



## January 2021 – Newsletter #5

### October Annual General Meeting Update

This year's AGM was held at the Gwoonwardu Mia Cultural Centre in Carnarvon on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020. We had great attendance and are very lucky to have filled the majority of committee positions left vacant.

Your CRBA committee members for 2021 are below:

NAME	OFFICE HELD	DATE APPOINTED TO COMMITTEE	EXPIRY DATE OF TERM
Justin Steadman	Chairperson	2014	26 October 2022
Tim Higham	Vice Chairperson	2014	26 October 2022
Jox Collins	Treasurer/Secretary	30 October 2020	30 October 2024
Harry McKeough	4. Full Member	2013	5 December 2021
Cameron Tubby	5. Full Member	26 October 2018	26 October 2022
Roger Davies	6. Full Member	26 October 2018	26 October 2022
Alister Gordon	7. Full Member	30 October 2020	30 October 2024
Greydon Mead	8. Full Member	30 October 2020	30 October 2024
Andrew Whitmarsh	9. Full Member	30 October 2020	30 October 2024
Gavan Mullan, DBCA	10. Associate Member	29 Nov 2016	30 October 2024
	11. Associate Member		
Krystie Bremer	Public Officer / Executive Officer--		

With the change in committee, there are a number of long standing CRBA Committee members who have finished on the committee at the recent AGM. We would like to sincerely thank:

**Sandy McTaggart** – Sandy's recent term in the committee was eight years, but the committee would like to recognise everything that Sandy has done for the CRBA and Murchison region during his time at Mt Narryer Station. From providing the committee with valued advice, to community bait rack organising & attendance to assisting with LFH works throughout the Murchison. Sandy has been a valued member of our community and we wish him well with his sea change.

**Jim Dorrell** – Jim has been a valued member of the committee for eight years, going above and beyond with his contributions. Whilst Jim has finished as a serving committee member, he still continues to volunteer his time as an LPMT Coordinator, for this we thank him.

**Leonie McLeod** – the committee would like to thank Leonie for her six years she served on the committee.

**Aggie Forrester** – the committee would like to mention and thank Aggie for all the work she did in her role as Treasurer/Secretary of the CRBA for the past four years. Aggie worked hard in her role whilst the group was without an Executive Officer, working hard to bring the new people up to speed and ensure that the CRBA continued to function smoothly. Thank you, Aggie.

### October Committee Meeting

The committee meeting happened directly after our AGM with discussions covering many topics. There was meaning full conversations around the collection of data from not only our LPMT contractors but also our landholders/managers. This data is helpful to see where areas of concern are, along with providing information that assists with future funding and planned control programs. The committee would like to see this information collected more freely and more frequently to assist with our planning and operations.

Budgets again formed a big discussion point with the 2021/22 planning well underway and due for submission at the end of December. The future of funding under the state Wild Dog Action Plan was unknown which obviously has a big impact on the operating budget, including some LPMTs which are funding via this channel. Several scenarios were submitted at the meeting and the decision has been rolled over to a future meeting in December to finalise.

### December Zoom Committee Meeting

The committee gathered from the comfort of their homes to discuss and finalise the 2020/21 Operational Plan & Budget. This decision has been made and based on the worst-case scenario with no official word on how much funding the CRBA will receive under the recently announced State Wild Dog Action Plan Funding (14/12/2020), we can only hope we receive at least the same level of funding we have previously. The budget included a CPI increase, along with a change in day rates for LPMTs based on years of service with the CRBA. The committee felt it timely that those contractors who are meeting contract obligations and are loyal to the CRBA are recognised.

A few general budget discussions also took place around Research proposals from Tracy Kreplins, DPIRD including GPS tracking of baits to see what is taking them and how far they are going. The committee will meet again in February to make necessary changes to the 2021/22 budget and operational plan.

### Landholder Data

The Committee would like to thank all landholders that have provided us with data for the 2019/20 year and we are working hard to find the best way to collect data moving forward.

To date, we have received the following data from landholders across the region. The Committee are aware that there are still holes in this data and are asking EVERYONE to send through their properties data.

Landholder Summary											
MONTH	Wild Dogs Destroyed			Wild Dogs		Feral Animals					Plants
	Shot	Trapped	Other (Pups)	Damaged Stock	Complaints	Donkey	Camel	Pig	Cat	Other	Sightings
JULY	1					87	3				
AUGUST						179					
SEPTEMBER	15			1		59					
OCTOBER						150					
NOVEMBER	5					113	4				
DECEMBER	5										
JANUARY											
FEBRUARY											
MARCH											
APRIL											
MAY											
JUNE											
Annual Totals	26	0	0	1	0	588	7	0	0	0	0

There are now three options for sharing this data:

- Link to complete the details and send online: <https://form.jotform.co/91680082901859>
- Online survey: which the CRBA will look to send out quarterly for landholders to easily complete and submit data.
- *Feral Scan: training workshops will be happening over the coming 18months, should you wish to access sooner please contact Krystie Bremer to organise access and instructions.*

### **Landholder/Manager Training Program**

With thanks to Australian Wool Industry (AWI) Funding the CRBA will be running a series of training sessions to assist all pastoralists and managers. These training sessions will require a small contribution from each landholder and places are limited.

The current plan is for training to be undertaken in the Murchison and Carnarvon, with the following being included:

- 1080 TAFE Injector Training
- Feral Scan Access & Usage

Dates for training have been set as 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 in Carnarvon and 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 in Murchison, exact locations and times to be confirmed. Please register your interest as soon as possible by emailing Krystie Bremer [crba\\_eo@iinet.net.au](mailto:crba_eo@iinet.net.au), again spaces are limited and we hope to include as many new landowners/managers across the region to ensure community baiting coverage is maintained across the CRBA.

### **Community Baiting – October/November 2020**

Spring baiting was held a little later this year due to COVID-19 and a lack of bait meat available from our regular supplier. The CRBA ordered a total of 8650 kilos of bait meat for delivery across our three freezer locations. With some racks not participating this round, there are supplies available at all three chillers for use by landholders and LPMTs.

A total of over 75,000 baits were made by the local community with half of these being distributed in the Shire of Upper Gascoyne aerial baiting program. An additional 5,000 baits were supplied by DBCA and dropped over the Kennedy Ranges.

The next planned community baiting (smaller scale) will happen in April/May 2021, with bait meat being confirmed in February. This is a ground only baiting program that will occur across the region as required by landholders.

A reminder that CRBA LPMTs no longer be distributing or putting bait meat out from community baiting, this is not their job. LPMTs will continue to target bait if/when required whilst completing their day-to-day activities. Landholders should not rely solely on this to complete their on-ground activities throughout the year and are strongly encouraged to participate in their community bait racks.

### **1080 Signage**

As some of you may have noticed, 1080 usage and pet deaths have appeared in the media in relation to our region over the past six months. During an information session held in Carnarvon in September Krystie Bremer was able to organise with Main Roads for notices to be placed in public toilets they service prior to the recent community baiting.



These are a permanent fixture to these toilets and it is hoped that this will help increase awareness across the region.

Property signage is, as always, the responsibility of individual landholders and the CRBA encourages each of you to check your signs are in place and good condition often.

Should you require signage or assistance on where they are best located, please speak to your LPMT contractor, LPMT coordinator or CRBA Executive Officer.

### **Bait Meat Freezers**

The CRBA would like to remind all members that there is limited meat bait available for use in freezers at any time, simply go to your closest freezer location to collect it. We ask that each landholder takes a maximum of 2 crates/boxes, unless organised prior to ensure there is enough for all landholders, LPMTs and often if there is bulk meat in the freezer it is already committed.

Remember to REPORT to the Executive Officer what you have taken and an estimate of what is left to ensure there is supplies for everyone.

The Committee would again like to thank the Shires of Carnarvon, Murchison, and Upper Gascoyne for providing the location and ongoing running costs of these freezers.

Reminder to all that plastic crates need to be returned to the chillers for collection by supplied.

### **LPMT Gathering**

August 6<sup>th</sup> saw an LPMT gathering held at the Community Centre in Gascoyne Junction.

As part of the annual contract review and with the chance to our contractors for the 2020/21 year the Executive thought it beneficial to get all LPMTs together to cover a range of topics. It was also a great way for the committee to provide contractors with and show them how to use the new safety devices. These devices provide us with s more accurate GPS location data and the ability to two-way message our contractors whilst in the field.

Topics covered included:

- Presentation from the CRBA chair Justin Steadman on who the CRBA are and why we do what we do.
- Presentation and training from Krystie Bremer on new GPS devices & Feral Scan.
- Presentation from DPIRD Researcher Tracey Kreplins.
- A Team Building activities.
- LPMT idea sharing and open forum.





All eight of our contractors attended the event, along with members of the committee, LPMT coordinators and DPIRD staff. Each of the contractors said they gained something from the gathering, so that is a bonus.

It is hoped that we will continue to get our contractors and coordinators together annually for such events.

*The CRBA Committee would like to thank the Shire of Upper Gascoyne for the use of the Community Hall for the event.*

#### **2020/21 LPMTs**

The CRBA has been very lucky to find replacements for all of our LPMT areas. Each LMPT and coordinator is listed below:

1. North West Carnarvon – LPMT: Greg Hobson  
Coordinator: Jim Dorrell
2. Shark Bay / South Carnarvon – LPMT: Allen McMeekan  
Coordinator: Tim Higham
3. North Murchison – LPMT: Andrew Walker  
Coordinator: Andrew Whitmarsh
4. North East Carnarvon – LPMT: Mat Cole  
Coordinator: Josh Abbott
5. Carnarvon – LPMT: Adam Robinson  
Coordinator: Tim Meecham
6. South Murchison – LPMT: Allan Straw  
Coordinator: Greydon Mead
7. Lower Upper Gascoyne – LPMT: Sid Adamson  
Coordinator: Ray Hosseason Smith
8. North Upper Gascoyne – LPMT: Ray Trigwell  
Coordinator: David Hammerquist

The committee would again like to recognise the contributions made by our volunteer LPMT Coordinators and to thank those who have stepped into these roles this year.

***LPMTs alone, will not control pests within the region.***



#### **Rangelands NRM Small Predator Grant – Gnaraloo**

The CRBA has again been awarded 10 additional LPMT days for use on Gnaraloo Station. This program started in October 2020 and will concluded in April 2021.

Work undertaken in Gnaraloo will be harder moving forward with the opening of the unmaintained road north of the homestead. Our LPMT has already noted since it opened at the beginning of December a significant increase in traffic and camping in the area. This will impact work undertaken by our LPMT contractors on both Gnaraloo and Warroora Stations.



### **Rangelands NRM – LFH Control for Ningaloo World Heritage Region**

Due to delays outside of our control the first program for 2020/21 took place in December 2020. The funding received allowed the CRBA to leverage additional funds and run the program in the North East Carnarvon & North Upper Gascoyne, along with a program across the Murchison. Again, the program was a great success.

Across the entire area covered a total of **1278** animals were controlled. Including ferrying time, a total of **53.5** hours were utilised. There were **18** wild dogs controlled and **1260** LFH. A very successful and financially viable program.

The program started in the north of the region and continued across the top of the CRBA region for 4 days. 6 properties participated covering nearly 3500kms, controlling a total of **1205** LFH and **8** wild dogs. The CRBA committee would like to recognise and thank both Sean d’Arcy and Johnno Percy for providing a spotter plane whilst operations took place in their respective areas.

The program continued into the Murchison and after the recent rain was called off after one day. 5 properties participated with nearly 999kms covered, controlling **55** LFH and **10** wild dogs.

With remaining funding, a follow up program will be held across similar areas in March/April 2021.



Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development

### **DPIRD Dry Season – LFH Control**

The CRBA commenced our first round of control utilising this funding in December 2020 also. The program funding **2,556** rounds of ammunition, **6** marksman/ground days and **30** LFH DNA samples to taken as part of the program. Funding has allowed our LPMTs to also spend some time controlling LFH across the region with a total of **32** animals controlled over the last few months. Further work utilising this funding will take place over the coming months.

With remaining funding follow up programs will continue in the first six months in 2021.

### **DPIRD Mesquite Management Case Study**

This project saw the CRBA Executive Officer work with key stakeholders around the townsite of Carnarvon to write a case study on how they interact and work together towards the management of Mesquite. Westerly Contractors undertook 16 days of spraying across the townsite including the main street, airport, Shire managed UCL, DBCA managed lands and Main Roads land tenures. A total of **11,022** mesquite trees were sprayed with dead tress observed across the area covered already.

As part of this project an information session was held at the Gwoonwardu Mia Cultural Centre for stakeholders to attend. It was a beneficial gathering showing those in attendance the difference between the native woody plant and the declared weed. Westerly Contractors put together a helpful and informative information brochure, which you can access [here](#).



The case study noted to DPIRD that follow up and further treatments will need to occur regularly moving forward to ensure work undertaken in this program and other programs run by the CRBA on neighbouring properties can be maintained.

### **WONS – Mesquite Control**

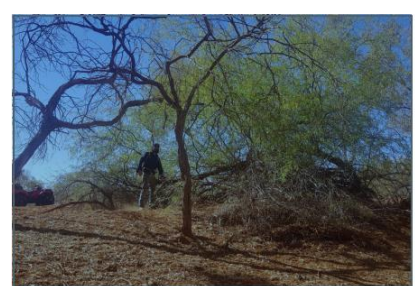
Phase Two of the project took place in November across identified properties along the Lyons River. The project originally noted Mangaroon, Minnie Creek and Lyons River, due to the efficiency of our contractor, Jox Collins this area was expanded to take in a small patch on Eudamullah and some on Bidgemia.

Over 18 days the contractor sprayed approximately **375** plants, with the majority being younger plants found under dead trees, as a result of the last large-scale program undertaken by the CRBA. There was also a small number of larger trees found, which had been missed during the previous programs.

Phase Three of the project also commenced as working inland became too warm. This work was undertaken in early December and was undertaken on Brickhouse, Boolathanna and Doorawarra Stations.

Over 13 days the contractor sprayed approximately **6230** mesquite trees and two coral cactus patches observed. It was noted that there are some very large thickets located close to town, with one of the infestations occurring due to seed set from the town common.

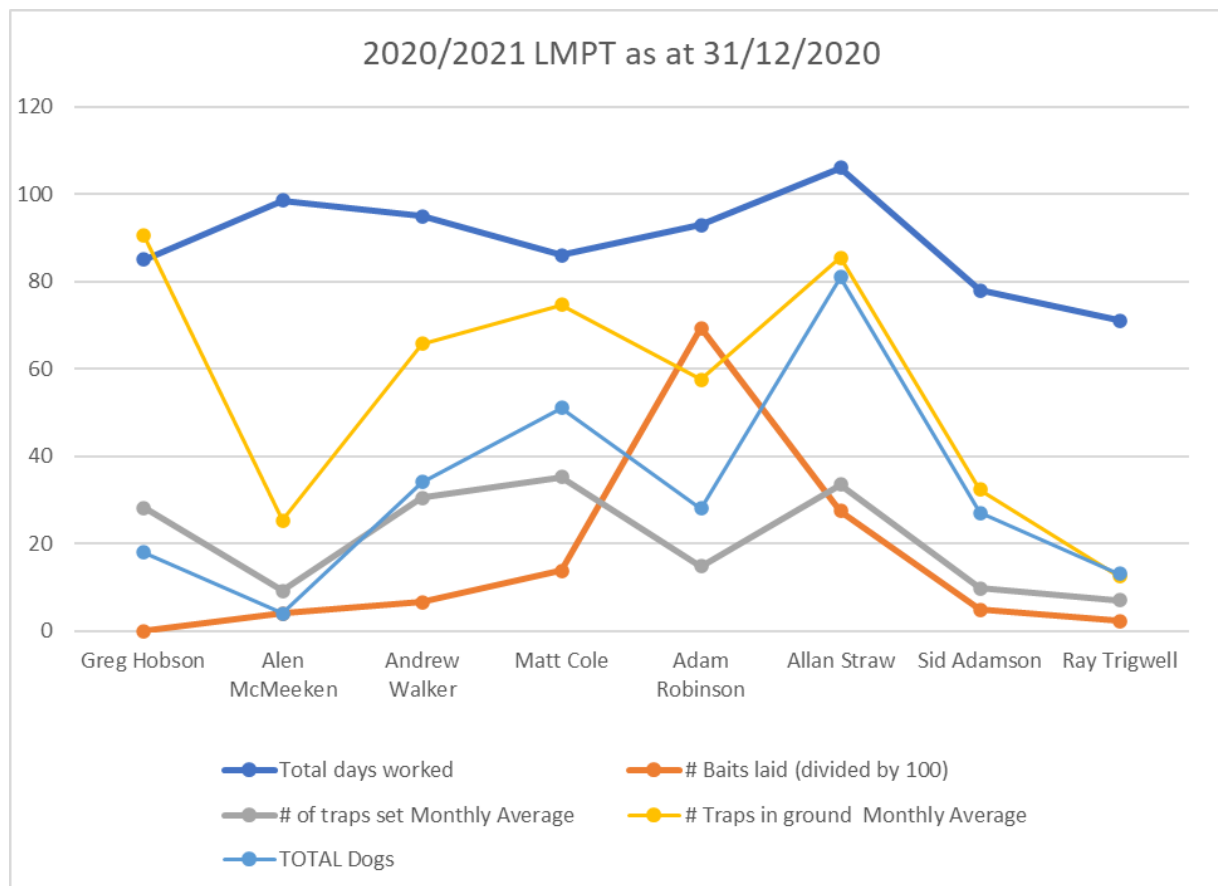
Over both phases approximately 50,700 hectares were covered. There is still funding remaining in this project with works planned to be undertaken across all three phase locations before the end of 2021.



## Wild Dogs

LPMT data for the first six months of 2020/21 show we are still working hard to manage the issue across the region. Across all LPMT areas the total number of wild dogs destroyed was **264**, this is a 79.59% increase on the same time last year.

*\*It should be noted that we are missing reports/data for two months from one LPMT.*



## 2021 Meeting Schedule

February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021 – Zoom

May 2021 – Zoom (LPMT Coordinators & Executive)

June 2021 – Murchison Settlement

October 2021 – Carnarvon AGM & Committee Meeting

December 2021 – Zoom (if required)

***Should you have any biosecurity concerns you wish to raise with DPIRD, please contact our area's Biosecurity Officer Jim Miller on 0477 728 091 or [james.miller@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:james.miller@dpird.wa.gov.au)***

***Newsletters contributions relating biosecurity are always welcomed.  
Please send submission for the next newsletter to  
CRBA Executive Officer Krystie Bremer.***

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Contact us: Executive Officer – Krystie Bremer - [crba\\_eo@iinet.net.au](mailto:crba_eo@iinet.net.au) or 0417 183 705