

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.



Summer 2020

YOU'VE FINISHED THE PACKET OF TIM TAMS - WHAT NEXT? (or how to become a waste recycling expert)

You know it's time for recycling but what bin do you use? The answer is the plastic Tim Tam tray goes in the Council yellow lid recycling bin and the plastic wrapper does not. However the wrapper is soft plastic and can be taken to Coles or Woolworths and placed in the REDcycle bin at the front of the store. We'll explain why later.

So what's the difference you ask? Well anything that is hard plastic (ie it retains its shape after you squash it) can be recycled via Council. You don't have to worry about the small numbers in the little recycling triangle anymore. As long as it's an empty hard plastic bottle or container and is bigger than a small yoghurt pot, it can be recycled.

We're fortunate to have an amazing waste management facility in Caloundra and this is where our recycling, green waste and general waste ends up. But we can all help by putting the right things in the right bins. To help decide what goes where the Council website has a series of short videos to answer all your questions.

These helpful little videos will tell you what can be recycled in the kitchen, after a party, with your pets, in the bathroom, in the office and with your takeaways. Check them out via the following link:

<https://bit.ly/3psnT4p>

Key points to remember are that articles to be recycled should be

- reasonably clean
- loose not bagged
- large enough for the machines to process them
- safe for staff working in the facility.

There are also handy hints about how to dispose of items to ensure they'll meet the requirements of the sorting machines, for example place lids inside empty cans and squeeze them shut, roll up alfoil or foil wrappers into a ball, and put small pieces of paper into empty cardboard boxes like tissue boxes.



You'll also find out what to do with other items that don't go in recycling bins, such as kitty litter, toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes.

LIGHTS ON THE LAKE OUT FOR 2020

We're so sad to confirm that Lights on the Lake will not proceed this year.

The Organising Group made the difficult decision that it would not be possible to meet the COVID-19 restrictions relating to social distancing and the requirements of the COVID Safe Event Plan.

Hopefully we'll be back bigger and better next year. The Organising Group and our major sponsors Sunshine Coast Council and Caloundra Bendigo Banks would like to wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy Christmas.



But let's get back to that Tim Tam wrapper that can't go in a Council recycling bin. You can take this, along with all your soft plastic bags, cellophane bags, potato chip bags, bubble wrap etc and deposit these into the REDcycling bins at Coles and Woolworths stores.

The REDcycle Program is a recovery initiative to keep soft plastic packaging out of landfill. Since 2010 a Victorian manufacturer Replas has been using these items to produce benches, decking, signage and other products. In later years the RED Group partnered with other companies to extend their range even further into road paving, car wheel stops and mounting blocks for home air conditioners.

It's refreshing to see individuals, Councils, and the private sector working towards the same result.



COASTAL CARPET PYTHONS

Are you scared of snakes? If you do a quick straw poll of your acquaintances you'll find that most people admit to being somewhere between nervous and absolutely terrified when we see a snake close at hand.

The most common snake that is likely to be found in your backyard in the Caloundra area is the carpet python. They're quite variable in colour and pattern, but most are olive green, with pale, dark-edged blotches, stripes or cross-bands. They eat small animals and birds but are not venomous. In the wild they occupy many different habitats from dense rainforest to dry woodland so will adapt easily to a suburban environment.

The advice from Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital if you see a python in your backyard is to just leave them to their usual lifestyle and lock up any small pets at night. Unfortunately, the fear of snakes often overrides this advice and results in people grabbing the nearest shovel to beat a harmless animal to death.

I spoke to Stuart at Sunshine Coast Snake Catchers who said that snakes should only be handled or relocated by people with the appropriate permit or license. He said carpet pythons are the snakes he is most often called on to relocate and that



This coastal carpet python has markings that are perfect for camouflage

since many more people are keeping backyard chickens there do seem to be more pythons coming into backyards.

So if you see a snake or reptile and you want to have it removed, leave it alone and call a snake catcher. Sometimes people try to trap snakes or pin them down until the snake catcher arrives but this is not necessary and may damage or kill the animal. Snake catchers know all their tricks and can usually tempt them out of their hiding spots.

The best response I got to my query about snakes was from Rhonda who said that there's been a python living in her yard for about 11 years now. He/she is about 2 metres long and during winter takes shelter in the garden shed, emerging in the warmer months. When it's on the move the Noisy Miners let everyone know where it is. It usually sheds its old skin among the fruit trees leaving the shed skin hanging off the branches.

Rhonda said she's not a "snake person", has never fed the python and assumes it lives off birds eggs, lizards and rodents. That's her resident python pictured left - staring straight into the camera. He/she doesn't look scary at all!



WATER QUALITY REPORT CARD DROPS FROM C+ TO C

Once a year *Healthy Land and Water*, an independent environmental organisation, publishes a report card on the health of waterways in South East Queensland.

Currimundi Catchment is not reported on individually but comes under the Mooloolah catchment which achieved a drop from C+ last year to C this year, but was considered to be in fair to moderate condition.

Some positive results were reported including good fish health and improved vegetation along the banks.

Key areas for improvement recommended in the report are

- Reduce sediment loads and nutrients
- Protect and manage critical habitats
- Strengthen local planning and policy instruments
- Reduce the effects of development and recreational activities that have undue impact
- Empower resident action through promoting opportunities for waterway care
- Incentivise changes to community behaviour relating to identified top environmental issues of concern including litter, climate change, and water pollution

SLOW DOWN BOATIES!

Every year in December we remind locals and visitors that the speed limit in the Currimundi Lake and creeks is 6 knots OR no wash, whichever is slower.

The wash from speeding boats is dangerous to swimmers, kayakers and paddle-boards but also causes serious damage to the fragile banks. We have all seen the devastating erosion in parts of the catchment.

So take your time and tell your visitors to do the same. In the narrower parts of the creeks look behind to make sure your boat is not causing a wash and slow right down when performing U turns. Let's not destroy what we came to enjoy!



HOOOO YOU LOOKIN AT?

This wonderful photograph of a tawny frogmouth in the Kawana Forest was taken by Lyn Donald, and the bird seems to be interacting directly with her and asking - what are you doing in my domain?

We sincerely thank all the photographers who sent their photographs in to our annual competition. They just get better and better every year! The 2021 Calendar showcases our wonderful catchment in all its glory and we really appreciate receiving photographs from all over the catchment.

The Calendar is available for \$10 from 1 Gam Avenue, Currimundi. You can order one by phone 5438 8267 or email: cccinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au.

Payment can be made by cash or online transfer to our bank account.



GOODBYE TO 2020 WEEDS BIG AND SMALL

Our Currimundi Catchment Care Group Working Bees started the year with lots of jokes about 20/20 vision and seeing clearly. That was a long time ago, and 2020 has certainly not offered too many jokes since.

But after the worst of the isolation was over, how sanity-saving it is to be able to meet on a monthly basis, with like-minded folk and pull out dastardly weeds. Our working bees generally target weeds in the form of small plants that cause big problems because they want to take over and compete with our native plants.

CCCG members Tony and Kaye had another weed problem entirely and that is a fully grown African Tulip tree in the Council land behind their property. Tony said they put off taking action for ages because it seemed too hard and you feel noone will do anything.

They knew it was a Category 3 weed, a serious threat to the local environment, toxic to bees and sitting beside a waterway that would carry its seed pods far and wide through Currimundi Lake.

One day Tony took action - fired up the computer, found the Council website and lodged a service request - pointing out where the weed tree was and why they thought it had to go. A few days later a Council arborist made a call and agreed to take action.



African tulip trees are seen in many backyards but they are a toxic weed

Within two weeks Council contractors removed the tree and cleaned up the site beautifully.

So big thanks to Council and remember, we can all make a difference and it's not too hard to try.

CLIMATEWATCH TRAILS

It is hoped that two walking trails in the Currimundi Catchment will become part of a network of ClimateWatch trails across Australia. The trails are in Kawana Forest and around Currimundi Lake.

ClimateWatch was developed by Earthwatch with the Bureau of Meteorology and the University of Melbourne to understand how changes in temperature and rainfall are affecting the seasonal behaviour of Australia's plants and animals.

This is a program that enables every Australian to be involved in collecting and recording information that will help shape the country's scientific response to climate change.



The Coastal Banksia (*Banksia Integrefolia*) is a plant that may be adversely affected by increasing temperatures and moisture. These conditions encourage fungal root rot that can cause it to die virtually overnight.

Group Reports

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

As 2020 draws to a close, it's a relief to see that Queensland and the Sunshine Coast seem to have weathered the pandemic storm with most of us in good health. There have been many impacts and changes for individuals and families, groups like ours and the community. It forced us to cancel the printing and distribution of our Spring newsletter, led to a temporary suspension of our working bees and meetings and led us to make the difficult decision to cancel the popular Lights on the Lake community festival. We adapted as best we could and reintroduced working bees conducted according to safety guidelines, learned to meet 'in the cloud' and resumed distribution of the newsletter.

School holidays and the festive season are now just around the corner. This time of year always places extra stress on our environment. Visitor numbers increase, there is more activity on our beaches, waterways, dunes and parks. Sometimes the visitors don't share our passion for caring for the region. You can help though by picking up the inevitable extra littler and by setting an example by sticking to the paths and access points to the beach and lake. Thank you to all of our volunteers and supporters. We look forward to better year in 2021. Happy Christmas, enjoy the holidays and stay safe everyone.

President, Tony

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

Another year has almost gone and one we will remember vividly for a long time. Nature has not stood still and with our working bees cut to one a month, the weeds are waving to us as we walk our beautiful pathways. There has been a couple of good happenings. One is that the ClimateWatch Trail is moving forward and the second is that Council has given us some hope for forward management of the Lake itself including the sand plug, erosion, drainage, and litter collection.

Don't forget Clean Up Australia Day will be happening in early 2021 as well as the Clean Up for the Hatchlings in February. It is now marine turtle nesting season. Please everyone be aware that lighting fires on the beach is illegal and one of our biggest problems with turtles coming in to nest and also when the hatchlings are hatching. Of course fires are also very dangerous to people walking barefoot!

Another huge problem is your litter - please 'bin it'. And do not let your pooches wander off to the dunes and do their business as this impacts on the dune vegetation and our turtle families as well all our native animals that use the dunes.

We desperately need more volunteers so please everyone take care of yourselves, but also take very good care of our very precious Planet - we only have ONE. Merry Christmas to all our FOCL volunteers, and all other volunteers, Family and Friends, and a welcome to a new year that will be better than 2020.

President, Rhondda

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

All quite on our front. The pathway has been completed and grass is growing. Next to finish is the four lanes of Parklands Boulevard at Meridan College, due by January 2021. Also pleased to see Jarrod Bleijie back as our State member.

A couple of residential projects to be completed and things will really be quiet. The pond, part of Dot Billingham Park, is looking good and the bird life is stable. The ducklings are grown up and about to fly about the neighbourhood.

Any questions, please send along your requests otherwise stay Covid Safe, remember Social Distancing and wash/sanitise your hands.

President, Ron

KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

KaFRA has made some great progress in working with our elected reps, residents, Council and other agencies to significantly reduce hooning in our estate. Thanks to all who have contributed to this effort. We are also continuing to push for a Translink bus to service Kawana Forest.

The Kawana Forest Meeting Place is now operating again under new management. For venue bookings and information, please contact Suncare Customer Service on 1800 786 227 or info@suncare.org.au;

Web: suncare.org.au; F/B: www.facebook.com/suncarecommunityservices

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: January 2021

Contact: President Tony, 5438 8267

Email: cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au

Website: <http://cg.currimundicatchment.org.au>

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 February 2021

Contact: President Rhondda 5437 6481

Working bees: contact Ruth 0408 989 263

Email: foclinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au

Website: <http://focl.currimundicatchment.org.au>

Parklands Community Group

Contact: Ron 5491 7905, 0448 517 905

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: 1800 786 227

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