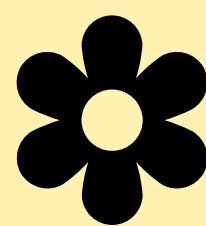


# CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT NEWS

## 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.



Summer  
2023

Proudly  
supported by



## GET SET FOR LIGHTS ON THE LAKE



Currimundi's biggest outdoor event is almost here! The shores of Currimundi Lake will be alive and alight on Sunday 3 December for the popular Lights on the Lake Festival.

It's time to start thinking about decorating your canoes, kayaks and paddle boards with Christmas lights. Every year we look forward to seeing the twinkling water procession as the boats paddle around the lake at nightfall. Once again, there will be prizes for the best decorated boats.

But as all Currimundi kids know, there are a thousand other reasons to go to the Festival. There are so many fun kids' activities to do and see and so much delicious food to eat. Santa will be arriving by boat from across the Lake at about 6pm and later on will be helping to award prizes to the winning decorated boats.

Everyone is welcome to bring a picnic rug and chill out on the grass, being entertained by our wonderful local musicians. There's something for everyone at Lights on the Lake.

Sunshine Coast Council continues to be our major sponsor, along with Community Bank Caloundra and Ray White Caloundra. This year we welcome a new major sponsor – Billy J – who is sponsoring the laser light spectacular at 7.45pm as the grand finale to the Festival.

Please don't forget our usual reminders:

- ✓ Parking is limited, so plan your arrival, park nearby and walk the last bit, or catch a bus and get off on Nicklin Way near the event.
- ✓ If you live close by, please consider walking, cycling or paddling.
- ✓ Keep children supervised, particularly when night falls.
- ✓ Leave pets at home if they don't cope well with crowds and excited children.

You can register decorated boats for the water procession in advance via the website or at the registration marquee before 6pm on the evening. A safety briefing for all participants will be held at 6.30pm. All children under the age of 13 years must wear a life jacket.

Here's where to go for further information or if you would like to register for the water procession:

- Visit the website [www.currimundicatchment.org.au/lights-on-lake](http://www.currimundicatchment.org.au/lights-on-lake)
- Call Fergus 0459 880 572
- Email: [lightsonthelake@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:lightsonthelake@currimundicatchment.org.au)
- Find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/lightsonthelakefestival](http://www.facebook.com/lightsonthelakefestival)



Community Bank  
Caloundra  
Bendigo Bank

billy j



### EVENT DETAILS

When: 4pm – 8pm,  
Sunday 3 December

Where: Crummunda Park,  
Coongarra Esplanade, Wurtulla



# CITIZEN SCIENTISTS GO ON CLIMATE WATCH

We've all felt the much hotter than average temperatures and seen the smoke from a spate of bushfires burning across our very dry hinterland and beyond, destroying homes and wildlife habitat, and we understand that climate change is exacerbating these weather patterns. But how quickly and how much is the climate changing? How are changes in temperature and rainfall affecting the seasonal behaviour of plants and animals?

These are questions that Earthwatch Australia, in collaboration with the Bureau of Meteorology and Melbourne University, are keen to investigate by gathering lots of observations from across the country over time. This is where you can directly contribute by becoming a citizen scientist.

You don't need to be an expert in species identification. Earthwatch has developed a ClimateWatch app that is easy to use and will guide you through simple questions about where you are and what you are observing. You can even automatically upload your photo of one of the indicator species of plant, animal, bird or insect.



Don't worry if you can't answer some of the prompts or make a mistake, as it's all checked by experts. The important thing is to report what you observe, ideally of the same plant or animal over time.

The ClimateWatch trails are all sign-posted. More information about the species you are likely to encounter and the expected seasonal changes you might observe along these trails is available on the CCCG website at <https://bit.ly/CW-Trail>. Download the free app by searching for ClimateWatch SPOTTERON.



Currimundi Catchment Care Group and Friends of Currimundi Lake partnered with the Sunshine Coast Council to run a guided walk along part of the Currimundi Lake ClimateWatch Trail (one of three such trails on the Sunshine Coast) for interested residents on Saturday 29 October. Twenty people spent a couple of hours learning how easy it is to use the app and making their own observations, becoming citizen scientists then and there.

Scan the QR code for a trail map and species information plus a species calendar. (Scroll to the end of the page for links.)

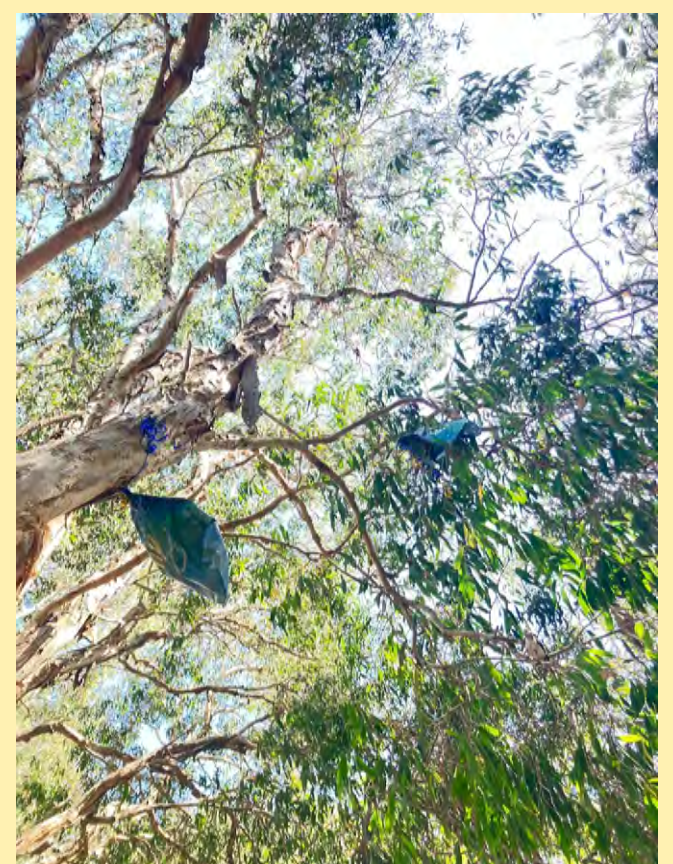


## PARTY IN THE PARK? PLEASE FOIL YOUR BALLOON PLANS

Balloons might seem like a fun decoration for a party in the park, but they pose a terrible risk for wildlife, especially when near waterways. When they escape, as some did recently (as seen in these pictures from Crummunda Park at Wurtulla), they usually end up in the water. Turtles eat them, thinking they are yummy jellyfish and end up sick and slowly dying. Please don't use latex or foil balloons or streamers in the park. If you must use these types of decorations, please take them down and dispose of them responsibly with your other rubbish when you leave.

### HELIUM RELEASE BAN

Queensland introduced a ban on releasing helium balloons into the sky on 1 September 2023. Allowing them to escape into the environment is now officially considered littering.



LEFT and ABOVE: Foil balloons left tied to trees in Crummunda Park. They can be harmful to wildlife such as sea birds and turtles if they are left in the environment.



# NEW COMMITTEE WELCOMED AT AGM

The Currimundi Catchment Care Group AGM was held in September with a new face joining the management committee.

We happily welcome Carolyn Bates, who put her hand up to join a merry band of familiar faces returning to the committee once again this year. Carolyn is also helping out with event preparations for Lights on the Lake. Great to have you on board!

Tony Moorhead was re-elected unopposed as President and now enters his 12<sup>th</sup> year in the position. Tony used the occasion to reflect on the previous year in his annual report.

Highlights included the World Environment Day Festival walk through Bancroft's Reserve, the Clean Up Australia Day community event and our continued partnership with Sunshine Coast Council's Bushcare program.

Our Group held nine working bees over the course of the year, with a dedicated band of volunteers, keenly led by Kym Maver, gathering at various locations in our catchment to tackle the seemingly endless march of invasive weeds that threaten our local parks and bushland.

Tony thanked Council for their support and financial assistance and acknowledged Councillor Peter Cox and MP Jarrod Bleijie for their support.

Tony mentioned that the Currimundi Catchment Care Group is a member organisation of the Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWALC), the peak body for



natural resource management volunteers in Queensland. QWALC supports us with our insurance coverage.

We are also a member of Sunshine Coast Environment and Conservation Council, which oversees the World Environment Day festivities, among lots of other environmental advocacy in the community.

**ABOVE:** The 2023-24 committee, elected at the recent AGM. Front row: President Tony Moorhead and Secretary Christine Muir. Back row: Vice-President Fergus Fitzgerald, new member Carolyn Bates, Keith Hunt and Enid Traill. Not pictured: Joan Andrews and Janet Hohnen.

## CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT '24 CALENDAR



We always learn something from the amazing photographs that people send in for the Currimundi Catchment wall calendar competition.

This year's cover page features Graham Gillies' photo of a Peron's frog giving us the eye. Many of us had no idea this frog was living alongside us, but it can be found right along the South East coast of Queensland.

These clever animals can quickly change colour, ranging from pale green-grey by day, to a reddish brown at night. The males have a loud call, which has been described as a cross between a machine gun and a jack hammer!

Thank you once again to all the photographers who sent in their photographs of all the things they love and enjoy about the Currimundi Catchment. It's so inspiring to see their images, whether it's a stunning sunset, two surfers discussing the waves, glowing banksia flowers, or a lone fisherman with his pelican sidekick.

This surely is a wonderful place to live; and, thanks to our photographers, we can enjoy these images all year long.

### BUY YOURS BEFORE THEY SELL OUT

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 0435 375 450 or email [cccinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:cccinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au)

## DISTRIBUTORS WANTED!

We are desperately seeking new helpers for our newsletter, with two of our longest serving zone coordinators Ron Burnett and David and Jenny Allan finishing up soon. Big thanks for your tireless work and dedication over the years.

We're looking for zone coordinators to manage distribution (it's easy and you'll receive support), as well as distributors to spend an hour or so, four times a year, popping newsletters into mailboxes in your designated patch. Interested? Please call Tony on 0435 375 450 or email Fergus at [fergfitzgerald7@gmail.com](mailto:fergfitzgerald7@gmail.com)



## Group reports

### CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

It's almost Christmas again and that means it is almost time for our wonderful local festive season event, the Lights on the Lake Festival. CCCG is proud to have led the team organising this much-loved community event for so many years.

Organising this event takes a lot of planning, time and effort from local community members. It is wonderful to see the local community embrace it so warmly. We can always use a hand on the day, so if you would like to volunteer to help out contact us (see event and contact details on page one of this newsletter).

Next year we will continue with our usual activities with our monthly weeding working bees and events throughout the year. The first major event is likely to be Clean Up Australia Day in early March. We also hope to work with Sunshine Coast Council to identify some more community planting activities at the Honey Farm Road Environment Reserve. We will keep you posted. Why not make a New Year's resolution to get more involved in actively looking after our local environment?

Have a wonderful festive season everyone. Take care, have fun and please remember to look after our local environment while you are doing that.

**Tony, President**

### FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

By the time this newsletter is published, the marine turtle season will have commenced. From Buddina Beach to Bribie Island and north to Coolumb, there will be walkers on the beach every morning starting at 4.30am watching and reporting on marine turtle tracks and nests. The majestic green turtle is vulnerable and the loggerhead turtle is endangered. The TurtleCare Hotline phone number can be found at all beach access points so that the public can notify any sightings of tracks or stranded turtles. The hotline for our area is 0437 559 067.

Friends of Currimundi Lake will have their last working bee on 13 December. We are having a battle with the turkeys removing trees as fast as we plant them unless they have a tree guard around them. With the very hot weather on its way please, put some water out for our native animals to drink and cool off in (see Kaye Brown's photo below of a goanna taking a drink in her backyard recently). I have seen two snakes just recently, so be aware that they are around. Remember most of the birds, snakes, possums, bats etc. are native animals so they play a part in our ecosystem. We will also have done another Climate Watch Trail walk, and we will be supporting CCCG with Lights on the Lake.

Friends of Currimundi Lake is 35 years old this year. FOCL and CCCG joined together to win Currimundi Beach being the Cleanest Beach in Qld in 2004. Members of FOCL helped win a couple of state awards for the environment and, of the four people who worked to win Caloundra's Tidiest Town in Australia, three were members of Friends of Currimundi Lake. I would like to say thank you to Ruth for all her help this year and to all the FOCL people, as well as to the Council Bushcare team for their support and wish both CCCG and FOCL people a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Take care everyone as you are all very precious in helping to care for our environment.

**Rhondda, President**

### PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

We need some rain! Everything is dry and our plants need some nourishment. The neighbourhood is quiet and we're rolling along waiting. The pond is getting full of its usual flowers and birds and will soon need a haircut. The basketball court and tennis court are getting some good use.

Anyone interested in joining the delivery team, just send me a note at [rburnett@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rburnett@bigpond.net.au) or give me a call at 0448 517 905.

**Ron, President**

### NEWS BITE

Sunshine Coast Council recently released its Coastal Health Report. It's the first ever assessment of the environmental condition and use of our beaches, headlands, estuaries and lagoons. Report cards give sections of our coastline a rating and there is an interactive map online. Currimundi Creek scored "good" for overall health, biodiversity and public benefits; and "excellent" for water quality. More at <https://t.ly/SzcDz>

*Thanks to Kaye Brown who snapped this goanna taking a drink in her Currimundi backyard.*



## 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 Jan. 2024  
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, 5 December 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