

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

Grampians Peaks Trail  
Winter 2020



Welcome to the Winter edition of the Grampians Peaks Trail® Community Update. In this issue we are providing an update on facilitated walking tour opportunities for the Werdug and Gar hike-in campgrounds, camp huts at these two sites, final names for hike-in campgrounds and an update on construction.

The fourth and longest walk in the Walk Victoria's Icons series, the Grampians Peaks Trail will provide a world-class walking experience of 160kms that can be experienced in sections, or as one 13-day journey.

The GPT will showcase one of Victoria's most significant environmental and cultural landscapes, providing visitors with an experience rich in the Aboriginal culture of the Jardwadjali and Djab Wurrung peoples, who have lived in these ranges for thousands of years.

## Facilitated walks and camp huts on the GPT

To cater for a wide range of visitors looking for new experiences, including those who may be unable or prefer not to carry provisions for a multi-day hike, Parks Victoria will be seeking tour operators to provide facilitated walks on the trail's northern section.

The facilitated walking experience will make use of three demountable huts at the Gar (Mount Difficult) and Werdug (Lake Wartook) hike-in campgrounds. Built and owned by Parks Victoria, the four-bed huts will have a minimalist design developed for the Grampians landscape.

People staying in the huts as part of a facilitated walk will share toilets and the shelter with all users. The huts have been designed to minimise fire and environmental impact, with a similar footprint to the tent pads and no cooking or heating facilities.

Tent platforms will still be available at these two campgrounds for people independently walking this section of the GPT.



*Above: Illustrative design of the camp hut that will be used by licensed tour operators operating facilitated walks.*



Above: Illustrative design of the view from a camp hut.



Above: Illustrative design of a camp hut.

You can view these images at

<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/projects/grampians-peaks-trail>

If you are a Licensed Tour Operator and want to find out more about how you could operate facilitated walks on the GPT, email [GPT@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:GPT@parks.vic.gov.au) and we can send through further information.

## Aboriginal names for the 12 camp sites

In recognition of the cultural significance of the Gariwerd landscape, hike-in campgrounds on the GPT will have Aboriginal names.

Parks Victoria has worked closely with local Traditional Owners to identify appropriate names for each campground.

The names for the campgrounds are (from north to south):

- **Barigar** (North of Roses Gap)
- **Gar** (near the Mt Difficult summit)
- **Werdug** (overlooking Lake Wartook from Mt Difficult Range)
- **Bugiga** (southern area of the Wonderland Range)
- **Barri Yalug** (Barbican Rocks)
- **Duwul** (near the Mt William summit)
- **Durd Durd** (South of the Major Mitchell Plateau)
- **Yarram** (south of Yarram Gap)
- **Wannon** (at Mt Christobel)
- **Djardi-Djarwara** (near Cassidy Gap)
- **Mud-Dadjug** (on Mt Abrupt)

The use of Aboriginal naming is part of the overall interpretation plan for the GPT. The plan will help to interpret the landscape to provide visitors with an experience rich in Aboriginal culture of the Jardwadjali and Djab Wurrung peoples, who have lived in these ranges for thousands of years. Interpretation signage along the GPT will help hikers to learn more about the area's Aboriginal cultural heritage and provide information about the national park's incredible environmental values.

You can find the latest map with the Aboriginal names at <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/projects/grampians-peaks-trail>

## Construction update

Track clearing is almost finished, and construction is progressing on schedule with crews working in various locations.

Hike-in campground construction began in November 2019. Construction works are well underway for Djardji-Djawara, Wannon, Durd Durd, Stony Creek and Barri Yalug. The Parks Victoria project team have begun initial site inspections with the contractor for Werdug and Gar, and the design of Mud-Dadjug is almost complete.

The Mt Sturgeon elevated stairway and boardwalk construction continues, with the first helicopter operations to provide equipment occurring in June.

Some existing tracks will need to be closed throughout 2020 as hike-in campground construction progresses. The local community and visitors will be advised of these via the Parks Victoria website, Visitor Information Centres, the Brambuk The National Park and Cultural Centre in Halls Gap, and Licensed Tour Operators.

Although some trails may appear finished there are more elements to be added, for example, signage for wayfinding, safety and emergencies. Trails will remain closed for safety of park visitors, workers and staff until ready to be used. There are trail closure signs installed at all access points and all park users are requested to comply with closures.



Above: Construction of tent pads at Djardji-Djawara (Cassidy Gap).

## Want to know more? Join us for an online information session or give us a call

Join us for online community information drop-in session to receive an update on the Grampians Peaks Trail. You will be able to learn more about recent progress and to discuss any questions.

**Tuesday 25 August 2020, 10am to 11.30 pm – via an online information session register your interest at [XX](#)**

or

Email [GPT@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:GPT@parks.vic.gov.au) to organise a phone update from the local team.



Above: Visitors are asked to observe closure signs.

## Stay up to date

Parks Victoria provide updates and information, regarding track closures to allow works to be completed safely. Visit Parks Victoria's website for the latest conditions in the Grampians National Park.

You can also contact us at 13 19 63.

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

## Greater Gariwerd (Grampians) Landscape Management Plan

To allow suitable time for review of key aspects of the draft Greater Gariwerd (Grampians) Landscape Management Plan, Parks Victoria and Traditional Owners have extended the timeline for its submission to the Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change.

The draft plan was initially scheduled to be submitted to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change for review by June 2020. Due to current circumstances and the need to ensure adequate time for review of key aspects of the plan, the draft plan is now expected to be submitted later in the year. The aim is that the draft plan will still be released for further public feedback in late 2020. We will keep stakeholders and the community updated about the release date.

If you are interested in learning more about the project you can visit [Engage Victoria](#).