

# Aboriginal cultural heritage rediscoveries

## Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park

August 2020



### Pharos Gully boulders area

#### Background

Aboriginal cultural heritage, including rock art, has been rediscovered at the Pharos Gully boulders area.

The rediscoveries are enormously important to Traditional Owners the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk peoples, who have occupied the lands around Mount Arapiles – known as Dyuritte – for thousands of years.

Parks Victoria and Barengi Gadjin Land Council have initial taken steps to protect this cultural heritage while a longer-term management approach is determined with Traditional Owners.

#### Where are the rediscoveries?

Cultural heritage has been identified in an area that includes the boulders known as Around the World, Monkey Puzzle, Superman and Finalgon.

> See map below

#### What are the rediscoveries?

In addition to rock art, other cultural heritage including artefact scatters and quarry sites have been identified.

#### How were they rediscovered?

In July, a member of the public noticed what appeared to be rock art.

A subsequent inspection by Parks Victoria and Barengi Gadjin Land Council confirmed this, and the presence of other cultural heritage values.

#### How are these cultural values being protected?

To protect this area while a long-term management response is explored, Parks Victoria and Barengi Gadjin Land Council, have installed temporary fencing and signage so that people don't enter the area and inadvertently cause harm.

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* protects Aboriginal cultural heritage and financial penalties apply for harm caused by individuals or corporate bodies.

#### Does this mean people can't climb in this area?

Yes. The temporary protections restrict all visitor access including climbing, bouldering and bushwalking, to ensure no harm is caused to cultural heritage.

There is otherwise no change to visitor activities in the rest of the park.

#### Will there be further restrictions in the park?

Parks Victoria and Barengi Gadjin Land Council have responsibilities to protect natural and cultural heritage where it required.

Cultural and environmental values are not incompatible with recreation – people can enjoy a range of activities in almost all of Victoria's parks and reserves.

#### When will more information be available?

Parks Victoria and Barengi Gadjin Land Council are working through a longer-term management response for this location and will share new information as it becomes available. Information about park access will be maintained on the Parks Victoria website.

## Protection zone: Pharos Gully boulders area

