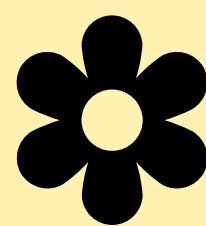


CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT NEWS

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 11,000 households and businesses within the Currimundi Catchment. Can you help deliver newsletters four times a year? Please phone Tony on 0435 375 450.



Spring
2023

Proudly
supported by



*Thanks, National Tree Day volunteers!
Clockwise from right: Matt with sons
Archer and Leo; Glenys Powell with
Aydan from Jarrod Bleijie's office;
Amryn; the camp crew all the way from
Mentone Grammar in Melbourne.
More photos over page.*



NATIONAL TREE DAY PLANTING EVENT

Have you heard about the Lower Mooloolah River Green Space?

It's a large area of land of approximately 3000 hectares that provides a break between urban areas and contributes to the ongoing liveability and protection of the natural environment (see the map over the page).

Council has been buying this land, most of which was previously used for cattle grazing, with a view to restoring it for future generations.

One large block that was acquired in 2021 is now known as the Honey Farm Road Environment Reserve in Meridan Plains.

Since it was purchased, significant assessment has been undertaken to decide how best to commence restoration.

We're happy to say that tree planting has now begun!

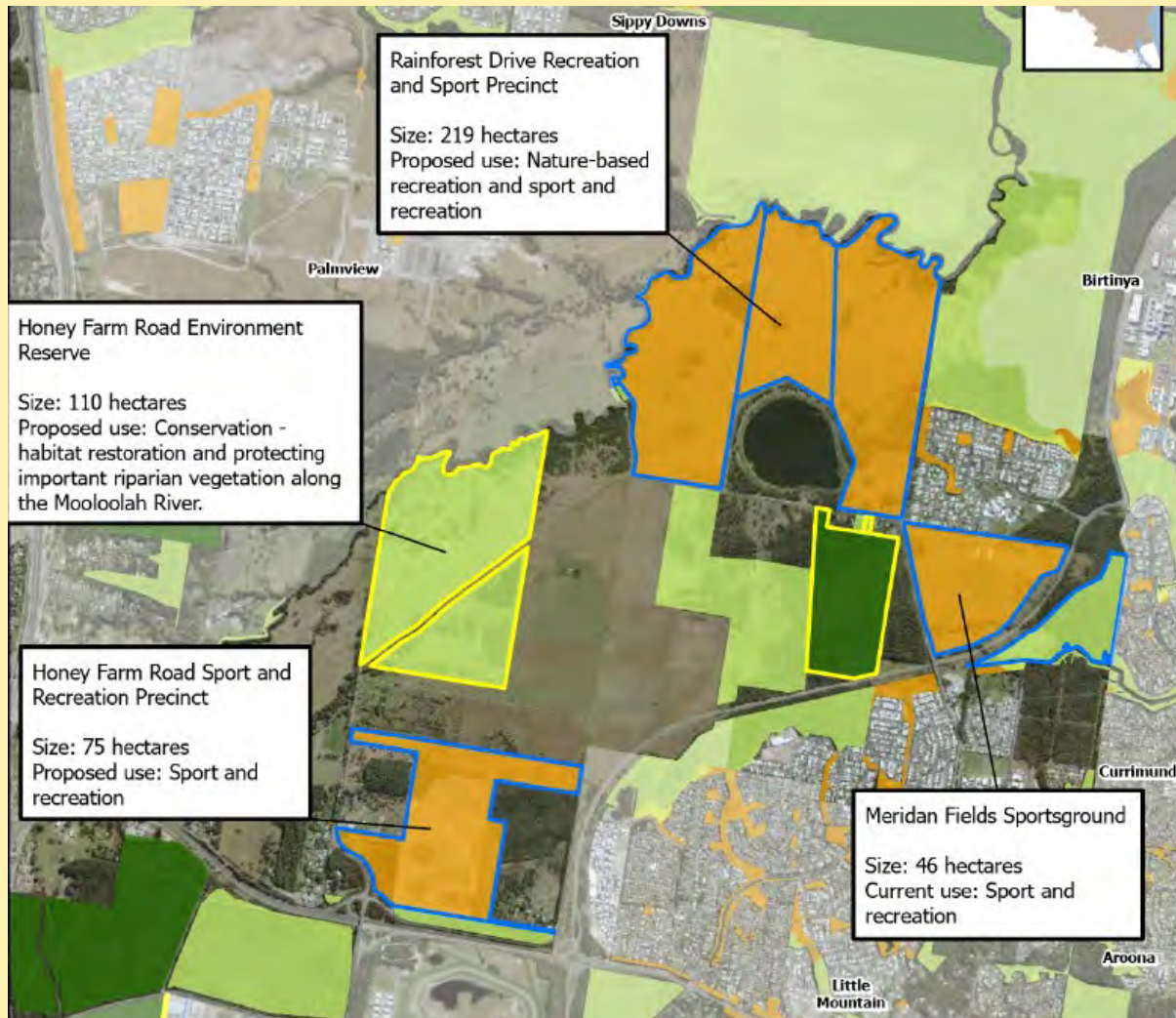
On 9 August Currimundi Catchment Care Group partnered with Council's BushCare team to plant 500 trees in the southern part of the land.

We had perfect conditions including soft ground from recent rainfall and a perfect sunny day for the planting. Council staff made it easy for the rest of the planters by pre-digging the holes and providing all necessary materials and equipment. After a few hours of planting, there were 500 seedlings in the ground.

There were a total of 49 volunteers on the day aged between 2 and 72. Thanks to everyone who took part and special thanks go to 19 students from Mentone Grammar in Melbourne who were visiting the Sunshine Coast on a camp hosted by Infuse Travel.

We look forward to seeing the results of the planting in years to come.

HONEY FARM ROAD TREE PLANTING



Clockwise from left: a map of Meridan Plains open space; Fergus and Deborah; Dee; Ejay and Tom; Trevor; Larena; Charlotte and Ashli.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY WRAP

A great crowd of 63 people took part in this year's World Environment Day event hosted by Currimundi Catchment Care Group in June. It was a perfect winter's day for a morning walk through Bancroft's Red Gum Environmental Reserve to experience the outcome of community action to restore habitat on our doorstep.

Some of those who attended were back for the first time since their involvement in the annual tree planting program almost 10 years ago and were delighted to see first-hand the now self-sustaining Wallum ecosystem. Others returned from last year's event to enjoy the walk and fun atmosphere again.

Most people lingered after the walk to enjoy the sausage sizzle, a cold drink and opportunity to chat with CCCG and Wildlife Preservation Society volunteers about the different species of plants and animals here, and the importance of community-led environmental work.

Congratulations to Mick Smith who won the main prize, a family pass to Sea Life Mooloolaba. Mick and his family, including three teenage boys, have been living on the Coast for about 20 years. He previously worked with the Maroochydore and the amalgamated Sunshine Coast Council, where he was the waterways and coast coordinator. Part of that role included developing the first shoreline erosion management plan. He currently works for Fisheries Queensland undertaking research in coastal systems.



ABOVE: MP Jarrod Bleijie and CCCG Vice-President Fergus Fitzgerald at Bancroft's Reserve. RIGHT: Prize winner Mick Smith with Fergus.

We are always looking for more volunteers to join our group. You don't need particular skills or experience, simply a passion to be involved in a vibrant community helping to protect and restore the wonderful natural environment we are lucky to live amongst.

WONDERFUL WILDFLOWERS IN BLOOM

The annual Wildflower Festival walk through Currimundi Lake (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park remains as popular ever, with this year's event on 2 September fully booked.

After this year's dry and warm autumn and winter, the organisers – the local branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld – had been worried that an earlier-than-usual flowering season would have not left much on display, but the Park always has something lovely to show.

It was an 'iris morning' with plenty of the smaller *Patersonia fragilis* along the side of the main fire-break track, along with white Rice Flowers and three-horned Devil's Rice, blue Flax Lillies, and the tiny Wire Lillies.

Further along was a mass of golden Guinea Flower *Hibbertia linearis* and white Woombye Bush *Phebalium Woombye* but not much Wedding Bush this year.



Photos: Helen Kershaw and Suzanne Aspland



The intense midnight blue of low-growing Wallum *Dampiera sylvestris* stood out in contrast, and we came across just two spikes of mauve-blotched Hyacinth Orchid *Dipodium punctatum*, and then emerging spikes of the Wallum Grass-tree *Xanthorrhoea fulva*.

But the best was saved for the Swamp (Mandara) track, with deep pink Wallum *Boronia boronia*, white star-shaped *Sprengelia*, blushing Milkmaids *Burchardia umbellata*, mauve Vanilla Lillies *Sowerbaea juncea*, white bell-shaped Common Heath *Epacris obtusifolia*, and bright yellow Spike *Goodenia stelligera*.



We were fortunate to have the company of Allan Carr, who had brought copies of his excellent illustrated 'Field Guide to the Native Plants of Bribie Island and SEQld', which is available for sale at the Bookshop@Caloundra in Bulcock St, or from our Sunshine Coast and Hinterland branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld sunshine@wildlife.org.au

DID YOU KNOW?

This year marks the 60th anniversary of our branch of WPSQ, founded by Kathleen McArthur, wildflower artist and originator of the Wildflower Festival, in 1963.



HIGH-VIS HELP FROM RACQ

Currimundi Catchment Care Group recently received a RACQ Local Giving Grant which enabled us to purchase and brand new high-vis vests for added safety for our volunteers.

We thank RACQ for supporting our local community organisation and the important work we do caring for the Currimundi catchment.

Pictured in the photo are: Currimundi Catchment Care Group Treasurer Keith and Secretary Christine with Tamara from RACQ Caloundra.

SEND US YOUR BEST PICS FOR 2024 CALENDAR

It's that time of year again! Time for all the photographers in our beautiful catchment to get out and get clicking. We can't wait to see your photographs of the Currimundi Catchment for the 2024 Wall Calendar competition. As usual, this is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the stunning and unique birdlife, wildflowers, beaches, lake and creeks that make up our beautiful backyard.

Technical requirements are on the CCCG website. Visit currimundicatchment.org.au and look for the "2024 Currimundi Calendar" link right underneath our logo at the top right of the page. The key requirements are for A4 landscape orientation and high resolution (at least 1 MB).

Email your images to calendar@currimundicatchment.org.au. Entries close on 30 September 2023.

Group reports

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

I am looking forward to another fantastic community event for the Currimundi Lake region with Lights on the Lake returning on 3 December. CCCG are very proud to lead the team planning, organising and running the event with our community partners and volunteers. If you would like to be part of the team, either organising or just helping out at the event, please contact me at cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au.

We acknowledge the wonderful support from Sunshine Coast Council who have once again provided funding through a grant. We also thank our major sponsors, Bendigo Bank Community Bank Caloundra, Billy J Fashion, Ray White Caloundra and Initiative Accounting, Birtinya. It is support from these and several other local businesses that makes this free event financially viable.

It was wonderful to see almost 50 community members and visitors join with us and Sunshine Coast Council (SCC) for the first community planting event to celebrate National Tree Day at the new Honey Farm Rd Environment Reserve in Meridan Plains. The Reserve was recently acquired by SCC with funding from the Environment Levy. CCCG is looking forward to working with Council and the community in the future to revegetate and revitalise this area to create new habitat for native wildlife and a special place for the community, as we did so successfully with Bancroft's Red Gum Reserve at Little Mountain.

Tony, President

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

We are now over half-way through 2023 and into Spring, so with some more rain we will see more weeds but also our beautiful native flowers. We have been busy with working bees during April, May, June, July and August. We collected more than 60 bags of weeds, listened to Roslyn Leslie from Wilvos on how to care for and rehome injured wildlife, had staff from Open Insurance spend time planting and weeding and in August Council organised for a promotional video to be filmed of the group planting and weeding.

Ruth, our BushCare coordinator, has been busy. I have been busy putting together a project plan cataloguing plants and weeds collected. The Currimundi Lake Dynamics Advisory Group met to discuss the management of Currimundi Lake. As of 29 August the lake was flowing freely to sea. In May I attended the Sunshine Coast Catchment Group Network meeting. A few of the group also attended a talk about the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly, which is classed as vulnerable, and its habitat which relies on the planting of the host plant Birdwing Butterfly Vine (*Pararistolochia praevenosa*).

There has been quite a bit of trimming back of trees on the edge of the Lake near the playground and up towards the lifesavers tower. The brush turkeys are busy moving leaves around. We are also heading into the marine turtle season which starts about November. Please be aware everyone that any type of litter – whether it is plastic, fertiliser or anything else – nearly always ends up in our waterways and then is washed out to sea where it pollutes the oceans and does terrible harm to our marine life.

Rhondda, President

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

All is quiet in the Parklands Community. We watched the Supper Blue Moon on 31 August and are now waiting for the King Tide. We are looking for recruits to join the PCG and participate in our little community organisation, so if you have an interest, please call Ron on 0448 517 905.

With added interest in the rail access, the old CAMCOS scenario, especially the proposed station at Parklands Boulevard, the Tavern/Aldi Centre/IRT is back in discussion. The station is proposed to be "elevated" like others on the route, which you can review by searching the Sunshine Coast Mass Transit Project or emailing masstransit@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au. The land has been reserved, as you will notice driving through.

Ron, President

NEWS BITE

Do you love the bushland along our creeks and lake? Do you enjoy wandering through places like Leacys Reserve? These are stunning spots, but they need our help to stay healthy. We hold monthly working bees on the second Saturday of the month from 2.30-4.30pm. Visit the website or email cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au for details of upcoming locations.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

"In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught."

– Wangari Muta Maathai, the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize

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, 13 Nov. 2023
Contact: President Tony, 0435 375 450, 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, 3 October 2023
Contact: President Rhondda 5437 6481, foclinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au
Working bees: Ruth 0408 989 263

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

Contact: Ron 5491 7905, 0448 517 905, rburnett@bigpond.net.au

KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Contact: President Glenn 0412 286 156, gmsith@gideons.org.au
Website: 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.

Wivos: 5441 6200 24-hour hotline for injured wildlife.

Fishwatch Hotline: 1800 017 116 unlawful fishing activities.

Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital: 1800 334 350