

# 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



## Spring 2019

### ARE FISH THRIVING OR DYING IN CURRIMUNDI LAKE?

Currimundi Catchment Care Group has assisted the Council-engaged consultant with fish surveys in the lake and creeks in 2013, 2015, and 2017. A further survey was commissioned this year by Sunshine Coast Council again using Fishology Consulting (formerly Pitman Research and Consulting) to conduct the survey.

The final report was presented to Council in June: **Status of the Currimundi Lake Fish Community in 2019**

Ten sites were sampled in Currimundi Lake revealing a total of 11,460 fish and stingrays representing a total of 55 species. This included an additional 10 fish species not seen in previous surveys.

The 2019 survey found that the general structure of the fish community was significantly different to the three previous surveys. It showed higher abundance of glassfish, southern herring, Pacific blue eye, silver biddy, ornate ponyfish, greenback mullet, and lower abundance of tiger mullet and sea mullet.

All surveys showed significant differences in the fish community structure between the creek sites and the lake and canal sites. Two freshwater sites were sampled with 490 fish representing 9 native freshwater fish and two introduced species (mosquitofish and platy). When compared with historical surveys conducted prior to 2000, the results showed that several species were no longer being found in the creeks.



The catchment has undergone many changes over the past 20-30 years, primarily the switch from an ICOLL (intermittently closing lake or lagoon) to an estuarine system receiving pumped water from Lake Kawana, and with the mouth mostly open.

There has been also significant riparian clearing in some areas and stormwater runoff leading to bank erosion and habitat decline.

Clearly there are changes occurring – some good some bad. We support the continuation of these surveys from time to time to gauge the health of the catchment and contribute to decisions on management of the waterway.

*Information contained in this article was obtained from the Report to Council: Status of the Currimundi Lake fish Community in 2019.*

### CURRIMUNDI LAKE COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

**When:** 9am – 12 noon, Sunday 20 October

**Where:** From Frank McIvor Park, 38 Westaway Parade, Currimundi

Each year the Currimundi Lake Community Clean up sees local volunteers removing debris from this beautiful lake. We will do it all again on 20 October in what will be the third running of this event.

Coordinated by Ocean Crusaders, this event is supported by Unitywater, Sunshine Coast Council, Currimundi Catchment Care Group and other local community groups.

Bring your paddle craft of any type. Kayaks, canoes, SUP's, inflatable boats - whatever you have, come on down and help us to clean the lake and creeks.

If you don't have a craft you can simply clean along the banks or in the surrounding streets.



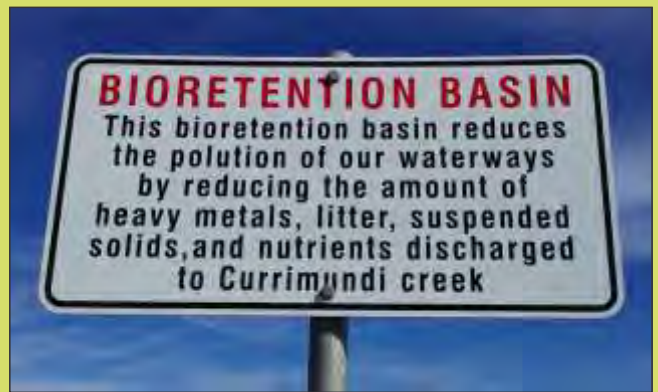
Litter collected during the clean-up will be analysed and categorised so that we are able to better target future campaigns.

This is a child friendly event and we encourage you to bring the family along to help them understand that keeping our waterways clean is essential for the wellbeing of marine life.

## KEEPING CURRIMUNDI LAKE CLEAN

You may have seen signs like this one at the Mon Terre Ridge Estate at Little Mountain, alerting the community to the existence of a bioretention basin. It's one of the ways that are used to remove contaminants and sedimentation from stormwater runoff, particularly in new developing areas where the soils are being disturbed for new building activity.

Bioretention basins often consist of areas of grass and a sand bed and to be honest may not look pretty, but they are very effective in letting water percolate through these systems prior to entering waterways that lead eventually into Currimundi Lake.



## KEEPING CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT WEED FREE

When it gets down to the nitty gritty of keeping the weeds under control in the catchment, working bee coordinators for CCCG and FOCL, Kym and Ruth, keep us on our toes in tackling the invaders, whether it be fishbone fern, glory lily, corky's passion or the many other 'favourites' we've come to know so well.



## CCCG WORKING BEES

by Kym Maver

Jogging around the Lake the other day, I found myself passing areas we have worked and remembering our time spent there - the good company, the exotic bird we saw, the satisfaction of hauling a huge corky vine off a tree, the marvel of seeing a delicate wildflower. All good memories.

Sadly, I also saw some of our target weeds fighting to return, but then I tried to imagine what these patches would look like had we not worked there. It was a very grim thought. There would definitely be walls of smothering corky, and ground covered only by invasive creepers. A grim but satisfying realization. We are making a difference. And I am so grateful to all who come along and help our local environment.

We have three more working bees this year:

• 13 October, 3 November and 1 December.

All will be 3-5pm. Maybe we will see you there. See our website for details.

## FOCL WORKING BEES

Friends of Currimundi Lake hold Working Bees on the second Wednesday and the last Saturday of each month starting at 8.00am. The location depends on which areas are the most needy. We are always ready to welcome with open arms anyone who would like to join us at our working bees.

Don't forget to wear closed in shoes, long pants, long sleeves and sunscreen. There is no joining fee and morning tea is always supplied!



## LIGHTS ON THE LAKE 2019

Lights on the Lake will be back on the shores of Currimundi Lake on Sunday 8 December 2019, 4 pm to 8 pm. Come along to see all your favourites, including Santa, Bendigo Bank's Piggy, lifesavers, surf dog and other furry friends.

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](http://www.facebook.com/lightsonthelakefestival)



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

# ORIGIN OF THE SUNSHINE COAST WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL

The Wildlife Preservation Society has recently hosted two very popular walks through the wallum heath of Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park at Currimundi Lake as part of the 2019 Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival. And as usual the colorful wildflowers and plants of this coastal heathland did not disappoint.

This event is so popular now that it's worth taking a moment to look back at how it all started.

The origin of the Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival goes back to the 1960s and is largely the brain child of Kathleen McArthur, a brilliant wildflower artist, author and conservationist. She is quoted as saying that people don't see a wildflower unless there's an arrow on it saying 'wildflower'.

She was determined to 'bridge the gap between science and the public', making Queensland 'a wildflower conscious state', and with some likeminded friends, she set out to engage the community.



Kathleen McArthur

© WPSQ Sunshine Coast & Hinterland Inc



So began the Wildflower Shows, the first in 1967, at Kathleen's home Midyim in Caloundra. Kathleen and other members of the newly established Wildlife Preservation Society began propagating plants from local sources, convinced that an appreciation of these species would lead people to value the Coast's natural environment for its beauty and as habitat for wildlife. With their common and scientific names, plants were offered for sale alongside Kathleen's wildflower paintings, many published in 1959 as *Queensland wildflowers: a selection*.

The astonishing success of the second Wildflower Show, in 1968, was reported as being attended by nearly 3,000 visitors. As popular as it was, the show could not be sustained in a small garden. After 1971, with interest levels in local plants increasing, new venues included Fairhill Nursery, the Coolum Community Centre and Coolum State School. Advice was contributed from many local experts, including community groups such as Coolum & North Shore Coast Care, who with Maroochy Waterwatch and the Yaroomba Progress Association set up the Coolum Community Native Nursery. Its goals mirrored those of Kathleen McArthur: maintaining local habitat and educating the public in the use of native plants in gardens and community places.

Over time and more than 50 years since its popular beginnings in 1967, this celebration of wildflowers has become the Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival. Groups from Noosa to Bribie Island conduct walks in August and September when the wildflowers bloom across the region, and the Festival is facilitated by the Sunshine Coast Council, partnering with community groups and local and state government across the Sunshine Coast and beyond.

Kathleen McArthur was also one of the founding members of the Queensland Wildlife Preservation Society and she established the Caloundra Branch (now Sunshine Coast and Hinterland Inc).

If you'd like to know more about this fascinating person, contact the Sunshine Coast and Hinterland Inc at [sunshine@wildlife.org.au](mailto:sunshine@wildlife.org.au) and ask about meetings and the popular Faunawatch outings where you can learn about birds, plants and animals from the experts. Visit the Wildlife Queensland website [www.wildlife.org.au](http://www.wildlife.org.au) for state-wide campaigns and activities and the excellent *Wildlife Australia* magazine.

From the top:  
Guinea flower  
Wallum wedge flower  
Native Iris  
All recently photographed  
in Kathleen McArthur  
Conservation Park



## SEND US YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE 2020 CURRIMUNDI CALENDAR

We love receiving your photographs that show everything the Currimundi catchment has to offer. The deadline for photos to be considered for our 2020 wall calendar is 30 September. So get snapping and send your high res photos to: [calendar@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto: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.



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

# Group Reports

## CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

I hope many of you had a chance to join one of the guided walks that have been on offer during the recent Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival. I recently walked through Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park and was astonished by the variety and beauty of the tiny wildflowers popping up all around me. It reminded me of how lucky we are to live in a region where little pockets of natural beauty still exist and how important it is for us to value and actively care for these gems. You can help by picking up litter as you walk, properly disposing of your doggy-doo bags and even joining one of the working bees run by local groups (information in this newsletter).

Three of our members attended the recent Sunshine Coast Conservation and Coastal Forum. Local environment volunteers, students, researchers and council officers attended the event and learned from presentations on a wide variety of topics, including a student debate on the topic "We have lost our connection to the environment and the natural world". There were also research presentations on iriakandji jellyfish; shark movement, ecology, coast care and much more. Thank you, Sunshine Coast Council, for hosting this valuable event. **President, Tony**

## FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

Exciting news for Friends of Currimundi Lake is that we are now an incorporated body - Friends of Currimundi Lake Inc. As a legal entity this will make it easier for matters such as public liability insurance for members, receiving grant money, and continuing to exist regardless of changes in membership.

There have been a number of disturbing instances of people cutting trees, some of which will not recover, removing trees completely, starting fires in one of our parks and on or near public conveniences, clearing natural mulch from under trees, and leaving syringes in our playgrounds. For those people who are unaware of the law, cutting down, pruning plants, or placing fixed items on land that is not in your own yard is illegal and can carry very heavy fines.

Fires on the beach are another very big 'no-no'. This includes fires that have not been put out correctly and just covered with sand. A nesting turtle does not know there are hot coals under the sand and either be burnt herself or her eggs are cooked. This also goes for people walking the beach and small children digging into the sand. It is dangerous. **President, Rhondda**

## KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

KaFRA recently held its AGM in conjunction with an informal game of neighbourhood cricket in one of our family-friendly local parks. While it doesn't matter who won the game, we were excited to elect a new committee for the next year, made up of a number of experienced hands and a couple of new faces.

Thanks to Barbara, Jackie and Kelly who have stepped down from the management committee, particularly to Barbara who has served for over 10 years. We look forward to another great year ahead of community events, service and liaising with government and community groups on behalf of our residents. **President Glenn**

## PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

Things are moving along in Parklands. Almost time to replace the service poles along Parklands Blvd at Meridan College and our new footpath on Village Way between the Daycare Centre and Caloundra Rise should be starting soon. If you have driven to Palm Lakes Caloundra Cay, you will have noticed the larger expanse of cut grass adjacent to our National Tree Day planting sites. The temporary Sales Building at Caloundra Cay will be on the move shortly as the project continues to be built and sold!

The second block of townhouses at the corner of Creekwood and Parklands Blvd are nearing completion so we will welcome more new residents to the Community. More newsletters - so if anyone would like to offer to deliver them 4 times a year please give me a call.

We may start a new program at the pond at Dot Billinghamman Park to capture and reduce the cane toad population. We will need some volunteers, so let me know early if you can help out with this program. **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: 11 November**

**Contact:** President Tony, 5438 8267

**Email:** [cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au)

**Website:** [www.currimundicatchment.org.au/cccg](http://www.currimundicatchment.org.au/cccg)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/currimundicatchment](http://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: 1 October, 3 December**

**Contact:** President Rhondda 5437 6481

**Email:** [focinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:focinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au)

**Website:** [www.currimundicatchment.org.au/focl](http://www.currimundicatchment.org.au/focl)

### Parklands Community Group

**Contact:** President Ron 5491 7905

**Email:** [rburnett@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rburnett@bigpond.net.au)

### Kawana Forest Residents Association (KaFRA)

**Contact:** President Glenn 0412 286 156

**Email:** [gsmith@gideons.org.au](mailto:gsmith@gideons.org.au)

**Website:** [www.kafra.org.au](http://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**