

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 2020

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY 1 MARCH CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

It seems aeons ago now, but on Sunday 1 March, there were two clean up events in the catchment on the 30th anniversary of Clean Up Australia Day, before the introduction of social distancing due to Covid-19 .

A few dedicated volunteers turned up for the Currimundi Catchment Care Group clean-up at Ivadale Lakes in Little Mountain and still managed to clean up plenty of rubbish. It was pleasing to note that the parks and back streets around the area seemed to have noticeably less rubbish this time than in previous years. The exception was Parklands Boulevard which as usual had plenty of rubbish to keep us busy.

The main offenders were food packaging and of course Slurpee/Slushie cups and their plastic lids and straws.

It was also very pleasing to see an astonishing reduction in the number of cans and bottles in the environment. In previous years our small groups have collected 500 or 600 containers. This year there were only 10. The Container Refund scheme seems to be really making a difference.

Friends of Currimundi Lake welcomed 21 volunteers to their clean-up with 6 young people included. This number is down by about a third from last year. The litter collection was also down except for 'bongs' and doggy bags.



Slurpee and Slushie containers and doggy bags the main offenders this year

The street litter was down. There were quite a few other items but these were in smaller numbers such as chairs, fishing line, building material. There were larger items such as lounge chairs that were reported to the Council.

The doggie bags are still a major problem with 59 bags picked up. Other items listed in high proportion were; 46 alcohol containers, 37 cigarette butts, 8 cigarette lighters, 39 PET fruit juice, 66 non-PET, 54 plastic bottle tops, 21 metal bottle tops, 24 straws, more than 50 pieces of confectionary/food wrappers.

The most disappointing are the number of doggie bags, especially as in early February we had the Clean Up for the Hatchlings morning as well.

Thanks go to Cocos for the lovely hot chips, and to Kite Thrills for their offer of equipment to use on the Lake.

CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE SCHEME MAKING A DIFFERENCE

At the first anniversary of the Queensland Containers for Change scheme in November 2019 a huge milestone was reached - one billion containers were returned, meaning \$100 million was returned to individuals and community groups in Queensland.

The number of containers returned was one third higher than predicted, indicating many Queenslanders care deeply about protecting the environment. The number of containers littered during the first year was estimated to have fallen by over 35%.

Ken Noye, the CEO of Container Exchange (COEX), the not-for-profit company appointed to run the Containers for Change scheme, said the scheme supported economic and job growth, with more than 700 jobs created across Queensland, with many in regional areas.

In the Sunshine Coast during the first year of operation of the scheme 58,239,687 containers were returned, \$5,823,968 was returned to community, and 30 full time jobs were created.

YOU CAN STILL CASH IN YOUR CONTAINERS DURING COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Containers for Change operators are still accepting your containers. However, if you're concerned about visiting a container refund point, you can use a bag drop service where you can just drop off your containers and go.

Visit the Containers for Change website to double check that your local container refund point is open before visiting the site.

And you'll need to make sure you sign up for a scheme ID or have it ready to go if you're using a bag drop.

The website also contains useful information on the scheme and Covid-19

MAJOR REFURBISHMENT OF CURRIMUNDI SPORT AND RECREATION HALL

Late February saw the completion of the refurbishment of the Currimundi Sport and Recreation Community Hall, and what a difference!

Hall President, Rhondda Alexander, is well known for her interest in local history and the environment. Rhondda said she was inspired by the local indigenous culture and commissioned artist James Doyle from @mujamunducollections to create this brilliant mural.

Currimundi means place of the flying fox in the local Gubbi Gubbi language and James's artwork references this as well as the marine turtles which nest on the nearby beach!

Council provided grant money for the refurbishment, with funds matched by the Sport and Recreation Hall's contribution. There is already quite a bit of history of Currimundi displayed in the hall and this will be continued. It is hoped to do further work including air conditioning, solar panels and help in collecting further history of Currimundi.

Unfortunately all activities in the hall have been cancelled during the Covid-19 restrictions. However if you're doing a drive by or walking at an appropriate physical distance, check out the new mural. It's located at the corner of Ilya Street and Currimundi Road.

Photograph provided by Councillor Peter Cox.



MARINE TURTLE UPDATE

Summertime is turtle laying time and we're lucky to have a well organised Turtle Care program coordinated by the Sunshine Coast Council and many community volunteers.

The main species nesting on our local Sunshine Coast beaches are Loggerheads and to a lesser extent Green turtles. The east coast population of nesting Loggerheads is believed to be only about five hundred nesting females, but the Sunshine Coast's population of sea turtles continues to be a small but meaningful number.

On 8 February the seventh annual clean up for the turtle hatchlings was held on our beaches. The aim of this event is to inspire the whole community to come together to help clean up Sunshine Coast beaches, in preparation for the hatchling turtles to emerge from their nests across the coast. This is proving to be useful not only for the hatchlings, but also for gathering further information on litter. Detailed information about the amount and type of litter collected is passed onto the Australian Marine Debris Initiative Database to assist in identifying and reducing the source of litter.



There's nothing quite so special as watching a tiny hatchling head for the sea.

This year the turtle laying season was considered to be an average season with approximately 50 nests in the area from Buddina to Bribie Island.

Currimundi had 6 nests and Dicky Beach had 1 nest which was down on the last season. We needed to relocate a couple of nests due to the high swell in February. There were a few turn arounds which means the female turtle came up to lay but for some reason she did not lay but went back out to sea. There would be a good chance that she did lay on another beach. An interesting finding for this season was that there were twins that did not hatch out. These were found dead in the shell.

Our turtle season has come to an abrupt halt as volunteers cannot attend the last few nests due to the Covid-19 restrictions. These will be attended to by the Sunshine Coast Council staff. This shut down is to protect the volunteers, but it is sad that we cannot complete our season.

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



WEEDING WOES

With so much extra time on their hands at home, many people have turned their attention to their gardens. And as is usual at this time of year following our Summer rainfall, there are many unwanted guests in the garden. Yes we're talking about weeds.

FOCL and CCCG have regular working bees to remove many weeds from the catchment and replace them with more appropriate native plants. However as part of the social restrictions associated with Covie-19, all our working bees have been cancelled until further notice to protect volunteers.

But the weeds won't be taking a holiday. Many weeds come from local gardens whether through birds spreading seeds, through cuttings being washed into storm drains, and by pot plants that are thrown out and grow at a rapid rate.

So it's a good time to do some weeding in your own yard to prevent the spread as much as possible.

There are quite a few "repeat offenders" in our catchment that are popping up with great regularity. If you see any of these plants in your garden, please remove them completely and dispose of them either in green waste, general waste or compost. If you have them in a pot indoors, make sure they stay that way, and if you need to dispose of them follow the same procedures.

Don't leave even tiny pieces of plant material lying around as these can be washed into storm drains during rainfall and end up along the lake and creek banks and in our parks, just waiting for our community working bees to start again!

Here are some of our most tenacious little pests:



Corky Passion Vine (*Passiflora suberosa*) native to South America

It's an aggressive perennial vine with many long tendrils. In forests, it can out-compete ground cover species and climb and smother shrubs and small trees. It has green to black berries and is very unattractive and I'm sure would not be sitting in a pot in anyone's house. If you see it in your garden, pull it out and dispose of it.



Singapore daisy (*Sphagneticola trilobata*) native to South America

Singapore daisy spreads rapidly and smothers seedling, ferns and shrubs and will out-compete them for survival. Who knows what the connection to Singapore was, but it's certainly invading many different environments including ours. It's very difficult to control so if you see any evidence of it, dispose of it immediately.

Coral creeper (*Barleria repens*) native to tropical Asia, Africa and India.

This plant could definitely be in your garden as it was sold as a garden plant until recently and it reproduces prolifically. It's a scrambling plant usually less than 70 cm tall but recorded at up to 2m in height within natural areas. It has the potential to cause environmental damage by colonising riparian zones and forming dense thickets that displace native vegetation.



Arrowhead vine. (*Syngonium podophyllum*) native to South America.

This is a very popular indoor pot plant and once it outgrows its pot it becomes quite unattractive and many people will discard it into the garden. Big mistake! It can propagate from a tiny piece of plant material and once established, will take root wherever its stem touches the ground



Asparagus fern (*Asparagus spengeri*) native to South Africa

This is another plant that's become popular as a pot plant and for floral arrangements. It's a low growing plant with creeping underground stems and tubers as well as sprawling or arching above ground stems.



Fishbone fern (*Nephrolepis cordifolia*)

Believe it or not, this one is actually a native of South Eastern Queensland. However, it still has the ability to become invasive outside its original range. It's a popular pot plant and grows prolifically. It has underground tubers that are attached to a dense rhizome network that is extremely difficult to remove.



Gloriosa lily (*Gloriosa superba*)

has been a major pest for a long time in SE Qld. It is a native of tropical and southern Africa to Asia, and naturalised in Australia and the Pacific. In fact it was first recorded as being naturalised in Caloundra in 1950. It forms dense understorey carpets in coastal sand dune systems and replaces native flora in these areas, then it invades nearby areas.



Group Reports

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

These are certainly strange times we are living through now. We must all pull together as a community, follow the instructions of the health and public authorities, look after our neighbours and friends and very importantly, care for yourselves and families.

Currimundi Catchment Care Group have ceased virtually all operations, including our working bees and meetings, as have most volunteer groups that are not performing essential services for the vulnerable in our community. Council has instructed all Bushcare groups to stand down until further notice. That's sensible. That's frustrating because we know nature does not pause for a virus. But it is necessary and we are doing it willingly. We will come back when this is all over and tackle the weeds and litter again.

You can still contact us by email or phone to pass on any concerns. Council have closed public access areas, such as libraries, playgrounds, public BBQs and exercise areas but our parks are still open, you can still walk our beautiful beaches and pathways (1.5 m apart of course!).

Finally special thanks to our health professionals and workers performing essential services. So stay home everyone, stay safe, stay well.
Tony, President

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

How does one write a report when all around you is falling apart. Maybe Mother Nature is hitting back with a vengeance and trying to tell us that we must pull up and take stock of what we are doing. We have had the longest drought in history, the biggest flood in the northern part of Australia which was worse than the drought, then the largest, catastrophic bushfires on record, more flooding and now a virus that has put Australia into lockdown and will cripple us for some time.

Cancelling meetings such as Friends of Currimundi Lake, the Dynamics Panel, Neighbourhood Watch, our community hall, our working bees which are more than pulling out weeds and planting native plants - they are a community working together. The last straw for me was the cancelling of all volunteers working with the endangered Loggerhead turtle that lay on our beaches. We cannot take care of the last nests on the beach yet to hatch out. This final cancellation brought me to tears.

So what now? We don't know, but I do know that we will get through it all with hopefully, a new understanding of what we can do better. This is for our natural environment which is what will dictate how we go forward both environmentally and economically. I am looking forward to the day when I can get back out there with nature all around me and I am also looking forward to when I can hug people, or just touch them to say "I care!" about our people but also I care very much about our planet which so desperately needs all of us.

All our groups need more people, which includes our working bees, so see you all in the near future. Note on dates. Keep well and safe. See you on the other side of the Virus.
Rhondda, President

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

The construction of Parklands Blvd at Meridan State School is progressing. Our Pond, part of the Dot Billingham Park, has been cleared of the water plants and it is continuing to function as it has regularly. Council is completing general Maintenance in our Community and as the signs suggest, the housing projects abutting the school are moving ahead.

If you have any questions or concern about the Parkland Community, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0448 517 905.
Ron, President

KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Like other community groups KaFRA has had a very quiet start to the year and now any projects that had been planned have been postponed indefinitely.
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: To be advised

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: To be advised

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