

Grampians National Park

Northern Grampians Fire Recovery Update

March 22nd 2016

Information Sheet 3: Rock Climbing and Bouldering

In January 2014 a large bushfire swept through the Northern Grampians, causing widespread damage to visitor sites, roads and walking tracks. Many popular rock climbing and bouldering sites were also impacted including Hollow Mountain, Summerday Valley and Mt Stapylton. Environmental recovery in this fragile rocky landscape has been slow – shallow soils and lack of rainfall has meant vegetation has taken longer than anticipated to regenerate.

Open and accessible rock climbing and bouldering areas in the Northern Grampians

The official fire closure has lifted for the northern area of the Mt Difficult Range (Mt Stapylton area and south to the north side of Roses Gap Rd). A closure remains in place further south along the range. See closure map for further detail.

Open Areas – existing climbs and access tracks only

Asses Ears Area
Pohlner track and Smith Road Area
Mt Stapylton
Hollow Mountain Area
Summerday Valley

*Note closures are in place to main wall due to cultural significance.

Mt Stapylton Amphitheatre
Flat Rock Area

Mt Zero Area

*Note new access track between flat rock, the kindergarten and Andersons via Bellepheron wall.

Iskra Crag

NE Mt Zero Range

Stapylton Campground Boulders

*Note - Sites south of Stapylton Campground cannot be accessed via the Ngamadji car park and walking track due to it being a closed work site. Access is only available from the fireline behind Toscana olives.

Nearby climbing areas

The Black Range (West of the Grampians) – An official closure remains in place for off track walking, climbing and bushcamping.

Mudadgadjiin Picnic area has reopened as have the Art site walk and Escarpment walk.

Mt Talbot (west of the Grampians) has reopened

Closed Climbing Areas- Mt Difficult Range/Northern Grampians.

An official fire closure remains in place throughout the southern area of the Mt Difficult Range (Between Roses Gap Road, Chinaman Track, Old Mill Road and Mt Zero Road).

Eastern Mt Difficult Range
North West Mt Difficult Range
Mt Difficult area
Briggs Bluff Area

You can help support sustainable climbing in the Grampians by considering the following:

To protect the cultural and environmental integrity of the Grampians National Park and to ensure the long term sustainability of rock climbing in the area, Parks Victoria has been working closely with the local rock climbing community and Cliffcare on a considered approach to the re-opening of rock climbing sites in the Northern Grampians.

- **Keep in mind that any damage caused now will remain long term.** Stay on designated tracks - any off track walking can impact soil stability and the regeneration of vegetation. Spread of weeds and other pathogens can occur by foot traffic in fragile soils and recovering moss and seed beds. Please don't create short cuts or new tracks, particularly in steep gullies
- Only climb in open and accessible areas and keep group numbers low – Avoid taking large groups into small crags or areas where there are no designated tracks
- Consider other options – There are many climbing and bouldering sites within the Grampians. By giving these fire affected areas some time to recover they will be here to enjoy in the future
- Think about your safety - tree risk and unstable soils are present across all fire affected areas.
- While Parks Victoria regrets the need to enforce closures, substantial fines will be imposed on those found in any closed, fire affected areas.

Please remember your climbing etiquette when in the Grampians National Park:

- Respect other climbers and park visitors
- Stick to established tracks and avoid damaging or removing vegetation
- Many areas have significant Aboriginal cultural sites, please respect this unique cultural landscape by only climbing in established areas
- Avoid excessive chalk and be mindful of cleaning
- No chipping of rock or new bolting
- Carry out all rubbish
- Use toilets provided

Alternative rock climbing areas in and around the Grampians:

For up to date climbing access reports visit www.cliffcare.com.au

- Victoria Range (Please respect cultural heritage and recovering fire affected areas)
- Mt William Range (Seven Dials area)
- Serra Range (Including Bundaleer and Mt Rosea)
- Wonderland Range
- Mt Arapiles

Camping

The closest camping option in the National Park is Plantation Campground, approximately 10km north of Halls Gap, or private accommodation in the Northern Grampians area. **Bushcamping the Northern Grampians fire affected area is not permitted (See fire recovery map for detail).** Information about appropriate bush camping locations can be obtained from Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre, Halls Gap Phone 5361 4000.

Further Information

For updates on the many camping, walking and driving opportunities in the park, call into Brambuk - The National Park and Cultural Centre in Halls Gap, visit the local Visitor Information Centre or call Parks Victoria on 13 1963.