



Parks Victoria May 2020 Board Meeting Report

The Parks Victoria Board met on Tuesday 26 May to discuss a range of important issues and opportunities. The highlights of the meeting are outlined below.

Staff Welfare

The Board emphasised its ongoing focus on staff welfare in the context of COVID-19 and park re-openings.

Retiring Employee – Steve Branch

The Board invited Steve Branch to the meeting to congratulate him on his 46 years of service to Parks Victoria. Steve started work with the Forestry Commission in 1974 and has made significant contributions to the local Macedon area since that time. As a Field Services Officer, Steve has played a central role in fighting fires, constructing park assets, maintaining plant and equipment, managing the vehicle fleet and ensuring visitor safety from tree hazards. Most notably, he remembers reconstructing the top of Mount Macedon after the devastating Ash Wednesday fires, removing charred remnants to create the new Harbison Picnic area and refurbishing the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Reserve. He is recognised as a passionate mentor, passing down his strong trade skills to younger groups of project fire fighters, fields services officers, rangers and all others. Steve has helped reshape Mount Macedon from a forestry site to the magnificent and much-loved Macedon Regional Park that stands today. The Board applauded Steve for his important legacy and wished him well in his retirement.

Conservation Regulator

The Board met with the Chief Conservation Regulator, Kate Gavens. Ms Gavens briefed the Board on the background and establishment of the Office of the Conservation Regulator, its regulatory framework, priority deliverables and reform agenda. Ms Gavens also outlined the Regulator's engagement with Parks Victoria and future opportunities. The Board commended the great working relationship between the Office of the Conservation Regulator and Parks Victoria and the co-operation in pursuing shared goals.

Safety Results

The Board recognised continued improvement in the organisation's safety performance, noting a current Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) of 10.8 and improved hazard reporting.

Corporate Plan and Annual Business Plan and Budget

The Board reviewed the *Draft Interim Corporate Plan 2020-24* and the *Draft Interim Annual Business Plan and Budget (1-year Corporate Plan) 2020-21* and had a productive discussion around upcoming initiatives and approaches due to COVID-19 and expenditure constraints.