

# Canberra Indian Myna Action Group Inc

Patron: Prof Tony Peacock

*National 2013 “Keep Australia Beautiful” Award Winner  
for  
Environmental Innovation & Protection*



## President's 2016-17 Report

The following is the 2016-17 President's Report for the Canberra Indian Myna Action Group Inc (CIMAG).

2016-17 was another solid year for myna control in the ACT and for CIMAG.

I would like to first recognize the work of the CIMAG Committee: Ray Barge, Ross Dalton, Andy Fuller, Bruce Lindenmayer, Greg Flowers, Marg Peachey and Nick Hall for their work on behalf of the group over the past year. I also wish to record our appreciation for the support and work of our Patron, Prof Tony Peacock. I must also acknowledge Graham Gliddon for the many hours of work he continues to do each month in collating the capture data, Ryu Callaway for managing the Membership Database and David Cook for maintaining the CIMAG website and chatlines.

This past year has seen the continuation of a solid effort by CIMAG members. It is your efforts in spreading the message about the threats posed by mynas, and in trapping - which has drastically reduced the numbers of mynas across the Canberra region - that has been the foundation of the Group's collective success. So a big “thankyou” to you all.

2016-17 can be regarded as another successful year for us, although it comes with some difficulties. The program continues to receive widespread public support in the region and support from the ACT and federal Governments, the Australian National University, and the Invasive Animals Collaborative Research Centre. Canberrans and people from the region are continuing to join the group. Through their trapping efforts they have helped to reduce further the presence of mynas in our region.

But mynas are being seen in our urban nature reserves and peri-urban areas, and the surveys by the Canberra Ornithologists Group indicate that myna numbers have plateau-ed if not slightly increased in abundance across the Canberra region compared to the previous year. This is also reflected by the increased reports by Canberrans – when seeking a trap – of an increase in myna numbers in their areas.

This should be added incentive not to allow complacency to take over. The myna control task needs to be one of continuous effort otherwise we will see myna numbers increase in a big way.

In that vein, CIMAG is hopeful that the formal submission we previously made to the ACT Government for mynas to be declared a Pest Animal will shortly receive government support. If this was supported, it would trigger some stronger government effort and be a signal to State governments to do the same. We are preparing a submission to the federal government to seek their agreement for mynas to be declared a threat to native wildlife. The scientific work of Kate Grarock and others provide strong evidence to support such a case.

A number of activities of the past year are worth specifically mentioning.

We continued the **public education and awareness raising** effort during 2016-17. CIMAG does this in a number of ways:

- through media coverage

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- presentations to community groups, and at “community festivals” such as the Community ParkCare Exhibition at Jamison
- through brochures and pamphlets. And we thank Rosemary Blemings and her colleagues for spreading the word at Floriade and at other community events. The brochures were a great hit with the public and we received a lot of follow up.
- through the CIMAG website ([www.indianmynaaction.org.au](http://www.indianmynaaction.org.au)).
- through our Facebook page. Thanks to Ray Barge and Ross Dalton for posting lots of interesting snippets of news for our enthralled followers.

**Providing support for myna control activities elsewhere** has taken up a lot of time over the past year. Our success has been an inspiration to other groups and individuals across NSW and now to a greater extent in Victoria and Queensland.

The **trapping effort** continues across the Canberra district. Aspects worth mentioning are:

- our monthly reported captures have reached 63,300 Mynas and over 9,000 Starlings since we started: what a great success story.
- as at end June 2017, Graham Gliddon had records of 4,935 mynas and 285 starlings removed in 2016-17 (we know this is the minimum as unfortunately not all trappers report their numbers). A reminder to trappers to respond to Graham’s monthly request for capture info – even if it is a zero – to enable us to keep accurate statistics.
- the Canberra Ornithologists Group Garden Bird Survey indicates that mynas are still down to the 18th most common bird in Canberra (from the 3<sup>rd</sup> when we started in 2006).
- people doing community service work under judicial orders have been making traps while the Alexander Maconochie Centre was out of action with construction work happening out there. So thanks go to the people at Corrective Services doing this for us.

The **Nest Removal Project** has received a boost with the ACT Government providing funding for this to continue in a more structured way in Mulligans Flat, Gorooyaroo and Kinleyside Nature Reserves around Gungahlin, and specifically along the reserve edge within the new suburb of Throsby. We could always do with some more helpers, so if interested please get in touch with me.

The **membership of CIMAG continues to grow** strongly: some 136 people joined the group in the 12 months of 2016-17.

The small increase in observed numbers of mynas is a timely reminder that we must not get complacent. We can be sure of one thing. If we don’t continue the effort of reducing the opportunities for mynas to feed and breed, and if we lessen the culling effort we can anticipate a rapid rise in myna numbers.

In conclusion I would like to thank all our members for their continuing efforts. We look forward to your further efforts in tackling this significant pest.

Bill Handke  
President  
20 Nov 2017