

# Canberra Indian Myna Action Group Inc.

## Myna Matters Bulletin # 10



Dear CIMAG Members and Friends

The following provides an update on CIMAG activities.

### **Forthcoming AGM – put it in your diary**

As you know, CIMAG doesn't hold regular meetings but we will be holding **an Annual General Meeting in August**. We are planning to have a couple of prominent and entertaining people speak to us and we will be making an announcement or two. This will be a good opportunity for CIMAG members (and supporters of our efforts) to get together to have a chat, to hear what has happened, what is planned and to elect a new Committee. Details of the program will be circulated to members shortly. We are planning to hold it on the **evening of Wednesday 22 August**. The venue and time are yet to be settled. We will let you know well in advance of those details, and to circulate nomination forms for the Committee and voting proxy forms. We will advise members who have email via our CIMAG News Email Distribution System and to others by post. To ensure that you get the notice and the various papers and reports, if you have email and have not yet registered with our News Email Distribution System, please do so now by sending a blank email to [news-subscribe@indianmynaaction.org.au](mailto:news-subscribe@indianmynaaction.org.au). Remember this is different to the CIMAG Chatline.

### **Myna Control Spreading**

An exciting development over the past year has been the number of groups and communities that have also started to tackle the problem of Indian Mynas. It is also heartening to see that local councils and agencies are being involved with their communities in this activity. And that goes for councils and agencies in the area around Canberra. The Queanbeyan City Council and the Yass Pasture Protection Board are supporting local communities and farmers in reducing mynas. Up on the north coast of New South Wales, environmental and other community groups with local shires are developing plans and using various traps to get on top of Indian Mynas before they take hold. People are looking to get CIMAG-type groups up and running in various parts of Sydney and elsewhere. We will keep in touch with these groups as best we can, and hopefully we can all learn from our various experiences.

### **PhD Research Project — a big step closer**

Wonderful news for CIMAG is the advice we have received in the last fortnight that the Collaborative Research Centre for Invasive Animals will provide substantial funding towards the PhD research project into the impact of mynas and, amongst other things, the effectiveness of trapping efforts. Dr Chris Tidemann and Prof David Lindenmayer (both from ANU) are also putting funds to the project and have agreed to develop and manage the project and oversee the PHD student. The Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG) has also agreed to contribute to the project and we are also hopeful of a positive response from Birds Australia, the national bird watchers' group. This goes a long way towards getting this important research work off the ground. This project will help to put a scientific base around our general observations that mynas are bad for our birds, but trapping and our other strategies can have a significant impact.

### **Where are the Mynas?**

The answer for those in areas where we have been trapping for a while is: "not around here". I have in the past fortnight had three members mention to me that they now get surprised when they see an Indian Myna around their area. This is in the areas (like Aranda, north and west Kambah and parts of Garran) where we have had members taking out large numbers of mynas. Such is the local impact of trapping that people in those areas rarely see mynas and

get a shock when they realize that they have just spotted one. Ah, if only this was the case across all of Canberra and the east coast!

## **Trap Building Workshops — another 30 made**

Thanks to Greg Flowers & Joe McAuliffe of the National Botanic Gardens and to Peter Ormay for organizing trap-building workshops at the Botanic Gardens and the Jamison Pool in the past month. We had good turn-outs at both events, despite the chilly Canberra weather: a good number of traps were built.

There are quite a few CIMAG members that are after a trap. We are finding that people trapping in new areas are getting lots of mynas, while many old trappers have given trapping away for the moment as they have cleaned out most in their area. If you are in the latter category, could you give some thought to lending your trap on to another member for a while. It will help us out enormously — we are so far behind in filling our trap order list that we run the real risk of people wanting to trap losing interest. Contact me (ph 02 6231 7461 or by email [handke@grapevine.net.au](mailto:handke@grapevine.net.au)) if you are able to help out.

Alternatively there are some commercial traps available: the MiniMyna Trap should be available for purchase around about now. Contact MynaMagnet on 6242 7349 about the details.

## **April and May trapping data**

Trapping in April and May in the Canberra region has been very slow: 341 in April and only 260 in May. This is surprisingly low when compared to the months of Oct, Dec and Jan when trappers were getting over a thousand a month. As mentioned above, people trapping in new areas are getting a lot, but those who have been at it for a while are not seeing or getting too many. As I mentioned in the last Myna Matters Bulletin, this raises some interesting questions: are mynas finding feed elsewhere? ; are mynas becoming trap shy? ; have trappers taken out most of their local myna population — which many people have reported — so there are few left and they are particularly wary or not hungry as there are few other mynas now competing for food that those remaining will not put themselves at risk? I am now inclined to the latter two answers as the explanation. As trappers in virgin country are getting mynas this suggests that it is not a change in diet.

The April and May returns bring **our aggregate up to 10 602**. The suburb by suburb breakdown has not been done for these months (I've run out of time), but some other intriguing data has been collated.

Only half of CIMAG members with traps returned information to Peter Green's request for monthly numbers, that is, we didn't get any info from some 130 members with traps. Even if you were unsuccessful or didn't have the trap out, we would find that info useful. So **please** send a quick note back to Peter when he emails you each month (or phone me on 6231 7461 if you don't have email) advising of your situation: even nil returns and also whether you had your trap out at all. Only 25 trappers caught the 260 mynas in May.

## **CIMAG News Distribution System and Chatline**

As mentioned above, to get onto the CIMAG news email distribution system for news and notices from the CIMAG Committee (this is different to the CIMAG Chatline), just send a blank email to [news-subscribe@indianmynaaction.org.au](mailto:news-subscribe@indianmynaaction.org.au) and you will be automatically included on the distribution list. This will be the main way that the Committee will circulate information and notices to CIMAG members and "friends".

# Canberra Indian Myna Action Group Inc.

3

You can also include yourself on the CIMAG Chatline by sending a blank email to [chat-subscribe@indianmynaaction.org.au](mailto:chat-subscribe@indianmynaaction.org.au) — if you want off, just send a blank email to [chat-unsubscribe@indianmynaaction.org.au](mailto:chat-unsubscribe@indianmynaaction.org.au) .

## **RSPCA Hours for Disposing of Trapped Mynas**

The times to take trapped mynas to the RSPCA Centre for disposal are:

Monday: 10:00am – 11:00am and 4:30pm – 5:30pm

Wednesday: 4:30pm – 5:30pm

Friday: 4:30pm – 5:30pm.

Please take the trapped mynas / starlings to Building A, the Wildlife Building at the RSPCA Centre — it is the very first building in the RSPCA complex as you come down Kirkpatrick St in Weston. If bringing mynas and starlings to the Centre for disposal, could you please use an opaque bag or box in view of possible sensitivity of some people to trapped birds.

Bill Handke  
President  
CIMAG  
3 July 2007