

Around the Traps - May 2013

Anton, Pam and the Lismore Men's Shed are thinking Big

Anton Nguyen of Lismore City Council and Pam Gray of Tweed Shire Council together with the Lismore Men and Community Shed are thinking BIG.

They have developed a super-sized trap – which we are calling the “Big Lissy” – for use at the waste facility at Lismore and elsewhere around the Northern Rivers region – hopefully to catch very big numbers. The Lismore Men and Community Shed were the ones to build “Big Lissy”. Lismore City Council and Richmond Landcare Inc. will work with others in the community to trial and refine the new trap in an attempt to manage and control Indian Mynas up that way.

The Big Lissy with guys from the Mens Shed and Anton – note the PeeGees trap on left



Things on the move in Victoria

Various communities and councils in Victoria are developing myna control actions. We reported last Bulletin about the activities of the **Yarrowonga Mulwala Men's Shed** and the **Gecko Clan (Landcare) group**. There was also a move to form the **NE Victorian Indian Myna Control Network** covering the area of Yarrowonga, Benalla, Shepparton, Cobram, Wangaratta and Seymour. John Shorten of the Men's Shed reports that recent public meetings at **Benalla** and elsewhere were well received and are expected to lead to community trapping activity in that area of Victoria.

In this regard, Ron Fink of **Macedon Ranges Indian Myna Action Group** reports on developments around his way. Earlier this year – after some years of trying to engage the Macedon Ranges Shire in an integrated council / community program with no success – the local Landcare group took up the initiative and with additional funding supplied from five of the nine councillors of the shire, the program has moved forward. All four Men's Sheds within the shire boundaries have begun the manufacture of traps. The traps are being loaned out like library books.

Harry Hof's report on the community program down **East Gippsland** way is very heartening. They now have 600 traps out in the community – traps made by the Fulham Correctional Centre which is located a few kilometres out of Sale. (The goal is also making traps for the Yarra Indian Myna Action Group that Julia Gibson leads). There have been good trapping results – with one person having removed 982 mynas within

the past year. Harry has modified the PeeGees trap a little and their traps have a horizontal – not vertical – one-way valve and an escape route for blue-tongue lizards! Congratulations to the community participants down in the Gippsland.

Camden community gets cracking

26 people from the Camden area attended a presentation and workshop in April that Tracey Poulter from the Camden Council organized and which CIMAG (Ray Barge, Andy Fuller and I) ran. There were many more people interested who were not able to be there. The enthusiastic group took away a number of completed traps. I heard from Tracey recently that mynas were caught next day in one of the traps. There have been three articles in local papers since the workshop was held and Tracey is receiving lots of calls regarding the program.

When Andy, Ray and I arrived in Camden that wet and cold day, the first birds we heard and saw were mynas, so the trapping program is very timely.

Trap building workshop at Camden.



Cairns – now setting the pace

The Cairns myna control group is doing a remarkable job. Ron Moon has provided some amazing statistics of how well the program is going up there. 1300 traps have now been built by the Cairns Men's Shed and distributed in Cairns, and traps are also being built by Men's Sheds up on the Tablelands, at Babinda and elsewhere. Ron has modified the PeeGees trap design and that is the one being built by the Cairns Men's Shed. Ron himself has caught 319 mynas in



Warren Entsch with the 1,000th Men's Shed trap with Ron Moon and Warren Evans

less than 2 years, but the most successful trapper is Warren who has caught 482 mynas in 20 months. That is followed closely by residents of a Cairns retirement village who chipped in to buy 3 traps and have now caught 540 mynas. The total number of mynas removed from Cairns and elsewhere up there must now be in the many thousands: that can only be a good thing. It will be interesting to see how soon there is a discernible difference in myna numbers generally across the city as a result of the program.

Bundaberg / Childers:

The Bundaberg Regional Council have shown great initiative in a myna control program up there. They introduced a \$2 Bounty for each live bird brought to the Council. The main focus of the program seemed to be around Childers. It will be very interesting to see how the program goes and whether it stimulates a broader community interest in developing a council / community program.