In Aboriginal culture, the Grampians National Park and the surrounding landscape is known as Gariwerd. Within this landscape, six distinct weather periods are recognised. These are known as the Gariwerd Six Seasons.

This is the Chinnup (cockatoo) issue. Chinnup is the season of morning frosts, bleak mists and freezing winds - the coldest time of the year.

More information on the six seasons can be found at http://www.brambuk.com.au/gariwerdsixseasons.htm

Put on those winter woollies!
The season of Chinnup is a dynamic time of year - wet, windy and cold weather will define the next few months. The changing of the seasons has already seen an increase in rainfall; waterfalls are coming back to life, snow has fallen on the mountains and the landscape is rejuvenating after a long dry summer.

Chinnup is a vibrant and refreshing time of year to be out in nature. So, with the right clothing, planning and understanding your own limitations, you don’t need to stay indoors.

The parks seasonal waterfalls should be first on your bucket list – easier walks to Silverband or Clematis Falls close to Halls Gap, or Beehive Falls in the Roses Gap are great places to start. If you have a little more energy the 9.6km Wonderland Loop from Halls Gap following the picturesque Stony Creek to Wonderland Carpark and then onto the Pinnacle is fantastic; passing small cascades and waterfalls.

Be safe, be prepared
Before you head out in the park this winter here are a few important things you should think about:

- **Weather and sunset**: keep track of the winter weather and avoid putting yourself in an uncomfortable situation. With short days it is also wise to check what time the sunsets to avoid being caught in the dark. Weather forecasts can be found at: www.bom.gov.au

- **Clothing and equipment**: a rain jacket, rain pants and warm layers are essential. Don’t forget the beanie and gloves! Take food high in energy and even though it’s cold, still take plenty of water. As always, pack a first aid kit, a paper map and a fully charged phone.

- **Know your limitations**: Do you have the right equipment, fitness and experience to be undertaking that walk? An easy walk can become very challenging if you are under prepared.

- **Let someone know before you go**: Make sure you let someone reliable and independent of you know where you are going and when you intend to return. Let them know when you are back so if you don’t get in touch with them, they know to raise the alarm.

News and updates
Grampians landscape management plan
In partnership with Traditional Owner groups, Parks Victoria is preparing a new management plan for the Grampians landscape, an area that covers the Grampians National Park and adjacent parks and reserves. It will underpin strategic planning over the next 15 years to ensure that the precious environmental and cultural values of this iconic landscape are preserved for future generations.

Input is sought from local communities, recreational groups, tourism bodies and other stakeholders through a variety of engagement opportunities over the next 12 months.

This is a chance to be part of shaping and conserving the Grampians landscape for the future. More>>
Volunteer champions
The Grampians team would like to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers who have spent time in the park over the first half of 2019. To give a snapshot:

Volunteer groups have spent over 200 hours restoring Golton Gorge Walking Track, 160 hours collecting rubbish, and facilitating educational presentations.

School groups have spent 100 volunteer hours oiling timber infrastructure, 200 hours removing Sallow Wattle and 80 collecting rubbish.

Volunteer Sherpas have spent over 100 volunteer hours helping people with limited mobility get out into the park. 12 new Sherpas have also been trained.

Snow in the Grampians
Snow has already fallen on some of the parks highest areas, including Mt William and Boroka Lookout. Excited visitors came from as far as Horsham and Hamilton to experience the magic of a winter wonderland, with many making the steep and slippery walk to the summit of Mt William.

More snow is likely over the winter months, so remember, if you do venture out, make sure you drive slowly, as snow and ice can make driving treacherous.

Also note it will only snow if the temperature is below zero degrees celsius. To keep up to date with mountain weather, visit the Bureau of Meteorology’s Mt William weather station website: http://www.bom.gov.au/products/IDV60801/IDV60801.94833.shtml

Harrop Track and Red Rock Road upgrades
Major upgrade works are currently occurring on Harrop Track and Red Rock Road in the Victoria Range Area. This important work will replace old bridges and causeways, providing reliable creek crossings into the future. While this work is occurring access to several visitor sites will be temporarily affected, including Buandik Campground and Picnic Area, Billimina and Manja Shelters. Stay updated by checking the ‘Change of Conditions’ section on the Grampians National Park page of our website: www.parks.vic.gov.au

Autumn planned burning
A successful Autumn planned burning season has concluded. Six target areas in the national park were treated as part of the program - reducing the future impact of large scale bushfires. Local crews were assisted by taskforces from as far away as the Victorian Alps. The upcoming winter planned burns program will focus on heathlands, creating a mosaic of burnt and long-unburnt vegetation to promote growth and provide habitat for wildlife.

Park program focus: Learning in Nature
Connecting people with nature is fundamental to the work of Parks Victoria, and Learning in Nature is the strategy developed to help facilitate this connection.

In Grampians National Park we have a large range of community programs that align with this strategy. These include Dunkeld and Stawell bush kinder, the Venus Baths ClimateWatch trail, secondary school student work experience program removal of sallow wattle, general park maintenance, environmental education programs and seminars, Junior Ranger school holiday activities and ranger guided walks.

It is a busy schedule, so the park has a dedicated Ranger (Hannah Auld) who manages these programs year-round. Other Rangers also assist, and over summer, Seasonal Rangers join in to boost our capacity.

To find out more about Learning in Nature programs across the state head to https://parkweb.vic.gov.au/learn
Seasonal Flora Species

Flame Grevillea (*Grevillea dimorpha*)
Classified as rare in Victoria, Flame Grevillea grows up to 2.5 metres high and occurs in the parks heathy woodland and forest between Halls Gap and Dunkeld. Leaves range from 2-20mm wide and are usually dark green on top and silvery underneath. Flowering from late Autumn to Spring, flowers are spider-like, bright red and found in clusters.

Seasonal Fauna Species

Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*)
The Gang-gang Cockatoo is a commonly occurring bird in south-eastern Australia. They grow up to 35cm, are predominantly grey in colour with some lighter scalloping, and the male has a distinct red/orange head. Gang-gangs pair for life and usually return to the same tree every year to breed. They seasonally migrate, spending summers in high altitude tall forests and woodlands, and winters in low and warmer eucalypt forests and woodlands. Boasting a distinct call, it has often been described as sounding like a squeaky gate.

Do you want help identifying species in the field?
Download Museums Victoria Field Guide App:

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Stage two of works on the Grampians Peaks Trail are well underway. For the latest information on the project visit:

Upcoming Events and Activities
For upcoming events and activities in the park please see the *What’s On* section on the Grampians National Park page at www.parks.vic.gov.au

Self-Guided Activities
- Junior Ranger Activity sheets. Pick up from the Junior Range Stand at Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre or download off https://juniorrangersonline.com.au/

Volunteering
Volunteering with Parks Victoria is a great way to contribute to conserving Victoria’s special places and help others do the same. To find out more visit:

Grampians National Park Programs:
- Campground Host
- Volunteer Walking Track Ranger
- Sherpa Volunteer Program (TrailRider wheelchair)

Further Information
To stay up to date with the latest park information:
- Call 13 1963
- Visit Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre, 2.5km south of Halls Gap. Ph: 03 8427 2258.
- Go online at www.parks.vic.gov.au. Be sure to check the weekly road report and monthly park access update on the Grampians page.