

# 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 2021

### CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY 7 MARCH

Wow what a turnout! The response from the community was amazing for this year's Clean Up Australia Day. There were 12 Clean Up sites in Caloundra and as usual there were two in the Currimundi Catchment.

Forty volunteers turned up for the Currimundi Catchment Care Group clean-up at Ivadale Lakes in Little Mountain, and we needed every single one of them.



Some of the 40 volunteers at Ivadale Lakes Clean-Up site

Maybe COVID-19 restrictions have led to the return of some bad littering habits. Since the introduction of the Containers for Cash program in 2018 we initially saw a massive reduction in beverage containers from over 500 to only 10 last year. However this year bottles and cans were on the increase with 25 glass bottles, 20 plastic bottles, and 72 cans collected.

As usual Parklands Boulevard had plenty of rubbish and again this year the Slurpee and Slushie cups, lids and straws were a big feature. There were 92 Slurpee, Slushie, and other cups, 41 plastic lids and 78 plastic straws.

But there is some good news here. 7-Eleven stores have joined with a recycling company called Simply Cups to recycle all take-away coffee cups and Slurpee cups including their plastic lids and straws. There is a recycling collection unit in the 7-Eleven store and in fact you can bring **any** take away cups there for recycling. This is a major step forward as up till now, general recycling companies did not accept the cups because of the thin plastic liner. Good work 7-Eleven and Simple Cups!



Lucky 7-Eleven Manager, Jane, accepts the 92 cups, 41 lids and 78 plastic straws!

As well as beverage containers there was a lot of soft plastic and paper packaging, confectionary wrappers and a few larger items such as hub caps. Plastic shopping bags were also appearing again but only in small numbers.

Rhonda reported that at the Friends of Currimundi Lake site there were 15 adults and 9 children picking up rubbish. The overall rubbish was lower than last year which is a great result. But this could be partly attributable to the Clean up for the Hatchlings Day on 30 January where volunteers removed over 30 kg of marine debris.

The largest items collected on Clean Up Australia Day were:

- soft plastics 38
- plastic bottles/containers 27
- Plastic miscellaneous 112
- paper/cardboard 47
- metal/aluminium cans/tops 84
- cigarette butts/miscellaneous 32 + 20

FOCL would like to thank everyone for their help, especially Bill A who helped set up, Jo for pencilling, Leisa and Mike from Kitethrills in the sorting and the water cleaning. To Debbie at Cocos for refreshments - lovely, and not least Graham Smith who has been with FOCL for many years with his wife Irene who could not make it this year.

A big thanks to all volunteers who contributed including our State MP Jarrod Bleijie and Division 3 Councillor Peter Cox.

And a special thanks to the lady who picked up Rhonda's phone and wallet!



# 12 YEARS ON - BANCROFT'S RED GUM RESERVE LITTLE MOUNTAIN



It's hard to believe that twelve years ago this was totally cleared for cattle grazing. Thanks to the Council's program of tree planting at the annual National Tree Day for 9 years up till 2017, this area is now regenerating at a rapid rate.

Recently Currimundi Catchment Care Group engaged botanist Ann Moran and several knowledgeable members of the Sunshine Coast branch of Wildlife Queensland to compile an extensive list of the flora and fauna you may encounter if you walk through this reserve. 173 species of flora and 139 species of fauna have been identified so far.

This makes it a perfect example of ecosystem restoration which happens to be the theme of the World Environment Day Festival for 2021. The Festival which takes place in June each year is not able to be hosted because of the COVID-18 restrictions on big events so the organisers have decided to conduct a month-long program of events throughout the many diverse ecosystems on the Sunshine Coast.

Hopefully one of those will be a guided walk through our Bancroft's Red Gum Reserve.



## CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

The restoration of Bancroft's Reserve described above is but one good news story set against many stories of global collapse of ecosystems. There are now huge pressures from global climate change and regional human impacts.

1,903 jurisdictions in 34 countries have declared a climate emergency - affecting over 826 million citizens.

In Australia, where the climate emergency declaration mobilisation and petition was launched in May 2016, 98 jurisdictions representing 9 million people – over a third of the population – have declared a climate emergency, including our neighbouring Council of Noosa Shire.

If you are concerned about the global climate emergency, but feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenge and powerless to do anything meaningful, there is a local campaign that gives you an opportunity to take action to respond to the climate emergency.

The Sunshine Coast Council has an important role in providing leadership and supporting projects that build resilience and reduce emissions. Council accepts that climate change is a serious global issue that requires real and focussed action. It has implemented its Environment and Liveability Strategy to provide a framework for setting targets and monitoring progress.

However the policies, actions and investments implemented to date may not go far enough or fast enough to prevent our community being affected by catastrophic impacts, particularly to the natural and built environments.

Council has a target of net zero emissions by 2041, whereas other Councils that have declared a climate emergency have set much shorter time-frames, for example Noosa is aiming for 2026.

Stay up-to-date with news and events.  
<http://cg.currimundicatchment.org.au>  
or: [www.facebook.com/CurrimundiCatchmentCareGroup/](http://www.facebook.com/CurrimundiCatchmentCareGroup/)



There are two ways you can take action now:

1. Sign the new petition that has recently been launched at: <https://me.getup.org.au/petitions/climate-emergency-declaration-2>
2. Send a personal email to your divisional Councillor expressing your particular concerns about the climate emergency and requesting that Council:
  - Declare a climate emergency, and join 98 jurisdictions across Australia that have already done so, as part of strong climate action
  - Set a target of net zero emissions by 2030 or sooner
  - Directly engage the community in planning to reduce emissions to meet the target

For more information visit <http://sccan.net>.

### Newsletter deliverers wanted!



Can you spare two hours 4 times a year? This could be the job for you! We need new delivery persons to meet our expanding population.

Please call Tony 5438 8267 or email: [ccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:ccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au)



# LIFE BY THE LAKE

by A Local

There is a small creek at the back of our place near Currimundi Lake and it is home to some unusual critters.

We have a family group of water dragons, maybe fourteen altogether. The little skinny ones are only 6-8cms long and race around like kids everywhere. The older and fatter ones are around 80-90cms. They prefer sitting still and blending in to the environment.

There are eels too. I see them raise their heads in the water from time to time.

Our latest visitors are from the water bird family. I'd never seen them before but they are called Buff-banded Rails.



Australian Eastern Water Dragon

These birds are incredibly cute. They are quite small with short skinny legs. The head and a stripe across the chest are a bronze colour. The back feathers are striped in browns up and down the body. The underbelly is striped black and white in the opposite direction, across the body.

We think there are four now including two babies. Mum and the babies don't show the bronze colours as much.

The birds are very skittish if you move quickly. They dive under anything and disappear, but if you stand still they will come very close. One even pecked my toe on one occasion!

It makes me happy that I can live in such a place.



Buff-banded Rail

## CCCG GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Although the Currimundi Catchment Care Group is not a fund raising body, the Group does sell some products as part of its community engagement activities. These include the annual Currimundi Catchment wall calendar, which showcases photographs of our beautiful catchment taken by community members, and sales of glow lights for children to enjoy at our annual Lights on the Lake festival.

After some years of these pursuits the Group found itself in a situation where it actually had some funds to spare and wanted to give back to the community in a way that met its aims of improving the environment of the Currimundi Catchment.

The first contribution was to the Caloundra Boomerang Bags group whose members produce cloth shopping bags made from donated fabric as a alternative to plastic bags. Their bags are available free from several outlets around Caloundra, including the banana stall at the Arthur Street Sunday Markets. The popular Montville Bananas stall was one of the first outlets to use repurposed cloth Boomerang Bags some 5 years ago. Kim and Lindsay, the owners of Montville Bananas, have been selling their bananas through local markets at Montville and Witta as well as Currimundi for some 35 years now. Prior to the ban of single use plastic bags in July 2018 they used to go through about 4,000 to 6,000 bags per year, and now that figure is zero.



Lyndsay and Zac at the Banana stall Arthur Street Sunday Markets.



Tony Moorhead (r) President of CCCG checking out the trees planted in the car park at Meridan Playing Fields with Kawana Park Eagles President Adam McKenzie and his son Matthew.

The Kawana Park Eagles AFL Club has moved to a new home in the Meridan Plains sports fields and found itself badly in need of trees to provide shade and wind protection on this large open area. Planting trees in the catchment is one of the most valuable things that can be done to improve the environment and the Currimundi Catchment Care Group was pleased to provide donations to the Club for planting suitable trees to provide shade in the car park and protection from wind and sun on the playing fields.



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

# Group Reports

## CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

Federal, State and local governments have been making some encouraging moves lately in the area of recycling and reducing waste and non-reusable products. We have already seen evidence of the effectiveness of some of the earlier measures. Banning single-use plastic bags and the cash for containers schemes have resulted in noticeably less litter in some categories.

Sunshine Coast Council is exploring changes to our waste collection scheme to reduce organic waste going to landfill and reduce carbon emissions. However there is a long way to go and we hope further measures such as banning plastic straws and all single-use plastics proceed swiftly. We can all do our bit by making sure we reduce, reuse and recycle. This is a useful website you can visit for tips on how you can make a difference <https://reducereuserecycleblog.com.au>.

It has been nice to see some rain lately although my lawn is growing faster than my mower can catch up! Unfortunately, so are the weeds and invasive plants that try to take over some of the parkland and little pockets of bush left in our catchment.

I urge you to spare a few hours a month to join CCCG or FOCL on our working bees. They really do make a difference and are fun, sociable occasions. Contact Kym on 0402 600 280 for CCCG working bees on the second Saturday afternoon of each month.  
**Tony, President**

## FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

COVID -19 is still with us, but we are settling into the new routine for our activities. We only have one working bee instead of two each month so the weeds are happy and growing profusely. Litter is supposedly abating, but it is still out there in full sight and Australians are producing an average of 540kgs of household waste per year. \$17 billion dollars are spent each year on waste services, (Clean Up Australia Day reporting).

Our turtle season has finished with fewer turtles laying this season. Currimundi Beach had one nest and Dicky/Moffat had no nests. Don't panic because we could have a bumper number of nests next season. As the Sunshine Coast Turtlecare Group has only been in place since 2005, we have not had time to get a good, long term overview of what is really happening.

We are desperately in need of more volunteers for our monthly working bees, so if anyone would like to help get rid of the weeds that are impacting our native vegetation and our native animals we would welcome you with open arms. You do not need to know what is a weed as we are happy to show you and talk with you. If you have a strong feeling for our planet, please contact Ruth Brangwin, our working bee coordinator on 0408 989263 for more information or you can contact me on 54 376481.  
**Rhonda, President**

## PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

The widening of Parklands Boulevard at Meridan College has been completed and roads open, the Meridan Church "community centre" project is getting started with the general landscape grading, and Council is completing the clean-up of the Saturday 30 January 2021 "micro-burst". That brief storm blew through from Parklands Boulevard north to the bush then went east towards Currimundi and Moffatt Beach. The wind downed about 50 or 60 trees, mostly along the drain and in the Dot Billingham Park, and damaged two houses on Village Way near Lakeshore Place. There are still some downed trees to be removed but Council were prompt in clearing the walkway and hazardous areas.

If there are any issues or concern that you may have, please do not hesitate to contact us on 5491 7905.  
**Ron, President**

## KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

KaFRA is delighted with Council's recent efforts to prevent hooning in Kawana Forest and the Meridan Sporting Fields with tree planting and sandstone blocks. Thanks Cr Peter Cox & SCC! Efforts are also going into developing and maintaining our Climate Watch Trail and increasing community engagement. We are currently working hard with Council and Jarrod Bleijie to obtain a bus service for our estate. We have established the level of demand through community surveys. However, it is proving difficult to get any traction with Translink.  
**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: 10 May**

**Contact:** President Tony, 5438 8267

**Containers for Change SchemeID:**C10137661

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

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

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/CurrimundiCatchmentCareGroup/](https://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: 6 April**

**Contact:** President Rhonda 5437 6481

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

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

### 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** 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**