

**MEEKATHARRA RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY  
ASSOCIATION**

**NEWSLETTER**

**NOVEMBER 2021**

## **MRBA Annual General Meeting and Committee of Management Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the Meekatharra Rangelands Biosecurity Association (MRBA) for the 2020/2021 financial year was held in Meekatharra on 12 October 2021.

The Committee of Management, with dates elected, as resolved at the AGM and the Committee Meeting is as follows:

- Chairman – Liam Johns (2021)
- Vice Chairman – Murray Pens (2021)
- Secretary/Treasurer – Ashley Dowden (2021)
- Jarrad Blair (2019)
- Mayne Jenour (2021)
- Jorgen Jensen (2019)
- Greg Watters (2021)
- Rob Lefroy (2019)
- Angus Nichols (2020)
- Greg Payne (2019)
- Clyde Hall (2021)

Management Committee members are elected on a rolling basis for a term of three years. The Chairman thanked Ashley Dowden for his tremendous contribution as Chairman over sixteen years and thanked Eric Moses for the great work he did as Secretary/Treasurer. The Chairman also acknowledged the contribution of retiring committee member John Mahony and welcomed new committee members Mayne Jenour and Clyde Hall.

### **MRBA Executive Officer**

As previously advised MRBA Executive Officer Geoff Brooks is retiring. At the 12 October Committee Meeting, following advertising in state and local newspapers, it was agreed to appoint Silvio Brenzi to the position. Silvio is a past Shire of Yalgoo CEO and has a great affinity with the pastoral industry. He has also helped at the Melangata bait racks on a number of occasions. Silvio takes over from Geoff on 03 November.

Contact details for Silvio Brenzi are:

Email: [silvio\\_brenzi@icloud.com](mailto:silvio_brenzi@icloud.com)

Mobile: 0417 191 202

The unconfirmed minutes of the AGM and Committee meeting held on 12 October are an attachment along with this newsletter.

## **MRBA Indicative Bait Rack Program 2022**

As determined by the Committee of Management and following a survey of members, the MRBA discontinued the Autumn bait rack program in 2019. Individual racks participants can of course get together and supply their own meat for injection in April 2022. The MRBA Committee is very supportive of such an action and the MRBA will continue to supply 1080 and make available the freezers at Yalgoo, Mount Magnet and Sherwood Station.

The MRBA Spring 2022 bait rack program is as follows. Please note this is an indicative program and is subject to review at the February 2022 Committee of Management meeting.

### **Spring Bait Rack Program 2022**

Location	Co-Ordinator	Spring Baiting Dates	Spring Quantity/Type of Bait Kg	Meat Pick Up
Pullagaroo	Mat Rubery 9963-6603	15 September Thursday	800 bulk 300 bulk DPaW	Mount Magnet
Challa	Ashley Dowden 9963 5361	21 September Wednesday	2,000 bulk	Mount Magnet
Melangata	Craig Clews 0428 108 772	23 September Friday	1,800 bulk 300 bulk DPaW	Yalgoo
Killara	Liam Johns 9981 2901	7 September Wednesday	700 bulk 300 bulk DPaW	"Sherwood"
Yarraquin	Peter Savage 9963 1027	31 August Wednesday	750 bulk	Mount Magnet
Yarlarweelor	Murray Pens 9981 2922	08/09 October Sat/Sun	4,000 bulk	"Sherwood"
Ilgarrarie	Suzanne Maguire 9175 7015	15/16 September Thursday/Friday	1,600 bulk	"Sherwood" Bait Rack delivery to be arranged
			11,650 kg bulk DPaW 900 Total 12,550 kg	

### **MRBA Doggers**

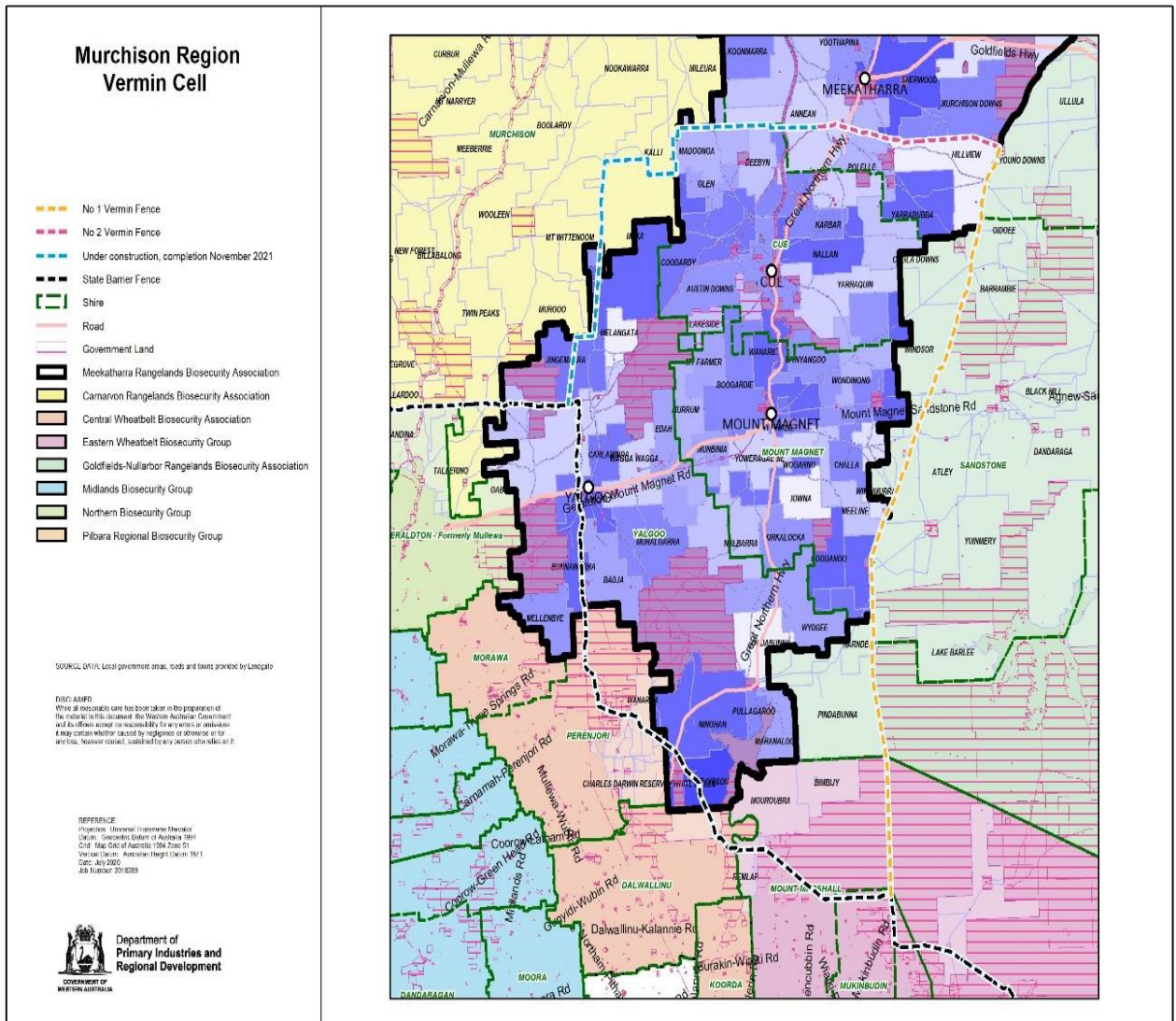
The MRBA currently employs seven doggers (5.275 full time equivalent). These doggers are funded from MRBA declared pest account rates and the State Government's Royalties for Regions program. The Royalties for Regions funding is provided by the State for the purpose of wild dog control on government managed lands and adjoining pastoral leases, predominately in the southern half of the MRBA area.

The following table summarises the situation for 2021/2022.

<b>Dogger &amp; Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Area of Operation &amp; Funding</b>	<b>Properties serviced</b>
<b>Wayne Glasson (88 days)</b> <b>LPMT 7926</b> Co-ordinator Liam Johns (08) 9981 2901	Doolgunna Royalties for Regions	DBC&A ( Doolgunna, Mooloolool, Peak Hill Common), Neds Creek, Paroo, Murchison Downs, Mt Padbury, Three Rivers, Bryah, Killara
<b>Wayne Glasson (100 days)</b> <b>LPMT 7926</b> Co-ordinator Liam Johns (08) 9981 2901	Yagahorn MRBA	Youthapina, Belele, Annean, Polelle, Sherwood,
<b>Jon Hehir (200 days)</b> <b>LPMT 7487</b> Co-ordinator Ashley Dowden (08) 9963 5361	Cue MRBA	Meka, Madoonga, Glen, Coodardy, Austin Downs, Beebyn, Karbar, Nallan, Yarraquin, Cogla Downs, Windsor, Wanarie, Wirra Block, Annean, Polelle, Hillview, Yarrabubba
<b>Greg Scott (100 days)</b> <b>LPMT 6835</b> Co-ordinator Ashley Dowden (08) 9963 5361	Mount Magnet to Paynes Find East MRBA	Wanarie, Wynyangoo, Wondinong, Windimurra, Challa, Meeline, Nardee, Wydgee, Pindabunna, Maranalgo. Pullagaroo  Mulgarra (separate contract with mining company)
<b>Reg Seaman (100 days)</b> <b>LPMT 8385</b> Co-ordinator Jorgen Jensen (08) 9963 4839	Mount Magnet MRBA	Boogardie, Murrum, Edah, Munbinia, Hy Brazil, Yoweragabbie, Wogarno, Iowna, Kirkalocka, Wydgee
<b>John Darling (177 days)</b> <b>LPMT 7492</b> Co-ordinator Justin Rowe (08) 9962 8062	Yalgoo Royalties for Regions	DBC&A ( Dalgaranga, Lakeside, Narloo Block), Jingemurra, Gabyon, Melangata, Carlaminda, Wagga Wagga, Edah, Mt Farmer, Yuin Pastoral, Austin Downs, Meka
<b>Kris Pascoe (111 days)</b> <b>LPMT 10361</b> Co-ordinator Greg Payne (08) 9963-7990	Paynes Find South Royalties for Regions	DCB&A (Karara, Warridar, Lochada, Thundelarra), Ninghan and Badja
<b>Reg Seaman (66 days)</b> <b>LPMT 8385</b> Co-ordinator Jorgen Jensen (08) 9963 4839	Paynes Find North Royalties for Regions	DBC&A (Thundelarra, Burnerbinmah) Oudabunna, Wydgee, Nalbara
<b>John Mahony (50 DAYS)</b> <b>LPMT 11384</b> Co-ordinator Murray Pens (08) 9981 2922	Meekatharra West MRBA	Moorarie, Judal, Mt Gould, Belele West, Koonmarra.

Royalties for Regions funding of \$250,000 has been received for this 2021/2022 program and is part of the State Wild Dog Action Plan.

## Murchison Region Vermin Cell



The last section of the Murchison Region Vermin Cell wild dog fence is almost complete. This work, which involves the construction of 285 km of fencing to join the existing No 2 Vermin Fence with the State Barrier Fence, is being carried out by the Murchison Regional Vermin Council. The grant for constructing the remaining 285 km of vermin fence is \$3.0 M and is a Federal Government Building Better Regions Project. It is expected that there will be savings of some \$400,000 on this project. An application has been lodged with BBRF to use this \$400,000 to upgrade some 38 km of the No 1 Vermin Fence in the north-east corner of the Vermin Cell.

The completion of the 285 km section means that some 55 pastoral leases are now enclosed within a wild dog proof vermin fence that will overtime enable a return to small stock production. The challenge now is for pastoralists and the MRBA to work together to remove the wild dogs from within the Cell and also find ways to build

smaller cells that work off the Vermin Cell fence. The Murchison Hub is a great example of a smaller cell within the Murchison Region Vermin Cell.



## **Funding and Budgets**

Many pastoralists would be aware the unimproved value of their pastoral lease was reduced in 2020/2021 following objections particularly from Kimberley and Pilbara pastoralists. As unimproved values determine the Declared Pest Rate the MRBA sustained a reduction of \$200,000 in rate income equally split over the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 financial years. By utilising all MRBA Declared Pest Account reserves this reduction was only just accommodated without having to reduce services this financial year.

At the Committee Meeting on 12 October a draft budget for 2022/2023 was approved which involved a return to pre 2020/2021 rating levels. This will mean an increase in declared pest rates for MRBA members of around 30% when compared with those paid in 2021/2022. Understandably this will concern many however if MRBA income is not restored wild dog and large feral herbivore control activities will be seriously impacted.

At the October meeting DPIRD representatives indicated that the Department would be making special efforts to communicate with pastoralists and support the restoration of funding levels. With the government funded Murchison Region Vermin Cell almost complete it was acknowledged that it is critical for wild dog control activities to be maintained.

## **Ammunition Subsidy**

An ammunition subsidy of up to \$200 pa (excluding GST) per property is available to pastoral stations in the MRBA area to assist with LFH control. This subsidy is also available to MRBA doggers involved in LFH control.

The subsidy can be claimed by forwarding a receipt for the purchase of suitable ammunition, along with an invoice for payment, to the Executive Officer. Please note \$2,000 has been allowed in the MRBA budget for this purpose in 2021/2022.

## **Grants Pending**

### **Applications for State NRM Funding:**

Two applications have been submitted in the current round of State NRM grants.

The first is for \$13,850 for the eradication of cactus on the abandoned Poona Mine Site on Meka Station.

The second application is for \$208,440 for the erection of foot netting on 110km of the northern boundary fence of ex pastoral lease Burnerbinmah between Wydgee, Nalbarra and Muralgarra. If approved this would prevent the movement of wild dogs north from Burnerbinmah onto adjoining pastoral leases and thus be a first step in fencing out government managed lands.

## **Committee of Management Meeting**

The next Committee of Management meeting is scheduled to be held at the Sporting Complex in Meekatharra on Tuesday 15 February 2022 commencing at 9.30 am. MRBA members are most welcome to attend this meeting