

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 2022

TAKE A WALK IN THE FOREST AND YOU COULD WIN A KIDS E-SCOOTER!



It's time for the World Environment Day Festival 2022! This year the festival will focus on celebrating the planet through collective environmental action.

What better example could there be than the beautiful Bancroft's Red Gum Environmental Reserve in Little Mountain. This area had been cleared for cattle grazing over a hundred years ago and by the early 2000s was mainly grass and a few trees.

That was before the annual National Tree Day planting events between 2009 and 2017, involving hundreds of people from the local community each year planting around 18,000 trees.

Nowadays the reserve is a superb example of Wallum bushland which is an important ecosystem in south-east Queensland.



The main characteristics of Wallum Bushland are paperbark and banksia shrubland and areas of heathland.

Wallum is highly threatened by pressure from coastal development and we're showcasing this area to make sure people find out just how unique it is.

We're hosting a self-guided walk and eco quiz with information about the bushland and its inhabitants provided at significant points.

Return your quiz and you'll receive a flowering native plant to attract birds and butterflies to your garden.

You can also enter a draw to win a kids e-scooter!



It's a flat easy walk but make sure you wear covered shoes and preferably long pants and long sleeves as the mosquitos can be quite plentiful.

Members of Currimundi Catchment Care Group and the local branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland will be on hand to answer any questions you might have and give you a free sausage sizzle!

Date and time: 10 am to 1pm, Sunday 26 June 2022

Place: End of Village Way, Little Mountain. Just look for the marquees set up on the side of Village Way.

Bookings: https://www.scec.org.au/wed_fest_bancrofts

WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL

The Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival will run from Saturday 20 August - Sunday 4 September 2022.

Our most popular wildflower walk each year is in the Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park on the northern shore of Currimundi Lake. The Wildflower Festival was started in 1967 by Kathleen McArthur, our famous local environmental pioneer.

Check the Council website for details of date and time for these beautiful walks You can also download brochures to aid in identifying wildflowers of the Sunshine Coast and to do your own self-guided walks.



Milkmaids (Burchardia umbellata)



Wallum boronia (Boronia falculifolia)

THANKS TO YOU AND COUNCIL THIS LAND WILL STAY GREEN



The picture above is looking south over the Mooloolah River and on past the Ring Tank. The picture below gives an aerial view of the three additional blocks recently purchased by Council.



It's great to see Council using money from the Environmental Levy (that we pay in our rates) to preserve parts of our backyard and hopefully restore them for all of us to enjoy.

Council has made a commitment to preserve a large area of land called the Lower Mooloolah River Green Space. It's approximately 3,000 hectares in total of non-urban land and is intended to provide a break between urban areas and contribute to the ongoing liveability and protection of the natural environment.

Council recently announced the purchase of three key parcels of land along the south bank of the Mooloolah River and around the ring tank, directly west of the Kawana Forest residential area. This land, which was previously used for cattle grazing, adds 214 hectares to the Lower Mooloolah Green Space areas already owned by Council.

Council will undertake a detailed assessment of the land, as well as the land at Honey Farm Road, Little Mountain, acquired in 2021. This assessment will include: hydrological testing to determine how the water flows across this low-lying land; determining where infrastructure would be developed; management plans for fire, weeds, visitors etc; and where and which species of trees could be planted. A management plan will be developed before any work can commence.

Currimundi Catchment Care Group is expected to be included in the consultation phase and has offered to participate in any major tree planting that may take place.

Planning is expected to be completed in 2023. Eventually it is anticipated the land will be available for the community to take part in a range of sport and recreational activities. It will also help to protect and enhance biodiversity and to responsibly manage the floodplain.

SAND MOVEMENT

We've talked about the amazing changes caused by sand movement in previous newsletters and this year there is even more to be amazed about. People are quite astonished by the breakthrough at Bribie Island which has created a new "south bar" and a huge sand beach at Hidden Valley.

There have been changes at Currimundi too, but these are not quite as dramatic this time. In fact the sand plug in the lake has not moved in spite of quite massive rain events over several months.

Both Currimundi and Wurtulla Beaches are exhibiting erosion which is mainly caused by "cross-shore sand transport". Essentially this means sand moves from the beach to the nearshore surf zone where it forms sand bars. At

Wurtulla Beach in particular this erosion is made worse by continuous foot traffic particularly on the steep dunes in front of Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park.

So for a while now, instead of wide and sandy beaches with gently sloping frontal dunes, we will continue to see narrower sand dunes with a more vertical face.



Vertical dunes at Wurtulla Beach following the 2022 extended rain season

It is expected that when (or if?) this extended rain season is finished, there will be periods of low energy waves when sand is gradually washed shoreward where it once again builds up on the beach and dune system.

Only time will tell if any permanent erosion of the shoreline will eventuate from changing weather patterns.

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

CITIZEN SCIENCE A STEP CLOSER FOR CURRIMUNDI CLIMATEWATCH TRAIL

In previous newsletters we've reported on the wonderful ClimateWatch program, developed by Earthwatch with the Bureau of Meteorology and the University of Melbourne, to understand how changes in temperature and rainfall are affecting the seasonal behaviour of Australia's plants and animals.

The idea is anyone can download the ClimateWatch App and record information on selected species that you see in a particular trail near you. Through regularly walking that trail and recording what you see you can observe what is happening in your local environment and contribute to a national program that helps scientists inform Australia's response to climate change.

We're very fortunate that two walking trails in the Currimundi Catchment have become part of the network of ClimateWatch trails across Australia - in Kawana Forest and around Currimundi Lake.

The Kawana Forest ClimateWatch Trail already has a significant following. It features over 35 flora and fauna native and introduced species that are being monitored. Already some instances of different behaviour have been noticed.

Signs have been installed in almost all parts of the ClimateWatch trails and it is hoped that there will be a 'launch event', possibly a guided walk during the July school holidays.

We are hoping the trail will be fun and interesting for all ages. You don't need to be an expert because the species to be reported on are well known, such as butcherbirds, magpies, bluebottles and grass trees.

So look out for the trail launch coming up in July and then get out there and tell the world what you see.



TURTLE NESTING OVER FOR ANOTHER YEAR

Turtle nesting has finished on the Currimundi, Dicky and Moffat beaches for this season. There were two nests and two turn arounds on Currimundi and five nests and one turn around on the Dicky - Moffat beaches.



Photos by Robert Whyte showing the characteristic corky white stem and the classic passion flower of this vine.



CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT WALL CALENDAR 2023

Calling all photographers! We can't wait to see your beautiful photographs of the Currimundi Catchment for the 2023 Wall Calendar competition. It's a wonderful opportunity to showcase the birdlife, wildflowers, beaches, lake and creeks that make up our beautiful backyard.

Technical requirements are on the CCGG website: <https://cg.currimundicatchment.org.au>.

Email a high resolution image (at least 1 MB) to calendar@currimundicatchment.org.au. Entries close on 30 September 2022.

CORKY PASSION VINE

We're always going on about weeds because they endanger our catchment in many ways. Today's example is *Passiflora suberosa*, the Corky Passion Vine, pictured left.

It's a fairly non-descript vine with three-pointed leaves and round blue-black berry like fruit. Where does the cork and the passion come in? Well if you follow the long stem right down to its root you'll find that the lower stems become "corky" with age, ie develop a whitish cork-like bark. And the flowers are the typical passion flower shape with purple inner fringe.

This vine can out-compete and strangle native vegetation including ground cover species, shrubs and small trees. Although it's not a prohibited or restricted invasive plant, if you see it in your garden it's recommended you remove it as soon as possible to prevent it escaping and invading bushland.

The most reliable method of control for corky passion vine is hand pulling when the soil is moist. And take care not to break the stem above the roots, or the plant will regenerate.

Group Reports

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

The rain continues as I write. Once again we have been fortunate to escape any serious flooding in our catchment. The devastating floods, coastal erosion and ferocious bushfires that have been occurring and intensifying in recent years highlight the need for climate action to limit the impacts of climate change and planning and preparation for the inevitable impacts it will have.

On a brighter note, we held our first face to face meeting in two years this month. It was great to be with friends and like-minded people for a meeting instead of sitting at home in front of the computer. Zoom and remote meetings are convenient but not quite the same as sitting in the same room. Thanks go to Wendy Cliff, from Sunshine Coast Council's Community Conservation team, who came along to brief us on the prospects for community conservation projects in our catchment. It seems there are no Council land areas within our catchment currently suitable for large-scale tree-planting but parcels recently acquired by Council under the Environment Levy program may be ideal once assessment and planning is complete. See the article on page 2 for more details.

Tony, President

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

Have you all got mould? If you haven't please tell us of your secret. Our area looks very tropical at the moment which is lovely, except a lot of the vegetation are weeds. Walking Coondibah pathway after a lot of rain used to be wonderful as you listened to the frog chorus, but it doesn't seem to be as loud this year or have I missed them? There were no Glossy Black cockatoos to be seen in the Coondibah area this year either but probably because we have far fewer casuarinas which are their food trees. Another loss to the area.

Erosion along the banks of Currimundi Creek is, in certain areas, becoming quite bad, however the sand plug has not lessened with the amount of water coming down the creek. Another problem is the number of small boats on Currimundi Creek that are not adhering to the speed limit which is **six knots**. Please slow down everyone!

National Geographic forecasts that by 2040 the amount of plastic flowing annually into the sea will nearly triple to 30 million tonnes a year. Plastic waste is primarily packaging! We live in a beautiful area, and on a precious planet, so let us all combine to cut down on litter and plastic packaging in our homes.

Rhonda, President

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

Most things are quiet in our neighbourhood. No damage from recent rains and we're actually drying out. A couple of trees or major branches have been blown over and when things are dry enough, Council will have them removed.

Our small mob of kangaroos has increased to four and can be sometimes be found in Dot Billingham Park near Waterside/Anika Place or at the end of Lakeshore Place. Let me know if you see them in your area (rburnett@bigpond.net.au).

We are in need of a new deliverer or two for the original portion of Creekwood. If you could find an hour of your time four times a year to distribute our great CCCG Newsletter the Community would all appreciate your assistance. Please contact me on 0448 517 905.

Ron, President

KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

KaFRA is continuing to seek details of the promised new bus service for Kawana Forest. Bus stops have been built in recent days so something is happening. We are keen to promote use of the new service among our residents and will keep you informed.

We also want to thank Paul and Coralie Williamson for their untiring efforts over recent years, Paul on environmental issues with KaFRA and other environmental groups in the local area and Coralie on our management committee as our treasurer. Both have recently stepped back from their roles so we wish them well as they take some time for themselves and to explore our beautiful region!

With a number of our management committee looking for a break after serving for many years, we appeal to local residents to step up and take some responsibility for helping to promote and care for our community and environment. Without your help, KaFRA may cease to exist,

Glenn, President



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: 11 July 2022

Contact: President Tony, 5438 8267

Email: cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au

Website: <http://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: 2 August 2022

Contact: President Rhondda 5437 6481

Working bees: contact Ruth 0408 989 263

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 Hire: 1300 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