

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT NEWS



Winter
2025

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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 four times a year? Please phone Tony on 0435 375 450.**



HELPING OUR WILDLIFE THRIVE



ABOVE: A lorikeet inside a nest box. MIDDLE: Lauren, CCCG President Tony, Eileen and Anna. RIGHT: A brushtail possum found during a previous nest box monitoring session. BELOW: A family of sugar gliders gets cozy inside a nest box.

Did you know you can help protect local wildlife while enjoying the outdoors? NatureWatch is a conservation program coordinated by Sunshine Coast Council that invites community members to get involved in caring for our environment. Through fun, hands-on activities, workshops and presentations in council reserves, NatureWatch helps locals learn about and protect our unique natural areas. Community members take part as citizen scientists, gathering valuable information to support wildlife and habitat conservation. You can find out more on Council's website: www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/environment/get-involved-in-conservation

What is nest box monitoring?

One of the key activities in the NatureWatch program is nest box monitoring. Currimundi Catchment Care Group (CCCG) is working with NatureWatch to coordinate quarterly monitoring of nest boxes in two local parks and one environmental reserve. This activity is open to everyone in the community – not just CCCG members!



Why are nest boxes important?

In the wild, many Australian animals such as sugar gliders, possums, microbats and parrots rely on tree hollows for shelter and nesting. These hollows only form in very old trees, but urban development and clearing have reduced these critical habitats. Many trees in our parks and reserves are still too young to develop suitable hollows. That's where artificial nest boxes come in – providing much-needed homes for our local wildlife.

Over time, nest boxes have been installed throughout the Coast and hinterland. Many of the older wooden boxes have now deteriorated and need to be monitored or replaced. To help with this, Council and NatureWatch have launched a two-year citizen science project at 20 sites across the region, where community volunteers collect data on the boxes, the trees hosting them and the wildlife using them. This data will guide future decisions about nest box placement and help improve wildlife protection efforts. CCCG hopes to be able to sponsor a number of new boxes once the monitoring exercise has been completed.

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CELEBRATE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY WITH CCCG

Ever wondered how a patch of overgrazed paddock can become a thriving bushland teeming with wildlife? Come and see for yourself during this year's World Environment Day Festival, coordinated by the Sunshine Coast Environment Council. **Currimundi Catchment Care Group (CCCG) invites you and your family to join a self-guided walk through the stunning Bancroft's Red Gum Environment Reserve on Sunday 15 June, from 10am to 12 noon.**

Once used for cattle grazing, this area has been lovingly restored over nine years with 18,000 native seedlings transforming the landscape into a rich paperbark and banksia wallum ecosystem. Today, it's home to a diverse array of local plants, birds, insects and animals that have returned, thanks to community-led planting efforts. During the walk, CCCG volunteers will be on hand to share stories about the plants and animals now calling the reserve home. Families can test their knowledge with a simple display-based quiz – and go in the draw for a fun prize! And when you're done exploring, enjoy a free sausage sizzle and cold drink in the fresh bushland setting.



Why Celebrate World Environment Day (WED)?

World Environment Day is celebrated globally on 5 June to encourage awareness and action for the protection of our environment. Supported by the United Nations, community groups, governments, and businesses worldwide, it's a chance to come together to make a positive impact.



THIS PAGE: Photos from last year's World Environment Day community event at Bancroft's Reserve including some lucky prize winners, left. Head along to this year's event on Saturday 15 June from 10am. See you there!

DONATE YOUR 10-CENT REFUNDS TO US, CHEERS!



Eligible Containers

C1013766 'What's that?' you ask.

It's a special code that enables you to contribute in a small way to Lights on the Lake without even leaving home or putting your hand in your pocket. Our free community festival is a volunteer-run event, funded by grants and our generous local sponsors, but it gets harder every year to scrimp and save so we can put on a top-quality event for our community.

You can donate your container refunds by using our Currimundi Catchment Care Group's charity member code when you drop off your aluminium, plastic and glass drink cans, wine bottles and more at a local Containers For Change depot (or they will even pick them up for you).

More info on how and where to return your empties here:
www.containersforchange.com.au/qld/

CITIZEN SCIENTISTS MAKING AN IMPACT

Continued from front page.

How's the monitoring going so far?

The first stage of the program – identifying the location and condition of all known nest boxes – is complete. Locally, CCCG volunteers and community members have already been trained and completed the first Autumn monitoring round at three sites: Noel Burns Park, Crummunda Park and Sunjewel Environmental Reserve. Many other volunteers also participated at other sites across the region.

Despite showery weather, Tony, Anna, Eileen and Lauren braved the elements to check the boxes. Using GPS maps on an iPad, they located each box, recorded its condition, height and the size of the host tree and canopy. Then came the exciting part – using a camera on a pole to peek inside!

We were thrilled to find three baby sugar gliders in one box, and a sugar glider and a young possum in others. Seeing wildlife using the boxes makes all the effort worthwhile.

We'll be back for the next round in Spring – and you can join in too!

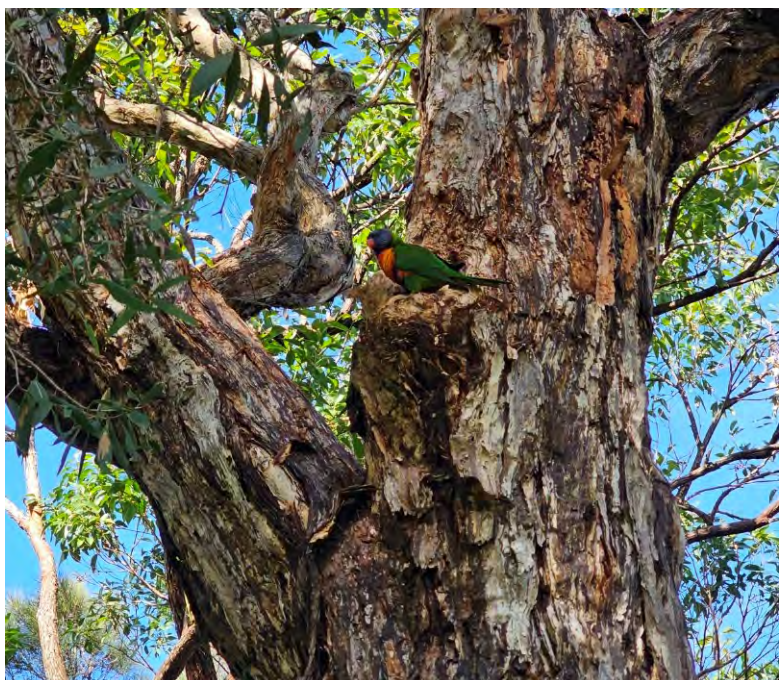
Want to get involved?

Would you like to join the next round of Nest Box Monitoring and make a difference for local wildlife? The Spring monitoring round starts in September. Check the Council's NatureWatch webpage closer to the date to register, get updates, and find out how you can join this exciting citizen science activity.



ABOVE FROM LEFT: SCC Nesting Box project coordinator Nitty Simard, CCCG President Tony, Anna and Eileen recording data in Noel Burns Park.

“We were thrilled to find three baby sugar gliders...another sugar glider and a young possum. Seeing the wildlife using the boxes makes all the effort worthwhile.”



WEEDS MEET THEIR MATCH IN OUR PRECIOUS PATCH

Recently we cycled around our catchment with dedicated council officer Dan, planning our weeding hotspots for 2025. Dan has been our support officer for only 15 months.

He was amazed at the difference he could observe from the 2024 working bees.

Magnify this by 10 and you have some idea of the difference these working bees have made over the past 10+ years. Many areas would be completely smothered by corky vine, singapore daisy, barleria and all the other nasties we tackle. Instead, we see native flora reappearing – dianella, midyim, hop bush and more.

It certainly is amazing what can be achieved in such a short space of time.

Sadly, some new weeds are trying to muscle in, and we do need to stay vigilant. Gloriosa has made its first appearance in our patch, and inch weed is popping up in new areas. But they will get their comeuppance.

For anyone interested in joining this merry band, working bees are two hours, second Saturday of the month. Contact cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au or you can sign up for our eBulletin, which provides updates on CCCG events, including working bees. Sign up using the QR code on the back page.



A happy Dianella, without weeds.


Group reports

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

Wow! The rain we have received lately has been quite incredible.

While our parks, gardens and bushland love it, so do the weeds. They are flourishing. We have been keeping up our weeding working bees which do make a difference, but we can always use some extra help.

Once again, CCCG will be celebrating World Environment Day with a guided walk at Bancroft's Red Gum Reserve, Little Mountain on 15 July. This is a great opportunity for you and your family to learn about a community program that transformed a patch of degraded grazing land into a thriving pocket of bushland. I also encourage everyone to join in Council's National Tree Day event at Doonan on 15 July. See details of both events in this newsletter.

You can sign up for our eBulletin on our website or via this QR code  to receive email updates whenever we have events like these planned. Take care, have fun and please remember to look after our local environment while you do. **Tony, President**



FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

Ruth has been busy with Bushcare even though we have had quite a bit of rain. Weeds, especially Siratro, have exploded. We had hoped to have some nesting boxes on our side of the Lake as we have some very large trees, and we do have one that is usually occupied – but we missed out this time.

Our turtle season is over for another year however our poor beaches are still coping it from the high seas. There are some areas I have never seen eroded in 25 years. They will have a very big problem trying to rebuild, especially with the number of people using them.

There was a very interesting ABC News article on the amount of plastic in our mutton birds on Lord Howe Island recently. (Read it online here tinyurl.com/yck73pzs) This is a very good wake-up call for all of us to try even harder to cut down our plastic usage, but also a call to be very careful of what washes into our waterways. Litter on roadways and foreshores washes out to sea. Our environmental day, with guest speakers and free plants for everyone, was very encouraging.

We are now closely watching how many different weeds we have in our area growing at great speed!

Rhondda, President

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

Good news: the swans are back nesting on the pond at Dot Billingham Park. It's been more than 10 years since they have called our pond home. Also, a very large/tall tree has fallen into the pond from the west side. I will contact council to see if they will remove it. Some mindless person has driven their vehicle off Peony Circuit and torn up/damaged the grassed area of the BBQ lawn. Please use some basic intelligence and don't destroy your park/our park!!

Activity in our/your neighbourhood has been good despite the wet conditions. People are out walking the streets and looking for the sunny features of our community. Anyone interested in the Parklands area, either side of Parklands Blvd from Meridan State School to Caloundra Road could come to a meeting with Cllr Tim Burns at my house (patio) 29 Lakeshore Place on Tuesday, 1 July 2025 at 9am. Please send me a note of your potential attendance. Any questions please contact me at rburnett@bigpond.net.au. **Ron, President**

NEWS BITES

FOUR YEARS IN ONE: Did you know that in 2025, the United Nations has declared multiple international years?

We are now almost half-way through the International Year of: Peace and Trust, Glaciers' Preservation, Cooperatives and Quantum Science and Technology.

LOCAL BIODIVERSITY INSIGHTS: Learn about our region's trees, plants, animals and habitat in Sunshine Coast Council's Biodiversity Report.

Fun fact from the 2024 Biodiversity Report: native vegetation covers 57% of our region. Find the latest report, plus others from previous years, online at tinyurl.com/55sra35u

QUOTABLE QUOTE

"Like music and art, love of nature is a common language that can transcend political or social boundaries."

– Former US President Jimmy Carter

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, 14 July 2025
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 June 2025
Contact: President Rhondda 5437 6481, focinfo@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, htimsg60@gmail.com
Website: www.kafra.org.au
Meeting Place hire: 1300 786 227

OTHER CONTACTS

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