

## Grampians National Park Community Update

The period just prior to Christmas is usually a little quieter in the park, so staff are currently continuing working bees at campgrounds, picnic areas and popular visitor sites. Due to good conditions, grading of roads is underway and fireline slashing has also started.

**STAFF MOVEMENTS:** We recently welcomed Brett Robinson the seat of Ranger – Environment and Heritage, while Jake Goodes is on secondment in the Regional Cultural Heritage Advisor role, and we also welcomed our two Seasonal Summer Rangers who will be with us for the next 12 weeks. Connor and Hannah will assist with much of the visitor service tasks over the busy summer period.

We also recently farewelled Mark Whyte, who moved on to a new role with DELWP in Melbourne. Mark has been with us for the past two and a half years as Team Leader- Assets and Infrastructure. He has been a great addition to the team and will be greatly missed.

**FIRE TEAM:** Our seasonal fire-fighters have been busy finalising training and have also commenced township fire preparedness. Township slashing is also underway. Please note we are no longer piling vegetation up along the old rail easement for burning due to public safety issues. Crews have already attended a few small fires through private burns and campfire escapes and we will be supporting bushfires in the east where necessary.

**CULTURAL HERITAGE:** Parks Victoria, Aboriginal Traditional Owners and Cliffcare (Victoria's Rock-climbing access representatives), recently issued a notice to cease all bolting within the Black Range area west of the Grampians National Park. Unfortunately, a new route had been bolted only a few centimetres away from Aboriginal art in a significant and well-known shelter. New legislation has seen significant changes to the Aboriginal heritage act and damage to significant sites now carries heavy penalties. With the recent increase in sport climbing's popularity there have been numerous new routes placed on public land.

Discussions have now begun with Parks Victoria, Aboriginal Victoria, Barengi Gadjin land council, Victorian Climbing Club and other industry representatives to find sustainable and respectful solutions to this issue.

**FLOOD RECOVERY:** Most seasonal tracks have now re-opened, however there are some tracks that require further repair works. Redman road works will commence in the coming weeks. See our weekly road report for further detail.

**FIRE RECOVERY:** Works have commenced to replace the roof on the 'Blue' cottage at Zumsteins and the orange cottages. Contractors are also in the process of developing new interpretive signage for the area. Works continue on Cultural Heritage management plans for the repair and replacement of walking tracks and campgrounds in the northern Grampians.

**VISITORS AND COMMUNITY TEAM:** Expect to see some great Ranger guided activities over the Christmas and New Year period including guided ranger walks, pop up Ranger information stalls and a mix of Junior Ranger Activities.

Junior Ranger Activities are for children aged 6-12 and offer a chance to discover the treasures of the Grampians National Park. Bookings are required as there is a maximum of 15 participants. Check out the Junior Ranger portal online <http://juniorrangers.com.au/whats-on/> or drop in to Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre to find out more.



## Grampians National Park Community Update

### Junior Ranger Activity Dates:



- December 27: Mini treasures discovery - Venus Baths 09:30am
- January 2nd: Mini treasures discovery - Venus Baths 09:30am
- January 4th: Flora Explorer Piccaninny Carpark Southern Grampians 10:00am
- January 9th: Tracks and Traces - Brambuk NPCC 09:30am
- January 11th: Minibeast safari - Brambuk NPCC 09:30am

### Guided Ranger walks are for adults and children over 12. Dates are:

- December 28th - Heatherlie Quarry historic walk 09:30am
- January 3rd - Get to know Grampians Geology and more - Reeds Lookout/Balconies 09:30
- January 4th - Fire in the Landscape - Hollow Mountain 09:30am
- January 12th - Historic Zumsteins Walk - 09:30am

Visit our website to discover more:

<http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/get-involved/events>

### GRAMPIANS PEAKS TRAIL

<http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/grampians-national-park> GPT info

Stage 2 of the Grampians Peaks Trail track upgrades are continuing on pre-existing tracks with five contractors working onsite. Track upgrades are progressing along the Major Mitchell Plateau, Chatauqua Peak and Mt Difficult eastern escarpment with further works beginning in the new year along the Mt Staplyton and Mt Difficult to

hiker camp tracks. MMP walk is progressing with the installation of the raised steel boardwalk panels on the plateau and will commence rock work in the new year.



*Plateau Panels*

Mt Sturgeon walking track upgrade to the upper section of the walk is now complete with the additional of new hand-built sandstone steps creating a durable track.



*Lake Wartook Lookout Walk*

Lake Wartook Lookout track upgrade is now complete. The track has gone from being slippery and difficult to navigate to a well-defined raised rock track made from large rock slabs harvested on site.