



Tamworth Birdwatchers Incorporated

Observing, Recording and Conserving Birds in
the Tamworth Region of NSW since 1998

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Tamworth Regional Landcare Association Small Grants Program 2024

Tamworth Birdwatchers Inc applied for, and received, a grant of \$2,500 from TRLA to create a video demonstrating how to make a trap to catch feral birds including Common Mynas and Starlings which compete with native birds and mammals for resources, foul public places, water and food resources and damage commercial crops. They also potentially carry diseases that may affect poultry and our native birds.

Eric Fair has been making traps for years, occasionally helped by other TBW members. However, we need more people to learn how to make the traps, and hopefully spread the word as far as possible. Our project aimed to assist with that.

Matt Foley of Folmac Videos was hired to film and edit the video and make it suitable to put on Youtube.

The video content and necessary materials and props were prepared by Eric Fair and Annabel Ashworth. The filming took place at Eric Fairs farm at Appleby and Eric was the sole star of the video, expertly demonstrating the process from beginning to end.

Annabel produced a very comprehensive set of written instructions to accompany the video. These are also available on our website.

Our secretary, Gerry Austin, created the Youtube platform, uploaded the video and made the necessary changes and additions to our webpage. (Still in progress.)

An introduction was written which included acknowledging the source of our funds, and thanking TRLA for this opportunity. (See attached screenshot.)

Our Facebook administrator, Penny Milson, promoted the video and provided a link to it from our Facebook site. (See attached.) The link was provided to TRLA via Nina who has written a very positive Facebook post on their site along with the link.

A news item, including acknowledging TRLA for the grant, will be written for our newsletter.

Our project aligned very well with TRLA objectives 1 and 2. It aims to restore and conserve biodiversity by reducing the number of feral birds therefore allowing native birds and other competing fauna to recover and thrive. It has created a permanently available tool to teach an effective method of controlling these pests. This method can be used in many different environments including urban, peri-urban, farms and natural areas such as riparian zones and remnant grassy white-box woodland.

Already we have had several shares and likes on our Facebook page promoting the video. A participant at the Bubbogullion 100 Birds on Farms Event (13/4/25) commented that he had seen the video, and the trap and the video were promoted at that event.

The Tamworth Community Men's Shed expressed interest in the new resource with a link forwarded to its President, Ken West via email on 10 April 2025. We intend to develop a stronger partnership with this group in the coming months/years and will encourage their potential interest in manufacturing low cost traps in the future.

Tamworth Birdwatchers would like to thank TRLA for providing us with the means to create this video and hope that it will be shared widely and yield significant results in the biodiversity sector.

Yours sincerely

Jean Coady (Vice-President Tamworth Birdwatchers Inc.)