



Clarence Valley  
**Conservation in Action**  
**MYNA NEWSLETTER NO 15**  
**JANUARY 2015**



## **OUR TALLY PASSES 6500 MYNAS**

### **SUMMER IS HERE**

Now there will be many young and inexperienced myna fledglings about so we may need to increase our trapping efforts to make sure that we keep the overall numbers down. During Spring people reported that the Indian Mynas had visited briefly then disappeared, so number of IMs caught was less than in previous years but just one euthanased IM interrupts their breeding cycle.

We hope everyone had a Safe and Happy Christmas and New Year. Also, just a reminder that we are all giving each other a break and as we won't be following up any tallies until February 2015, please keep your tallies for December and January even if zero (0). If you still wish to phone or email them in each month, we're happy to receive them. Keep up the great work and thank you all for participating.

### **RESEARCH**

Scientists from the Australian Museum Research Institute, the University of Newcastle and the University of Queensland have commenced a study investigating the invasion and range expansion of the Indian Myna (also called the Common Myna) in Australia. They are coordinating collection tissue samples, or preferably whole dead birds, so as to analyse the birds DNA. Using genetic techniques to answer five key questions:

- How many separate introductions have occurred?
- What are the origins of particular populations?
- Are some populations more invasive than others?
- Does native vegetation act as a barrier to dispersal?
- Are populations evolving to become more invasive?

The scientists were very happy with the condition of the 11 frozen mynas which we recently sent down— 3 from Coutts, 2 from Kungala, 2 from Woolli, 2 from Waterview Heights and 2 from South Grafton. AM would like to receive more from the Clarence Valley area so if it's convenient, please ring Laura 6649 4712 prior to euthanasing to discuss the process. We will need the birds' date of capture, so please record this. 2 - 3 birds from the same area is preferred.



### **WORKSHOP**

On 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014 we ventured up to Kyogle to assist Northern Landcare Support Services with our usual comprehensive workshop on Indian Mynas, the threat they pose and control methods. There was a great turn out of locals from as far afield as Bonalbo and by the end all six traps (made by Nortec) we had with us were taken and 6 more are now on the waiting list. The venue; Grove House Community Centre, was beaut with a well equipped conference room and a large community vegie garden out back.

### **CHANGE TO NEWSLETTER PUBLISHING**

Due to our workload and finding content for a quarterly Newsletter, Laura and I have decided to ease back a little on the number of tasks we are trying to do, so from here on we are going to produce this newsletter every four months. Newsletter contributions of articles/comments are most welcome.

### **AROUND THE TRAPS/NETWORKING**

A resident of Hervey Bay Qld, John Williams, has started an Indian Myna group recently. He and his few trappers have caught 20 mynas, keeping some as callers. Also, John has initially been able to get some assistance from Council – they supply the CO2 gas for euthanasing. He mentioned a sneaky bird that had managed to escape back down the funnel and out to safety.

This has happened occasionally so here is a photo of a simple solution for this problem. It is just a small bit of cage wire clipped and bent as shown in the insert, which swings inward to allow entry but the short stick (attached to the end of the tunnel) stops it swinging the other way and so prevents exit. We don't include it as standard as it may deter some birds from entering. If anyone tries this please let us know how it went.



## INDIAN MYNA TALLY

2011 = 1593 2012 = 2010

2013= 1753 2014 = 1191

**TOTAL TO DATE 6543**

### OUR TOP 10 TRAPPING AREAS in 2014 (to Dec)

1.	Coutts Crossing	204
2.	Junction Hill	190
3.	Waterview Heights	97
4.	Lawrence	82
5.	South Grafton	82
6.	Lilydale	58
7.	Kungala	50
8.	Wooli	48
9.	Eatonsville	39
10.	Nymboida	39

There are also plans for a drop door version which is available on the CVCIA website.

During the year, we have had many inquiries from other areas and States regarding IMs and trapping. We always are happy to help and chat about their issues. We have supplied traps to Groups and individuals ie Bathurst, Kyogle, Bankstown and Moree. Recently, on our way to Brisbane, we detoured and delivered 5 traps to Tweed Council with more to deliver next trip up that way.

We also receive sightings outside of the Clarence Valley area which we forward on if we can find a myna contact. There have been a few inquiries from the Mid North Coast area (probably due to the change/confusion of administration) so we located a volunteer (wish situations were all as smooth as the one below from a Corindi inquiry): ....“Just letting you know that your system is working well. Within 3 hours of my initial email to you, I had picked up a trap and bird from the very helpful Louise, and within 10 days I had trapped and eradicated 12 birds. Regards John:”

Part of an email from Jo at Mountain View:  
 “We have about 6 (mynas) or so that all hang out together. They all stay away from the trap. Zero caught. I must say though, we have a lot less out here than this time last year, we have 3 pairs of Rosellas + their young - last year had none.”

For the people who don't understand OUR cause:

“We only preserve what we love.  
 We only love what we understand.  
 We only understand what we study.”

**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 on 6649 4712 or your area co-ordinator.

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

### Review of Statistics

**Coutts Crossing** currently has 5 trappers. A couple in the village and the others on the outskirts. They have a combined tally of 204 for Jan-Nov, and since 2011 922 mynas have been euthanased with over half of this tally achieved by Moira, ‘the Myna Magnet.’ Like so many other villages in the Clarence, there are mynas still thriving in other parts of town but unfortunately no trappers.

Staying in that region, Richard in **Blaxland Creek** trapped for 2 years and eliminated 61 off and on during his ill health. Richard has since passed away but was always watching out for these pest birds.

**Nymboida** currently has 4 trappers. The total tally since 2011 is 57 with 42 of those being caught by Tony, over the bridge. No mynas have been on their properties since February 2014.

**Kangaroo Creek** currently has no trappers but there have been 2 and their combined tally since 2011 is 17.

**Braunstone** had Dorothy in 2014 for one month, as she returned the trap after successfully catching all 4 mynas that were hanging around and she has not sighted any more. There was another trapper in the Braunstone area in 2011 but only caught 1 as there was no convenient site for the trap.

More analysis next edition.

**Do you have email access?**

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