

Mountain Lion – FAQ Update

Can I climb or go bouldering at Mountain Lion?

We're currently asking visitors to not access the area known as 'Mountain Lion'. This is to avoid causing potential harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage that was rediscovered in December 2023. A full cultural heritage assessment will be undertaken in 2024 to inform how the site will be managed in the longer-term

Why was this area open for climbing if there was cultural heritage?

This was a rediscovery of cultural heritage that hadn't been identified in past surveys. We know that Gariwerd is incredibly rich with cultural heritage, and it is not unusual to find more in previously assessed areas.

How/when was it discovered?

It was rediscovered recently as part of a program of rock art protection works.

Does this mean cultural heritage is likely at all the other 'designated' climbing areas – and therefore those could all be closed at some point in time?

Parks Victoria regularly monitors rock climbing and bouldering areas to better understand visitor activity. Where relevant new information about values becomes available, previous management decisions will be reviewed in consultation with Traditional Owners

How can climbers have confidence they aren't harming cultural heritage at designated climbing sites?

We ask that climbers in Gariwerd refer to the listing of designated climbing areas and refer to any onsite signage. If climbers and other visitors observe, or suspect cultural values are present then we encourage them to contact Parks Victoria.

What specifically was rediscovered?

The rediscovery at Mountain Lion includes a rock art panel, quarry sites and artefacts. Further assessments of the entire site will occur in the coming months.