

Kawana Forest Residents' Association committee meeting

Monday 4 Feb 5:30pm

ClimateWatch trail 10 minute project discussion – Renee Currenti

Council is working to establish several ClimateWatch trails in the region and would like to establish one in the Kawana Forest trail network. Other trails are within the Currimundi Lake Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park, and Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary at Bli Bli.

Context

ClimateWatch was developed to better understand the effects that climate change is having on our earth's natural processes. The first project of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, ClimateWatch will allow every Australian to be involved in collecting and recording data that will help shape the country's scientific response to climate change. Climate change is affecting rainfall and temperature across Australia, and is consequently triggering changes in the established flowering times, breeding cycles and migration movements and other phenological changes.

The concept is based on observers (FaunaWatch members, bush care groups, community groups, anyone from the public) recording phenological observations of plant and animal species. We are hoping to develop a trail that can be fun and interesting for all ages. Ideally, we want to identify and include species that may have seasonal variations, e.g. plants flowering in spring, dropping leaves in autumn; birds mating, nesting, at different times of the year, etc. This is so we can record and identify potential changes in phenology (the study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena, especially in relation to climate and plant and animal life) over extended periods of time.

The validated data will be made publicly available on the Atlas of Living Australia and can be downloaded for free. The data will be used by researchers and policy makers to help Australia build our understanding of climate change and biological systems so we can better manage and conserve our environment.

Project benefits to the local community

An interactive activity for all ages to partake while enjoying natural surrounds. This would be a great initiative to assist your Associations' goal of "ensuring the preservation of our magnificent Kawana Forest environment" and creating a meaningful, interesting and fun activity for children and adults alike.

Project objectives

- Increase people's awareness of changes going on around us every day
- Encourage people outdoors into our natural environment
- Get people involved in citizen science
- Be part of a nation-wide biodiversity data collection project

Commitment required (frequency and over what period)

Any level of commitment from your members would be appreciated. We hope our trails will be of interest to local groups who would enjoy regularly walking the trail to document and submit observations. Ideally, it would be great to gain interest from people who have knowledge, or interest in flora and fauna identification, environmental studies, and outdoor education. In-depth

knowledge is not essential but a willingness to learn about species identification would be beneficial. We have staff here at Council, and contacts with the Wildlife Preservation Society and FaunaWatch who will assist with species identification along the trail.

This is an ongoing initiative, so long-term commitment from a range of groups would contribute to the success of the trails.

Resources provided

By Sunshine Coast Council (Community Catchment Partnerships, Recreational Trails):

- Project coordination
- Trail mapping
- Species identification
- Compilation of indicator species list
- Signage (where applicable)

By Earthwatch:

- The trail webpage on the ClimateWatch website www.climatewatch.org.au. The page will include information about the trail, its location and your organisation.
- Field guides of the ClimateWatch indicator species to be monitored along the trail. Field guides will be available for download on the trail page.
- Map of each trail with the location of the indicator species labelled, with your logo included. This will be available on the trail webpage.
- Recording sheet that includes the indicator species for each trail. This will be available for download on the trail webpage.
- Communications about your trail and ongoing activities as part of the trail through our newsletter and social media to our user base.
- Information required to develop ClimateWatch signage on your trail.
- Ongoing technology support costs associated with data hosting, app and web support, data validation, and data submission to Atlas of Living Australia.



Figure 1: Proposed trail route

Once the trail has been developed with ClimateWatch, the trail and resources will be accessible to the public – anyone can access the online resources and record species along the trail. It can be a repeatable activity for school groups, community groups, bush care groups, etc. You can see resources that are available for existing trails at the following link. I find this trail particularly interesting: <http://climatewatch.org.au/trails/wilsons-promontory-national-park-tidal-river>

Reporting back on project progress

Renee Currenti will be responsible for reporting back on project progress and will keep you updated during the development and establishment phase.

You can read more about ClimateWatch trails at: <http://www.climatewatch.org.au/>

If you would like further information, are interested in being involved in this project or know information that could help us, please contact me at renee.currenti@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au