

Around the Traps – Feb 2016

Between each Bulletin we get to hear of more activity in Victoria and Queensland: this is very heartening.

The **Darebin Parklands**, a bushland park 7km north east of Melbourne CBD, is running a multipronged program under the guidance of Senior Ranger Peter Wiltshire and Michael Mann. It involves trapping mynas, a monitored nestbox program, designing an anti-myna nestbox for Eastern Rosellas, and putting cameras in nestboxes to film the birds. Their aim is to get rosellas back nesting in the reserve. Let's hope this has been a successful breeding season.

Inglewood, a town west of Toowoomba, has been running a trapping program for 2 years. The activities of Bob Lindner and Darryl Bleach were featured on an ABC program a while back – you can see it on <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-02/indianmynacatchers/6901270> and <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-02/two-retirees-vs-indian-myna-birds/6899936>. The program has been supported by the **Queensland Murray-Darling Committee** based at Goondiwindi. Lisa Sutton of QMDC reports that due to the 2 years of trapping, myna numbers are now much lower, and sightings of their iconic Paleheaded Rosella continue to increase - a flock of budgerigars have also been seen for the first time in many years. There are 23 myna traps in use throughout Inglewood that are managed by volunteers as well as 3 on rural properties in a 10 km buffer zone around the town. Trapping continues to expand with strategic inclusions such as road houses along the highway to Yelarbon. **Yelarbon** (40 km away) has 15 traps in use and bird surveys have been underway since November 2014. There is not yet enough data to show trends, however they will continue to work on this during 2016. Other groups in the area are not well enough established to have data yet. Due to a lot of interest generated locally, Lisa will work with these groups to have a more interesting update during the year.

The Bayside Indian Myna Action Group in Melbourne has completed a report to the Bayside City Council on their 2015 operations. (The program was initiated by Councillor Bruce Lowe and bank-rolled by Council). BIMAG had a number of innovative aspects to their program and during the course of the year they moderated the program to deal with some issues that arose – relating to disposal and trap supply. Stephen le Page, the BIMAG Coordinator is quite upbeat about the trial program being a success. He reports that there is overwhelming community support for the program and they see a number of ways to improve its reach and effectiveness across the district – even to the point of drawing nearby councils into the effort. This is tremendous.

Josh Dyke, the Pest Management Coordinator at **Gladstone Regional Council**, advises that they are in the process of developing an Indian Myna management program. Best of luck with that, Josh.

Trapping results for the **Mudgee and Dunedoo** area over the last year or so indicate that mynas are spreading widely through the area. John McCrea of the **Central West Indian Myna Control Group** mentions there are a few mynas that turn up around Mudgee from time to time, but as soon as he hears about them he gets onto them as quickly as possible. In Dunedoo there is still a moderate number of them scattered around, even though they have been trapping them at a steady rate for about 8 years. Some big numbers have been caught at specific locations: 44 were trapped on a farm 12kms south east of **Mendooran (east of Gilgandra)** in March last year, while 32 were trapped at a house in Dunedoo in May. A few have now been trapped at Wongarbron just east of **Dubbo**, and there has been a report of mynas seen at Dubbo Airport. This is all very disturbing stuff, but it is good to see that the local people are involved in the fight to keep their numbers down. A Green Army

crew had been pressed into making traps at Dunedoo.

Mitchell Clark, the Environmental Project Officer for the **Campbelltown City Council** reports on a very busy – and successful - year for their program. There have been some 435 participants at the 18 workshops which they have run (following the Wollongong approach), some 170 traps sold by the Men's Sheds (generating \$8500 for the sheds), with reports of 430 mynas trapped (from the 28 people who reported back in). The program suffers – as do many of the volunteer community programs – of many (if not most) trappers not bothering to report in their captures. So we can be confident that their captures are a lot more than the 430.

Cowra: a number of mynas have been reported in and around Cowra. Next week CIMAG will give a couple of presentations to the Cowra Woodland Bird Program and the High School science students about the CIMAG program. This, hopefully, will help develop a control program in the area.