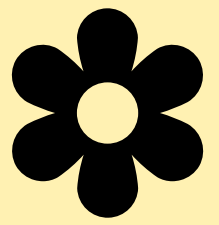


CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT NEWS

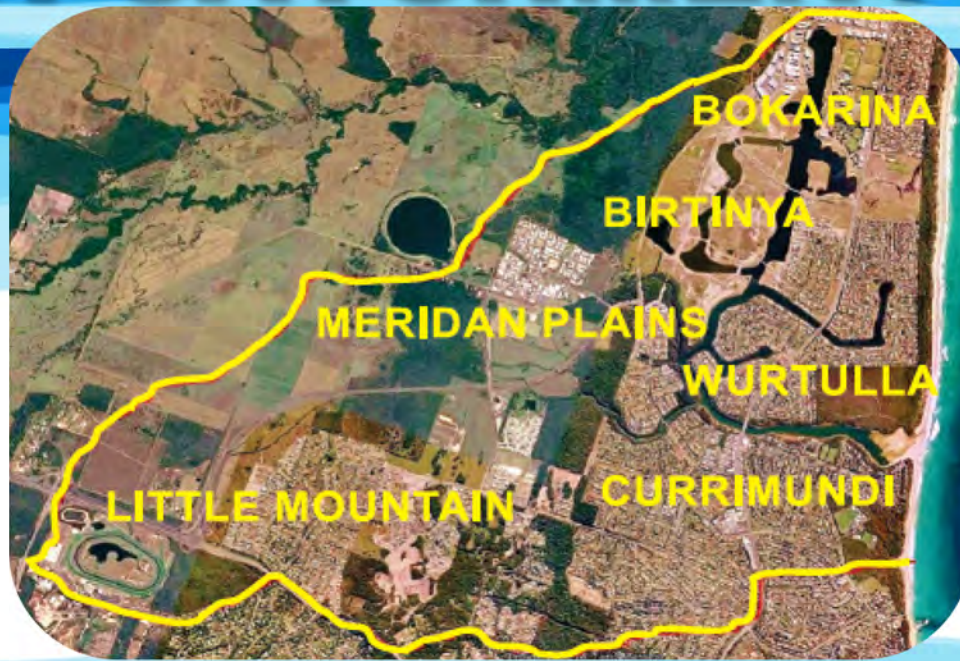


Spring
2024

Proudly
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 Sunshine Coast
COUNCIL

Welcome to our community newsletter.

Voluntarily produced by Currimundi Catchment Care Group Inc (ABN 77 276 084 092), this newsletter is printed on sustainable forest paper and distributed to 12,000 households and businesses within the Currimundi Catchment. **Can you help deliver newsletters just four times a year? Please phone Tony on 0435 375 450.**



OUR GREAT OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Year 5 students from Talara Primary College embraced the opportunity to tap into some home-grown environmental expertise and get outside into our much-loved local Currimundi Creek habitat to learn why our waterways and coastline are changing over time.

It's all part of the newly-developed Science unit called Coast to Coast, which incorporates subjects such as Design Technology, Science, English, Humanities and Social Science.

The group came on an excursion to Crummunda Park earlier this year and met our group President Tony along with volunteers Bev, Janet and Mike who explained why they volunteer and their particular roles.

"We learnt about the importance of community networking," Talara teacher Debbie Lawrence said.

"And a bonus to learning in the Currimundi Lake environment is when you are able to assist in the unexpected moments. A group of students called over their teacher to report what they thought was a baby possum lying lifeless on the sand below the creek bank, trapped by fishing line entwined around one of its feet and tail.

"We were able to cut the fishing line, wrap the animal – still alive – in a warm towel and place him/her in a safe container for transportation to our local Currimundi Vet practice.

"Our injured animal was taken to the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital and later that day, we discovered that we had in fact saved a native rat."



ABOVE: Mike, Tony, Janet and Bev with Yr 5 Talara students.
LEFT: The incredible bird-feeders and possum boxes made by the students as part of the Design Tech component of their Science unit.

Ms Lawrence said it was an invaluable learning experience.

"Students are exploring examples of positive influences people like those in the Currimundi Catchment Care Group have on the characteristics of places and all the wonderful joint projects they are implementing, like monthly weeding projects working alongside National Parks Rangers, Clean Up Australia Day activities, the previous coconut coir project to control bank erosion and planting of various native vegetation and trees.

"Students are learning to explain the influence of people, including First Nations Australians, on the characteristics of a place.

"They are analysing the management of severe weather events including their consequences for the community and the environment such as our coastline and local waterways.

"Students learnt that it really does take a village to protect and maintain this beautiful habitat to ensure that our local Currimundi Creek and Currimundi Lake remains as a healthy, natural ecosystem."



PEOPLE POWER PLANTING UP OUR REGION

The community tree-planting event at the new Honey Farm Road Environment Reserve was a great success.

Held in late June and hosted by Sunshine Coast Council and our own Currimundi Catchment Care Group (CCCG), 70 people from the community planted 1000 native trees and shrubs in one morning. It was especially great to see lots of kids taking part during their school holidays.

Thanks to Ash and the team from Council for setting everything up and for providing the expertise of 'bird guru' Ben Green. Ben's guided bird walks received excellent feedback, and everyone was thrilled to spot two wedge-tailed eagles circling the area at the end of the event.



Another great event in June was our World Environment Day gathering at Bancroft's Red Gum Environment Reserve. We had 28 adults and nine children come and see how this site, which was previously cattle grazing land, has been progressively restored over nine years through the planting of 18,000 native seedlings of self-sustaining paperbark and banksia wallum.

Volunteers from CCCG and Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland were on hand to share information about the species of plants and animals now thriving in the area.

Congratulations to Xaiden and the Johnstone family from Little Mountain (right) for winning the day's major prize, a family pass kindly donated by Sea Life Sunshine Coast.



Thanks, planters!



COUNCIL LOOKS INTO POISONING

Sunshine Coast Council is investigating after two illegal tree poisoning incidents at Currimundi Lake and Buddina foreshore.

A sign like the one pictured left has been placed on the southern side of the Lake, along the lakeside walkway in between the boat ramp and Cliff Hargreaves Park.

Sadly, the poisoned trees were in an area that had been revegetated by our friends from local bush care groups.

"Currimundi bush care volunteers have given up more than 350 hours over the past 12 months caring for the bushland around the edge of the Lake," Councillor Tim Burns said. "Environmental vandalism that sees vegetation deliberately destroyed is wrong. It's illegal and robs everyone of the things that make our area special."



FIRE ANTS DETECTED IN CURRIMUNDI

Fire ants have been found at the Sunshine Coast Recreation Precinct in Currimundi, the second location on the Sunshine Coast after they were first detected at Nirimba in May. A five-kilometre biosecurity zone has been set up by the National Fire Ant Eradication Program and locals might have noticed the prominent roadside signage in recent weeks.

What's all the fire ant fuss about?

They may be small, but fire ants can do a lot of damage. They can impact:

Human health – fire ant bites cause painful stings and blisters, and sometimes allergic reactions.

The environment – fire ants eat native animals such as insects, lizards, spiders, frogs and birds; plus, they eat and damage seeds which can prevent germination of native species.

The economy – fire ants often build nests around electrical equipment such as air conditioners and water pumps. They also attack livestock, damage crops and can delay building and landscaping projects.

Our society – imagine a fire ant infestation at a children's playground, popular picnic spot or sportsground. They restrict all these activities, and their underground nesting can make the ground unstable.

How do they spread?

Fire ants can:

- fly
- float on water
- be moved in soil, hay and organic material.

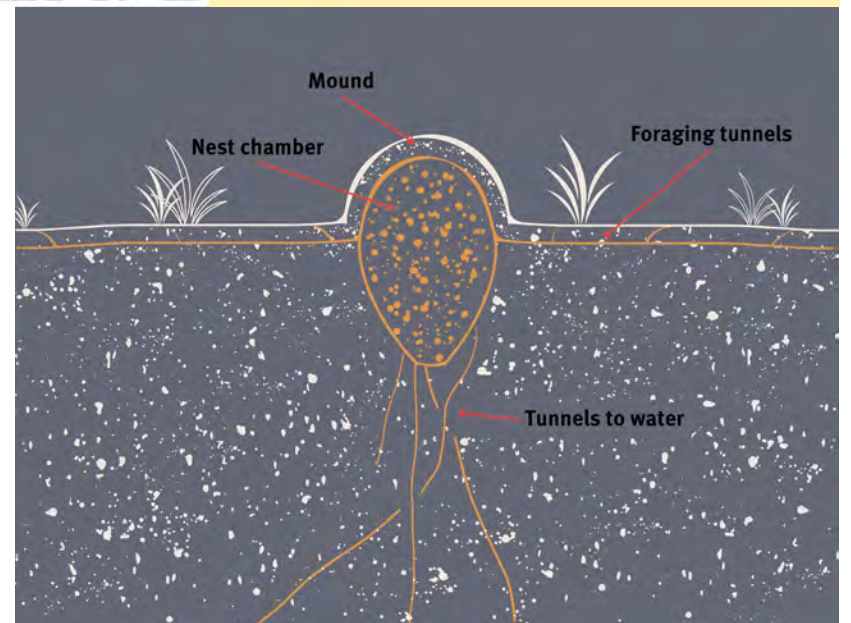


Learn more and look out

To have the best chance of eradicating fire ants from Australia, we need to work together as a community. The National Fire Ant Eradication Program website (fireants.org.au) has lots of excellent information about how to identify and report fire ants. Scan the QR code to visit the website or call 13 25 23.



ABOVE RIGHT: Extreme close-up of a fire ant, copper brown in colour with a darker abdomen. ABOVE LEFT: True size of fire ants shown on a key. BELOW: Diagram of a fire ant nest structure. Images courtesy of the National Fire Ant Eradication Program.



PHOTOGRAPHERS, OUR '25 CALENDAR NEEDS YOU!



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 photos of the Currimundi Catchment as part of the 2025 Wall Calendar competition.

This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the birdlife, wildflowers, beaches, lake and creeks that make up our beautiful backyard. Technical requirements are on the CCCG website: <https://cg.currimundicatchment.org.au/>. The key requirements are for A4, landscape orientation and high resolution (at least 1 MB).

Please email your images to calendar@currimundicatchment.org.au Entries close 4 October 2024.

LIGHTS ON THE LAKE



Yay, we have set a date for this year's Lights on the Lake! Mark your calendars for **Sunday 8 December 2024** for the 12th annual Lights on the Lake festival – a fantastic feature of the festive season on the Sunshine Coast. Look out for program highlights in our next newsletter.

Group reports

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

The past few months since the last edition of the newsletter have been a mixed bag for our catchment and group. There have been some wonderful events like the community tree planting at Council's new Honey Farm Road Environmental Reserve. We are looking forward to working with Council and our community in the future to transform this area into a wonderful natural asset that benefits the whole community, including our people, birds, wildlife and native trees and plants. On the downside, fire ant nests were detected in the catchment and native trees by the Currimundi Lake side have been vandalised.

I had the privilege to attend our local state MP Jarrod Bleijie's Kawana Community Awards event recently and witnessed the presentation of awards to our very own Glenys Powell, plus lots of other local community volunteers. CCCG nominated Glenys for her many years of service to our group as volunteer, committee member, newsletter editor, calendar curator and Lights on the Lake organiser. Glenys has recently moved out of the catchment, but still volunteers with our group, preparing our annual Currimundi Catchment wall calendar and helping on the Lights on the Lake organising committee. Thank you, Glenys. And congratulations and thanks to the other volunteers who received awards. You are all a credit to our community.

Tony, President

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

Spring is here with warm, sunny days and the birds and bees and animals are busy nesting. The shrub turkeys have shifted tons of leaf matter for their nests and the birds are raiding pots that have fibre in them, while lizards and snakes are basking in the sun. All good, but we now have a very large threat for our paradise and that is the infestation of fire ants which are a huge problem for the health of people and the economy of Australia. I know people are checking their gardens, but don't forget our pathways and nature strips too.

Weeding and planting is going OK with a good roll-up of volunteers. Thank you everyone. It is good to see the sign advising of tree poisoning beside our coastal pathway. By the time the next newsletter is printed, the endangered marine turtles that nest on our beaches will have started.

The official date for our turtle walkers will be the 1st of November. The area covered is from Buddina to the northern tip of Bribie Island. There are teams split between all the beaches. I would like to ask that if you are walking your dogs on an unpatrolled beach, they must be controlled at all times by your voice. Please take special care to pick up their droppings, both on the beach and the dunes. The fine is \$322 for not picking up and \$806 if not controlled.

I have noticed the sand dredge in the Lake and was advised that they were refurbishing the foreshores of the Lake. Our most treasured Wedding Bush near Alice Street has died, but not sure why as it was in a sheltered area and each year it flowered beautifully. The less plants we have on the foreshores, the more rubbish we will have in the Lake.

Rhonda, President

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

Summer is starting in a BLAZE and it's going to be a warm one! Parklands Community Group is ready. We have a clean pond with the swans back for a visit and a feed, the plovers are trying to get their family going and the residents are out and about. The earlier wet weather affected the grass cutting but things look back under control. If you or your children are using a motorised bike or scooter, please allow the pedestrians the courtesy of sharing the path.

Do you have a free hour or so once every three months? We are always looking for new delivery people in our area, particularly Homestead and Discovery. My details are in the Handy Contacts on this page, and I would be pleased to welcome some new people.

Also, check out Council's Free Tree Days: Viridian Circuit Park Birtinya on 13 September, Bokarina Blvd Park on 17 September, Currimundi Lake Twilight Markets on 20 September and Rebecca St Park Meridan Plains on 24 September. Residents with a rates notice can take two native trees.

Our Division 3 Councillor Tim Burns is also holding a community catch-up day on 10 September at Parklands shops (9am-11am), Birtinya shops (11.30am-1.30pm) and Wurtulla IGA (2pm-4pm).

Drop in and have a chat. Further details available on the 'Cr Tim Burns Division 3' Facebook page.


Ron, President

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR E-NEWS, FIND OUT ABOUT EVENTS

A big shout-out to the wonderful folk who rock up to our monthly working bees. We have had the satisfaction of being able to re-visit problem sites and keep weeds at bay, as well as expand into new areas.

As always, the goal is to eradicate the pests and allow our wonderful

flora and fauna to shine.

Working bees are held on the second Saturday of the month, 2.30 – 4.30pm, all welcome! Go to cg.currimundicatchment.org.au/events/ or use the QR code  to sign up to receive emails with handy information about our events.



Handy contacts

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

Meetings: Kawana Forest Meeting Place, 160 Woodlands Blvd Meridan Plains on the second Monday of every odd month.

Next meeting: 7pm, 11 November

Contact: President Tony, 0435 375 450, email 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, 8 October

Contact: President Rhonda 5437 6481, email foclinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au

Working bees: Ruth 0408 989 263 focl.currimundicatchment.org.au/calendar

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

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

KAWANA FOREST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Contact: President Glenn 0412 286 156, htimg60@gmail.com

Website: www.kafra.org.au

Meeting Place hire: 1300 786 227

OTHER CONTACTS

Sunshine Coast Council: 5475 7272

Kawana Police: 5413 8700

Policelink: 131 444

Queensland Boating & Fisheries Patrol: 5444 4599

TurtleCare: 0437 559 067

Dept of Environment, Science and Innovation DESI: 1300 130 372 to report spills, dumping or anything suspicious in our waterways.

RSPCA Animal Welfare Hotline: 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