

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT NEWS



Autumn
2026

Proudly
supported by
 Sunshine Coast
COUNCIL



Welcome to our community newsletter 🤗

Voluntarily produced by Currimundi Catchment Care Group Inc (ABN 77 276 084 092), this publication 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.

LOVE CURRIMUNDI LAKE? JOIN US ON 29 MARCH



Have you ever thought: “Why does Currimundi Lake periodically close off to the ocean?”, or “Who is responsible for mechanically opening the Lake?”, “I wonder if there are sharks in Currimundi Lake?”

You’re not alone. Currimundi Lake is an iconic and popular natural asset enjoyed by thousands of people throughout the year, in all its changing ‘moods’.

In fact, many people consider Currimundi Lake and its surrounding parks to be the jewel in the crown of the beautiful Sunshine Coast.

Regular visitors to the Lake notice the changes and talk about them, sometimes leading to misunderstanding or even misinformation in the community about the coastal dynamics and ecology of the Lake.

There is a similar misunderstanding or lack of knowledge about which level of government and agencies are responsible for different parts of the Lake and the adjacent lands.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF OUR 2026 CALENDAR CONTRIBUTORS: Lilac Park bridge by Declan Cardone, pink galah by Toni Moran, pelican at sunrise by Dot Crane, yellow cottonwood flower by Kaye Brown and sunset by Annie Boyd.

**LIVING LAKE
COMMUNITY EVENT**
Sunday 29 March 2026
9am – 12noon
Cliff Hargreaves Park, near the
playground off Westaway Parade

The Sunshine Coast Council receives lots of requests to act and is often criticised about management of the Lake and its surrounds.

In response, Currimundi Catchment Care Group has decided to work in partnership with the Council and Friends of Currimundi Lake (FOCL) to hold a family friendly event at the Lake that is informative and fun.

Continued over page.



ASK AND LEARN ABOUT OUR LAKE ENVIRONMENT

So, what can you expect to experience and come away with?

The Council stalls will include: static displays on intermittent closed and open lakes and lagoons (ICOLLS); the different government roles in lake management; invasive plants, feral and domestic animal management; and interactive games on 'roles you play in the environment'. It will be staffed by council experts from the Lake Entrance Management, Bushcare, Responsible Pet Ownership, Turtle Care, Healthy Places (invasive pests) and Discovery Van teams.

The CCCG stall will share information about its objectives and community activities and how to get involved. It will also run a self-guided walk along the coastal pathway to identify local native plants and learn something interesting about each one.

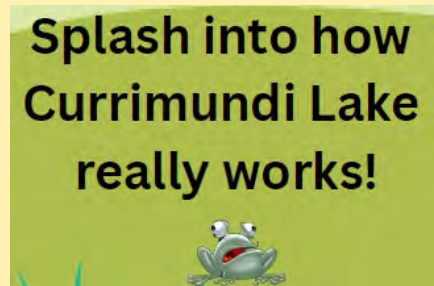
Everyone who participates by completing the associated quiz will receive a free native plant seedling and go into the draw for a chance to win a family pass to Sea Life at Mooloolaba.



The Friends of Currimundi Lake stall will provide information on its objectives and community activities, as well as the recent history of the Lake through photos over the last 40 years.

The National Fire Ant Eradication Program will also have a stall to inform people about the national response to the devastating invasion of fire ants. This will include live fire ants, models, videos, activity books for kids and the critical role of residents in the eradication treatment.

You should leave with a better understanding of the health of the Lake, how we manage and care for it and a stronger sense of care and ownership. See you on 29 March!



STORM PHOTO: Grant Bishop.
GLOSSY BLACK PHOTO: Graham Gillies.

FIVE STEPS TO A HAPPY & SUSTAINABLE NEW YEAR!

Here we are, in 2026! The year of the Fire Horse in the Chinese zodiac and the United Nations' International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, of the Woman Farmer and of Volunteers for Sustainable Development.

Let that last one inspire you and think about how you can weave a bit of sustainable volunteerism into your daily life in and around the Currimundi Catchment this year. And remember, no act is too small.

Here are some simple ideas thanks to the wonderful Down To Earth blog put together by the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI).

Sign up to receive their excellent newsletter here bit.ly/4ksmVSu. It's filled with practical tips and stories to help you make informed decisions that contribute to a healthier planet.

Sustainable+achievable New Year's resolutions

- 1. Dodge waste:** Plan ahead when shopping and consider the environmental and social impacts of what you are buying. Limit the potential for wasted food, unwanted gifts, single-use products and excess packaging.
- 2. Embrace active transportation:** Three words: 50-cent fares (or is that two words?). Public transport has never been cheaper. But also try biking or walking to cut down on your carbon footprint.
- 3. Recycle smarter!** For a little extra money, collect and return 10-cent refund bottles, cans and cartons. Unsure if an item is recyclable? Go here www.recyclamate.com.au and find out!
- 4. Plant natives:** Native Australian plants can typically survive on rainwater alone and rarely need fertilisers or pesticides. They also provide habitat, food and shelter for local wildlife such as birds, bees, small mammals and lizards. There are plenty of indoor-suitable natives like the kentia palm, kangaroo fern and wax vine, not to mention full-sun plants that thrive in the heat. Council offers ratepayers two free native plant tube stocks every six months. Read more here bit.ly/4akvnhM

- 5. Throw away less food:** Aussie households waste 2.5 million tonnes of food each year – that's more than four kilos per household per week! Food waste creates greenhouse gases that harm the environment, so it's important to reduce what we throw away. Check out Love Food Hate Waste's collection of recipes designed specifically for excess food here www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/foods-and-recipes
>> FIVE MORE TIPS COMING UP IN THE NEXT EDITION!



LIGHTS ON THE LAKE, OUR BEST ONE YET

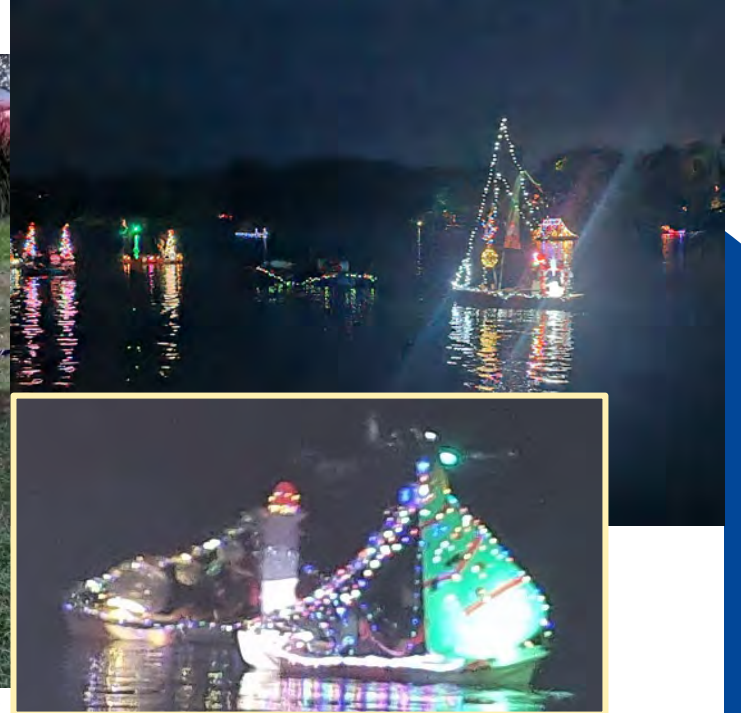
The annual Lights on the Lake festival continues to attract very large crowds to enjoy the natural beauty of this iconic part of the Sunshine Coast. The twin aims of this well-established community event are to provide free family-friendly entertainment and to promote care for our valuable and vulnerable coastal environment, which you can learn more about at the "Living Lake – discover how we care for our lake together" event on 29 March (see cover).

It might sound cliché, but last year's festival was rated the best yet by people involved in the inaugural event in 2011. Certainly, the crowds, which at one time stretched halfway along Crummunda Park and across Currimundi Lake on the southern shore, stayed on until after dark dancing and singing to the very energetic DJ Candi leading the kid's disco beneath the dazzling laser light show.

Earlier in the afternoon, a record number of 449 registered for the extensive hands-on children's program, up 18% from the year before, creating beautiful handcrafted Christmas items. There was a big queue lining up to have their faces painted by the three talented artists. The drumming circle was also popular with Levi inspiring potential music makers. The entertainment program featured another first, The Little Big Band of 18 talented musicians creating a big brass sound that drew even more to the stage area.

This was followed by the equally impressive Sunshine Coast Show Choir, Undecided Ukulele Band (festival regulars) and Mick Shipley. Meanwhile down at the lake, 50 participants were preparing their kayaks and paddle boards for the signature part of the festival, the twilight parade of decorated and illuminated watercraft on the lake. The creative talent and effort really showed with the 20 craft creating a memorable spectacle.

This event would not be possible without the generous financial support provided by the businesses listed on this page. Big thanks to you all.



ABOVE: Winners and runners-up in the 2025 Lights on the Lake water parade. BELOW: Mayor Rosanna Natoli with, from left, Fergus FitzGerald, Tony Moorhead, Neil Smith, Glenys Powell and Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie MP.

READER SURVEY

THANK YOU to the 44 people who took our reader survey last year and shared such encouraging feedback about this newsletter.

Most respondents prefer to receive a printed copy (it can be recycled) and seven offered to send in stories and photos for future editions (we'll contact you with more info soon; if you're also keen, email President Tony cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au).

The most popular ways people enjoy our catchment is kayaking, bushwalking, gardening, surfing and photography. Cool! Here's some direct quotes:

"I've only lived here for 10 years; this is the single item I read that tells me what is interesting in this area that I see regularly."

"Thanks for all your hard work on creating this environmentally focused newsletter! As a first-time reader, I'm looking forward to future editions."

"Keep it up! Your work in producing the catchment news is highly valued!"

The winner of the \$30 gift card is Gerd from Currimundi. Congratulations! 😊

A special thanks to all the volunteers (136 on the day), including from Currimundi Catchment Care Group, Friends of Currimundi Lake, Turtle Care, Dicky Beach Surf Lifesaving Club, Caloundra Coast Guard, Kawana SES, Caloundra Lions Club, Caloundra Girl Guides and other community members without whom this wonderful event could not happen. Once again, our local MP and Deputy Premier, Jarrod Bleijie, filled the important role of MC on the main stage with his usual flair for such events.

Finally, thanks to all the local businesses, organisations and individuals who donated goods and prizes, or provided services: Anaconda, Aroona Foodstore, Australia Zoo, Bill Alexander, Boomerang Bags, Bunnings Caloundra, Coles Caloundra and Kawana, Currimundi Newsagency, Dicky Beach Supporters Club, Dixon Homes, Domino's Pizza Currimundi, Gage Security, Haymes Paints Currimundi, IGA Little Mountain, KAG Event Electrical, Kawana Bowls Club, Kaye Brown, Kennards Hire Caloundra, McDonalds Currimundi, Night Owl Parklands, Nothling Building Group, Officeworks Warana, Sealife Sunshine Coast, Unitywater, Vanilla Cove, Woolworths Currimundi and Zarraffa's Coffee Currimundi.

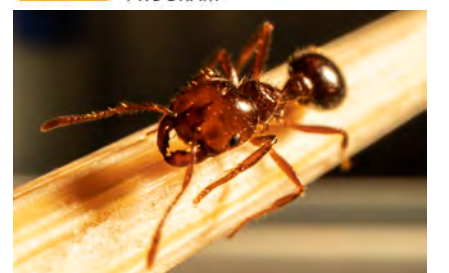


STAY VIGILANT ON FIRE ANTS

Teams from the National Fire Ant Eradication Program will be returning to the Currimundi area this year to follow up on detections confirmed last year.

Fire ants are pests that can cause serious social, economic and environmental damage.

Visit fireants.org.au to report fire ants (even if you're not sure), read the facts about treatment, see the fire ant map, learn how to identify fire ants and stop the spread.



GROUP REPORTS

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

Last year finished on a high note for us with our wonderful Lights on the Lake Community Festival. We love planning and presenting these events each year with funding assistance from Sunshine Coast Council and our generous sponsors, and many hours of hard work from a great band of community volunteers. Most of all though, it is you, our community, who make these events such a success.

Thanks also to the community members and volunteers who 'Got Their Gloves On' for our annual Clean Up Australia Day event at Stockyard Park, Little Mountain on 1 March. Our event, and many others like it in our region and around Australia, is a great way to give a little back to the place we call home. We'll put some photos in the next edition.

I'm looking forward to the 'Living Lake' event that we are co-hosting with Sunshine Coast Council and Friends of Currimundi Lake later this month (details on page one and two). I know that local residents and regular visitors are passionate about Currimundi Lake and beaches. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about the lake and coastal ecosystems and it should be a fun morning for the whole family too.

Tony, President

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

The year has started with some good rain for our plants and animals. But it also brings on a strong growth of introduced plants, those we call 'weeds'. I wonder how many people who hear the term 'weeds' really thinks about what it means. I had someone just recently ask me what is a weed and he gave me an example – why is that plant a weed and not an olive tree or a cotton plant? Some plants that have been introduced into the pastoral, or farming, sector have become a nightmare to control. The same with animals, insects, reptiles, birds. Think about it.

Our weeding bees have started for the year and our turtle season is nearly over until October/November this year. We had two nests and one turtle that did not lay, and three strandings. Two were alive, one hatchling in the Lake and one on the beach. These were taken out to Australia Zoo by myself and my stranding partner Alan; the other was unfortunately dead on the beach. This one was buried in the dunes. There are many walkers with dogs on Currimundi – Ballinger Beach, but I would like to say thank you to these people who were very good in managing their dogs while our hatchlings were making their way to the water.

As some of you know, I have a garden for wildlife and just recently I had a one metre-plus goanna in our garden among the plants. Possibly a sand goanna from the Reserve behind us. Don't forget everyone, if you are interested in our Lake and the Environment around the Lake plus what comes off our roads such as rubber from our tyres, and other items that enter our precious Lake, please come and learn and enjoy our information morning in Cliff Hargreaves Park on the 29th of March from 9am to 12noon. Also please remember that what goes into the Lake will also go out to our oceans.

Rhondda, President

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

Parklands is still quiet but with some clearing of Dot Billingham Pond, the swans have paid a visit! Maybe they will try nesting again. If you want a swim, try the Community Centre on Springs Drive. Watch the radar on Parklands Blvd near Springs Drive going both ways, I think?

I am always looking for new deliverers, so if you have a free hour, four times a year, just give me a call. Also, I would like to retire and could pass on my light duties to some new hands!

Give me a bell at 0448 517 905. **Ron, President**

LOCAL CREATURE FEATURE

Name: Flying fox AKA Pteropus ("winged foot")

Habitat: Forests, mangroves, urban areas near water.

Diet: Nectar, pollen, fruit.

Role in the ecosystem: Flying foxes are crucial to the Sunshine Coast environment as primary pollinators and seed dispersers for native forests, including eucalypts, melaleucas and rainforest species. By travelling long distances to feed, they maintain genetic diversity in forests, supporting habitat for species like koalas. They are vital for regenerating damaged bushland.

Fun facts: As Australia's only known long-distance pollinators, they are critical for the continued existence of more than 50 native trees and many Australian eucalypt species that can only be pollinated at night. Without flying-foxes, there would be no food and shelter for our koalas, no pristine habitat for our native birds, and no magnificent forests for all of us to enjoy.



Why are these 'sky puppies' so important? Scan the QR code to watch the video.



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, 11 May 2026.
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, 7 April 2026
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, 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, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI): 1300 130 372 to report spills or dumping in our waterways.

RSPCA: 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 to report unlawful fishing activities.

Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital: 1300 369 652

Thanks for reading! Until next quarter, please do what you can to look after our beautiful surroundings.