

# CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT NEWS

## Welcome to our community newsletter.

Voluntarily produced by Currimundi Catchment Care Group Inc (ABN 77 276 084 092), it is 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 0435 375 450.



Winter  
2023

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## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY FESTIVAL 2023 3-11 JUNE #BEATPLASTICPOLLUTION



Last year's World Environment Day event at Bancroft's Red Gum Reserve.



## GO GREEN (OR GREENER) IN JUNE

Celebrate World Environment Day locally with a trip to Bancroft's Red Gum Environmental Reserve hosted by the Currimundi Catchment Care Group and the local branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society.

Come along and enjoy a family day out in this wonderful nature reserve on June 11.

See first-hand the power of community action in reversing the decline of ecosystems in our backyard and be inspired to do something yourself for the benefit of native species and future generations of people.

Members of the public can enjoy a free, self-guided walk through the Reserve to learn about the species of native flora and fauna that are now thriving in this restored land, as well as view displays that demonstrate the staged restoration of this ecosystem.

The walk is approximately 2km length, has marked information points along the way and will be open from 10am to 1pm on Sunday June 11.

There will be an information booth explaining the background and history of the community ecosystem restoration project undertaken as part of National Tree Day over a nine-year period, including displays of before and after photos and flora and fauna species identified. Read more stories about the wonderful work by the community to transform Bancroft's over the page.

### BANCROFT'S RESERVE TOUR DETAILS

**When:** Sunday June 11, 10am – 1pm

**Where:** The tour starts opposite Daintree Boulevard, Little Mountain.

**Other info:** Please wear comfortable walking shoes and a hat and bring insect repellent. For more information, please contact Fergus at [fergitzgerald7@gmail.com](mailto:fergitzgerald7@gmail.com)

**Find the full WED Festival program at [wed.org.au](http://wed.org.au)**

### Freebies & prizes!



Participants visiting Bancroft's will be offered the chance to win a family pass to Sea Life Mooloolaba by answering a questionnaire about information provided, and observations made, on the tour.

Every participant will receive a small native plant for their garden.

Free sausages and cold drinks will also be available. Members of CCCG and WPSQ will be on hand to answer any questions you might have.





# TREE PLANTING CONTINUES IN AUGUST



Bancroft's Environmental Reserve – the site of many tree-planting events over the years (see cover story, and story below right) – is such a wonderful success story in our catchment.

Looking at the aerial photo, *above*, you can see the sections of dense vegetation that demonstrate the positive impact of the community's greening efforts over time.

Did you know there are other tree-planting events occurring this year? Come along and help us plant trees in the Honey Farm Road Environment Reserve in Meridan Plains, just down the road from Bancroft's, as part of National Tree Day.

Currimundi Catchment Care Group will partner with Council's BushCare team for this event. Council staff will prepare the site and provide all necessary materials and equipment.

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

**What:** National Tree Day tree-planting

**When:** Wednesday August 9, 9am – 11am

**Where:** Honey Farm Rd, Meridan Plains

**Other info:** Further details will be provided closer to the time on the CCCG website and e-newsletter.

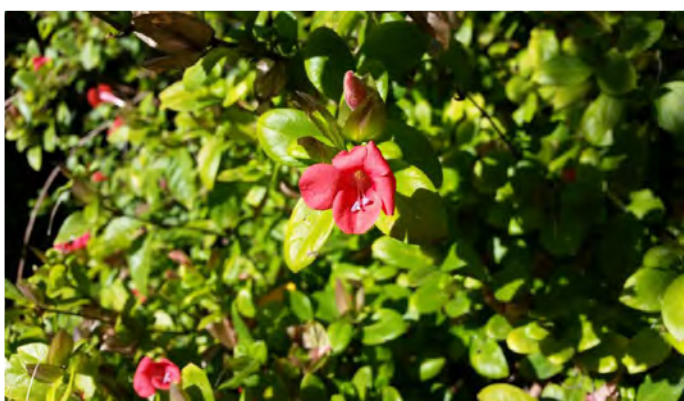
Keep up to date on Council's Bushcare web page: [tinyurl.com/up4mct58](https://tinyurl.com/up4mct58)

## COME WEED WITH US!

Working bees continue on the second Saturday of the month. We are currently in the Winter timeslot of 2pm – 4pm. All welcome. Please see the website or email [cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au) if you would like details of upcoming locations.

**WEED IN FOCUS:** Barleria repens, better known as coral creeper, has beautiful flowers and is popular in gardens. Unfortunately, it has spread into our natural areas, usually by garden clippings being dumped in bushland. It is now one of the major weeds we need to remove at our working bees.

Coral creeper can • form very dense ground cover • smother other plants • outcompete native plants especially in the understorey of bushland • prevent the movement of animals, and even trap animals.



**CORAL CREEPER:** *If you have this plant, please make sure it cannot escape your garden.*

## OUR CONNECTION TO WED

World Environment Day (WED) is the most renowned day for environmental action and is celebrated around the world on June 5, bringing together millions of people in the collective effort to protect and restore the Earth.

The Sunshine Coast Environment Council (SCEC) has marked WED by running a festival every year for the past 43 years. It is the largest community environmental event on the Coast and one of the longest running WED festivals in the country.

Currimundi Catchment Care Group is a member of SCEC and one of its activities is to protect and restore ecosystems in the catchment area. We plan to showcase a wonderful example of ecosystem restoration undertaken by our group, in partnership with the Sunshine Coast Council, as part of the week-long WED festival in 2023.

An area of former grazing land adjacent to Bancroft's Redgum Environmental Reserve at Meridan Plains has been transformed into a healthy wallum forest through the efforts of community volunteers planting up to 18,000 native trees on National Tree Day from 2009 to 2017.

Wallum is an important ecosystem in south-east Queensland and north-eastern NSW, characterised by paperbark and banksia shrubland and heathland on nutrient-poor, acidic, sandy soils. It is often associated with swampy land. Wallum is highly threatened by pressure from coastal development.



# OUR FINE FEATHERED FRIENDS...

**By Glenys Powell**

We Australians have developed a love-hate relationship with some of our native birds.

Think crows with their annoying calls at all times of the day and night, ibis ferreting through our waste bins and, best of all: the Australian brush turkey.

How many of us have run a daily battle with a hormone-crazed male turkey determined to build a nest under the leaf litter in our back yard? We've probably all learnt the hard way that there's literally nothing you can do to deter them once they get the urge.

You can try mirrors or toy teddies in the branches to scare them away, radios playing all day ... it does nothing to deter the determined bird.

So, after a while you develop a kind of respect for such stoic determination and wonder what is actually going to happen with the nest.

Well... once the mound has reached a large enough size, it starts to act like a compost heap and develops a nice hot temperature to help the incubation of eggs.

This temperature is what attracts the female brush turkey. She dips her beak in to test the temperature to see if it suits her.

After a while of testing each other out, if both parties are happy, then mating occurs and the female lays her egg/s in the mound.



Actually, it's not really this male's progeny because that won't develop for another 10 days or so, but apparently this is part of the deal.

But what about the chicks? The male is very diligent in keeping watch over the mound, which can hold up to 24 eggs, depending on its size.



From time to time, he has to leave to forage for food. During that time, goannas and snakes may sneak in and eat eggs, and in urban areas there's a risk of being dug up by curious dogs.

But if the egg survives all this, the chick will hatch after about 50 days.

He or she emerges with fluffy brown feathers looking nothing like its parents. Even the male doesn't seem to recognise it as part of the family and often responds by kicking leaves and mulch up towards it.

Inevitably the young bird wanders off and in fact there is absolutely no parenting provided by either Mum or Dad.

Right from day one, the chick is on its own. But nature has given it some wonderful instincts to peck, to scratch and to eat what is thrown up - insects, worms, skinks, berries and seeds.

They are an urban marvel. Somehow, they survive cats, dogs, foxes and kids and continue to walk around as if they own the place! Maybe they do.

If you've read this far, I'm going to tell you that there is one way to deter a brush turkey in your back yard and that is to lay chicken wire across your garden bed.

The turkeys get their claws caught and they just don't like it, so they head off looking for browner pastures. Try it.

## ...AND FEATHERED FOES

Have you spotted the common (Indian) Myna bird in your neighbourhood? You should report them to Council or on the FeralScan app. They are an invasive pest and a serious threat to our native birds.

Indian Mynas, with their chocolate brown feathers, yellow beak and bright eyes, are one of the most rapidly increasing feral bird populations in the region. They have been declared the second greatest threat to Australian native birds after land clearing. The common myna has: a brown body, a glossy black head, neck and upper breast and distinctive white patches on their wings clearly visible in flight.

Common or Indian Mynas are native to India and southern Asia. They are popular birds in their source countries as crop pest control agents and as symbols of undying love, associated with their habit of pairing for life. They were introduced to Australia in the 1800s and are now widespread throughout Eastern Australia, including the Sunshine Coast.

### Why are they a threat?

- ▶ Indian Mynas threaten native biodiversity with their territorial behaviour. They compete with native animals for nesting hollows; aggressively defending their territory.
- ▶ They evict native species, such as parrots and gliders, from their hollows and even kill their young.
- ▶ Indian Mynas spread diseases and parasites that affect native birds – including bird mites (which can also affect human health). They often form large communal roosts in suburban areas, causing health concerns and noise issues.

Mynas are often confused with the native noisy miner (Mickey birds). Noisy miners are native to Australia and are protected under state legislation. While the noisy miner is mostly grey, the common, or Indian Myna, is largely brown. Remember: brown is bad, grey is good.



### How do I report Indian Myna sightings?

- ▶ Call Sunshine Coast Council on 5475 7272 or email [mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)
- ▶ Report them using the FeralScan app (iPhone or Android)

Acknowledgements: Sunshine Coast Council, [www.feralscan.org.au](http://www.feralscan.org.au)



## Group reports

### CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

In recent years, Queensland has seen some positive changes to our relationship with plastic. The State Government, with bipartisan support, has already banned many items of single-use plastic and is moving to add even more products to the list. A container refund scheme has been introduced which has had a significant impact on the number of cans and glass and plastic bottles thrown away into our environment. (See also news bites below.)

CCCG has seen the improvement for several years now at our annual Clean Up Australia Day events and in the amount of litter we see on walks in the neighbourhood. However, plastic is still a major threat to our environment.

The world is being inundated by plastic. World-wide, more than 400 million tonnes of plastic are produced every year, half of which is designed to be used only once. Of that, less than 10% is recycled. An estimated 19-23 million tonnes end up in lakes, rivers and seas. Today, plastic clogs our landfills, leaches into the ocean and is combusted into toxic smoke, making it one of the gravest threats to the planet.

CCCG applauds and supports efforts to reduce the use and impacts of plastic in our environment. The theme of World Environment Day this year (5 June) is to reduce the use of single-use plastic. Let's all join in to #beatplasticpollution.

**Tony, President**

### FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

Our weeding bees are going well with 13 weeders and approximately 20 bags of weeds pulled out at our last weeding day. Mother of Millions, Siratro, Asparagus fern and Mile a Minute were some of the weeds targeted. We also had a small discussion at morning tea about Groundsel Bush, a Class 3 weed. A mature plant was discovered near the Currimundi sign on Currimundi Road. Council was alerted and it was removed by a biosecurity agent. This plant was very rampant in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. The seeds are dispersed mainly by the wind, and there is a female and male plant.

You will have noticed heavy machinery at the front of the Lake opening it. It closed the same night it was opened and was reopened again around 18 May. Some people have possibly noticed the new toilets at Frank McIvor Park with the lovely Currimundi art etching panel with native plants, fish and birds of the Currimundi area. The artwork was done by Steven Bordonaro with input from Friends of Currimundi Lake, Currimundi Catchment Care and the Soccer Group.

Currimundi Neighbourhood Watch will be hosting a guest speaker at their next meeting at Currimundi Community Hall on Tuesday 13 June at 7.30pm. Oriana Sanicola will give a 15-minute presentation titled Hydrogen – What is it and why is everyone talking about it? Anyone interested is welcome to attend. The NHW meeting will follow the presentation. Environment-wise, hydrogen is something we should all be learning about. Lastly, our turtle season is finished, with the hatchlings from the last nest emerging at Wurtulla.

**Rhondda, President**

### PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

We're getting into winter and things are cooling down; and we are still quiet in the neighbourhood.

A minor issue is the abundance of ibis around the BBQ and pond. Talking with Council's Kate McKenzie, she says as long as they are not nesting in the trees and they are foraging, we are OK. They normally stay at the dump and appear to be visiting for a short period during the late afternoon. The ibis nest at the dump as well, so we should not expect to really see much of them. A couple of black swans are also finding our pond and they are welcome visitors.

We could always find a delivery area if anyone has a free hour or so to deliver these newsletters in a section of the Creekwood area four times a year. Please give me a call at 0448 517 905.

**Ron, President**

### NEWS BITES

**10-cent recycling expands:** Empty wine and spirit bottles will be worth 10 cents from November 1 2023, as part of an expansion to the container refund scheme. Since it launched in 2018, the scheme has recovered more than 6.4 billion containers, refunding more than \$630 million to Queenslanders and creating 815 jobs.

**Calling all student artists:** A total of \$3000 in cash is on offer to winners in the Wild HeART Student Art Prize. School-aged students can enter a realistic artwork portraying native flora, fungi or fauna. Age categories are under 8s, under 13s and under 18s. Entries close 16 July 2023. Find more details on the Sunshine Coast Council website here: [tinyurl.com/39vjysz](https://tinyurl.com/39vjysz)

## 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, 10 July 2023  
Contact: President Tony, 0435 375 450, [cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:cccginfo@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, 6 June 2023  
Contact: President Rhondda 5437 6481, [foclinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:foclinfo@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.kafra.org.au](http://www.kafra.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