



Clarence Valley  
**Conservation in Action**  
**MYNA NEWSLETTER NO 13**  
**JUNE 2014**



## OUR TALLY CLIMBS SLOWLY PAST THE 6000 MARK

### WINTER IS SUPPOSEDLY HERE

So most areas will see only a few or no Indian Mynas whereas areas where the mynas have chosen their winter roost site may see large numbers. We have had reports of large flocks just north of Ulmarra, around Cowper and Chatsworth Island School. If you see any large flocks please let us know.

### MARKETS or STORIES

If you have a local community market or special market day, please let us know as we would be happy to bring our information display to your area. Please contact Laura on 6649 4712 or [laura@cvcia.org.au](mailto:laura@cvcia.org.au)

If you have something that could be included in our newsletter please let us know. I'm sure we'll run out of things to say one day - [laura@cvcia.org.au](mailto:laura@cvcia.org.au)



### IBIS PROBLEMS

Some trappers have reported having problems with Ibis taking food from their traps whilst others including ourselves have had no problems. As Ibis need a fair bit of space to take off one trapper fenced off their trap with square fencing wire so the Mynas could go through but there wasn't much room between the fence and the trap for the Ibis to land and take off. Please note that the picture is not to scale. The fence should be one square higher (at least to the trap height) and of course, should totally surround the trap. We'd also suggest the squares to be a little smaller. Try it, it seems to work.

### AROUND THE TRAPS

Jo eventually caught her first 2 mynas out of the 8 mynas that have been hanging around her place at Mountain View. She had moved the trap (no caller) around different positions, out in the open and then tried next to their boat and with a light blue rag over the white corflute. Just goes to show sometimes you have to just try everything.

An interesting observation by Moira (who is regrettably now an ex-trapper and had two traps) – the trap with the blue shade cloth is the one the Indian Mynas in Coutts Crossing like best. The other one has green shade cloth – “they don't appear to like it and rarely go in”. We have yet to substantiate this so would like any comments.

Margie's thanks: “Harry has been helping me dispose of the Mynas I've caught on Palmers Island and keeps me in caller birds when he can. Couldn't do it without him!”

Ashby as yet has no mynas even though the surrounding areas (Maclean, Harwood, Tullymorgan) do have these pests. We are grateful for AI, an Ashby resident, who is ready to defend his little village, as he has a trap in waiting. Apart from his regular monthly reporting which is still “no mynas around (nm)”, he has given out a trap on our behalf; letterbox dropped at Chatsworth Island; and assisted in networking to find a local handyman to clean out a Myna's nest and repair a hole in a Harwood building.

### BATHURST WORKSHOP AND TRAP DELIVERY

During May Laura and I took a couple of days off and drove to Bathurst. We delivered our trailer load of thirty one traps (built by Nortec) and conducted a successful workshop for Bathurst Regional Council. Twenty five people attended from local areas including Orange and Lithgow Councils. We preached the usual Indian Myna story mainly to the converted but hopefully our presentation and the traps will get a program running in the area. Following the workshop the council sold nineteen of the thirty one traps we delivered and are making the rest available to residents at cost.



ANOTHER GRANT for the COMMON (Indian) MYNA TEAM! by Pam, the CVCIA Project Manager.

In 2012 the CVCIA won a Federally funded Community Action Grant to help build a self-sufficient community network of trappers to control the Common (Indian) Mynas in the Clarence Valley. With that grant we had a Project Officer, Kevin Noble, for 18 months. Although that grant has now finished, both Kevin and his wife Laura continue their work with Indian Mynas within the valley and further afield.

This year at the end of May, a Norman Wettenhall Foundation Small Environmental Grant was awarded to the CVCIA for "Monitoring the Common (Indian) Myna in the Clarence valley". The grant will allow us to have the assistance of professional survey contractors to establish a data baseline for the distribution and abundance of the Common Myna in the Clarence Valley. This data will be invaluable as it will allow us in the future to gauge the success or otherwise of our trapping program, and to make any modifications if and when required. As with all of the data collected from you, our trappers, this new data will also be passed on to other bodies involved in the control of this feral pest.

THE COMPACT TRAP

Following several prototypes Kevin and Gary from Nortec have come up with a great compact version of the PeeGee trap. It maybe a bit hard to see in the first photo but the smaller trapping section now fits inside the larger holding section. The size of the holding section has been reduced by 25mm each way which also means it fits better on a pallet for bulk deliveries. This means that the overall size for individual shipping is almost halved and can be delivered for just \$55 to most of Indian Mynas affected areas in NSW.



SHOP DISPLAY



Picture shows a CVCIA trap and nesting box as part of a Landcare window display in the Summerland Credit Union office, Prince St, all of February. Thank you to

Landcare and Summerland Credit Union for involving us.

TRAP BUILDING

Nortec Grafton continues to produce traps for us and following interest from several western councils we delivered 31 traps to Bathurst.

The compact design trap appears to be a success with several delivered to individuals.

Gary, the trap building supervisor at Nortec, is retiring to travel at end of June, so if anyone knows of a good handy person who could be interested in 1 or 2 days a week voluntary work supervising trap construction, please let us know.

MYNA PROGRAM FUNDING

Although the CVCIA Myna team run the program on a voluntary basis, there is still a need some funding to cover out of pocket expenses.

The Clarence Valley Council recently gave us money towards these operating costs. Our thanks to Marty Swain and Rod Wright and the CV Council for their continued support for the Indian Myna program.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INDIAN MYNA TALLY</b> <b>2011 = 1593 2012 = 2010</b> <b>2013= 1749 2014 = 723</b> <b>TOTAL TO DATE 6083</b></p>
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OUR TOP 10 TRAPPING AREAS in 2014 (2013)

1.	Junction Hill	179	(0)
2.	Coutts Crossing	122	(206)
3.	Lilydale	58	(79)
4.	Lawrence	52	(105)
5.	Nymboida	39	(12)
6.	South Grafton	37	(217)
7.	Kungala	34	(15)
8.	Eatonsville	34	(77)
9.	Trenayr	26	(7)
10.	Warregah Island	24	(12)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Do you have email access?</b> <b>If so please let us know as we prefer to send this newsletter electronically</b></p>
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Email: [mynas@cvcia.org.au](mailto:mynas@cvcia.org.au) , [laura@cvcia.org.au](mailto:laura@cvcia.org.au) , [kevin@cvcia.org.au](mailto:kevin@cvcia.org.au) , or your area coordinator.

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

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