



Incorporation number
A0031385X

Spring 2014

Transmission Resumed

Greetings all, sorry that it has taken a while but at last we have a newsletter. It's been a busy year with volunteers again putting in a big effort to help make Tarra-Bulga such a great place to visit. We have had a number of successful activities as a group and continue to do a great job manning the Visitors Centre on weekends and school holidays etc. We have some exciting projects on the go and welcome everyone's involvement.

New Committee

At the recent Annual General Meeting the following people were elected to these positions:-

President -	David Akers
Vice President -	Eddie Silvester
Secretary-	Angie Gutowski
Treasurer-	Pam Pattison
Committee member-	David Weston
Committee member-	Patrick Hanrahan

Thanks to those who have retired from the committee (at least for a little while) Peter Bryant has extended his time teaching over in Indonesia and has left a big hole to fill after doing such a fantastic job as President for well over a decade. Lisa Blackman has also stepped back after doing a great stint carrying out a range of roles including Website/Publicity/Newsletter/Vice President and Acting President. Welcome to new members David W and Patrick.

Friends BBQ

In lieu of a friend's dinner this year we are having a BBQ. In which everyone that has volunteered at the visitors centre or on a working bee this year is invited to attend. It will be held at the Fernholme Caravan Park in the Tarra Valley on Saturday November the 8th at 6pm. BYO Drinks. Please RSVP to David Akers on 0488 035 314 by Tuesday November the 4th.

Volunteers needed!

Hi there Friends of Tarra Bulga National Park,

This Spring-Summer I'll be conducting an honours research project with Deakin University on the Myrtle Beech and Southern Sassafras in Tarra Bulga National Park. I also have another site at Mt Donna Buang, so I will alternate where I collect data.

The study is looking at the photosynthetic and transpiration rates of the two trees under different light and temperature conditions, and what may influence different responses to different conditions. Influences may include elevation, distance to a watercourse, if the tree occurs at the bottom of a gully or the top of a hill and the age of the tree. This is an important study as most of what we know about these trees has been studied in Tasmania and often on seedlings grown under laboratory conditions. The study will hopefully give an insight into old growth trees growing in their natural habitat in a Victorian context.

To collect my data, I need volunteers to help with measurements and for safety.

Volunteers can choose the amount of time they spend helping i.e. one day, a week etc.

Most days will start early in the morning – around 7-8am. We'll set up the machine, take some data on the trees and then pack up around 3-4pm. Volunteers will have the opportunity to play with a neat photosynthesis machine and hang out with some chummy lyrebirds and pink robins.

I am also hoping to stay in the vicinity of the park during fieldwork dates, so if anyone has a backyard with space for the tent of a nerdy plant researcher or could offer some amenities it would be greatly appreciated.

Fieldwork dates are:

Saturday 18th – Friday 24th October

Wednesday 29th October – Monday 3rd November

Saturday 8th November – Saturday 15th November

Saturday 22nd November – Saturday 29th November

Saturday 6th December – Tuesday 23rd December

If you'd like to know more and/or are available to lend a hand please email me your availabilities at maggier@deakin.edu.au or contact me on 0437 846 259.

Looking forward to hearing from some Tarra Bulga Friends,

Maggie Riddington

Deakin University

Grand Strzelecki Track

The GST group is keen to hear from anyone interested in helping out as tour guides for walking groups wanting to visit the track. Anyone interested should contact Richard Appleton at steeplegrove@activ8.net.au or phone 5196 6116

Don't forget, use the website link to keep up to date and find out the latest information on the GST!

<http://www.grandstrzeleckitrack.org.au/>

Green Walks

The Green Walks program run by the Latrobe Community Health Service and the Heart Foundation has been running all year and has been well publicised by the Latrobe City Council. David Pattison, Eddie Silvester and David Akers have helped out as guides and representatives of the friends group. Two more walks are scheduled this year they are on Tuesday 4th of November (Cup Day) and Monday 1st of December. Both of them commence at 10am at the Visitors Centre. If you would like to join the walks contact Bonnie on 1800 242 696. Or even better if you would like to help out as a guide contact David on 0488 035 314.

Activities Reports

Communities for Nature Plantings.

Our successful application for work on the burnt area along the Grand Ridge Rd has kept us busy this year. All up we have planted 168 Mountain Ash in difficult terrain. By far the most challenging aspect has been to install large wire mesh guards around them to protect them from Swamp Wallabies. A crew from Conservation Volunteers did a great job constructing all the guards and Craig and Mark and others put in a big effort to get the guards to the planting sites and help clear some paths. Our two community planting days were a great success. Thanks to some big efforts from hard working volunteers our first year of the two year project is complete.



Conservation Volunteers crew taking tree guards into the planting site.



Ranger Craig giving out the orders

First-Aid Training

Ten members successfully obtained level 2 first-aid training in a course run by St Johns Ambulance and held at the Visitors Centre over two days. The theaterette was looking like a war zone with all the bandaged people lying around.

We were also trained to use the defibrillator that we have purchased and due to the fact that it is open more often than the Visitors Centre will be kept at the Guest House. Big thanks to Eddie Silvester for organising this.

Lyrebird Count

We had perfect conditions for the Lyrebird count this year. We had thirty volunteers which meant we had enough people to cover each monitoring station. Lots of birds around resulted in people enjoying themselves too much and being slow to get back for breakfast. Ended up with at least 10 Male birds being “counted”, a very pleasing result.



Remote Cameras

Cameras are still out there. Here is a list of what they captured to date.

Species	Captures	Species	Captures
Swamp Wallaby	1712	Superb Fairy-wren	46
Lyrebird	1501	Common Blackbird	45
Bassian Thrush	530	Echidna	40
Fox	471	Koala	39
Brushtail Possum	381	Grey Currawong	27
Wombat	327	Olive Whistler	18
Long Nosed Bandicoot	327	Satin Bowerbird	14
Rattus Species	279	Eastern Yellow Robin	12
Brush Bronzewing	220	Pied Currawong	11
White-browed Scrubwren	187	Grey Shrike-Thrush	10
Antechinus	122	Kookaburra	8
Rabbit	122	Rufous Fantail	7
Ring-tailed Possum	90	Common Bronzewing	5
Pilotbird	84	Sugar Glider	4
Feral Cat	82	Magpie	3
Crimson Rosella	77	Grey Fantail	2
Eastern Whipbird	70	Dog (domestic)	2



Koala - a regular at one of our sites



Bandicoots playing follow the leader

Membership Fees due!

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 friendoftarrabulga@gmail.org.au