

Developing Our Database

We were overwhelmed with community interest when we first announced our intentions to take on this campaign. As you know, we were not able to accurately read some of the email addresses that were supplied to us. There are others with an interest in the campaign, who have yet to give us a contact email. As well, many of the trap buyers have not advised their email addresses.

Please be assured that your email address will be treated confidentiality and be used only to keep you informed on RIM matters.

If you know of neighbours/friends/colleagues who would like to become involved in the campaign, please advise them to email their full name, address and preferred email address to info@cnsrim.org.au

Secretary, Treasurer and IT Positions to be Filled

Prior to Incorporation, we filled the 'Secretary' and 'Treasurer' positions on an interim basis. We now need those positions filled on an ongoing basis.

If you are passionate about our objective of significantly reducing the Indian Myna population in our area, please consider putting your name forward for one of the positions. The work will not be difficult, but it will be time consuming. For the secretary position, accurate minute taking and excellent record keeping skills are required. We will also need on our committee an IT competent person to help set up and maintain our website and email services. A secretary with such skills would be truly appreciated. If that combo is not available however, we will need a separate IT savvy person. For the treasurer position, experience in bookkeeping and financial reporting would be helpful.

Please email me at info@cnsrim.org.au with a brief profile if you like to be considered for one of the positions.

Field Volunteers

Thank you to those of you who have put up your hand to take on a Field Volunteer position. We are off to a good start. However we need more. As I said in the last newsletter:

'R.I.M. will require an army of Field Volunteers. Each Field Volunteer will be assigned a geographical area to administer the placement and management of traps. Each Field Volunteer will enlist his /her own immediate team of volunteers, a subcommittee of at least 6 people, to administer the placement and management of traps in their assigned location.

The concept is to have Field Volunteers in respective suburbs and townships. To place traps in suburb by suburb, street by street, backyard by backyard, corporate property by corporate property, public area by public area and to rotate traps at regular intervals so as to baffle the wary Indian Myna.'

Please email info@cnsrim.org.au if you are willing to take on a F.V. position.

Membership

We have been incorporated as a membership association. Our new expanded committee when formed will determine membership fees etc. However, as previously advised, a token membership fee is all that is envisaged.

The organisation will be staffed by volunteers and the membership fees will be used to meet operational expenses such as website and email registrations, Post Office Box and dedicated phone costs. We will also need some small amount of government and/or business and/or community financial support to stay in the black. There will be more on that later.

Australia-wide Campaign

Community campaigns against the dreaded Myna are being conducted all over Australia. They are mainly community based rather than government based because the Indian Myna like the Cane Toad is not an officially declared pest. The reason for the Toad and Myna not being officially declared pests is that once that status has been applied, governments are required to take certain prescribed actions aimed at eradication.

The task with Myna birds is enormous and governments lack the resources to take on the task by themselves.

Cairns Regional Council has undertaken to help us in every way they can. But it is basically up to the RIM campaign

Yours in enhancing our native environment

Peter Goulding
President

PS See attachments 1 & 2 below



info@cnsrim.org.au

Rotary Club of Cairns: The Heartbeat of Cairns Community since 21st February 1930

[Attachment 1](#)

[Myna Trapping Help Sheet](#)

This help sheet is intended as a guide to trapping Indian Mynas. It has been prepared with help from CIMAC, the Canberra action Committee.

Traps are to be only placed on private property, to avoid possible public sensitivity and public liability issues and to avoid vandalism.

- Place the trap in a relatively open area or where birds already feed, if possible. Another good spot seems to be under power lines in an area where there are not people or animal traffic (ie behind the carport in the vegie patch).
- Bait the trap with a food the birds are accustomed to feeding on. Suburban feeding birds are used to pet food as many pet owners leave food out for their pets during the day. Using small dry dog and cat biscuits has been very successful as has VIP pet roll. Wet dog or cat food is not so nice in hot weather though
- Do not use cereal and grain-based foods (birdseed and breadcrumbs etc) as this attracts non-target birds such as crested pigeons and parrots. However, slices or pieces of bread work fine in North Queensland
- To attract the Mynas to the area, put a little loose feed outside the funnel entrances, in the tunnel, and inside the feeding chamber where the Mynas can see the food directly in front of them, when they are in the tunnel. Put food in the collection box for captured birds, and provide fresh water.
- Loose feeding will attract the birds into your area. You should not over feed outside the trap, as this will not encourage the birds to enter the trap. Use loose feed only to encourage the birds to feed, not to feed them.
- Monitor daily to ensure bait and water are available while trapping.
- Keep pets (particularly cats) away when trapping as the birds see cats and dogs as predators and are unlikely to approach the trap.
- Clean (hose down) and relocate the trap after the area becomes soiled from captured birds, as they don't appear to like being around their own excrement. Place newspaper or cardboard under the trap if using the trap on paved surfaces to avoid spoiling your pavements.
- Don't be disappointed if you don't catch birds every day. They are spasmodic in their movements, so keep at it. They may have moved to another food source in the area but will return if you keep feeding.
- If you keep a call bird in the containment chamber of your trap, this is likely to encourage others to the trap. This is not essential, and if you do this you must provide captive birds with food, water and shelter.
- Use gloves when handling live or dead birds as wild birds may carry disease.
- Abide by the Cairns Rotary RIM Protocol on Animal Welfare: this has been cleared by the RSPCA.
- If you are not in a position to euthanize the captured birds yourself, you can take the birds to the Earlville Veterinarian Surgery at 474 Mulgrave Rd for euthanizing for free. This service is available during working hours. However, please ring the surgery on 40541755 to fix a time to bring the birds in.

For further advice email info@cnsrim.org.au

Attachment 2

Cairns Rotary RIM Inc. — Protocol on Animal Welfare

The Cairns Rotary RIM campaign has the aim of protecting native birds from the threat posed by the Indian Myna (or Common Myna). Part of its strategy is to undertake a humane Myna reduction program through trapping and euthanizing.

The following data has been prepared with assistance from CIMAG, the Canberra Action Group, which like RIM, is a community group formed to reduce the impact of Mynas on native birds and animals

Cairns Rotary RIM recommends that Myna trappers adopt the following animal welfare protocol.

Management of traps

Traps to be used are those designed specifically for Indian Mynas (or sparrows) and must include a release opening to allow any native birds caught to be released without harm. Trappers are not to use seed-based food in traps as this can attract native birds. If a native bird is trapped, it is to be released immediately hopefully without letting any Mynas escape

The traps are to contain food and clean water for any trapped birds. The birds are not to be exposed to undue stress while trapped — avoid manhandling or approaching the traps too frequently.

Trapped Indian Mynas (and sparrows) are to be disposed of in a reasonable period (within two days), rather than kept captive for days on end.

If decoy birds are used in traps, they and any trapped birds are to have access to adequate food, clean water, shelter and shade.

The birds are not to be treated cruelly or with harsh conditions: please observe the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 1992. Traps are to be checked morning and evening.

Dealing with trapped birds

The method used for doing away trapped birds is to be quick, painless, and stress-free. Acceptable euthanizing methods include gassing with carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide. If using carbon monoxide, use a car with a cold engine: do not use diesel vehicles. Ensure you place the containment chamber with the trapped birds in a near-airtight bag or box.

Connect a grey water hose / pipe from the car or motor mower exhaust pipe into the bag / box and run the cold car/mower for a minute or so: the birds should be unconscious within 10-15 seconds and dead within 30-40 seconds.

If it takes longer than 30-40 seconds for the birds to die peacefully there is something wrong with your technique, and you should contact RIM for advice.

We prefer that cervical dislocation (breaking their necks) is not used, except by qualified professionals and then is to be instantaneous, with minimal handling of the birds. Our preference is

that trappers do not adopt this method as it is stressful to the birds in the trap, unpleasant and can allow birds to escape.

Should you not wish to kill birds, Earlville Veterinarian Surgery has agreed to euthanize and dispose of trapped birds free of charge. It is located at 474 Mulgrave Rd. The phone number is 40541755. Please phone before taking in birds.

Dead birds are to be disposed of in a hygienic and environmentally sound way.

If you have questions, please email: action@crimes.net.au