



Incorporation number A0031385X

Upcoming Events

Saturday November 18th
Friends BBQ Get Together
Time: 6.30pm

FRIENDS OF TARRA-BULGA NATIONAL PARK NEWSLETTER SPRING 2017

Thanks for everyone's' efforts this year!

Well somehow, I blinked and believe it or not its November already. Friends of Tarra-Bulga have nearly completed another year's activities. As a group we have been kicking around keeping the visitors centre running and doing a range of other things now for 23 years. We had our AGM in September and our committee, as has been the case for quite a while now, will carry on unchanged. We aim to have at least one get together every year, where all the volunteers can meet up and enjoy each others company. So, it would be great if you and any significant others you would like to bring can make it to our upcoming BBQ.

Contact Details:

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Phone: 0488 035 314

Gunaikurnai Joint Management Plan

Most of you would have received an email from Ranger Craig recently regarding a consultation opportunity for the Gunaikurnai Joint Management Plan for Tarra-Bulga National Park plus a number of other reserves. In case you missed it, I have repeated it here

Hello to all Visitor Centre volunteers.

As you all, hopefully know, Tarra-Bulga National Park was one of ten parks and reserves handed back to the traditional owners to be jointly managed by them and Parks Victoria. The Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board have now produced a Draft Joint Management Plan which is open for public comment and submissions until the 15th December this year. The plan begins with a general overview and then goes into detailed sections for each of the joint-managed parks including Tarra-Bulga. The Board has asked that the plan be made available to the public and interested parties through the Visitor Centre so I am informing you, our volunteers, about it. There are three documents available to hand out and all are free. The first is the full plan which is very thick and, at this stage, we have only been given two, so it should only go to really interested persons. The second document is a summary overview and we have several of those and the third is a submission guide and optional submission form. I will place one of the plans on display and leave the other, as well as the summary and submission guide, in the front cabinet. If we run out of the full plan before we get additional copies interested people can take the summary away with them and there are directions to where the full plan can be viewed on-line.

Thanks, and warm regards Craig.

As a group we will certainly be providing our input to the plan so if you do have any feedback about what you think about the plan please contact David Akers preferably within the next couple of weeks.



Strzelecki Cores and Links

In case people missed it here is a recent press release regarding the first release of land for a new conservation reserve in the Strzeleckis

“The first parcel of land for a new conservation reserve has been handed back to the public more than ten years ahead of schedule.

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D’Ambrosio today announced the return of around 1,200 hectares of land formerly leased by HVP Plantations in the ‘Cores and Links’ area of the Strzelecki Ranges.

The handback is a key early step towards securing a new 8,000 hectare conservation reserve that will result from a 2008 agreement between the Brumby Labor Government and HVP Plantations.

The return of this area to public management also marks an important milestone for the community that has long advocated for improved protection of the Strzelecki Ranges.

The Andrews Labor Government will continue to work closely with HVP Plantations to secure additional areas to gradually return to public management prior to the end of the lease in 2028.

The Victorian Environment Assessment Council will also be requested to undertake an investigation prior to 2028 to provide recommendations on the permanent protection for the land.”

Weird Visitor Questions

Those who do duty in the Visitors Centre often hear the standard questions e.g. Where are the toilets? How do you get to the Suspension Bridge? Where are the waterfalls? For entertainments sake we should start compiling some of the stranger queries we receive. A recent one that has left Pam in shock, came from a lady, who came in to the visitor centre approached the desk and asked whereabouts is the Westpac Bank?

Platinum Award Added

With a number of volunteers including Pam Pattison and Jane Florey who received them at our BBQ last year, having achieved gold awards for over 100 days service in the Visitors’ Centre we now have provided the opportunity for everyone to aim even higher. Who will be the first to receive the new Platinum award for 200 days service?



II BIRD ORCHID - DIAPER TRACK OCT 2017

News from the AGM – Visitor Numbers Increase

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter after our AGM our committee and their roles have remained the same. Attached are the reports from the AGM. It is great to see that visitor numbers for both the park and the visitors centre have increased.

Friends of Tarra-Bulga National Park Inc. PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

2016-17 has been another year in which Friends of Tarra-Bulga National Park have continued to slowly and steadily support the park through providing a service in operating 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.
- Continued photo-monitoring of vegetation & fauna.
- Continued operation of remotely located motion activated wildlife cameras.
- Continuation of the Tarra-Bulga National Park project on Bowerbird.org.au (Now has over 800 entries)
- Participation in community discussions regarding hand back of Cores and Links land into public ownership
- Adoption of Parks Connect volunteer management system implemented by Parks Victoria

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.

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.

Parks Victoria restrictions placed on the weekend availability of Rangers have continued to impact on our functioning, hopefully this year's State Budget which included funding for new Rangers may bring some positive change and the appointment of extra people will result in a greater presence of on-ground staff especially at weekends.

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. A big thank-you to all Volunteers who put themselves out there for the public's benefit.

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

Rangers Report 2016/2017

Statistics for the year

	16/17	15/16
Total visitors to the Park	118,339	104,360
Total visitors to the Visitor Centre	9,099	8,687
Takings at Visitor Centre	\$ 1,266	\$ 1,288
Audio-visual presentations	69	63
Rainfall	1232mm	1086mm
Days the Visitor Centre was staffed by volunteers	155	164

Total volunteer days (at the Visitor Centre)	161	174
Approximate volunteer hours (at the Visitor Centre)	895	970
Number of different volunteers (at least one day in the Visitor Centre)	25	26

Items of Interest

- Heavy snow fall in July resulted in a big mess and a lot of trimming and cleaning up to do on all tracks. Had a lot of help from; the Gunaikurnai Rangers, Sale FSO's and volunteer Richard Florey.
- A tree fell on the ladies' toilet Bulga damaging the roof which was repaired by Mark and George.
- We note the sad passing of former Ranger Craig Jeffs.
- A Green Army program was run in the District with several works undertaken in this Park including trimming and clearing Diaper & APM Dam Tracks and weed removal.
- New downpipes installed at the Visitor Centre and gutter guard put in place.
- Vandalised signs at Tarra Falls and in Bulga car park were replaced.
- Tarra Valley toilets were pumped out – something that needs to be done every second year.
- The Gunaikurnai Rangers completed a project to resurface the Tarra Valley tracks spreading 45 cubic meters of crushed rock over a distance of about 1.2Km.
- New loose-leaf toilet roll dispensers have been installed in the Visitor Centre toilets.
- The Friends group have replaced the copier/printer, the DVD and the microwave – well done.
- Rainforest Rhythms, Duncan's Run and the Lyrebird Count were all successfully held again this year.
- Postcards television show filmed in the Park for a segment on Gippsland.

Thanks once again to all the wonderful volunteers who do such a great job in the Park and particularly to the committee members who keep it all going.

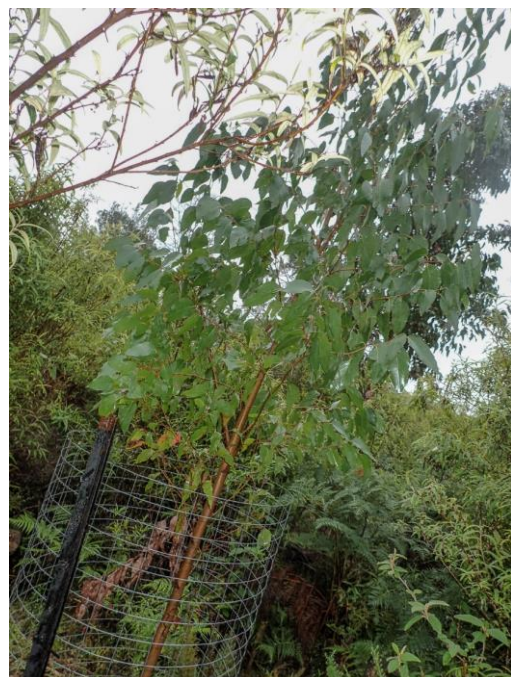
Craig Campbell, Ranger.

On Ground Work Continues

Since our last newsletter we have had small working bees in several of our ongoing project sites within the park. It is enjoyable to keep re-visiting these areas and seeing the progress being made. Activities have included removing tree guards from successfully established trees on Diaper Track and along the Grand Ridge Rd as well as weeding for Sycamore Maple and Tutsan in the Tarra Valley. Thanks to everyone who has made it along this year you help is truly valued.



III GRAND RIDGE RD REVEGETATION SITE AUGUST 2017



II DIAPER TRACK, APRIL 2017

2017 Lyrebird Survey

A whopping 36 Volunteers showed up for this year's count. Which meant that all monitoring points were well covered.

- Weather conditions were ideal (2nd year running) with little or no wind to muffle the sound of calls and it was not really all that cold!
- Everyone got out to their respective positions in time; the earliest call was heard at 6.49am and by 6.55am every monitoring station had Lyrebirds calling.
- The official sunrise time for Saturday Jun 3rd at Balook was 7.23am and first light was scheduled to appear at 6.53am. So, it seems Lyrebirds are fairly well tuned to begin calling at first light.
- From our results, we detected 11 male birds calling, (not sure if it would be possibly with our method to detect two birds calling in close proximity to each other, but a couple of stations noted the possibility that they could possibly hear multiple birds calling from around the same direction.
- Note: we only count birds that are detected by at least 2 monitoring stations.
- This is our second highest number of birds recorded since at least 2010.
- Thanks to AGL who helped to pay for the breakfast.



V ALISON PAYNE WITH YOUNG VOLUNTEERS SYLVIA AND TALIA



IV PHILLIP DEVERY (PARKDALE) AND GREG HALL (CARRUM DOWNS)



VI PAUL SMITH AND BEV BROWN FROM BLACK ROCK



VII VICKI AND DAVID WESTON



VIII - BEECH ORANGE FUNGUS - OCTOBER 2017 DIAPER TK

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Join up with Tarra-Bulga on Parkconnect

We are excited to collaborate with Parks Victoria on ParkConnect, a new online volunteer system.

ParkConnect will be a useful tool in promoting and organising future activities for both existing and new members. Both Parks Victoria and ourselves will be able to use the system to recognise the outstanding achievements we make.

We encourage you to visit ParkConnect, register, create a volunteer profile and join our group online using the following steps;

- Step 1. Go to www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au
- Step 2. Register using an email account and password (containing one capital and one number)
- Step 3. Confirm your email by accessing your email account
- Step 4. Select 'create your volunteer profile' and complete the details
- Step 5. Find our group by selecting 'search volunteer programs and groups'
- Step 6. Select 'join'

If you have difficulty you can select the Contact Us page or email volunteer@parks.vic.gov.au for assistance.

We look forward to you joining our online group.

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