## INDUSTRY FORUM

grampians

## SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

# TONY DOYLE CEO SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL



## Our Team

- Rory Neeson, Director Wellbeing, Planning & Regulation
- Mary McArthur, Visitor Experience Coordinator.



## Volcanic Trail — The Region

- Third largest volcanic plain in the world with approximately 100 extinct volcanoes, dotted with lakes, rivers and RAMSAR wetlands areas – by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- The region includes the traditional lands of four Aboriginal nations – Boandik, Jardwadjali, Djab Wurrung and Dhauwurd Wurrung
- The 'Volcanic Trail' concept builds on the significant cultural and environmental values of volcanic sites within Southern Grampians Shire
- It provides a clear direction ... to protect cultural heritage, maintain / improve existing assets and develop the visitor economy by leveraging our natural assets and known tourist linkages.



### Volcanic Trail

 The proposed sites are developed and maintained to varying degrees across multiple agencies, and are not linked in any way through branding, interpretive themes, a consistent approach to infrastructure and maintenance.



#### Management Responsibility at Each Site

Site	Management Body Responsible
Wannon Falls	Southern Grampians
Scenic Reserve	Shire Council
Nigretta Falls	Southern Grampians
Scenic Reserve	Shire Council
Byaduk Caves	Parks Victoria
Harman's Valley Lookout	Southern Grampians
	Shire Council
Wallacedale Tumuli	DEWLP (Department of
	Environment Water
	Land & Planning)
Mount Napier	Parks Victoria
State Park	
Mount Rouse	Southern Grampians
Reserve	Shire Council

## Volcanic Trail Infrastructure

- Upgrades of:
  - existing walking trails
  - development of entirely new campsites and picnic grounds
  - Interpretive information at each site
- High-quality and transformational tourism project with significant economic benefit







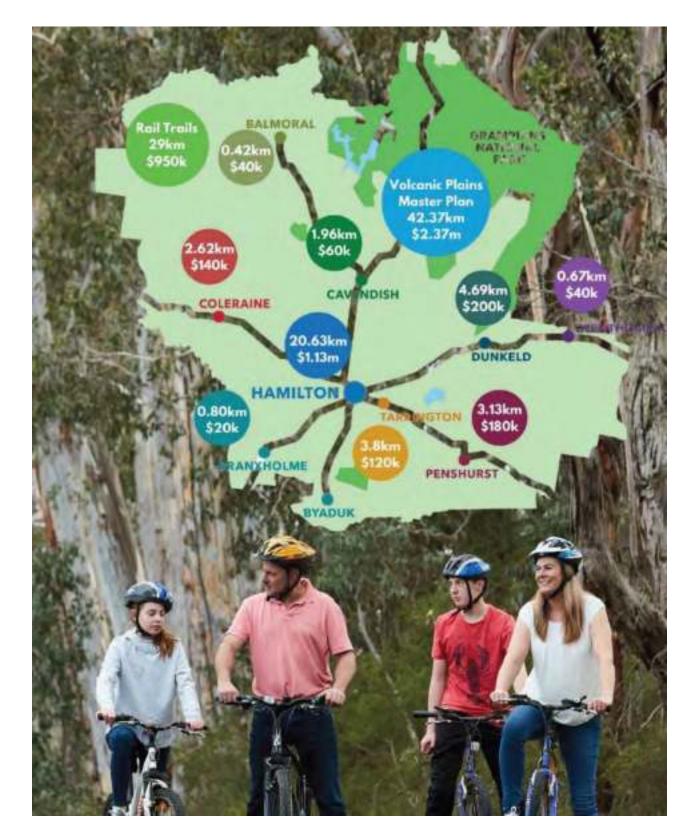
### Botanic Gardens Intergenerational Play Space

- Activate the space with a intergenerational activity and play area, broadening the attraction of the gardens for families
- A detailed design has been completed which has received in principle support from Heritage Victoria
- The resulting design elements represent our indigenous, cultural, historic and significant natural landscapes that respects the significant and heritage elements of a much loved community asset
- Project cost is \$1.6M.



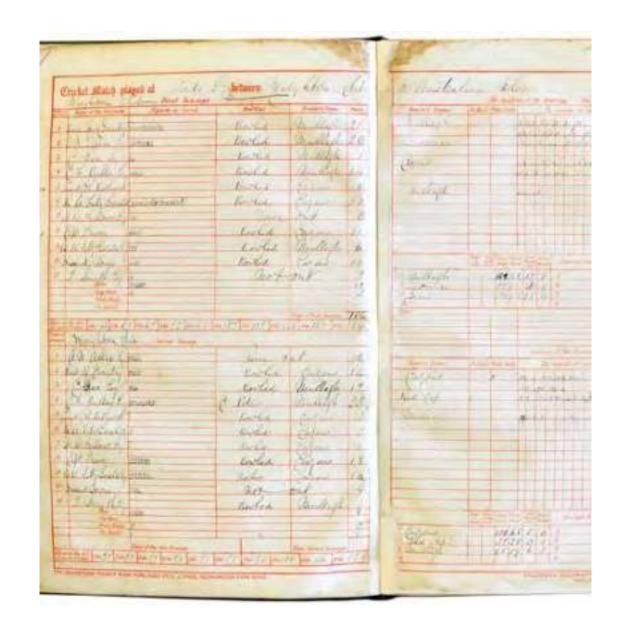
## Shared User Pathways

- Highlights of this package include:
  - Completion of the Hamilton to Coleraine rail trail.
  - Development of trails on rail reserves to Balmoral, Dunkeld, Branxholme and Byaduk.
  - Trails to improve access to Volcanic Plains Masterplan sites.
  - Trails to connect the township of Dunkeld with the Grampians Peak Trail and Dunkeld Arboretum.



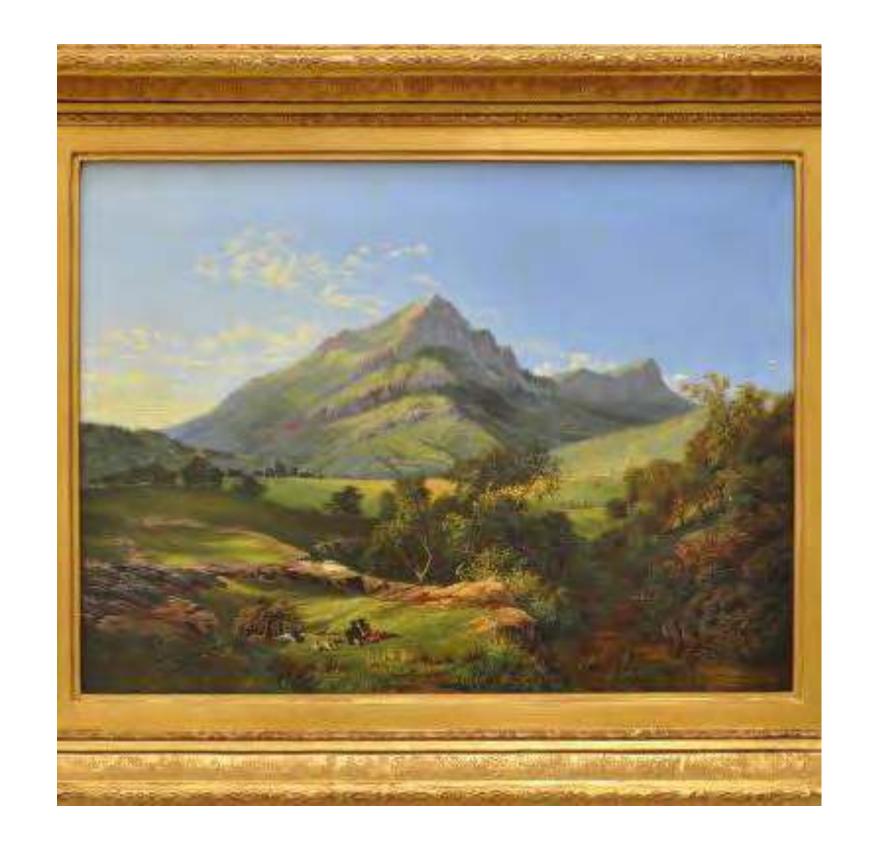
## New Hamilton Gallery

- Stewards of an internationally significant collection of Art, which includes objects encompassing a multitude of mediums, time periods, traditions and cultures. This important collection is unique within Australia and is a true reflection of our multicultural history and culture, with a strong focus on Japanese, Chinese, European, First Nations and Australian art.
- Former Director of the National Gallery of Australia (NGA) and National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) Gerard Vaughan stated, "Hamilton's art collection is of remarkable quality and has valuable works that cannot be found in any other institution within Australian and in some case within the world."
- Our current gallery has inadequate display space, poor community and visitor facilities, and inappropriate storage and climate control systems.



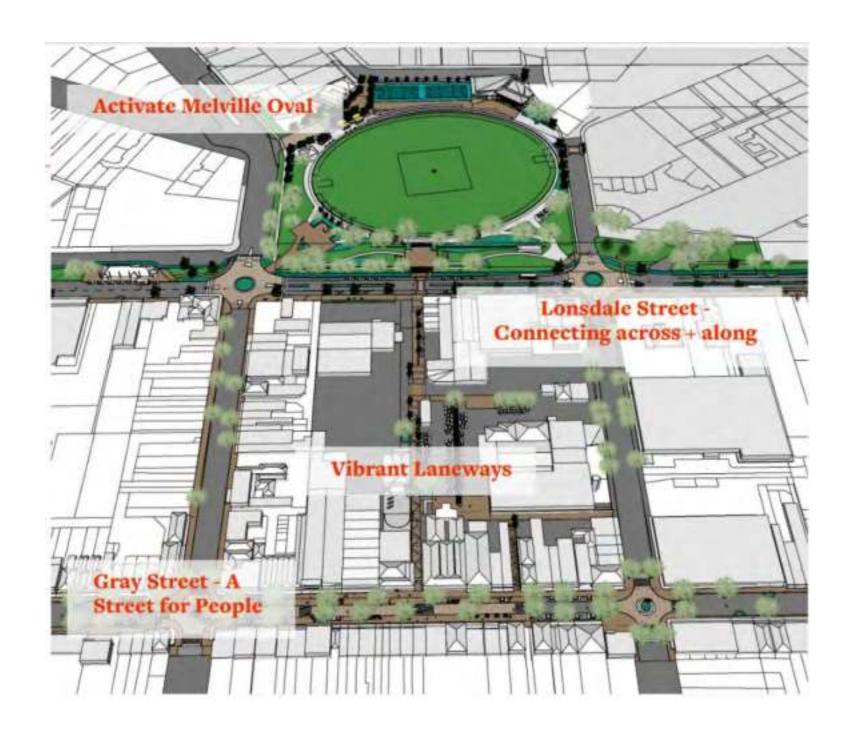
## New Hamilton Gallery

- Moving from under 1,000 sqm to over 5,000 sqm
- \$50m plus project
- Detailed design stage
- Our partnerships will drive visitor numbers.

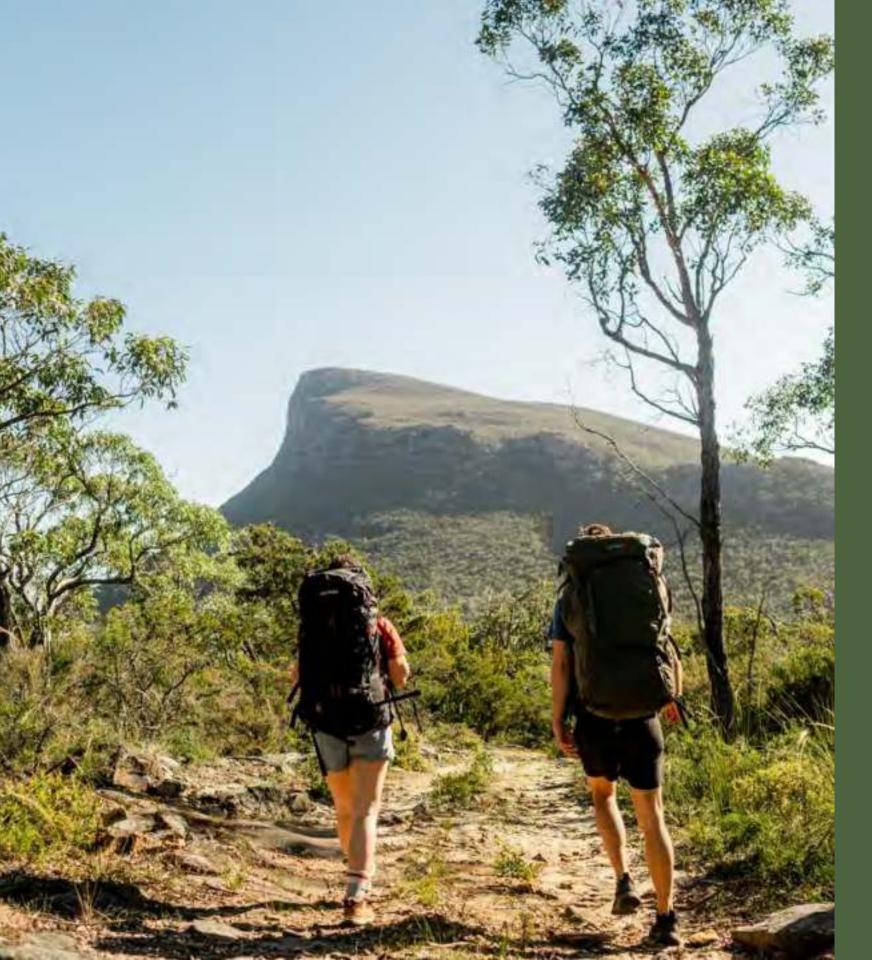


## Hamilton CBD Revitalisation

- Untouched for approximately 30 years
- Poor condition, dangerous, uninviting, and lacking community spaces
- Strong vision for a new CBD:
  - Town square
  - Activated laneways
  - Multiuse spaces
  - Public Art
- Strong linkages between gallery and street scape
- Support visitor experience.



# MARC SLEEMAN CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER GRAMPIANS TOURISM



## **Grampians Tourism Update**

February 2023

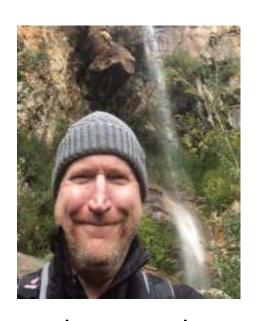
#### **Grampians Tourism Team**



David Jochinke Chair



Marc Sleeman CEO



Robert Crack
Head of Marketing
& Partnerships

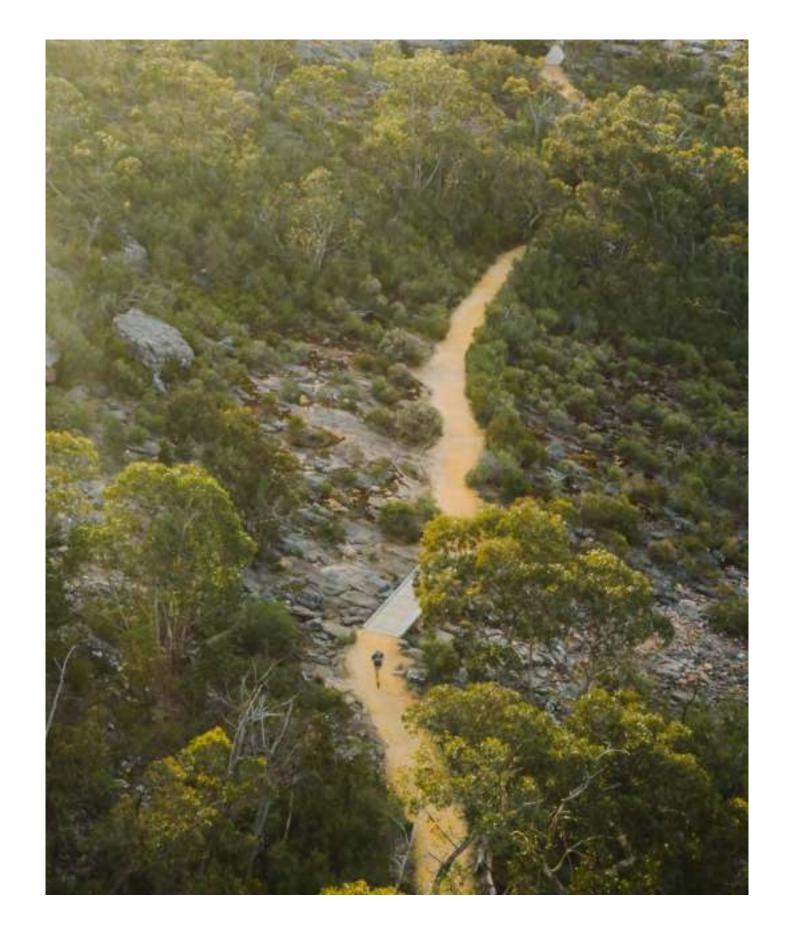


Amber Cummings Industry Executive



Caron Fraser Administration





#### Our Vision

The Grampians region will be recognised as one of the world's great sustainable nature-based tourism destinations.

#### Our **Purpose**

Facilitate a cooperative and vibrant visitor economy that supports growth of tourism expenditure and length of stay. To add value to our partners through promotion and increased brand awareness.



#### **Strategy Summary** – Guiding Principles

Goal

Increase the VALUE of the visitor economy in the Grampians region.

Value = Economic Growth + Community Inclusion + Civic Pride.

Key Priorities Destination Marketing

Industry Development Product Development

**Partnerships** 

Investment Attraction

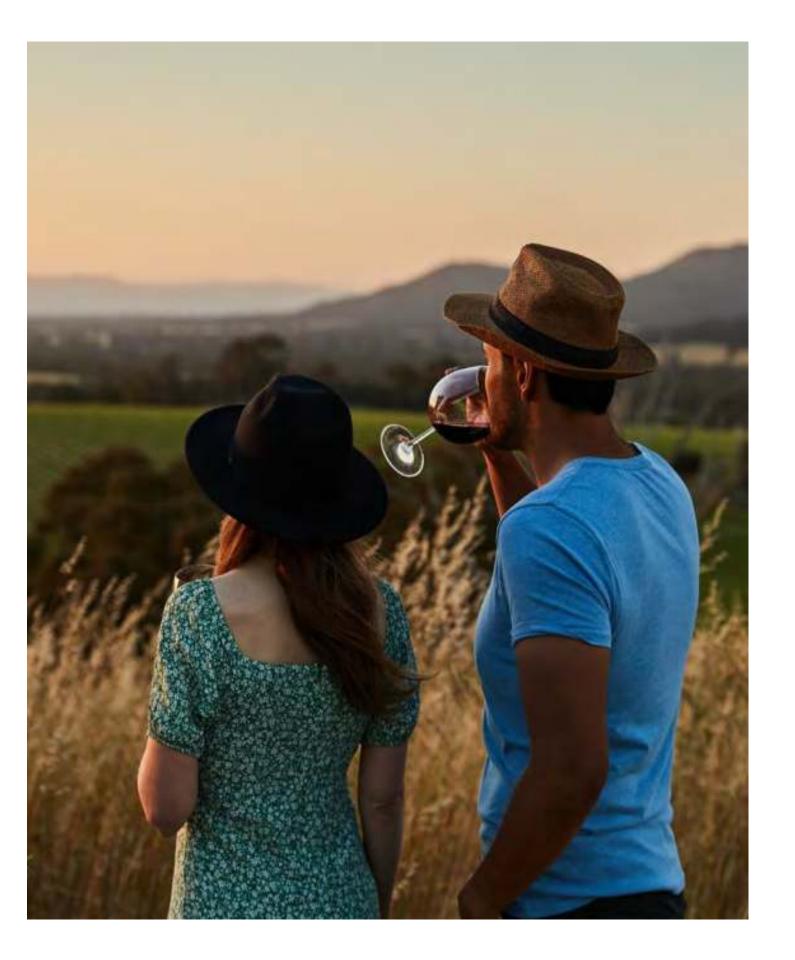
Messaging

Be <u>targeted</u> to specific high value audiences

Promote length of stay & yield through focus on the product and/or experiences

Strengthen and raise awareness of <u>our brand</u> attributes

Encourage <u>dispersal</u> throughout the region



#### **Tourism Research Australia**

#### Latest results year ending September 2022

- Grampians ranked number 3 in the state in terms of an increase in overnight spend (+44%)
- Domestic visitation reached nearly 2.2 million (+37%)
- Visitors spent over 2.7 million nights in the region (+25.7%)
- In total, domestic visitors spent \$602 million on travel to the Grampians (+35.9%)
- **Regional Victoria** continued to lead the overall recovery with domestic overnight spend now well above the pre-pandemic performance at \$9.6 billion (+35%) versus \$7.1 billion.



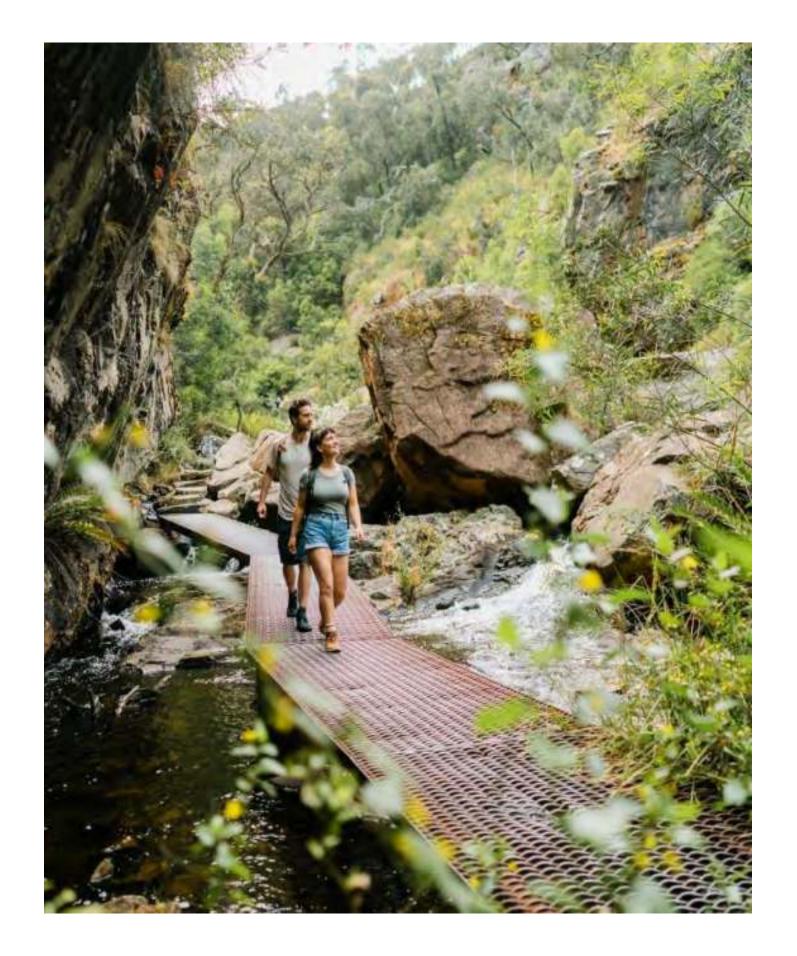


#### **Tourism Sentiment** Index

Leading Places: The 100 Most Loved Travel Destinations
Around The World

- Annual word-of-mouth data from 2022, unprompted and unbiased
- Intensive study of 1.6 billion online conversations and content pieces publicly available for over 21,000 global destinations
- Most in-depth study of its kind
- Victorian destinations included: Yarra Valley, Great Ocean Road, Greater Geelong & The Bellarine and Melbourne.



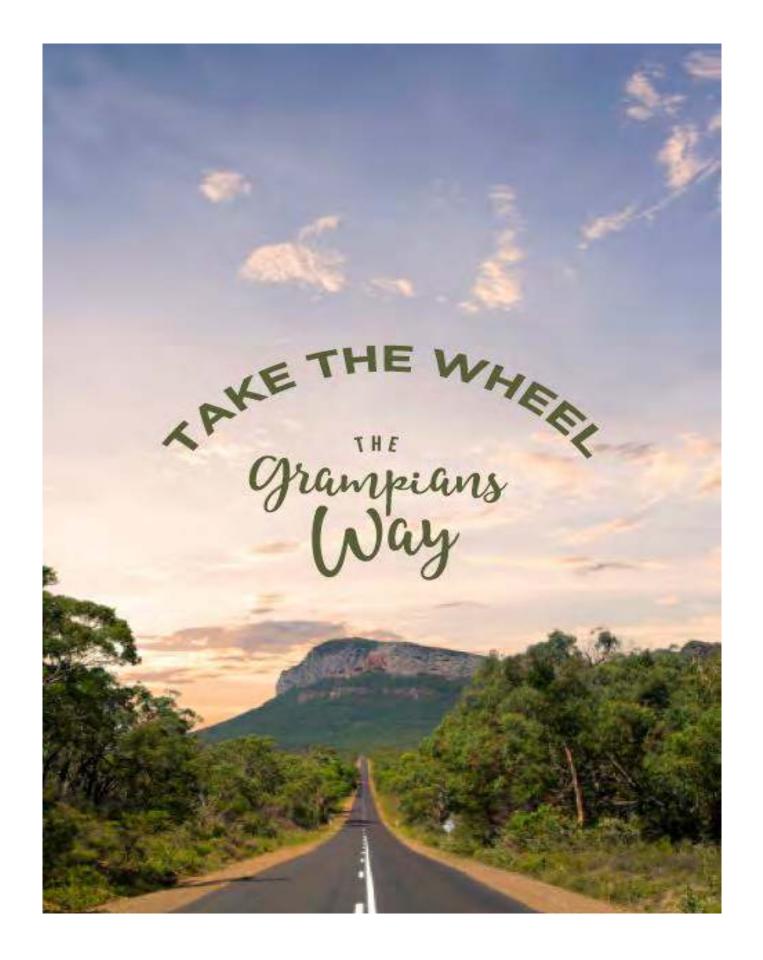


#### **Industry Partner** Program

#### Essential to the success of our region

- Over 60 partners in 2022/23
- Industry contributions directly support our regional branding and destination marketing into key metro and regional markets
- Together we can show travellers why the Grampians region is a 'must visit' destination.





#### Marketing the Grampians

- Why is it important? Low awareness with a 10% recall in key markets.
- Number one goal: To raise the profile and front-of-mind awareness of the Grampians region.

Highly engaged audience and industry-leading consumer reach







#### **Marketing** Quarterly Report

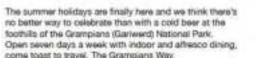
#### **October to December 2022**

- 3.4% Followers growth
- 1.1M Advertising reach
- 7.8K Operator conversions
- Blog content has been viewed 7K more times this quarter when compared to last, with our evergreen content performing the best
- Just over 50% of the way to our goal of increasing website visits by 10%, with half a year to go.







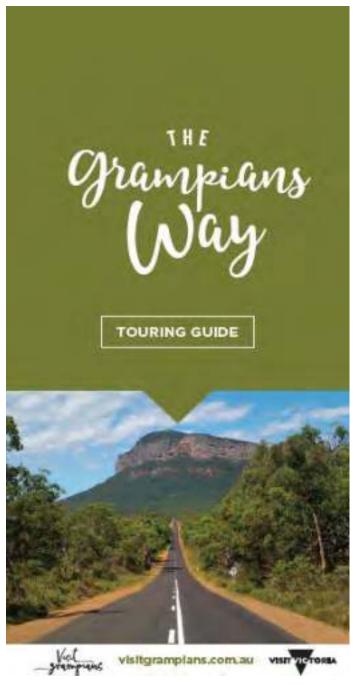


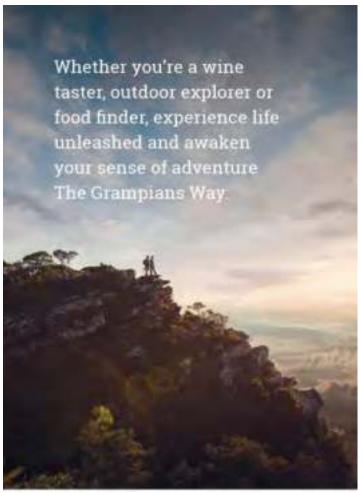


#### Industry **Toolkit**

- Provides guidance and resources on how the brand can be leveraged in marketing materials by operators and stakeholders across the region
- The Grampians Way is both literal and figurative, being a physical touring route as well as an invitation to escape the every day and experience a change of pace
- Covers the brand, brandmarks, photography, communications and shared content
- Printed and pdf copies available.







From that magical moment at dusk in the mountains to eerie wanderings around Ararat's spine-chilling J-Ward Gaol, the Grampians region is the ultimate road trip destination.

In winter find a wonderland of cascading waterfalls, open fires and even a touch of snow. In spring, the Grampians come alive with dazzling wildflower displays. In summer, escape the heat to tranquil streams and vast lakes and in autumn road trip to wineries and farm gates. Discover the best of the region by following a Grampians self-drive touring itinerary at visitgrampians.com.au

#### **Touring Guide Map**

#### Features:

- Accommodation
- See & Do
- Eat & Drink
- Wineries
- Arts & Culture
- Aboriginal Rock Art
- Lookouts & Walks
- Waterfalls

Plus QR codes to access additional visitor information.





#### **Industry Strengthening Program**

Mentoring sessions and workshops to upskill our operators including:

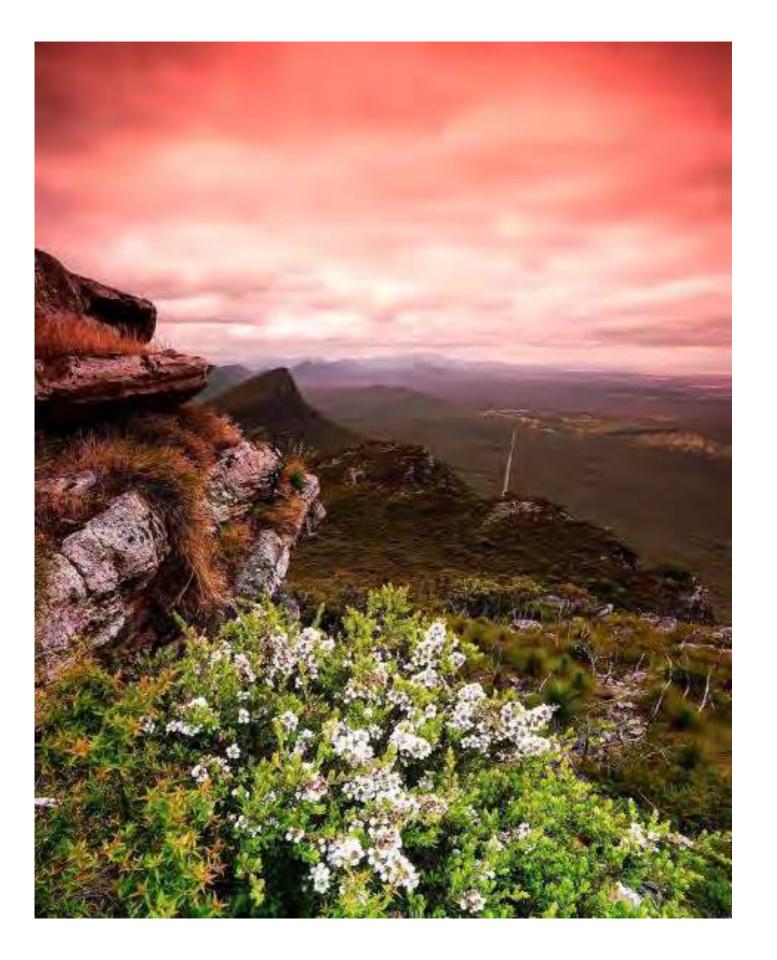
- PRIME Mentor Program with DTM Tourism
- GPT Friendly Business Training with Communityvibe
- Product Development Training with Tourism Ninja
- Wine Training Program with Grampians Wine Cellars
- Revenue Management with RevenYou
- Regional Digital Coaching with Tourism Tribe via VTIC
- Media Spokesperson Training with Crisis Shield
- Marketing Mentor Program with Myers Strategic Marketing

#### To come:

Sustainable Tourism Program with Tourism eSchool – EOI

grampians tourism

 Industry Forums: 20 April (Eastern Grampians) and 15 June (Northern Grampians).



#### **PRIME** Mentor Program

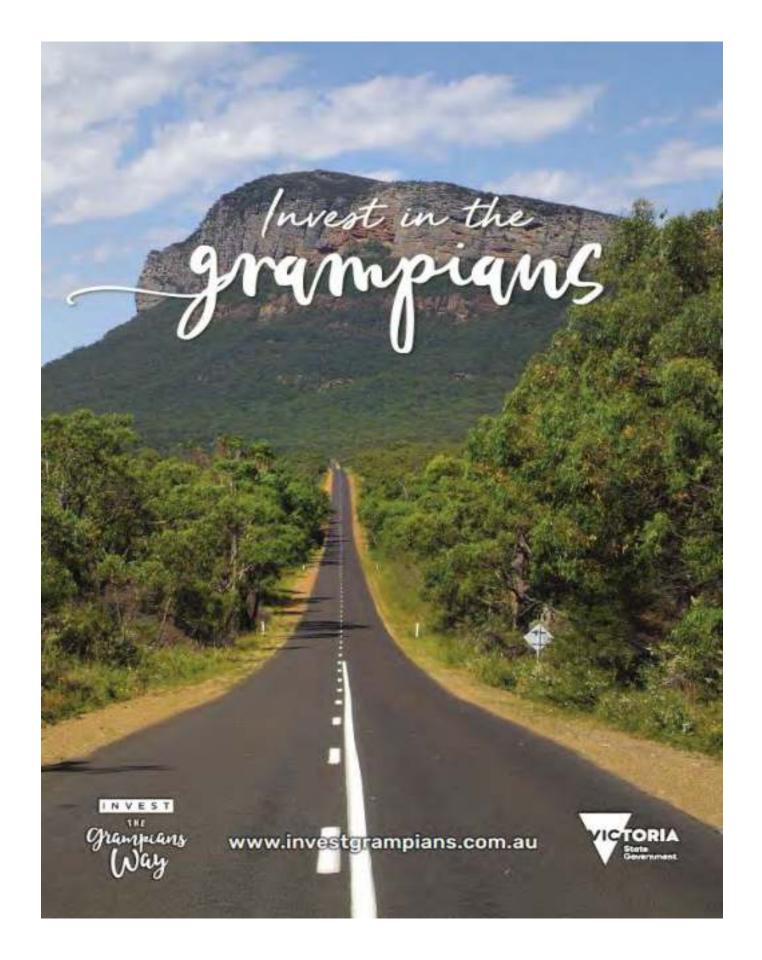
Bespoke program with DTM Tourism to guide the development of new or refreshed visitor experiences and enhance operations and marketing skills.

Over 20 operators were involved across our four regions

Participating operators in the Southern Grampians:

- Grampians Retreat, Dunkeld
- Southern Grampians Cottages, Dunkeld
- Petschel House, Hamilton
- Bochara Wines, Henty Wine Region.

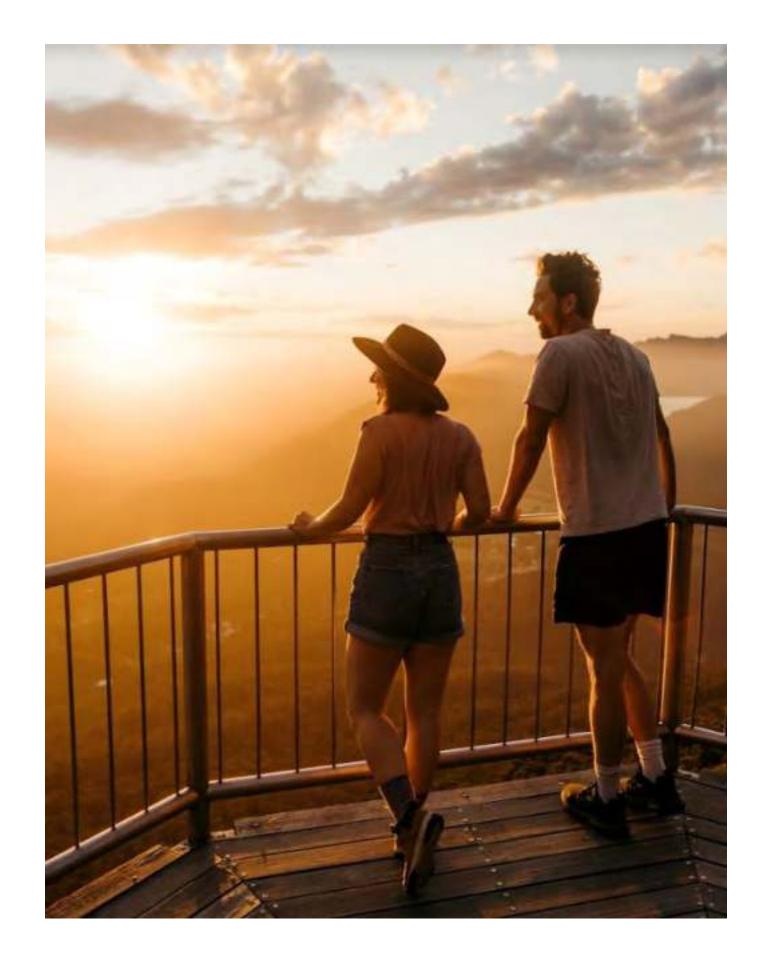




#### Strategic Investment Project

- State Government \$200K Project Investment
- New Strategic Tourism Investment Plan and Investment Prospectus provide direction for sustainable product development
- Identifies several game-changing projects and supports the attraction of both public and private investment
- Steering Committee includes Parks Victoria and LGA partners
- \$250 million investment in visitor experiences already in the pipeline.

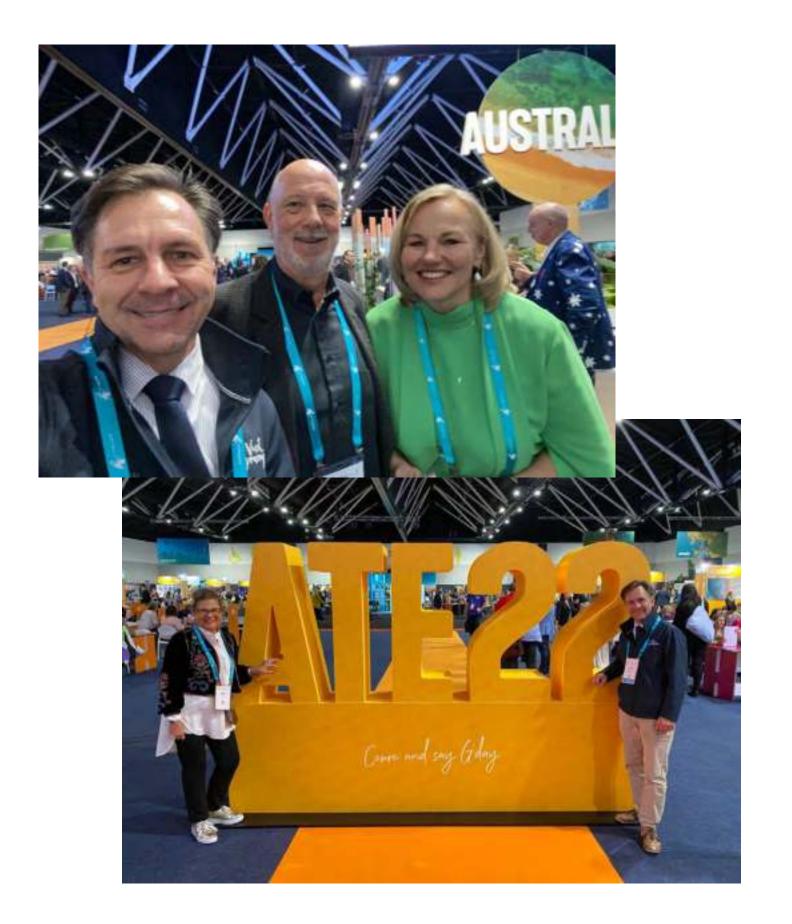




## **Destination Management Plan**& Local Area Action Plans

- State Government \$100K Project Investment
- New Destination Management Plan for the region and 4 x Local Area Action Plans
- Project Control Group includes LGA partners, DJSIR and GT
- Advisory positions: Visit Victoria, Regional Development Victoria, Parks Victoria and Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park Traditional Owner Groups.
- To be delivered by 30 June.





#### State & National Industry Events

#### The GT Team hits the road

#### **March**

- VTIC 2023 Vision Summit, Melbourne
- VV & DJSIR RTB Forum, Melbourne
- TA Destination Australia Conference, Sydney
- TA RTO Forum, Sydney

#### **April/May**

 TA Australia Tourism Exchange (ATE23), Gold Coast in support of the Great Southern Touring Route.



# KERRYN BENBOW OWNER GRAMPIANS RETREAT

## BACKGROUND GRAMPIA

From high flyers to chilled bushies with big dreams.....





Grampians Retreat is located on the base of Mud-Dadjug (Mt Abrupt) bordered by the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park to the north and the Wannon River to the South.

80 acres

- Bushland, Wetlands, Healthlands, River flats, the Wannon River
- Mt Abrupt, the Piccaninny and Mt Sturgeon
- Marked walking trails, adventure activities, indigenous landmarks
- Native bush foods, orchids, rare and endangered species, biodiversity
- Wildlife, birds, habitats

## ACCOMMODATION & CATERING

92

- Beds in Cabins
- 14 Cabins sleeping 3 to 12

160

Cabins, glamping tents and 3 person tents

200

Recreation Hall capacity

160

92 in dining hall and up to 160 including outdoor area





## CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

"Let nature be your teacher."



- Studies have shown that students who learn outdoors develop:
  - a sense of self
  - independence
  - confidence
  - creativity
  - decision-making and problemsolving skills
  - empathy towards others
  - motor skills
  - self- discipline and initiative.
  - Outdoor education supports emotional, behavioural and intellectual development.









# THANK YOU



Kerryn Benbow Grampians Retreat 0405 385 359

info@grampiansretreat.com.au www.grampiansretreat.com.au



# CHARLIE RICHARDSON GRAMPIANS AREA CHIEF RANGER PARKS VICTORIA



## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung peoples as the Traditional Owners of the Gariwerd landscape.

We pay our respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and the Elders from other First Peoples communities who may be here today.



### Parks Victoria – Our Story

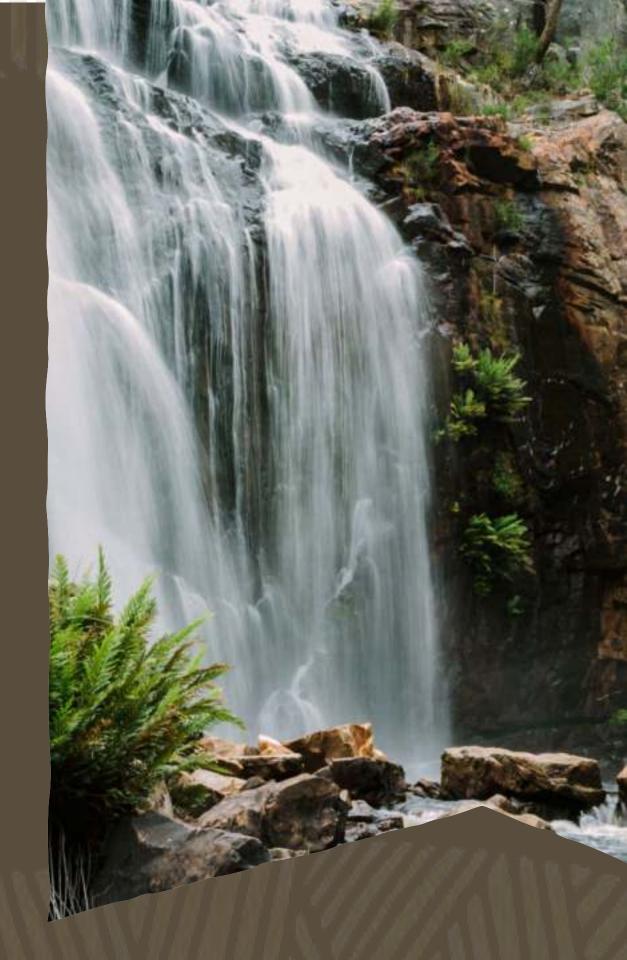
- Parks Victoria is the custodian of more than 3,000 parks, reserves and waterways.
- 4.1 million hectares 18% of Victoria's land mass (equivalent to the size of Switzerland)
- 106 million visitors annually
- Extremely diverse range of nature-based experiences

There's no better place to see Australia's incredibly unique wildlife, inspiring landscapes and memorable nature-based experiences.



## Grampians (Gariwerd) Area

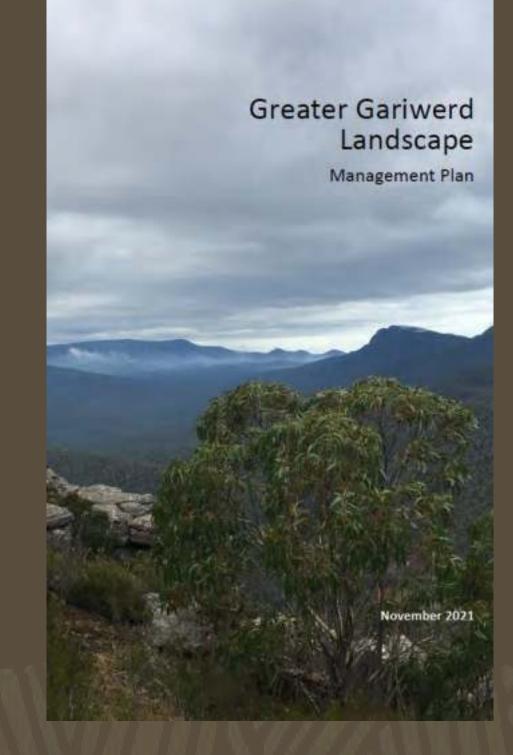
- Just under 200,000 ha (approx. 170,000 ha of that being the Grampians National Park)
- Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan is the guiding Parks Victoria document to drive and support sustainable tourism across the landscape
- Approximately \$18.5 million investment from the Victorian Government's economic stimulus package from 2020:
  - Brambuk The National Park and Cultural Centre
  - MacKenzie Falls upgrade and revitalisation
  - Grampians Peaks Trail trailheads





### Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan

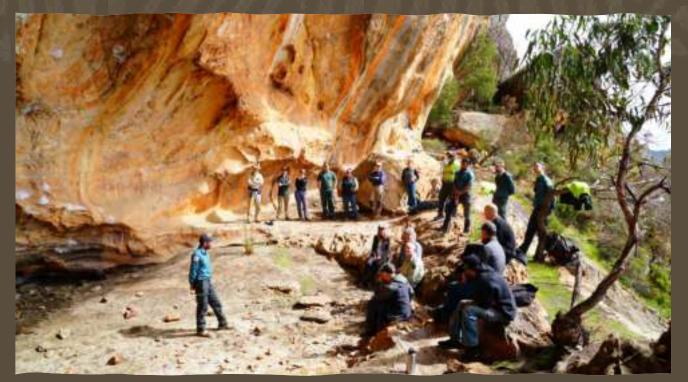
- Developed in partnership with Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, and Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.
- Strategic guide to the management of parks and reserves within the Gariwerd landscape.
- Sets the foundations for how Parks Victoria and Traditional Owners can transition to a joint management plan in the future.











A living Cultural Landscape



**Healthy Country** 



Experiencing Gariwerd



Caring for country together

# Tourism and Commercial Services

- Parks Victoria is working with key tourism organisations, including Grampians Tourism, Visit Victoria and local Visitor Information Centres to promote sustainable tourism
- 180 licensed tour operators who offer organised tours and recreational activities
- In partnership with Traditional Owner groups to support cultural tourism opportunities and experiences



# Reimagining Brambuk: The National Park and Cultural Centre

Parks Victoria has taken on the interim management of Brambuk. The Cultural Centre is currently closed as we undertake a comprehensive planning process in partnership with Gariwerd Traditional Owners, to deliver:

- Brambuk Business and Masterplan to confirm long term vision
- Prioritisation of \$5.8M in development works
- Works will deliver a refresh of the Brambuk visitor precinct under Traditional
   Owner management, as well as re-connecting Traditional Owner communities
   with Brambuk

#### **National Park Information Centre**

- Remains the one-stop shop for Grampians National Park information, including for the Grampians Peaks Trail
- Café, retail space and access to the outdoor visitor precinct and nearby walking trails
- School holiday programs and seasonal cultural activities



# **Grampians Peaks Trail**

- Over 15 years in planning and construction
- A new 160km hiking experience
- 13-day/12-night hike or do it in sections
- 11 new camp sites
- Officially opened on 12 November 2021.



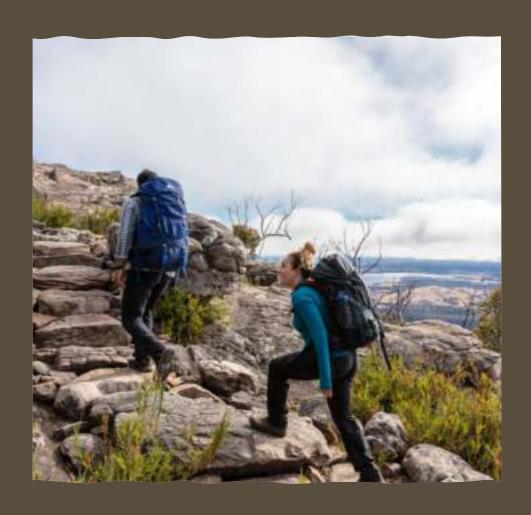
#### Planning, Design & Construction



**Master Plan** 



**Cultural Engagement** 



**Minimal Impact** 



Tent platform at Duwul

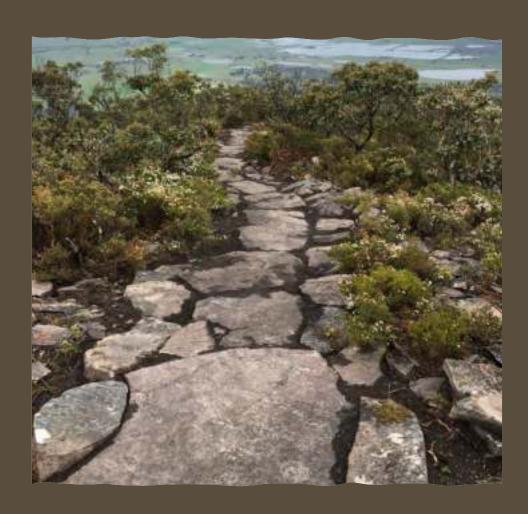


Raised walks at Werdug

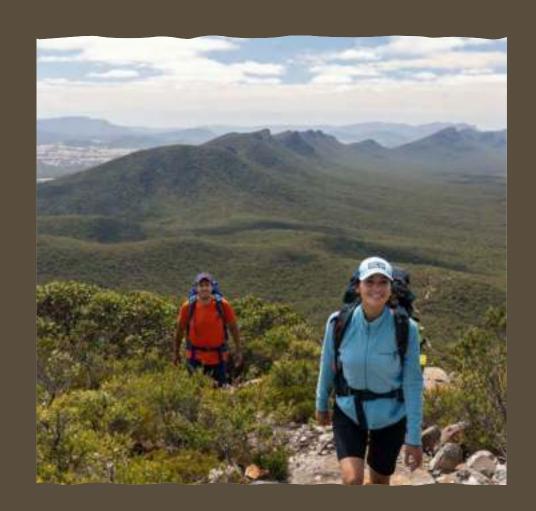


Toilet Facilities

#### Planning, Design & Construction



**Sustainable Construction** 



Accounting for Vegetation loss



**Architectural Design Awards** 

Outcomes
Grampians Peaks Trail



#### **Outcomes**



Over 10,000 visitor nights booked



Over 300 13-day/12-night itineraries booked



65% hikers are 35+ years old, 56% women



**Expecting busy Autumn season ahead** 

#### What's Next?



Build awareness and momentum



**New Project: Falls To Hotham** 



Capitalise on new opportunities



**New Project: Coastal Wilderness Walk** 

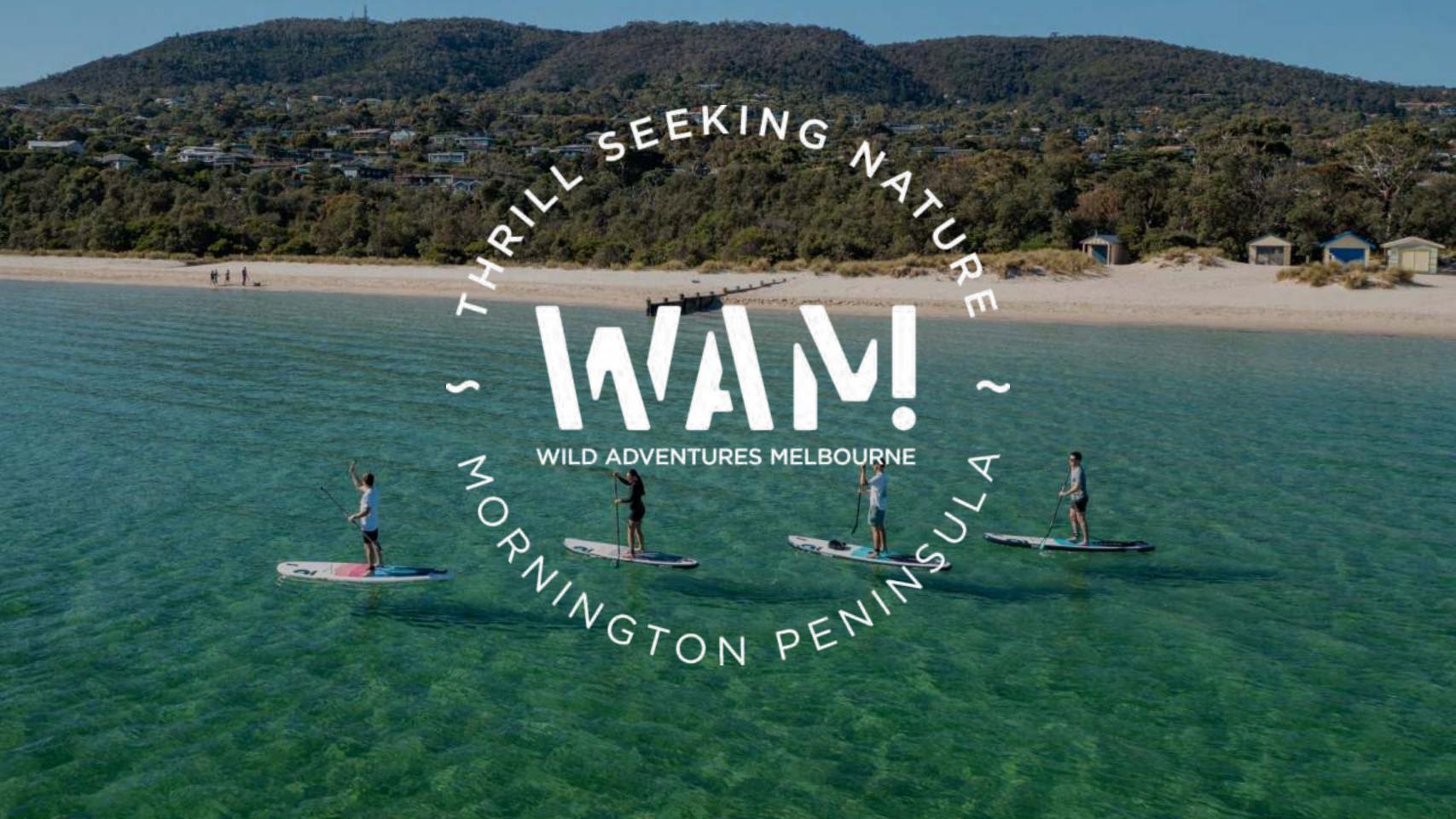
# NIC COOPER REGENERATIVE TOURISM SPECIALIST TOURISM ESCHOOL





Regenerative Tourism Specialist







Small Tourism Business Based on the Mornington Peninsula Launched in 2020

Multi-activity Day Adventure Tours

Small Group Adventures

Only offer human-powered outdoor activities

Foundations of business built to be regenerative

#### Sustainable Tourism Accredited

Advanced Ecotourism & Climate Sustainable Tourism Action Certified with Ecotourism Accredited Australia Business



Sustainability Storyteller with



Certified

Tourism Australia

One of the only tour operators in Australia to become a certified B-Corp

Corporation

Finalist Premiers Sustainability Awards

australia

Scored 99% in Strive 4

Sustainability Scorecard

Our Eco Credentials

**Finalist** 

Premier's

Sustainability Awards 2021

#### Wild Adventures Melbourne

as successfully completed

and has achieved a total score of







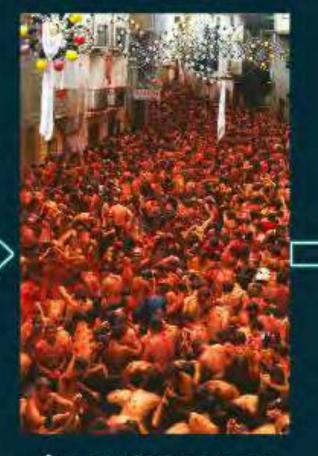


Mornington Peninsula National Park – Wild Adventures

# WAM - Based on a true story



Origins of WAM from 1995



An entire career in tourism



Settled on the Mornington Peninsula



Lifelong dream could finally become a reality



WAM launched in 2020

# There was one big challenge







Witnessing and researching the destructiveness many forms of tourism is causing

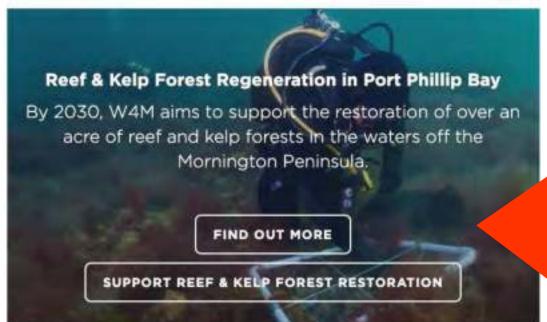
Identifying the negative impacts that could happen as a result of WAM

Finding solutions to tackle these to support the local environment and community



#### DISCOVER THE INSPIRATIONAL PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES W4M IS SUPPORTING











% of profits go back into initiatives that support local community and environment.



# WAM Eco-Packs

















Beneficiaries: 100% profit to Pt Phillip Bay shellfish restoration & clean-ups



We collect plastic waste conservation and clean-ups

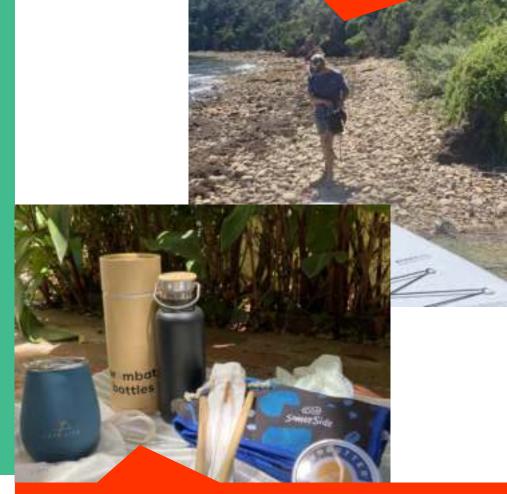
We sell the coasters

We collect plastic waste

We collect plastic waste

Upcylcled into beautifully crafted drinks coasters

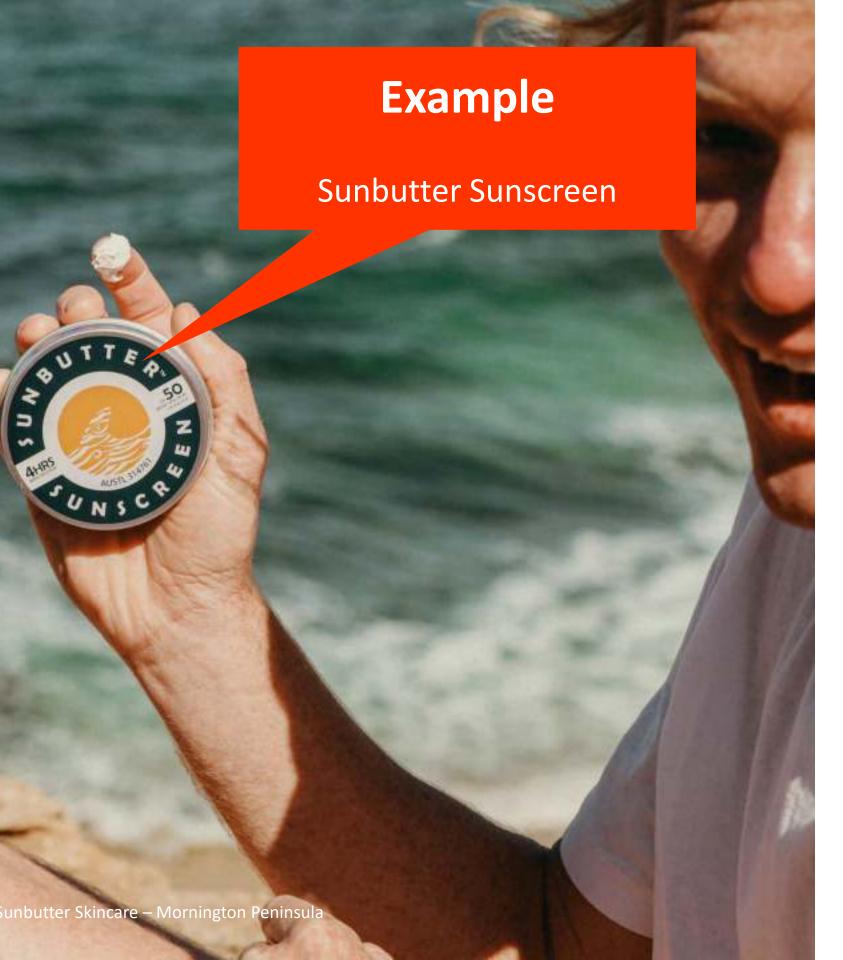
Problem 1: Plastic Waste found on tourSolution: Portable bins



Problem 3: Plastic waste reentering ecosystems Solution: Coasters 4 Coasts Problem 2: Waste caused by tours

**Solution:** Provide guests with reusuable items





**<u>Learnt</u>** about many sunscreens being toxic to humans, the ocean and containing 'sunspheres'

**Realised** there was a good chance some customers would be wearing a toxic sunscreen

**Researched** the best possible reef-safe option based in Australia

**Eliminated** the need for WAM guests to wear toxic sunscreen

**Enhanced** the customer experience by providing it for free

**Supported** a local business (and their projects)

**Protected** our oceans and marine life

**Budget was the last step** 







#### Thrill-Seeking-Nature

#### SUPPORTING

Nature Stories Culture Trade Wellbeing

#### YEAR 1 IMPACTS

Offsett CO2 emissions Achieve Sub Zero Waste on tours Avoid single use plastics Environmental restoration 196 For the Planet Member **Climate Action Certified Business** Sustainable Tourism Accreditation Advanced Eco Tourism Certified

#### YEAR 2 IMPACTS

Carbon neutral Integrate long term action for local environment and community Climate Action Leader certification Respecting Our Culture Certification

#### YEAR 3 IMPACTS

**B** Corp Certification Social Traders Certification Start Not-For-Profit Foundation Climate Positive Business

# HCALLY MADE, PACKED AND SHIPPED Wombat Bottles - Reid Cycles Wombat Bottles - Reid Cycles

SUPPORTING ECO-CONSCIOUS LOCAL BUSINESSES

#### 2030 TARGETS

Plant over 4000 tress with MP Koalas on the Mornington Peninsula Restore one acre of regenerated reef In Port Phillip Bay with The Nature Conservancy

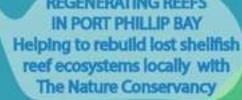
#### PARTNERS SUPPORTING REFORESTATION Sunbutter Sunscreen

The Other Straw **Reld Cycles Dindi Naturals** Zorali



Reef safe & plastic free sunscreen, sand free towel (made from 14 upcycled plastic bottles), reusable coffee cup, plastic free & reusable drinking bottle & bamboo straw







#### **ACKNOWLEDGING, RESPECTING AND** SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS CULTURES AND BUSINESSES



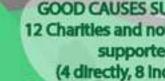
#### GOOD CAUSES SUPPORTED

supported (4 directly, 8 indirectly)



#### 12 Charitles and not-for-profits







23T CO2 OFFSET ANNUALLY

Planting native trees locally with MP Koalas to support koala and wildlife habitat





**ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION** 3Kg of litter removed each adventure tour











#### **BACK OF HOUSE**

Office powered by renewable energy B Corp Banking, Mobile and Internet Harness rainwater to clean vehicle Home compost food scraps/boxes Paperless, no waste policy





Plant of Regenerative Tourism

**ENVIRONMENT** 

POSITIVE

**IMPACT** 

**CONSUMER** 

The simplest approach to acting as a purpose driven tourism business

#### **COMMUNITY**

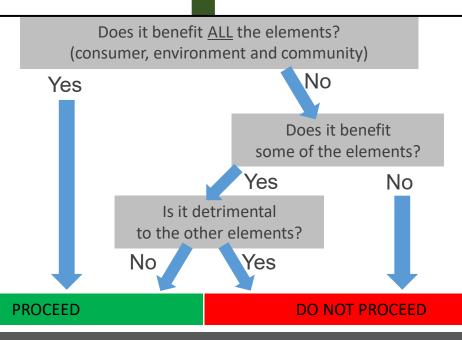
Includes:

- Employees
- Culture
- Local Businesses

Front of house – shout it from the rooftops

#### **Behind the scenes**

- the roots of your decisions





## New Industry Leading Program for Grampians Tourism

May – June 2023

Immersive + Hands On + Inspiring
Action

Live Workshop (9 May)
Online Webinars
Individual Mentoring (12 business)

### Modules



Sustainable/ Regenerative Tourism

Marketing + Storytelling



Create Exceptional Experiences



Partnerships + Collaboration

Module 1
Explore 8 focus areas and how to apply in your business

Very practical, hands on + inspiring live workshop

Module 2
Sharing your story with impact

Best practice marketing including social media and website

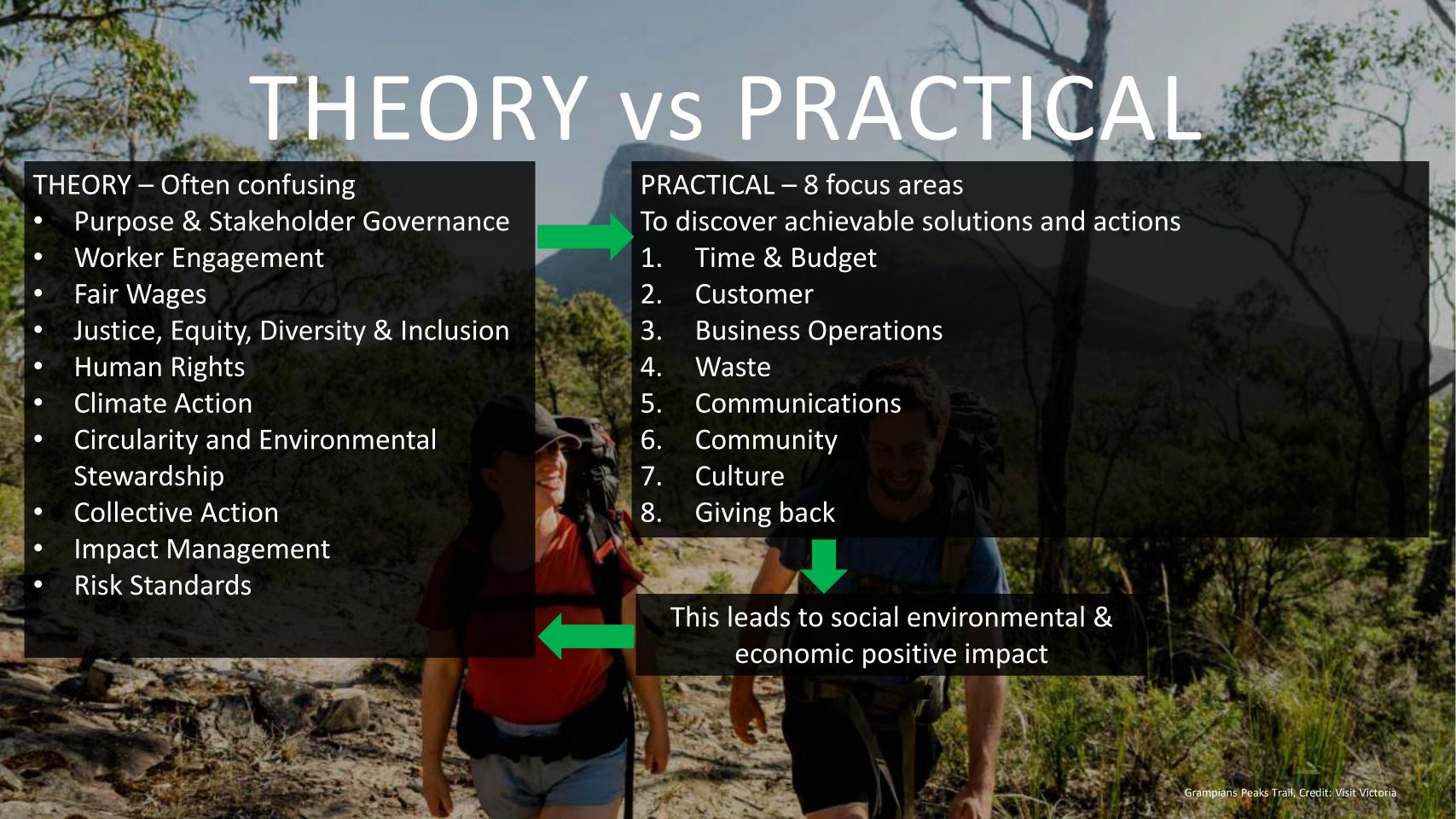
Module 3
Creating advocates for life

New/enhanced experience

Guest communication tips + online reviews/listings

Module 4
Activating meaningful
partnerships to build a
thriving tourism business

New sectors + businesses, distribution + sales partnerships





## THANKS FOR JOINING US!