



Clarence Valley  
**Conservation in Action**  
**MYNA NEWSLETTER NO 6**  
**SEPTEMBER 2012**



## ***THE CLARENCE VALLEY NOW HAS 2948 LESS MYNAS. Well done everyone!***

### “SPRING IS SPRUNGE, THE GRASS IS RIZ, I WONDER WHERE THE MYNAS IS?”

This is the time when the mynas are spreading out again looking for good nest sights and soon start breeding. Many trappers had a winter reprieve with no mynas in their area. In the meantime, the hot spots for the mynas during the last 3 months were Great Marlow, Carrs Creek and Coutts Crossing.

### NORTEC TRAP CONSTRUCTION

Our thanks again to the team at Nortec for their continued trap building program. They have constructed almost 30 traps and are about to commence building for the Tweed/Byron Group. Thanks also to Bob our Grafton volunteer who builds the CO<sub>2</sub> transfer cages as well as a couple of experimental drop traps and has repaired some damaged traps .

### SOME SMART DOG

I thought you might be interested in an unusual thing that has been happening since I started trapping these Indian Mynas.

My dog Belle, who is a fox terrier, has watched carefully when a bird goes into the trap. She has worked out which ones I want and when a native butcherbird etc goes in she starts barking and will not stop until I go and release it.

I will never call a dog dumb again, especially my Belle.

Moira

### TRAPPING MILESTONES

Peter from Great Marlow passed his 100th myna in June 2012 with a catch of 63 in June for a total of 141. Peter is one of our long term trappers and says there are lots more to get.



**Thank you for participating and getting involved in local trapping. Trapping isn't the only way people can help. Here are a few:**

- Spread the word and make your friends, neighbours and relatives aware of the invasion of Indian Mynas.
- Pass on this newsletter or put a copy up in your local store.
- By becoming a member, for only \$5.00 pa you can help CVCIA to pay for our insurance.

You can do this by either, sending an email to [ant@cvcia.org.au](mailto:ant@cvcia.org.au) or complete and post the form overleaf.

Direct deposit (acc name CVCIA Landcare, BSB 637 000, acc no: 718278643 – please put your surname in the details so Ant knows who has paid), or Post chq – to CVCIA Landcare, 65 Riverdale Court, Grafton, 2460

### ELECTRONIC CALLER TRIALS

We are testing a small (50mm cube) rechargeable speaker which plays IM calls for about 20 hours before it needs to be connected to a USB power source, either a computer or car cigarette lighter for recharging. Whilst not water proof it is simply put in a plastic container to protect it and placed up in the holding section of the trap, under the roof. Tests so far have been inconclusive but there have been some successes, we will keep you advised and if you would like to try one, more will be available shortly.



**The Myna sound box**

### CAIRNS MYNA UPDATE

The joint program by the Rotary Club of Cairns and Cairns Men's Shed has led to the construction and sale of more than 950 metal cages and the capture of an estimated 10,000 myna birds in the past nine months. One trapper alone has caught over 400.

For more details visit [www.cnsrim.org.au](http://www.cnsrim.org.au)

### TUCABIA PRIMARY SCHOOL

We gave a presentation to about 40 students and several teachers at the school. The talk focussed on identification, the threat to our natives and actions to reduce the chance of mynas staying for easy food sources such as food scraps around the playground and leaving pet food outside. Leaflets and colouring in sheets were provided so the teachers could follow up.

LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS or WEBSITES.

The local newsletters of Glenreagh, Nymboida/Coutts Crossing and Halfway Creek are kindly including CVCIA articles to help spread the warning about mynas. So if southern Clarence Valley areas can have newsletters and websites surely there must be more communities doing the same in other parts of the valley. Come on; please let us know if your area has one.

TRAPPING TALLIES

It would be greatly appreciated if early each month trappers could advise their CVCIA contact person of their previous month's tally even if it's zero.

It's a lot easier for one trapper to advise their CVCIA contact than for the CIA person to get in touch with all their trappers.

Myna poetry

*The Valley's fauna are living in fear,  
for they know the feral mynas are here.*

*These black-headed invaders are really nasty fellas,  
and gang up to attack our tree hollow dwellers.*

*No bird or bat or little pardalote,  
is safe from these vicious myna flocks.*

*The baby willie wagtails all killed in their nest  
and blue forest kingfisher, stabbed in the breast.*

*Hey, beady-eyed stranger with long yellow legs!  
You've been seen prowling where our rosella lays eggs.*

*The long arm of the law has reached out at last.  
The CIA Myna program has come to pass.*

*Our great group of comrades have set up a plan  
They built cages and traps now every one can  
start trapping the mynas to do them away,  
so our beautiful natives can be here to stay.*

*Come join us one, come join us all  
so the Indian Myna can at last suffer a fall.*

*Adapted from "No Mynah Matter" by Bryce Courtenay*

**MYNAS TRAPPED**

**2011 = 1591**

**2012 = 1357**

TOP TRAPPING AREAS (2012)

Coutts Crossing (9 trappers)	242
South Grafton (1 trapper)	189
Great Marlow (1 trapper)	91
Lawrence (6 trappers)	89
Waterview Heights (5 trappers)	87
Ulmarra (4 trappers)	85
Carrs Creek (1 trapper)	68
Warregah Island (1 trapper)	58
Copmanhurst (1 trapper)	46
Grafton (2 trappers)	45

MARKETS

We had our information stall at the Coutts Crossing market at the end of June and even though it rained heavily in the days leading up to the markets it was quite a successful day.

We placed a couple of traps and delivered a couple more to people who had already requested them.

Coutts has lots of mynas; they are our top trapping area so the more traps here the better for all. Moira continues her successes and is very good at assisting other trappers as well as being our CO<sub>2</sub> area operator.

**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)

**Clarence Valley Conservation in Action – Membership form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Please tick if \$5 membership is:

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed  banked

Please post to CVCIA Landcare, 65 Riverdale Court, Grafton, 2460