

# 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 or Bulga Park Road. Roads throughout the area are narrow and winding but offer marvellous scenery with panoramic views from several points, including Mount Tassie.

### Welcome to Country

On Friday 22 October 2010 both the Federal and State governments formally recognised the Gunaikurnai people as the Traditional Owners of over 20 per cent of public land within Gippsland and Eastern Victoria. The Victorian Government and the Gunaikurnai people formally signed Victoria's first settlement agreement under the new Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010. This agreement involved the transfer of ten parks and reserves to the Gunaikurnai as "Aboriginal Title" which will be jointly managed in conjunction with Parks Victoria.

Tarra Bulga National Park is one of the jointly managed parks within Gippsland. This agreement recognises the fact that the Gunaikurnai people have always been connected to their land and are the rightful people who speak for that Country. These parks and reserves are cultural landscapes which are part of our living culture.

### Enjoying the park

#### Picnicking

Tarra-Bulga National Park is a delightful setting for a picnic. Three picnic areas are situated within the park; at the Visitor Information Centre, Tarra Valley and Bulga. The Visitor Centre picnic area provides picnic tables, electric barbecues, a picnic shelter and toilets with disabled access.

Tarra Valley and Bulga picnic areas are set amongst the Giant Mountain Ash and shady fronds of tree ferns. Tables, toilets and picnic shelters are provided.

### Accommodation

Camping is not permitted within the park. Caravan parks are situated within the Tarra Valley and in Yarram and Traralgon. Other accommodation including guesthouses and bed and breakfasts are scattered throughout the Strzelecki Ranges.

### Walking: from the Visitor Centre

#### 1. Corrigan Suspension Bridge (1.2 km, 25 min one way)

Walk to the impressive Corrigan's Suspension Bridge, which stretches through the rainforest canopy, affording spectacular views of the lush fern gully on the forest floor below. Follow the signs from the Visitor Centre Carpark via Lyrebird Ridge, Ash and Wills Tracks.

#### 2. Lyrebird Ridge Track (2.4 km, 45 min return)

Commencing at the Visitor Information Centre, this track leads through regenerating and mature Mountain Ash forests. Rest on the seats provided and listen to the sounds of the forest.

#### 3. Forest Track (4.4 km, 1.5 hours return)

Starting at the end of the Lyrebird Ridge Track, this longer walk completes a circuit back to the Visitor Centre via part of the Old Yarram - Balook Road. This track winds its way through Mountain Ash forest, a rainforest gully and an unusual thicket of Hazel Pomaderris. This track contains some steeper sections, is unsurfaced and is recommended for the more serious walker.

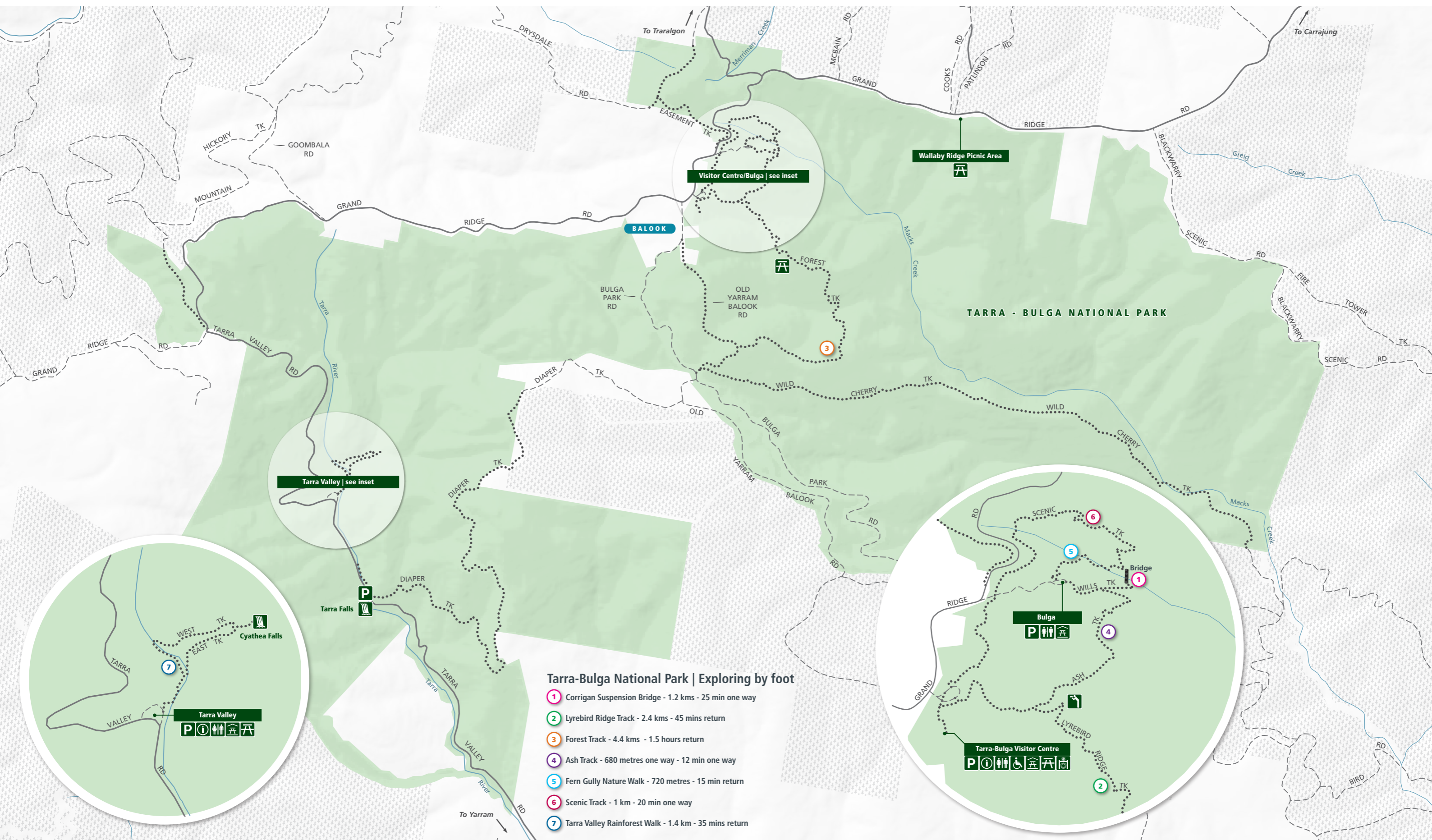
#### 4. Ash Track (680 metres, 12 min one way)

Branching off the Lyrebird Ridge Track, this track leads through regenerating Mountain Ash forest to the beginning of the Fern Gully Nature Walk. Look for remnants of logging that occurred here in the early 1900s. Eucalypts are now growing to replace them.

#### 5. Fern Gully Nature Walk (720 metres, 15 min return)

The Fern Gully Nature Walk begins where the Ash Track meets the Wills Track and provides an excellent introduction to the plants and wildlife of the Mountain Ash Forests and Cool Temperate Rainforests of the Strzelecki Ranges. Interpretive signs along this track explain the features seen.





### Tarra-Bulga National Park | Exploring by foot

- 1 Corrigan Suspension Bridge - 1.2 kms - 25 min one way
- 2 Lyrebird Ridge Track - 2.4 kms - 45 mins return
- 3 Forest Track - 4.4 kms - 1.5 hours return
- 4 Ash Track - 680 metres one way - 12 min one way
- 5 Fern Gully Nature Walk - 720 metres - 15 min return
- 6 Scenic Track - 1 km - 20 min one way
- 7 Tarra Valley Rainforest Walk - 1.4 km - 35 mins return



- |                 |                |             |                                       |                     |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Parking         | Picnic shelter | Waterfall   | Sealed road                           | Softwood plantation |
| Information     | Picnic table   | Walk number | Unsealed road                         |                     |
| Toilets         | BBQ (Electric) |             | Walking track (within Tarra-Bulga NP) |                     |
| Disabled access | Lookout        |             |                                       |                     |

**Grand Strzelecki Track**  
 The Grand Strzelecki Track is directly managed by Grand Strzelecki Track Incorporated, please enquire at the visitor centre for a track map or visit [www.grandstrzeleckitrack.org.au](http://www.grandstrzeleckitrack.org.au)



## For further information

Parks Victoria  
Information Centre  
**Call 13 1963**  
or visit our website at  
[www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)

Park Office  
71 Hotham Street  
Traralgon Vic 3844  
**Ph 13 1963**

Prom Country Visitor  
Information Centre  
South Gippsland Highway  
Korumburra Vic 3950  
**Ph (03) 5655 2233**

Latrobe Visitor  
Information Centre  
Princes Highway  
Traralgon Vic 3844  
**Ph (03) 5176 3030**

## Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish away with you for recycling and disposal

All native plants and animals are protected by law. Please do not disturb them in any way

Please keep to designated walking tracks to avoid becoming lost

Bins are not provided within the park. Please take your rubbish home

Camping is not permitted within the park

Cats and dogs are not permitted within the park

Fires may only be lit in the fireplaces provided. No fires to be lit on days of Total Fire Ban

This park is located in the West & South Gippsland Total Fire Ban District

Please stay aware of weather and fire forecasts by listening to local radio including ABC

## Healthy Parks Healthy People

*Visiting a park can improve your health, mind, body and soul. So, with over four million hectares of parkland available to Victorians, why not escape to a park today!*



## 6. Scenic Track

*(1 km, 20 min one way)*

This walk takes you through tall Mountain Ash forest and patches of Cool Temperate Rainforest. It commences at the Corrigan's Suspension Bridge and finishes at the Bulga entrance.

From here you can continue back to the Visitor Centre or walk down the road to the Bulga Carpark.

## Walking from Tarra Valley

### 7. Tarra Valley Rainforest Walk

*(1.4 km, 35 min return)*

Meander through a rainforest gully and across trickling mountain streams to Cyathea Falls. The ancient Myrtle Beech along the trail creates a protective canopy above a delicate understorey of tree ferns, lichens and moss.



Cyathea Falls, Tarra Valley

## A haven for plants and wildlife

Tarra-Bulga National Park protects a remnant of the forests that once covered the eastern 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.

## 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 settler's 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.

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 over 2,000 hectares of Mountain Ash Forest and Cool Temperate Rainforest.

## Grand Strzelecki Track

Want to go further afield and explore the beauty of the Strzelecki Ranges, then why not embark upon the Grand Strzelecki Track which has many treasures to discover.

Over 100kms of walking track connecting two National Parks – Morwell and Tarra-Bulga, you will traverse changing landscapes - valleys, farmlands, old and regrowth forests, bushfire regeneration and managed forests. Home to abundant wildlife, including koalas, wallabies, echidnas and possums. Explore primeval rainforests of delicate tree ferns and towering mountain ash.

The trek can take 3-4 days or be broken into smaller sections for a 1-2 day hike.

Further details visit -  
[www.grandstrzeleckitrack.org.au/](http://www.grandstrzeleckitrack.org.au/)