

# Grampians National Park

## About Brambuk

### What is Brambuk

In the early 1980's Aboriginal communities from the coast to the Wimmera came together with the idea to have a place where their unique culture could be preserved and promoted, and a place that created work opportunities for their people. After years of hard work and with the assistance of the State Government, Brambuk opened its doors in 1990.

Brambuk's mission is to document, recover, conserve and present the indigenous culture of the Gariwerd region. It plays an important role in employment and training of aboriginal people, education of the community, reconciliation, advancement of aboriginal people and tourism in the region, as well as providing a greater understanding of Western Victoria's unique Aboriginal peoples

Brambuk remains proudly 100% Aboriginal owned and operated. It is a self sustainable operation of great pride to its communities, and known throughout Australia and the world.

Brambuk conducts Cultural and educational activities, operates the Bushtucker Café and gift shop, as well as providing Grampians National Park Information services on behalf of Parks Victoria.

All of these functions come under the banner of Brambuk the National Park & Cultural Centre, a place where we interpret the past, the present and the special place that is Gariwerd.

Brambuk continues to keep alive the culture of the Djab Wurrung and Jardwadjali; the traditional peoples of Gariwerd and the region.

"Nga Keenatt Brambuk Badeema Djilga Gariwerd"  
(Brambuk welcomes you to try, taste & feel the culture of Gariwerd)

### Grampians-Gariwerd

While most people know the mountain range as the Grampians, Aboriginal people have always known this place as Gariwerd. (Gary-word)

Gariwerd is a special place, a place central to the dreaming of Aboriginal people, particularly the Djab Wurrung and the Jardwadjali the traditional people of this area. Their descendents are still at Gariwerd involved in maintaining the culture and the stories of the land.

Gariwerd is a very spiritual place for Aboriginal people, because of the dreaming stories and the abundance of food, water and shelter it provides. This is evidenced by the number of occupation sites found in Gariwerd and the fact, that still today Aboriginal people are drawn to this place. Further evidence of the Aboriginal presence in the area is the fact that Gariwerd contains 90% of the rock art sites in Victoria.

"Gariwerd is at the heart of our culture. This mountain range formed in the dreamtime is the crucible of our culture, we carry an obligation to maintain our traditions and protect the land.

What happens to this land effects us deeply, any damage to it wounds us. It is our duty to speak on behalf of this land and to maintain its integrity. We cannot ignore our land or leave it unprotected.

What you do to Gariwerd you do also to us. We want you to treat it with respect and be reconciled by its wisdom. Please treat it gently for it is our life and all our futures."



### **The Brambuk Building**

On arrival you'll notice the Brambuk building is unlike any other. The communities wanted a building that was unique, a building that blended in with the mountains of Gariwerd and one which showed each communities connection to it.

As you make your way around the multi-award winning Brambuk building, look for the letter that corresponds with the description below:

**BR** (Bricks) –The mud clay bricks on the right hand side as you enter the building is a reminder of the Ebenezer Mission at Antwerp.

**S** (Stonework) –The stonework on the chimney and watertraps outside the building represent the sonehouses and fishtraps of Lake Condah.

**W** (Whale) –The theatre room ceiling represents the Southern Right Whale with the central beam as the backbone and the rafters as the rib cage.

**P** (Poles) –The tree trunks throughout the building represent Native forest and bushland The forest provides shelter, warmth and food

**R** (Ramp) –The Walkway to the Upper represents the Eel, which has been a staple food for our people

**C** (Circles) –The building is made up of five circles to represent the five Aboriginal communities who formed Brambuk.

**S** (Shelters)-The fireplaces represent the occupation and rock art shelters found in the Gariwerd area.

**BU** (Bunjil's Seat) –The wooden seat represents Bunjil, with his arms out caring for you, as you sit looking into the fire. Bunjil is the creator Spirit of the Aboriginal people in south eastern Australia.

The building itself is shaped in the form of a cockatoo in flight, the totem animal of the Djab Wurrung and the Jardwadjali.

