

**MEEKATHARRA RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY
ASSOCIATION**

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

MRBA Committee of Management Meeting

A Committee of Management Meeting of the Meekatharra Rangelands Biosecurity Association (MRBA) was held in Meekatharra on 16 February 2021. The unconfirmed minutes of this meeting have been included as an attachment with this newsletter.

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

As determined by the Committee of Management last year and following a survey of members, the MRBA will no longer supply meat in Autumn for a community bait rack program. Individual racks participants can of course get together and supply their own meat for injection in April 2021. 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 2021 bait rack program will go ahead as normal.

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	2,000 cut 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 indicted 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 all 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 expected that work to extend the Yarlarweelor racks will be carried out prior to this year's rack days.

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 2020/2021.

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, Mooloolool, 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, Cogla 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 Mulgarr (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 (Dalgaranga, 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

Kevin Mahony (50 DAYS) LPMT 7678 Co-ordinator Kath Mahony (08) 9981 2997	Meekatharra West MRBA	Moorarie, Judal, Mt Gould, Belele West, Koonmarra.
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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.

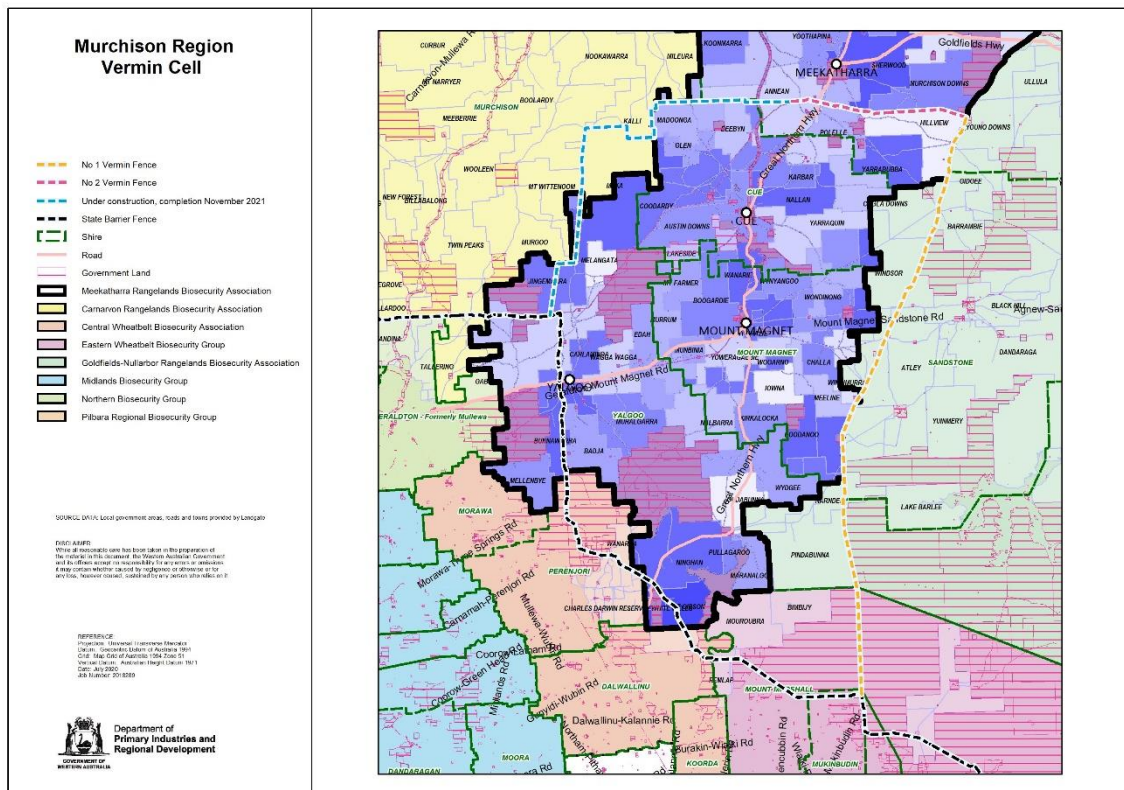
At the Committee Meeting on 16 February it was recognised that a long-term solution is required to the control of wild dogs on government managed lands. This is of particular importance now that the Murchison Region Vermin Cell is nearing completion. The long-term solution, that will be put to both the 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. One of the advantages this proposal has it that existing vermin cell fencing could be utilised as part of the enclosure. A further advantage is that fencing would enable the Department of Biodiversity and Attractions to better manage wild dog numbers on their lands without adversely impacting their pastoralist neighbours.



New Construction – Light Flip up to accommodate flooding

Murchison Regional Vermin Cell

As indicated on the map below the last section of the Murchison Region Vermin Cell wild dog fence is currently under construction with a completion date of December 2021. This work, which involves the construction of 175 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. Funding of \$3.0M has been obtained from Federal, State and Local Governments for this last section. It is expected that there will be some savings under the current \$3.0M program which it is hoped can be used to upgrade some of the worst sections of the existing No1 Vermin Fence.



Large Feral Herbivore (LFH) Cull

A dry condition grant of \$25,000 was obtained from the DPIRD for the culling of LFHs (feral camels, horses and donkeys) in the north east of the MRBA area. When combined with MRBA LFH reserve funds this grant enabled a four-day aerial cull which was conducted by DPIRD Biosecurity staff. The operation was conducted in December last year, however, it was cut short by some very welcome rain. In all a total 684 feral animals were destroyed and the following table provides details of location and numbers.

	Donkeys	Horses	Camels
Three Rivers Station	0	80	0
Marymia Station	36	16	0
Kumarina Station	13	7	0
Weelarrana Station	69	10	7
Sylvania Station	115	23	2
Turee Creek Station	125	43	9
UCL - DBCA	68	29	32
	426	208	50

For the first time in a number of years this operation involved the use of a Spotter Plane. Pastoralists involved in the shoot provided the plane, pilot and fuel which made a significant contribution to the cost effectiveness and success of the operation.

A follow up two-day cull is planned later this year for Three Rivers, Bryah and Mingah Springs.



View from the Helicopter Flying Low

Rural and Environmental Pest Management Training

A grant, which is being administered by DPIRD, has been obtained from AWI for pest management training. In June this year there will be an opportunity for pastoralists and those working in the industry to take part in a TAFE accredited training program at Marymia Station.

The training will involve the safe handling of 1080 and Strychnine, injection of baits with 1080 and the trapping of wild dogs. An experienced MRBA dogger will assist with this training. The full training program will take five days with the potential for participants to receive a Certificate Three in Rural and Environmental Pest Management and thus qualify to apply to the Department of Health for a Pest Management Technician's Licence. It will be possible for participants seeking only the qualification to inject baits to attend the first two days of the course and thus become "approved pastoralists".

Expressions of interest are invited for attendance at this training. The specific dates for this training are 14 to 18 June 2021. Accommodation will be available at Marymia Station. Training and accommodation costs will be covered by the grant including the cost of TAFE certificates. Participants will be responsible for arranging and paying for travel to and from Marymia. Please contact Executive Officer Geoff Brooks to register your interest.

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.

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 14 October 2021 commencing at 9.30 am.

For further enquires please contact Geoff Brooks

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