

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 10,000 households and businesses within the Currimundi Catchment. If you can help with distribution please phone Tony on 5438 8267.



Summer 2021

COUNCIL DECLARES CLIMATE EMERGENCY



Congratulations to the Sunshine Coast Council which recently voted unanimously to recognise that we are in a state of climate emergency requiring urgent and sustained effort to achieve net zero emissions.

This is a great step forward for Council in its response to the findings of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report in August 2021 that we are already in a global climate emergency with extreme

weather events from heatwaves, droughts, storms, and cyclones. The IPCC recommends that we cut our greenhouse gas emissions to reach net zero emissions within 15 years if we are to avoid a climate catastrophe.

The Council vote follows a year-long grass-roots campaign lead by the Urgent Climate Action Network Sunshine Coast (UCANSC), a coalition of community groups that worked closely with Cr David Law (Division 10), who championed the cause within Council.

Key to the campaign success was community support. Many individuals contacted their local councillor in support of the declaration and described how the impacts of climate change were already affecting their lives.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Council CEO will present an interim report on progress on the Zero-net Emissions Plan and Regional Climate Action Roadmap with recommendations for Council's consideration by 31 March 2022.

UCANSC is in favour of a new target of net zero emissions by 2030 rather than the current Council target of 2041, and hopes to work with Council to achieve this.

Council emissions have actually increased by 8.7% from the baseline year of 2017-18 because of our expanding population.

Almost 70% of Council emissions are attributed to waste management. Why? Partly because individuals like you and me continue to discard food and garden waste through the red top general waste bins. This means it goes direct to landfill where it is broken down by microbes in the absence of oxygen. Methane is a by-product of this process.

On the other hand garden waste collected through Council's lime green top bins is composted. Composting is a process which is done in the presence of oxygen and water and therefore does **not** produce methane. Even better, the remaining carbon is stable hummus that is safe to use in gardens.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Get a lime green top garden waste bin from Council
- Start a worm farm in your backyard
- Install a compost system in your backyard or apartment balcony.
- Join the UCANSC campaign - visit www.sccan.net for details.

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CALENDAR 2022

One of the times we look forward to each year is receiving the photographic entries for the Currimundi Catchment Wall Calendar.

Who could resist this stunning photograph of a rainbow lorikeet eye to eye with photographer Ashleigh Hatton.

Sincere thanks to Ashleigh and all the photographers who sent in their beautiful photographs that showcase our wonderful catchment and all the things they love about it.

The Calendar is available for \$10. You can order one or purchase directly from Tony or Kaye at 1 Gam Avenue, Currimundi. Give them a call on 5438 8267 or email: cccinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au. This year we can accept debit/credit cards as well as cash.

Last year we sold out before Christmas so don't leave it until the last moment!



SPEEDING BOATS CAUSE EROSION BOATIES PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

Erosion undermined the roots of these beautiful trees along Currimundi Lake. Fortunately the Currimundi Catchment Care Group was able to save them through its program of installing coir log walls to stabilise the banks.

But elsewhere the process of erosion is continuing through the effects of boat wash from speeding boats which damages this fragile environment.



So read the signs – slow down and comply with on-water regulations. Keep a safe distance when approaching the shore, other vessels, swimmers and marine animals.

That way you'll keep boat wash to a minimum to ensure that the waterways will be here for many years to come.

And be warned - this is a legal speed limit. Maritime Safety Queensland, Fisheries Queensland and Water Police can all impose **on-the-spot fines** for exceeding 6 knots or creating a wash capable of causing a marine incident.



Erosion like this can undermine tree roots and cause trees to topple into the lake

Latest Report Card says C+

Queensland's Healthy Land and Water has given the Mooloolah Catchment, which includes Currimundi Catchment, a grade of C+, up from a C last year.

Despite this average result, extremely high numbers of residents are satisfied with our local waterways (81% compared with 60% for all of South East Queensland), largely due to the ease of access and use our waterways for so many different activities.

GARDENS FOR WILDLIFE IN YOUR BACKYARD

In the Spring edition of Currimundi Lake Catchment News, Rhondda wrote about the wonderful array of wildlife she has found in her garden near the lake. Anyone with an interest in creating a native garden and attracting wildlife can join a '**Gardens for Wildlife**' program, obtain useful information and source local plants suited for their property.

Growing local native plants around your home can be very beneficial in supporting our local environment and can help reduce the risk of exotic plants becoming weeds that escape into the bush and degrade habitat.

Native gardens can support many local animals with food, water and shelter, and the increased ability to move through the landscape keeping them safe from feral predators, domestic animals and the impact of traffic.

Native ground covers and grasses help provide sanctuary for reptiles, insects and frogs, and create a wonderful place for curious nature-lovers to interact with the natural world.

We're fortunate to have three nurseries on the Sunshine Coast that specialise in local plant species that are suitable for the Currimundi area:

- Barung Landcare at Maleny
- Mooloolah River Landcare at Glenview, and
- Coolum Native Nursery at Coolum.



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

IS IT A RAT OR AN AUSTRALIAN MAMMAL



Answer below



Jesse and Mark of Wurtulla recently noticed both their neighbours calling pest control people in to lay baits for "rats". But Jesse and Mark had realised these "rats" are actually cute little Australian mammals known as antechinus.

They had noticed these animals living in their gardens and often see them after sunset. Apparently these antechinus love sleeping in their barbecue and the car engine, leaving little footprints and seed litter behind.

At first glance, and maybe even second and third glance, they certainly resemble a small rat, but there are several differences.

Firstly look at the head. The antechinus has a long narrow snout unlike a rat which has a more rounded snout. The antechinus ears are double lobed, while rats and mice have smooth round ears.

The antechinus diet consists mainly of insects (including spiders and cockroaches), small lizards and berries. They have small sharp "cat-like" teeth rather than two sharp front teeth like rats. They have a sparsely haired tail, the same length as the body, whereas a rat's tail can be twice as long as its body and nearly naked.

So think twice before you call for pest control. You may have these wonderful little native animals living in your garden.

And obviously the animal in the left photo is an antechinus and the right photo is a rat!

CLIMATEWATCH TRAIL - KAWANA FOREST

Are you concerned about our environment? Do you want to do your bit to preserve our natural heritage for generations to come? Then get involved with ClimateWatch and become part of an active community of citizen scientists making a real difference to the future of our planet.

The data you collect year-round can help policymakers and land managers make informed decisions about climate change mitigation and adaptation plans for Australia's plants and animals. You are contributing directly to climate science and taking action by being part of the ClimateWatch community.

ClimateWatch is for everyone! You can observe through a downloaded ClimateWatch app, on your own or in groups. You can ClimateWatch in one of the over 80 ClimateWatch trails across the country.

The sign-posted Kawana Forest and Currimundi Lake ClimateWatch Trails will officially open over summer. A few Kawana Forest ClimateWatch Trail walk-throughs led by various flora and fauna experts are being arranged and these will be promoted by the Sunshine Coast Council as school holiday activities.

So why not download the App and become a citizen scientist while you are out walking. More information can be found at: <https://www.climatewatch.org.au/trails/queensland/sunshine-coast-kawana-forest-qld>.

The Kawana Forest ClimateWatch Trail features over 35 flora and fauna native and introduced species that are being monitored. Already some instances of different behaviour have been noticed by observers.

The broad-leaf paperbark, pictured right, is one example. While you would normally see it flowering from November through to January, this year the flowering started substantially earlier and had already finished by mid November.



The intermediate egret is another example. This bird is often seen at the eastern end of the Kawana Forest Wetlands but with the seasonal changes there have been changes to the migratory movements of these beautiful birds.



WORKING BEES OVER FOR ANOTHER YEAR

For our final 2021 working bee CCGG members tackled a new weed for our group, "cat's claw" (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*). The three little hooks the vine uses to cling to a tree are really cute and greatly resemble 3 claws on a cat. Unfortunately, this vine is a beast of a thing to remove. Thank goodness we had ample determined folk plus assistance from Council staff. The name "cat's claw" no longer sounds endearing! On the bright side, we have managed to stop it spreading into the beautiful Crummunda Park.

Thanks to everyone who has participated in the working bees this year. When all the news seems to be so gloomy, a little time spent helping our local flora, with a great bunch of like-minded folk, always lifts our sense of hope and we leave feeling a little lighter.



Working bee-ers finally relax after wrestling with the dreaded Cat's Claw

Many thanks also to Megan from Sunshine Coast Council, who has attended every event, brought all the tools and bags, completed all the paperwork, answered a thousand questions "what about this one?" and done it all with a smile.

See you all in February – when we start all over again.



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

Group Reports

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

Summer is upon us again and we're told it is going to be wet one this year. That will be great for our gardens and the bushland in our catchment, but sadly also for the weeds and invasive plants that continue to try to compete with the natives. There will be plenty to catch up with next year when our working bees resume in February. It seems more and more people are finding out what a wonderful place this is and the ever-increasing number of visitors puts extra pressure on our environment. So please help out by keeping an eye out for litter, doing the right thing when taking the dog for a walk and reminding the kids to use the beach access points to protect the dunes.

In case you missed the news in last edition, we have decided it is just not practical to stage the popular Lights on the Lake festival this year. Restrictions and uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 mean we could not guarantee that we would meet all requirements to hold a safe event for the community. **President, Tony**

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

Volunteer Thank You Days organised by the Sunshine Coast Bushcare Group took place in November. There were three bus tours taking in a welcome talk detailing what Friends of Currimundi Lake were doing, and another with the Moffatt Beach Group. There were boat tours as well and a lovely lunch at the Powerboat Club at Golden Beach.

The turtle season has started with one turtle at Bribie Island and one turtle at Cooloom. Currimundi Lake has been opened ahead of any heavy rain. No doubt there will be plenty of weeds but the rain will be so good for the plants we have planted. We also worked out that over the last 20 years we have planted in the vicinity of 100,000 plants. They have not all lived however. Clean Up Australia Day will be on the 6th March 2022, and we will be registering for this day as usual.

Due to COVID-19 we have not reinstated our second working day yet, but still hope to do that in 2022. Also in 2022 we are hoping to do an inventory of how many Birdwing Butterfly Vines are still living and GPS their site.

I would like to give a huge thank you to all our volunteers this year, and to Ruth for looking after the coordination of the working bees which is a huge help. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone, and take care.

President, Rhondda

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

We are moving to the end of the Year and things are quiet. The Pond at Dot Billingham Park is due for a clean or water plant reduction. Some trip hazard edges have been trimmed near the gazebo/basketball hoop as well as a few feet of the sidewalk along Springs Drive at Peony Circuit have been replaced. The new Community Centre on Springs Drive is moving ahead with inside work.

Creekwood's last stage at the corner of Meridan Way is being started and Mon Terre is just about built out.

Wanted: If you live in the Creekwood area and have an hour walking time 4 times a year, I have some newsletters you could deliver. Please give me a call at 0448 517 905 and we can discuss your opportunities !!!

President, Ron

KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Summer will be a quieter period for KaFRA. Apart from an informal gathering for residents in Kurrajong Park planned for 12 December and ongoing environmental projects (see article in this issue), we will continue to engage with our state and council representatives as well as the Department of Transport & Main Roads on core issues of concern, including establishing a bus service into Kawana Forest and providing feedback on 2 TMR projects – the upgrade of the Caloundra Road and Kawana Way Link Road intersection and the proposed Kawana Motorway project.

We are concerned to minimise the potential impacts on our environment – noise and visual pollution for residents as well as destruction of forest habitat in parts of the proposed route along the CAMCOS multi-modal transport corridor.

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 2022

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: 1 February 2022

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