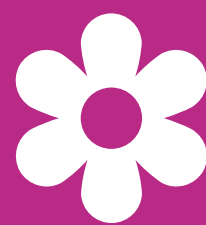


CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT NEWS



Spring
2026

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 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.



THE EVER-CHANGING BANCROFT'S RESERVE

What's in a name? There's a small council park on the edge of suburbia at Little Mountain called Bancroft's Red Gum Environment Reserve. It is in the upper reaches of Currimundi Creek and is named after the iconic Bancroft's Red Gum (*Eucalyptus bancroftii*), a tree that grows in an area of remnant vegetation that wasn't cleared for cattle grazing by the early settlers.

Bancroft's Red Gums typically grow on shallow, poor quality soils in poorly drained areas of the coastal lowlands found in southern Queensland and northern NSW. The tree was named after Dr Thomas Bancroft, a Queensland physician who helped Joseph Maiden identify the species. Maiden was a botanist who made a major contribution to the early knowledge of Australian flora, especially the genus *Eucalyptus*. He named the tree after his friend in 1904.

Bancroft's Red Gum is also known as tumbledown gum, befitting the frequently contorted shape of the trunk and limbs. The tree grows to 30m tall and has a distinctive patchy and smooth bark that varies from grey to salmon and orange.

For the past six years CCCG has been running a public event to celebrate World Environment Day at Bancroft's Red Gum Reserve. The cleared land was progressively re-planted over a nine-year period from 2009, as part of an annual National Tree Day event coordinated by the Council and CCCG. During this period approximately 18,000 native seedlings were planted by volunteers from the community. The land had been purchased by the Council using funds from the environmental levy component of landholders' rates. It was decided that future proposed planting events were no longer required as the area was starting to naturally regenerate from the new seed

sources reintroduced to the area. It's a wonderful example of how a community can rehabilitate cleared land to become a self-sustaining



habitat for important species of plants and animals, which is showcased at the World Environment Day event (story over page). During the reconnaissance to prepare for this year's World Environment Day event in early June it was noticed that several of the Bancroft's Red Gums had died or were dying. Other nearby trees still seem healthy. There is no obvious reason for their demise,

although the abnormally wet conditions that have prevailed from much of the year might be a factor in this swampy land.

It was a powerful message for the 40 participants at this year's event. Nature is ever changing. While some species are thriving, others are struggling because of a range of factors, some human induced.

Continued over page



ABOVE: CCCG President Tony plants a Bancroft's seedling.



ABOVE: A healthy Bancroft's Red Gum.
LEFT TO RIGHT: Claire Brown (Wildlife Preservation Society), Suzanne Wilson (Mooloolah River Landcare), Fergus FitzGerald and Tony Moorhead (Currimundi Catchment Care Group).

PLANTING AT BANCROFT'S

Continued from page one

At the same time, we can help nature with our actions. Consequently, we decided to plant 13 Bancroft's Red Gum seedlings on the edge of the reserve, where the public will be able to see the trees after which the reserve is named.

The seedlings were provided by the Mooloolah River Landcare (MRL) nursery at Palmview.

Following approval from Councillor Tim Burns, a small planting event was held in July with Elliot Lacey (Community Partnership Officer, SCC), Suzanne Wilson (Nursery Manager MRL), Claire Brown (President, Wildlife Preservation Society, Sunshine Coast & Hinterland Branch – they were partners in this year's WED event), Tony Moorhead (President CCCG) and Fergus FitzGerald (Vice-president CCCG). It may take a few years before these small plants grow into the iconic trees facing the eponymous environment reserve. However, with a little help from committed volunteers, we hope to see them thriving for all to enjoy for many years to come.



ABOVE: Claire from WPS and Elliot from Sunshine Coast Council at the Bancroft's tree planting.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY '26



ABOVE: CCCG Committee members Anna and Keith.

The international World Environment Day was celebrated locally again this year at the Bancroft's Red Gum Environment Reserve at Little Mountain. It's a wonderful occasion to showcase how effective community efforts can be in rehabilitating cleared land back into a self-sustaining ecosystem. In this case Wallum, a coastal ecosystem that occurs in SE Queensland and northern NSW. It has been extensively cleared for urban development.

The event was run by CCCG with assistance from members of the local branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society to share some of their botanical knowledge. A total of 28 adults and 12 children learnt about the history of the tree-planting project from graphic displays showing before, during and after the community tree planting program from 2009 – 2017. They then experienced first-hand the successful outcome of these efforts on a self-guided trip through the reserve, completing a questionnaire on what they had learnt to go into the draw for a major prize.

One of the attendees was John Birbeck (pictured in the centre of the photo on the right) who travelled from Pomona. He had a particular interest in seeing the reserve firsthand. He was the Principal Environment and Landscape Officer for many years at the Caloundra City Council and subsequent Sunshine Coast Regional Council. During this time, he was responsible for securing hundreds of parks, ecological reserves and conservation covenants across the area, including the land revegetated at Bancroft's.

John was invited to be a guest speaker about his important role in conservation on the Sunshine Coast at the CCCG AGM in September.

This year, the prize (a gift voucher to Sunreef Mooloolaba) was won by Emily Beard, who travelled from Caboolture with her two sons, Sam and Max. She has decided to share the prize with her friend Rachael, who lives in Currimundi and also came to the event with her children Bohbella and Braxton, all pictured right. Many thanks to everyone involved in helping to make this event another successful and fun community education activity.



WHO MADE THESE MYSTERIOUS NATURE CROWNS?

Do you walk on the lakeside pathway around Sycamore Drive, Lilac Crescent and Creekside Boulevard in Currimundi? Did you happen to notice these incredible crowns (or Survivor immunity necklaces?) hand-woven out of natural materials hanging in the trees recently? They have since disappeared ... maybe it was all a dream. Either way, someone out there in our patch has some impressive skills. Know who it is and why they did it? Send us an email cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au



SPOTTED: ENID THE ECHIDNA!

Look who attended our working bee in July. This magnificent echidna was spotted just north of Currimundi's Sycamore Drive, on the pathway that goes out to the hospital.

Apparently, the locals call her 'Enid', but we are unsure of this creature's gender. She/he is reported to be "ridiculously brave", getting quite close to humans.

Working bee regular Kym said: "I love that the neighbourhood know her and watch out for her. I would say she is a stunning example of why we do what we do, trying to keep our areas pristine to help native flora and fauna. Seriously cute – and I hope she/he has a long life."



COMMUNITY SPIRIT SHINES ON THE WAVES



Local Currimundi resident Tim Byrne runs an annual single-fin surfing contest, with participating surfers chipping in a small entry fee that is donated to a local charity each year.

This year, Tim nominated Currimundi Catchment Care Group (CCCG) as the recipient. How good!

After a fun day in the water, Tim's crew of surfers raised \$220, which CCCG will put towards the Lights on the Lake Community Festival, being held at Crumunda Park in Wurtulla on Sunday 6 December this year.

Thanks Tim and crew! This kind of grassroots generosity makes a real difference in our community! 💙

SEND US YOUR BEST CATCHMENT PICS FOR THE 2027 CALENDAR

It's that time of year again!

Time for all the photographers in our beautiful catchment to get out and get clicking. Graham Gillies' stunning picture of a Glossy Black Cockatoo made the cover page for the 2026 Calendar. Could yours be there next year?

We can't wait to see your photographs of the Currimundi Catchment for the 2027 Wall Calendar competition. As usual, this gives 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: cg.currimundicatchment.org.au. The key requirements are for A4, landscape orientation and high resolution (at least 1 MB).

Email your images to calendar@currimundicatchment.org.au. Entries close on 9 October 2026.



GROW NATIVES AT HOME



Looking for seven native plants that are easy to grow, including this native violet, left, and coastal rosemary? Visit bit.ly/4d9dMeW

STAY VIGILANT ON FIRE ANTS

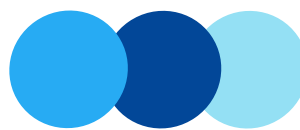
Teams from the National Fire Ant Eradication Program will be returning to the Currimundi area this year to follow up on detections confirmed last year. Fire ants are pests that can cause serious social, economic and environmental damage. Visit fireants.org.au to report fire ants (even if you're not sure), read the facts about treatment, see the fire ant map, learn how to identify fire ants and stop the spread.

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWS

Why not sign up to receive our e-bulletin with news, details of upcoming events and activities? Scan the QR code and sign up today.



GROUP REPORTS



HANDY CONTACTS

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

I am thrilled to announce that the very popular Lights on The Lake Community Festival will return on 6 December 2026. We have already been busy with some of the background paperwork and planning will begin in earnest soon. Put the date in your diary.

We are also proud to announce that Grill'd burger restaurant at Kawana Shopping World has chosen CCCG as one of three local charities for their Local Matters program for September. If you buy a burger from their store during September, you'll receive a token you can use to vote for us to win first prize of \$300. We will direct the funds received towards this year's Lights on the Lake event.

You can also contribute to Lights on the Lake by donating your 10c refunds from Cash for Containers to CCCG. Use code CC10579080 when you return your eligible bottles and cans.

Notice of AGM: CCCG's next general meeting and Annual General Meeting will be held 14 September 2026 at 7pm at Kawana Forest Meeting Place, 60 Woodlands Boulevard, Meridan Plains. We'll have a special guest John Birbeck, prominent environmentalist and former Caloundra City Council environmental officer who played a pivotal role in the Sunshine Coast's conservation efforts. **Tony, President**

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

It is 145 years since Currimundi – Girraman-dha, Place of Flying Foxes – was settled by European settlers in this beautiful area. Thomas Ballinger selected land for raising sheep. Changes in the land, waterways, vegetation and beaches are huge since then.

The land on the southern side of Currimundi Creek/Lake is now settled with homes, units, businesses, sports fields, steps to the beach and bitumen roads. The other changes are litter and weeds, and our native animals and birds are having a huge problem adapting to the changes to their habitat.

Good news. Friends of Currimundi Lake Bushcare Group is working very hard to eradicate weeds and then renewing the area by planting many local native shrubs, trees, understory plants and grasses. This will enable our native animals and birds to have food, nesting areas and a safe habitat.

Our beautiful Lake is having problems with bank erosion, litter problems, drainage problems and just trying to adapt to people usage.

Currimundi Beach and Ballinger Beach are getting ready for the marine turtle season. The Dogs off Leash Area has changed. Starting from Beach Access (BA) 253 – northern side of Lake entrance to BA 255, the southern side of the lake entrance is now completely free of dog usage.

Lights are a major problem for incoming nesting turtles. We respectfully ask people living on the dunes, facing out to the beach, and the ocean, to please turn off your lights, or have your lights facing inwards or downwards. The ocean really does look beautiful at night with no lights shining on it. Many thanks to everyone. Please care for our environment which is so important to your wellbeing as well as that of our native animals and birds. **Rhondda, President**

DIVISION 3 COUNCILLOR TIM BURNS

Many residents will be aware that Lake Currimundi is a natural coastal system. From time to time, the lake entrance naturally opens and closes depending on conditions. To manage this process, Council operates under permits issued by the Queensland Government, which allow the entrance to be mechanically opened only in specific circumstances. Council is currently seeking amendments to these permits to provide greater flexibility when managing the system.

The lake is also strongly influenced by ocean tides and swell conditions. While these natural forces play a significant role in determining whether the entrance remains open or closes, they are not something Council can control.

Another important part of the system is the pump located at the northern end of Lake Kawana. This pump transfers water from the Mooloolah River to help maintain water quality. Careful operation of the pump, including ensuring it is switched off at the appropriate times, can also assist with managing water levels. Council is working closely with Stockland to further improve this process.

We know how much our community values the lake system and Council is exploring ways to improve communication with residents. This may include signage, online updates and other information channels. Our goal is to support the lake's natural function while minimising impacts on surrounding communities, infrastructure, and the environment. We look forward to providing further updates in the months ahead. **Tim**

LOCAL CREATURE FEATURE

Name: Eastern water dragon (*Intellagama lesueurii*)

Habitat: All vegetation types close to water.

Diet: Small reptiles, worms, frogs, insects, fruit, berries and molluscs.

Role in the ecosystem: Often observed basking on rocks or banks surrounding rivers, creeks, lakes and canals, water dragons are an important predator, prey source and seed disperser helping to balance aquatic and terrestrial food webs across the Sunshine Coast.

Fun facts: Excellent swimmers and very fast runners, water dragons can swim totally submerged, and rest on the bottom of shallow creeks or lakes (or backyard pools!) for up to 90 minutes to avoid detection. They communicate using push-ups, arm-waving, head-bobbing and throat-pouch inflation. They typically live for 15 to 25 years in the wild.



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 September 2026 (AGM). 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, 6 October 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, htimg60@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