

# GRAMPIANS PEAKS TRAIL®

Walk Victoria's Icons

## Community Update September 2017

The Grampians Peaks Trail® is a world-class long distance walking experience of 13 days and 12 nights. Construction has started and is expected to be finished in late 2019. The Trail showcases the spectacular natural and cultural landscapes of the Grampians National Park.

Welcome to the September 2017 edition on the Grampians Peaks Trail® project.

Read the latest information on how the works are progressing, key facts and figures, and meet some of the staff involved in this exciting project.

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.

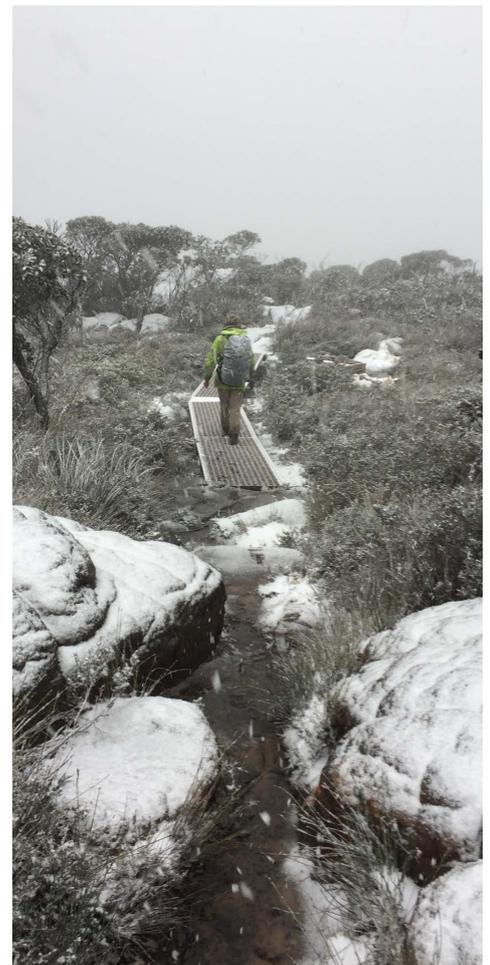
### Project update

Since the opening of stage one, in May 2015, momentum has increased and the Grampians Peaks Trail is a hive of activity with current works. Walkers are also enjoying the opened section, the 33km Wonderland loop, a 3 day-2 night experience.

Stage two construction work continues with upgrades to pre-existing walking tracks that will become part of the Grampians Peaks Trail and will link in with new sections of track being built from next year. Recent upgrades to existing sections of track include Mt Staplyton and Piccaninny.

Walkers can continue to see track upgrades at Mt Sturgeon and Lake Wartook Lookout, with tracks being strengthened with local stone that is harvested on site. Works also include new drainage, better surfacing, new rock steps and flagstone paving. The works at these two sites should be finished by the end of September this year.

Since March hundreds of airlifts from the Mount William summit across the Major Mitchell Plateau have moved over one kilometre of locally made steel boardwalk panels and other materials ready for installing over the coming months. The new elevated boardwalks will allow walkers to experience the Grampians while protecting the natural values of the park by preventing soil compaction and allowing for vegetation to grow around and under the boardwalk which also provides better cover for native fauna. Spare a thought for the contractors who have been working in freezing conditions on the highest peak of the park, battling through rain, sleet, sub-zero temperatures and snow falls. Track upgrades should be finished early next year.



New boardwalk and snow at Major Mitchell Plateau. Photo by Daniel Cooper, Environtechniques



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## Project update cont.

Traditional Owners have been working alongside cultural heritage advisors and local Parks Victoria staff looking at potential hiker camp sites. The areas, some of the most spectacular locations in the park, have provided evidence of people camping on or near the peaks for thousands of years. Previously unknown occupation sites, scar trees, surface scatters, greenstone originally from the Lancefield area nearly 250km away and rock art have all been rediscovered. These recent finds add to the important history of Gariwerd and assist to map the heritage of the people that have come before us and will feature strongly along the trail.

Landscape architects have visited proposed hiker camp sites and met with Traditional Owners to discuss hiker camp designs. Each hiker camp site has been surveyed to determine the best location while considering the elements, including wind speed and direction, elevation and outlook, tree coverage and Aboriginal heritage.

## Did you know?

There are over 800 native plant species in the Grampians National Park and more than 40 of these, including the Grampians Gum and Grampians Parrot-pea, can be found nowhere else in the world. Why not visit this spring, grabbing a field guide from Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre and discover the colourful wildflower display!

## What's next

Over the coming months construction works will increase with a focus on rolling out a number of stage two upgrades. Upgrades include Flat Rock to the Mt Staplyton Summit, Mt Difficult Eastern escarpment, and Chantauqua Peak near Halls Gap. Works include new drainage, improved surfacing, retraining walls and the addition of new hand-built rock steps and flagstone paving.

Upgrades will be rolled out through a staged approach to provide access to popular visitor areas during peak periods where possible.

Parks Victoria will advise the community once work is 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.'

## Meet Rod Spinks - Parks Victoria Project Coordinator Delivery - Grampians Peaks Trail



You may have met Rod out and about in the community, working with contractors or perhaps bumped into him as a local to the area. Rod has a wealth of experience as a project officer and has worked on many projects including Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre, Twelve Apostles Lookout and underpass and the Great Ocean Walk.

Rod is part of the project team, overseeing the on-ground delivery of works for the trail, including the first stage of the trail in 2015.

"As a local I have a strong attachment to the Grampians and I have been involved with projects here for many years. I am particularly proud of seeing a job finished to a high standard and done sensitively in this special environment."

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



The Grampians Gum (*Eucalyptus alpina*) can only be found in the Grampians National Park