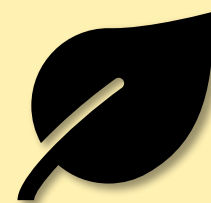


# CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT NEWS



Autumn  
2023

## Welcome to our community newsletter.

It is voluntarily produced by Currimundi Catchment Care Group Inc (ABN 77 276 084 092), printed on sustainable forest paper and distributed to 10,000 households and businesses within the Currimundi Catchment. Can you help deliver newsletters four times a year? Please phone Tony on 5438 8267.



ABOVE: Clean Up Australia Day volunteers show off their haul at Little Mountain. RIGHT: Molly's got her hat, water bottle and rubbish claw!



## CURRIMUNDI COMMUNITY CLEANS UP

Vapes appeared in local Clean Up Australia Day (CUAD) rubbish collections for the first time this year.

These e-cigarettes were among the items removed from our environment by an awesome band of volunteer helpers at two main CUAD events in our local community, along with car tyres, a mattress, plastic milk crates, pieces of iron, a child's scooter and stacks of Slurpee cups.

"Thank you to the 22 volunteers who joined Currimundi Catchment Care Group's event at **Stockyard Park, Little Mountain**," Group President Tony Moorhead said. "It was wonderful to see several family groups from previous years return.

"This is the eighth year we have held the event at the same location, so it has been interesting to observe changes over the years. The volume of litter collected has decreased a little, but the most noticeable change has been the items we find.

"The container refund scheme has certainly done a good job reducing the number of bottles and cans, although there are still plenty. But other items are beginning to take their place – Slurpee drink containers and various coffee cups, lids and straws and take-away food containers have been stand-outs for the last few years."

**Main items collected:** 1 bin full of soft plastics and 1 bin full of paper rubbish, 40 plastic bottles, 48 cans, 26 bottles, 60 Slurpee cups and lids, 90 paper straws and a few plastic ones, 20 plastic milk crates, 1 crate full of broken Styrofoam, 1 child's scooter, 4 car tyres and more general rubbish.

The Friends of Currimundi Lake CUAD event was held at **Cliff Hargreaves Park** on Sunday March 5. Volunteers scoured the beach, lake and surrounds for any litter, which was then sorted, bagged and binned.

"It was encouraging to note that the volume of rubbish was quite reduced due to the ongoing efforts of locals," Graham Smith said.

"The morning concluded with a convivial lunch provided by Debbie at Coco's. We thank the willing workers for their participation and a special thanks to Rhondda, Irene, Anne, Bill and Peter."

**More CUAD photos over page.**

### DID YOU KNOW?

Our local 7 Elevens have recycling units for cups, lids and straws in store. Scan the QR code to learn more about their cup collection program. Let's use it!



Thank you,  
sponsors!



Community Bank  
Caloundra





# HAPPY SNAPS: CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY



## NOTICED THE SAND DREDGING?

Sand movement, whether natural or assisted, is always a topic of great interest for people who use Currimundi Lake for recreation. Sometimes they feel their favourite beach has been washed away or their favourite swimming area has been filled with sand. And they can get quite cranky when they see Council's earth-moving equipment shifting sand around.

People living in the catchment may have noticed that recently Council has begun a dredging campaign upstream of the sand plug. The aim of this is to replenish beaches along the lake that have eroded during heavy rainfall.

The picture (right) illustrates dredging that occurred in February, near Cooper St. If this was your favourite beach that was washed away, it's now back for you to enjoy.

Currimundi Lake is an ICOLL (Intermittently Closing and Opening Lake or Lagoon) and experiences vast movement of sand in response to natural weather events such as storms and tidal surges. In view of the large built-up areas in the vicinity of the lake, there are several occasions where Council intervenes to ensure the safety of the system.

The primary tool used by Council to maintain the entrance to the lake on the northern end is a large sand berm at the lake mouth. This protects the extensive built environment on the southern side, including roads, parks and buildings. From time to time the berm has to be reconstructed by moving sand from other areas using large earth-moving machinery.

When the lake closes naturally to the ocean, the water level is monitored to ensure safety. Currimundi Lake is connected to Lake Kawana via the Wurtulla canal system.



It receives inflows each day via the mechanical pumping system at the northern tip of Lake Kawana, and when the system is closed there is the possibility of the water level flowing over the revetment walls upstream.

If there is either a risk of flooding or for the lake to be impacted by water quality issues, the lake is manually opened to the ocean. *Information provided by Sunshine Coast Council.*



Currimundi's biggest outdoor event returned in December 2022 and didn't the community love it! In spite of a rather drizzly day, there were massive crowds in the park and along the lake just relaxing and enjoying the family-friendly festival that is Lights on the Lake.

The beautiful sparkling water parade at nightfall followed by the stunning laser light show were the perfect end to the festival.

Our sponsors really stepped up to help stage the event. **Generous financial support was provided by:** Sunshine Coast Council, Community Bank Caloundra – Bendigo Bank, Ray White Real Estate Caloundra, IGA Wurtulla, the Hon. Jarrod Bleijie MP, State Member for Kawana, Initiative Chartered Accountants, Sunshine Toyota and Coco's Beach Resort Cafe.

Nathan Morgan welcomed people to country on behalf of the Gubbi Gubbi people, Jarrod Bleijie was our colourful MC, and a series of performers entertained us. Thank you Hot Curri Jam Band, Ken O'Shea, Kawana Waters State College Dance Group, Trevor Mitchell and Jembe Johnno.

Finally, a big thanks to the volunteers who helped make the event such an outstanding success. We're already looking forward to Lights on the Lake 2023!



**Thanks to all the local organisations who provided support or donated goods, services or prizes:** Australia Zoo, Bill and Rhondda Alexander, Boomerang Bags Caloundra, Bunnings Caloundra, Caloundra Coastguard, Caloundra SES Unit, Caloundra Lions Club, Club Kawana, Coles Caloundra, Coles Kawana, Currimundi Catchment Care Group, Caloundra Girl Guides, Currimundi Newsagency, Dicky Beach Surf Lifesaving Club, Discount Blitz, Parklands, Dixon Homes, Dominos Pizza Currimundi, Friends of Currimundi Lake, Haynes Paints Currimundi, IGA Little Mountain, KAG Event Electrical, Kawana Bowls N Recreation Inc, Ken O'Shea, Kennards Hire, Kmart Caloundra, McDonalds Currimundi, Marion Coleman, Muffin Break Currimundi, Night Owl Parklands, Nothing Construction Company, Office National, Officeworks, Red Rooster Currimundi, Sea Life Sunshine Coast, Super Cheap Auto Currimundi, TJM Currimundi, Woolworths Currimundi, Wurtulla Newsagency and Tobacconist, Zarraffas Currimundi.



Terri shines bright & wins!

Age is obviously no barrier, and the grand water parade of brightly-lit craft proved that when 94-year-old Terri Stannard won best decorated and illuminated category. Terri's son Mark encouraged his mum to enter the parade and helped style her kayak with five sets of batteries and lights on her hat, jacket, paddle and boat. Terri is a foundation member of the Sunshine Coast Seniors Kayaking Club which recently celebrated their 30th anniversary to coincide with Terri's 95th birthday!! Well done, Terri, and we hope to see you again this year. P.S. Terri's granddaughter Lilly submitted a photo for the 2023 Currimundi Catchment Care Group calendar and is featured in October. A truly community-minded family!



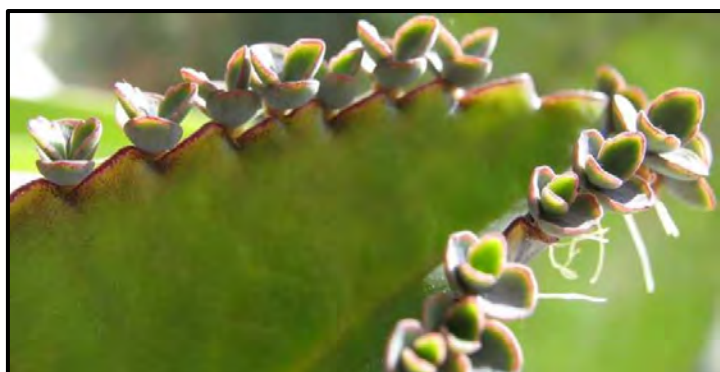
## WEEDING BEES + BUGS

Our first working bee for 2023 was a little more eventful than usual. We cleared 70% of a nasty patch of Singapore Daisy before a small snake slithered by and, with an appropriate abundance of caution, we decided to move elsewhere.

A little further away we worked on our first ever patch of "Mother of Millions". This succulent is a garden escapee and is now classified as a significant weed. Our wonderful Council Officer Michael showed us the tiny plant-lets that form along the edge of each leaf (see photo below), making it a super spreader.

Our local member the Hon. Jarrod Bleijie MP came along to lend a helping hand – and made a new friend (see photos). Thanks Jarrod and all the volunteers who come along, learn something new, enjoy a good laugh, get rid of pesky weeds, and make the neighbourhood a little kinder for our native flora and fauna.

If you ever want to join one of these adventures, they are held on the second Saturday of each month.



LEFT: Mother of Millions, a significant weed.  
RIGHT: Jarrod Bleijie with working bee workers Ella, Kym and Michael ... and a very friendly stick insect.





## Group reports

### CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

Welcome to a New Year in our precious part of the world. Let's hope this year brings less dramatic weather events than recent times. We have already seen the power of nature locally, with closures of the Lake mouth despite Council's best efforts to open it at times, and the dramatic changes occurring at Bribie Island and the Caloundra bar.

Thank you to the wonderful, talented and dedicated team of community volunteers who planned, organised and ran the Lights on the Lake Community Festival last Christmas. Judging by the number of people who attended, the atmosphere and fun that was so evident, this is a hugely popular event within our community and was much missed during the two-year absence due to the pandemic.

A lot of hard work goes on in the background and it is even more commendable when a team of unpaid local volunteers can run such a successful event. Thanks also to the sponsors and local businesses who contributed to the event. Please take the time to read the list on the front page of this newsletter and remember these businesses who give back to our local community.

The Lights on the Lake team are always on the lookout for people to help. You don't need special skills or experience, just a willingness to learn, a desire to be part of such a significant event and give a little back to our local community. Email [cccinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:cccinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au) if you would like to find out more.

**Tony, President**

### FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

Hello from Friends of Currimundi Lake. Happy New Year to you all. 2023 has started off fairly dry and also with one of the worst heatwaves we have had for a long time in this area.

In this time our marine turtles have come in to lay with three nests on Currimundi/Ballinger beaches. We have also had our Clean Up for the Hatchlings on 4 February. This clean up is done along the beaches and the dunes by volunteers starting at 5.30am. We also had our Clean Up Australia Day event in Cliff Hargreaves Park on 5 March (see cover story). Graham Smith, Irene and myself were there on the day to sign people on. Thank you to everyone who came along and to Coco's for providing lunch for the group.

Our first weeding bee was on 8 February in Cliff Hargreaves Park with a good turn up of volunteers. Painted Spurge and Gloriosa Lily were two of the targeted weeds.

Another project for us this year is to get the Climate Watch Trail up and running on our side of the Lake. Anyone wishing to help or learn more about this project, please call either me or Fergus at Currimundi Catchment Care Group (contact details in the column, right). You do not need to be a member of these groups to be a part of this Citizen Scientist Project.

Take care everyone,

**Rhondda, President**

### PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

We've had some movement around the community. A Council contractor has cleared plants in the pond and also pulled some weeds growing in the drain from the pond to the bush. It looks a little tidier now. Council will be back to clear some of the fallen trees along the path and add some mulch in areas. Council have also improved our grass cutting to once every two weeks. If you have any special requests, either call Council on 5475 7272 and ask to put in a "SERVICE REQUEST". You can also do this through the council app. Report debris, damaged areas or general requests. Service Requests are logged and identified by our local councilman Peter Cox, so he also knows what is going on in his Division 3.

We are now looking for a newsletter delivery person for the Creekwood area. It's a short walk, about 30 to 60 minutes, four times a year. Please call me on 0448 517 905 if you could spare the time and would like the short walk.

**Ron, President**

### NEWS BITES

**Vale Alan Mackay-Sim:** Currimundi resident, pioneer of stem-cell research and 2017 Australian of the Year Professor Alan Mackay-Sim passed away in January. Lauded as a "titan of science", his research led to new treatments for spinal cord damage, multiple sclerosis, schizophrenia and motor neurone disease.

**Currimundi Twilight Market:** Have you been to this street food market yet? Held on the grass opposite Coco's on the third Friday of every month (check Facebook for updates in bad weather), the market is made for families and friends offering food, drinks and live music. Plus, empty drink cans from the night are collected and donated to us for recycling. Yes!

## Handy contacts

### CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

Meetings: Kawana Forest Meeting Place, 160 Woodland Blvd Meridan Plains, on the second Monday of every odd month.  
Next meeting: 7pm, 8 May 2023  
Contact: President Tony, 5438 8267, [cccinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:cccinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au)

### FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

Meetings: Currimundi Community Hall (cnr Currimundi Rd & Ilya St) first Tuesday of every even month.  
Next meeting: 7.30pm, 4 April 2023  
Contact: President Rhondda 5437 6481, [focinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:focinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au)  
Working bees: Ruth 0408 989 263

### PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

Contact: Ron 5491 7905, 0448 517 905, [rburnett@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rburnett@bigpond.net.au)

### KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Contact: President Glenn 0412 286 156, [gmsith@gideons.org.au](mailto:gmsith@gideons.org.au)  
Website: [www.kafr.org.au](http://www.kafr.org.au)  
Meeting Place hire: 1300 786 227

### OTHERS

**Sunshine Coast Council:** 5475 7272 for issues regarding Currimundi Lake and its catchment.

**Kawana Police:** 5413 8700

**Policelink:** 131 444

**Queensland Boating & Fisheries**

**Patrol:** 5444 4599 to report speeding boats.

**TurtleCare:** 0437 559 067 to report turtle tracks or nests.

**Dept 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 unlawful fishing activities.

**Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital:** 1800 334 350