

The Traprocket

Edition No 4 – 8th July 2022

A Traprock Management Meeting was held last Sunday to plan for the 2022/23 year ahead with some exciting prospects for an extremely informative time for all members.

Date Claimer: Friday 26th August 2022

Traprock Annual General Meeting & Worm Information Day to be held at Terrica Woolshed. We plan to have guest speakers, industry representatives and a demonstration of new equipment for the sheep and goat breeders. There will be more information once we have the guest speakers and agenda in place.

Grant from Acciona (MacIntyre Wind Farm):

Traprock have been fortunate to secure a grant from Acciona to expand our knowledge on Sustainable Farming in the Traprock. The plan is to hold further meetings to enhance the information we gained from the meeting held in April 2022.

A Farm Walk is also in the pipeline for October/November this year and depending on locations we are trying to include more than one property but we also want to limit the travel between properties so we can get the most out of the day.

Traprock Christmas Party: Preparations are in the early stages for our Christmas Party this year but we are aiming for a date in early December on a Saturday night. I'm sure that you are hoping that we will be successful this year after having to cancel the 2021 party due to flooding.

Telstra – Mobile Phone Coverage:

First of all, I would like to thank the 35 people who took the time to reply to the recent survey. Almost all were using Telstra with just over 25% reporting that they had no signal at home with the balance reporting that the signal was worse or much worse in the last six months.

At this stage I don't have any good news to report for the Traprock area, but David Littleproud's office advised that there is \$80 million allocated to the building of new towers but we will have to wait until parliament returns at the end of July to know where the new towers will be situated. We are hoping that at least one tower will be in the Pikedale area.

Wild Dogs:

Our president, Peter has advised that Senior Zoologist – Lee Allen has been commissioned by the Southern Downs Regional Council to conduct a study into the travel patterns of the wild dogs in our area. Initially he will be working in the Sundown National Park and the plan is to trap dogs, tag, release and track the dogs. With the installation of exclusion fencing in that area it will be interesting to follow the dog's paths. I know this trap and release is almost a swear word to anyone who has had trouble with wild dogs but there doesn't seem to be any other way to gain this new vital information.

New Segment for the Newsletter:

I would like to introduce a new segment for the newsletter which I hope will be well supported. I'd like to encourage all members to participate by putting together a profile of a bird, an animal, a tree or a plant that you would find in the Traprock. I will start the ball rolling by profiling the Hooded Robin. Please turn to page 2.

Thought for the day:

Originality is the fine art of remembering what you hear but forgetting where you heard it.

Till next time.

My contact details are –

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Stuart Goodrich – Editor



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Hooded Robin

Melanodryas cucullate
Petroicidae

The Hooded Robin gets its name from the male of the species, whose neat black-and-white plumage includes a dark 'hood' which covers the bird's head, extending down onto the upper breast and back. The female, by contrast, is drab, having largely brownish-grey plumage. Being a shy and unobtrusive species, Hooded Robins are often rather quiet during the day, especially in the afternoon, but are one of the first birds to call in the morning, when they vigorously add their far-crying song to the dawn chorus.

Description

The Hooded Robin is a medium-large robin with a rather short slender bill and a moderately long tail which is square-tipped. Adult males are pied (black and white) with a black hood and black, white underparts, black wings, white shoulder bar and wing stripe. Females are similar to males but greyer with a brown-grey head and a dark brown wing with a white stripe. Juveniles are dark brown with off-white speckling, white markings on the upper body and white underneath.

Hooded Robins are also known as Black or Pied Robins. They are usually seen in pairs or small groups and are rather shy and quiet. Their flight is short, swift and undulating (curving up and down) with the white in the wings and tail being obvious.

Distribution

Hooded Robins are found all over mainland Australia, except Cape York and eastern Gulf of Carpentaria or inland around the Simpson Desert, on the Nullarbor Plain or south of the Kimberley Ranges. They are more commonly found in south-eastern Australia from Adelaide to Brisbane.

Feeding & Breeding

The Hooded Robin sits on exposed perches, such as dead branches and stumps and pounces on arthropods (mainly insects). It forages on or near the ground.

It breeds in monogamous pairs. They construct a cup-shaped nest of leaves and bark, bound with spiders' web, placed in a crevice, hollow or hole in a tree or stump. The female incubates the eggs.

Conservation Status

Whilst they are not present in Tasmania and are vulnerable in New South Wales, the Hooded Robin is secure in all other states of Australia.

