

# CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT NEWS



Winter  
2026

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COUNCIL



## Welcome to our community newsletter 🤗

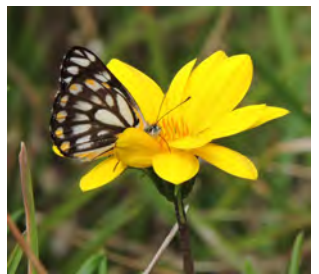
Voluntarily produced by Currimundi Catchment Care Group Inc (ABN 77 276 084 092), this publication is printed on sustainable forest paper and distributed to 12,000 households and businesses within the Currimundi Catchment.  
**Can you help deliver newsletters four times a year? Please phone Tony on 0435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

## HONOURING OUR SPECIAL, LIVING LAKE

There was a real buzz of conversations amongst the many people joining the community event at Cliff Hargreaves Park next to Currimundi Lake on a beautiful sunny morning in late March.

The “Living Lake” event was jointly organised by Cr Tim Burns of the Sunshine Coast Council, Currimundi Catchment Care Group and Friends of Currimundi Lake to give people (locals and visitors) who enjoy this special part of the coast an opportunity to discover how we care for our lake together.

There were information booths staffed by council experts from the Lake Entrance Management, Healthy Places, Turtle Care and Responsible Pet Ownership teams. Rangers from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service were there to discuss their role in management of the important Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park on the northern side of the Lake. The FOCL team shared information about the Lake from their almost 30-year perspective, as well as giving people hands-on experience identifying some of the weeds infesting the land around the Lake and their programs to control these.



**LIVING LAKE EVENT: Crowds had plenty of display booths to visit. RIGHT: CCCG Vice-President Fergus with Willow and her dad Dave. BELOW LEFT: Exploring coastal models with council experts. Gary from TurtleCare Sunshine Coast with Debbie from Coco's and grandson Tua.**



The CCCG team, accompanied by members of the local branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld, focused on the diversity of native vegetation in the area, as well as the range of community activities undertaken throughout the year.

The self-guided walk of the coastal pathway along the southern shore of the Lake attracted a lot of interest. Examples of 12 different native shrubs and trees were tagged with numbers that corresponded to an information sheet given to the almost 50 groups that took part. Comments included: “I always wondered what that plant was”; “I love learning about the local plants, could we make the signs and information more permanent?”

Undertaking the self-guided walk was a bit like a treasure hunt with younger children excitedly scouting about for the next numbered tag.

Apart from enhancing the ‘learning by doing’, there was an added incentive to complete the quiz and go into the draw for a family pass to Sea Life (meet the winner on the next page).

The quality of local knowledge and engagement was exemplified by Year 3 student Willow from the Currimundi State School, accompanied by her dad Dave (pictured above), who had some important questions:

Are there sharks in the lake? – *No, regular fish surveys and recent e-DNA analyses have confirmed no sharks occur in the Lake.*

Do turtles live in the lake? – *No, but there are very important turtle hatcheries on the beaches outside the lake.*

Is there any coral in the lake? – *No, but you sometimes find bits of coral washed up from reefs off the coast.*

Following the success of this event, we have decided to run it again next year, possibly increasing the range of information booths to respond to the broad range of matters people were interested in caring for our beautiful Lake.

**More stories and photos over page.**

## QUIZ WINNER!



The winner of the family pass, generously donated by Sea Life Sunshine Coast, was drawn from the almost 30 responses to the coastal pathway native vegetation quiz. Congratulations to Mary Wood, pictured left.

Mary is a retired nurse and educator who moved from Sydney to the Sunshine Coast in mid 2024. She originally came from the UK on a working holiday in 1989 and fell in love with this part of the world, making her life here.

Since moving to the Sunshine Coast, Mary has been very keen to explore the area, particularly the wonderful natural areas that abound here. Her quest to discover more beautiful places like Currimundi Lake was rewarded when she found the Living Lake event on social media.

Mary hopes to become more involved in looking after these special places, now that she knows about our collective role in caring for them. She has joined Currimundi Catchment Care Group. Welcome!

If you too would like to be involved, you can sign up to receive our e-bulletin outlining upcoming events and activities by scanning the QR code.



## EROSION CAUSING CONCERN



**WEAR AND TEAR:** Signs of erosion exposing tree roots on the northern shore of Currimundi Lake, home of the famous 'coffee rock' popular with thrill-seeking youngsters.

**An important topic discussed as part of the Living Lake planning, was the significant erosion of the dune system on the north side of Currimundi Lake.**

The area is particularly popular with younger people who like to slide down parts of the foredune and jump off the 'coffee rock' ledge into the lake. Unfortunately, this area is particularly sensitive to disturbance. The coastal vegetation dominated by Coastal she-oak (*Casuarina equisetifolia*), Coastal banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*) and Pandanus (*Pandanus tectorius*), as well as hardy salt-tolerant grasses and creepers, holds the sand dunes together, even in most strong storms.

However, once pathways through the vegetation are opened up, they quickly scour from both human feet and wilder weather. The tree roots are exposed and undermined and, before too long, they fall into the lake, and the dunes retreat further to the north.



Digging and scraping in the dunes and the relatively soft 'coffee rock' might feel like fun at the time, but repeated disturbance accelerates the rate of erosion. Since the area falls within the important Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park, it is managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, who are already stretched managing protected areas with their limited resources.

There are no easy solutions. However, the ethos embraced by attendees at the recent Living Lake community event – that we all have a role in caring for our lake – will go some way to managing this. If we see people undertaking significant disturbance activities in this (or any other) area, quietly go and speak to them and show them what's happening.

Encourage them to respect this beautiful area at the same time as enjoying it, and also to tell their friends, so that we can all continue to enjoy the natural beauty of this 'gem' on the Sunshine Coast for many years to come.



**An eroded casuarina tree with dozers opening the lake in the background.**



## FIVE MORE STEPS TO A SUSTAINABLE NEW YEAR!

As promised in the last edition, here are five more tips to inspire you to live a happy, healthy and sustainable new year.

These ideas were sourced from the Down To Earth blog put together by the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI). Sign up to receive their newsletter here [bit.ly/4ksmVSu](http://bit.ly/4ksmVSu) – it's filled with practical tips and stories.

### Sustainable + achievable New Year's resolutions

**6. Compost organic food waste** – pretty simple, really.

#### 7. Consume less energy at home

Start with simple actions like turning off lights and draught-proofing your home. Then, look to tackle the two largest energy consumers in Queensland households – hot water and heating/cooling.

#### 8. Give new life to old items

Upcycling is an enriching way to unleash creativity, save money and breathe fresh life into forgotten items. Before throwing away those clothes or that sauce jar, consider their potential for a new purpose.

#### 9. Eliminate single-use plastics

The most environmentally friendly thing you can do with soft plastics (especially single-use plastics) is reduce your consumption of them. Simple changes like using reusable water bottles, shopping bags and coffee cups can significantly cut down plastic waste.

In Queensland, in addition to banning harmful single-use items like plastic bags and straws, we have also banned the act of releasing lighter-than-air balloons into the sky. Fortunately, there are plenty of more sustainable ways to celebrate your next special occasion.

#### 10. Spend more time in nature

Reduced blood pressure, lowered mortality from cardiovascular disease and an improved mood are just some of the health benefits nature can provide. If people spent just half an hour in their local park each week, cases of depression could decrease by 7%.

How lucky we are to be surrounded by beautiful parks and an ever-changing natural environment. Get out there and soak it in!

This is an excerpt of the full article. Read it here [bit.ly/4r3SKDs](http://bit.ly/4r3SKDs)

# CONNECTING AND LEARNING ABOUT OUR LAKE



ABOVE: Kloe and Simone from Sunshine Coast Council with Sarah, Jim and baby Olivia at the Living Lake event.



ABOVE: Christabel and Ellie. ABOVE RIGHT: Weeds on display. BELOW: Maddi and Kale from QPWS.

ABOVE LEFT: Lex, Kerri, Cr Tim Burns and Hannah. ABOVE CENTRE: CCCG President Tony, Dee and Bev.



## WHY NOT BE IN OUR WEEDING BEES?

As part of Sunshine Coast Council's Bushcare Program, CCCG holds monthly working bees, trying to protect our natural areas from invasive weeds. We thought we were doing brilliantly, until..... Last year some large tracts of land around Currimundi Creek North Arm were returned to council land. This is fabulous news for our environment. As much of it is infested with corky passion vine, Singapore daisy, painted spurge and other culprits, it means our working bees are needed for a long time yet. It is exciting to have these new spaces to care for.

**Keen to help?** Find details on the website [cg.currimundicatchment.org.au](http://cg.currimundicatchment.org.au) or email [cccinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:cccinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au)



## ALL CLEANED UP!

Despite the rain showers and gloomy weather, we were thrilled to have 15 volunteers join in our Clean Up Australia Day event at Stockyard Park, Little Mountain on 1 March. Thanks to everyone who came along and got their hands dirty for a good cause. We have held the event at this location for several years in a row. It was interesting to see that the amount of litter collected was down on previous years. Still plenty, as you can see in the photo, but we wonder: is this a sign we are finally getting on top of the problem (in this area), or are people generally getting better at looking after their environment? It will be fascinating to see what happens next year. See you there!



### 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](http://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.

### STAY SNAPPY, PICSTARS

Photographers, make sure to keep snapping specky pics for the annual Currimundi Catchment Wall Calendar competition. Send in your entries anytime to: [calendar@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:calendar@currimundicatchment.org.au) Entries close in early October 2026.



# GROUP REPORTS



## HANDY CONTACTS

### CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

CCCG celebrated the Sunshine Coast World Environment Day Festival this year by hosting a self-guided walk through Bancroft's Red Gum Environment Reserve in Little Mountain. Groups took a plant guide and followed a set trail to learn more about the little pocket of thriving bushland that was reclaimed from degraded cattle-grazing land and planted up over 10 years by the Sunshine Coast community. We had 40 people attend the event this year.

Congratulations to Emily who won the major prize draw for answering the quiz at the end of the walk. More photos next newsletter.

**Tony, President**



### FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

Since the last newsletter, Council, CCCG and FOCL held a 'Living Lake' day in Cliff Hargreaves Park for the community to speak with and learn from the member groups that gave up their time to support the lake. QPWS, who manage Kathleen McArthur Park on the northern side of the Lake, were very helpful, as well as TurtleCare and Sunshine Coast Waterways.

Our small display of living weeds was well received. It was a successful morning, but more information needs to be collected and studied on Currimundi Lake itself and how we can care for it. We are moving forward with another day next year if it can be arranged. Some of the items to be discussed could be: bank erosion – natural or created; water quality; litter control before it reaches the lake – maybe better drainage and the consequences for the ocean when it gets there. And for all of us to understand how our lake works.

One of our stranded turtles named Alan was released after strong medication to clear its body of plastics and other pollutants. Sunshine Coast Council honoured all our volunteers from both Bushcare and TurtleCare with a lovely breakfast at the WindanSea Community Clubhouse in Buderim Street in May.


Did you know the six most common weeds on the Sunshine Coast are: Creeping Oxalis, Lantana, Nutgrass, Cat's Claw Creeper, Morning Glory and Winter Grass BUT the most common weeds for Australia, which cover an area three times the size of Tasmania, are: Creeping Oxalis, Bindi, White Clover, Capeweed, Dandelion and Winter Grass. 72% of weeds were introduced to Australia as ornamentals. Take care all. **Rhonda, President**

### DIVISION 3 COUNCILLOR TIM BURNS

Hello everyone, and welcome to winter! It's a wonderful time of year – cooler mornings, westerly offshore breezes that clean up the surf, and a welcome break from constant mowing and weeding.

We're lucky to live in such a spectacular part of the world, and Lake Currimundi is a truly special place. Many of you may have heard about council's recently adopted Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint (a big name for an important piece of work!). This 20-year strategy aims to guide how dog exercise areas are managed and expanded, while ensuring our sensitive environmental reserves are protected.

Importantly, existing off-leash areas will remain, along with most current beach dog walking spots. Dogs must always be on leash unless signage clearly states otherwise. There are, however, some changes around environmental reserves and the Lake Currimundi catchment. Dogs are now prohibited at the Currimundi Beach lake mouth and beach accesses 253–255 at all times. In the Kawana Forest Environment Reserve, dogs are only allowed on leash along designated recreation trails and prohibited elsewhere. Kathleen McArthur Conservation Reserve remains fully dog-free.

We all share a responsibility to protect these beautiful spaces so they continue to thrive. You can help by:  Keeping your dog on leash unless in a designated off-leash area • Carrying bags and disposing of dog waste responsibly • Maintaining control of your dog around wildlife and other dogs • Checking council's dog exercise maps online or via the app • Read the whole plan on council's website > [bit.ly/4g5irRu](https://bit.ly/4g5irRu)

Thank you for doing your part. I look forward to seeing you out and about – with my mini bear dog, Jax! **Tim**

### LOCAL CREATURE FEATURE

**Name:** Mistletoe bird (AKA Australian flowerpecker)

**Habitat:** Woodland, forest.

**Diet:** Berries of the native mistletoe.

**Role in the ecosystem:** It has a fast-acting digestive system that enables mistletoe fruit seeds to exit in less than 25 minutes! This helps propagate more plants... but not in the soil. Mistletoes are semi-parasitic and have no true roots. The bird excretes a sticky seed onto a tree branch where it germinates, "stealing" nutrients and water from its host to grow. Thanks to Kym Maver for taking this photo of the mistletoe plant in flower, taken from the Nicklin Way Bridge over Currimundi Lake, opposite Toyota.

**Fun facts:** Found all over Australia, except Tasmania. The male features a bright red throat and chest, while females are grey and white. They are very small, like a sparrow, measuring about 10cms long and weighing about 9 grams. Scan the QR code to find out more about these birds and hear their distinct call.



### 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, 13 July 2026.

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, 4 August 2026

Contact: President Rhonda 5437 6481, [focinfo@currimundicatchment.org.au](mailto:focinfo@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, [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 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