

# Tarra Bulga National Park

## Visitor Guide

Hidden within the Strzelecki Ranges, Tarra Bulga National Park features lush fern-filled gullies, giant Mountain Ash and ancient Myrtle Beech. Visitors have long enjoyed strolling along one of the nature walks or picnicking beside a shady fern-lined creek.

### Location and access

Tarra Bulga National Park is situated approximately 200 kilometres east of Melbourne. The park is reached from the Princes Highway at Traralgon by following Traralgon Creek Road to Balook.

Alternatively the park can be reached from Yarram via the Tarra Valley Road. Roads throughout the area are narrow and winding but offer marvellous scenery with panoramic views from several points, including Mount Tassie.

### Remnants of history

In 1840 the Polish explorer, 'Count' Strzelecki and his party, explored the ranges that now bear his name. Guided by Aboriginal guide, Charlie Tarra they cut through the thick scrub and tall timber of the Strzelecki Ranges and eventually reached Western Port, wet, hungry and exhausted.

The eastern Strzelecki Ranges were opened for selection from the 1890s and settlers cottages soon dotted the ridges. Farmers had to contend with short milking seasons, cold winters, noxious weeds, thick scrub and extreme transport difficulties.

In 1903 the Alberton Shire Council asked the State Government to reserve an area of forest with fern gullies near Balook as a public park.



Parks Victoria Ranger

*"Victoria has a great parks system that protects many of our State's natural environments and their plants, animals and landscapes. Enjoy the parks, and please help us care for them...now and forever."*



Corrigan's Suspension Bridge

For more information call the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 or visit our website at [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

Twenty hectares were reserved in 1904 and given the Aboriginal name Bulga, meaning 'mountain'. Five years later, 303 hectares of forest within the Tarra Valley were temporarily reserved. This park was named after Charlie Tarra, Count Strzelecki's Aboriginal guide.

In 1986 the two separate National Parks were joined and enlarged through a land exchange with private industry. Tarra Bulga National Park now protects 1,625 hectares of Mountain Ash Forest and Cool Temperate Rainforest.

### A haven for plants and wildlife

Tarra Bulga National Park protects a remnant of the forests that once covered the Strzelecki Ranges. Tall open forest of Mountain Ash, Messmate and Blackwood grow on the hills and slopes. Cool Temperate Rainforest of Myrtle Beech, Southern Sassafras, Austral Mulberry and Banyallas flourish within the sheltered gullies. The cool moist conditions here support a diverse understorey of ferns with over 41 species occurring within the park.

The canopy of forest provides food and nesting areas for a variety of birds including the Pilotbird, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Eastern Whipbird, Laughing Kookaburra, Crimson Rosella and Currawongs. The understorey composed of tall shrubs and small trees is home to the Eastern Yellow Robin, often seen perching sideways on low branches, eyes intently searching the ground for food. At night the forest comes to life as possums, owls and bats emerge from tree hollows to feed amongst the spreading branches of the rainforest canopy.

If you are lucky you may catch a glimpse of a Lyrebird scratching about amongst the leaf litter looking for insects and grubs. Their clear loud imitations echo through the forest. The park is also home to the Common Wombat, Swamp Wallaby, Greater Glider, Sugar Glider, Brush-tailed Possum and Platypus.



Superb Lyrebird