CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT NEWS



Summer 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.**

IT'S ALMOST TIME TO LIGHT UP THE LAKE

One of the Coast's most popular events of the festive season – Lights on the Lake – is just around the corner.

This free, family-friendly event is on: Sunday 6 December from 4 – 8pm at Crummunda Park, off Coongarra Esplanade at Wurtulla.

Bring your family and friends to enjoy a large program of activities and entertainment. For the kids, there's an extensive program of 'hands-on' activities including making Christmas decorations, potting seedlings and the ever-popular face-painting.

Be quick, as the line for face-painting grows quickly, even with three skilled artists at work.

The drumming circle was so popular last year, we will have even more djembe drums led by Levi from Coolum.









ABOVE: A selection of images from previous Lights on the Lake community festivals.

If hands-on is not your thing, there's plenty of entertainment on the main stage you can enjoy while sitting back and relaxing.

This year we are featuring the Little Big Band with their big brass sound, the Sunshine Coast Choir and their fabulous harmonies and a couple of new local entertainers, Dave Stygall and Reece Dewar.

To make this year's event wrap with the best finish yet, the irrepressible DJ Candi's kids' disco will be choregraphed with the laser light show sure to energise and impress.

Feeling peckish? We have a good range of food and drink (non-alcoholic) stalls offering everything from inexpensive snags and burgers prepared by our friends from the Caloundra Lions Club, to wood-fired pizzas, calamari, chicken, fries, gourmet dumplings, churros, ice creams, slushies and coffee, for those who still need a fix.

It wouldn't be Christmas time without Santa, who will arrive with his helpers by boat across the lake.

Continued over page.

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

Sunshine Coast Council

Community Bank Caloundra Bendigo Bank

Toyota Sunshine Toyota

Gregson & Weight Funeral Directors

RayWhite Caloundra

Sunshine Coast Airport

IGA Wurtulla

Initiative Accounting

Coco's

Gage Security

Suncoast Printing

Nothling Building Group

Continued from front page.
The highlight of the festival of course, is the water parade of decorated and illuminated unpowered watercraft that take to the water at twilight around our beautiful lake.

There's still time to enter your craft into the water parade. Just scan the QR code below right and fill in the entry form.

Start getting organised with your family or some friends. There are great prizes to be won for the best decorated and best illuminated categories. Past winners have ranged in age from 14 to 80 years, showing that everyone can have a go.

This important community event wouldn't be possible without the wonderful financial support from the Sunshine Coast Council, Jarrod Bleijie MP (Member for Kawana and Deputy Premier) and the many local businesses shown on the front page.

Equally important are all the volunteers (more than 100) who give their time and energy to bring joy to the community in a spirit of sharing. We look forward to seeing you there!



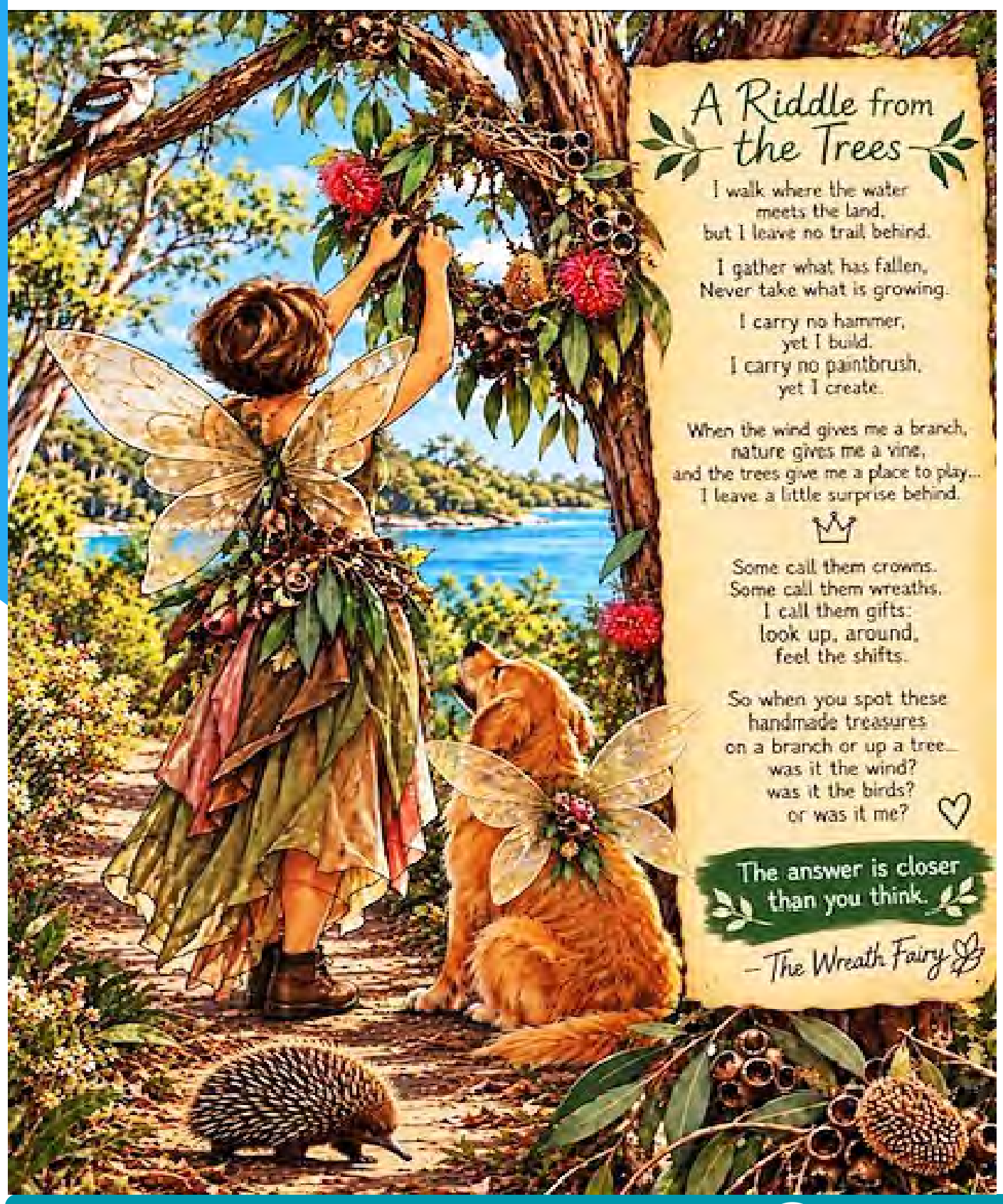
WATER PARADE ENTRY FORM

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT, PIP!



"As long-term, proud sponsors of Lights on the Lake – every year we are so excited to see the connectivity that this festival provides to the community where so many families can share in the Christmas activities. "This is one of the reasons we love to collaborate with this event every year."
– Pip Fawcett, Branch Manager, Community Bank Caloundra (pictured above with President Tony, Noah and Lily at Lights on the Lake back in 2016)

THE WREATH FAIRY SHARES A RIDDLE TO INSPIRE REFLECTION



Well well well!
We had a response to the story we ran in the last edition about the mysterious, hand-woven nature crowns that had been spotted on the lakeside pathway around Sycamore Drive, Lilac Crescent and Creekside Boulevard in Currimundi, pictured below.
We were contacted by an equally mysterious person, known only as a 'friend of the wreath fairy', who said: "I know who the wreath fairy is. I have shown her your article. (It is not me).
"I have observed the person as I live by the lake and have seen her weaving her magic. I have also seen the joy on people's faces as they discover them.
"The wreath fairy has told me her motivation. She says: 'I use my wreath skills to wave a flag … look up, look around. People and critters live here, be kind'."
Here at Currimundi Catchment Care Group, we couldn't agree more with that sentiment, wreath fairy!
Thank you for this truly special contribution to our community. We hope to see more of these fantastic creations around the place soon.





CATCHMENT TALENT AND BEAUTY SHOWCASED IN NEW WALL CALENDAR

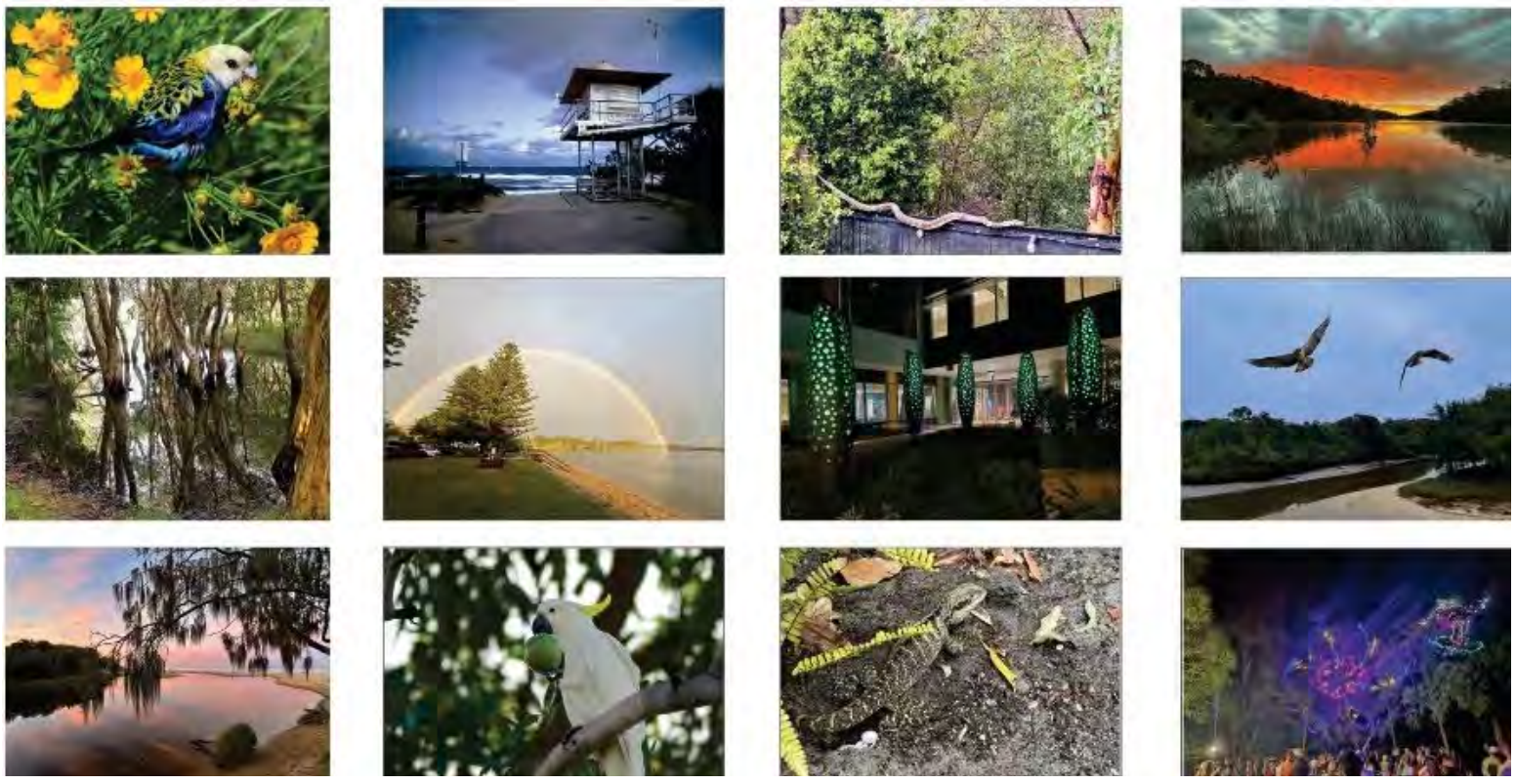


We are happy to announce the 2027 edition of the Currimundi Catchment Calendar is now available for sale for just $10.

The calendar is filled with beautiful images taken by local community members in and around the catchment of Currimundi Lake and compiled by our volunteers.

This year's cover page features Russell Strachan's lovely photo of three little black cormorants sunning themselves on a tree branch next to Currimundi Lake.

Cormorants are often recognised in this pose because their feathers lack full waterproofing, so they spread their wings wide to dry in the sun and wind. It looks like Mum and Dad are teaching their kid how to do it.



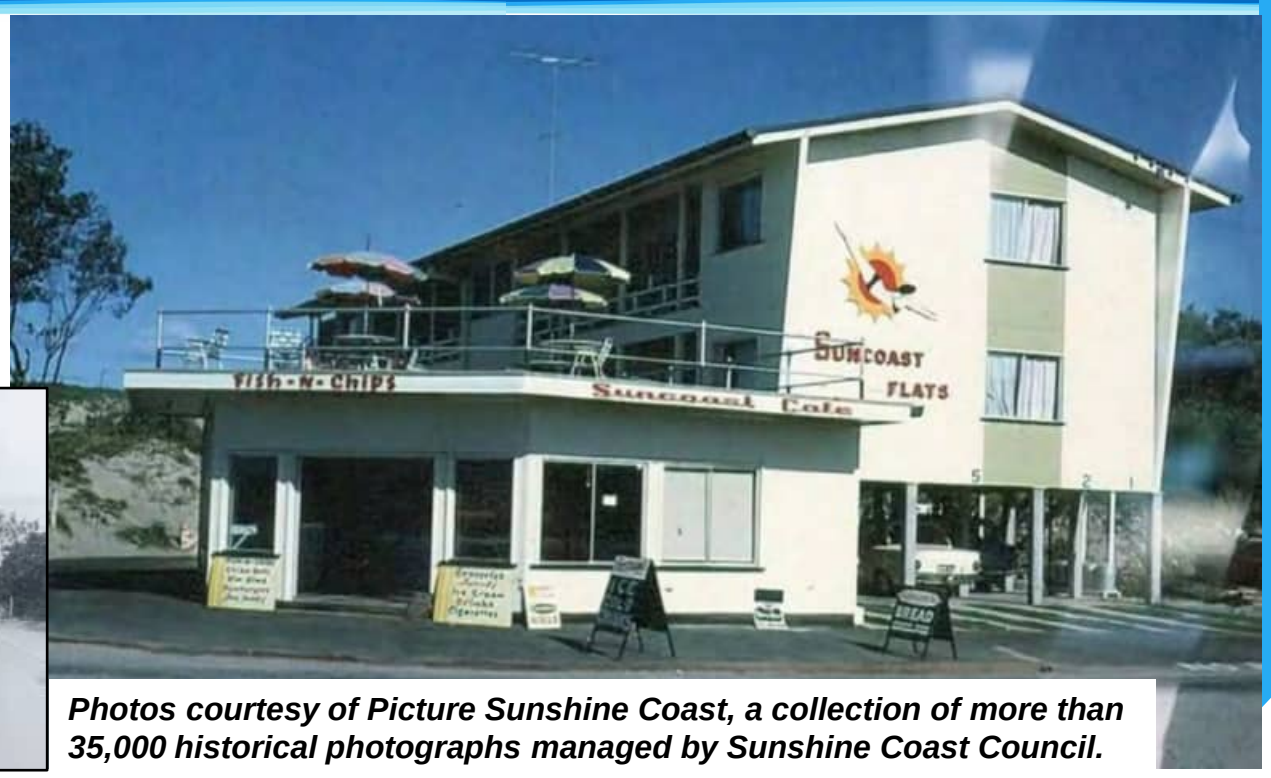
A big thank you to all the people who sent in their photographs of the things they love and enjoy about the Currimundi Catchment.

This surely is a wonderful place to live and, thanks to the photographers in our community, we can enjoy a beautiful reminder of this all year long.

How to buy: The Calendar is available for $10. They will be on sale at Lights on the Lake. Or 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: cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au.

WOW THRILLS, YOU LOOK DIFFERENT

Check out these incredible blasts from the past. The main photo is of the Suncoast Flats and Suncoast Café underneath, the site of what we know today as Thrills Espresso, opposite Coco's at Currimundi Lake. It was taken by Graham Smith in 1969; photos below from 1968.







Photos courtesy of Picture Sunshine Coast, a collection of more than 35,000 historical photographs managed by Sunshine Coast Council.

FAMILIAR FACES ELECTED TO CCCG COMMITTEE AT 2026 AGM

Long-serving leaders of the Currimundi Catchment Care Group (CCCG) were re-elected to their positions at the Annual General Meeting on 14 September.

President Tony Moorhead gave special thanks to Ron Burnett, former committee member and long-term zone coordinator for newsletter delivery in the Meridan Plains/Little Mountain areas; and to Joan Andrews who was a founding-member of our group nearly 30 years ago and remains active to this day.

"I have been President of CCCG for many years now and have always been proud to be President of this great little band of volunteers with a passion for protecting our local environment," Tony said.

CCCG COMMITTEE

President: Tony Moorhead.

Vice-President & Secretary: Fergus FitzGerald.

Treasurer: Keith Hunt. **Committee members:** Angelina Betts, Janet Hohnen, Enid Traill.

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.

Sunshine Coast COUNCIL

This newsletter is produced with assistance from the Sunshine Coast Council Grants Program.

GROUP REPORTS

CURRIMUNDI CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

Wow, another year almost gone. I hope you're all safe (and dry) after the recent extreme weather events. Our gardens loved it (if they didn't flood) but so do the weeds.

The festive season approaches and of course an early highlight is our local Lights on the Lake Community Festival on 6 December, brought to you by local volunteers and funded by grants and sponsorship from local businesses. Finding the backing this year has been a bit harder given the tough economic conditions. If you would like to help us out, you can donate your 10-cent container refunds throughout the year via Containers for Change to our member number C10579080. All donations are used for Lights on the Lake.

Over the next couple of months with the school holidays and festive season, our beautiful little part of the world will experience the annual influx of tourists and visitors. It can be annoying when you can't find a park at the beach or you see someone who doesn't love our neighbourhood as much as us drop rubbish or cause damage, but please, take a deep breath, clean up the mess and set an example for our visitors. They don't get to live here all year round like us. **Tony, President**

FRIENDS OF CURRIMUNDI LAKE

TurtleCare Season has hit. The first walks on the beach from Happy Valley to Buddina started on 1 November at 4.30am. Remember all the rules; no torches, if you see a turtle on the beach do not walk in front of it and do not shine a light in its face, and ring the 24-hour TurtleCare Hotline on 0437 559 067. This phone number is also displayed at all the beach entrances. Ruth and I attended the Weedling and Seedling Identification Day at Witta, which was quite interesting.

Our last weeding day will be on 9 December at 8am at the picnic area near the toilets in Hargreaves Park. We will have a lovely morning tea for the end of the year and to thank all our wonderful Bushcare volunteers who have been with us for the year.

We will have the last Friends of Currimundi Lake meeting on 1 December at 7.30pm at the Currimundi Community Hall; and then, on the following Tuesday night at 7.30pm, there will be a joint get-together with the Currimundi NHW Group at the Currimundi Hall. Everyone from these groups is very welcome, please bring a plate of food to share. Call me on 0427 376 481 if you have any questions. Merry Christmas to all our supporters and to all the people of Currimundi. **Rhondda, President**

DIVISION 3 COUNCILLOR TIM BURNS

Currimundi Lake is connected to a much larger catchment than many people realise. Spanning around 40km² (4000 hectares), it includes local waterways, canals and urban stormwater systems.

What happens anywhere in this catchment can eventually make its way to the lake. When it rains, water flows across roads, parks, gardens and other developed areas, picking up anything in its path before flowing into local creeks and waterways, and eventually the lake. This means the health of Currimundi Lake is influenced not just by activities along the shoreline, but by what happens right across the catchment.

The good news is that small actions can make a big difference. Simple things like putting rubbish in the bin, picking up pet waste, reducing the use of garden chemicals and washing your car on the grass can all help reduce pollution entering the lake.

Council is also doing its part through the Honey Farm Road Sport and Recreation Precinct in Meridan Plains. The project includes improved stormwater treatment, new wetlands and more than 150,000 trees that will help clean runoff before it reaches the lake. Council also supports the health of the lake through stormwater upgrades, the installation of bioretention basins in newer developments, and ongoing maintenance, monitoring and environmental management across the catchment.

By working together and taking responsibility for our part of the catchment, we can help keep Currimundi Lake healthy and thriving for future generations. **Tim**

LOCAL CREATURE FEATURE

Name: No, it's not an otter, or a beaver. It's a native water rat called rakali (*Hydromys chrysogaster*).

Habitat: Aquatic coastal and estuarine environments. Rakali are widely distributed throughout most of eastern Australia but are found in permanent water systems in all states and territories.

Diet: Fish, yabbies, birds and toxic cane toads, which it can expertly dissect by eating the organs and belly to avoid getting poisoned.

Role in the ecosystem: The rakali plays a crucial role as an apex aquatic predator and biological control agent, also eating fungi and helping to spread spores through the soil. Their aggressive hunting and feeding help to regulate invertebrate populations and displace pests such as black rats and cane toads. Locally, there have been documented sightings at Meridan Downs Park Little Mountain and in dams and creeks in the Maleny area.



Fun facts: As part of a recent ABC National Science Week poll, the rakali was voted Australia's most underrated animal, beating the palm cockatoo and giant cuttlefish, which came second and third respectively.

It has a thick tail with a white tip on the end that distinguishes it from black rats. It has water-repellent fur and cuts a sharp V-shaped wake when swimming through the water.

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 January 2027. 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, 1 December 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.

– Printed by Suncoast Printing, Currimundi –