

1. Landscape characteristics of Grampians National Park

Links to Section 1

This resource sheet can be used as pre-visit information and for a park specific application of activities in Section 1 of this Parks Victoria education resource kit, in particular:

Parks and SOSE

1. What is a national park?
5. Where are national parks located in Victoria?
6. How and when did national parks begin in Victoria?
10. Park boundaries.

The Grampians' spectacular mountain ranges with their richly coloured wildflowers, wildlife and human history, have long created interest in the region as an area of high conservation value. It was declared a national park on July 1st 1984 after a long period as a multi-purpose State Forest.

The Grampians were named by Major Thomas Mitchell in 1836, during his extensive 'Australia Felix' expedition, when his first glimpse of them reminded him of a mountain range in his native Scotland.

Landscape

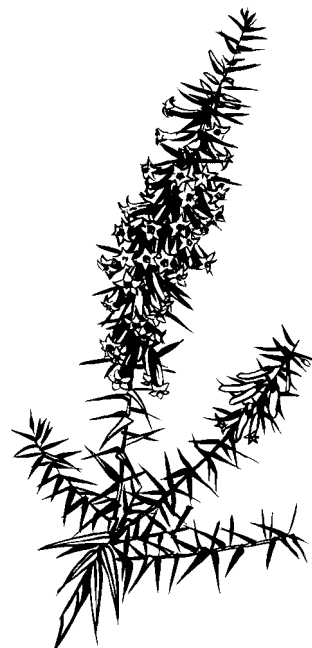
Dominating the park's landscape are three spectacular sandstone ridges, running in a north-south band for some 90 kilometres. These distinctive wave-shaped ranges are classic examples of 'cuesta' escarpment landforms.

Location

The park is located in central western Victoria, approximately 260 kilometres by road, north-west of Melbourne. The main cities near the park are Horsham, Hamilton, Ararat and Stawell. Halls Gap is a small township surrounded by the national park and Dunkeld township is at the southern end of the park. Grampians National Park stretches 85 kilometres north-south and 45 kilometres east-west at its widest point, covering an area of 167,000 hectares. Figure 1 shows the location of the Park. Figure 2 shows the park's boundary and access routes.

Maps of Grampians National Park are provided in the Grampians National Park brochure and Parknote provided in the CD ROM.

The brochure and Parknote can also be downloaded from Parks Victoria's website www.parkweb.vic.gov.au Click on Publications then Brochures and/or on Parknotes.



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