



Clarence Valley  
**Conservation in Action**  
**MYNA NEWSLETTER**  
**AUTUMN 2012 No5**



## **CONGRATULATIONS THE CLARENCE VALLEY NOW HAS 2550 LESS MYNAS**

### WINTER IS NOW UPON US

Some areas will have relatively no Indian Mynas (IMs), while others are seeing many more around as IMs are flocking now and this probably means there is a roost (tree) nearby. Please keep sending any sightings you see around the valley to [mynas@cvcia.org.au](mailto:mynas@cvcia.org.au). Sightings help in locating "Myna Hot Spots" that need extra trapping.

### NORTEC TRAP HAND OVER

We got our first delivery of ten traps built by the volunteers at Nortec in Grafton. They are well built and require very little or no work as they also have all the animal welfare additions. Congratulations Nortec team and thanks to Clarence Valley Council for assistance.



Nortec trap handover Kevin and Phil Rogers

### Meet a CVCIA member & volunteer

Bob from Grafton has recently joined our trap building volunteers. He is also a bird breeder with quite a deal of experience in building cages and has come up with a few ideas that we are presently experimenting with.

### CO<sub>2</sub> EUTHANASING

We have four operational CO<sub>2</sub> stations at Yamba, Grafton, South Grafton and Coutts Crossing. There will be at least two more probably Waterview Heights and Maclean as soon as we make a few more transfer cages and find and train the operators.

### NEVER DESPAIR!

Don at Ulmarra has persevered with trapping for the last 13 months but not caught any mynas. He's never given up, he would give it a rest for a bit but the mynas would annoy him and revive his efforts. Now at last all that enthusiasm has been rewarded with 13 in April and 32 for May. Terrific news!

So whether you're a trapper like Don, one who caught mynas in the first week or are still trying; our thanks go out to you all.

### TRAPPER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Bruce at Wooli would be great candidate for this title. Single-handed he has kept the mynas controlled at Wooli. Since 2007 Bruce has trapped over 200 IMs. He uses a PeeGee trap but mostly catches the birds with a drop trap. He sits waiting for them to feed under the trap then pulls the string dropping the trap. How's that for patience. Also when Bruce goes to Newcastle he takes his trap and has caught a further 63 there.



This is not Bruce's trap but this is how he does it.

### TRAPPING MILESTONES

Moira from Coutts Crossing passed her 100th myna in May 2012 (108). She only started trapping January this year and said: "I'll be glad when the reduction in mynas allows other birds in the yard again. It was good to see the return of some finches." Moira has 2 traps, one for her backyard and another that she manages around her willing neighbours.

For May Moira caught 9 in the first ten days and thought "well with only 4 left in town that I saw I would get no more, but within 2 days about 50 arrived. I am very happy to announce that the tally for the month of **May is 49. Yes that's 49.**"

### BUNNINGS GARDEN CLUB

We gave a presentation to about 15 people at Bunnings, it was quite interesting as we were unsure if we should raise the subject of trapping and euthanasia but the ladies and gents took to it with gusto and most would be happy to dispatch any mynas threatening their native birds. Many took leaflets and promised to contact us if they saw any of these invasive pests.

### ANNUAL NETWORK MEETING AT GLADSTONE

Laura, Pam and Kevin attended this get together (near Kempsey) of trappers, project officers and coordinators to discuss current trends and trapping tactics.

## COMMUNITY SUCCESSES

**Lawrence** is a small community and no IMs have been sighted for a couple of months now. This is due to a group of residents getting a few traps, distributing the traps where the Mynas were sighted and helping each other out with trapping at different locations, euthanasing and tally collections. Thank you; all well done and a great community spirit.

**Tucabia** also has recently gotten involved in the trapping program with the assistance of an enthusiastic local. She has so far placed 4 traps and now arranges the euthanasing and advises us of their catches. Tucabia only started in April and already has a combined tally of 27. Her passion and networking is a great assistance and we have scheduled a Myna presentation at Tucabia's school. It's great when a town or group gets behind the program.

## MARKETS

Next market is on 30<sup>th</sup> June at Coutts Crossing.

In autumn we had information stalls at the Maclean and Grafton shows, Tucabia and Nymboida markets.



Tucabia markets

We placed several traps at Tucabia, mainly due to efforts of a dedicated local.

Nymboida Village as yet has only a few Indian Mynas. We found a trapper with an old council trap, which we replaced with the upgraded version. This now means Nymboida has 3 trappers and a couple of shooters in the area. There were however sightings reported of a group of about 50 mynas at the Nymboida Bridge and we don't have a nearby trapper, any suggestions?

At Maclean and Grafton markets we shared a marquee with Clarence Valley Weeds. At Maclean we were well placed near the main entry, two traps were placed and had lots of interest. Heavy overnight rain at Grafton meant we had to move to a less visible site and although the interest was less we distributed lots of info and helped people to be able to identify the Indian Mynas.

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

Email: [mynas@cvcia.org.au](mailto:mynas@cvcia.org.au) Phone: Laura on 66494712  
Report sightings / Website: [www.cvcia.org.au](http://www.cvcia.org.au)

## **MYNAS TRAPPED**

**2011 = 1591**

**2012 = 959**

### TOP TRAPPING AREAS (2012)

Coutts Crossing (7 trappers)	184
South Grafton (1 trapper)	154
Lawrence (6 trappers)	89
Ulmarra (4 trappers)	85
Warregah Island (1 trapper)	53
Waterview Heights (5 trappers)	45
Seelands (1 trapper)	44
Grafton (2 trappers)	43
Palmers Channel (6 trappers)	34
Mountainview (1 trapper)	28
Glenreagh (5 trappers)	28

### TRAPPING TALLIES

It would be greatly appreciated if on or about the 1st of each month trappers could advise their CVCIA contact person of their previous month's tally. If it's zero please advise whether it's due to 'no mynas around'; or 'not trapping at the moment'; or 'just can't get them into the trap'. Tallies are a very important part of trapping. They allow us to monitor and report on progress, and with continual up to date data we may be able to determine a trend or pattern in the mynas locations at different months or seasons each year.

It's a lot easier for one trapper to advise their CVCIA contact than for the contact person to get in touch with their trappers. Laura is currently contacting over 50 trappers each month, so she'd be grateful for any help.

Ideally we need more area contacts who could be called by a few local trappers, compile the numbers and advise us. If you think you could do this or know someone who may be interested, please contact Laura on 6649 4712.

### UPDATES

Good news – Macleay and Hastings Landcare have received a grant to extend their existing myna work. Justine Elder (0428 864 465) has been employed as project officer to run the program, which will focus on monitoring the spread of the birds, and establishing local Action groups in Indian Myna hot spots to trap and remove the birds. This is good news as it increases the area where control programs are active. These programs now stretch from Tweed / Byron to Port Macquarie / Kempsey.

### USING CALLER BIRDS

Our statistics show almost every trapper using caller birds are successful. In rural areas they appear to be essential to bring the IMs down to the trap. Some people find two caller birds are better; they talk more and keep each other company but it doubles the feed bill.