

Welcome to Mt Eliza Woodland

Where homes & bushland meet



Welcome to this unique and beautiful part of Mt Eliza known as Woodland.

Most properties here are dominated by native and indigenous trees and vegetation. The large blocks offer peace and privacy for families, giving an impression of natural bushland and they provide a habitat for native birds and animals. We live here because of the wonderful lifestyle it offers for all the family – one we want to preserve for generations to come.

As community members, who have chosen to be here, we all play a part in protecting and supporting the Woodland environment and way of life.

How do we maintain this special character?

Our homes

Mt Eliza Woodland was probably created simply by chance. Now we want to preserve the gift that chance has given us.

Because settlement of Woodland began in the early 1970s, there is now significant renewal and renovation of the housing stock going on. By continuing to use the soft colours of the bushland and low reflectivity building materials we help maintain our neighbourhood character.

Renewed fencing is often part of that process. Where we need a front fence, using low and open fencing, softened with vegetation in front of it, helps the natural, open feel of Woodland. Higher, solid fencing is more intrusive and gives the neighbourhood the suburban feel we want to avoid. Check the local planning laws in relation to fences. You will find them on the

Mornington Peninsula Shire's website – www.mornpen.vic.gov.au

Our trees

Trees have allowed us to create an impression of buildings within a landscape rather than a landscape where buildings dominate. Our large established native trees have taken many years to grow and, of course, they must eventually die. It is important to replace them with the same species or ones with similar characteristics to retain the Woodland character.

Remember, even when they are in decline, older trees are still necessary. They are vital for animal and insect habitat because they contain hollows for nesting sites.

Of course indigenous woodland can coexist with fruit trees and exotic plants, veggie gardens and entertaining areas. Chooks will also flourish if you take care to protect them from the foxes, because they too add to a healthy lifestyle.



**MT ELIZA WOODLAND
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC**



mt eliza woodland
residents association inc



An abundance of trees in the Mt Eliza Woodland.



An indigenous garden in Mt Eliza Woodland

Why are trees important to Mt Eliza Woodland?

Before European settlement, Mt Eliza Woodland was mainly grassy woodland dominated by eucalyptus. It had a relatively open canopy, sparsely distributed shrubs and a ground cover of tussock grasses.

It is easy to think that trees live forever and eucalyptus do live for a very long time in their natural environment (estimates suggest 450 years in ideal conditions is possible), but many acacias, which also play a very important part in the ecosystem, live for a much shorter period of time.

So, like people, trees pass through different life stages – juvenile, mature, and senescent (old) and they all play a part in a healthy tree canopy central to the survival of our flora and fauna.

Nowadays trees define our bushland landscape helping to lower summer temperatures, soak up excess rainfall and providing homes for our native birds and fauna. Unfortunately, when our trees are under threat, everything that defines Woodland and makes it special is under threat.

What sort of problems are our trees facing?

Woodland trees have two kinds of problems – people and possums.

Trees get in the way of development and so people cut them down. Or they are irreparably damaged by development and infrastructure repairs.

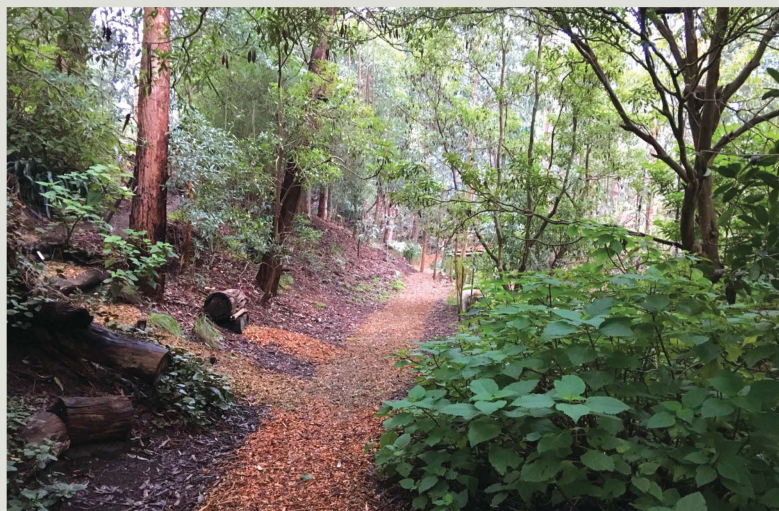
Please think carefully before cutting down any native trees, especially mature ones. Can you achieve your aims without sacrificing that tree? Can you achieve your goals without disturbing their root system?

While there are many things the homeowner can and should do to maintain and improve conditions for trees on their property, it is worth considering investing in the services of a qualified arborist.

For example, when it comes to protection from possums, banding with clear plastic sheets and self-tapper screws can help. However to stop the possums accessing the tree from another point, the banded tree or group of trees must be isolated. Tree banding can be achieved by the average person with a bit of research but the services of a professional may lead to a more successful outcome.

Dead trees or those that have been cut down, should be replaced. Historically, Manna Gums (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) and Narrow-leaved Peppermint Gums (*Eucalyptus radiata*) were the most common here, but other natives still help maintain the bushland character and give homes to native birds and fauna.

Many of the plants suitable for Woodland can be found at the Mornington Peninsula Shire native nursery at The Briars, 450 Nepean Highway Mount Martha, where you can find plenty of expert help.



Tracks in reserves and along creeks in Mt Eliza Woodland.



There are many ways to deter possums from destroying haibitant.

Living with Possums

For most of us, living in Woodland means sharing our bushland homes with possums. Possums are native animals but in large numbers can do lot of damage to trees and other plants. Some people feed them in the hope that they will then leave their trees alone, others prefer to try and deter them by preventing possums' access to their trees. Whatever you do, please remember that possums, like all native wildlife, are protected by the Victorian *Wildlife Act 1975*.

Hardware stores like Bunnings and Mitre 10 sell a range of possum deterrents and here are some examples.

Possum Fence Guards are a spiked fence capping added to existing fences to make it difficult for possums to walk along or pass over the fence line.

Possum Tree Guards are placed around the trunk of the tree to stop the possum climbing up – they look like a smooth collar around the tree. You often have to guard several trees when they are close together, or the possums will just jump across from near-by trees.

Possum Cable Guards stop possums walking across wires and cables. The guard is a swivelling jacket around the cable, which turns when the possum tries to walk across, causing the possum to fall off.

Further information on Living with Possums can be found at www.wildlife.vic.gov.au



A beautiful waterlily in the quarry located in the Woodland.

Nature Reserves in Mt Eliza Woodland

There are three main nature reserves in Woodland:

Moorooduc Quarry Flora and Fauna Reserve – home to eucalyptus, acacias, and many indigenous grasses and wild flowers and at least 45 species of native birds. It is regularly used as a fitness circuit by young (and not so young) locals. There are entrances to the reserve located on Allison Rd, Canadian Bay Rd, Two Bays Rd and outside Woodland at Station St near the Moorooduc Railway Station.

More information is available at:

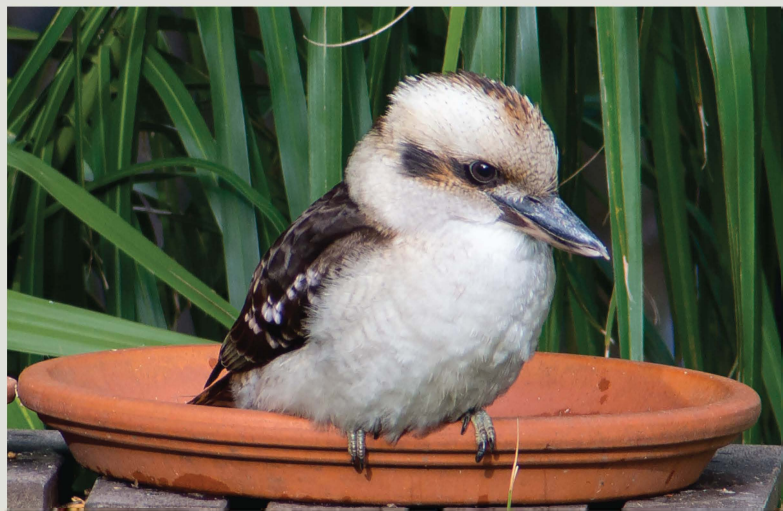
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moorooduc_Quarry_Flora_and_Fauna_Reserve#Fauna

Lorikeet Reserve has entrances from Walkers and Fulton Roads. Mount Eliza North Primary School and Walkers Road Pre-school both adjoin the reserve, allowing them to enjoy a natural tree setting. The reserve has lost many of its more mature trees but there are many saplings in evidence which will eventually replace them.

Millbank Reserve follows a tributary of the Kackeraboite Creek all the way from Winona Rd (the entrance to the track is alongside 96 Winona Road and unfortunately not well marked) across Bellbird Rd and Mather Rd, eventually ending up at Millbank Drive. Another branch of the track takes you round behind St Thomas More Primary School. In some areas the track is well-tended by Friends groups, in others you can clearly see the effects of plants which have escaped from nearby gardens. Signposting is also much better in some places than others.



Rainbow Lorikeets feeding.



Kookaburra in a Mt Eliza Woodland garden.

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Tawny Frog Mouth family in Mt Eliza Woodland



Signs placed at entrances to Mt Eliza Woodland mark the importance of this area.

Useful Mt Eliza Woodland information

Wildlife Rescue

AWARE Wildlife Rescue – Frankston Office: 0412 433 727 (24 hours) (Australian wildlife assistance rescue & education) www.awarewildlife.org.au

AWARE is a not-for-profit, 100% volunteer, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation organisation operating in Frankston and surrounding suburbs. They assist sick, injured or orphaned wildlife by providing a 24-hour emergency rescue hotline service.

Wildlife Victoria – 1300 094 535 – www.wildlifevictoria.org.au
Use this for general advice on sick or hurt native wildlife and for a response from volunteers for a wildlife emergency.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council

2 Queen Street, Mornington 3931. Tel. 5950 1000 or 1300 850 600; www.mornpen.vic.gov.au
Planning controls – the design and development overlay regulating building activity within Woodland is the DDO18. Check with Statutory Planning to find out if you need a Planning Permit for what you want to do.

Mornington Resource Recovery Centre (the Tip)

154 Watt Road, Mornington 3931. Tel. 5950 1000
Hours: Monday-Friday 8.00am-4.00pm,
Saturday-Sunday: 8.00am-5.00pm

The Briars Nursery

The Mornington Peninsula Shire nursery is located at The Briars, 450 Nepean Hwy, Mount Martha. Follow the directional signs from the gate.

The Nursery grows and sells an extensive range of indigenous ground covers, grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees propagated from locally-collected seed. It also stocks a range of plants from across Australia, including well-known drought-tolerant varieties of grevillea, callistemon, hibiscus, banksia, leptospermum and many more.

Opening hours:

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 9.00am-3.30pm.
First Saturday of each month: 9.00am-1.00pm.
www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Activities/The-Briars/Shire-Nursery
www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Activities/Parks-Reserves/Indigenous-Plants
Tel. 5974 8417 or email nursery@mornpen.vic.gov.au
(Source: Mornington Peninsula Shire Council).

There are lots of other Nurseries with a wide range of native and indigenous plants on the Peninsula.

What is Mt Eliza Woodland Residents Associations Inc.?

A group of residents set up to maintain formal recognition of the environmental significance of Woodland and to preserve and enhance its natural treed landscape for everyone to enjoy now & in the future. For more information on the Residents Association & on Woodland,

mewoodlandra@gmail.com.

Consider becoming a member – our membership form is on our website.



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