

# Lismore Indian Myna Control Program - a new initiative with the “Major Myna” trap

**Anton Nguyen, Lismore City Council**

The Lismore Indian Myna Control Program started in 2009 and is jointly coordinated by Lismore City Council, who lend the traps, and Richmond Landcare Incorporated, who administer the program.

The Program includes many other active and willing participants from the broader Lismore community. The Lismore Men and Community Shed now make all the traps and there are over 40 community volunteers including farmers actively involved in trapping the birds on private properties. Council staff also conduct all year round trapping at various locations including Council's Waste Facility and Sewage Treatment Plants within Lismore City and Nimbin village. Two local vets Lismore Vet Clinic and Clarke-Williams James in Goonellabah are also participating and assisting with free euthanising options for those volunteers who are uncomfortable in carrying out the more hands-on method.

In April 2013, the Lismore Men and Community Shed created a new “super-size” Indian Myna trap – the “Major Myna Trap” – that will hopefully be effective in catching large numbers of the pest birds. It’s the idea of Pamela Gray from Tweed and Anton Nguyen from Lismore City Councils. The two council staff adapted the successful PeeGees backyard trap to make the much bigger prototype.

The super-sized “Major Myna Trap” with PeeGees trap on left



The aim is to catch flocks of the birds, which roost in large numbers in known hot spots over the winter months. Community trappers are currently testing the prototypes. Tweed Council indicated that they will also trial the new commercial size trap on large flocks as well.

What’s great about this is we haven’t reinvented the wheel – we’ve just changed some of the dimensions and we’re trialling methods such as using mirrors to lure the birds in so we can catch more at one time.

The commercial size prototype trap has the following features:

- one main holding chamber approx. 1200mm high with two vertical one-way valves
- two entrance chambers with four one-way walk-in tunnels
- trialling four mirrors directly opposite the one-way walk-in tunnels to lure the birds inside
- relocate the access door on entrance chambers so that mirrors can be mounted directly in front of walk-in tunnels
- Larger door on holding chamber for ease of access and bird net provided to collect captured mynas for euthanising
- Standard water provisions, perch and weather protection.

Lismore City Council and Richmond Landcare Incorporated will continue to work with our community partners to trial and refine the new trap in an attempt to manage and control Indian Mynas within Lismore City and around NSW Northern Rivers Region.

It should be acknowledged that the Lismore Indian Myna Control Program is only made possible through community spirit and dedicated people keen to save our local and native wildlife.

For further information about this initiative including size and dimensions of the new “Major Myna” trap please contact Anton Nguyen at Lismore City Council directly on (02) 6625 0415 or email

[anton.nguyen@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:anton.nguyen@lismore.nsw.gov.au)