

DUFF SAWMILL HERITAGE TRAIL

The Trail reflects the story of this settlement and provides an insight into what is seen in the Strzelecki Ranges today. Including sawmilling the giant trees for timber and clearing the forests for farming, often using fire as a tool.

In the 1840s Strzelecki & McMillan explored the region. Followed by settlers first along the river flats, then by the 1870s into the hills. By the 1950s only a few small areas remained intact. The success of settlement varied. Small sawmills flourished, then declined, as logs became too difficult to extract.

Farmers facing isolation, climatic hardship, rabbit plagues, fires, weed invasion and the Great Depression abandoning their farms. A Government plantation program began in 1948, replanting the logged and abandoned settlement areas. These plantations now form the basis of an ongoing timber industry.

DUFF SAWMILL

Duff Sawmill relied on the large Mountain Ash to supply timber demands for a growing Victoria. Located near Mt. Tassie it sourced timber from surrounding forests in the 1940s and 50s.

Little remains of the sawmill, stumps of trees can be seen along the trail. Board holes in the stumps allowed axeman and sawyers to climb the trees. Logs were skidded along tracks by horse or tractor to the mill.

NATURAL HISTORY

Interpretive signage along the Trail describes both the natural and settlement history of the area and conservation efforts. A popular feature is the enchanting Blackwood forest, believed to be former rainforest where Blackwood has replaced the usual canopy of Myrtle Beech and Sassafras due to fire long ago. The hanging mosses, ferns and moss-covered logs provide a wealth of photo opportunities.



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VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES

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www.tourismwellington.com.au

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This guide is only a snapshot of what Central Gippsland has to offer you on your next adventure. To help you plan your trip, call us or drop into the Visitor Information Centres along the way to collect your visitor guide, local maps, local produce or talk to some experts for advice.

Sale – Accredited Information Centre

8 Foster Street, Sale
03 5144 1108



Maffra

96 Johnson St, Maffra

Yarram

9 Rodgers St, Yarram



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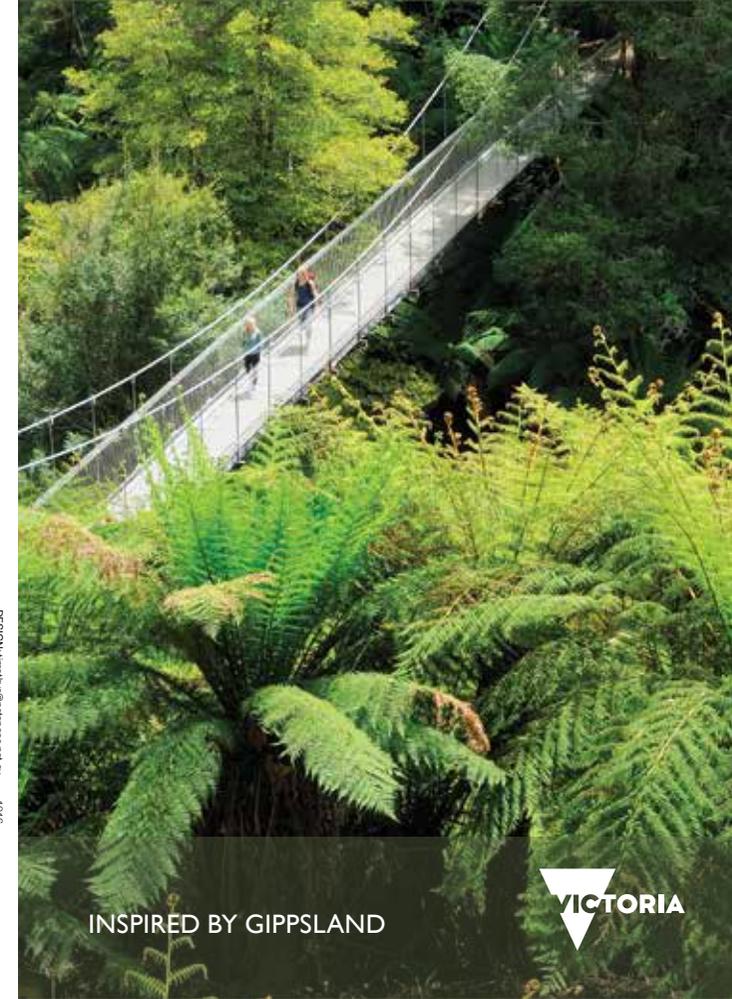


WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL
The Heart of Gippsland

Front: Tarra-Bulga Suspension Bridge
Back: Grand Strzelecki Track

TARRA BULGA & BALOOK

Victoria, Australia



INSPIRED BY GIPPSLAND



TARRA BULGA NATIONAL PARK



Located in the Strzelecki Ranges, one of only four major areas of cool temperate rainforest in the state. The park features lush, moist gullies, giant Mountain Ash trees and beautiful tree ferns. Tarra-Bulga allows you to escape the heat and explore the cool forest in summer months and looks its best in winter, with leaves glistening and creeks flowing through the gullies. Some visitors are even lucky enough to see the park transformed by a spectacular white blanket of snow.

Giant Mountain Ash and superb pockets of cool temperate rainforest, Myrtle Beech and Sassafras are as rewarding as the grand scenic views in this park, which features waterfalls and a graceful suspension bridge over a fern-filled gully. As you walk along the quiet tracks through the park, you may see or hear a Lyrebird or other native wildlife.

IDEAL FOR A PICNIC OR BIRD WATCHING

The Rainforest is full of song birds. Keep an eye out for the unique Lyrebird, Pilot Bird, Crimson Rosella and the Yellow Robin. Yellow tailed Black Cockatoos may fly over with their creaking calls, but don't be fooled - the Lyrebird is a very clever mimic. Quiet walkers might see the shy Lyrebird scratching the forest floor in search of food.

The Grand Strzelecki Track opens up many natural treasures including endangered ecosystems, stunning views, waterfalls and much more. Wander among enchanting giant tree ferns and across pristine mountain streams in one of Victoria's last remaining patches of rainforest.

WALKING TRACKS

There is a bush walk to suit everyone:

- The Ash Track branches off the Lyrebird Ridge Track and leads from the Visitor's Centre to the suspension bridge
- Fern Gully Nature Walk is a short 400m self-guided nature walk. It takes you through a lush fern gully and suspension bridge. Start from the Bulga car park
- Lyrebird Ridge Track is a one hour, 2.4km walk (return) and is accessible for people with disabilities. Start from the Visitors Centre
- Scenic Track starts from the suspension bridge and finishes at the Visitors Centre car park, taking visitors through a 300-year-old Mountain Ash forest
- Tarra Valley Rainforest Walk starts at the Tarra Valley car park, the 30minute, 1km (return) walk to the Cyathea Falls lets you meander through the rainforest and across small streams



HISTORY

- **20 July 1904** - The (then) Alberton Shire lobbied for the protection of the fern gullies near Balook. The Council boasted of 'fern gullies' unequalled in any part of Victoria'. As a result of these representations 20 hectares at the head of Mack's Creek was reserved as a site for a public park. Named Bulga Park.
- **22 September 1909** - Tarra Valley was reserved following recommendations from Government officials, an area of 63 hectares was proclaimed. Named Tarra Valley Park.
- **1986** - The small but significant remnants of the forests once widespread through the Strzelecki Ranges, were incorporated into Tarra-Bulga National Park. They were finally linked in 1991 following a land exchange between the State Government and APM forests.

These walks take in four catchments on both sides of the range, with a corresponding diversity of forest ecosystems and landscapes including the highest point in the range, Mt. Tassie at 720 metres, which offers dramatic views across the Latrobe Valley and the Great Dividing Range to the North and Wilsons Promontory (the southernmost part of the Australian mainland) and Corner Inlet to the south. A 26.4 km section links the

GRAND STRZELECKI TRACK

The Grand Strzelecki Track has something for everyone, whatever your level of experience or fitness. Overall it is Class 4 under the Australian Standard which means that some parts are narrow foot track with minimal infrastructure provided, requiring self-sufficiency, navigation skills and responsibility for your own safety. Please read the protocols and study the map notes before commencing your walk and plan accordingly.



The Strzelecki Ranges are unique and provide an enormous wealth of biodiversity and scenic values. The Parks charm visitors with pristine rainforest and tall eucalypt forests second to none and a proliferation of plant and animal life such as the South Gippsland Koala, which is the only genetically intact remnant of the original population remaining in Victoria.

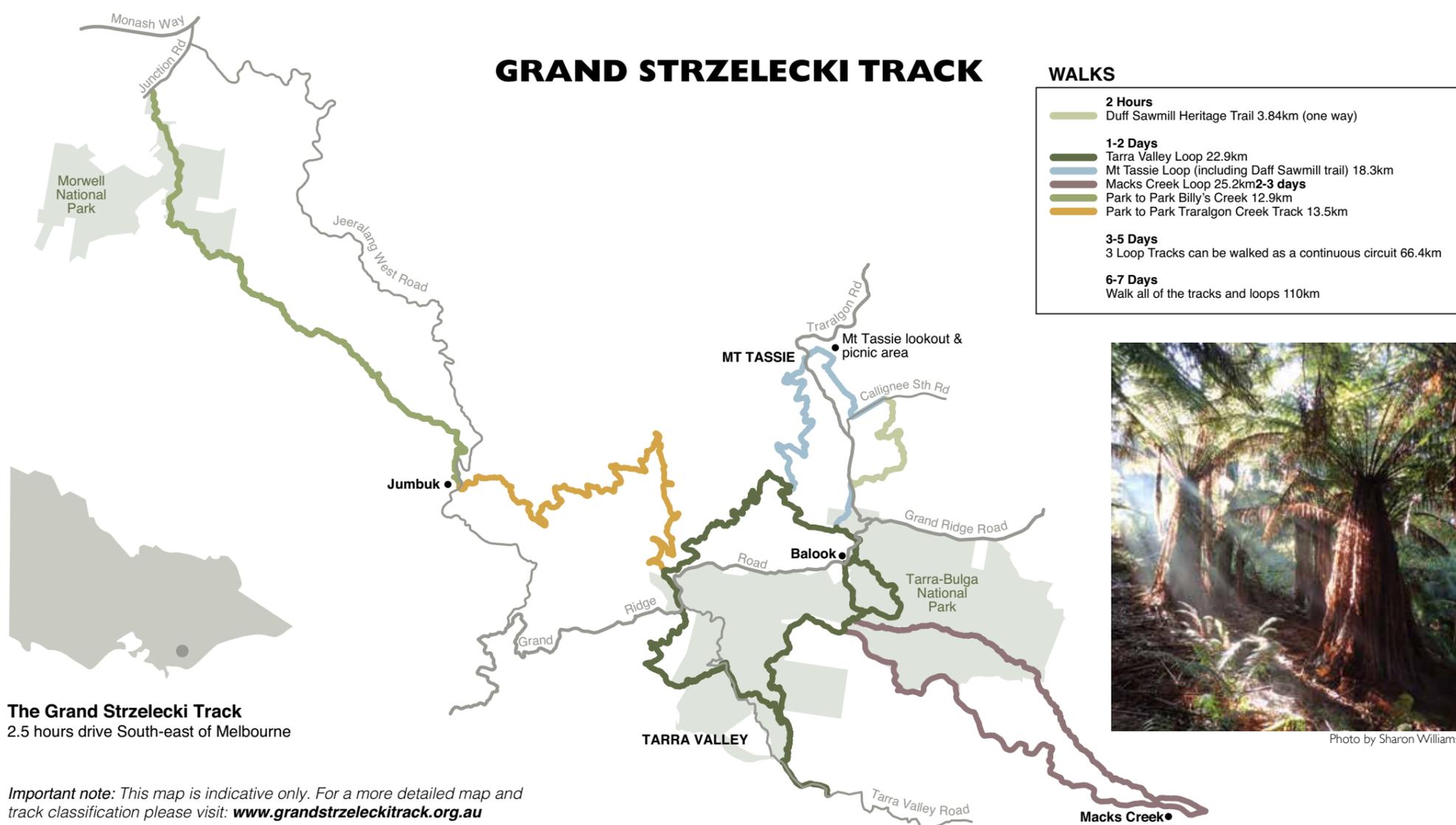


National Parks, with a rest area half way providing a place to camp.

STARTING POINTS

Morwell National Park (Junction Road car park), Balook (Tarra-Bulga Visitors Centre car park), Tarra Valley picnic area car park or Macks Creek Hall.

GRAND STRZELECKI TRACK



BALOOK & TARRA VALLEY

Tarra Valley is 220km, 2½ hours south-east of Melbourne (Melway ref: 628 D8). Drive north from Yarram along the Tarra Valley Road (C484) or south from Traralgon following the Tarra-Bulga National Park signs. Suggested caravan route via Yarram.

Tarra Valley has something for everyone: take the time to meander along nature walks, enjoy a picnic, or explore the scenic drives. The fern gullies are the home of the superb Lyrebird, Yellow Robins, Crimson Rosellas, Wedge Tailed Eagles, Swamp Wallabies, Owls, Wombats, Possums, Platypus, Koalas, King Parrots, Kookaburras and Echidnas.

Looking after the Park

Please help take care of this very special park and remember: Dogs and cats are not permitted in the park. All native animals and plants are protected. No fires are permitted within the park. Please take your litter home with you.

BALOOK VISITOR CENTRE

Open weekends, school and public holidays, barbecues, picnic shelters and toilets available. Featuring the history of the ranges and rainforests. Tarra Valley Picnic area also has picnic shelters, tables and toilets. Camping is not permitted within the park. Caravan parks, accommodation, B&B's and guesthouses are located within Tarra Valley.

DAY TRIP IDEAS

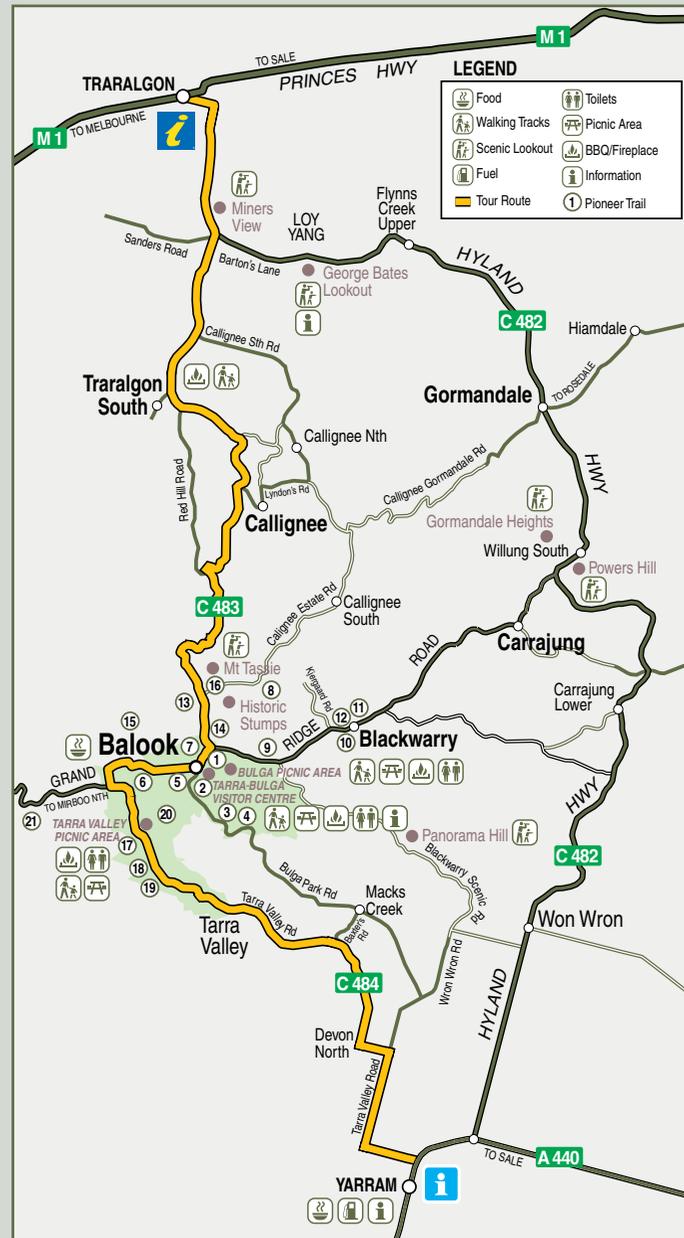
- Tarra-Bulga National Park popular for picnics, walks, scenic drives and the study of nature
- Enjoy the views from Mt Tassie
- Walk, surf, fish at 90 Mile Beach
- Fish the many local freshwater streams
- Have a picnic or BBQ at the picturesque local picnic spots
- Visit a nearby winery and taste the local produce
- Enjoy numerous waterfalls
- Drive the panoramic Grand Ridge Road

YARRAM AND PORT ALBERT

- Visit Yarram's historic Courthouse and Art Gallery
- Eat fish & chips seaside at Port Albert
- Visit Gippsland's Maritime Museum Port Albert
- Play a round at Yarram Golf Club

SALE AND MAFFRA

- Enjoy the picturesque 'Sale Common' Ramsar wetlands
- Take a trip on the Port of Sale Heritage Cruise
- Visit the Sale Botanic gardens, Lake Guyatt, Lake Guthridge and the Historic Swing Bridge
- Visit the Gippsland Vehicle Collection, Maffra (Friday – Monday & public holidays)



1 - ARTHUR LANYON'S HUT Arthur was the first Park Ranger after the formation of National Parks in 1958. Local people built this hut for him after the Wills house was burnt down.

2 - C.R.B. HOUSES in the 1940-50s the Country Roads Board owned four houses for road maintenance employees

3 - BALOOK SCHOOL built in 1915, closed 1966 and is now a camp operated by Westall Secondary College. The first school at Balook operated in Mr. Draffin's home, the Public Hall and then Drysdale's home.

4 - SITE OF RIGGS SAWMILL 1940s a sawmill operated down this road with Several mill workers' houses. Later in the decade, Cooks purchased the mill and T. Danaher managed it, supplying timber to their Melbourne timber yards.

5 - BALOOK GUEST HOUSE opened in 1934. It's had name changes and once operated a golf course, post office and telephone.

6 - SITE OF SAM WILLS HOME to Sam & Edna during 1940-50. Edna was a teacher, married and stayed to raise a family and recorded some of the history of the area.

7 - SITE OF ORANA GUEST HOUSE AND BALOOK HALL the Ficks and later Campbell family operated it, a post office and petrol station with the highest output in the area. The adjoining site Balook Public Hall was used for dances and church. The hall blew down and a tennis court was constructed.

8 - HAZEL DELL home to the Cook family from 1886. Selections were licensed for a small annual rental and improvements of approximately £1 per annum.

9 - SITE OF WATTLE RIDGE RIDING SCHOOL provided a bush experience and equestrian instruction operated by the Appleton family during the 1960s

10 - SITE OF KJERGAARD HALL BUILT IN 1914 on land selected by Mr. Hans Kjergaard. A Library and Blackwarry West/Kjergaard School operated here from 1914-23. It burnt down in 1931.

11 - SITE OF FIRST BLACKWARRY POST OFFICE run by the Daniels family from 1911-50

12 - SITE OF SECOND BLACKWARRY POST OFFICE run by the Oliver family from 1950-60s.

13 - DUFF'S SAWMILL SITE

14 - HISTORIC TREE STUMPS from 80m High Mountain Ash trees typical of forests cleared for settlement in the early 1900s.

15 - DRYSDALE'S MORNINGSIDE The first 'Morningside' burnt down after a prosperous year. Son James rebuilt the second larger home with five bedrooms.

16 - MOUNT TASSIE highest point in the Strzelecki Ranges at 750m. Said to be name because Strzelecki Peak on Flinders Island Tasmania can be seen from here on a clear day.

17 - MRS HEALEY'S HOME Jim and Kara Healey selected here. Kara was Victoria's first female ranger, caretaker at Tarra Valley 1951-63, identifying many plants and fungi and had one named after her.

18 - TARRA VALLEY HALL and school operated here in the early 1900s

19 - THE MILES PROPERTIES Early photos show the large amounts of fallen trees.

20 - PATTINSON'S FAMILY SAWMILL operated in the early 1950s.

21 - VALLEY VIEW This community and first school was called Upper Tarra Valley. A Post Office and dance hall operated here until the local hall was moved to Devon North.