



**A resource for common land management
issues on small rural properties**

SMALL RURAL PROPERTY GUIDE



Your reasons for moving to a small rural property may be varied but if you want to connect more with the great outdoors, live a healthy lifestyle, create a more sustainable future for your family and support your local community, this brochure will provide information on common issues and where to go for further information.



You have an opportunity to play your part in this community and improve not only your property but the surrounding landscape including nearby bushland. By adopting sustainable living and farming practices, adopting responsible weed and pest animal practices and undertaking revegetation with local native species you can be a good neighbour. This brochure provides some basic information about issues faced on small rural properties. If you are keen to improve your property - read on.

The Mornington Peninsula is a highly productive area with diverse agricultural industries including beef cattle, sheep, alpacas, vineyards, horticulture, fruit and vegetable growing and more. You may elect to grow some of your own fruit and vegetables and share this produce with family and friends, or exchange excess produce at a 'food swap'. If this does not appeal, there are many opportunities to buy locally.

There are local Farmers Markets and community markets which feature fresh produce. Check out:

http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Whats_On/Markets_on_the_Peninsula for details.

In addition, the Farm Gates Guide lists local producers who sell directly to the public across the Mornington Peninsula:

http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Whats_On/Local_Produce/Farm_Gates





Weeds

Weeds and their management can take up a lot of time and money if you approach the task haphazardly. Be a good neighbour and control weeds on your property efficiently before they spread. Weeds impact the productive value of your land and some weeds can make horses and other livestock sick. If left to grow, weeds quickly get out of control and become difficult and very expensive to eradicate.

See the Mornington Peninsula Shire's weed guide for a photographic guide to weeds of the Mornington Peninsula:

http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Environment_Waste/Environment/Flora_Fauna/Weeds_Guide

Weeds for which you should be especially alert are: Blackberry, Gorse, Ragwort, Bridal Creeper, Spear Thistle, Patterson's Curse, Capeweed, Boneseed, Karamu, Ivy and Sweet Pittosporum.

Note that noxious weeds can be removed without a permit. See this website for a list of noxious weeds:

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/protecting-victoria-from-pest-animals-and-weeds/legislation-policy-and-permits/new-noxious-weed-and-pest-animal-declarations>

Before removing non-noxious woody weeds on your property, please contact the Statutory Planning Team of the **Mornington Peninsula Shire on 5950 1010** to ascertain whether you require a planning permit.

Your local Landcare group can be very helpful with advice on weed control:

<http://morningtonpeninsulalandcare.weebly.com/groups.html>

Pest Animals

Pest animals impact urban and rural areas and cause problems by competing with native wildlife for food and shelter and preying on livestock as well as native animals. Pest animals can also spread diseases, weeds, cause erosion and degrade waterways. Common pest animals on the peninsula include foxes, feral cats, European rabbits and hares and black rats. On the Mornington Peninsula, cats must be contained within the property 24 hours a day. Please look after our wildlife by controlling your cat and dog.

The best approach to pest control is a community-wide program using a number of methods. There are some fox and rabbit baiting programs running on the Mornington Peninsula. Contact your local Landcare group to discover if there are current programs running in your area and how to become involved.

For more information on pest control, see

<http://www.pestsmart.org.au/>

Native Plants and Animals

When revegetating on your property, always try to use local native species. Our native fauna have generally adapted to these species and many rely on them for food and shelter.

Plant lists specific to your local area are available from the Mornington Peninsula Shire – see:

http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Leisure_Tourism/Parks_Reserves/Shire_Nursery

You can also download a brochure with images of common indigenous plants of the Mornington Peninsula:

http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Environment_Waste/Environment/Flora_Fauna

Plants can be purchased from the Mornington Peninsula Shire's Nursery, "The Briars", 450 Nepean Hwy Mt. Martha, **Tel. 5974 8417 | Email nursery@mornpen.vic.gov.au**

A list of indigenous plant nurseries on the peninsula can be obtained by emailing: **Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au**

Before you remove native vegetation you should be aware that legislation exists to protect native vegetation, wildlife and natural resources. Several pieces of legislation may affect you. The Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act) is the key piece of Victorian legislation for the conservation of threatened species and vegetation communities and for the management of potentially threatening processes. More information on this Act can be found here:

www.depi.vic.gov.au/environment-and-wildlife/biodiversity/native-vegetation

Resource Contacts

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, LAND, WATER AND PLANNING

Responsibilities

Agricultural activities, pests, native vegetation and wildlife, game licences, land and soil health, weeds, mining.

Contact

Ph: 136186

Website

<http://delwp.vic.gov.au/>

PARKS VICTORIA

Responsibilities

Parks management.

Contact

Ph: 131963

Em: info@parks.vic.gov.au

Website

www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

PORT PHILLIP & WESTERN PORT CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Responsibilities

Preparing the Regional Catchment Strategy and coordinating its implementation. Promoting cooperation amongst key organisations in the management of the environment, and promoting community awareness and understanding.

Contact

Ph: 8781 7900

Em: enquiries@ppwcma.vic.gov.au

Website

<http://www.ppwcma.vic.gov.au/>

MORNINGTON PENINSULA LANDCARE NETWORK

Responsibilities

Landcare coordination.

Contact

Jacqui Salter,
Landcare Facilitator

Em: Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au

Ph: 5950 1279 (Tues/Thurs)

Or 0408 213 079

Website

<http://morningtonpeninsula.landcare.weebly.com/>

SOUTHERN RURAL WATER

Responsibilities

Licences for drawing water from waterways or from underground for irrigation, dams and bores, blue green algae reporting.

Contact

Ph: 1300 139 510

Em: srw@srw.com.au

Website

<http://www.srw.com.au/>

MELBOURNE WATER

Responsibilities

Supply water, Treat sewage, Recycle water, Protect rivers and creeks, Manage flooding Oversee projects including the "Stream Frontage Program".

Contact

Ph: 131 722

Website

<http://www.melbournewater.com.au/Pages/home.aspx>

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY (EPA)

Responsibilities

Licences/approvals for waste, disposal, advice on waste, chemical spills, pollution, reporting for littering, fish kills, waste entering a waterway or escaping from a property.

Contact

Ph: 1300 372 843

Website

www.epa.vic.gov.au

COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY (CFA): SOUTH EAST AREA

Responsibilities

Protect lives and property against fire.

Contact

District 8 - Dandenong

Ph: 9767 1800

Fire emergency: 000

Vic Bushfire Info Line: 1800 240 667

Website

www.cfa.vic.gov.au

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE (SES)

Responsibilities

Emergency services.

Contact

Ph: 132 500

Website

www.ses.vic.gov.au

Land Management Information and Resources

There are many on line resources available that provide information on land management issues. A selection of particularly useful apps and on line tools are listed here:

“Common ground” The Mornington Peninsula Shire has recently developed a series of fact sheets for the Small Rural Landholders Network, including:

- I’ve bought a (rural) property – now what?
- Animal welfare basics
- Managing a small beef herd
- Managing soil on my property
- Water for livestock

Go to http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Services_For_You/Business_Support/Agriculture_Matters to download your copies.

There are also a series of fact sheets for new rural landholders on the Victorian Government’s website:

http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/new-landholders?utm_source=dpi-vic-gov-au&utm_medium=vanity-url-301ssredirect&utm_content=new-landholders&utm_campaign=agriculture-and-food

Biodiversity Interactive Map:

www.depi.vic.gov.au/environment-and-wildlife/biodiversity/biodiversity-interactive-map

This interactive mapping tool allows users to zoom in on their property and access information about Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC’s), threatened flora and fauna.

The Museum of Victoria has developed a field guide app which combines detailed animal descriptions, photos and sounds. It provides a valuable reference that can be used in all environments:

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/discoverycentre/mv-field-guide-app/>

Weed ID: The Ute Guide application is designed to assist farmers in the identification of the most common weeds found in paddocks throughout Australia. www.grdc.com.au/Resources/Apps

See also “Weeds of the South East” (2011) by Richardson et al., CSIRO.

Field Guide to Pest Animals of Australia app has been developed by the Invasive Animals CRC (PestSmart) and contains species profiles for 53 of Australia’s worst pest animals, including: species descriptions, photo galleries, footprints, audio calls, maps, control techniques, quick links to plenty of pest control resources:

www.feral.org.au/mobile-phone-apps/

Information on chemicals and guidance regarding their use (as well as information about cancelled and archived products) can be found on the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority’s iPhone app:

www.apvma.gov.au/

The following brochures are available from Manton & Stony Creeks Landcare Group. Contact David Maddocks on 5989 6212 or Em: david.maddocks@bigpond.com

- Revegetation Planner
- Create Practical Shelterbelts using Native Plantings
- Develop a Woodlot for Fuel and Wildlife Habitat
- Landslips and Erosion
- Protect and Enhance Remnant Vegetation
- Convert Problem Wet Areas into Valuable Habitat
- Enhancing your Property’s Dam

Farms can be dangerous

Most rural land is private property, so please observe all signs and respect that if gates are closed they are closed for a reason – do not open gates without permission.

Potential hazards on farms include:

- Farm machinery (including chainsaws)
- Stock moving and stock which can pose a hazard (e.g., bulls)
- Farm operations, weed spraying, mowing, fencing & tree felling
- Feral animal control - the use of traps, poisons and shooting as means of control represent a hazard to unauthorised persons and animals

See www.farmsafe.org.au/ for more information.

Injured wildlife on the peninsula

Wildlife Help on the Mornington Peninsula (WHOMP)

All hours 0417 380 687 / 0417 395 883

Animalia Shelter, **All hours 0435 822 699**

www.animaliawildlife.org.au

Crystal Ocean Wildlife Shelter **ph: 0407 787 770**

Bushfire

Mornington Peninsula Shire has high fire danger days every summer. Be fire-ready by planning what you and your family will do and where you will go in a bushfire. Simple things you can do to prepare your property for a bushfire include locating woodpiles away from your home, clearing leaf litter from around your home, cleaning out your gutters regularly and managing your vegetation.

See the CFA website to find out how to prepare your family and property for fire :

www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fire-ready-kit/

CFA’s Landscaping for Bushfire is an excellent publication that provides advice on how to plan and maintain a garden in high fire risk areas.

www.cfa.vic.gov.au/fm_files/attachments/plan_and_prepare/landscaping/landscaping_for_bushfire.pdf

Mornington Peninsula Shire undertakes fire management works in over 260 bushland reserves. If you live near a reserve and would like to know more about the fire management plan for the reserve, or how you can assist in reducing fire risk please contact the Shire’s Natural Systems Team on **5950 1263**.



Landcare groups on the Mornington Peninsula are involved in a wide range of activities, including:

- Community education & awareness
- Biodiversity protection and enhancement
- Erosion and salinity prevention and control
- Soil health management
- Water quality protection
- Pest plant and animal management
- Improvement of agricultural production
- Land management knowledge transfer and social networking.

Joining a Landcare group gives you access to a range of information and support including:

- Local knowledge about land management
- Expert speakers on a broad range of agricultural and environmental topics
- Access to funding, equipment to hire and many other benefits

There are 11 Landcare groups on the Peninsula and new members are always welcome.

Contact your Landcare Facilitator, Jacqui Salter, to find out more:

Em: Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au

Ph: 5950 1279 or 0408 213 079 (Tues/Thurs)

Joining Landcare is a great way to make positive, affirming and reassuring connections with members of your local community. You may also receive great advice and feedback in relation to land management. Many of those whom you meet will have had experience tackling the problems which you are likely to encounter.



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