

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 2021

YOU COULD WIN A GARDEN SHREDDER JUST BY WALKING IN THE BUSH FOR WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



World Environment Day is held in June each year to encourage worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment. This year the theme is ecosystem restoration.

Did you know we have a superb example of ecosystem restoration in Little Mountain? It is Bancroft's Red Gum Reserve and was the site of several National Tree Day planting events between 2009 and 2017.

Maybe you were one of those people who helped out by planting around 18,000 trees during that time.

On Saturday 12 June there'll be a self-guided walk and eco hunt for kids with information about the bushland and its inhabitants provided at significant points.

Come along and see how the area has been restored from an open grass paddock used for cattle grazing to a thriving natural bushland.

This reserve is an example of Wallum bushland which is an important ecosystem in south-east Queensland. It's characterised by paperbark, banksia trees and



The intriguing Monkey Rope Vine

heathland, and is often quite swampy. Wallum is highly threatened by pressure from coastal development.

The walk will start from Daintree Boulevard near the end of Village Way, Little Mountain. Just look for the marquees.

Members of Currimundi Catchment Care Group and local Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland will be on hand on 12 June to answer any questions you might have.

Kids will be able to answer a quiz based on information about the bushland. Return your quiz and you'll receive a small native plant to attract birds and butterflies to your garden.

And walkers of all ages can enter a draw to win a garden shredder. Perfect for shredding your garden pruning and improving your garden soil.

You can book to attend the tour at: <https://bit.ly/33Ad1aM>.

Or just come any time between 9 am and 3 pm. It's a flat easy walk of about one km return.

Make sure you wear covered shoes and preferably long pants and long sleeves as the mosquitos can be quite plentiful.



Melaleuca or paperbarks are the most common species found in Bancrofts Red Gum Reserve



Banksias are already in flower in the Reserve

A MAJOR SPORT AND RECREATION BOOST

Sunshine Coast Council recently endorsed the Honey Farm Sport and Recreation Precinct Master Plan. This is a major facility to be developed in the outer western part of the Currimundi Catchment that will enable a range of activities. It will be built on land that has previously been cleared and used for cattle grazing. Hopefully there will be some restoration of the natural environment as part of the development.

The precinct will be located directly across Caloundra Road from the racecourse.

The facility will include purpose-built sporting courts and fields, nature trails and dog-friendly facilities, active youth and play spaces, wetland experiences and community. For more detail you can check out a video at [youtube.com/watch?v=g38IH_Khx2I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g38IH_Khx2I).



An aerial depiction of the planned sport and recreation facility at Honey Farm Road

Division 3 Councillor Peter Cox said that Council had sought community input on the draft plan in June-July 2020 and the draft was refined to meet the needs of the community. Most feedback suggested the sporting fields and courts were the most important feature of the plan closely followed by the youth activity node and criterium cycling course.

He said that Council also received feedback to consider the land for a range of non-sporting events. The site does have a potential capacity to hold up to 30,000 patrons which would increase tourism and community events in the area.

Initial earthworks, access roads and service connections are well-underway and further work will take place in the next financial year.

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CALENDAR 2022

We love receiving your photos for the annual Calendar. If you'd like to submit a photograph for the 2022 Calendar, firstly check the requirements on the CCCG website at: <https://cg.currimundicatchment.org.au/>

If your photograph meets the requirements contained on the CCCG website, please email a high-resolution image (at least 1 MB) by 30 September to: calendar@currimundicatchment.org.au.

WORKING BEES

Once a month CCCG members have a working bee to try and eradicate or manage invasive weeds. We target areas of natural vegetation, usually around the Currimundi Lake or the surrounding Creeks and waterways.

As we remove the invasive plants we create space for the local native flora to flourish again. This in turn, helps the local birds, insects and mammals to survive. It is so delightful to see what returns and what flourishes.

The working bees are run under the guidance of a Sunshine Coast Council officer. Key equipment is provided. Safety is always paramount. Everyone is welcome. If you don't know anything about weeds - don't worry, you will soon be an expert in corky vine, asparagus fern and Singapore daisy - pictures right. They are some of the worst offenders in our area. But there is always someone to ask "what about this one?" It is how we all learn.

There'll be a weeding activity in conjunction with the walk in Bancrofts Red Gum Reserve on Saturday 12 June. Maybe we will see you there.

BAD GUYS



Corky passion vine (*Passiflora suberosa*)



Asparagus fern (*Asparagus aethiopicus*)



Singapore Daisy (*Sphagnetica trilobata*) actually from Mexico

WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL

The Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival is on again in August. The program will be released in July with details on the Sunshine Coast Council website and also circulated in our Currimundi Catchment Care Group e-Newsletter.

Council's website has documents that can be downloaded to help you do your own self-guided walks and to assist in identification of local wild-flowers such as this beautiful Wallum Tea Tree.



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

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS FOGO?



A compost caddy for the kitchen bench and roll of compostable bags helps to collect all food scraps

In previous newsletters we've advocated for residents to use Green waste bins as a means of reducing the amount of garden prunings and green waste going to landfill. When organic waste including food scraps are sent to landfill they release greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

It is estimated that if just one percent of Australian households diverted food scraps away from landfill, that would be the equivalent of removing 22,655 cars from the road per year.

All levels of government have set targets to divert waste from landfill, and here in the Sunshine Coast that target is to divert 55 percent of household waste by 2025. At present only 34 percent is being diverted.

Council is considering the introduction of FOGO bins as a way of meeting this target. FOGO Food and Garden Organic waste. In other words any kitchen scraps, tea bags, used tissues and paper towels, garden prunings and grass cuttings etc.

These items might seem like rubbish, but they can be converted into a valuable resource, like energy or compost, if recycled correctly.

Even foods you wouldn't put in a home compost bin like meat and bones could go in because the processing of the waste occurs in a controlled environment.

Forty-three councils in New South Wales have a FOGO service, and many of them supply residents with a compost caddy and roll of compostable bags to assist in getting the service off the ground. The Sunshine Coast Council is currently analysing community comment on FOGO and we look forward to hearing the results of that.



CITIZEN SCIENCE

Glenys Powell

No – it's nothing to do with test-tubes and micrometer screw gauges. Citizen science is defined as scientific research conducted, in whole or in part, by amateur scientists. It is also described as “public participation in scientific research”, “participatory monitoring”, and “participatory action research” whose outcomes are often advancements in scientific research by improving the scientific communities capacity, as well as increasing the public's understanding of science. WHEW!

What that means in reality is that any person – you, me, the next door neighbour, can take part in a citizen science activity simply by joining an online group and following a few rules.

For the last three years I have been doing exactly this by taking part in a bird count once a month at the lake

at Belvista. There were three other people in the group who fortunately knew a lot more about birds than I did. I could recognise magpies and rainbow lorikeets but I knew very little about water birds.

Initially I was the scribe and noted down the birds and how many of each were counted. Gradually I learned to tell the difference between different species of ducks and egrets, and it was fascinating to follow the seasons and watch the baby birds as they're brought out by their parents. Data can be entered directly through the Birddata app or on your computer once you get home.

But it's not only birds, there are also programs for frogs. FrogID Week is Australia's Biggest Frog Count, held annually in November for Australians to help record frog calls through the free FrogID app, as a measurement of frog health and distribution around the nation.



sedgefrog (*Litoria olongburensis*) which is one of a group of frogs that depend on lowland wallum habitat that occurs around the Currimundi area. It's only about 2.5 centimetres long and makes a soft 'buzzing' call. It's listed as vulnerable so all the more reason to participate in some more research.



Black swans and cygnets at Iwadale Lakes.
Photograph by Rob Middenway

It aims to monitor frog distributions over time, helping us to understand how frogs and their ecosystems are responding to a changing planet.

With FrogID, citizen scientists, ie you and me, you can help record frog calls as a measurement of frog health and distribution around the nation.

A local resident said he'd noticed there were very few entries from the Currimundi area so why not download the app and start practising ready for the FrogID Week.

This cute little guy pictured left is a wallum

Group Reports

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

CCCG is proud to be participating in the Sunshine Coast Environment Council's World Environment Day Festival this year (see article page 1). I encourage everyone to come along on Saturday 12 June and see for yourselves the wonderful results of local council and community groups working together to regenerate a patch of bushland in our own backyard. We are lucky to have a local government body like Sunshine Coast Council that is prepared to put effort and funds through the Environment Levy Partnership grants program into activities that help preserve our environment. Without this support we would not be able to print this newsletter and would have difficulty operating at all.

Of course money is not all that is required. We need local community members willing to help out and there are lots of ways you can participate. You can come along to our monthly working bees, join us for our meetings every two months and hear what's going on in your neighbourhood and have your say about what CCCG should be doing or you can help us by joining our management team to help organise our events and activities. All it requires is just a few hours a month of your time and enthusiasm to help protect the wonderful neighbourhood we share.

President, Tony

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

As I write this article, it is starting to rain again which means the weeds are having the best season for a long time. Two of the worst weeds, Desmodium - Velcro weed is popping up everywhere and is very hard to get out and the other weed Siratro is creeping over the ground and native plants at an astonishing speed. Both plants are not easy to pull out. We have a new sign up in an area where someone illegally dug up an extensive area. It is illegal to dig in a conservation area and take away plants unless you are legally engaged to do so.

I and another FOCL member attended a Canal Management meeting which was enlightening. Hopefully we will get feedback from this meeting as almost everything that happens in the canal system north of Currimundi but south of Kawana affects Currimundi Lake. This includes water quality, litter, midges, vegetation, and the social benefits to everyone.

If anyone is interested in a weeding/planting working bee on the last Saturday of each month, would you please contact me as I would like to start up our Saturday working bees again. It could be either an afternoon or a morning, which ever suits best with a 'cuppa' as well. Contact number 54376481 or 0427376481. To people who do not know, Friends of Currimundi Lake work from the eastern side of Toyota to the viewing deck at the beach front, so as you can see we do have an extensive area and we need lots of volunteers please. It is vital that we get the weeds out and replant to allow our native animals and birds to keep their food and nesting habitats.

Rhondda, Chair

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

Winter has come with some bite and we are continuing our daily routines. Parkland Blvd has been restored and we are back to normal operations. Have a read of the World Environmental Day tour of our past National Tree Day plantings in Bancroft's Red Gum Environmental Reserve Saturday, 12 June, 2021 starting point on Village Way.

Volunteer deliverers are needed for Creekwood and Discovery Drive. If you have an hour four times a year, your assistance would be appreciated. Please call Ron at 0448 517 905 or send me an email <rburnett@bigpond.net.au>

President, Ron

KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

KaFRA's major focus in recent times is an effort to get a bus service into Kawana Forest after a survey of residents demonstrated strong interest. After some months of campaigning, it seems we are at last being heard with a ministerial meeting Thursday 27 May at Parliament House Brisbane.

We continue to organise regular walks through the Kawana Forest Climate Watch Trail to monitor particular species of flora and fauna as well as enjoy the beautiful forest right on our doorstep. KaFRA continues to organise small events to encourage a sense of community. A recent cup-cake decorating day brought many kids and families together for a time of games and activities in one of our wonderful parks.

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: TBA

Contact: President Tony, 5438 8267

Email: cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au

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

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: 7 July

Contact: President Rhondda 5437 6481

Email: foclinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au

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

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