

Code of conduct for climbing/abseiling

- Most climbing and abseiling in Victoria is in National and State parks and other areas of public land controlled by Parks Victoria and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. Some places, such as Aboriginal sites, peregrine nesting areas, wilderness areas, tourist sites and conservation zones might have more stringent conditions on climbing than generally apply. Check with local offices and work centres before you climb.
- Climbing and abseiling will continue to be allowed and accepted as a valid recreation in most of Victoria's parks if climbers are responsible, observe the basic principles of conservation and respect local climbing values, ethics and traditions.

Climbing

- Chipping of rock is both illegal and unethical.
- Avoid indiscriminate or excessive use of chalk. Using coloured chalk to match the rock is less intrusive.
- Do not change the nature of an established climb, for example, by retro-bolting or by adding or removing other fixed equipment, without approval of the first ascent team or Parks Victoria and NRE.
- Do not leave litter such as old slings, lolly wrappers etc. Take all your rubbish home.
- Vegetation, even on cliff faces, is protected. Wire brushing to remove mosses and 'gardening' in cracks and gullies is not permitted. Use slings to protect trees while belaying or abseiling if belay anchors are not provided.

General

- Before establishing a new climbing area, the approval of the land manager must be obtained. In existing (ie. Documented) climbing areas, be conscious of minimising the visual and environmental impact of new climbs:
- Do not mark the start of climbs. Good descriptions in guide books should suffice.
- Minimise the use of bolts (only for safety purposes) and avoid using galvanised bolts.
- Make yourself aware of and respect access arrangements and restrictions. On private property, do not disturb livestock or damage crops.
- Access to cliffs is only permitted on existing tracks. Contact Parks Victoria or Natural Resources and Environment if you believe a new track is required, or if a route to a cliff needs marking.
- Do not disturb vegetation, nesting birds or other wildlife. All native plants and animals are protected.
- Respect sites of geological, cultural or other scientific interest.
- Respect established climbing traditions in ethical matters such as the use of chalk, bolts etc. Avoid indiscriminate or excessive use of fixed equipment.
- Your life is precious. Think ahead and use a helmet! Helmets are required for all participants on commercial instruction programs.
- Large groups can create problems of crowding and excessive damage around cliffs.
- If you plan to take a group of ten or more people climbing, you are required to register to ensure there is space.
- Vehicles must stay on roads open to the public; off-road driving is illegal. Mountain bikes may be used on management roads except in the Grampians National Park and Wilsons Promontory National Park.
- Avoid disturbing soil at the top and base of cliff areas and hence prevent erosion.
- Abseil and climb over rock ledges where possible.
- Do not use popular lookout sites as belay points or abseiling venues as it causes danger to passive onlookers as well as unwarranted tampering with climber's equipment.
- Observe cliff and track closures where applicable.

- Climbers should adhere to NRE Park and Fire and other regulations.
- Abide by the 'clean climbing' ethic.

Climber's Code

- Find out about and observe access restrictions and agreements. Ensure access by not disturbing livestock or damaging crops.
- Use existing access tracks to minimise erosion and the need to mark new routes.
- Do not disturb nesting birds or other wildlife. Help protect all native plants; respect sites of geological, cultural, or other scientific interest.
- Do not leave any rubbish. Keep campsites clean. Avoid all risk of fire.
- Dispose of human waste in a sanitary manner. Do not pollute water supplies.
- Respect established climbing traditions in ethical matters such as the use of chalk, pitons, bolts etc.
- Avoid indiscriminate or excessive use of fixed equipment.
- In essence, climb clean
- Responsible climbing will protect cliffs and ensure continued rockclimbing

From http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/1process_details.cfm?note=20