



Incorporation number A0031385X

Friends of Tarra-Bulga National Park Newsletter Autumn 2016

Upcoming Events

- 17th Feb – Healthy Park Walk – Bulga Park
- 3rd Mar – Weeding – Tutsan and Sycamore Maple
- 19th Mar – Healthy Park Walks (Parks Week)
- 30th Apr – Weeding and tree guard removal

www.friendsoftarrabulga.org.au

Email: friendsoftarrabulga@gmail.com

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Healthy Park Walks – Parks Week

Healthy Park Walk dates have been advertised now up until June. See the attached calendar for details. The first one for the year is on Wednesday February the 17th meet at the visitors centre at 10am. For Parks Week on March the 19th we will be having a 10am walk at the Tarra Valley and then another one at 2pm at Bulga Park with a special slideshow showing the highlights of our wildlife monitoring program running in the visitors' centre.

Lyrebird Fact #1

Male lyrebirds don't contribute any assistance to parenting, the female builds the nest, broods the egg and feeds and raises the young all by herself!

Tarra Valley Sycamore Maple and Tutsan

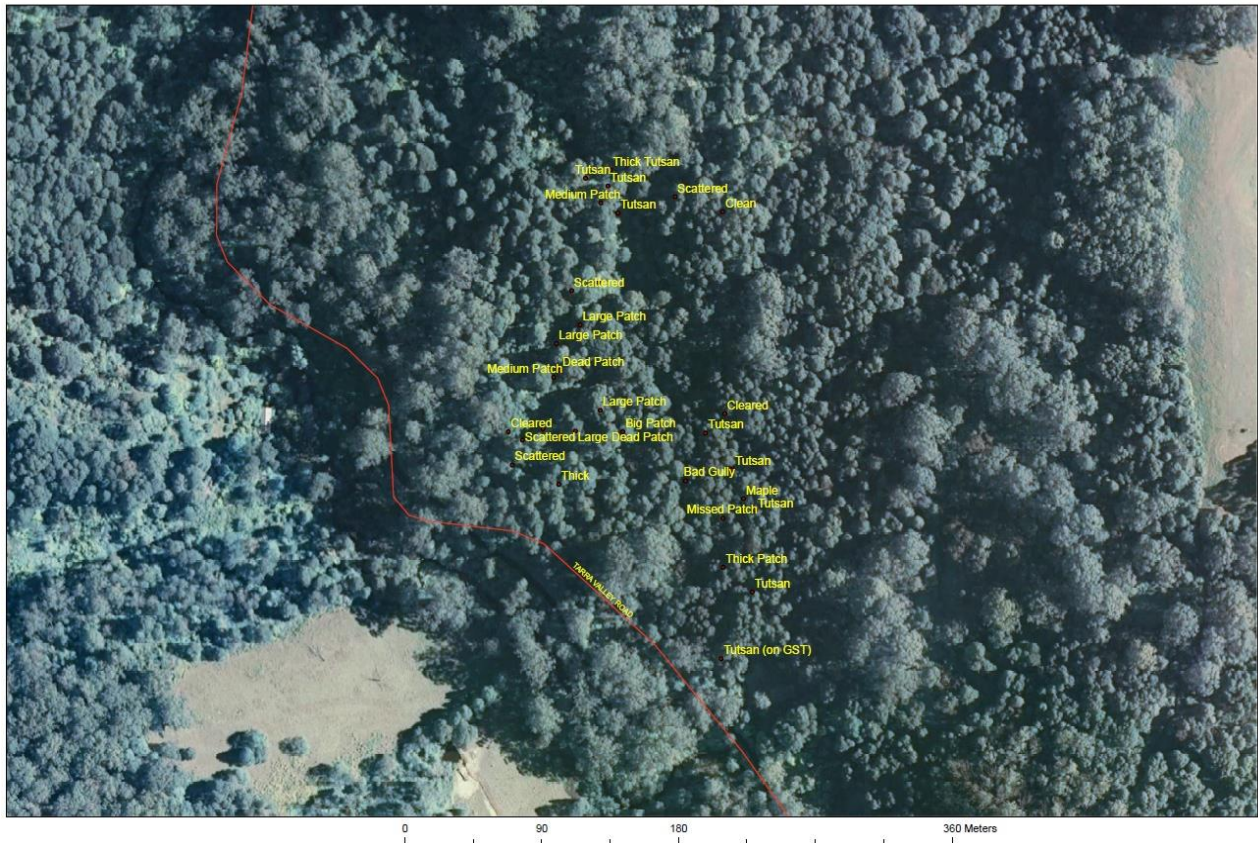
Our next working bee is scheduled for Saturday 5th of March. This is at a site in the south west of the park off the Tarra Valley Rd. Last year the group used funding from a Communities for Nature grant to use a contractor to spray a large infestation of Tutsan which is a weed introduced from parts of Europe, Asia and Africa and is considered a serious threat to damp and wet sclerophyll forests, warm and cool temperate rainforests and riparian vegetation.

Our task now is to consolidate on the gains made by the spraying by regularly visiting the site to remove new Tutsan seedlings and any regrowth. So for anyone who likes to get their hands dirty please consider coming along for the morning to help out with this very important task. Despite the weeds this is a very nice site to work at, with lots of attractive ferns and interesting fungi to admire while you help extract the weeds. Meet at the Tarra Valley at 9.30am but please let David know on 0488 035 314 or email



friendsoftarrabulga@gmail.com if you do intend to come along.

Tarra Valley Tutsan and Maple Site



Above: To enable us to monitor progress at the site we have used GPS to map the infestations of Tutsan near the Tarra Valley Rd.



Visitors Centre

Volunteers are vital in keeping the visitors centre open to the public on weekends and public holidays, thanks again to everyone who devotes their time. To make it more obvious when the centre is open we have purchased a couple of new signs. When on duty if you are able to place one sign out on the Grand Ridge Rd and the other in the car park or outside the front door it will hopefully guide more people through the front door.

Visitors Centre Stats

In 2014/15 Tarra-Bulga Park had an estimated 91,705 visitors.

The visitors' centre had 7,063 people come through the doors.

The centre opened for 142 days and 29 different volunteers helped out.

Beech Orange Fungi

The biggest diversity of fungi around Tarra-Bulga can be found in the autumn months especially after some good rainfall. November and December however is the best time to spot beech orange fungi which fruit in clusters which then fall to the ground when mature from their host plant, the rainforest signature tree *Nothofagus cunninghamii* (Myrtle Beech). The photos below were taken in November in the Tarra Valley.



Mountain Ash Fact #1

Mountain Ash are the worlds tallest flowering plants and can grow more than a metre a year over the first 70 years of their lives. It typically takes another 150 years or so from this point for them to obtain large girths (like the one in this photo). As well as to develop hollows, which are vital for the survival of many species. E.g. greater gliders.



Unwelcome visitor – Feral cat climbing tree 16/1/2016



Planting projects for 2016

Friends of Tarra-Bulga National Park have been busy over the last few year establishing overstorey trees at a number of project sites across the park. The most recent project involved planting 336 overstorey trees including mountain ash, mountain grey gum, blackwood and mountain hickory wattle at a fire affected site along the Grand Ridge Rd. We have planted similar numbers of trees in a project to replace a weedy sycamore maple forest at a site along Diaper Tk; as well as smaller planting project with around 50 overstorey trees planted in a formerly cleared area along the Grand Ridge Rd east of Balook.

Due to the high density of wallabies in the local area, to have any chance of survival, all the trees we planted were guarded with 1.2m high wire tree guards. They were held in place with star pickets or long wooden posts. Many of these trees will now have grown tall enough for the tips of them to be beyond the reach of hungry wallabies and have reached the optimum age for the guards to come off.



ABOVE: GRAND RIDGE RD - FIRE RECOVERY PLANTING 2015

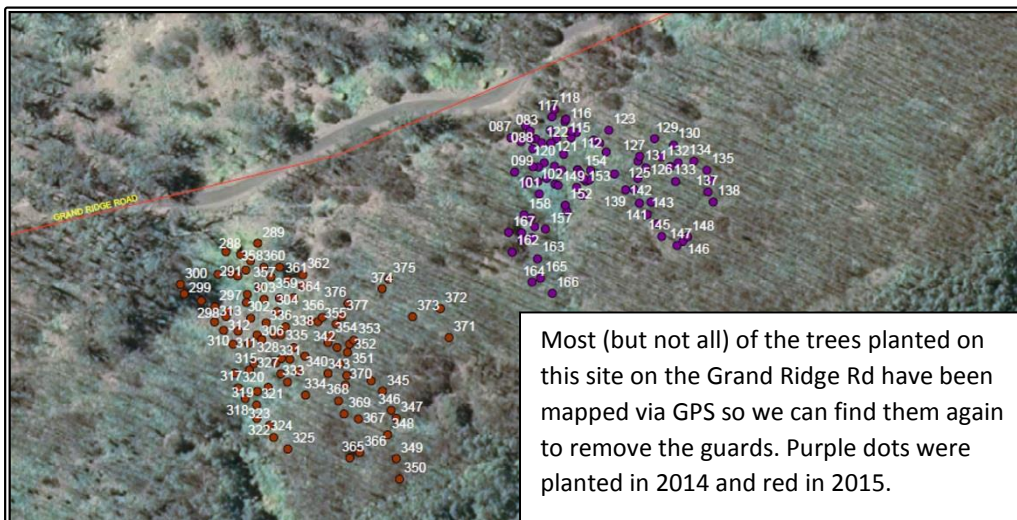
To make it easier to remove the guards and reuse them on new plantings the group has purchased a couple of post lifters, no doubt they will be put to good use in the next few years liberating young trees from their wire cages and allow them to take off and grow unhindered.



Tree ready to be released from captivity.



Success: Guard gone – ready to grow!



Most (but not all) of the trees planted on this site on the Grand Ridge Rd have been mapped via GPS so we can find them again to remove the guards. Purple dots were planted in 2014 and red in 2015.

Brush-tailed Possums at Tarra-Bulga

At Tarra-Bulga we have 2 species of brush-tailed possums. The common brushtail is actually not common and tends to be found at lower altitudes. The mountain brushtail or “bobuck” is more widespread here. The best way to tell the species apart is to look at their ears, common brushtails have large pointy Doctor Spock ears where the bobuck’s are shorter and more rounded.



Above: Common Brushtail Possum



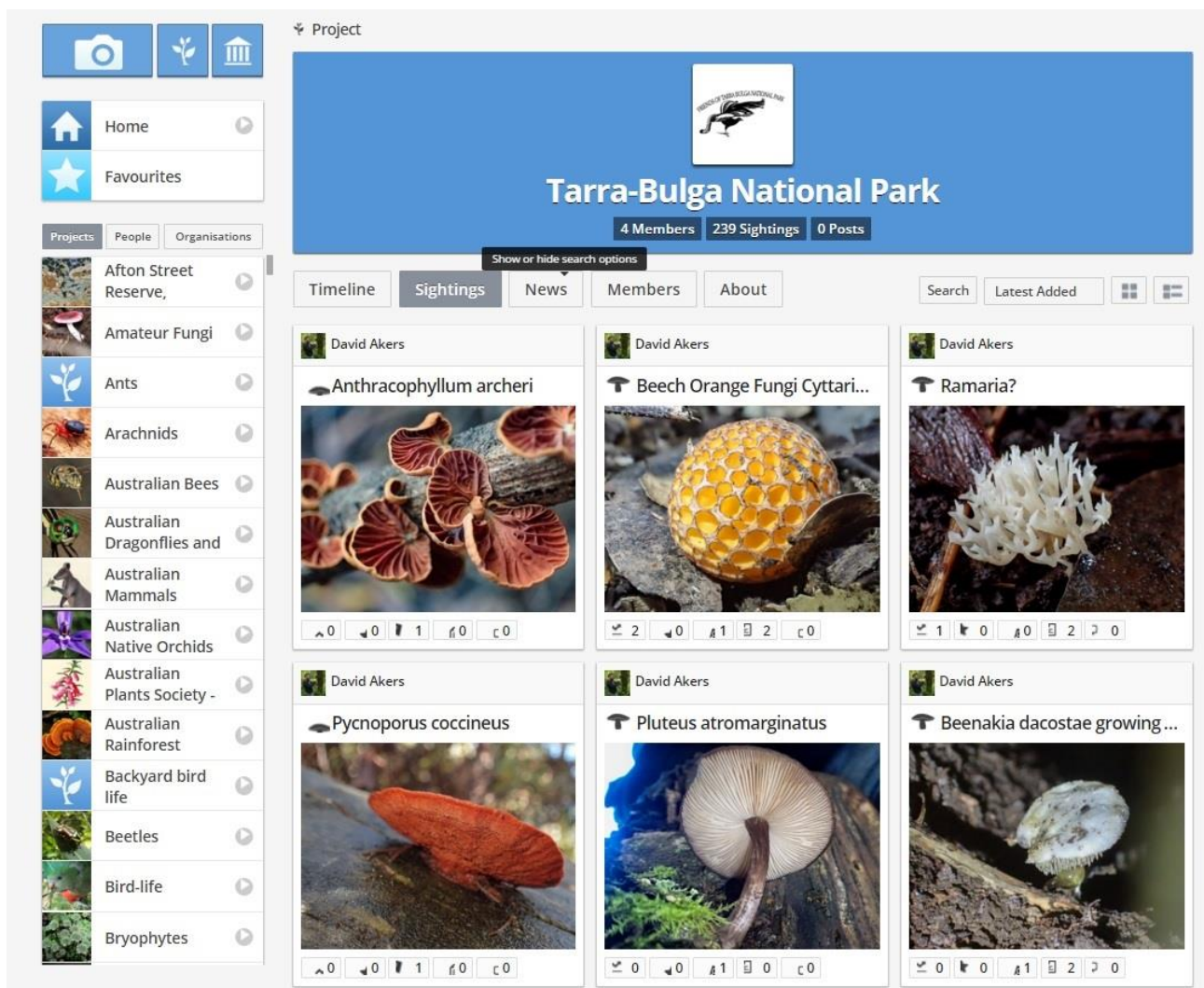
Above: Mountain Brushtail Possum or “Bobuck”

Tarra-Bulga National Park on Bowerbird.org.au

With the rise of information technology and social media there is now an array of interesting projects that volunteers or “citizen scientists” can get involved with. One of the best in my opinion is www.bowerbird.org.au which is a great tool for uploading any photos of flora or fauna that you may encounter. Not only do the other users of bowerbird regularly help you to identify any of the sightings you choose to upload. Once identified the sightings are added to the Atlas of Living Australia (ala.org.au) and your sighting is permanently recorded in a searchable database. With thousands of images now on the site it is has virtually become a free online field guide.

Bowerbird users come from all over Australia but there is a strong presence in the Gippsland region so it is a great way of seeing what other local people are discovering. There is the opportunity to create your own projects on Bowerbird and hence we have now created a project specifically for Tarra-Bulga National Park. At the time of writing we have 239 posts uploaded and identified mostly of fungi and invertebrates, some plants, reptiles, birds and mammals also feature. So do yourself a favour and check out the images online and if you feel inclined please feel free to add your own. If you need any tips on how to go about it our president (David Akers) would be very happy to give you some tips for new players.

The following images are examples of some of the entries that have been made in the Tarra-Bulga National Park project to date.

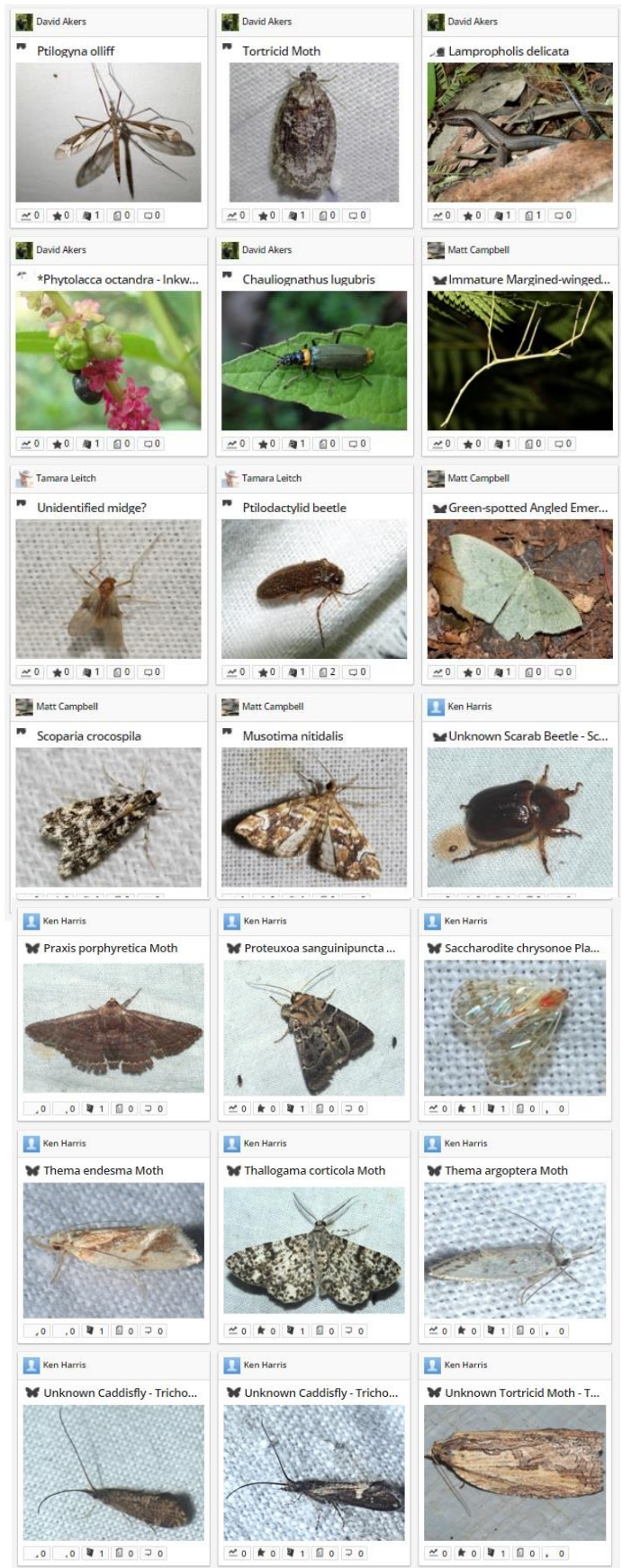
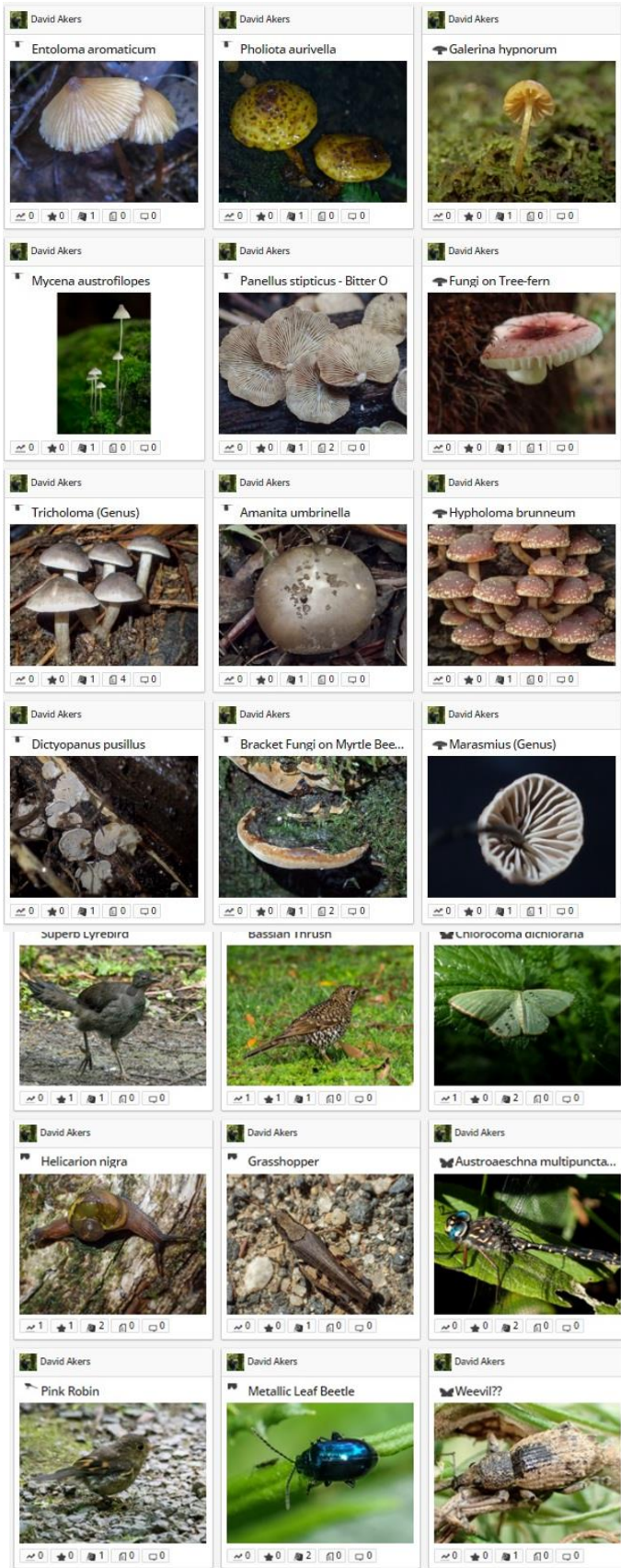


The screenshot displays the Bowerbird.org.au website interface for the Tarra-Bulga National Park project. The page is organized into several sections:

- Navigation:** A left-hand sidebar contains icons for Home, Favourites, and a list of projects including Afton Street Reserve, Amateur Fungi, Ants, Arachnids, Australian Bees, Australian Dragonflies and, Australian Mammals, Australian Native Orchids, Australian Plants Society, Australian Rainforest, Backyard bird life, Beetles, Bird-life, and Bryophytes.
- Project Header:** A blue banner at the top right features the Tarra-Bulga National Park logo and the text "Tarra-Bulga National Park" with statistics: "4 Members", "239 Sightings", and "0 Posts".
- Timeline:** A central section titled "Timeline" is currently set to "Sightings". It displays a grid of six entries, each with a photo and a species name:

Species Name	Photo Description	Interactions (Views, Likes, Comments)
<i>Anthracophyllum archeri</i>	Close-up of reddish-brown, fan-shaped fungi on a log.	0 Views, 0 Likes, 1 Comment, 0 Shares
Beech Orange Fungi <i>Cyttari...</i>	A bright yellow, spherical, honeycomb-like fungus on a log.	2 Views, 0 Likes, 1 Comment, 2 Shares, 0 Reports
<i>Ramaria?</i>	A white, coral-like fungus growing on a log.	1 View, 0 Likes, 0 Comments, 2 Shares, 0 Reports
<i>Pycnoporus coccineus</i>	A bright orange, shelf-like fungus on a log.	0 Views, 0 Likes, 1 Comment, 0 Shares, 0 Reports
<i>Pluteus atromarginatus</i>	A white, gilled mushroom with a dark stem on a log.	0 Views, 0 Likes, 1 Comment, 0 Shares, 0 Reports
<i>Beenakia dacostae</i> growing...	A white, coral-like fungus growing on a log.	0 Views, 0 Likes, 1 Comment, 2 Shares, 0 Reports

A selection of the images taken at Tarra-Bulga National Park that can now be viewed on www.bowerbird.org.au



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

2016 Memberships now due

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 *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>



Lyrebird perched near the visitors' centre Dec 2015