

# GRAMPIANS PEAKS TRAIL

*Walk Victoria's Icons*

## Community Update

March 2018

The Grampians Peaks Trail® is a world-class long-distance walking experience of 13 days and 12 nights which showcases the spectacular natural and cultural landscapes of the Grampians National Park.

Construction for Stage Two has started and the complete trail is expected to be finished in late 2019.

### The project

Welcome to the March 2018 edition of the Grampians Peaks Trail® project which provides the latest information on how works are progressing.

Make sure you stay in touch via the website [www.grampianspeakstrail.com.au](http://www.grampianspeakstrail.com.au) or [gpt@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:gpt@parks.vic.gov.au) and register for updates.



New rock work along Mt Difficult

### Project update

The popular Stage One walk is a favourite with locals and tourists and offers a 3 day-2 night loop. Starting at Halls Gap, the 36km walk showcases the spectacular rock features of the Wonderland Ranges close to Halls Gap. Our first dedicated hikers camp 'Bugiga' is also a must see, with elevated timber tent platforms and an architecturally designed communal shelter. Nestled between Mt Rosea and Sundial Peak, it offers stunning views across to the Serra and Mt William ranges.

Stage Two is well underway and continues with upgrades to approximately 50 km of existing walking tracks that will form part of the trail. Approvals for all the new works, approximately 100 km of new trails and new hiker's camps is in-hand. It is anticipated that the tenders for new works will be called for in the latter half of 2018.

### Grampians sandstone

Walkers may come across contractors while out and about in the National Park, as they upgrade sections of existing trails. Traditional stone masonry methods are being used alongside modern construction techniques to build a trail in extremely rocky areas. Thousands of hand-built steps are being shaped from sandstone which has been mainly sourced on-site. This work takes considerable skill and patience and depending on the location, it can take one builder a full day to install three steps.

Did you know that Grampians sandstone was used to build some of Melbourne's landmark buildings? Next time you're in Melbourne take the time to look at the magnificent Parliament House, Melbourne Town Hall and the State Library of Victoria. These are just a few of our stone treasures.



## Current upgrades

### Major Mitchell Plateau

The Major Mitchell Plateau walk from Mt William Summit to Stockyard Saddle recently opened after extensive upgrades, and now boasts more elevated boardwalk sections as well as specialised rock steps, flagstone paving and track resurfacing. However, the walking track from Stockyard Saddle to Jimmy Creek campground will remain closed as new rock steps are built and resurfacing continues. It is scheduled to re-open in April.

### Completed activities

As part of recent trail upgrades in the Lake Wartook Lookout has emerged as an exciting little gem. For future overnight walkers on this remote section of the Peaks Trail, this lookout will provide stunning 360-degree views of the Lake Wartook catchment and the Mt Difficult Range, just before the trail descends into the village of Halls Gap. Currently the lookout is open as a short day walk but being remote, is only accessible via high clearance all-wheel drive vehicles.

### Chatauqua Peak

The Chatauqua Peak walking track is now open following recent upgrades between Clematis Falls and the summit track junction.

Walkers can now enjoy a well defined, all weather walking track with hundreds of new sandstone steps and beautiful stonework.



View from Stockyard Saddle to Jimmy Creek



View along the Lake Wartook Lookout



New rock work along the Chatauqua Peak walking track





## Community news

### What's next

During the coming months, upgrades will commence along the Mt Abrupt and Mt Staplyton walking tracks as well as the sections between Mt Difficult summit and the proposed 'Barigar' hiker camp. Works will include new drainage, improved surfacing, retaining walls and the addition of new hand-built rock steps and flagstone paving.

Where possible, upgrades to other sections of the Grampians Peaks Trail will be rolled out as part of a staged approach in order to provide continued access to popular visitor areas during peak periods.

Parks Victoria provide updates and information once projects are scheduled, as some tracks or sections of tracks may need to be closed temporarily to allow works to be completed safely. Check the Parks Victoria website for the latest conditions in the Grampians National Park [www.parks.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/grampians-national-park](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/grampians-national-park) and look for 'Change of conditions.'

### Community events

Did you know there are a number of well-known community events that utilise sections of the Grampians Peaks Trail!

This May, Run the Gap is once again hosting their annual run in the majestic Grampians National Park.

Walking and running enthusiasts can complete a scenic 6 km walk or run along Fyans Creek trail, a 12 km run with a lap across the stunning Lake Bellfield wall or test themselves in the 21 km trail run.

This family orientated event is a great way to experience some of the Halls Gap sections of the Grampians Peaks Trail and enjoy a well-earned barbeque brunch. You too can take part in this annual event by registering at [www.runthegap.com.au](http://www.runthegap.com.au)



Participants enjoying Run the Gap

### Did you know?

We are currently entering "kooyang" or the season of eels as it is known by the Jardwadjali and Djab Wurrung people, the traditional owners of Gariwerd. Kooyang is the hottest and driest time of the year and runs from late January to late March. It is also the time of the year where the risk of bushfire (Piikordal) is high and streams can dry up completely. When walking in the Grampians this time of year it is recommended you carry extra water, or organise water drops, as streams and other water sources are often dry.

To learn more about the Grampians Peaks Trail visit [www.grampianspeakstrail.com.au](http://www.grampianspeakstrail.com.au)