

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 2019

WAKE-UP CALL – WE ALL NEED TO ACT TO SAVE ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Currimundi Catchment is just one small corner of the Sunshine Coast. But in recent years we have become very conscious of the fact that we are all connected and that we are all part of nature and the planet. So we all have reason to be concerned by recent evidence showing an alarming decline in biodiversity worldwide.

This evidence comes from a massive United Nations review carried out by the Intergovernmental Science - Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).



Grey headed flying foxes provide valuable pollination but are endangered

All the more reason to double our efforts in our small corner to ensure healthy land and waterways so our native plants and animals have the best chance of surviving.

Let's look at what is happening in our catchment. The Sunshine Coast Council has established an Environment Levy which we all contribute to as rate payers. This has been invaluable in allowing the Council to purchase parcels of land that are environmentally significant so that they can be conserved for future generations.

It has also enabled monitoring and research, and projects targeting specific environmental issues, and we're glad to see that koalas and flying foxes are receiving special attention.

Finally the levy provides small grants to community organisations such as Currimundi Catchment Care Group and Friends of Currimundi Lake to carry out small projects specifically targeting our local area.

As local community groups we have focussed our attention on

- Reducing erosion by installing coir log walls and planting along the banks
- Protecting the existing critical bank vegetation from weed infestation
- Removing litter which will end up in the waterways and the ocean
- Replanting in areas of the catchment that had been cleared for development.

No one should ever think that they're too small to make a difference. We can all do our bit to improve our local waterways. Keeping bare soils covered on our properties, trapping and reusing stormwater from our roofs on our gardens and lawns, removing weeds from our gardens, reducing use of plastic and removing or preventing litter. We can only make a difference if we work together!



Even the iconic koala is in danger of extinction

According to this Global Assessment Report, up to

1 million species worldwide are in danger of extinction. And the authors say they found overwhelming evidence that human activities are behind nature's decline. They ranked the major drivers of species decline as land conversion, including deforestation; overfishing; bush meat hunting and poaching; climate change; pollution; and invasive alien species.

Of particular concern is the state of the oceans, with widespread plastic contamination, dead zones, overfishing, and acidification.

And we're not talking small so-called insignificant species, we're talking about our iconic animals – the magnificent cassowary, the koala, and the Gouldian finch, said to be the most beautiful bird in the world. If these animals are in danger, pity the small mouse-like dunnart and the black-footed tree rat!



Could we lose the most beautiful bird in the world - the Gouldian Finch

OUR VALUABLE VOLUNTEERS

What a varied bunch we have delivering our newsletters the Currimundi catchment. Volunteers Brian and Diane Jones met 50 years ago in the Northern Territory where Brian was a buffalo shooter and Diane one of 8 children who grew up in the small town of Batchelor.

From these humble beginnings they married and went on to live in many places around the world following Brian's later career working in procurement for multinational companies. After living in Singapore, Rome, London and again in Singapore for a total of 13 years they finally settled in Brisbane where they continued to work and raise their three children.

Now retired, they live comfortably in Currimundi and like to put something back into the community. Brian wryly admits he is motivated partly by guilt. He realises now that when they lived in the Northern Territory there was a frontier mentality that led to not respecting the environment as much as they should. And living in Singapore was an eye-opener in showing that a city with a large population in a small area can be kept clean with strong commitment from the government and the people.

Brian and Diane have been volunteering for the Currimundi Catchment Care Group for over 7 years now, and deliver 250 copies of this quarterly newsletter to the streets around Talara College.

"It's great exercise and you get to see a lot more of your neighbourhood," said Brian. "We split the work and it only takes us a bit over an hour". Diane said having knee surgery and thyroid surgery over the years has slowed her down a little but she feels it's important to give to the community now that they have the time.



Brian and Diane Jones - long term valuable volunteers

They take part in the annual Clean Up Australia Day event and Brian also does a walk along Creekside Boulevard once or twice a week to pick up litter. "It's mainly drink cans thrown from car windows" he said. "and now that we can claim 10 cents per container, we're even making money out of it", he said with a chuckle.

To Brian and Diane and all our wonderful volunteers, we say Thank You!

Can you help by delivering newsletters for an hour or two, 4 times a year? Please give us a call on 5438 8267.



GLORY BE!

Let's go for a wander down the Coastal Pathway toward Currimundi Beach on a blistering sunny afternoon...and it is oh so cool along the shaded pathway.....

There I see a glorious lily in all its red and gold splendor...and wonder what it is...is it native to the area? **Unfortunately NO.** It is the **Gloria Lily or Gloriosa superba...the curse of the Coast.**

This plant, pictured left, has taken over large portions of our dunes with its glossy green leaves with tendrils suitable for climbing and red and yellow spider lily style flower. It is a **real enemy** of Friends of Currimundi Lake who spend hours digging up and bagging the very large white tubers which can be up to a meter long under the sand. If we simply cannot dig them up we resort to removing and destroying the flower or the seed pod which contains very fertile seeds.... so that next season we do not have more plants to remove.

If you have them growing in your garden, please dig up the tuber, destroy it and the plant.

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CALENDAR 2020

We love receiving your photographs for our annual Catchment Calendar. If you'd like to submit a photograph for the 2020 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.

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

WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL WALKS

Here's some dates for your diary. On Sunday 1 September, 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, to tall eucalypts, to wetter areas with palms, vines, melaleucas, and rainforest species.

On Thursday 29 and Saturday 31 August are the ever-popular walks through the Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park, hosted by the Wildlife Preservation Society, where you'll see an amazing diversity of heathland wildflowers.

Details will be available on the Currimundi Catchment Care Group website closer to the time.



THERE'S A DRAGON AT THE BOTTOM OF THE GARDEN

From time to time we have featured interesting fish that live in our creeks and lake but this time we're featuring a reptile – the Australian water dragon. Locals have observed an increase in the number of these reptiles lately particularly in the small creek behind Toyota.

They're shy animals in the wild but seem to have an affinity with humans and soon become accustomed to living in the same space. We seem to have a fascination for them - perhaps because they're so ancient, having been around for about 20 million years. Male water dragons can reach a length of 1 metre and weigh about 1 kg, while females are smaller at around 60cm. They are amazingly skilled swimmers and can remain totally submerged for up to 90 minutes.

They are omnivorous meaning they will eat nearly anything. We had a good example of this following the recent heavy rains when there was a huge increase in cockroaches in the creek. The water dragons had a feast! Gross, you may think, but probably better than having an increased number of cockroaches in your house!

2019 TURTLE SEASON OVER

The turtle season for the Sunshine Coast has finished. This season saw very hot temperatures which resulted in earlier hatchings and some nests producing female hatchlings. The hotter the sand temperature is, the more chance there is for female hatchlings. We had six nests in our area, all loggerheads, with a couple of early emergences. Due to very strong winds and very high tides, there were some risks to our nests, but all went well with a couple of relocations. We also had light problems for one emerging nest where the hatchlings did a 200 degree turn back towards a very bright light. As we had another nest in the same vicinity due out a fortnight later, the Council very kindly turned this light off until after the second emergence with all little hatchlings going straight down to the ocean. The next season will start about November, with training before hand for everyone registered with the Sunshine Coast Turtlecare Group.

In February we had the annual Cleanup for the Hatchlings. Many people from the community joined in this cleanup and it was very disappointing to see the number of doggie bags that were picked up as well as other litter. Also it was disappointing to see the number of dogs that were not controlled by the owners. This sometimes caused some anxiety when there were hatchlings on the move. Thank you to all the people who are very aware and caring about our precious, critically endangered loggerhead turtles.



The Liveability Opportunity for Australian Homes

A new concept has emerged in real estate in recent years, that of liveability. The Centre for Liveability Real Estate was acquired by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Organisation (CSIRO) in June 2016. Liveability is about finding or creating a house that is healthy, efficient, comfortable and connected to community. Specialist training is now available to real estate agents across Australia, and we're fortunate to have one specialist in Caloundra.

The Liveability Features Framework promoted by the CSIRO defines and verifies 17 property features for Australian homes with potential for reduced running costs and increased comfort, and reducing the use of scarce resources.

We're all familiar with solar panels and rainwater tanks, but there are many more aspects to consider, including building design and orientation, insulation and density of building materials, energy efficient heating and lighting, water efficiency, and home energy ratings.

We have recently welcomed Caloundra Real Estate Agent, DeeJay Property Group, as a sponsor for Lights on the Lake in 2019. This agency has exhibited a commitment to environmental interests by engaging Joel Stephen, the only qualified Liveability Real Estate Specialist on the Sunshine Coast. Joel is passionate about maximising the environmental features of properties, in his own life and also for clients of DeeJay Property Group who are planning to sell their homes. He is able to assist people to recognise and make changes which can reduce environmental impact, reduce running costs, thereby enhancing liveability, and of course leading to a higher sale price.



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

Group Reports

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

The recent rain has certainly revived the local plants that survived the dry spell. Unfortunately it has given weeds and invasive garden escapees in the neighbourhood a real boost too. So it's lucky our working bees have been so successful. Each month we meet on the first Sunday of the month from 3 – 5pm at a different location in the catchment and get to work clearing weeds. Our wonderful contacts in the Sunshine Coast Council help us identify what needs to be done and prioritise our targets. Sometimes it seems like a hopeless task but after each session, the participants are always proud of what a small band of dedicated volunteers can do in a few hours. It is so satisfying to look back at what was an overgrown mess with weeds and vines choking out the native vegetation and see a pristine newly cleared patch of park or bushland.

We are always happy to see new faces (and hands) so why don't you pop along to one of our future events and join in. Bring the family or a friend. We don't expect people to come every time, just when you're free.

To find out when the next event will be held, just check the Events section on our website Home Page: <http://www.currimundicatchment.org.au/cccg/>.

President, Tony

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

We are almost half way through 2019. Our weeding bee group has been very busy, especially since it has rained, with weeds popping up very quickly. We have not done very much in the way of planting as it has been too dry. Ruth, our coordinator of the working bee group has been busy inducting people on work health and safety, and showing our group all the different weeds. One of our newer notice boards was damaged almost beyond repair by vandals plus there has been a spate of graffiti. Litter is still a problem with people just dropping their used item when they have finished with it. The lake has repeatedly closed itself this year, and a lot of you will have noticed how it opened to the north and scoured out some of the beach on the Wurtulla side. Luckily, no turtles laid in that area this season.

Friends of Currimundi Lake are nearly through the process of becoming Incorporated. This will not make any difference to how FOCL works, it will just give us more security for all members. As usual we would love to have more people joining us at our meetings on the first Tuesday of each even month at 7.30 pm at the Currimundi Community Hall. Also we are always ready to welcome anyone to our working bees who are interested in our conservation and environment work. Contact either Ruth on 0408989263 or Rhondda on 54376481 or 0427376481.

Chair, Rhondda

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

Parklands is slowing down for Winter although construction is rolling on. The moving of the lights on Parklands Boulevard at Meridan College will be undertaken in August with prep work to be sorted out in June and July. At about the same time a major sidewalk will be installed on the north side of Village Way between the Day Care and Caloundra Cay.

Cr Peter Cox will be available at my patio, 29 Lakeshore Place, 18 June at 9:00 am. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ron Burnett at 0448 517 905 or at my email.

Anyone interested in delivering the newsletter 4 times a year on Discovery Drive? Please give me a call for an opportunity to help out the community.

President, Ron

KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

KaFRA recently hosted a big-screen family movie night, sponsored by McGrath Real Estate, at the Kawana Forest Meeting Place. It was a great success with about 50 locals of all ages enjoying the family classic ET. We continue to liaise with the Sunshine Coast Council on a variety of issues important to our community and are now planning activities for the second half of the year.

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: 8 July, 9 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, 6 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