

Cairns Remove Indian Mynas Inc.



R.I.M. Campaign

Myna News – May 2014

Dear Myna Bird Removalists and Supporters,

It is time to **Dust Off Those Traps** and continue our campaign against the dreaded Indian Myna.

A friend just returned from staying on Denarau Island in Fiji. In his 8 day stay, he saw one native bird. The place was infested with Mynas. They were everywhere. Fiji is not the only Pacific Island that has seen its native birdlife mobbed out by aggressive Mynas. There are many islands whose bird life has been decimated by this aggressive bird. They were introduced last century to all these islands for what appeared to be good reasons at the time.

Here in our region, our heavy rainfall gives us rainforest that the Mynas won't enter. However our lightly vegetated suburbs, parks & playing fields nicely suit their eating and breeding habits. We are winning the good fight in these areas and many stories of native birds returning to what were Myna strongholds have been reported to the RIM committee and the Cairns Men's Shed.

The Cairns Men's Shed has now produced and sold 1450 traps and based on our record keeping we feel confident that somewhere between 20,000 & 30,000 Mynas have been killed. Thirty very active trappers from our data base alone have eradicated 4728 Mynas (157 per trap).

The Mynas breed twice a year and clutch size is normally 2 to 5 eggs. Given this reproductive capacity, Myna numbers can quickly rebound if culling activity is stopped. The Mynas have just completed a breeding period and are now beginning to mob. Flocks of up to 10 in number are being commonly sighted. Once they mob, they begin their activity of harassing native birds, forcing them from their breeding hollows and taking over the newly acquired territory. So please dust off your traps now and continue the campaign.

In 2012, the first year of our campaign, we hit the ground running, got great publicity for our efforts and success bred success. In 2013, the campaign slowed as bird numbers clearly fell in areas of high infestation and many trappers became less active.

A new RIM committee was formed in February 2014. It is as follows:

Peter Goulding	President	Phone	40544311
John King	Vice President (Cairns Men's Shed)	Phone	40535045
Peter Donellan	Treasurer		
Ron Moon	Cairns Men's Shed		
Warren Evans	Cairns Men's Shed		
Kate Pelling	Data Base Developer		
	We use the data base just for newsletters and monitoring. Your privacy is protected.		
Ian Northcott	Ornithologist		
Russell Wild	Representing Cairns Regional Council		

We need a Secretary. The position is honorary. It is now temporarily filled only. If you can keep good records and write good letters, Peter Goulding would welcome a call from you.

Please note that our email address is different from the one we commenced with. It is now:

cnsrim@gmail.com Our website remains the same, namely: www.cnsrim.org.au

Some facts that will bring a smile to your lips:

1. Myna eradication programs are growing in number and intensity throughout Australia. We are communicating with other action groups and sharing information and expertise.

2. More research into Mynas is being undertaken. A Brisbane researcher is studying the level of lice and other nasties carried by Mynas to determine the health risk they pose to humans compared to native birds. JCU has offered to help CNSRIM with research projects when students are available
3. The density of traps to population that we have here in the CRC area appears to be the highest achieved anywhere in Australia.
4. The Men's Shed is still taking orders for traps. If you know anybody that needs a trap have them phone the Men's Shed on 40535045 or email Peter Goulding at cnsrim@gmail.com
5. As you know, the birds roost in large numbers in selected trees at night. If you know of any such roosts, please email Peter Goulding at cnsrim@gmail.com or Russell Wild at the Cairns Regional Council at r.wild@cairns.qld.gov.au . The CRC will seek to destroy birds in these roosts.

Some trappers have had little or no success. The Myna Trapping Help Sheet and the Guidelines for setting a trap, which are attached to this newsletter, are recommended reading. If further help is needed phone the Men's Shed on 40535045 or call in at the shed on a Tuesday morning for some hands on demonstrations. The experts are there. They have had big catches. White bread put under the cage, not in it, is viewed as best practice. Also remember that if you do not wish to kill the birds you catch, there are veterinarians who will do it for you for nothing. You will find 3 listed in attachment '1' found under.

Native Tree Gardens Encourage Native Birds & Discourage Mynas

It is proven that our native plants are a real turn off to the pesky Mynas. If you are planting a new garden, consult your nurseryman on the correct shrubs and trees to achieve success.

If you need to know anything further, please visit our website at www.cnsrim.org.au or email me on: cnsrim@gmail.com

Peter Goulding

President



Email: cnsrim@gmail.com; Web: www.cnsrim.org.au

Rotary Club of Cairns: The Heartbeat of Cairns Community since 21st February 1933

Attachments Included with this newsletter have since been updated.

Please see:

Myna Bird Trapping Help Sheet

Guidelines for Setting Myna Bird Trap

On the web site (Links on left hand side of home page)