

Cairns Rotary Remove Indian Mynas Inc.



R.I.M. Campaign

Newsletter – November 2011

Dear Concerned Citizen,

Thank you for showing your support for a campaign to remove Indian Mynas from our much loved greater Cairns and Tablelands environments.

Rotary Club of Cairns Inc. has initiated an excellent community project! It has rallied political bipartisan support from all levels of Government, and engaged overwhelming positive engagement from Community at large, individuals, groups, and corporate entities.

It was realised at an early stage that such an ambitious and comprehensive undertaking would not succeed unless it had broad Community support. The public meeting held on Wednesday 9th November 2011 and its pre-publicity were undertaken to gauge the level of such Community support. The proactive and positive engagement was overwhelming in favour of culling the Indian Myna by trapping and humane euthanizing. The Public Meeting was standing-room only, with 250+ attendees, and received the endorsement of Birds Australia, Cairns Regional Council, State Government's Biosecurity Queensland, the Federal Member for Leichhardt Warren Entsch, and various bird academics. Evidenced by no negative feedback yet much positive feedback, every single person who attended the public meeting was in favour of the proposal!

The public meeting was so well attended; the room was not big enough. For those of you who had to stand outside and did not perhaps fully hear the proceedings, - this update will cover all the key matters raised.

The support received at the meeting, the enthusiasm, the desire, the public endorsement, has given R.I.M. a mandate and springboard to establish a structure and campaign to achieve the objectives which vast majority of Community share.

Update on Progress

- Structure

On Monday 14th November 2011, following the Public Meeting referred to above, a quorum was convened consisting of members of Rotary Club of Cairns and non-Rotarian key supporters, for the purpose of formalising a resolution to take the project forward. It was resolved that an Incorporated non-profit organization be registered, called "Cairns Rotary Remove Indian Mynas Inc." In activities moving forward it is expected that accepted abbreviation will be used, such as – "Cairns Rotary R.I.M. Campaign", "Rotary R.I.M. Campaign", or such like.



P.O.Box 327 Cairns 4870 : action@crimes.net.au

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Cairns Rotary Indian Myna Eradication Society (acronym C.R.I.M.E.S) was the publicity name used for initial exposure and publicity of the Public Meeting. It served its purpose well, however for reasons realised it was thought best to “re-name” for an ongoing campaign.

- Executive Committee

The inaugural volunteer Committee of the incorporated body will be:

Chairman -	Peter Goulding
Deputy Chairman -	Bob McGill
Secretary -	Jeena York
Treasurer -	Fred Lucas
Compliance Auditor -	Hugh Bowers
Committee Members -	Paul Pommer Peter Donnellan John Baker

It will take several weeks to complete the formalities of legal requirement to establish our non-profit body. In the meantime, we your Committee will be hard at work organising such tasks as 1] a website, 2] a related email address, 3] establish a bank account, 4] a Post Office Box, 5] design and print stationery, 6] obtain a 1300 number etc. As you note, there is much to be done by volunteers who also have a day job.

The campaign will be a long and comprehensive one! We need the correct structure and support systems from the outset to ensure that we can go the distance.

In the meantime, please bear with us. We have been overwhelmed by positive emails, by enthusiasm, by phone calls seeking further information. To the regret of Committee we are not geared to instantaneously enact our passion. We cannot handle most of the queries until we are better organised. However some of the information sought will be contained in this update

- Traps

Members of Cairns Men’s Shed have proactively designed a trap that is better suited to our tropical environment than the many generic versions available. However Cairns Men’s Shed does not have the capacity to manufacture anywhere near the quantities that this campaign will require. Cairns Men’s Shed will however be a primary source of pre-fabricated traps as this campaign rolls-out.

The local office of a major Engineering Company has undertaken to prepare a professional plan of the trap designed and tested by Cairns Men’s Shed. This plan will eventually be made available to citizens who are confident to fabricate their own trap.

The plan will also be provided to local fabricators and metal workers, who might use the template to produce commercial quantities at a fair and reasonable cost to citizens, as a community service to rid our environment of Indian Myna.

Costing as yet is unknown but will be advised ASAP.



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It is imperative that the design plan provided is complied with. Many versions are in existence, and few work. This specific design has been trialled and tested, and is effective. For those not wishing to outright purchase or fabricate a trap, it is probable that R.I.M. will procure a quantity of traps to inturn be "loaned out" with a bond and/or donation deposit. R.I.M. will clarify this concept once organised.

- Academia /Records /Survey Work

To ensure that we can demonstrate proven results with the campaign on both reducing Myna numbers and improving native species welfare, we will also be looking to establish some scientific base data. Again this will all be clarified once R.I.M. is organised.

- Field Volunteers

As advised at the public meeting, R.I.M. will require an army of Field Volunteers. Each Field Volunteer will be assigned a geographical area to administer the placement and management of traps. Each Field Volunteer will enlist his /her own immediate team of volunteers, a subcommittee of at least 6 people, to administer the placement and management of traps in their assigned location.

The concept is to have Field Volunteers in respective suburbs and townships. To place traps in suburb by suburb, street by street, backyard by backyard, corporate property by corporate property, public area by public area. To rotate traps at regular intervals so as to baffle the wary Indian Myna.

Many citizens put up their hands at the public meeting to be a Field Volunteer, however due the overwhelming enthusiasm in the room the names could not be recorded. If you believe that you can take on one of these roles, please email action@crimes.com.au to formally enlist. The Committee will most likely be unable to respond to your offer of help until we have attended to the set-up issues. Again, please bear with us.

- Membership

To give R.I.M. Inc. community ownership and strength, it is now proposed a small token membership fee be established. This, like many agendums will be clarified in the next newsletter.

- Final Comments

Not everybody who attended the public meeting November 8th had an email address. If you know of any such people, please give them a copy of this Newsletter. In fact please give a copy of this newsletter to your friends, neighbours, family, work colleagues, and pet budgerigar.

Keep and eye /ear on local media.

Yours in our native environment,

Peter Goulding



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