

Vertebrate Pest Management

Paul Formosa

Environment Strategy and Planning Division

Wollongong City Council

WCC Vertebrate Pest Animal Policy

- Deer
- Rabbits
- Myna Birds
- Dogs (wild)
- Cats (feral)
- Fox
- Carp
- Pigs
- Goats
- (Cane Toads)



Wollongong City Council Indian Myna Action Program



Welcome



Sturnus tristis



Wollongong City Council Indian Myna Action Program



ILLAWARRA
MERCURY
Wednesday, 26 May 2010, p1-2

ILLAWARRA
MERCURY
● Trap 'em ● Gas 'em ● Throttle 'em
DIY BIRD CULL

Two South Coast councils have introduced a bird-culling program that leaves the killing to residents.
Shellharbour and Shoalhaven councils are providing traps to residents to help reduce Indian myna numbers.
But residents are then forced to dispose of the pests themselves by one of several prescribed methods, including breaking the bird's neck, placing them and, in the case of chicks, decapitating them.
The RSPCA says the birds need to be controlled but the councils should euthanase them to prevent suffering.
Wollongong City Council is also developing a bird-culling program as it seeks to protect native wildlife and maintain the amenity of the city.
Complaints about Indian mynas outnumber those for any other pest.
"The birds have turned parts of the city centre into defecating and dirty thoroughfares. Some clusters of trees attract hundreds of mynas which defecate loudly, particularly at dusk."
■ RSPCA, MAY Page 2

Gutshot: An example of the traps used to capture Indian myna birds.

RSPCA concerned as councils adopt DIY culling plans

Major push to rid region of nuisance birds

By NICOLE HASHAM

AN animal welfare group has criticised a do-it-yourself myna bird culling program approved by two South Coast councils which allows untrained residents to euthanase the pests.

The concern comes as Wollongong City Council explores the introduction of a resident trapping program and confirms Indian mynas are the city's No.1 pest.

Shellharbour and Shoalhaven councils have sanctioned unsupervised programs whereby residents catch Indian mynas in commercial traps then kill them. Recommended methods of euthanasia include breaking their necks and gassing with carbon dioxide.

Indian mynas are highly aggressive introduced pests which congregate in urban areas and take over the roosts of native birds.

While conceding the need for control measures, RSPCA chief inspector David O'Shanessy said the organisation did not endorse unsupervised programs.

"We recommend a program where residents do the trapping and council does the euthanasia," Mr O'Shanessy said.

"If it's in the hands of everyday residents, there is no guarantee of the skill and ability of the people performing the euthanasia."

Under a program facilitated by Shellharbour City Council which began earlier this year, myna bird traps were provided to 10 residents, together with guidelines for euthanasia.

The results are expected to be analysed within the next month. Environment officer Glen Is-



Happy trappers: Luke Yewen with his children, Lily and Max, at their Towradgi home. Picture: GREG TOTMAN

bester said the traps were given as gifts and the culling program was not the council's responsibility.

"We give out the guidelines, then the onus is on (residents) to read and abide by them," he said.

"Council is not involved in the operation of the traps ... people operate them on their own."

"Resource issues" meant training and follow-up could not be provided, Mr Isbester said.

If successful, the program will soon be expanded.

The program is modelled on that of Shoalhaven City Council, which provides advice and information to residents wishing to carry out their own trapping.

Training is not provided and the effectiveness of the program is not monitored.

Meantime, Wollongong City Council is developing a program to reduce myna bird numbers.

Over the past year it received 120 complaints about the birds, compared to 235 for all other pests combined.

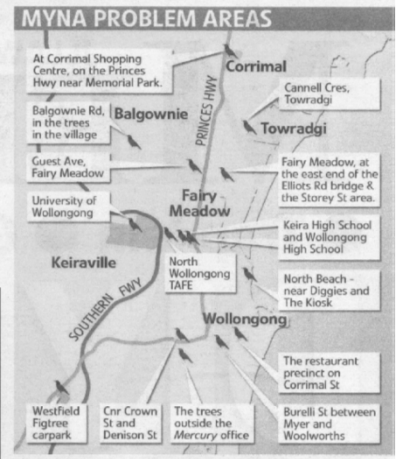
Manager of Environmental Strategy and Planning, Renee Campbell said the birds outranked deer and rabbits in "nuisance" value, defecating in public areas and roosting noisily in trees.

The council was exploring the introduction of a trapping program, which would require volunteers to sign animal protocols and attend a training workshop, she said.

Towradgi resident Luke Yewen said Indian myna birds had long been a problem in his backyard, pushing out native species.

He would happily take part in a trapping program.

"The most humane method is probably the gas - as long as it's quick," he said.



HOW TO EUTHANASE A MYNA BIRD

These methods are approved by the NSW Department of Primary Industries:

Break its neck: Otherwise known as cervical dislocation. This involves separating the skull and brain from the spinal cord by jerking the head with each hand, twisting the head backwards over the neck. Critics say this method can cause unnecessary pain when carried out by unskilled people.

Inhalation of carbon dioxide: Animals are put in a container into which a high concentration of CO2 is pumped. They lose consciousness very quickly. This method is recommended by the RSPCA when carried out correctly.

Barbiturate injection: Depresses the central nervous system, leading to cardiac and respiratory arrest. This causes the quickest death of any method but should only be carried out by qualified persons, such as vets.

Decapitation: This method is only recommended for the euthanasia of chicks. The instrument used must be sharp and well maintained.

Unsanctioned methods include:
Car exhaust fumes: This involves placing the bird in a bag and holding it to the car exhaust of a cold petrol engine. This method is considered cruel and ineffective, especially if the engine is hot.

Shooting: This method can be effective in reducing small, localised numbers of birds but is considered labour intensive, expensive and ineffective in the long term.





Wollongong City Council Indian Myna Action Program



Program Objectives

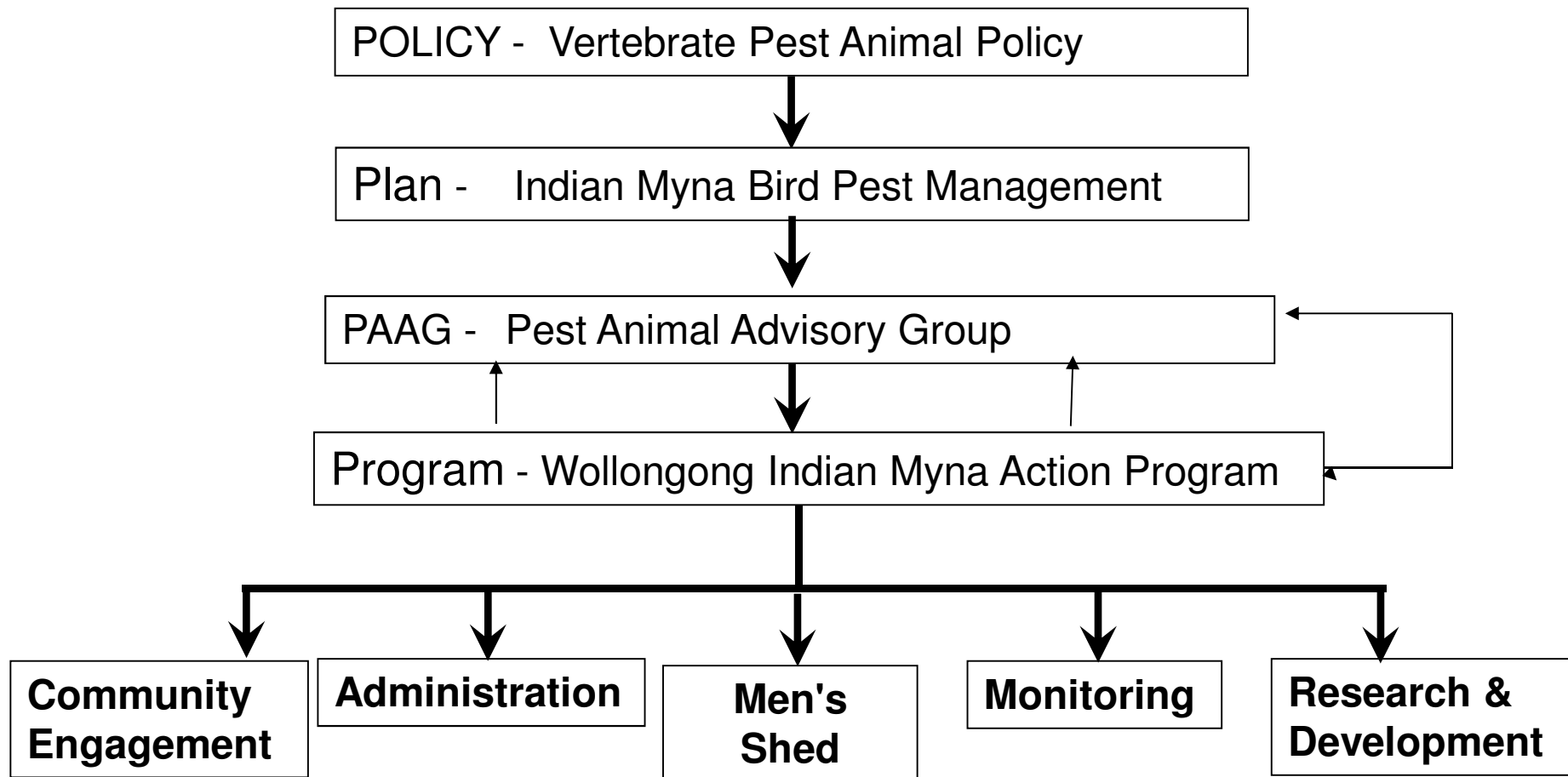
1. Reduce breeding, feeding & roosting opportunities.
2. Conduct a humane trapping program that is acceptable to the community, Council and Animal welfare agencies.
3. Survey and record Indian Myna Bird numbers & impacts to assist with program development and research.



Wollongong City Council Indian Myna Action Program



WCC Pest Species Co-ordination

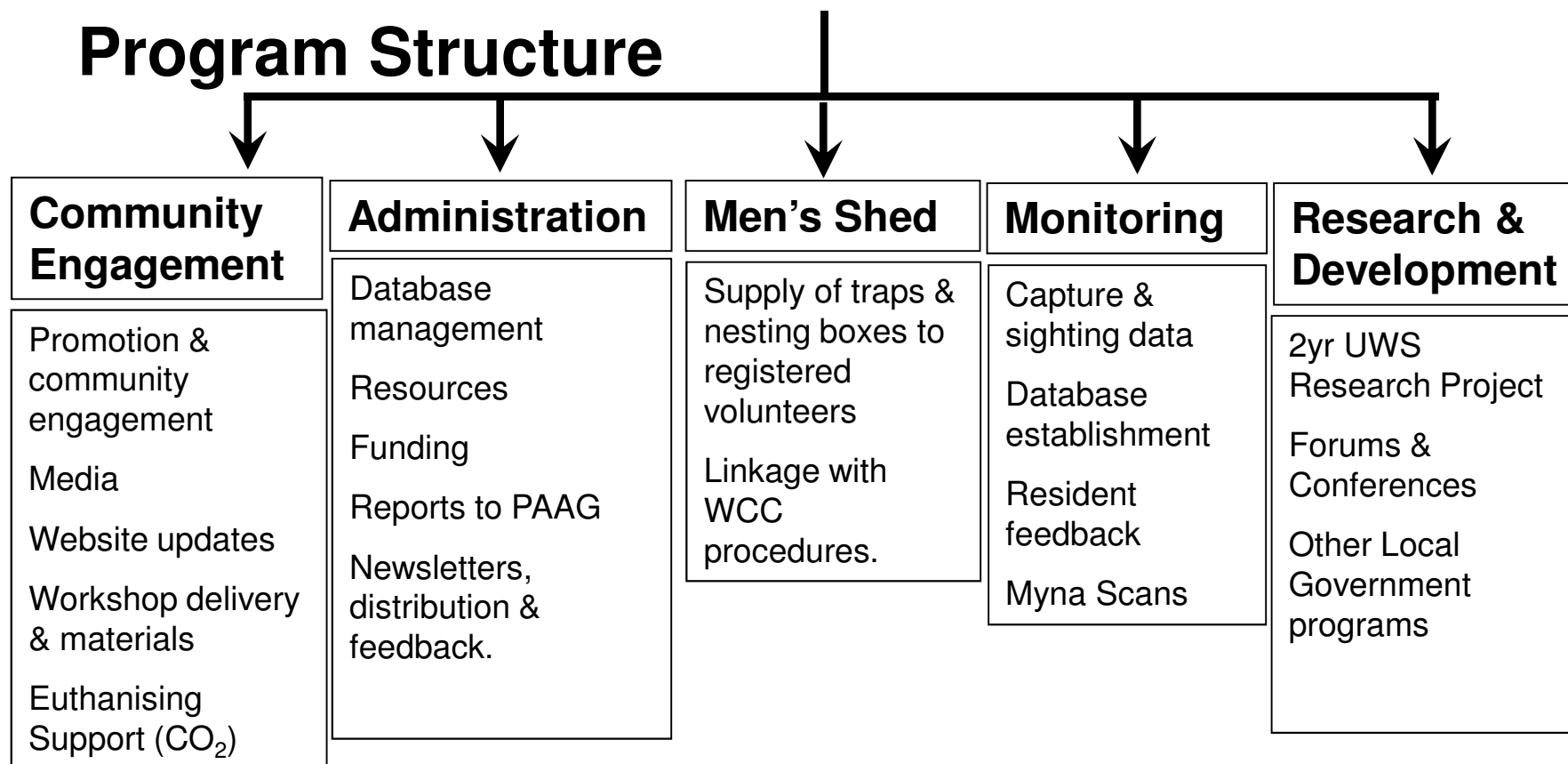




Wollongong City Council Indian Myna Action Program



Program Structure





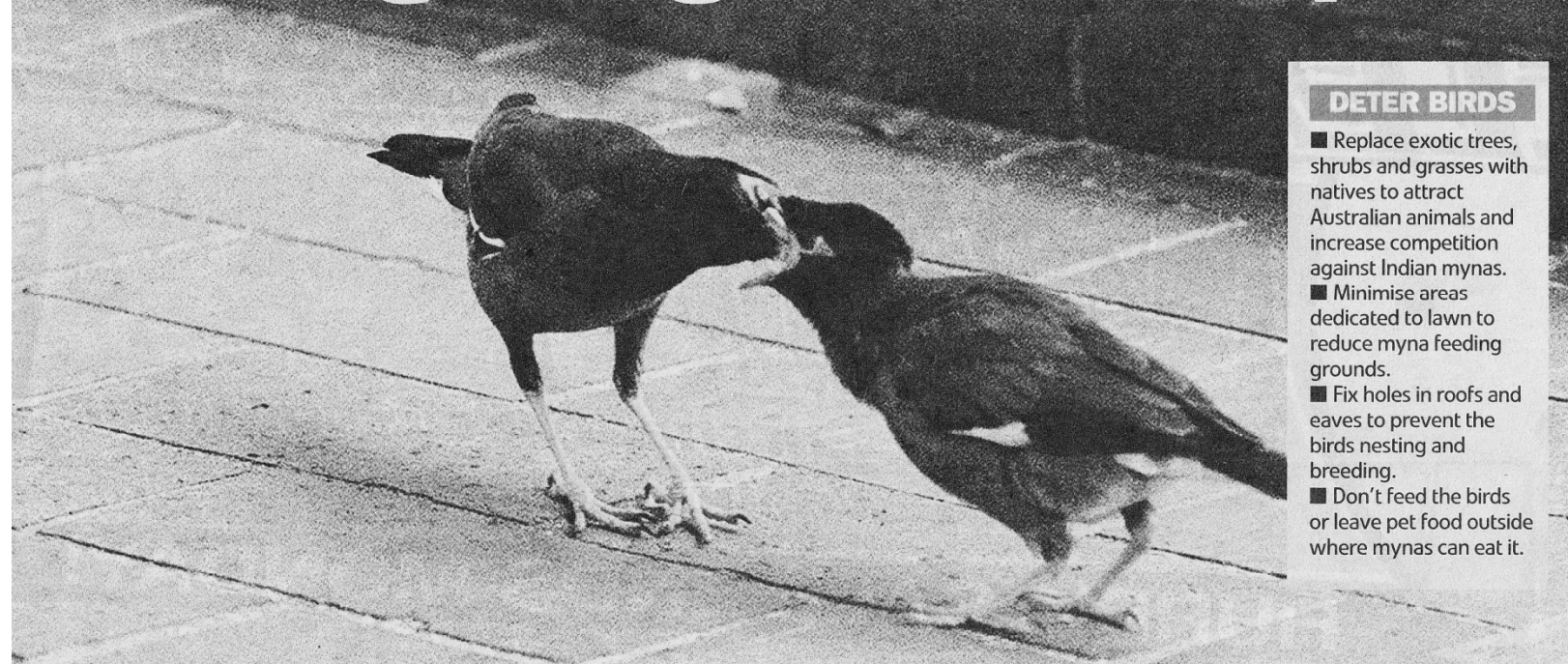
Wollongong City Council Indian Myna Action Program



Workshop Agenda

- PEST SPECIES OVERVIEW
- A CURRENT AFFAIR REPORT
- INDIAN MYNA BIRD BIOLOGY, SOCIAL ORGANISATION AND IMPACTS
- TRAPPING AND ANIMAL WELFARE PROTOCOLS
- CORRIMAL COMMUNITY MEN'S SHED – OBTAINING TRAPS AND BIRD BOXES
- MONITORING & RESEARCH
- EUTHANISING

Ridding Gong of its No 1 pest



DETER BIRDS

- Replace exotic trees, shrubs and grasses with natives to attract Australian animals and increase competition against Indian mynas.
- Minimise areas dedicated to lawn to reduce myna feeding grounds.
- Fix holes in roofs and eaves to prevent the birds nesting and breeding.
- Don't feed the birds or leave pet food outside where mynas can eat it.

By NICOLE HASHAM

WOLLONGONG City Council has pledged to work with animal welfare groups to reduce the Indian myna bird scourge which has infiltrated the city.

The move follows RSPCA criticism of Shellharbour and Shoalhaven councils, which allow untrained residents to trap the pest birds and kill them unsupervised.

Do-it-yourself methods of killing the birds sanctioned by the councils include gassing with carbon

dioxide and breaking their necks.

The belligerent bird is Wollongong's number one nuisance pest, based on numbers of complaints.

Wollongong City Council's manager of environmental strategy and planning, Renee Campbell said the council would develop a humane reduction program in consultation with the RSPCA and the Animal Welfare League.

This could include trapping, as well as education to reduce their feeding and breeding opportunities, she said.

Meantime, *Mercury* website readers were clamouring this week to take part in a myna bird reduction program – and many were more than happy to carry out the killing themselves.

"Sign me up. I have been trying to fight off these pests for years," wrote Scott H. "I will happily take as many traps on offer to get rid of these pests."

A writer named Spoot lodged support for a reduction program, but voiced concern over DIY killing programs: "I agree with the

trapping, but not euthanising them yourself."

"Breaking necks can go terribly wrong if administered by someone who doesn't know what they are doing."

But C Jnr had no such hesitation.

"I am one of the residents that have received a trap and so far ... we have captured over 35 Indian myna birds," the post read.

"After capture I break their necks - not a pleasant job but a job that needs to be done."

Delay with Bulli Pass roadwork

AN upgrade to the intersection of Bulli Pass and Lawrence Hargrave Dr at Thirroul has hit a speed hump.

Work on a reinforcing wall at the junction of Lawrence Hargrave Dr and the Princes Hwy was to be finished next week, but now won't be completed until the end of next month.

An RTA spokesman could not give a reason for the delay, but said the project was still on track to be completed by the end of this year, six months ahead of schedule.

"This project is good news for the local economy and will support more than 150 local jobs," he said.

Work on the \$31 million upgrade began last year and residents and commuters have watched the project slowly take shape, with a single lane overpass forming a centrepiece.

When completed, the northbound overpass from George Ave will cross over Bulli Pass to connect with Lawrence Hargrave Dr and a footpath on the western side of the bridge will provide pedestrian access.



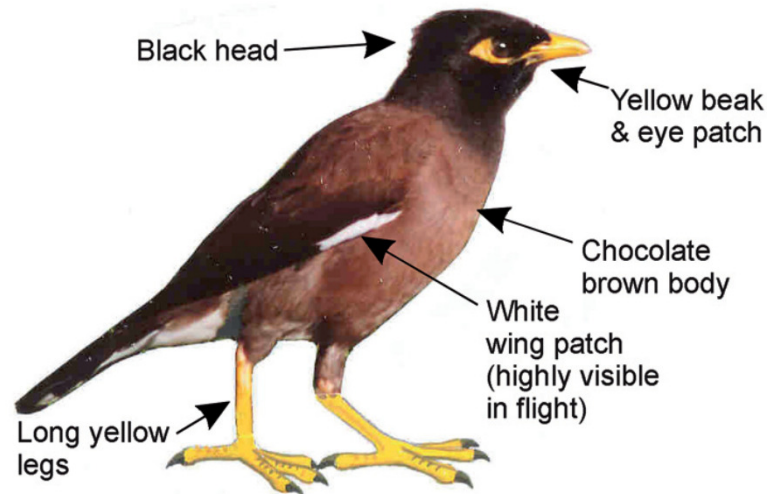
Wollongong City Council
Indian Myna Action Program



Can you spot the native bird in the ACA report?

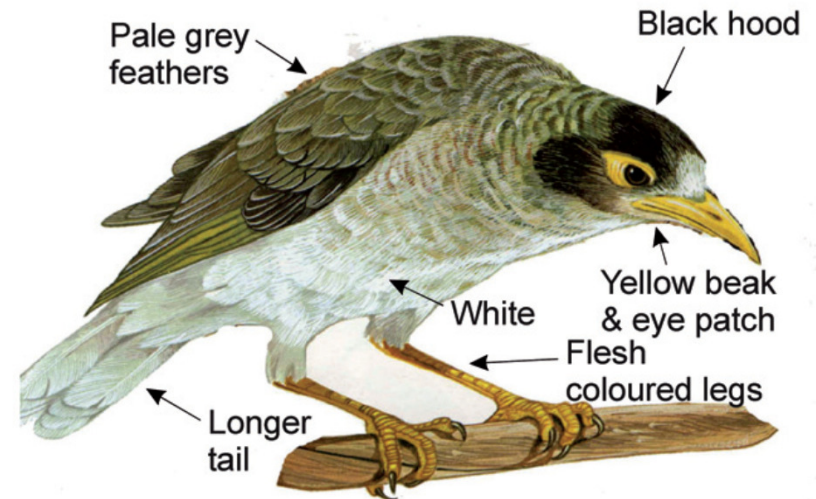
A Current Affair Myna Bird Report.mp4

Correct Identification



Introduced invader: Indian Myna ✗

Indian Mynas are most often seen strutting around the ground looking for food, generally in places where humans gather and eat. School grounds, shopping centres, fast food outlets and outdoor eating areas are some of their favourite haunts. They are opportunistic scavengers and will eat almost anything that is easy to get at. This is why they are sometimes referred to as “rats of the sky”. They gather noisily in large numbers to roost (sleep), often in non-native trees and palms.



Australian native: Noisy Miner ✓

The **Noisy Miner** is a small gregarious honeyeater, most often seen feeding on native plants, eating insects and nectar from the flowers. It is aggressive enough to frighten away cats and other predators but timid enough to be frightened of humans. It is an Australian native and, as such, is protected. Unlike the introduced Indian Myna, the Noisy Miner does not kill other native birds or mammals.

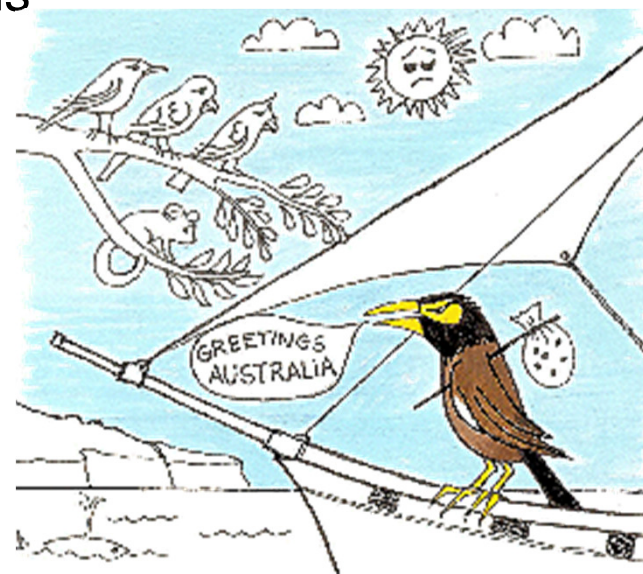


Wollongong City Council Indian Myna Action Program



Why Is The Indian Myna A Pest?

- Native to the Indian sub-continent extends from Iran to Sri Lanka.
- Introduced into Australia in 1862.
- Now occupies most of the Eastern seaboard, adapted well to urban landscapes.
- Listed among 100 of the world's worst invaders by IUCN.
- Breeds more than once a season.
- Social, economic and environmental impacts.
- Highly adapted to urban landscapes.
- Territorial, aggressive & intelligent.

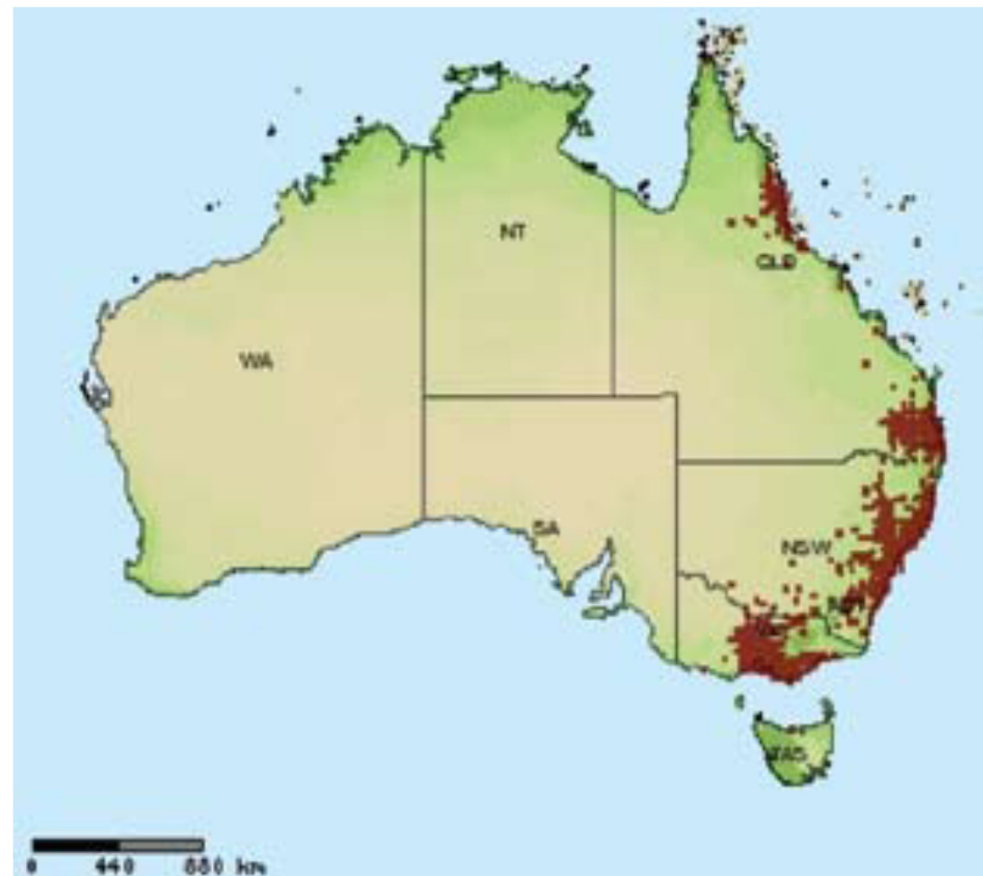




Wollongong City Council Indian Myna Action Program



Distribution in Australia





Wollongong City Council Indian Myna Action Program



Biology

- Incubation Period: 13-14 days
- Number of eggs: 4-6 greenish-blue colour
- Breeding intervals: 1-3 times per/yr
- Fledgling: 20-32 days (average 25 days)
- Sexual maturity: 9-12 months
- Juveniles may form breeding pairs from 9 months of age
- Breeding season from August to March
- Life Span: Approx 4-5 yrs
- Forages on ground, scavenges, soft fruits & berries.

Start Year 1
First breeding pair



Generation 1

Start Year 2
6 new pairs
1 existing pair
=
7 breeding pairs



Generation 2
(1st breeding season)

Start Year 3
42 new pairs
7 existing pairs
=
49 breeding pairs



Generation 3
(2nd Breeding season)

Start Year 4
294 new pairs
49 existing pairs
=
343 breeding pairs



Generation 4
(3rd Breeding season)

	generation 1	generation 2	generation 3	generation 4	generation 5	generation 6
total birds start	2	14	98	686	4802	33614
total breeding pairs start	1	7	49	343	2401	16807
offspring	12	84	588	4116	28812	201684
new breeding pairs	6	42	294	2058	14406	100842
plus previous generation pairs	0	7	49	343	2401	16807
total breeding pairs end	7	49	343	2401	16807	117649
total birds end	14	98	686	4802	33614	235298



Wollongong City Council Indian Myna Action Program



Social Organisation

- Forage in flocks of 5-6 birds (can be larger)
- In evenings, all Myna's within 1 km radius gather in communal roost (except nesting females and juveniles)
- In Australia usually 40-80 birds per roost
- Roost selected where there is dense foliage and shelter as well as buildings and under bridges.
- Myna's maintain territories and defend them aggressively
- Each territory tends to cover a nesting site and nearby feeding area
- Territory can range in size from 117m² to 2.0ha (Tideman 1997)

Starlings



Blackbird



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- **Impacts to native wildlife**

- take over nesting hollows of native birds and arboreal mammals.

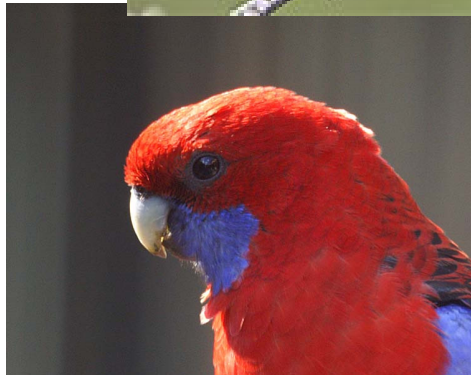
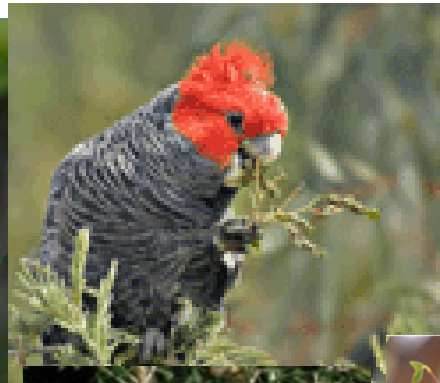


feed on:

- eggs & chicks
- drive small birds out of yard & garden
- Predate on backyard invertebrates/reptiles

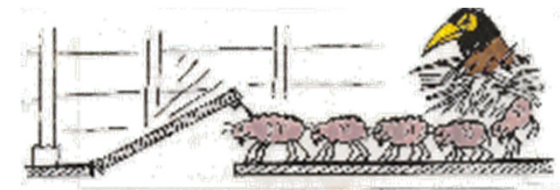


Under threat



Social and Economic Impacts

- **Human health risk**
 - **bird mites:** *Ornithonyssus bursa* & *Dermanyssus gallinae*
 - problem from nests in roofs
 - **droppings:** Psittacosis & Ornithosis, Salmonellosis, Arboviruses
 - cause pneumonia, gastro
 - **potential vector for “bird flu”**
- **Concentrated fouling** at feeding areas and roost sites
- **Noise at roost sites** - pre dawn and dusk
- **Costs** associated with removing nests and blocking further access, Fumigation and Vet costs for affected pets.



What can we do?

- **Reduce breeding and feeding opportunities**
 - keep pet food inside, feed pets in the evening.
 - better waste control at schools, restaurants and shopping centres
 - stop direct feeding
 - block up cavities in roofs
 - Install gutter guards or bird proofing
- **Identify roost trees**
 - remove unsuitable shrubs / trees
 - eg. dense exotic pencil pines, palm trees
 - See WCC Website for exempt trees.
- **Create bird attracting gardens**
 - reduce open space (lawns) and plant native shrubs
 - Wollongong Botanic Garden plant sale days
 - Birds in Backyards web site
 - Water baths ok
 - Place a nesting box in your garden (soon available from Corrimal Mens Shed)
- **Community participation in trapping & monitoring Program**
- ***Continuous recruitment***
 - Landscape approach, take some brochures



Photo's courtesy of Jedda lemon

Traps & Trapping



Pee Gee



Myna X



Mini-Myna



Men's Shed
Myna



Wollongong City Council Indian Myna Action Program



- **Men's Shed Myna Trap**





Wollongong Indian Myna Action Program



Trapping and Animal Welfare Protocols

- Traps must only be placed on **private property**, to avoid public liability issues and the potential for vandalism or damage to the trap.
- Place the trap in an **open area or where birds already feed**.
- Bait the trap with a food the birds are accustomed to feeding on. Both dry and wet pet food has been successful, or if you have a pet you can use their food as mynas may have already been feeding on it.
- **Do not to use seed-based food in traps as this can attract native birds**. Ensure no native birds or other wildlife are harmed during trapping. Non target species must be released ASAP.
- Place the bait outside the trap to attract mynas to the area, inside the entrance tunnels, and also inside the trap so that the mynas can see the food directly in front of them when they are in the tunnel.
- Monitor and service the traps daily, preferably at dusk and ensure bait and fresh water are available while trapping. **Decoy birds will also require food, shelter and shade**.
- **Do not put traps out if you are not able to monitor**.



Wollongong Indian Myna Action Program



Trapping and Animal Welfare Protocols (cont)

- The birds are not to be exposed to undue stress while trapped — avoid handling or approaching the traps too frequently, bring trapped birds in at dusk. (winter)
- Trapped Indian Mynas (and Starlings) are **to be disposed of within a 24 hrs of capture.**
- **Keep pets (particularly cats) away** when trapping as the birds see cats and dogs as predators and are unlikely to approach the trap, (place trap on table or bench?)
- **Clean the trap regularly** and relocate the trap after the area becomes soiled from captured birds, as they don't appear to like being around their own excrement.
- **Don't be disappointed if you don't catch birds every day.** They are spasmodic in their movements, so keep at it. They may have moved to another food source in the area but will return if you keep feeding.
- **Use gloves when handling live or dead birds as birds may carry disease.**
- The birds are not to be treated cruelly and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 must be adhered to at all times. You must also abide by the [Protocol on animal welfare](#).
See WCC Website Re: SOP for Trapping Pest Bird Species.
- **Penalties and charges can apply if reported.**



Wollongong Indian Myna Action Program



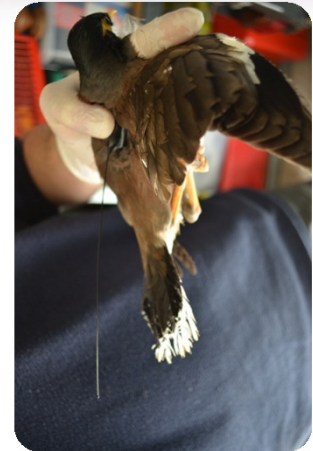
Corrimal Community Men's Shed (for purchase of Indian Myna Traps and nesting boxes)




- WILL BE SELLING TRAPS AT THE END OF THE WORKSHOP
- ALTERNATIVELY PURCHASES CAN BE MADE DIRECTLY FROM MEN'S SHED TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS BETWEEN 9AM – 3PM
- LOCATED BEHIND THE CORRIMAL UNITING CHURCH CORNER OF RUSSELL AND UNDERWOOD STREETS CORRIMAL (DETAILS ARE IN YOUR WORKSHOP FOLDER)
- MUST PRESENT REFERRAL SLIP FROM TODAY'S WORKSHOP TO MEN'S SHED TO PURCHASE A TRAP.
- ONLY 1 TRAP WILL BE SUPPLIED PER REFERRAL / ADDRESS.
- **COST OF TRAP IS \$50 (CASH ONLY).**

Monitoring & Research

- Provides data to Pest Animal Advisory Group and research work
- Provides information about effectiveness of program and keeps the program going.
- Ad hoc trapping is not effective without monitoring and ongoing improvement.
- www.mynascans.org.au
- UWS Research Project – *help by undertaking survey prior to trapping*
- Send in your Sighting and Trapping Record Sheet (will be e-mailed to you or a hard copy provided, also available on Council website)
- *For every three months of data submitted via your sighting and trapping record sheet we will provide a plant redemption certificate to redeem 4 free tubestock from Botanic Garden Nursery on a Greenplan day.*






Wollongong Indian Myna Action Program

Sighting and Trapping Record Sheet

April - June 2012



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Data, which includes your name and address, provided to Wollongong City Council (Council) on Indian Mynas are collected and retained by Council for the purposes of research into Indian Mynas. It is intended that data will be collated and used to better understand Indian Myna distribution, abundance and impacts. Provision of data to Council is voluntary. Council may supply the data to consultants for the purpose of undertaking Indian Myna research for Council. Council will comply with reasonable requests for the modification or deletion of data provided to Council.

April				May			
Date	Sighted	Trapped*	P Set	Date	Sighted	Trapped*	P Set
1/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	1/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
2/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	2/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
3/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	3/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
4/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	4/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
5/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	5/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
6/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	6/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
7/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	7/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
8/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	8/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
9/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	9/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
10/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	10/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
11/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	11/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
12/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	12/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
13/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	13/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
14/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	14/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
15/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	15/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
16/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	16/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
17/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	17/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
18/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	18/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
19/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	19/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
20/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	20/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
21/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	21/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
22/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	22/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
23/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	23/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
24/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	24/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
25/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	25/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
26/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	26/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
27/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	27/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
28/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	28/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
29/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	29/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
30/04/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>	30/05/2012			<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL				TOTAL			



Wollongong Indian Myna Action Program

Sighting and Trapping Record Sheet

April - June 2012



June		Trap Set	ROOSTING TREES:
Date	Sighted		
1/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	Estimated number of Myna birds:
2/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
3/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
4/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	Location / Address / Park:
5/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
6/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
7/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	Type of Tree:
8/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
9/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
10/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	Private / Public Land:
11/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
12/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
13/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
14/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
15/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
16/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	PLEASE FORWARD DATA TO
17/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
18/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
19/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	pap@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
20/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
21/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
22/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	OR
23/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
24/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
25/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	Wollongong Indian Myna Action Locked Bag 8821 Wollongong DC NSW 2500
26/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
27/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
28/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	Please tick if data been entered into Myna Scan <input type="checkbox"/>
29/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
30/06/2012		<input type="checkbox"/>	
TOTAL			http://www.feralscan.org.au/mynascan/

NOTES:

***Trapping is only permitted by those who have completed a Wollongong Indian Myna Action Program Workshop. To book into a workshop please call 42 27 7111.**



**Wollongong City Council
Indian Myna Action Program**



Sighting and Trapping Record Sheet feedback

- 1. Trappers who have an email address will be forwarded an electronic version for recording information and reply to pap@wollongong.nsw.gov.au**
- 2. Trappers without an email address will be provided with additional hard copies of the monitoring sheet which can be mailed in via a reply paid envelope. (pick up extra copies & reply paid envelopes with trap referral)**



**Wollongong City Council
Indian Myna Action Program**



Euthanising Trapped Birds

- **BIRDS SHOULD BE EUTHANISED WITHIN 24 HOURS OF CAPTURE PREFERABLY IN THE EVENING SO THAT TRAPS CAN CLEANED AND RE-SET.**
- **THERE ARE 3 LEGAL WAYS OF EUTHANISING CAPTURED BIRDS (Applicable to this program):**
 1. Cervical dislocation of their necks (break their neck)
 2. Injection of barbituate by Vet or approved animal ranger
 3. Gassing with Carbon Dioxide. (monoxide illegal in NSW)



Wollongong City Council Indian Myna Action Program



Euthanising Trapped Birds

- Euthanasia is the responsibility of the trap operator and must be carried out in accordance with the standard operating procedures (SOPs) produced by the Department of Industry and Investment NSW. Trappers must read and be familiar with the procedures outlined in the SOPs for *Methods of euthanasia*.
- **See WCC Website for SOP re Euthanising Trapped Birds**
- Council will assist trappers wishing to use Co2 gas.
- Trappers requiring assistance can bring the bird in the trap to this site on weekdays between 11:00am-12:00 noon.
- Place trap in plastic garbage bag to prevent soiling car seat and minimise bird anxiety. Bag can also be used to transport trap home.



Wollongong City Council Indian Myna Action Program



Thankyou for your attendance

Please complete and return ...

- **Signed Terms of Agreement Form**
(you will need to fill in your details and sign/date the back of the form)
- **Workshop Survey**

You will then be presented with a Men's Shed Referral Letter to purchase a trap

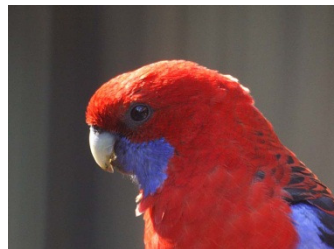
Our Choice

This



or

this



Contacts.

WCC Website:

www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au

Email inquiries and monitoring sheets to us
at: pap@wollongong.nsw.gov.au

Phone Inquiries: Ring Council's Customer
Service No 4227

7111

Acknowledgements

Dr Chris Tidemann, ANU

Pest Animal Risk Assessment: The Indian Myna.

Invasive Plants and Animals Biosecurity Queensland Govt.

Photos: Geoff Dabb, David Cook, Mark David, Andrew Tatnell,
James Rolevink, Stuart Harris, Debbie Claridge and
Chris Tidemann, MynaMagnet

Central Coast Indian Myna Action Group Inc

Canberra Indian Myna Action Group
(www.indianmynaaction.org.au/ (or Google CIMAG))

At Serious Risk



Golden Sun Moth
Synemon plana



Grassland Earless Dragon



Perunga Flightless Grasshopper
Perunga ochracea



Coorooboorama Raspy
Cricket



Wollongong City Council Indian Myna Action Program



Workshop Information Folder

- Signed Agreement Forms
- Participants Survey (monitoring)
- Indian Myna Bird Brochure.
- Welfare protocols.
- Monitoring & Trapping Data Sheets.
- Trapping Help Sheet.
- Myna Scan Information
- WIMAP Newsletter
- Illawarra Birds Brochure, Birds in Backyards mini poster, Grow Local Booklet, Greenplan Information

Residents get official blessing to 'take out' aerial pest

Death sentence for Indian mynas

By BEN LAYFORD

WOLLONGONG City Council will train people in how best to dispose of Indian myna birds, as part of a new program to control the Illawarra's avian enemy No 1.

The council receives more complaints about Indian mynas than any other bird, with about 180 calls in the past 18 months.

"Intelligent and aggressive Indian mynas kill the chicks of other birds or destroy their eggs or build their own nests on top of another's nest," the Indian Myna Action website says.

Wollongong City Council's brochure calls them "the rats of the sky".

"Mynas reduce biodiversity by aggressively chasing out or killing weaker, more timid birds and other animals they see as potential competitors for food," it says.

The council has teamed up with the blokes from Corrina's Men's Shed, who see busy making traps to catch the invasive imports.

To get hold of a trap, Wollongong residents will first have to attend a council workshop where they will be instructed in the range of tactics to make a backyard less hospitable to mynas - as well as how to dispose of the bird once caught.

The three options the council will recommend for euthanasia are a barbiturate injection, gassing with carbon monoxide, and a process called "cervical dislocation of the neck" - otherwise



Traps Dennis Hamilton and Lother Plankie from the Corrina's Men's Shed with the myna bird traps they hope will get rid of the pest. Photo: STUART LEE

known as wringing the bird's neck.

The first two options are less likely to be practised in the backyard, so once birds are caught people can call the council or take the birds to a drop-off place.

People will be told how to properly kill the birds, using these methods, at the workshop.

The program comes almost a year after a storm of controversy was created when Shellharbour and Shoalhaven councils sanctioned lethal do-it-yourself trapping and killing programs.

Sensitive about ensuring the birds are disposed of humanely, Wollongong City Council has been more cautious and has involved experts

from a pioneering Canberra community-based myna control program to help design its strategy.

The workshops will be free and will be conducted fortnightly. They can take 20 people at a time, so residents are encouraged to register as soon as possible. By the time the next workshop is held, the men at the Corrina's Shed will have made another 20 traps.

Residents will have to pay \$40 for the traps, to cover the cost of making them.

Wollongong council's director of planning and environment Andrew Carfield said 98 per cent of backyards to the area had mynas, which also posed a public health risk as they nested in roof spaces and carried lice and mites.

Other tactics to disrupt the birds' breeding included not leaving out pet food and scraps in the open, and planting native trees.

The Indian myna, native to India and China, was introduced to Australia in 1887 to help control insect pests in market gardens.

EDITORIAL
More than a myna problem.
Page 23



Methane: Kangaroos could be used in research by the UOW.

Row over roos research keeps UOW on the hop

By IEMA SAMANDAR

KANGAROOS used in a University of Wollongong study will be caged and suffer high distress from confinement, Animal Liberation says.

The kangaroos will be kept in a cage 1m by 1.5m by 1.7m for nine months to measure the methane gas they excrete, the group's association director Mark Pearson said.

"For the NSW Government to approve such a pathetic experiment for someone's PhD on global warming is unconscionable."

"The same experiment was done 40 years ago," Mr Pearson added.

Professor Steve Carlick, a specialist in kangaroo rehabilitation, said the kangaroos were gentle, affectionate, free-ranging social animals that lived on a diet of

coarse grasses and dirt.

"This proposed experiment denies the kangaroos these basic needs and is therefore cruel in the extreme," he said.

"The result is that the animal will be highly stressed in its confinement and will be subject to a range of disease and illness which will make survival unlikely and the research ... totally flawed."

But university spokesman Bernie Goldie said no decision had been made by the ethics committee about using kangaroos in an experiment.

"The matter is still under consideration," Mr Goldie said.

"The university fully abides by the various government regulations in place in regards to the use of animals."

Vertebrate Pest Management

Environmental, social and economic impacts.

Requires a landscape approach with collaborative agency and community engagements.

Aim of all pest programs is to apply best practice, humane, cost effective controls and programs.

Integrated Pest Management.

Requires, policy, planning and program implementation.

The Myna Invasion

- **Introduced Melbourne 1862**
 - to control locusts in market gardens
- **Taken north to Qld canefields (1883)**
 - to control cane beetle
 - i.e. the cane toad
- **Now across eastern seaboard heading west to SA & WA.**
- **Overtaken many small Pacific Islands**
- **Voted most hated pest in Aust**
 - ABC Wild Watch Quest for Pests 2005
 - beat cane toad, feral cat and fox
- **“You can have native birds or Indian Mynas — but not both”**
 - Ian Fraser, local naturalist & 2006 Winner Aust Natural History Medallion
- **Among 100 most invasive species worldwide**
 - (IUCN 2000)

