



Crag Stewards Victoria

Crag Assessment Report

Crag	Mt Rosea	Crag Steward	
Area	Central Grampians	Area Steward	
Region	Grampians	Region Steward	

Date of Assessment:	14th February 2023
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Crag Overview

Mt Rosea is one of the most celebrated multi-pitch sandstone cliffs in Australia. Climbers who visit Mt Rosea tend to be adventure orientated traditional climbers as there is very little scope for single pitch sport climbing. The crag is regarded as fairly serious due to its remote situation, high altitude and sometimes wet and snowy weather. The crag features spectacular climbing on generally superb sandstone. As with any large mountain crag there are loose flakes and blocks present and an air of commitment that few other sandstone cliffs in Victoria share.

Assessment Scope

This assessment included the approach walking trail, the base of the cliff, the top of the cliff and the section of trail historically known as the Grand Stairway (some climbers refer to it as the Giant's Staircase).

Land Management and Access

Land Manager:	Parks Victoria
Park Management Plan:	The Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan (2021)

Land Management Issues:	
Access Issues:	Mt Rosea is an officially designated rock climbing area. There are currently no climbing or access restrictions related to Mt Rosea. Bolts and lower-off / rappel anchors are placed and maintained at the discretion of the climbing community.

Cultural Heritage	
Traditional Owners:	
Cultural Heritage Issues:	
There are no recorded cultural heritage issues or sites at Mt Rosea.	

Other Park Users
<p>The original Mt Rosea walking trail was closed by Parks Victoria when the nearby Grampians Peaks Trail was opened. This trail was then removed from Parks Victoria's popular 1:50,000 maps (North, South and Central). However, bushwalkers continue to regularly use the trail as it makes for an excellent return walking loop from the Mt Rosea Carpark.</p> <p>The walking trail is officially designated as open and is graded 4 (refer Grand Staircase in Appendix 5, page 160 GGLMP).</p>

Assessment Summary
Crag Approaches
The approach trail to the base of the cliff was roughly constructed in the late 1800s and then to a high standard sometime between 1910 and 1930 by Melbourne based bushwalking

clubs. It remained the main tourist walking trail to the top of Mt Rosea until the recent opening of the Grampians Peaks Trail. Rock climbers use this original trail to access the base of the cliff from below and from above the cliffline.

This original trail (hereon referred to as the climbers trail) is in good condition but is impeded and blocked by fallen and overgrowing vegetation in many places, leading to deterioration of the outside edges of the trail and unstable bypass trails. Some exposed star pickets remain from old shoring of the trail on the Stairway

The climbers trail turnoff starts about 500m from the Mt Rosea Carpark along the Grampians Peaks Trail. For a few years (2020 to late 2022) there was a small indiscreet sign to indicate that this was the climbers trail turnoff. Parks Victoria may have removed it. As there is already signage at this location it would benefit climbers if the signpost were to be reinstalled.

To return from the top of the cliff to their packs at the base of the cliff, climbers use the Grampians Peaks Trail, which runs along the top of the Main Cliff, to reach the junction with the climbers trail that descends the Grand Stairway . This is the only viable way for climbers to descend from the top of the cliff to its base.Parks Victoria have blocked the climbers trail at this junction making it difficult to find. Unfortunately, this has resulted in some climbers having been unable to locate this junction and at least one party having had to spend the night on the mountain. As Mt Rosea is a designated climbing area and one of Victoria's premier climbing destinations it would seem to be sensible that Parks Victoria reduce future serious safety issues by unblocking the trail and installing an appropriate signpost.

Climbing Area

This assessment has been for the access track only

Recommendations

Safety. As Mount Rosea is a designated climbing site, the access track should continue to be well maintained. In the event of serious injury, emergency responders will need good clear access for a quick response.

Climbing Signage. It would be up to Parks Victoria to install a small signpost at the junction of the Giants Staircase and the Grampians Peaks Trail turn off from. Another sign could also be installed at the climbers turn off near the carpark.

Possible Actions. A volunteer trail work day should be planned within the next 12 months. Ideally it should be in autumn or spring as winters can be wet and cold and summers hot. General trail clearing and maintenance. Placing stones and removing small debris. Chainsaws

will be needed (both petrol and battery). Estimate of four hours chainsawing for two people. The trail needs some very minor hoeing and removal of ferns. Tools will be needed to remove the star pickets (star pickets are notoriously difficult to remove, it may be easiest to cut them off with a battery angle-grinder at the base).