

Cairns Remove Indian Mynas Inc.



R.I.M. Campaign

Myna News – September 2014

Dear Myna Bird Removalists and Supporters,

As you carefully bait and set your back yard trap to catch those Common Mynas that are still making your home their home, you may wonder whether your efforts are worthwhile. Would it be better you may ask yourself to give your spare time to some other community project, where results seem more lasting, more permanent? After all it is likely that we will probably never totally eradicate Common (aka Indian) Mynas from Cairns.

The older readers of this newsletter may recall an Aussie song which begins “I’ve been everywhere man” and goes on to list all the country towns and cities that the singer had visited. Well, there are now more Myna reduction/eradication programs being undertaken than there are places mentioned in that song: Bayside, Port Philip, Stonnington, Macedon and Venus Bay in southern Victoria to mention just a few of the Victorian projects; in New South Wales they are being undertaken right along the coast: Bega, Wollongong, Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour and many places in between right up to the Queensland border. Lots of NSW inland communities also have programs underway. There are also programs being undertaken in Brisbane and right up the Queensland coast with one of the biggest programs right here in Cairns. And we should not leave out Canberra, the big daddy of them all with its Canberra Indian Myna Action Group (CIMAG), which has now removed over 50,000 Mynas from the capital. For his ongoing commitment to culling Mynas, Bill Handke, President of CIMAG, was recently awarded the ‘2014 ACT Environment Award’.

So you are not just a single trapper. You are not by yourself but are a part of an Australia wide program aimed at significantly reducing the numbers of this destructive pest.

There still remain some citizens of Cairns who decry the culling being undertaken of what they think are ‘cheeky’ and ‘lovable’ backyard invaders. They have not done their homework. I recently watched at Gordonvale 3 Mynas harass a peaceful dove out of the nest it had constructed: More territory for them; less for our native birds. Their seemingly endless pincer like attacks on the nest demonstrated their power to intimidate and overwhelm. For more on their damaging impact please go the RIM website.

There are Pacific Islands where native birds have been almost completely wiped out by the introduced Myna. Fight backs by bird loving locals are taking place in Fiji, Tahiti and the Cook Islands. The locals know they have lost or are losing a significant and beautiful part of their environment and culture when their revered beautiful bird life is decimated by the unwanted invader.

In the greater Cairns area we are having a big impact on the destructive invader. The Cairns Men’s Shed in 3 years has produced and sold 1475 Myna bird traps. We have surveyed a random selection of those trap purchasers over a period of time to determine catch numbers and are confident that somewhere between 20,000 and 30,000 Mynas have been dispatched to Myna heaven.

It is not the Mynas fault that they are here. People with good intentions but limited knowledge first brought the pests to Australia mainly to counter other pests. But forget the history. Today, we have a responsibility to cull the pest to protect our wildlife so that at the end of our days we can say we did our best to protect the unique species that enhance and colour our life here in Tropical North Queensland.

As you probably know, the Mynas breed twice a year. They are pairing up now for their second breeding this year. This is an excellent time to be undertaking some trapping.

