



Incorporation number
A0031385X

Autumn 2015

A relatively quiet summer for the group has passed, but the rest was well needed because we have a busy 2015 planned. Thanks to the volunteers who have done a great job keeping the visitors centre open for all the weekends and school holidays to look after the summer crowds.

Our planned calendar for the year is included with this newsletter as well as further details about our more imminent events. Please check it out and consider coming along and having some fun while contributing to making Tarra-Bulga National Park even more awesome.

Working Bee (Tutsan and Sycamore Maple) - Saturday March 21st.

Our first group activity for the year will be held at a site in the park along Tarra Valley Rd that we have been working on for nearly a decade now. Initially we started tackling a serious infestation of Sycamore Maple, which is a tree that can be very invasive, it has light papery seeds that disperse in the wind, it can grow in shade and then potentially become a large tree. Over the years we have pulled out hundreds of new seedlings that have spread into the park and cut out and killed many larger saplings.

We have now been successful at getting the Maple fairly well controlled and we have now also started on another weed (Tutsan) that is established at the site. Tutsan (*Hypericum androsaemum*) is a perennial shrub that grows to about 1.5m tall, it is related to St John's Wort and is noted as being a serious threat to damp and wet sclerophyll forests. We have received a Communities for Nature grant to assist our efforts that will be used to fund contractors to spray the larger infestations as well as to purchase some hand tools and chemical to support our efforts.



Photo: Tutsan - Mature berries are black

We will be holding a working bee at the site on Saturday March the 21st. The meeting point will be at the Tarra Valley Car Park at 9.30am. Like many of our working bees' the terrain will be steep and lots of scrambling through undergrowth will be required. Tools will be available but if you have your own favourite gloves or loppers please bring them along. Following the work we will have a free BBQ lunch provided down at the Fernholme Caravan Park (at around 1pm). If you are able to come along please call or email David Akers (0488 035 314 or friendsoftarrabulga@gmail.com preferably by March the 18th so we know how much food to buy.

Working Bee (Weeding and Planting Site Preparation) - Saturday April 18th.

Another weeding day as well as preparing for an upcoming planting day, you will also get to have a bit of a walk as well. The site for this activity is halfway along Diaper Tk, which is the walking track that you can take to get from the Bulga section of the park down to the Tarra Valley. A major infestation of Sycamore Maple (2ha) was discovered on this site several years ago. Contractors did a great job of felling and poisoning the Maple forest and now the friends group has taken on the task of finding and removing new seedlings that emerge as well as planting native overstorey trees such as Mountain Ash to grow where the Maples were present.

The site is quite overgrown with regrowth scrub and as well as looking for weeds to pull we will be cutting new tracks to allow easier access for the tree planting planned in July.



Photo: Diaper Tk site - March 2014

We will walk into the site from the Balook end so the meeting point is at the visitors centre at 9am. No BBQ for this one as it is about a 3km walk in, therefore you will need to take a cut lunch and your own drink. So we are aware of the numbers of volunteers to expect please RSVP to David on 0488 035 314 or email friendsoftarrabulga@gmail.com

Photomonitoring – Saturday May 9th

Some of the land that makes up Tarra-Bulga National Park contains forest that is recovering from being logged or completely cleared in failed farming attempts. Recent events like the 2009 bushfires have also impacted on the park. Weed invasions, nearby logging, climate variability and tree planting can also impact the vegetation in the park. The friends group is eager to observe and document how the park changes over time, for this reason back in 2007 we started a project where we take repeat photos of selected sites in the park. Twice a year a small group heads out to spend a day taking the photos, if anyone would like to get involved or come along and help (no experienced necessary) please contact either David Akers or the Ranger (Craig Campbell).



Photo: Site 10 – Sept 2009



Photo: Site 10 - March 2014

Lyrebird Survey – Saturday May 30th

The Lyrebird Survey is a very popular annual event for volunteers, with people often coming from far and wide to participate. It requires an early start (we meet at the visitors centre at 6.15am) but it is totally worth it for the experience of standing in a rainforest and hearing the chorus of Lyrebirds and other species begin their morning calls as the sun rises. This activity is also a great one for children to participate in and to top it all off a free breakfast following the survey is provided. Once again if you are planning on attending please RSVP to David (By May the 26th).



Photo: Crowding around for final instructions at last years count.

Green Walks in the Park

The Green Walks program run by the Latrobe Community Health Service and the Heart Foundation is still running and thanks go to David Pattison, Eddie Silvester and Patrick Hanrahan for helping out and leading the walks on behalf of our group. Anyone is welcome to come along on the day and the following walks are scheduled to take place over the next few months

Tuesday April 21st

Wednesday May 20th

Monday June 8th (Queens Birthday holiday)

All of these walks will commence at 10am at the Visitors Centre. If you would like to join the walks contact Bonnie on 1800 242 696.

Photo Gallery – Images from around the Park (Includes posts from Facebook Page)



Photo: Dragon Fly - Multi Spotted Darner, not far from the Suspension Bridge - March 2015



Photo: Rufous Fantail - Feb 2015



Photo: Agile Antechinus - Feb 2015



Photo: Pink Robin (Female or imm) on the Ash Track - March 2015

Any interesting photos taken in the park would be gratefully accepted. They could be used in the newsletter, or on our website or Facebook, email then to friendsoftarrabulga@gmail.com or post on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/TarraBulgaNP

Is your membership up to date?

I would like to remind everyone that the Annual Subscriptions for 2014 are now due: \$10 an individual, and \$15 a family (two or more people). Our Treasurer is Pam Pattison, and cheques payable to the *Friends of Tarra-Bulga National Park Inc.* can be sent to Pam (c/- 2119 Grand Ridge Road, Balook 3971) or left at the Park Office. You may also leave cash at the Park Office for Craig to pass on to Pam, but please ensure that you leave it in a labelled envelope to make our life easier.

Contact Details:

David Akers: 5189 1330, 0488 035 314 or e-mail dakers@activ8.net.au (President)

Ranger Craig Campbell: 5196 6166 (Park Office), 5172 2508 (Traralgon Office), or e-mail cjcampbe@parks.vic.gov.au (Park Postal Address is: 1652a Bulga Park Rd, Balook 3971)

Pam Pattison: 5196 6140 or email balook01@bigpond.com (Volunteer Roster, Treasurer)

Website Address: www.friendsoftarrabulga.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/tarrabulga

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TarraBulgaNP>

If you have any further questions or comments about anything in relation to the Park, please do not hesitate to contact the President of the Friends group, **David Akers** on 0488 035 314 or by e-mail friendsoftarrabulga@gmail.org.au