedic Students, Woolworths Currimundi.



Winners Michael Boucher and family

Finally thanks to the water parade entrants and the volunteers who helped make the event such an outstanding success. See you again at Lights on the Lake 2019!

CURRIMUNDI LAKE TWILIGHT MARKETS

People will have a chance to come together at the lakeside once a month now with the commencement of the Twilight Markets on 15 February. Markets will be held on the third Friday of every month and feature a large range of street food stalls, live music and a bar.

The first Twilight Food Market was a huge success with very big crowds, and it was great to see that most people cleaned up after themselves.



The Twilight Markets came about thanks to the work of Cr Peter Cox and the Caloundra Chamber of Commerce who we know have long experience with other markets in Caloundra.

The markets are on from 4pm to 8pm, so come along and you may have the opportunity to see one of Currimundi Lakes stunning sunsets.

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

TURTLE UPDATE

By Rhondda Alexander

Between Moffat, Dicky and Currimundi Beach we have six nests this year. Three nests hatched out around the 55 to 58 days which is a little earlier than the average of 60 days. This is due to the sand being warmer than usual with the very hot and dry Summer weather we experienced this year.

Cyclone Oma brought massive tides leading to widescale erosion but hopefully only one nest affected by wave movement. One of our relocated nests stayed high and dry. We now need to keep our fingers crossed that the nest that may have had some wave action will emerge.

So far all our nests have had a large number of eggs in them. All these eggs will be male hatchlings.



Early hatchlings head for the ocean



Currimundi Beach becomes a cliff face following erosion from Cyclone Oma

This has been my first year as Group Leader for Dicky and Moffat Beach as well as still being Group Leader for Currimundi and Ballinger Beach. This has kept me on my toes especially getting to know Dicky and Moffat Beaches and where we can relocate nests when needed.

Excessive light has been a big issue on parts of Dicky Beach. We have one nest to emerge yet where there are huge light problems, but hopefully that will be fixed very soon.

EVERYONE NEEDS TO HELP TO GET RID OF PLASTIC LITTER



Birthday balloons travel hundreds of kilometres on the oceans
(Photo from abc.net.au 18/9/2018)

These researchers found that balloon debris is the most lethal type of plastic that birds can swallow. One balloon that was removed from a dead bird had "happy birthday" written on it and was traced back to an event in Sunnybank in Brisbane. Probably released by an excited child.

That's why action needs to happen at all levels. The State Government has shown the lead by banning single use plastic bags in supermarkets and introducing *Containers for Change* - the refund scheme for return of empty drink containers.

The Sunshine Coast Council has a vision to be Australia's most sustainable region and is aiming to phase out single-use plastics at council-managed facilities and council-run events.

Community groups in Currimundi Lake Catchment are doing our best to clean up and remove plastic litter from our environment.

However the most important steps are taken by every individual. And that means you, me, our families, our next door neighbours! Start today by reducing plastic in your life, whether by banning balloons, saying NO to straws, taking your keep cup to get coffee, buying cardboard containers rather than plastic. There are so many ways you can reduce plastic in your life, and together we can make a difference!

So much has been written about the effect of plastic on our environment. In particular the effect of plastic items of all shapes and sizes being littered and entering our waterways. Once in our lakes and oceans these items can end up virtually anywhere in the world and cause injury or death to bird or marine life.

It can happen so easily and can be caused by any one of us!

Early this month a report by researchers from the CSIRO released findings from an examination of birds that had died in the waters off south-eastern Australia and south-west of New Zealand, where the Tasman Sea boundary meets the Southern Ocean. These waters are believed to have the greatest diversity of seabirds in the world.



A sample of reusable bottles and cups in use by Sunshine Coast Council

Group Reports

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

It has been a long, hot, dry summer this year and local plant-life is struggling with the dry conditions. Sadly it doesn't seem to stop the weeds from flourishing.

Our monthly working bees have been concentrating on removing invasive weeds from parks and nature areas in the catchment. It's sad to see the damage that garden escapees can do and sadder still to see the very same plants for sale in local nurseries. We urge everyone to consider carefully what you plant in your gardens and pick natives that will attract birds and bees rather than some admittedly pretty, but invasive exotics. And please don't throw your garden clippings over the fence, into the canal or in the bushes across the road because they can become established and start to smother the local vegetation.

It has been pleasing to see the number of volunteers for our working bees increasing. Thank you to all the volunteers, young and old, who come along to help for two hours on a Sunday afternoon.
Tony, President

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

The year has started in a very dry mode with the result we have not been able to do any planting, but the weeding days have started. Our volunteers are down a little but Ruth and I are hoping that this will improve with cooler weather. We have had two major clean up days recently - Clean Up for the Hatchlings on our beaches and Clean Up Australia Day in Cliff Hargreaves Park. I attended a 2 hour training course in how to separate litter for better data collecting and will apply these principles to our clean-up events.

Our turtle nests survived Cyclone Oma although some had to be relocated. There was some erosion on our beaches with water going over the first dune in places. The Lake for a few days was quite full and comments were "Why can't it be like this all the time?" Explanations were not always accepted.

We look forward to some rain, but not too heavy, as this could be a problem with very dried out roots falling over. I have also discovered that we have a vulnerable sedge at our end of the Lake. We also look forward to more volunteers for our working bees which are held every second Wednesday and last Saturday of each month, and some cooler weather.
Rhondda, President

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

Parklands is moving along with work being undertaken on Parklands Boulevard to expand it to 4 lanes through the Meridan College area. Construction on the south side footpath has begun in March.

The new Churches of Christ Aged Care facility with 96 beds is open and operating with public pool hours on a monthly membership and coffee shop open daily for public use. Other facilities will be available. Next door is the new residential project with 29 houses accessing Parklands Boulevard with left in and out. Occupancy is expected within the year.

For those interested in learning more about any and all projects being undertaken by Council, State Government or private companies, go to the Council website and search through Development.i. All development projects on the Sunshine Coast can be searched by location, maps or Application number.
Ron, President

KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Together with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, KaFRA have organised a Prepare. Act. Survive information session for Kawana Forest residents on 27 March at the Kawana Forest Meeting Place (KFMP), commencing at 6:30pm. Come along and bring all the family so you can be prepared together. You may have as little as 15 seconds to escape a fire. Most fatal fires are preventable. Take precautions to protect yourself, your family and your home by creating a fire escape plan.

We are also planning a Family Movie Night for Kawana Forest residents, also at the KFMP, on 4 May, starting at 5:30pm. Watch for details in our next newsletter delivered to your mailbox and on our Facebook page.
Glenn, 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: 13 May

Contact: President Tony, 5438 8267

Containers for Change SchemeID:C10137661

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: 2 April

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 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