

# 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 2021

### LET'S ALL BE STAY-AT-HOME MUMS DADS AND KIDS

This edition is all about enjoying the flora and fauna in our backyard. Let's face it we can't reliably plan on going anywhere! Read about the Wildflower Festival from an expert and also from a first-timer, learn facts about echidnas that walk our bushland tracks and plan a walk around Currimundi Lake while contributing to ClimateWatch information. It's all here in our own backyard.

### Wildflower Festival 2021 - Currimundi (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park by Jude Crighton, Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland



Lisa Smith and Jude Crighton, WPSQ

Once again for this year's Wildflower Festival, being mindful of the need to maintain social distance, we were restricted in the number of walkers we could guide through the Park, and were also worried that late April's extensive controlled burn might not have left a lot of wildflowers to show. We decided to proceed, only to be greeted by dark clouds just as we set out, bringing showers of rain that persisted all morning.

But our walkers were a hardy, if exceedingly damp, bunch, and were rewarded with some stunning blooms.

This year's stars were the bright lemon-yellow Wallum Wedge Pea (*Gompholobium virgatum*) in the surviving heath to the south of the central firebreak, and the aptly-named Milkmaids (*Burchardia umbellata*) springing up

everywhere in the regenerating burnt areas.

The Wallum Grasstrees (*Xanthorrhoea fulva*) had also just sent up their new flower spikes, and the Woombye bush (*Phebalium woombye*) covered in masses of white flowers, now extends all across the southern sector. Tiny track-side favourites included the Wire lily (*Laxmannia gracilis*) and numerous Sundews (*Drosera sp.*). And all along the Swamp Track were single sentinel Sun Orchids (*Thelymitra purpurata*), just waiting for the clouds to clear before they opened.

This year's photos were taken by Lisa Smith, whose daughter Lilli Corrias-Smith is completing a short film entitled 'Before We're Gone', a tale of generations inspired by a love of the Wallum Heathland. The film will premiere on 27 November at the Majestic Cinema at Nambour.



Wallum Wedge Pea (*Gompholobium virgatum*)



Milkmaids (*Burchardia umbellata*)



### Wildflower Festival experience by Sonya Makaroff, First time wildflower enthusiast



The traffic on Caloundra Road was its busy, noisy self as I negotiated the roundabout to the Caloundra aerodrome. A sharp turn to the left to park next to a smudge of bush as I made my way to Isabel Jordan Bushland Reserve.

I had arrived at the meeting point for the annual wildflower walk organised by the local branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld. Checked in with the QR code, mask on and ready to see what this walk would teach me.

A treat was in store. Knowing very little about our native flora and rarely seeing any native wildflowers on my walks through local parks, I had thought that only the occasional flower would be found among grasses and shrubby plants. How wrong I was. From my first step along the path I found myself engrossed in the sights of stunning flowers and fascinating information about their habits.



Vivid purple boronia

I loved the wide vistas of textures from swaying grasses to swathes of colour backdropped with vertical stands of paperbarks. Then looking down, carefully keeping my feet on the path, I was shown that the circles of lime green were insect eating plants. Who knew we had these growing wild? Sundews they are called and I learnt names for many other plants. It helped to be given a list of the plants with their common names as well as their Latin names. How organised! There are tiny wild pansies nearby and wallum boronia beside sprengeia giving a purple and white wash mid distance across the meadow. Yes, a meadow. It seemed too richly filled with such a variety of plants to be called a paddock.

This remnant of bush, filled with native species of both flora and fauna (I even saw a blue banded bee) is a treasure. Hidden from the traffic, Isabel Jordan Bushland is a quiet oasis in which to spend time to learn about our plants, reflect on our present and renew our selves for the future.



The insect-eating Sundew

## WILDLIFE IN OUR BACKYARD!

How lucky are the Watson family who live next to the pathway beside Currimundi Lake, where they see plenty of wildlife. Ben Watson recently sent this superb photograph of an echidna he spotted waddling along right behind his house.

Winter is the time of year when echidnas are breeding and their unique lives begin. Here's a few interesting facts:

- Echidnas are Australia's most widespread native mammal, being found in almost all habitats, from snow covered mountains to deserts.
- Echidnas are one of only two families of egg-laying mammal in the world known as monotremes. The other is the platypus.
- There are two types of echidna – the Long-beaked Echidna which are native to New Guinea, and the Short-beaked echidna which are native to Australia.
- Echidnas are toothless, however they still manage to tear open logs and ant hills with their strong claws to get to their favourite meal of ants, termites, worms and insect lava.
- Echidnas live for up to 50 years in captivity, and 45 years in the wild. This is primarily attributed to their low body temperature and slow metabolism.
- At breeding time you may see an 'echidna train' – up to ten males following a female.
- The mother echidna lays her egg and deposits it in a pouch which forms specially for the occasion. The eggs are tiny - , only 1/3 of a gram and 15mm in diameter.
- Once hatched, the baby echidna has to pull itself about 6-7 times its body length to the milk patch to suckle.
- Babies, known as puggles, stay in the pouch for up to 7 weeks and the mother then deposits it in a burrow. She travels far and wide searching for food but returns regularly for the baby to suckle.
- The puggle is weaned at about 7 months and emerges from the burrow in around February-March.



Hmm, Waddle I do now?

Echidnas are very shy and when frightened they curl up into a ball, tucking in snout and legs. Unfortunately their spines are no match for dogs and cars.

Echidnas are often referred to as 'ecosystem engineers' because they spend an incredible amount of time digging and moving soil. This improves soil mixing and water penetration, and ultimately makes for healthier soils.

So aren't we **all** lucky to have echidnas living in our Currimundi backyard along the shores of the lake!



## GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE IN A CURRIMUNDI BACKYARD

by Rhondda Alexander

I thought I would share my Garden for Wildlife. This year I have had Crested Pigeons, Blue Faced Honeyeaters, and possibly some Noisy Miners nesting in the trees and shrubs. The Blue Tongue skinks have produced another nest of baby blue tongues. Numerous caterpillars have denuded some of the plants, but from them were produced some gorgeous butterflies.

A carpet python should be coming out of hibernation soon which will send the noisy miners into a raucous panic. A small green frog, numerous small skinks, magpies, butcher birds, ibis, blue cranes, rainbow lorikeets, pale headed rosellas, scaly breasted lorikeets, Australasian Figbird, have all come in to say hello.

Different spiders are also interesting. For the first time I watched an orb spider cocoon itself in webbing and drop from the tree by about a meter as a noisy miner tried to catch it. When the bird gave up, it hoisted itself back up to its main web on the swinging line it had created. Very neat.

I have an area that is very dense with different plants which gives shelter to many small animals, and flowering plants provide nectar for the birds and pollen for the bees. The garden is a mixture of all types of plants with a lot of native plants for our native visitors, but the non natives produce more pollen for the bees.

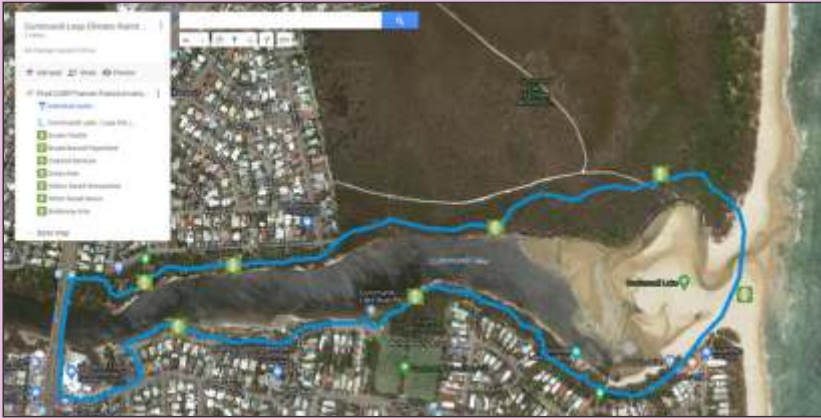
There is water in low and high places, and with summer coming these become great bathing areas for the birds. The lower water is accessible for the small ground animals.

I am slowly creating a small eco system for all types of flora and fauna plus it is a great place to sit and watch our visitors.



A resident blue tongue lizard

## CLIMATEWATCH TRAIL – CURRIMUNDI



It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the challenge of climate change and wish you could do more to preserve the special landscapes and lifestyles we enjoy on the Sunshine Coast for future generations.

In fact, there is something you can do that will make a difference, even when you are enjoying a walk through our wonderful parks and reserves around Lake Currimundi. All you have to do is download the ClimateWatch App and start walking.

Two ClimateWatch Trails have been established by the Sunshine Coast Council in partnership with local community groups, as part of a national citizens

science initiative by ClimateWatch Australia. A trail at Kawana Forest has been in operation for about a year.

The Currimundi ClimateWatch trail is a 4km loop around Lake Currimundi. The trail takes in three habitat types: melaleuca wetlands, eucalypt woodland and patches of littoral rainforest. However, you can walk shorter sections, with numerous access points available.

Climate change is already affecting rainfall and temperature across Australia, and is consequently triggering changes in the established flowering times, breeding cycles, migration movements and other periodic plant and animal life cycle events.

Monitoring these changes is important since entire biological communities and even our own health can be impacted, and the information gathered can help to inform strategies to address these impacts.



Lomandra or mat rush, with its spiky flowers



Blue tiger butterfly

The ClimateWatch App is easy to use and features a number of 'indicator' plant and animal species, including 6 plants, 16 birds, 5 butterflies and 4 marine species.

For example there are many lomandra or mat rush plants around the lake and they usually produce their spiky flowers around late winter/early Spring. Anyone walking around the trail could see this flowering and note it on the App. It may be early, normal or late, but this information will be entered into the database for comparison.

Another good example is Blue Tiger butterflies. They are mostly a tropical butterfly and can be seen nearly all year round in North Queensland. They are migratory and fly south during Spring and Summer, reaching southern Queensland, NSW and even Victoria. You may remember that huge numbers were seen around Currimundi in late 2019 and early 2020. If you stepped outside, they were impossible to miss. This was believed to be caused by large amounts of rainfall after a period of drier weather. Observations such as these are essential for strategies to be developed.

So why not download the App, become a citizen scientist and contribute to important studies in your backyard, while you're out walking. More information can be found at:

<https://www.climatewatch.org.au/trails/queensland/sunshine-coast-currimundi-qld>

### LAST CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHS FOR 2022 WALL CALENDAR

Don't forget to send in your photograph/s for consideration for our 2022 wall calendar by 9 October 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.

### LIGHTS ON THE LAKE OUT FOR 2021

The organising committee has once again made the tough decision not to proceed with the much-loved community festival this year. The ever-changing COVID public health restrictions made it impossible to guarantee a safe event.

The committee will meet in June next year to assess whether it is possible to proceed in 2022. We are seeking expressions of interest from community members who would be interested in volunteering if we go ahead next year. Many of the current organising group have been there from the very first event and its time some had a chance to step back and let new members grasp the reins.

If you're interested I'd love to hear from you on [cccinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:cccinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au).

# Group Reports

## CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

I'm sure we all feel at times that the pandemic and associated restrictions on our activities will never end. Like everyone else, community organisations like ours struggle at times but we are a resilient bunch and our volunteers adapt to cope with the times. We now hold our member meetings online via Zoom until things settle down again and finding a meeting venue is easier and safer for everyone.

Our next meeting on 13 September will include our Annual General Meeting. See details on our website (Coming Events) or drop me a line for further details.

The weeds and litter don't stop for a virus and neither do we. Our monthly working bees are going strong, albeit with a few adaptations for the times (wearing masks while weeding last time was challenging but I think we're all getting used to masks these days).

You will read in this edition that once again we have made the difficult decision not to proceed with the Lights on The Lake community festival this year. We feel its not yet time for an open, outdoor gathering like this. Maybe next year? **President, Tony**

## FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

In my last report I noted it was raining and that the weeds were having a great season. Forecast weather is for good to above average rain with warm days so weeders will continue to be busy. I have also noticed that quite a few of the Birdwing Butterfly vines we planted quite a few years ago are growing well at the moment. We planted a couple of new vines but one disappeared and thinking that a scrub turkey may have scraped it out, the site was inspected but on inspection that was not the case. The little vine was magically whisked away to a new home.

At our last working bee we managed to fill approximately 30 bags of weeds, so thank you to our volunteer weeders for a great effort. I have not started the Saturday weeding day, but maybe in the near future this can still be done as there are plenty of weeds and plants needing to be planted.

It will not be long before it will be marine turtle season. Officially we start our morning beach walks on the 1st November. We had a stranded turtle a couple of weeks ago which was a juvenile green turtle. This little turtle did not have any visible injuries but it could not dive for food as this was obvious by the number of barnacles and growth on its carapace. This could have been caused by the ingestion of plastic materials. Please everyone bin your rubbish, and if you see rubbish it would be very much appreciated by both our native animals and our public that you take the time to pick it up and bin it. **President, Rhondda**

## KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Winter has been quieter time for KaFRA but we are looking for some great things to come in Spring with a record number of over 50 households renewing their membership or joining our association for the first time.

Our AGM and family fun day had to be postponed from August due to COVID restrictions but was rescheduled to 19 September. It was a great day of games in Kurrajong Park, along with discounted pizzas from the This Is Romeo woodfired pizza truck, thanks to a generous donation from McGrath Real Estate.

A number of new faces were elected to our Management Committee and we also expressed our sincere thanks to Greg Chambers who "retired" from the committee, after serving since KaFRA was first formed over 15 years ago, many of those years as president. **President Glenn**

## PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

Things are moving along in our neighbourhood. The bridge at the pond at Dot Billingham Park has been replaced and everyone is using it. Well done Council! Although delayed due to some Covid lockdown issues, it was a quick job, removing and dropping in a new one in two sections. It should be less slippery and provide more security for youngsters by meeting the rail safety requirements.

The Meridan Community facility on Springs Drive has its roof on so will be getting fitted out and ready for opening next year. A community pool for residents use!

Parklands Community is looking for some Newsletter deliverers. It's four times a year, only an hour of your time, good exercise and a chance to familiarise yourself with the neighbourhood. Give me a call at 0448 517 905 or send me an email [rburnett@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rburnett@bigpond.net.au). **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: 13 September**

**Contact:** President Tony, 5438 8267

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

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

**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: 5 October**

**Contact:** President Rhondda 5437 6481

**Email:** [focinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:focinfo@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:** closed for bookings

### **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**