



# MYNA NEWSLETTER NO 3

## CLARENCE VALLEY CONSERVATION IN ACTION



### OUR TALLY CONTINUES TO RISE AND IS NOW 1320 MYNAS

#### SUMMER IS HERE

We are seeing more Indian Mynas (IMs) around so please keep sending any new sightings away from your trapping area so we can try to find trappers there.

#### MARKETS

This Spring we had information stalls at Halfway Ck, Mclean and Yamba River Markets, Wooli Goanna Festival and Chatsworth School Fair.



Laura & Paul at Yamba

All were well attended; we distributed lots of info and helped not only locals but many visitors to be better able to identify the Indian Mynas. Just some basic prevention tips that people do not think about such as: not leaving pet food where IMs could eat it; covering rubbish and compost bins; blocking holes or access to your roof cavities to prevent IMs from nesting.

It was interesting to talk with intra- and inter-state visitors to find out how well spread IMs are and what trapping programs, if any, were established. In the Wollongong area, you can buy a trap from the Mens' Shed for \$50 after you attend a 2 hr course/session with Council, but in all of Sydney only Blacktown has a full program, although some councils give out info and encourage trapping. Newcastle and Melbourne are yet to get organised.

The markets also brought in a few new trappers and we have had a couple old traps located and returned to CIA so the traps can go through our improvements before putting them back into the trapping program.

We also heard of a trapper, Bruce, at Wooli who has been trapping for sometime and this might be why the locals don't think Wooli has any Mynas.

More on Bruce in our next newsletter in March.

#### YAMBA GARDEN CLUB

CIA was invited to speak about Indian Mynas at the U3A Yamba Garden Club at their October meeting. Thank you to Ros and the other members to allow us to spread the word and for their kind donation.

#### IN YOUR GARDEN - tips

If you choose to feed native birds and Indian Mynas turn up, stop putting out feed until the IMs move elsewhere. or BETTER STILL JOIN THE CVCIA TEAM AS A TRAPPER .

If you have, or know of others with, nesting boxes please monitor them. If Indian Mynas move in, dispose of any IMs chicks or eggs humanely and clean out the nesting box as they are very dirty tenants. A clean nest box will encourage the natives to return.

#### OUR TAXIMERMIED INDIAN MYNAS

M1 and M2 arrived in September and are a real success at the markets, especially with the children, some of whom had difficulty understanding whether they were real. They are a big success, assisting people with identification.



"M1"

"M2"

Thanks to "Bart the Bear Taxidermy" for "stuffing" them.

#### TRAPPING MILESTONES

John & Judy at Palmers Channel passed their 100th IM early in October. They said " It is very rewarding catching these nasty little pests and felt we reached a milestone with the 100th IM in October".

Bevan at South Grafton started catching Indian Mynas in November 2007 after seeing 2 IMs kick a pair of Rosellas out of their nest at the AG station, and with the help of Marty Swain (from C V Council) started his crusade against the IMs. Total for 2011, to 31 October, is 283 and his total to date is 737. He's been a very active member of the CIA since September 2009.

## UPDATES

Bad news - Indian Mynas have recently established themselves in South Australia.

Good news - All IMs have been eradicated from Magnetic Island, off the coast of Townsville Qld. The council has now turned its attention to Townsville City.

Bad & Good News - Cairns Myna population is now estimated at 1000 birds per square kilometre. However a recent citizens meeting formed the Cairns Rotary Indian Myna Eradication Society (CRIMES ) to combat the growing plague.

### USING CALLER BIRDS

Coffs statistics show a higher trapping success rate when caller birds are being used. In rural areas they appear to be essential to bring the IMs down to the trap.

However having a caller or two is like having a pet; it needs to be cared for so it's happy to help you trap. Keep it well fed with plenty of clean water, in the colder months covering it at night is a good idea and in the hot times the roof and shade-cloth sides will help to make it comfortable. Callers can be kept in the larger containment part of the trap or in a separate large birdcage. A separate cage is handy, if you like to bring the caller in at night due to safety concerns (eg stray cats, etc), or if you like to cover the cage on winter nights. CIA has a few suitable cages available.

### Meet a CVCIA member & volunteer

He's one of the cogs that keep our Indian Myna program turning. Many of our trappers would know Mick from Grafton as he has delivered many traps and caller birds to people's homes and has had many people visit his home for the same reason. Mick has lots of experience with Mynas and gives sound advice to new trappers. His Myna tally for the year is 56. He seems to have removed the Mynas from his area and may only get the odd Myna passing through but his trap is always ready and waiting. Mick also makes traps for the program. Many thanks to Mick.

### SIGHTINGS ARE IMPORTANT

Recently a concerned Broomshead local reported sighting a single Myna as follows:

*"Just fyi the Myna had the wagtail grasped in its claw and was sitting on our fence pecking at the wagtail. Other wagtails were harassing the Myna, which did not drop the wagtail. Unfortunately the Myna (with the wagtail still grasped) flew off before we could do anything. It's the only Myna we've seen here but thought we should let you know."*

IMs are a real danger to our natives; let's keep the sightings coming in from you or your friends. Report your sighting on our website / phone Laura 6649 4712

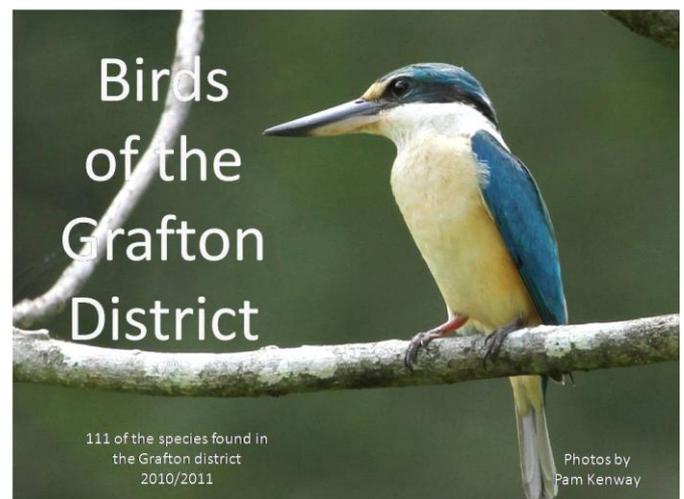
## **MYNAS TRAPPED to OCTOBER 2011**

# **1320**

1. South Grafton	311
2. Waterview Heights	187
3. Coutts Crossing	158
4. Palmers Channel	146
5. Great Marlow	69
6. Grafton	60
7. Brushgrove	59
8. Glenreagh	44
9. Broomshead	39
10. Chambigne	37

## **Support our Indian Myna Program**

**Over 100 beautiful photographs of native birds from the Grafton District taken by Pam Kenway our local photographer & CIA area coordinator**



**Only \$10 at Grafton Tourist Information Office  
Spring Street South Grafton**

**Do you have email access? If so please let us know as we prefer to send this newsletter electronically**

**Email:** [mynas@cvcia.org.au](mailto:mynas@cvcia.org.au) , [laura@cvcia.org.au](mailto:laura@cvcia.org.au)  
or your area co-ordinator

**Phone:** Laura on 6649 4712 or your area co-ordinator

**Report sightings / Website:** [www.cvcia.org.au](http://www.cvcia.org.au)