The Mornington Peninsula features more than 200 bushland reserves. These remnant areas of bushland are complex living environments that provide food and shelter to support many species of protected flora and fauna. Bushland needs to be preserved to ensure that it can continue to be enjoyed by future generations.

**Domestic Animals**

Cats and dogs are part of our family unit and as such it is our responsibility to control their wandering habits. It is always traumatic to see your cat or dog with dead native animals. One of the most important things you can do to look after our native fauna and biodiversity values is to be a responsible pet owner.

### What you can do

**Cats:** By law cats must be kept within your property boundaries at all times.

**Dogs:** Don’t let dogs roam the neighbourhood. Dogs are prohibited in most bushland reserves. If dogs are permitted in a reserve they must be on a leash at all times.

Heavy penalties apply to owners who allow their pet to roam.

For more information regarding dog and cat regulations refer to the Shire’s website www.mornpen.vic.gov.au

**Example:** Research has shown that a domestic cat can kill an average of 54 small native animals per year.

**Friends Groups**

- Get actively involved in the bush.
- Enjoy the outdoors.
- Gain a great sense of achievement.
- Get to know your community.

Friends Groups consist of members of the local community who are the heart and soul of bushland reserves. Friends Groups are people who, with the Shire’s consent, undertake activities to positively impact the bush. Mornington Peninsula Shire has more than 50 Friends Groups volunteering their time.

Some members enjoy getting their hands dirty, some contribute by publishing the newsletter and some prefer to keep track of the dollars. Whatever support you can provide, even just moral support, would be greatly appreciated. Just think, you could be the person who saves a patch of bush for future generations to enjoy. So come on, get involved NOW!

**Key Contacts**

For further information regarding ‘How to be a good bushland neighbour’, about the animals and plants of the bushland or about any aspect of bushland management please contact the Mornington Peninsula Shire on: 5950 1263. The Shire’s Conservation Officers and bushland crews are happy to assist you.

Mornington Peninsula Shire: 1300 850 600

www.mornpen.vic.gov.au
Your garden

Stop plants escaping from your garden

Weeds are by nature good invaders. They out-compete or smother indigenous plants and attract exotic animals. A large proportion of bushland weeds result from exotic plants that have escaped private gardens or have been part of green waste dumped in the reserve.

What you can do

Remove any invasive weed species from your garden and replace them with locally indigenous plants (plants native to this area). They require less water and will attract native birds and animals to your garden.

Example: Cape Ivy is an invasive weed species that takes over and smothers and displaces indigenous plants. Once established in bushland it can be very difficult to remove.

Don’t dump garden waste

Dumping garden waste and lawn clippings into bushland reserves causes terrible damage. It creates fire hazards, smothers native plants, spreads weeds and increases nutrient levels that favour exotic plant and weed species.

What you can do

Take responsibility for your waste and dispose of it correctly. For more information on waste disposal visit www.mornpen.vic.gov.au. If you see someone illegally dumping rubbish contact the Shire immediately.

Heavy penalties apply to those who dump rubbish in bushland areas.

Preserve bushland barriers

Do not expand your lawn or garden into the bush or ‘improve’ the bush by planting.

This can cause public safety issues as well as hamper fire management works. Remember, if you would like to do any work in our reserves it needs to be authorised by your Conservation Officer and tie in with management plans for that reserve.

Leave the bush in the bush

Dead wood, whether lying on the ground or still standing, provides precious habitat. Logs on the ground are used for shelter from predators, breeding and feeding by insects, birds, mammals and reptiles. Dead wood plays an integral role in a healthy, functioning ecosystem.

What you can do

Please do not remove dead trees, logs or branches from bushland reserves or roadsides as this can have direct impacts on the plants and animals living in our reserves. It is illegal to remove dead trees, logs and branches from bushland reserves without written permission from the Shire.

Fire

Bushland reserves are managed to minimise the risk of bushfires occurring, whilst protecting the conservation values of the reserve. The Mornington Peninsula Shire manages vegetation (fuel) along the boundaries of bushland reserves to reduce the impacts of bushfire on neighbouring properties; but being prepared for bushfires does not stop at the reserve boundary!

What you can do

Reduce fire risk to your property:

• Remove flammable material 6mm or less in diameter.
• Clean gutters regularly.
• Remove rubbish and other debris from around the house.
• Cut grass so it is no higher than 7.5 centimetres.
• Clearly display your property number.

You should prepare your property well before the summer period. Contact the CFA for detailed information on preparing your home for the fire season, or visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au

If you have concerns over fire risk within the reserve, contact the Shire’s Municipal Fire Prevention Officer on: 5950 1871 or visit www.mornpen.vic.gov.au