



Incorporation number A0031385X

FRIENDS OF TARRA-BULGA NATIONAL PARK NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2017

Upcoming Events

18th March - Weeding Tutsan and
Sycamore Maple

29th April - Weeding, Removing Tree
Guards and Possibly Planting - Diaper
Track

3rd June - Lyrebird Survey

Contact Details:

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First Working Bee for 2017

Volunteer help is needed again on the first of our hands-on work days for 2017. Environmental weeds are a menace and without extra help from passionate people they can quickly degrade precious habitats. On Saturday March 18th we will be continuing our ongoing efforts to keep Tutsan, Sycamore Maple, Blackberries and Ivy under control at a vulnerable site in the picturesque Tarra Valley. No experience or prior knowledge necessary (help with weed id provided). Meet at the Tarra Valley Picnic Area Car Park at 9.30am (finish at 12.30pm). Tools provided (but you might like to bring along your own gloves). For further details or to let us know you intend to come along contact us at friendsoftarrabulga@gmail.com or phone David on 0488 035 314.

Local Area Maps

Quite often visitors to the park will ask for directions or a map of the wider region so they can find their way to their next destination. Although we don't have any stand alone maps to sell or hand out, the Prom Country tourist guides that we have a stock of under the counter has a handy map which should satisfy most visitors needs.

Strzelecki Cores and Links

Many people would be aware of the long running efforts by conservationists to increase the area of native vegetation in protected reserves within the Strzelecki Ranges. The land in question (8071 ha) is said to contain core areas of cool temperate rainforest with significant stands of Mountain Ash as well as 2411 ha of hardwood plantation. These core areas are to be linked together to form a continuous protected reserve extending from Tarra-Bulga to the Gunyah Rainforest Reserve. At a public meeting at Mirboo North late last year hosted by DEWLP it was revealed that HVP plantations will likely begin to hand back 1200ha of land to public ownership as early as this year, with further parcels to be handed back once one off logging and regeneration of some of the plantation areas are completed.

The community members who attended this public meeting uniamously supported the desire for the returned land to be given full protection as a National Park. .

Friends of Tarra-Bulga will watch this process with interest and actively promote our views via any consultation processes that arise.

Update on Ferals

Ferals (not the ones in old combi vans) are an ongoing issue at Tarra-Bulga and unfortunately despite efforts to get funding Parks Victoria have no current control program operating within the park. Foxes and Cats show up regularly on our remote cameras and are commonly seen by visitors to the park often in broad daylight. The issue of Foxes was highlighted at our annual get together last year with one Fox lingering without fear only metres from the BBQ. A newer threat to the park are Deer with several sightings around the place in recent years, our first remote camera sighting of a Deer occurred late last year.

In order to help Parks Victoria mount an argument for funding to combat Ferals we have been able to provide them with some evidence from our remote camera monitoring. Feral Cat numbers have increased every year since monitoring began and Foxes (after a reduction in 2015) reached record levels in 2016.

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Feral Cat	16	33	64	68	89
Fox	131	219	229	96	270

Species	Count	Species	Count
Lyrebird	115	Echidna	8
Fox	48	White-browed Scrubwren	2
Bassian Thrush	45	Eastern Whipbird	1
Swamp Wallaby	29	Eastern Yellow Robin	1
Mountain Brushtail Possum	26	Grey Shrike-Thrush	1
Feral Cat	20	Rattus Species	1
Common Blackbird	11	Grey Currawong	1
Wombat	11		

The table above is 2016 site data from a site in the eastern end of the park, it can be seen that Foxes were the second most detected species and Feral Cats were also regular visitors. There were no sightings of small mammals such as Antechinus or Long Nosed Bandicoots at this location.

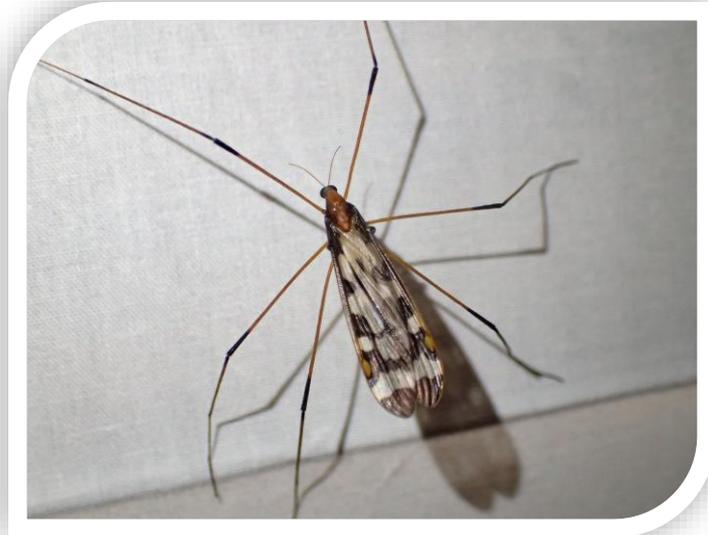


FIGURE 1 - FOXES

Rare Crane Fly

Another interesting new find in Tarra-Bulga recently was this species of Crane Fly *Sigmatomera Austrolimnobia victoriae*. After photographing this image taken on a light sheet just outside the Visitors Centre and uploading it to our “Friends of Tarra-Bulga National Park” project on www.Bowerbird.org.au I was contacted by Zac Billingham who is studying craneflies as part of a PHD project. Zac has surveyed at Tarra-Bulga a number of times in the past and provided us a list of his many records.

Zac was very excited by the photo I had uploaded as it was to his knowledge only the second time this species had ever been sighted since it was first described as a species in 1924. The original specimen along with the other recent sighting of this fly were both in the Dandenong Ranges so our record also significantly extends the known range of this species.



Friends Get Together

Late last year we held our annual friends get together which this year was a BBQ at Balook. The event was an opportunity to thank everyone for their contribution throughout the year and to also acknowledge some great service in the Visitors’ Centre by Friends who have reached



milestone awards. Pam Pattison and Jane Florey both received Gold Awards for 100 days service, Richard Florey received the Silver Award (60 days) and Patrick Hanrahan and Glenda Amos received Bronze Awards for 30 days. After the BBQ, a few of us

went for a spotlight walk and checked out what was turning up to a light sheet placed at the Bulga Carpark. There was not much to be seen via the spotlight (those tall Mountain Ash provide a big canopy for animals to hide in) but the light sheet provided some good viewing. A few of the sightings can be seen on the following page.....



FIGURE 3 CHAETOLOPHA NIPHOSTICHA



FIGURE 2: PINARA SP.



FIGURE 4: TRICHOERCUS SPARSHALLI



FIGURE 5: SCOPARIA PROTORTHRA

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Contributions:

Any interesting photos taken in the park or other items of interest would be gratefully accepted. They could be used in the newsletter, or on our website or Facebook, email them to David or post to our Facebook page www.facebook.com/TarraBulgaNP

2017 Memberships now Due?

\$10 for individuals or \$15 per family
Cheques payable to the Friends of Tarra-Bulga National Park Inc. can be sent to Pam (c/- 2119 Grand Ridge Road, Balook 3971)

we also now are accepting direct deposits to the following bank account.

Friends of Tarra Bulga National Park Inc. No.2 Account
BSB 633-000 Acct No. 158177378
Bendigo Bank

Please include your name in the Payment information and email Pam Pattison balook01@bigpond.com so we can track your payment.