

Living in the Macedon Ranges

A guide for new residents



**Macedon
Ranges**
Shire Council



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Welcome home

Congratulations—you've chosen a great place to live! The Macedon Ranges has so much to offer: charming country towns, beautiful natural landscapes, heritage architecture and vibrant community life.

As the new owner or renter of a home in our shire, it can be helpful to get a few pointers about your local area. As you will see on the pages that follow, there's lots to learn and discover.

So to help you settle in, we've developed this short guide to living in the shire. We also suggest chatting with your neighbours and the 'locals' to find out more about the place you now call home.

Checklist for new residents

- ☐ Update your enrolment details with the Victorian Electoral Commission.
See: vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment
- ☐ Register your dog or cat with Council so you can be reunited if they become lost.
See: mrsc.vic.gov.au/pet-registrations
- ☐ If you have a child under school age, register with your local Maternal and Child Health service. Your child is eligible for free, local health check-ups.
Phone **(03) 5422 0281** or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/mch
- ☐ Apply for an accessible parking permit (if you are eligible).
See: mrsc.vic.gov.au/accessible-parking
- ☐ Sign up to our eNews or follow us on social media for updates on what's happening in the shire.
Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/newsletters and search for 'Macedon Ranges Shire Council' on: [!\[\]\(49aa2e1da5fe39294864e9598c593810_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(7d0a8d8b1031f74abe67b09fcf4a2322_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(6557fa7496e6a507d2326ea0bef061ee_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(1fe0339452ba17bd8ae951d8509f80d6_img.jpg\)](#)

Your property

So you're the proud new owner or renter of a home in the shire. Aside from getting your water and power connected, what else do you need to do?

Organise your bin collection

If your property already has a bin collection, you will need to check which day they are collected. You can check your bin dates online at mrsc.vic.gov.au/bin-dates, download the MRSC Waste app on your smartphone, or call Council on **(03) 5422 0333**.



If your property doesn't have a bin collection and you would like one, please give us a call. We offer weekly FOGO (Food Organics Garden Organics), fortnightly waste and recycling, and glass collection every four weeks throughout the shire.

Maintain your naturestrip

If you live in an urban area, it is your responsibility to maintain your naturestrip. Tree planting and tree removal is not permitted. For further details visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/nature-strip

Obtain permits for any works on your property or road reserve

If you plan to do any works on your property, you are likely to need a permit from Council. For example:

- Constructing, altering or demolishing a building
- Subdividing land
- Removing native vegetation (dead or alive)
- Building a shed, garage or carport
- Building a deck, balcony, verandah or pergola
- Installing a swimming pool or spa
- Building certain types of fences
- Building a retaining wall
- Displaying certain types of signs.

There are also planning restrictions on the types of activities that can be undertaken on your land (e.g. agricultural or business uses).

For information on when and what type of permit is required, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/permits

Locate and care for your septic tank (if you have one)

If you live in a rural area, you may not be connected to mains wastewater. This means that you will have a septic tank on your property that needs to be maintained:

1. Locate your septic tank and check there are no signs of a failing system.

Transfer stations

You can dispose of waste and recyclables at our transfer stations in Woodend, Kyneton and Romsey.

For locations, opening hours, accepted items and fees, see: mrsc.vic.gov.au/transfer-stations



2. Check the manufacturer's recommendations for maintaining your septic tank.
3. Check the permit conditions on your septic tank.

For help with the above, call Council or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/septic-tanks

Pay your rates

If you are a property owner, your rates instalments must be paid by the due date 30 September, 30 November, 28 February and 31 May.

Rates notices are posted to you prior to each instalment date. To help reduce our carbon footprint you can register to receive your rates notices by email. To register, you will need your recent eNotices Reference Number located at the bottom of the rates notice. Visit: mrsc.vic.gov.au/eNotices

Please contact Council if you require assistance.

You can pay your rates via BPAY view, online with Visa or Mastercard, in person at a Council service centre, or online at mrsc.vic.gov.au/payments

Your neighbourhood

What makes a great neighbourhood? The list is endless. But perhaps most important is Council and residents playing their part to keep it safe and enjoyable for all.

In the lead up to the Fire Danger Period, Council inspects properties for fire hazards and fuel loads. If we identify a hazard, we will issue owners with a Fire Prevention Notice, outlining the works that need to be done.

For more information on how to prepare your property for the summer fire season, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/fire-ready

Road and footpath maintenance

Council maintains approximately 1,700kms of sealed and unsealed roads and roadsides in the shire. This does not include arterial (main) roads, which are maintained by Regional Roads Victoria.

We inspect our roads to ensure clear and safe passage of vehicles. Each road is assigned a priority that determines the frequency of inspections and maintenance.

Our rural roadsides are home to native flora and fauna, so we only prune vegetation in these areas for safety reasons. We also treat weeds on Council roadsides for agricultural, environmental and fire prevention purposes.

In the lead up to the fire season, we focus our resources on slashing high-use roads near township boundaries.

Emergencies—fire and flood

We live in a bushfire and grassfire prone region, which means you should have a plan in case these or other emergencies threaten your safety, home or livelihood. Make sure to include your animals in your plan.

Be aware of the Fire Danger Period and Ratings (the Macedon Ranges is in the Central Fire District), and the burning off restrictions that apply during and outside this period.

See: mrsc.vic.gov.au/burning-off

Some parts of the Macedon Ranges are prone to flash-flooding. You and your property may be affected, particularly if you live near a creek, river, drains or low-lying land. Be prepared by monitoring flood watches and warnings

For emergency warnings and preparedness advice, visit: emergency.vic.gov.au or download the VicEmergency app.

Wildlife

You will encounter wildlife on a regular basis in the Macedon Ranges, particularly while driving. Be alert, slow down and take extra care when driving in rural areas.

If wildlife become a problem on your property, contact the relevant Victorian Government department. If you find an injured animal, call Wildlife Victoria on **(03) 8400 7300**.

Pets and livestock

A range of laws set out requirements for the keeping and care of animals, including the type and number of animals you can keep.

If you have a dog or a cat, make sure that you:

- Register it with Council each year, and keep your contact details up-to-date
- Let us know if your dog is a declared dangerous, menacing or restricted breed dog
- Check your fencing regularly to ensure pets can be adequately contained
- Exercise dogs on leash unless in a designated off leash area, and always maintain effective control
- Keep cats contained to your property from sunset to sunrise.

If you own livestock, you must ensure your animals are confined to your property with adequate fencing at all times. Wandering livestock, particularly on roads, can cause serious accidents.

Animals found wandering or unsecure to a property may be impounded by Council and are subject to fines and impoundment fees.

For more information, see: mrsc.vic.gov.au/pets and mrsc.vic.gov.au/keeping-livestock

Report it to Council

If you encounter any of the following urgent issues, report it to Council immediately by calling **(03) 5422 0333**:

- Lost or wandering animals
- Dangerous dogs
- Fire hazards on private property or Council land
- Fallen trees, debris or dead animals on Council roads.

You can also report other non-urgent issues in your street or neighbourhood, or submit an enquiry or feedback online at mrsc.vic.gov.au/report-it

Your community

As a Macedon Ranges resident, you can access many free or low-cost services in our community.

Maternal and Child Health

This free Council service supports families with children from birth to kindergarten age at key stages in their growth, health and development. For centre locations and hours, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/mch. To make an appointment with a Maternal and Child Health nurse, call us on **(03) 5422 0281**.

Council also provides free monthly immunisation sessions for children aged from six weeks to four years, delivered by specialist immunisation nurses. See: mrsc.vic.gov.au/immunisations

Kindergarten

Give your child the best start to their learning journey at one of Council's eight kindergartens in the Macedon Ranges. Our kindergartens offer government funded four year old and three year old kindergarten programs.

For the best chance of being offered a place, you need to register by 30 June the year before your child starts kindergarten. For more information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

Youth

Council offers a range of programs that support the development of young people aged 10–25 years, including mental health programs, leadership opportunities, youth spaces and music events. For more information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/youth and be sure to follow our 'Macedon Ranges Youth' Facebook page for information on events and programs hosted by Macedon Ranges Youth Services.



Libraries

There are four libraries located across the shire in Kyneton, Gisborne, Romsey and Woodend. In addition to items on loan, they run school holiday programs, weekly story and rhyme time for pre-schoolers, and other events for people of all ages. For library locations, hours and programs, visit ncgrl.vic.gov.au

Home Support

Council supports older people to stay active, independent and living at home for as long as possible. This includes domestic assistance, respite, personal care, community-based meals, and social support (community access, skill development and visits). For more information visit myagedcare.gov.au or call **1800 200 422**. If you require disability support, contact the National Disability and Insurance Scheme on **1800 800 110** or visit ndis.vic.gov.au and they will direct you to services in the region.

Business Support

Macedon Ranges is home to a vibrant and thriving business community. From larger commercial companies to home based businesses, we can assist with support or advice, whether you're just starting up or you're an established operation. In addition to Council assistance, our local businesses also

receive incredible support from locals and visitors alike.

Develop your skills through Council's training and workshop program. Take advantage of the opportunity to network with other business owners at our annual business training and networking events. Find out more about our robust local industry groups who work closely with Council.

Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/business for more information.

Community groups

Get in touch with your local neighbourhood house, playgroup, toy library, senior citizens, Landcare or other community group. Look them up on our website (mrsc.vic.gov.au), or contact the relevant peak body (e.g. Playgroups Victoria).

Visitor Information Centres

Our Visitor Information Centres aren't just for visitors, they also offer a range of business support and resident information too: mrsc.vic.gov.au/visit

Volunteer

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and get involved in your community.

Explore volunteer opportunities at Council: mrsc.vic.gov.au/volunteer



Your shire

There are so many ways to stay active and discover new places in the Macedon Ranges. Here's a taste of activities for getting out and about in our beautiful shire.

Events, markets and attractions

Our region hosts a huge range of events throughout the year—including community-run festivals and regional tours of shows that might otherwise only be available in major cities. To find out what's on across the shire, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/events

For Council's annual program of music, dance, drama, comedy, cabaret, family entertainment, exhibitions and workshops at the Kyneton Town Hall and Kyneton Museum, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/arts. You can also find us on Facebook: **Macedon Ranges Arts & Culture**

For inspiration on places to go and things to do in the shire, including markets, natural attractions and more, go to mrsc.vic.gov.au/see-and-do, or contact our Visitor Information Centres in Woodend and Kyneton on **1800 244 711**. You can also visit Council's tourism website at visitmacedonranges.com

Pools and leisure centres

Keep fit and stay active at Council's leisure and aquatic centres.

Aquatic Centres Swim at our aquatic centres in Kyneton and Gisborne throughout the year. Enjoy some lap swimming or bring the family along for some fun.

Join our Learn to Swim program at either of our centres. This program



teaches swimming and water safety skills to all ages from six months to adults.

Or take part in one of our aqua aerobics classes.

Fitness Centres Keep in shape all year round at Kyneton and Gisborne fitness centres. Our two centres welcome everyone, with programs for teenagers, right through to older adults exercise classes. State of the art equipment at these centres make them suitable for the casual user through to the elite athlete.

Our fitness centres also offer 24/7 access to our gym members.

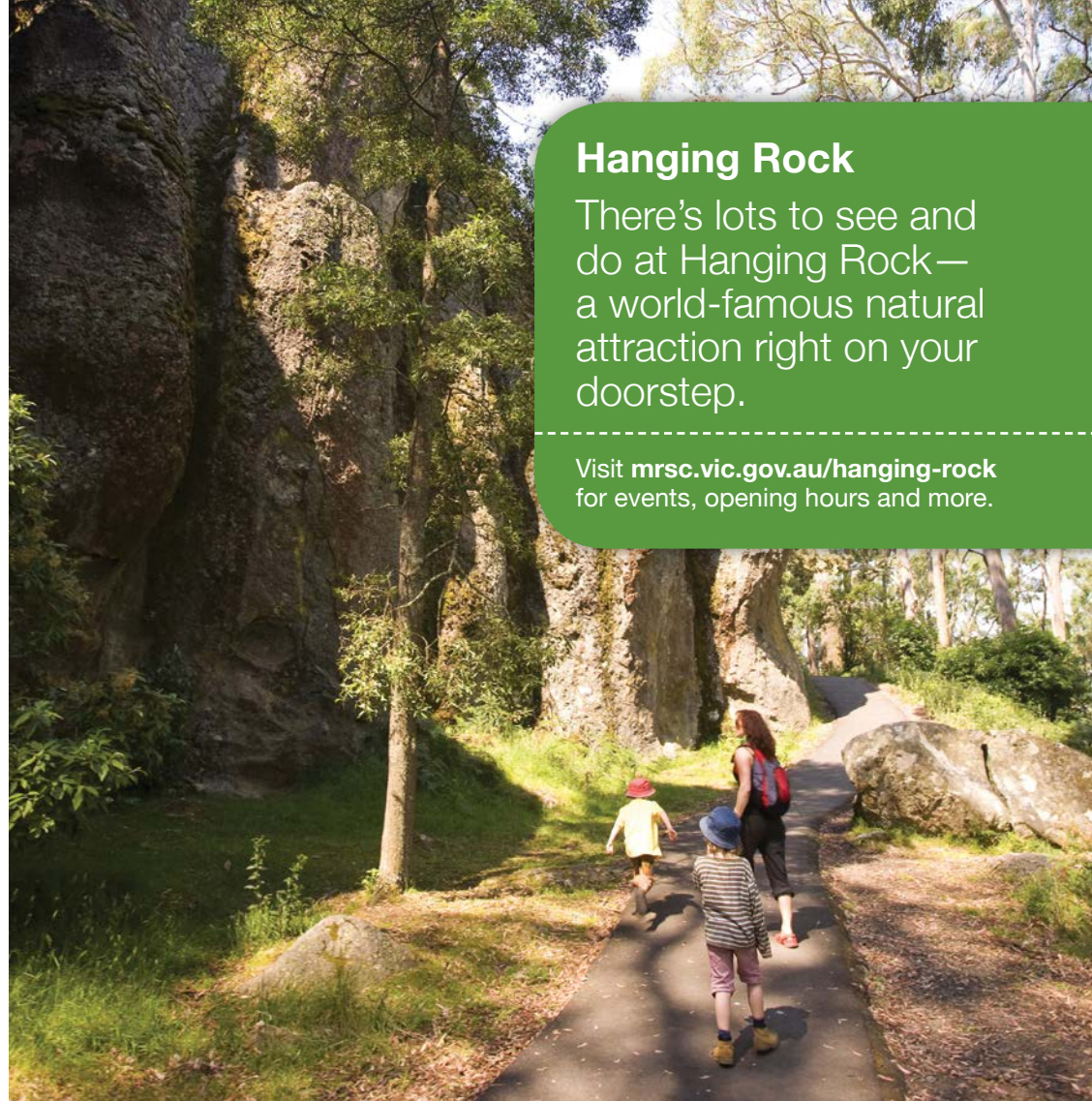
Leisure Centres Play sport at our stadiums in Kyneton, Riddells Creek, Romsey, Woodend, Gisborne and Macedon.

For children we offer sport, school holiday programs, kindagym, dance, birthday parties and more.

Hanging Rock

There's lots to see and do at Hanging Rock—a world-famous natural attraction right on your doorstep.

Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/hanging-rock for events, opening hours and more.



Older adults can also access gentle exercise classes.

Outdoor Pools Swim at our outdoor pool in Woodend and Lancefield over the summer months. Our summer season runs from December until March and operates in accordance with Council's temperature policy.

For centre programs, fees, locations and hours, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/leisure

Sporting groups

With over 20 sporting reserves and 70 tennis courts across our shire, there is bound to be a local club or competition in the Macedon Ranges to suit your interests and abilities.

To find a local sporting group, contact the relevant state sporting association. A list can be found at sport.vic.gov.au

Your natural environment

The natural environment of the Macedon Ranges is special. We have rich and diverse ecosystems hosting a wide range of native plants and animals.

Exploring bushland reserves

Council's bushland reserves and the shire's state and regional parks are great places for bird watching, bush walking and nature photography. You can help care for these shared spaces by keeping to tracks and carrying out any litter. Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/natural-attractions

Rural roadsides

We aim to balance making our roads safe for drivers, preventing fires from starting on roadsides and protecting our natural environment.

Permission from Council is required for any activity on Council managed rural roadsides including:

- Removal of firewood
- Removal of vegetation
- Weed control
- Planting of trees or shrubs

See: mrsc.vic.gov.au/roadsides

Protecting biodiversity on your property

All life forms interact with each other to create complex ecosystems. This includes the micro-organisms found in soils and water, fungi, plants, insects, birds and all other animals that live on land, in rivers and in wetlands. You can help protect these ecosystems by:

- retaining native vegetation on your property
- installing nest boxes for native animals

- retaining fallen timber on the ground
- protecting tree roots from compaction or disturbance

Revegetating your property

You can play a vital role improving habitat on your property by encouraging natural regeneration or revegetating with native plants.

Find out which native species to plant at mrsc.vic.gov.au/revegetation

Removal of native vegetation

Native vegetation is protected under the planning scheme. Removal of native vegetation (including trees, shrubs and grasses) will generally require a permit. Visit

mrsc.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation

Weeds and pest animals

Under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 landholders are legally required to control noxious weeds and pest animals on their properties. Download a copy of Council's Weeds of Central Victoria booklet at mrsc.vic.gov.au/weeds

Sustainable agriculture

Council provides a range of services and information to facilitate regenerative and sustainable farming. Find out how you can protect biodiversity, enrich soils and capture carbon in soils and trees while increasing your farm's resilience to climate variability. Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/healthylandscapes



Reducing your footprint

Macedon Ranges Shire is in a cool temperate climate zone where heating is the main energy consumer. Roofs, walls and floors should be highly insulated and glazing weighted towards preventing heat loss in winter and allowing heat gain from the sun in summer. Check out Council's Sustainable Design factsheets. Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/sustainable-design

Landcare and community groups

Find a Landcare, Friends group and other local sustainability action group in the shire. Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/landcare

Environment eNewsletter

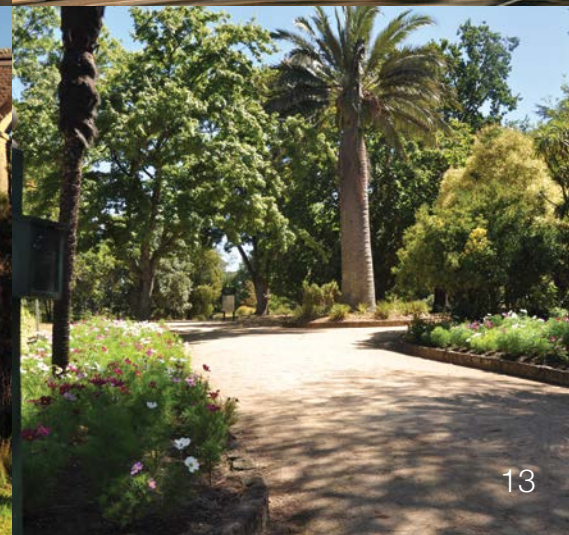
Subscribe to Council's environment e-newsletter for updates on environment events and initiatives. Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-eneews

Macedon Ranges

Visit the 'My Neighbourhood' page on our website to find everything from parks and facilities, through to events and projects:
mrsc.vic.gov.au/my-neighbourhood



Images page 13, L-R, top to bottom: Lancefield, Sanatorium Lake, Sanatorium Lake picnic ground, Malsbury, Malsbury Botanic Gardens and Kyneton Botanic Gardens.



Macedon Ranges Shire Council

PO Box 151, Kyneton VIC 3444

Tel: (03) 5422 0333

Email: mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Website: mrsc.vic.gov.au

Find us on social media    

Office locations

Kyneton Administration Centre

129 Mollison Street, Kyneton

Gisborne Administration Centre

40 Robertson Street, Gisborne

Romsey Community Hub

96–100 Main Street, Romsey

Woodend Community Centre

Corner High and Forest Streets, Woodend

Kyneton Town Hall Box Office

1300 888 802

Visitor Information Centres

Woodend: (03) 5427 2033

Kyneton: (03) 5422 6110



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