

**MEEKATHARRA RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY
ASSOCIATION**

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021

MRBA Annual General Meeting

The 2020/2021 Annual General Meeting of the Meekatharra Rangelands Biosecurity Association (MRBA) is scheduled for Tuesday, 12 October 2021. The meeting which will commence at 9.30am is being held in Meekatharra at the Shire Sports Complex. Formal notification and an agenda will be emailed out towards the end of September.

Management Committee members are elected on a rolling basis for a term of three years hence four positions elected in 2018 become vacant. Nomination forms for these positions will be included with the meeting agenda.

The Committee of Management, with dates elected, as resolved at the AGM on 13 October 2020 is as follows:

- Chairman – Ashley Dowden (2018)
- Vice Chairman – Liam Johns (2018)
- Secretary/Treasurer – Eric Moses (2020)
- Jarrad Blair (2019)
- John Mahony (2020)
- Jorgen Jensen (2019)
- Greg Watters (2018)
- Rob Lefroy (2019)
- Angus Nichols (2020)
- Greg Payne (2019)
- Murray Pens (2018)

Management Committee members are elected on a rolling basis for a term of three years.



Committee Meeting 16 February 2021

MRBA Indicative Bait Rack Program 2021

The MRBA Spring 2021 bait rack program as determined at the February Committee of Management Meeting is as follows.

Spring Bait Rack Program 2021

Location	Co-Ordinator	Spring Baiting Dates	Spring Quantity/Type of Bait Kg	Meat Pick Up
Pullagaroo	Mat Rubery 9963-6603	19 August Thursday	800 bulk 300 bulk DPaW	Mount Magnet
Challa	Ashley Dowden 9963 5361	25 August Wednesday	1,000 cut 1,000 bulk 2,000 cut DPIRD	Mount Magnet
Melangata	Craig Clews 0428 108 772	27 August Friday	1,800 bulk 300 bulk DPaW	Yalgoo
Killara	Liam Johns 9981 2901	8 September Wednesday	700 bulk 300 bulk DPaW	"Sherwood"
Yarraquin	Peter Savage 9963 1027	1 September Wednesday	750 bulk	Mount Magnet
Yarlarweelor	Greg Watters 9981 2943	11/12 September Sat/Sun	4,000 bulk	"Sherwood"
Ilgarrarie	Suzanne Maguire 9175 7015	16/17 September Thursday/Friday	1,600 bulk	"Sherwood" Bait Rack delivery to be arranged
			11,650 kg bulk DPaW 900 DPIRD 2000 Total 14,550 kg	

As indicated in the table above an additional 2,000 kg of meat is being ordered for the Challa Racks as part of a DPIRD bait density trial. This gives a total of 4,000 kg at Challa the bulk of which DPIRD are funding to be delivered cut up.

The above program is earlier than usual and is subject to alteration by individual rack coordinators to align with the first sightings of pups. It is very likely, based on the

season and rainfall received, that pups will not start appearing until the mid-September at the earliest hence a delay in the August dates is anticipated.

MRBA Doggers

The following table summarises the situation for 2021/2022.

Dogger & Co-ordinator	Area of Operation & Funding	Properties serviced
Wayne Glasson (82 DAYS) LPMT 7926 Co-ordinator Liam Johns (08) 9981 2901	Doolgunna Royalties for Regions	DBC&A (Doolgunna, Moologool, Peak Hill Common), Neds Creek, Paroo, Murchison Downs, Mt Padbury, Three Rivers, Bryah, Killara
Wayne Glasson (100 DAYS) LPMT 7926 Co-ordinator Liam Johns (08) 9981 2901	Yagahorn MRBA	Youthapina, Bebele, Annean, Polelle, Sherwood,
Jon Hehir (200 DAYS) LPMT 7487 Co-ordinator Ashley Dowden (08) 9963 5361	Cue MRBA	Meka, Madoonga, Glen, Coodardy, Austin Downs, Beebyn, Karbar, Nallan, Yarraquin, Coglea Downs, Windsor, Wanarie, Wirra Block, Annean, Polelle, Hillview, Yarrabubba
Greg Scott (100 DAYS) LPMT 6835 Co-ordinator Ashley Dowden (08) 9963 5361	Mount Magnet to Paynes Find East MRBA	Wanarie, Wynyangoo, Wondinong, Windimurra, Challa, Meeline, Narndee, Wydgee, Pindabunna, Maranalgo. Pullagaroo Mulgarra (separate contract with mining company)
Reg Seaman (100 days) LPMT 8385 Co-ordinator Jorgen Jensen (08) 9963 4839	Mount Magnet MRBA	Boogardie, Murrum, Edah, Munbinia, Hy Brazil, Yoweragabbie, Wogarno, Iowna, Kirkalocka, Wydgee
John Darling (166 DAYS) LPMT 7492 Co-ordinator Justin Rowe (08) 9962 8062	Yalgoo Royalties for Regions	DBC&A (Dalgara, Lakeside, Narloo Block), Jingemurra, Gabyon, Melangata, Carlaminda, Wagga Wagga, Edah, Mt Farmer, Yuin Pastoral, Austin Downs, Meka
Kris Pascoe (104 DAYS) LPMT 10361 Co-ordinator Greg Payne (08) 9963-7990	Paynes Find South Royalties for Regions	DCB&A (Karara, Warridar, Lochada, Thundelarra), Ninghan and Badja
Reg Seaman (62 days) LPMT 8385 Co-ordinator Jorgen Jensen (08) 9963 4839	Paynes Find North Royalties for Regions	DBC&A (Thundelarra, Burnerbinmah) Oudabunna, Wydgee, Nalbara

<p>Vacant (following retirement of Kevin Mahony) (50 DAYS) LPMT Co-ordinator Kath Mahony (08) 9981 2997</p>	<p>Meekatharra West MRBA</p>	<p>Moorarie, Judal, Mt Gould, Belele West, Koonmarra.</p>
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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.

As can be seen from the table above Kevin Mahony has retired as Meekatharra West dogger. Averaging around a dog a day Kevin has proved a highly skilled dogger whose work has been much appreciated. Kevin’s replacement is expected to be determined at the Committee of Management Meeting in October.

As previously advised the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development has recently approved Royalties for Regions funding of \$250,000 for 2021/2022. This is an increase of \$16,000 on the current year and will enable a continuation by the MRBA of wild dog control activities on government managed lands.

At the Committee Meeting on 16 February, it was recognised that a long-term solution is required to the control of wild dogs on government managed lands. This is of particular importance now that the Murchison Region Vermin Cell is nearing completion. The long-term solution, that has been put to both the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Environment, is the construction of vermin fencing to enclose government managed lands and thus prevent the movement of wild dogs onto adjoining pastoral leases. To progress this idea an application has been submitted in the recent May State NRM grant round to upgrade the northern boundary, of the government managed ex-pastoral station Burnerbinmah, to a wild dog proof standard. This upgrade involves the installation of foot netting on the existing eleven wire fence, over a distance of some 110 km, on the boundaries between Burnerbinmah and Wydgee, Nalbarra and Muralgarra Stations.

Murchison Regional Vermin Cell

Attached is a map that shows details of the Murchison Region Vermin Cell and the Murchison Hub located within. Both projects are expected to be completed by December. The hub provides a wonderful opportunity for pastoralists to build wild dog proof boundary fencing radiating out to the Murchison Region Vermin Cell fence.

The Murchison Regional Vermin Council is the body responsible for the Vermin Cell with the Rangelands Fibre and Produce Association responsible for the Hub project.

Funding of \$3.0M has been obtained under the Federal Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) program and also State and Local Government programs for completion of the Vermin Cell. It is expected that there will be savings of some \$400,000 under the current BBRF component of funding. An application has been lodged to use this \$400,000 to upgrade some 38 km of the No 1 Fence in the north-east corner of the Vermin Cell.



Newly constructed vermin fencing – Sanford River crossing on the western boundary of Meka Station after rains in March 2021

Rural and Environmental Pest Management Training – Marymia Station

A grant, which is being administered by DPIRD, was obtained from AWI for pest management training. This training was conducted by Ben Maslen – Carnarvon TAFE – with the assistance of MRBA dogger Jon Hehir at Marymia Station from 14 to 18 June. In all eight participants attended and following completion of some further online evaluation, all have qualified for a Certificate 3 in Rural and Environmental Pest Management. The Certificate 3 is a prerequisite qualification for obtaining a Pest Management Technician Licence from the Department of Health.

The training proved a great success thanks to the efforts of all involved at Marymia and at TAFE Carnarvon.

It is expected that a second Rural and Environmental Pest Management training program will be arranged in the Mount Magnet area in the first half of 2022.

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 provided 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 Executive Officer Geoff Brooks. Please note \$2,000 has been allowed in the MRBA budget for this purpose in 2021/2022.

MRBA Web Site

In the last couple of months, the MRBA has established a web site. This is a work in progress and when completed will provide easy access to MRBA documentation such as this newsletter and meeting agendas.

The web site can be found at:

www.mrba.asn.au

AGM and Committee of Management Meeting

The 2020/2021 AGM and next Committee of Management meetings are scheduled to be held at the Sporting Complex in Meekatharra on Tuesday 12 October 2021 commencing at 9.30 am.

For further enquires please contact Geoff Brooks

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