Grampians Peaks Trail Stage 2
Noxon Giffen Architects with McGregor Coxall
Victorian Architecture Medal

In a list of outstanding contributions to architecture in Victoria, the Grampians Peaks Trail Stage 2 by Noxon Giffen Architects with McGregor Coxall is recognised for the highest levels of design accomplishment in the contemporary world we live in.

Grampians Peaks Trail Stage 2 demonstrates a resolution that is inextricably drawn from its context and the rich possibilities of contributing to a greater understanding of who we are and the land we live in. Modest but powerful, the project demonstrates how architecture can be strong and meaningful without having to be loud or over present. It is indeed a complete result of its context.

With an 18-year process of creation, importantly, an empowered Traditional Owners group led the site selection and indeed suggested the buildings take a step back so as not to overshadow the beauty and narrative of the landscape they sit in. Moreover, to enable a comprehensive appreciation of it.

The buildings demonstrate remarkable attention to detail, not only in the result itself but in designing for a challenging construction process. As collections of unassuming, yet especially well-crafted pavilions, camping platforms and self-contained amenity structures, the different settings use a common design language and sophisticated detailing, with differentiation arising from an individual material and response to the geology, geography, vegetation, and outlook of each setting.

The project demonstrates an extraordinary level of sensitivity, commitment and collaboration between the client group, the design team, contractors, and the local Indigenous communities. The Grampians Peaks Trail Stage 2 is a catalyst for the sensitive exploration of the Gariwerd region, enhancing the experience of visitors and the community in general, and creating ongoing development of our collective understanding of Country and the vital role architecture has in that.