



Clarence Valley
Conservation in Action
MYNA NEWSLETTER NO 7
DECEMBER 2012



WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY CHRISTMAS & A GREAT NEW YEAR

SUMMER TIME

At this time of the year there are many young and inexperienced myna fledglings about so our trapping needs to increase to make sure that we keep the overall numbers down. Even if you have managed to remove all the mynas on your property please watch and listen for them and report any you notice on the way to shopping or during your travels (numbers and location) to mynas@cvcia.org.au

November was a very busy month for Laura and I.

MARKETS

We took the CVCIA Indian Myna and Cane Toad information stall to Iluka November markets. Annie, a toad-buster from Woombah helped us. We talked to many people and hopefully assisted in recognition of both pests. Annie may have a potential cane-toader, and although we didn't get immediate results we were contacted shortly after by a lady from Woombah for a trap.



CVCIA's display at Iluka markets

MURWILLUMBAH CONFERENCE

Laura and I joined a group of representatives from Tweed, Lismore, Byron and Gold Coast Councils together with Granite Borders and Richmond Landcares to discuss ongoing control of mynas in our areas and how we can all cooperate to get the best results. It was a very interesting day and we learnt a lot about how our near neighbours' programs are operating. A joint effort was proposed in an attempt to interest a university to study the myna's habitats and food sources to further assist in designing trapping programs.

GRANITE BORDERS LANDCARE WORKSHOPS

GBLC has recently received a "Caring for Our Country" grant similar to CVCIA and we were invited by Mark Thomas to present three workshops to help kick-start their program before the mynas are able to get established in their area. Twelve people attended the Stanthorpe workshop at the Community Garden including one from Warwick who had many mynas in his garden and needed help to try to get something going in Warwick.

The second session was at Drake 50 kilometres east of Tenterfield. Although only three people turned up it was still a fruitful session as they were all interested in helping set it up in their little community.



Laura at GBLC's Tenterfield workshop

That afternoon the final workshop was at the GBLC Office in Tenterfield. Over twenty people attended what was the most successful meeting with many people offering to help control the pests here. Mark placed his first trap even though it wasn't quite finished, the trapper was happy to add the finishing touches, if allowed to get trapping straight away.

A lady came to open the hall for the Stanthorpe workshop. She stayed only to close up but listened to the presentation. Afterwards she said told us "I'm an environmentalist and would not have considered attending this, but I've changed my mind – I didn't realise how devastating mynas are. I'm glad I came."

TRAP BUILDING

Nortec have practically stopped building traps for the CVCIA as we have sufficient on hand for now and the immediate future. They are now making some traps for the Tweed Council program.

We also have a couple of traps built to trap difficult mynas so let us know if you think you need one.

WINE & WEED GET TOGETHER

Angourie Landcare hosted an evening in November. We were invited to discuss the Indian Myna Invasion. This also enabled us to publicise the Yamba workshop coming up and other interests of CVCIA such as cane toads, shorebirds and litter. About 40 people attended and we answered many questions on identification of mynas and what can be done (including displaying our traps). It appears that these pests have may not have reached Angourie from Yamba yet.

YAMBA WORKSHOP

On Friday 30th thirty-five interested people packed the Old Kirk Hall at the Yamba Museum to overflowing to hear what we had to say about this nasty bird. As well as locals there were also a couple tourists from Sydney and Melbourne who were looking for help with mynas there. We were also pleased to have Bruce who single handed keeps the mynas at bay in Woolli, his comments were most helpful.

Well done Paul our Yamba coordinator who organised the venue and publicity. Thanks also to Helen of Angourie Landcare who delivered 100 flyers to residents of Angourie and Woolewayah and a special thanks to Pam our Grafton coordinator who provided morning tea and assisted on the day.

The audience seemed very interested as there were lots of questions both during the presentation and over the friendly cuppa afterwards.



Laura at the Yamba Workshop

I always felt Yamba was a bit slow on taking up the program but maybe I was wrong, two traps have been placed since the meeting and we are hopeful of more. One old council trap was recovered and it will be brought up to scratch ready for loan.

MYNAS TRAPPED to Nov. 2012

2011 = 1593

2012 = 1741

OUR TOP 10 TRAPPING AREAS (Jan 2012 to Nov 2012)

1. Coutts Crossing	284
2. South Grafton	236
3. Waterview Heights	152
4. Warregah Island	99
5. Ulmarra	99
6. Great Marlow	91
7. Lawrence	89
8. Palmers Channel	80
9. Woolli	71
10. Carrs Creek	68

UPDATES

New Indian Myna Control Programs:

Granite Borders Landcare - 6586 4465 or
mark@gbllc.org.au

GOLD COAST IM PROGRAM

They have been operating now for twelve months with 30 traps built by council outdoor workers on wet days. Generally they are finding that residents expect the council to get rid of the IM's as they are annoying, noisy and dirty their washing. Trap take up by residents has been slow but even so they have euthanased almost 500 birds in the twelve months.

Contact Gold Coast City Council - 07 5581 6381 or
ijamieson@goldcoast.qld.gov.au

CHEESELS

Just a reminder - for those mynas which are near the trap but not finding the trap interesting enough to go into, try a cheesel or two. Break up a cheesel (usually snaps into four pieces) and place it in the trap. I prefer to do this early morning so the cheesel is fresh and smelly to attract the attention of the Myna (also I'm not so tempted to snack on them that early).

Do you have email access?

If so please let us know as we prefer to send this newsletter electronically

Email: mynas@cvcia.org.au , laura@cvcia.org.au ,
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