



Victorian
Landcare
Program

Landcare would like to warmly welcome you to the Yarra Ranges and congratulate you on your recent acquisition in this naturally beautiful region. Owning and managing a property is very rewarding but also challenging at times.

As advocates for biodiversity and sustainable land management, we want you to know that Landcare is here to support and guide you. Together we can protect our waterways, land, and native flora and fauna, while effectively managing pest animals and invasive weeds across the landscape.

We encourage you to join a group in one of our three networks of passionate landcarers, whose members are committed to good stewardship of the land and its waters for future generations.

Yarra Ranges Landcare Network
yarrarangeslandcare.org.au

Nangana Landcare Network
nangana.net

Northern Yarra Landcare Network
northernyarralandcare.com.au

Landcare Information for Residents

Living with Wildlife

The Yarra Ranges is famous for its unique diversity of wildlife, including many endangered species. Getting to know the native animals living in your region creates an appreciation of the important role they play in maintaining a balanced ecosystem.

1. Protect and preserve natural habitat including dead trees and logs.
2. Do not feed wildlife — it disrupts their natural behaviours and diets.
3. If you find injured or sick wildlife call Wildlife Victoria on 03 8400 7300 (24hrs)
4. Contain your cat — Yarra Ranges Council has a 24-hour cat curfew. This means that cats must always stay within your property boundary. For advice on protecting your cat visit safecat.org.au
5. Avoid the use of barbed wire in fencing (particularly the top strand) to help prevent gliding possums, birds and bats becoming entangled.
6. Look for and report signs of mange in wombats such as hair loss, thickened skin, and sores. Visit mangemanagement.org.au

Protecting our Waterways

Waterways include creeks, rivers, ponds and wetlands. The health of a waterway is closely linked to the health of the surrounding land. How does water flow on your property? Which local waterway does it enter? Erosion, litter, runoff, and trampling are detrimental to health of our waterways. By implementing good land management practices you can help safeguard these precious resources:

- Retain native vegetation and replant degraded areas to stabilise soil and filter runoff.
- Keep pets and stock away from waterways to prevent erosion and preserve water quality.
- Practice responsible pesticide and herbicide use by following application and timing guidelines to minimise chemical leach through soils into waterways.
- If you own or manage a waterway on your property, you may be eligible for a grant for activities including revegetation, weed control and fencing. Find out more at melbournewater.com.au/services/grants/liveable-communities-liveable-waterways-program

Native Vegetation

Preserving native and remnant vegetation enhances biodiversity in the area and contributes to the overall health and aesthetics of your land. Retaining native vegetation in the landscape assists in protecting water quality, suppressing weeds, reducing erosion, and preventing the loss of valuable topsoil. It also provides shelter and food for native animals.

1. Avoid 'tidying up' bushland areas. Fungi play an important role in breaking down dead vegetation – leave logs and other natural mulch, such as leaf litter, for habitat and recycling of nutrients through your soil.
2. Planning permits are usually required to remove native vegetation. For permits and advice contact Yarra Ranges Council Environment Department on 1300 368 333 or yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Development/Planning/Planning-FAQs/Native-Vegetation
3. If you are adjacent to a national park, state forest or crown land reserve, contact DEECA before you modify any vegetation four metres inside your boundary. environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/native-vegetation-removal-regulations/exemptions-from-requiring-a-permit
4. For properties over 1 hectare register for free plants with the Ribbons of Green program at yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ribbonsogreen
5. Check your local indigenous nursery where tube stock is available at discounted rates. Research shows that tube stock has a higher rate of establishment and grow faster than larger and more expensive plants. yarraranges.vic.gov.au/PlantDirectory/Indigenous-Plant-Nurseries
6. For permits and advice contact Yarra Ranges Council Environment Department on 1300 368 333
7. Learn more at Yarra Ranges Council's local plant directory: yarraranges.vic.gov.au/PlantDirectory/Home



Dealing with Weeds

Weeds are unwanted plants growing outside their natural environment. They have many negative impacts. Weeds don't observe boundaries, so the best weed management occurs through coordinated works with neighbours at a landscape scale. Consider participating in Landcare or joining a 'friends of' group. Working together increases our chance of success and spreads the benefits beyond a single property.

Maintaining a vegetation cover of indigenous plants in natural areas and pasture species in agricultural areas will provide the greatest deterrent against weeds. Most weeds are opportunistic and are the first to colonise disturbed and over grazed areas.

- Control established weeds to limit spread. Eradicate small weed infestations and newly emerged weeds.
- Prevent weed fragments or seeds coming into or out of your property via vehicles, machinery, tools, hay, or grazing animals.
- Remove any weeds from your property that have been listed as 'noxious' under the Catchment and Land Protection Act. It is the legal responsibility of the land manager to do this. Find out which weeds are noxious at agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/protecting-victoria/legislation-policy-and-permits/consolidated-lists-of-declared-noxious-weeds-and-pest-animals
- Council's Weed Wipeout program helps people dispose of environmental weeds by providing them with a tip voucher. Find out more at: yarraranges.vic.gov.au/weeds



Pest Animals

Pest animals present a significant threat to our environment, our economy, and our wellbeing. If we work together and use a combination of techniques, we can reduce the impacts of pest animals in Victoria. Talk to your neighbour and your local Landcare Group about a co-ordinated plan and actions.

FarmerAssist helps link landowners with pest animal control. Find out more here: farmerassist.com.au

Rabbits

Rabbits are one of Australia's most destructive pests, causing large-scale damage to agriculture and conservation areas alike. All landowners are legally required to take measures to control rabbits on their property. For more information visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-animals/invasive-animal-management/integrated-rabbit-control

Rodents

To avoid accidental poisoning of birds of prey and pets, avoid using second-generation poisons. Instead, choose first-generation poisons (containing warfarin, coumatetralyl, and diphacinone) or rat traps.

Deer

Wild deer cause substantial damage to the environment and are a danger to motorists. Yarra Ranges Council employs a Land Management Officer who can offer advice on managing deer on your property or how to work with neighbours to control deer in local areas.

Indian Mynas

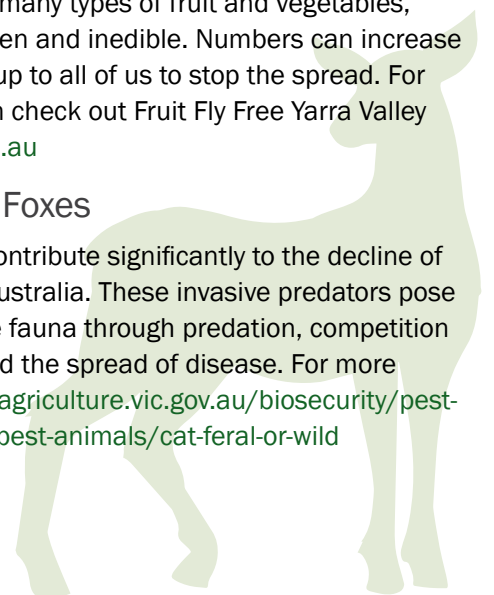
These introduced birds are extremely aggressive and territorial. They evict native species from their nests and hollows. For more information check out the Yarra Indian Myna Action Group web page: yimag.org.au

Queensland Fruit Fly

The Queensland Fruit Fly is a devastating horticultural pest that infests many types of fruit and vegetables, leaving them rotten and inedible. Numbers can increase rapidly, and it is up to all of us to stop the spread. For more information check out Fruit Fly Free Yarra Valley fruitflyfreeyv.com.au

Feral Cats & Foxes

Cats and foxes contribute significantly to the decline of species across Australia. These invasive predators pose a threat to native fauna through predation, competition for resources, and the spread of disease. For more information visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-animals/priority-pest-animals/cat-feral-or-wild



Fire Preparedness

Living in the picturesque Yarra Ranges comes with unique joys and challenges. One very real risk is bushfire. As a responsible property owner, we urge you to give priority to bushfire preparedness. This will safeguard your home and its natural environment and wildlife. It is your responsibility to make sure there are no fire hazards on your property by creating a well-maintained defensible environment around your home and property.

1. Reduce fine fuels such as long grass, fallen leaves and twigs from around your house, keep grass cut to less than 10cm.
2. Remove flammable items from decks and verandas (boxes, furniture, doormats, firewood and household items).

3. Keep gutters clear of leaf litter.
4. Consider the types of plants and vegetation you could use when planning your garden. No plant is completely fire-resistant but some species are less flammable than others.
cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property/landscaping
5. Never rely on a fire truck coming to your property, but ensure that your gates are wide enough for entry and exit of a fire truck, and that driveways and access tracks remain clear of overhanging branches up to a height of four meters.

Pets & Livestock

The health of our environment relies on balanced relationships of all species within a given habitat. With good management and public awareness, we can meet the needs of both domestic and native animals. Practicing responsible pet (and livestock) ownership behaviours is an important part of being a good owner. Irresponsible owners or stray animals can create serious problems for neighbours and the community, for example, attacks by dogs to humans, livestock or wildlife, attacks by cats on wildlife and transmission of zoonotic diseases.

- Under Yarra Ranges Council local laws, pets must be confined to their owner's properties at all times of the day and night (except when out on a walk, on a lead, or in off lead areas)
- Livestock owners are responsible for keeping their stock on their property and preventing them from straying. You may be liable for any damages arising from your stock straying including car accidents and property damage. Ensure your National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) and Property Identification Code (PIC) details are correct.
- A permit is required for the keeping of European Honeybees in order to prevent Varroa Mite and other diseases. If you require assistance contact honeybee.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au or call 136 186.



Getting help

For advice on managing waterways on your property contact Melbourne Water on 131 722 or melbournewater.com.au

Report illegal waste dumping to the Environmental Protection Agency on 1300 372 842 or epa.vic.gov.au/report-pollution/reporting-pollution

Visit Yarra Ranges Council's website for a range of advice on environmental issues:
yarraranges.vic.gov.au/environment



1300 368 333
yarraranges.vic.gov.au