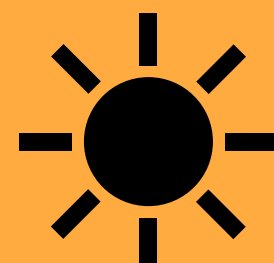
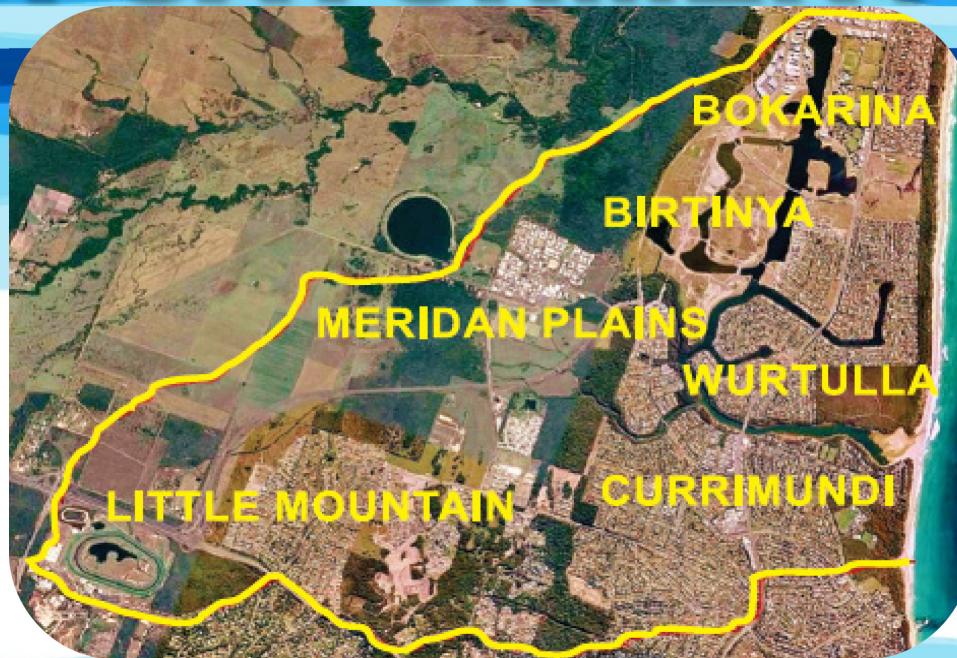


# CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT NEWS

## 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.**



**Summer  
2024**

Proudly  
supported by  
 Sunshine Coast  
COUNCIL

## LIGHTS ON THE LAKE ALMOST HERE!

The festive season is fast approaching and that means the very popular annual Lights on the Lake festival is coming up.

As always, there will be a large program of children's activities, including creative craft stations and ever-popular face painting. This year we are including a kids disco by DJ Candi in the entertainment program of local artists. Another new activity is an indigenous weaving workshop run by Hannah "Goanna" Jones, an Anaiwan/Gamilaraay woman, who will share First Nations values and of community and conservation through weaving.

There will be an interesting selection of food stalls as well as local environmental displays and information in the TurtleCare marquee and the Council Discovery Van. Santa will make an appearance, arriving by boat across the lake.

The highlight each year is the parade of decorated watercraft, paddling around Currimundi Lake at dusk. Dress up your canoe, kayak or paddle board to join the contest for best decorated and best illuminated watercraft to win a prize.



**EVENT DETAILS**  
**Sunday 8 December,**  
**4pm – 8pm**  
**Crummunda Park,**  
**Coongarra Esplanade,**  
**Wurtulla**  
**See you there!**



The evening ends with a stunning laser light show from the main stage.


Bring your family and friends and a picnic rug for a wonderful event to put you in the festive spirit. Don't forget! Parking is limited, so plan to walk the last bit, or consider catching a bus along Nicklin Way.

Sunshine Coast Council continues to be our major supporter, along with a generous selection of fantastic sponsors (see their logos on this page).

Thanks for making our event happen!



Register your boat, kayak or paddle board using the QR code below for the water procession or visit [www.currimundicatchment.org.au/lights-on-lake](http://www.currimundicatchment.org.au/lights-on-lake). You can also register on site on the day.

**Sign up & then  
light it up!**  
**Water parade  
registration  
form** 



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— EXPECT THE BEST —



# PRAISE FOR THE UNIVERSAL VOLUNTEER SPIRIT

Yosuke Yagami may have only visited Australia temporarily, but his impact on the environment, and all those he met, left a memorable mark.

The Japanese engineer spent a year in Australia undertaking environmental studies and volunteering at just about every event offered by our group, as well as several others in our region. Before he returned home in September, he had attended working bees (see photos), volunteered with multiple bushcare groups and attended conferences and workshops about our local flora and fauna. His commitment to volunteering was made all the more remarkable by the fact that he often had to catch several buses from his base in Nambour to attend local events. Here's a quick Q&A with Yosuke.

## What did you study in Australia?

"I studied a Diploma of Conservation and Ecosystem Management at TAFE Queensland, Nambour. We had indoor lessons as well as practical ones outside such as the survey of pademelon or plant collection. In addition, I also researched vegetation restoration for platypus habitat."

## What volunteering did you do?

"Other than CCCG, I joined three local bushcare groups in Nambour (Namba creek, Gulung Gung, and Florabunda Pocket), as well as QPWS&P (Glasshouse Mountains and Ferny Forest) and Hinterland Bush Links. I also volunteered in the nursery of Mooloolah River Landcare after my graduation. I joined as many groups as possible, because I wanted to connect with many people and know the difference in the flora and ecosystems between catchments, regions and vegetation classes."

## Did you attend any notable conferences or workshops?

"I went to the Koala Forum, which was held in April 2024. It was a good opportunity to talk to people and learn about koala conservation. I felt the koala has a role as the symbol of environmental conservation on the Sunshine Coast, not only for itself. Vegetation, habitat, food source and roadkill... every factor has strong connections with other flora, fauna and even the whole ecosystem."



"Bioblitz (October 2023) was also an exciting event for me. I joined for two weekends in a row, including various workshops held by professional people. I think that building connections between specialists and citizens will be a critical factor in conservation, to get many people involved."

## Highlights from your time on the Sunshine Coast?

"Actually, I had three 'targeted animals' which I wanted to witness during my stay; platypus, echidna and koala. I encountered the first two species in January, but koala was so challenging. After several trials, I finally found a small koala this August. That's so exciting!"

## What you will be doing back in Japan?

"I'm going to return to my previous job in September and join an invasive lizard control project. This small lizard is a serious problem on a Japanese island, which is registered as a world natural heritage site. I'll be looking into the innovation of control methods (capture, detection and prevention)."

"After getting new knowledge and experience, I'd like to start job hunting in Australia in future!"



**THANK YOU:** We held a 'picnic in the park' in October to thank the volunteers who deliver the Currimundi Catchment News to your letterboxes every quarter. We are very appreciative of our community-minded volunteer posties!



**COMMUNITY CLEANS UP:** One of the many events put on by the Currimundi Catchment Care Group that is well-supported by locals.

## CCCG 'VIBRANT AND RELEVANT'

The Currimundi Catchment Care Group held its AGM in September with Tony Moorhead once again elected President and Fergus FitzGerald Vice President.

Angelina Betts was nominated as a new committee member and was elected to sit alongside all previous committee members, who stood again and were re-elected.

Committee members are Christine Muir, Keith Hunt, Joan Andrews, Enid Traill, Janet Hohnen and Angelina Betts.

Tony noted in his President's Report that a few years ago there was some concern about the future of CCCG due to waning interest and support. "But the success of the last couple of years with new and committed volunteers, new initiatives and a sound financial position ensures that CCCG is still very vibrant and relevant."



# THE CURRIMUNDI LAKE CONUNDRUM

"@Council, when will you open the lake? The water is getting dangerously high."

"Last year we had a big lake for swimming and paddling and now it's full of sand. Where has it gone?"

"Let nature take its course. This is normal, it happens all the time."

Locals on socials or chatting in person will be very familiar with this type of sentiment about our beloved Currimundi Lake.

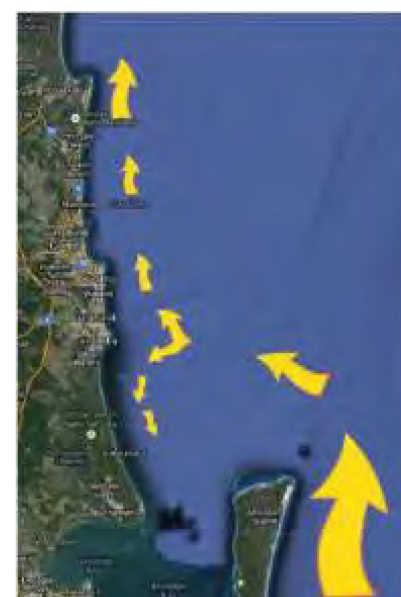
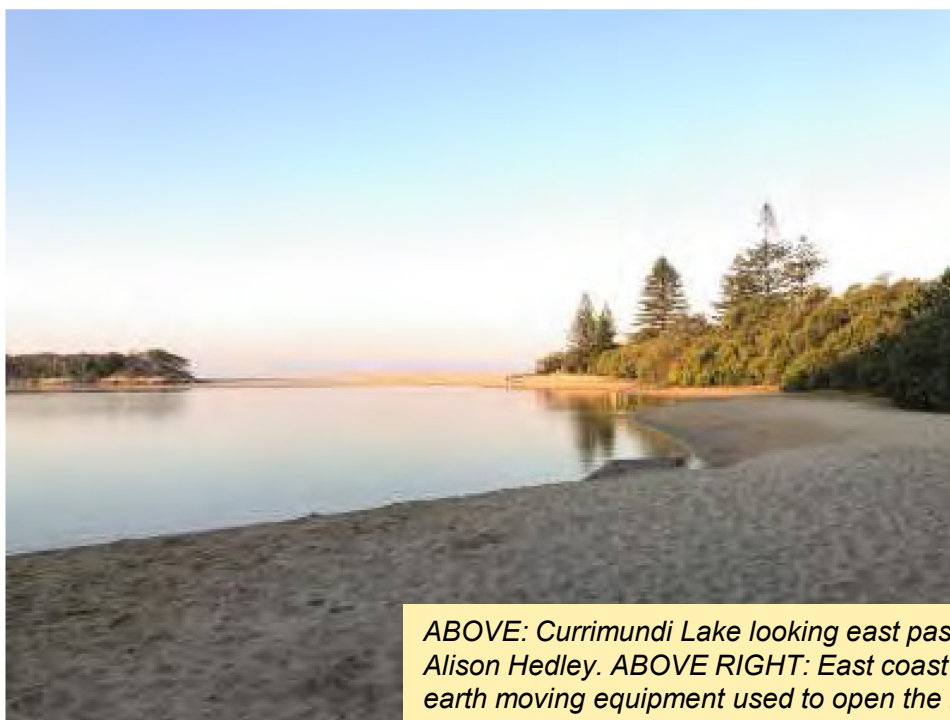
Many people often question how the changes happen that make the lake more or less safe or pleasant, sandy or muddy, deep or shallow. The changing profile of Currimundi Lake stems largely from the fact that it is an ICOLL, an Intermittently Closed and Open Lake and Lagoon.

It is sand moving north along the coast that is responsible for closing the mouth of the lake and for filling up the swimming pools.

As well as the northern moving currents, there are other influences, predominantly winds and the direction of waves breaking on the shore. Every few years we experience a significant rain event that causes a massive volume of fresh water to flow towards the ocean. This moves huge amounts of sand out of the lake and back into the ocean.

**Where is the sand from?** It's carried along on the east coast longshore drift, movement which has been going on for many thousands of years and has created entire sand islands, including Bribie Island, Moreton Island and Fraser Island.

Left to itself, this pattern would continue over and over, however the development of a residential community in the area means that



ABOVE: Currimundi Lake looking east past the sand berm. Photograph by Alison Hedley. ABOVE RIGHT: East coast longshore drift. BELOW: Large earth moving equipment used to open the mouth of the lake.

Council undertakes active management of the lake's entrance to ensure safety.

Over recent years, the predominant strategy has been the use of a sand berm. This is the high sand hill at the mouth with its steep slope facing the sea. This berm ensures that the entrance to the lake will remain at the northern end of the lake and thus provide protection for the housing, parks and roads at the southern end.

On some occasions, Council has chosen to open the mouth to release water. And at the northern end of the canal system that flows into Currimundi Lake, there are pumps that can be turned on or off to regulate water levels.

So, when you see large earth moving equipment shifting sand at Currimundi, be assured this is to maintain and protect the



area for the enjoyment of residents and tourists alike.

And don't be disappointed if your paddling pool has disappeared this year. It'll be back sometime. It all depends on the weather!

**Read Council's fact sheet on ICOLLs:**  
[tinyurl.com/bdech9wh](https://tinyurl.com/bdech9wh)

## WOW, OUR 2025 WALL CALENDAR IS A BEAUTY!

It's always an exciting time of the year when we receive the photographic entries for this wall calendar.

Every year we're quite overwhelmed by the creativity and breadth of the subject matter in the photographs.

It's a reminder that each individual person sees the world in their own unique way. Thank you to our amazing local photographers who have the talent and the patience to capture special moments and to share them with us.

This year was a lesson in the changes brought about by the seasons. Russell Strachan's picture of a great egret on the cover page is a great example because it shows the interesting colour changes that happen during the breeding season.

The egret's facial colour goes from yellow to green and the beak goes from yellow to black. They also grow beautiful long lacy feathers known as "nuptial plumes" that hang down across their backs. These are used in a courtship display.

We hope you will also enjoy these beautiful images of the Currimundi Catchment as the months go by in 2025.



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).




## 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 on Sunday 8 December. 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's 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 help out, contact us at [lightsonthelake@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:lightsonthelake@currimundicatchment.org.au). Next year we will continue our usual activities with our monthly weeding working bees and events throughout the year. Why not make a New Year's resolution to get more involved in actively looking after our local environment?

You can sign up on our website or via the QR code  to receive our eBulletin emails whenever we have events planned. Have a wonderful festive season everyone. Take care, have fun and please remember to look after our local environment while you do.

**Tony, President**



### FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

We are entering the final quarter of 2024. Friends of Currimundi Lake will wind up with their final meeting for the year on 3 December and our breakup dinner with NHW on Tuesday 10th. Our last weeding day will be on 11 December in Hargreaves Park starting at 8am. It would be lovely to see as many of our weeding volunteers as can come so that Ruth and I can thank you all for all the dedicated work you have done over 2024. I would also like to remind everyone that our FOCL meetings are on the first Tuesday night of each second month.

The pythons/carpet snakes are out and shedding their skins. We have had two in our garden and they are in the bushland too. Just quietly walk around them. The toads are about, plus I have seen two different frogs which is great. Baby birds are abundant, and the sacred kingfishers have quite a few holes/nests in the dunes near Coondibah Creek.

The first official TurtleCare walk was on 1 November. If you see tracks or a turtle, please call the Turtlecare Hotline 0437 559 067 or my number 0427 376 481 for Currimundi. If you have a doggie, please keep them away from nests and tracks. Only 1 in 1000 survive, so they do need our help. Please pick up all rubbish as it eventually gets into the ocean in some form if not picked up. Thank you everyone.

A merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone from Friends of Currimundi Lake.

**Rhondda, President**

### PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

Our group is relatively quiet, with the exception of some tree blowdown after the last high winds and storms, but the path has been cleared.

Council were speedy and should be back to finish the job with over-hanging Casuarinas. The community is generally stable.

Thanks to the new deliverers who have joined our ranks to deliver this newsletter to homes in our little patch. We are getting our newsletters out to the residents, but we could do with a few extra in the event of future need. If you can help out, please give me a call on 0448 517 905.

**Ron, President**

### NEWS BITES

Planting a verge garden. What to do with used batteries. Free trees. Invasive plants and animals. Getting involved in conservation. Just a small taste of the useful and interesting information you can find on Sunshine Coast Council's Environment website. [www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/environment](http://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/environment)

October to April is migratory shorebird season. You might notice signage along Golden Beach, the Maroochy River (Cotton Tree, Picnic Point, and Bradman Avenue) and Maroochy North Shore to let people know that shorebirds are about and offer tips on how to share our shores.

Turtle season begins in November. Volunteers walk the beach at first light to check for turtle tracks. If tracks are found, the nest is protected with meshing and volunteers keep a close watch, ready to welcome the hatchlings around February. Report turtles and/or tracks by phoning 0437 559 067.

## 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, 13 January. Contact: President Tony, 0435 375 450, email [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 second month. Next meeting: 7.30pm, 3 December. Contact: President Rhondda 5437 6481, email [foclinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:foclinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au) Working bees: Ruth 0408 989 263 [focl.currimundicatchment.org.au/calendar](http://focl.currimundicatchment.org.au/calendar)

### 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, [htimsg60@gmail.com](mailto:htimsg60@gmail.com) Website: [www.kafra.org.au](http://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