



Incorporation number A0031385X

Upcoming Events

3rd December – BBQ get together and Moth Blitz

FRIENDS OF TARRA-BULGA NATIONAL PARK NEWSLETTER SPRING 2016

End of year Gathering

Hopefully everyone received an email inviting you to our gathering on the 3rd of December. starting from 6.30pm on **Saturday December 3rd** at the Visitors' Centre Picnic Area.

Food including salads and other BBQ essentials will be provided but please B.Y.O. drinks and a chair.

All welcome including partners, friends, children and extended family members but please RSVP to either myself (contact details below) or Pam Pattison: (5196 6140) by 29/11/2016 (and also let us know of any dietary needs).

Later on, in the evening, for anyone interested in sticking around we will be hanging out a moth sheet to hopefully attract and observe a diversity of night flying bugs and also do a spotlight walk to see if we can observe some bigger nocturnal creatures. BYO torch/light for this activity.

2016/2017 Committee

Following our AGM in September our committee was unchanged apart from welcoming back Peter Bryant as a general committee member. The other positions are as follows.

David Akers: President

Eddie Silvester: Vice President

Angie Gutowski: Secretary

Pam Pattison: Treasurer

David Weston, Patrick Hanrahan: General Members



Is your financial membership up to date?

In addition to the payment options listed at the end of this newsletter 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.

Contact Details:

www.friendsoftarrabulga.org.au

Email: friendsoftarrabulga@gmail.com

Phone: 0488 035 314

Visitor Numbers Up

Great to see that our Visitor Numbers to the Park as well as the visitors centre had a healthy increase in the last financial year. Takings at the Visitor centre have also increased which helps finance visitor centre improvements. Thanks to Craig Campbell (Ranger) for compiling these figures:

	2015/16	Previous Year
Total visitors to the Park	104,360	91,705
Total visitors to the Visitor Centre	8,687	7,063
Takings at the Visitor Centre	\$1,288	\$872
Audio-visual presentations	63	30
Rainfall	1,086 mm	1,246 mm
Days Visitor Centre staffed by volunteers	164	142
Number of different volunteers (at least one day at the visitors centre)	26	29

Other items of significance noted by Craig include:

- Wallaby Ridge Picnic Area has been decommissioned and rehabilitated with some planting.
- Wind storms, rain storms and snow storms this year have created a lot of work clearing walking tracks and repairing damaged infrastructure.
- Engineers assessment of the Suspension bridge was undertaken.



Above: Four of our new fridge magnets (available for sale in the Visitors Centre)

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

2015-16 has been a year in which Friends of Tarra-Bulga National Park have continued to slowly and steadily support the park through providing a service in staffing the Park Visitor Centre and working towards goals of improving the park including the quality of habitat for fauna. Activities undertaken have included:

- Follow up work for the Tutsan control project on Tarra Valley Rd.
- Removal of some tree-guards from successfully planted trees.
- Annual lyrebird survey
- Continued planting and tree guard removal and follow up weeding at the Sycamore Maple site on Diaper Track.
- New planting in a site adjacent to our project area opposite the old riding school on the Grand Ridge Rd.
- Continued photo-monitoring of vegetation & fauna.
- Initiation of a Tarra-Bulga National Park project on Bowerbird.org.au

The re-vegetation projects we have undertaken are continuing to progress well and with persistence over time we can make a significant contribution to making the park even more impressive for future visitors. We currently have no active grants with the three Communities for Nature grants that we have completed over the last few years successfully completed on schedule.

Tarra-Bulga National Park is an incredibly important place and we should continue to work to promote it and lobby hard to ensure that Parks Victoria put adequate resources in to not only maintain it, but also to have a vision to improve facilities and the quality of the environmental assets within.

During the year, we raised concerns with Parks Victoria relating to restrictions placed on the weekend availability of Rangers. Our concerns were based on both a need for Ranger presence to support our activities as a 'Friends Group' and also to have a presence at the peak times that people visit the park. While it was positive to have a dialogue with the management and raise our concerns. Parks were not able to provide us with anything in the way of an assurance that adequate Ranger support would be provided. Where opportunities arise, we need to continue to lobby the point that the Park requires a greater presence of on-ground staff especially on weekends.

Despite plenty of advertising, willing volunteers to act as walk leaders and a change of time to weekends and public holidays our Healthy Park Walks did not gain an increase in participants so it we decided to withdraw from this involvement.

We continue to provide a great service at the Visitors Centre and our members that staff it do a wonderful service in providing their time to support visitors from all over. New initiatives to keep the visitors centre vibrant this year include new signage and a new line of fridge magnets for sale.

Thanks again for the continuing work of our dedicated committee; Pam Pattison, Eddie Silvester, Angie Gutowski, David Weston and Patrick Hanrahan and to Parks Victoria on-ground staff for their support especially our dedicated Ranger Craig Campbell.

David Akers

President

2016 Lyrebird Count Results

In the pre-dawn darkness on Saturday the 18th of June, twenty-five volunteers and one Park Ranger were greeted with perfectly calm conditions for Tarra-Bulga National Park's Annual Lyrebird Survey. Overnight showers had passed by leaving moist dripping foliage in their wake.

The survey is designed to monitor the density of Lyrebirds living in 60ha comprising of wet sclerophyll and cool temperate rainforest immediately to the east of the Tarra-Bulga National Park Visitors Centre. There are sixteen monitoring points strategically placed throughout the site and volunteers move to each site before adult male Lyrebirds start their morning calls at dawn. Volunteers then use a compass to record the direction and proximity of the Lyrebird calls. This year we had enough volunteers to cover all but one of the monitoring points.



2016 Lyrebird Survey crew ready for action.

Following the survey, lines representing the direction of the calls are plotted onto a map, and triangulation is used to establish the spots where birds were calling from. This year the results indicate we had at least nine (male) Lyrebirds calling in our 60ha zone. This corresponds to a density of **one adult male Lyrebird per 6.7 ha**. You can also assume that there will be female lyrebirds and immature males or non-calling males within our target area. To account for this to get our overall population of Lyrebirds we multiply the number of calling males by a factor of 2.5. It is believed that male Lyrebirds do not begin to breed until they are around 6 or 7 years old.

Year	Number of Males Calling	Monitoring Points Covered (out of 16)	Weather Conditions
2010	4	9	
2011	9	13	Windy making it hard to hear calls, especially in the more exposed sites.
2012	9	12	Still and Calm
2013	3	10	Wet, may have discouraged birds from calling. Several males sighted feeding but not calling.
2014	14	15	Perfect calm morning
2015	6	12	Windy
2016	9	15	Ideal – slight wind, relatively warm

Table: Summary of Tarra-Bulga National Park Lyrebird Surveys

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 then to friendsoftarrabulga@gmail.com or post on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/TarraBulgaNP

Ranger Craig Campbell: 5196 6166 (Park Office), 5172 2508 (Traralgon Office), or e-mail

cicampbe@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>

2016 Memberships now due
<p>I would like to remind everyone that the Annual Subscriptions for 2015 are now due: \$10 an individual, and \$15 a family (two or more people). Our Treasurer is Pam Pattison, and cheques payable to the <i>Friends of Tarra-Bulga National Park Inc.</i> 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.</p>

Contact Details:

David Akers: 5189 1330, 0488 035 314 or

e-mail daviaker@gmail.com (President)