



Clarence Valley
Conservation in Action
MYNA NEWSLETTER NO 17
OCTOBER 2016



OUR TALLY JUST SHORT OF 9000 MYNAS

SPRING IS HERE

With the onset of the warmer spring month we can expect to see an increase in the spread and numbers of mynas, as pairs spread out to find nesting hollows for breeding. Around our way we have reports already of 20-30 mynas arriving as early as August.

There will be lots of young and venturesome Indian Myna fledglings about so we should increase our trapping efforts to make sure that we keep the overall numbers in check.

During winter some people reported that the Mynas had visited briefly then disappeared, so the number of mynas caught was down somewhat but each one euthanased reduces their breeding potential. Keep up the great work and thank you all for participating and for your continued support.

GLEN INNES MYNA WORKSHOP



Laura and Kevin presented an Indian myna workshop on 7th September 2016 at the invitation of Glenrac Inc. (Landcare) in Glen Innes, who arranged the venue at the sales yard and catering for the day.

Topics included: IM identification; why they are a serious threat to our natives; what can be done to control them; how to trap and euthanase them.

We also delivered 8 Nortec myna traps which Glenrac will loan out or sell to new trappers. It was a successful day, well attended by about 20 people, including some from Tamworth Birdwatchers who are running a myna control program in their area.

We placed a trap the afternoon before the workshop but as we didn't see any mynas on the ground were unsure where to put the trap and even baiting it with Cheezels was unsuccessful (nothing beats a caller!).

NEW CVCIA MYNA PROJECTS

We applied for a small grant to explore the viability of an integrated myna control program by trialling the below methods.

If you have a Myna problem which you believe could be helped by any of the following please contact us.

Mist Netting Trial

Our group in conjunction with Dr Greg Clancy a local ecologist are conducting trials to assess the feasibility of netting Indian Mynas at feeding areas or roost sites. More on this as we progress.

Shooting Trial

We have some funds to trail a licensed shooter to cover areas with large populations of mynas in difficult trapping areas.

Nest Removal

We also hope to trial a tree climber to remove nests, eggs and chicks from tree hollows and other Indian Myna nest sites.

Aviary Trap



We are currently evaluating a large trap based on one currently being tested by the Bundaberg council in Childers, Queensland. The trap would be a modified commercially available aviary with additions to suit Indian Myna trapping and holding. Note shelves with several access tunnels. Not sure yet where bait goes, but maybe with a few in it bait won't be necessary. The advantages appear to be that it would need servicing less frequently and is far less prone to rats and snake attack.

GYMPIE MYNA WORKSHOP & TRAP BUILDING



Laura and Kevin were guests at an Indian myna workshop and trap building morning on 10th September 2016 at Gympie Landcare in Queensland.

We were invited by John Williams; John started a trapping program in Hervey Bay a few years ago initially it was just him but now has a small network of trappers involved. John presented an education and trapping session similar to ours and then showed people how to build their own trap with wire he provided. We took 6 of our Nortec Myna traps which all sold on the day. It was a great morning, attended by 17 people.

Thanks John for your efforts to further spread the message and control IM numbers. We have been answering queries from John to assist with his project for a couple of years now and happy to continue to assist him and any other group whenever we can.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS since the last newsletter:

- Grafton Garden Club in January 2016
- Bunnings Garden Club in April 2016

CLARENCE VALLEY COUNCIL RATES NEWLETTER

For the first time our council who are supporters of the program included an article on Indian mynas and our program in the newsletter that accompanies the rates notices. It was a great help to increase awareness of the program and created many extra inquiries regarding mynas and trapping.

HELP NEEDED

Is anyone interested in assisting with compiling the monthly tallies? This would involve emailing, SMS'ing or ringing trappers on a monthly basis to see if they have mynas in their area, if they are trapping and have caught any and emailing this info to Laura, together with any queries the trappers may have.

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

More areas which have trapping programs:

Tamworth Birdwatchers: Eric Fair on 6769 7525.
Gympie Landcare: www.gympielandcare.org.au
nsia@gwydir.nsw.gov.au 6724 2052 (Bingara/Moree)
admin@gwymaucklandcare.net.au 6721 1241 (Inverell)
Hervey Bay, Qld: johnwilliams17@bigpond.com
For a list of other areas please check our website.

MORE MILESTONE TRAPPERS

Since the trappers started they have reached:

Dale from Lawrence 100 in August 2015

Jim from Carrs Creek 250 in June 2015

Mark from Coutts Crossing 100 in April 2015

Josh from Kungala 100 in September 2015

Bruce from Wooli 250 in November 2015

CHANGE TO NEWSLETTER PUBLISHING

Due to our seemingly ever increasing workload and finding content for the Newsletter it appears a bi annual newsletter will have to be adequate. Newsletter contributions of articles/comments are most welcome.

CVCIA MEMBERSHIP

Membership for 2016/17 is now due. Although it is not a requirement for trappers to be members we do encourage it as the small fee (\$5 for individuals or \$10 per family) helps to support the CVCIA programs. Please see our website for more details.

Email: mynas@cvcia.org.au , laura@cvcia.org.au ,
kevin@cvcia.org.au , or your area coordinator.

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

Website: www.cvcia.org.au

INDIAN MYNA TALLY

2011 = 1593 2012 = 2010

2013 = 1753 2014 = 1343

2015 = 1210 2016 = 997

TOTAL TO DATE 8906

OUR TOP 10 TRAPPING AREAS in 2016 (to date)

1	Copmanhurst	117
2	South Grafton	97
3	Junction Hill	96
4	Coutts Crossing	96
5	Mylneford	72
6	Waterview Heights	72
7	Braunstone	66
8	Gulmarrad	37
9	Carrs Ck	33
10	Clarenza	33