

Around the Traps

Lots happening, and it's good to hear.

Tracey Poulter, who started up the Wingecarribee Indian Myna Action Program some years ago then moved from that council to work at the Camden Council. She advises that she has been tasked with the job of setting up a **Camden Indian Myna Action Program** in the Camden Council area. Best of luck with that, Tracey.

Meanwhile **Joe Stammer** is re-activating the **Wingecarribee** program – it sort of dropped off in intensity after Tracey left. This is good news, as we see plenty of mynas in Mittagong when we stop for a coffee on the way to Sydney.

The **Wollongong Indian Myna Program** goes ahead in leaps and bounds. **Paul Formosa** reports that to encourage trappers to send in capture and sightings sheets, they have been providing trappers with vouchers for free tubestock plants from the Wollongong Botanic Gardens. Now that is thinking outside the square! The Corrimal Men's Shed guys are not only churning out myna traps but they are also making

nesting boxes – which can act as a trap for mynas. They have a hinged bottom for removing the rubbish mynas put in the boxes. They have also modified a 4 stroke brush cutter for euthanising the birds in the nestboxes: a more engineered version than our "Whipper Snuffer". WIMAG have run 41 workshops with 626 participants, trapped 2335 mynas from 437 traps. A great effort

Myna control activity now seems to be taking hold in **Victoria**. Requests for traps come in from a lot from people in Victoria.

Mt Macedon Indian Myna Program may finally get off the ground after much discussion between the community and the local council.



Luckily the **Yarra Indian Myna Action Group** is showing the way in that State. **Julia Gibson**, the President, and members of **YIMAG** are doing a wonderful job: they have now removed 3706 mynas and provided 290 traps. Their website – www.yimag.org.au – gives the contact details for getting a trap down that way. Julia also says that she had great success in trapping under a roosting tree on her

farm – trapping over 100 mynas over time – but gave it away as the foxes or wild dogs kept tipping over the trap. This is useful info as we often had reports that mynas tended not to go into traps near roosting trees: we thought that perhaps they regarded the roosting tree as a "no-feed" zone. This says differently.

John Shorten of the **Yarrowonga Mulwala Men's Shed** reports that they have been asked by the Gecko CLaN (Landcare) to make up PeeGee traps. Discussions are also taking place with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Authority (Gecko CLaN) to form an '**NE Victorian Indian Myna Control Network**' covering the area of Yarrowonga, Benalla, Shepparton, Cobram, Wangaratta and Seymour. Now that would be a tremendous boost to the myna control effort in Victoria.

While up at Caloundra for the Qld Pest Management Conference, I had the opportunity to catch up with **Josh Childs, Sunshine Council**, who is running a myna control program up that way. Josh mentioned that mynas were in big numbers in certain sections of the council district – luckily we didn't see any around Caloundra or Noosa, but there were plenty of Spotted Doves.

The **Brisbane City Council** is to hold a forum on Indian Mynas and their impact on biodiversity early in 2013. This will be a good opportunity to promote the importance of managing mynas.

Northern Rivers, Clarence Valley, the Granite Border Country, and Mid North Coast programs of

northern NSW have been very active. With so much going on up there on myna control, a conference was held at Murwillumbah involving representatives from **Tweed, Lismore, Byron and Gold Coast Councils** and people from the **Granite Borders** and **Richmond Landcare Groups** and **Kevin and Laura Noble** of the **Clarence Valley Conservation in Action** to discuss approaches and co-operation across the larger region. Laura continues to spread the word far and wide: here at Tenterfield, there at Yamba.

The Gold Coast Indian Myna Program has been going for 12 months, with council outdoor workers making traps on wet days: some 30 to date. Community interest is growing with some 500 mynas euthanized by the council over this time.

The greatest success of the year must be the **Cairns group**. Over a 1000 traps have now been distributed and their estimate is that many thousands of mynas – up to 16,000 – may have removed from the district. For a 12 month effort, this is remarkable.

