FAUNA of the Mornington Peninsula

MORNINGTON PENINSULA Shire

COMMITTED TO A SUSTAINABLE PENINSULA

This brochure depicts a selection of native animals occupying a range of broad habitat types throughout the Mornington Peninsula. Many native animals commonly move between habitats whilst others are limited to a single habitat. Retaining natural habitat is vital for the survival of native fauna.
The following terms have been adopted to indicate where possible the conservation status, distribution and abundance of each species.

Conservation Status, Distribution and Abundance

Locally significant - **LS** Regionally significant - **RS**

Regional distribution and abundance (LCC, 1991)
some areas east of Melbourne including the peninsula

Distribution
R - Restricted (occurs in less than 10% of the area)
M - Moderate (occurs in 10-50% of the area)
W - Widespread (occurs in greater than 50% of the area)

Abundance
R - Rare **U** - Uncommon
C - Common **A** - Abundant

Victorian conservation status (NRE, 2001)
appearing in brackets. Indicates state significance.
x - extinct (not recorded in the wild for at least 50 years)
c - critically endangered (immediate risk of extinction if current circumstances persist)
e - endangered (risk of extinction if current circumstances persist)
v - vulnerable (likely to become endangered if current circumstances persist)
l - lower risk (rare)
i - insufficient data

FFG Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (1998) protected
EPBC Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (2001) protected

A selection of INDIGENOUS FAUNA found in the Mornington Peninsula Shire

FORESTS

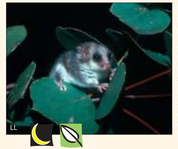
- Examples of forests occur around Aurthur's Seat. They are more shaded than woodlands providing different types of habitat.
- Large areas of old-growth forest have been removed on the peninsula.
- Forests and all other habitat types on the peninsula occur as isolated patches.
- Protecting forests from further clearing assists wildlife that are dependent on these areas for shelter and breeding.
- It often takes over a hundred years for trees to form hollows that provide adequate habitat for animals that rely on them.

Peron's Tree Frog
Litoria peronii
Amphibian
Size to 5cm
Diet various insects and spiders.
Inhabits streams and ponds although it may travel considerable distances from these waterways.
RS - R/U

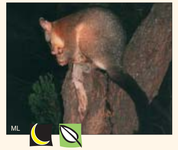
McCoy's Skink
Nannoscincus maccoyi
Reptile (lizard)
Size to 11cm
Diet mostly spiders and some other invertebrates.
Lives under leaf litter or under fallen wood on the ground.
LS - W/C

Tree Goanna
Varanus varius
Reptile (lizard)
Size to 200cm
Diet Live or dead reptiles, mammals, birds (eggs) and invertebrates.
Requires very large areas of habitat for foraging.
(!) W/U

Southern Forest Bat
Vespadelus regulus
Placental mammal
Size head and body 4.1cm, tail 3.2cm
Diet insects captured in flight.
Requires tree hollows for roosting (colonies to around 100) and breeding.
LS - W/C



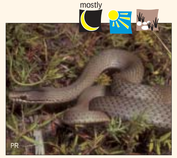
Eastern Pygmy Possum
Cercartetus nanus
Marsupial mammal
Size to 11cm (minus tail)
Diet nectar, pollen, fruits and some invertebrates.
Shelters in tree hollows or disused bird nests. Breeding females line their nests with fresh leaves.
RS - M/U



Common Brushtail Possum
Trichosurus vulpecula
Marsupial mammal
Size 35-55cm (minus tail)
Diet Mostly *Eucalyptus* leaves. Also other leaves, flowers and fruits.
Found in bushland, rural and suburban areas. Nests in a tree hollow or under shelter on the ground.
W/C

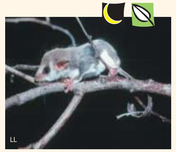
Whistling Tree Frog
Litoria verreauxii verreauxii
Amphibian
Size to 3cm
Diet Mostly insects and other invertebrates.
Generally found on the ground near the waters edge.
LS - W/C

White's Skink
Egernia whitii whitii
Reptile (lizard)
Size to 24.5cm
Diet mostly spiders and some other invertebrates. Also flowers and fruits.
Burrows under rocks and fallen wood.
RS - W/U



White-lipped Snake
Drysdalia coronoides
Reptile (snake)
Size to 50cm
Diet Lizards (eggs), frogs and some invertebrates.
Shelters in dense vegetation, under leaf litter or fallen wood.
RS - W/U

Little Forest Bat
Vespadelus vulturnus
Placental mammal
Size head and body 4cm, tail 3.1cm
Diet insects captured in flight.
Roosts and breeds in tree hollows with a small entrance.
W/C

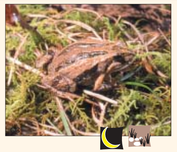


Feathertail Glider
Acrobates pygmaeus
Marsupial mammal
Size 6.5-8cm (minus tail)
Diet mostly insects and some other invertebrates. Also nectar, pollen and sap.
Requires tree hollows for shelter and rearing young where they build a spherical nest from leaves.
RS - W/U

Eastern Quoll
Dasyurus viverrinus
Marsupial mammal
Size 27-35cm (minus tail)
Diet various mammals, birds, reptiles and invertebrates, live or dead.
Builds a den near logs and rocks on the ground.
(x) FFG

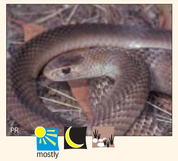
WOODLANDS

- Woodlands are an open canopy habitat type, varying in species composition and structure from coastal to inland areas.
- Coastal woodlands have been mostly cleared due to development for recreation and residential living.
- Coastal Moonah (*Melaleuca lanceolata* subsp. *lanceolata*) Woodland is one of few vegetation communities to be listed for protection under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.
- Fallen logs, branches and bark are essential for providing shelter for terrestrial fauna. Clearing tree debris destroys habitat and reduces the number of animals than can live in an area.



Haswell's Froglet
Paracrinia haswelli
Amphibian
Size to 3.5cm
Diet various insects and spiders.
Inhabits ponds and slow flowing waterways in wet forests low, open vegetation or heathland.
RS - R/U

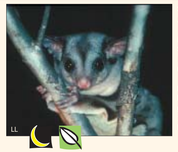
Blotched Blue-tongued Lizard
Tiliqua nigroluted
Reptile (lizard)
Size to 37cm
Diet various invertebrates, fungi, flowers, fruits and some dead animals.
Shelters in logs, leaf litter, existing burrows or under rocks.
W/C



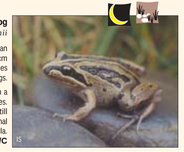
Common Brown Snake
Pseudonaja textilis
Reptile (snake)
Size to 220cm
Diet mammals, other reptiles, frogs and birds.
Shelters under various objects on the ground or in soil or rock cracks.
LS - M/C

Chocolate Wattled Bat
Chalinolobus morio
Placental mammal
Size head and body 5.1cm, tail 4.3cm
Diet mostly moths but also other insects captured in flight.
Roosts in tree hollows in small colonies.
LS - W/C

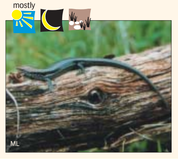
Grey-headed Flying-fox
Pteropus poliocephalus
Placental mammal
Size 26cm (largest bat on the peninsula)
Diet fruit, pollen and nectar.
Ventures up to 50km in one night in search of food.
(v) M/R EPBC



Sugar Glider
Petaurus breviceps
Marsupial mammal
Size to 21cm (minus tail)
Diet various invertebrates, nectar, pollen and sap.
Requires tree hollows for breeding and shelter in groups of up to 12 individuals.
LS - W/C



Brown-striped Frog
Limnodynastes peronii
Amphibian
Size to 6.5cm
Diet various invertebrates and other frogs.
Found in wetland areas in a range of habitat types. Requires slow moving or still water to lay its eggs. Marginal to the peninsula.
LS - M/C



Southern Grass Skink
Pseudemoia entrecasteauxii
Reptile (lizard)
Size to 12.5cm
Diet insects and spiders.
Forages near or on logs, rocks and in small open patches.
LS - M/C

Little Whip Snake
Suta flagellum
Reptile (snake)
Size to 50cm
Diet mostly skinks and frogs.
Shelters in rock cracks, under rocks or under fallen wood. May feed on skinks which share similar shelter sites.
RS - R/C

Lesser Long-eared Bat
Nyctophilus geoffroyi
Placental mammal
Size head and body 4.8cm, tail 3.8cm
Diet mostly insects captured in flight, from plants or the ground.
Roosts in tree hollows or under bark. Prefers roosting in dead trees.
W/C

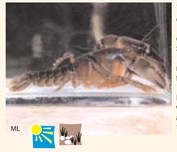
Large Forest Bat
Vespadelus darlingtoni
Placental mammal
Size head and body 4.4cm, tail 4cm
Diet mostly insects captured in flight around vegetation.
Requires tree hollows for roosting (colonies small or large) and breeding.
LS - W/C

Eastern Grey Kangaroo
Macropus giganteus
Marsupial mammal
Size to 120cm (minus tail)
Diet mostly grasses and some other herbs.
Occurs in many habitat types. Rests in wooded areas and often feeds in open areas in groups.
LS - W/U

HEATHLANDS

- Heathlands on the peninsula are generally found on sandy soils near the coast. They have no trees and consist of dense, shrubby vegetation that is often no taller than the average adult.
- Heathlands on the peninsula have been reduced to only a few locations.
- Heathlands were cleared mainly for farmland pasture and residential development.

  Fire is an important component of many habitat types, particularly heathlands where fires are likely to have been frequent (every few years) prior to clearing.
- Heathlands are low in soil nutrients and generally have a high diversity of plants



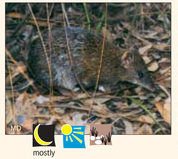
Yabby
Cherax destructor
Crustacean
Size to 16cm
Diet various, including plant material, animal waste and fish.
Inhabits flowing or still water with high oxygen levels and ample vegetation. Tends to be temperature sensitive.

Garden Skink
Lampropholis guichenoti
Reptiles (skink)
Size to 10.5cm
Diet insects and some other invertebrates.
Shelters under leaf litter, wood and rocks in many habitat types.
W/A

Weasel Skink
Saproscincus mustelinus
Reptile (lizard)
Size to 9cm
Diet mostly insects and spiders. Some crustaceans.
Requires leaf litter and dense ground-level vegetation to lay its eggs.
RS - M/U

Mainland Tiger Snake
Notechis scutatus scutatus
Reptile (snake)
Size to 150cm
Diet mostly frogs (and tadpoles) but also young birds, lizards, mammals and fish.
Prefers wetter areas, sheltering under wood, rocks, dense vegetation and in existing burrows. Climbs low vegetation.
LS - W/C

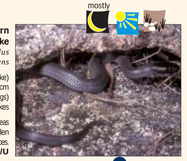
Water Rat
Hydromys chrysogaster
Placental mammal
Size to 35cm (minus tail)
Diet generally fish but also aquatic invertebrates, young birds, eggs and dead animals.
Requires streams or other waterways to catch food. Prefers feeding atop logs and rocks.
LS - W/C



Southern Brown Bandicoot
Isodon obesulus
Marsupial mammal
Size to 36cm (minus tail)
Diet various invertebrates, seeds, roots and fungi.
Nests on the ground in dense vegetation usually on sandy soils. Forages by digging. Requires a mosaic of regeneration following fire.
RS - M/C EPBC

Victorian Smooth Froglet
Geocrinia victoriana
Amphibian
Size to 3.5cm
Diet some invertebrates
Inhabits wet, lowland areas often near the coast, requiring shallow pools for breeding. Males call in Autumn. Eggs are laid on land.
LS - W/C

Eastern Three-lined Skink
Bassiana duperreyi
Reptile (lizard)
Size to 15cm
Diet mostly insects and spiders
Forages near or on logs, rocks and plant tussocks. Nests on the ground under wood. Climbs into low plants.
LS - W/C



Eastern Small-eyed Snake
Rhinoplocephalus nigriscens
Reptile (snake)
Size to 50cm
Diet mostly lizards (and eggs) and some small snakes
Inhabits lowland areas sheltering under rocks, fallen wood, bark and in rock crevices.
RS - M/U

White-striped Freetail Bat
Tadarida australis
Placental mammal
Size head and body 9cm, tail 5cm
Diet Mostly moths but also other insects caught in flight high above the tree canopy
Roosts high up in the hollows of large old trees and may form large colonies.
W/C

New Holland Mouse
Pseudomys novaehollandiae
Placental mammal
Size to 8.8cm (minus tail)
Diet seeds, flowers, invertebrates, mosses and fungi
Requires sandy soils to establish deep burrows of about 5m in length for nesting. Prefers young growth heathland vegetation.
(c) R/R FFG

Dusky Antechinus
Antechinus swainsonii
Marsupial mammal
Size to 19cm (minus tail)
Diet large invertebrates, small vertebrates and fruits.
Forages under leaf litter and digs for food. Often nests are dug under the cover of grass or decaying logs.
LS - W/C

Protecting biodiversity on your land

Grants Schemes and Rebates are available to properties above 2 hectares. Condtions apply. Contact your Customer Service Centre for an application form.

- *Mornington Peninsula Land Protection Incentive Scheme* provides grants up to $5000 for environmental enhancement works including native vegetation care, replanting, weed control and stream fencing.
- *Land Sustainability Rebate Scheme* eligible Land owners can receive a rebate on a portion of their property rates if they commit to implementing environmental protection works.

Introduced Fauna

European Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

- Foxes inhabit the entire Mornington Peninsula including bushland, farmland and residential areas.
- They are opportunistic feeders and shelter almost anywhere having a negative impact on a wide range of native animals.
  They are known to spread mange (skin disease) which can be transferred to some native species.
- Foxes should not be deliberately fed or harboured. Under section 20 of the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994, landowners should take reasonable steps to prevent the spread of foxes and, as far as possible, eradicate those established on their land.

Cat *Felis catus*

- Pet cats, stray cats and feral cats can all kill native wildlife, spread disease and induce shock. Ensuring that your cat is well fed does not necessarily prevent them from killing wildlife.
- Protect your cat from road accidents and other dangers by keeping them inside the house, garage or shed between dusk and dawn. There is less risk of injury or death if confined to your property. Register your cat and consider having your cat desexed.
- To remove unwanted cats from your property, contact the Shire's customer service department.

Foxes and cats are a serious threat to native animals. This is recognised under Victorian legislation in the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 as a potentially threatening process.

Other introduced fauna

- Rabbits - eat native vegetation, cause erosion by burrowing and damage pasture.
- Rats and Mice - predate directly on wildlife (e.g. small birds) and spread disease.
  Care should be taken not to mistake introduced species with native species
- Dogs - uncontrolled dogs can attack and kill or cause stress to native wildlife
- Indian Mynas and Starlings - exclude native animals from tree hollows.

- Introduced Fish - predate directly on a range of native aquatic animals and their eggs.
- Bees and Wasps - will displace native animals from tree hollows.
- Horses and Cattle
  - can cause soil compaction, erosion and pollute waterways. Keep grazing stock out of streamlines and bushland.

note: the introduced rat (above) and house mouse (below) have shorter noses than the native bandicoot and Antechinus.

A selection of INDIGENOUS FAUNA found in the Mornington Peninsula Shire

Since European settlement on the Mornington Peninsula natural vegetation and ecosystems that our fauna depend upon have been much altered.

Today complex remnant native vegetation is restricted to 6% of the peninsula landscape. Several native fauna species are now locally extinct. Remaining native animal populations are threatened by habitat fragmentation and loss of shelter and food sources.

Council encourages everyone to support the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve by recognising and protecting native vegetation and animal habitat.

Living with Native Animals

Provide nesting boxes when natural nesting sites have been removed.

- Retain areas of natural habitat on and around your property.
- Protect and expand existing habitat on you land by replanting disturbed areas with locally native plants.
  This may done to increase the size of an existing patch or to link isolated patches with vegetation cover.
- Keep introduced grazing animals out of native vegetation.
  Consider fencing native vegetation in grazed areas.
- Keep cats indoors at night.
  Keep dogs on your land or on a leash when outside your property.
  Contact the Shire offices for information on off-leash areas.
- Retain wetlands, swamps and watercourses. Control stock access to these areas.
- Do not dump garden waste, rubbish, soil, pond / fish tank contents, into bushland and watercourses. Contact the Shire regarding waste disposal.
- Take home unwanted fishing line, tackle and bait bags.
- Feeding native wildlife is likely to be detrimental to their health and may cause altered behavoir patterns and aggression.
- Obtain advice before relocating possums. Contact an accredited pest control operator.

Leave standing dead trees and fallen wood to shelter native fauna. Be careful to ensure that dead trees are safe to leave standing.

NOCTURNAL
Active during the night

DIURNAL
Active during the day

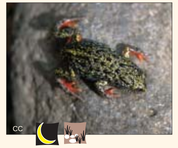
ARBOREAL
Spends all or most of the time in trees

TERRESTRIAL
Spends all or most of the time on the ground

AQUATIC
Inhabits principally fresh water

COASTAL DUNES & CLIFFS

- Coastal dunes and cliffs commonly occur along the ocean side of the peninsula with good examples at Gunnamatta and Cape Schanck.
- Cliffs provide important shelter for certain fauna that would otherwise not be found on the peninsula.
- Coastal dunes are sensitive to loss of vegetation and erosion.
- Damage to these areas may be stopped by avoiding pedestrian, stock and vehicle access.
- Dune animals readily dig for food and conceal eggs in the soft sandy soils.



Southern Toadlet
Pseudophryne semimarmorata

Amphibian
Size to 3cm
Diet various insects and spiders.

Shelters in damp areas under leaf litter. Males call in Autumn. Eggs are laid on land, the tadpoles hatching when flooding occurs.
LS - W/C

Common Blue-tongued Lizard
Tiliqua scincoides

Reptile (lizard)
Size to 50cm
Diet various invertebrates, fungi, flowers, fruits and some dead animals.

Shelters in logs, existing burrows or under rocks. Active during warm nights.
M/C

Bougainville's Skink
Lerista bougainvillii

Reptile (lizard)
Size to 15cm
Diet mostly insects (their larvae) and spiders.

Prefers sandy soils and shelters under leaf litter, fallen wood and rocks.
RS - M/U

Short-beaked Echidna
Tachyglossus aculeatus

Monotreme
(egg laying mammal)
Size to 50cm
Diet ants and termites.

Prefers dryer environments where it can dig for food. Shelters in logs or dense vegetation.
W/C

White-footed Dunnart
Sminthopsis leucopus

Marsupial mammal
Size to 10cm (minus tail)
Diet mostly invertebrates and some lizards.

Nests in or beneath fallen wood or occasionally in a tree. Prefers areas of dense undergrowth.
RS - M/U

Ring-tail Possum
Pseudocheirus peregrinus

Marsupial mammal
Size to 35cm (minus tail)
Diet mostly leaves but also fruits and flowers.

Widespread. Rests in tree hollows or constructs a drey (nest of shredded bark) if hollows are sparse.
W/C

Metallic Skink
Niveoscincus metallicus

Reptile (lizard)
Size to 12.5cm
Diet insects and spiders.

Forages around rocks, leaf litter and plant tussocks. Uses crevices in rotting wood for shelter.
LS - W/C

Common Scaly-foot
Pygopus lepidopodus

Reptile (lizard)
Size to 70cm
Diet mostly spiders but also some other invertebrates and fruits.

Climbs low vegetation when foraging for food. Nests under rocks or logs in small crevices.
RS - R/R

Tree Dragon
Amphibolurus muricatus

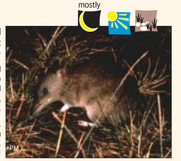
Reptile (lizard)
Size to 37cm
Diet various invertebrates, fruits and flowers.

Buries its eggs in sandy soils. Spends much of the time on the ground in a variety of habitat types.
LS - W/C

Common Bent-wing Bat
Miniopterus schreibersii

Placental mammal
Size head and body to tail to 4cm, tail to 5.2cm
Diet mostly moths and some other insects captured in flight.

Requires caves for roosting (colonies to many thousands) and breeding. Not known to breed on the peninsula.
(v) M/U FFG EPBC



Long-nosed Bandicoot
Perameles nasuta

Marsupial mammal
Size to 42cm (minus tail)
Diet plant material including seeds and roots, also fungi and invertebrates.

Digs holes in search of food. Nests under dense vegetation in a shallow scraping.
RS - W/U

Agile Antechinus
Antechinus agilis

Marsupial mammal
Size to 11cm (minus tail)
Diet mostly larger invertebrates and some small vertebrates.

Readily climbs trees in search of food. Shelters in hollows of fallen wood or in trees.
LS - W/C

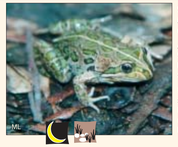
SWAMPS

- Wetland swamps characteristically contain grass-like sedges and rushes, as well as many other plants. Generally there are few trees. Other variations include areas with Tea-tree (*Melaleuca*) thickets.
- Wetland swamps are a component of most habitat types on the peninsula.
- Swamps have been considered wasteland in the past and as a consequence, were drained for development. Today wetland swamps are considered essential for protecting biodiversity.
- They are negatively affected by an accumulation of nutrients and other pollutants from the surrounding landscape.
- Swamps often dry out during periods of low rainfall but are replenished seasonally. Lower water levels in dryer periods reduce the impact on native fauna from exotic predators such as carp.

Dwarf Galaxias
Galaxias pusilla

Fish
Size to 3cm
Diet probably a range of small invertebrates and plant material.

Occupies swampy areas, relying on aquatic vegetation in which to lay eggs. May seek refuge during dry periods in Yabby holes.
(I) FFG EPBC



Stiped Grass Frog
Limnodynastes tasmaniensis

Amphibian
Size to 4.7cm
Diet insects and some other invertebrates.

Found near permanent or seasonal water bodies. Requires still or slow-moving water for breeding.
LS - W/C

Southern Bullfrog
Limnodynastes dumerilii insularis

Amphibian
Size to 7cm
Diet various invertebrates.

Burrowing species. Mostly found around streams and ponds.
W/C

Glossy Grass Skink
Pseudemoia rawlinsoni

Reptile (lizard)
Size to13.5cm
Diet mostly insects and spiders. Some crustaceans.

Requires dense vegetation to forage in a number of habitat types containing wetlands.
(I) R/U

Lowland Copperhead
Austrelaps superbus

Reptile (snake)
Size to 150cm
Diet mostly lizards and frogs but also other snakes, small mammals and birds.

Prefers low, cool environments. Shelters under wood, rocks and plant tussocks, or in logs and disused burrows.
W/C

Swamp Rat
Rattus lutreolus

Placental mammal
Size to 20cm (minus tail)
Diet roots and leaves of sedges. Also grasses, fungi, invertebrates and seeds.

Prefers vegetation dominated by sedges (Cyperaceae), in which it forms paths, nesting in logs or vegetation.
LS - W/C

Common Froglet
Crinia signifera

Amphibian
Size to 3cm
Diet mostly insects but also other invertebrates.

Inhabits streams and ponds in a number of habitat types.
W/A

Warty Bell Frog
Litoria raniformis

Amphibian
Size to 8cm
Diet other frogs.

Requires permanent wetland areas in a range of habitat types. Shelters during the day under fallen wood and other objects on the ground.
(v) W/U EPBC

Common Long-necked Tortoise
Chelodina longicollis

Reptile (tortoise)
Size to 25cm (shell)
Diet various fish, invertebrates (mostly molluscs and crustaceans) and tadpoles. Some dead animals.

Inhabits swamps, ponds and slow moving streams. May travel over land in search of water.
W/C

Swamp Skink
Egernia coventryi

Reptile (lizard)
Size to 25cm
Diet various invertebrates, flowers and fruits.

Requires lowland swamps or wet heathland that is regularly inundated and dense, low vegetation for shelter.
(v) R/U FFG

Gould's Wattled Bat
Chalinolobus gouldii

Placental mammal
Size head and body to 7.5cm, tail to 5cm
Diet mostly moths but also other insects captured in flight, around vegetation and above water.

Requires hollows in large, living, old-growth trees.
W/C

Black Wallaby
Wallabia bicolor

Marsupial mammal
Size to 85cm (minus tail)
Diet shrubs, ferns, fungi, grasses and other herbs.

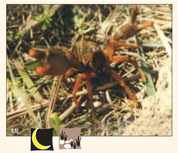
Requires dense vegetation for shelter during the day. May group during the night to feed, otherwise solitary.
LS - W/C

RIPARIAN ZONES

- Riparian zones comprise the area of vegetation immediately adjoining the waters edge.
  They are home to a large range of native fauna that rely on variations which riparian zones provide.

Riparian zones are negatively affected by:

- changes to stream flow by retaining or redirecting water.
- removal of riparian vegetation.
- trampling of the riparian zone especially by stock.
- pollution of water.
- unnatural erosion of streambanks or catchment areas and subsequent stream siltation.
- placement of in-stream barriers that restrict the movement of wildlife.
- removal of in-stream habitat structure such as tree branches.
- channeling of waterways.



Burrowing Cray
Engaeus sp.

Crustacean
Size to 10cm
Diet various, mostly plant material and some meat.

Specialists in burrowing, adapted to swimming. Rarely surfaces, living most of its life down around the water table.

Spotted Galaxias
Galaxias truttaceus

Fish
Size to 20cm
Diet mostly insects, other fish, some crustaceans and tadpoles.

Prefers slow flowing waterways where increased winter flows allow access to vegetation on inundated banks to lay eggs.
RS

Common Galaxias
Galaxias maculatus

Fish
Size to 20cm
Diet mostly insects and tadpoles.

Moves into estuaries to spawn, relying on a high tide in order to lay eggs amidst inundated vegetation.

Short-finned Eel
Anguilla australis

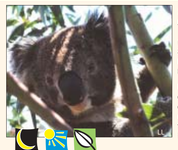
Fish
Size to 100cm
Diet live or dead amphibians, fish (and other vertebrates) and various invertebrates.

Adults migrate to the Coral Sea near New Caledonia to spawn. Young return to inland streams to live most of their life. Can move over land.

Delicate Skink
Lampropholis delicata

Reptile (lizard)
Size to 10.5cm
Diet mostly insects (including their larvae) and spiders.

Shelters under rocks, logs, in leaf litter and soil cracks. Forages in low vegetation and leaf litter.
LS - M/C



Koala
Phascolarctos cinereus

Marsupial mammal
Size to 82cm
Diet leaves of some Eucalyptus.

Due to a limited diet, it consequently has a limited choice of habitat. Certain riparian Eucalypts are favoured for food.
RS - W/U

Freshwater Cray
Euastacus sp.

Crustacean
Size to 15.5cm
Diet various, mostly plant material and some meat.

Inhabits rivers, lakes, dams, streams and swamps where foraging takes place on the bottom.
LS

Southern Pygmy Perch
Nannoperca australis

Fish
Size to 7cm
Diet various invertebrates especially insect larvae.

Prefers slow flowing streams with abundant aquatic plants. Life cycle entirely fresh water. Spawns amidst vegetation in still water.
LS

Tupong
Pseudaphritihis urvillii

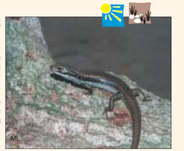
Fish
Size to 35cm
Diet various invertebrates and small fish.

Occupies the bottom of larger streams. Move during high flows to spawn in estuaries or near the ocean. Requires unrestricted movement upstream for survival.

Southern Brown Tree Frog
Litoria ewingii

Amphibian
Size to 4.6cm
Diet mostly insects and spiders.

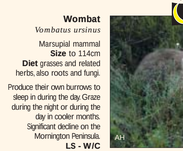
Requires streamside vegetation and still water in which to lay eggs. Remarkable climber often venturing some distance from water.
W/C



Southern Water Skink
Eulampus tympanum

Reptile (lizard)
Size to 19cm
Diet mostly insects and spiders but also other invertebrates and lizards.

Found near streams often on rocks or fallen wood, or burrowing beneath them for shelter.
LS - W/C



Wombat
Vombatus ursinus

Marsupial mammal
Size to 114cm
Diet grasses and related herbs, also roots and fungi.

Produce their own burrows to sleep in during the day. Graze during the night or during the day in cooler months. Significant decline on the Mornington Peninsula.
LS - W/C

Want more information ?

Mornington Peninsula Shire
Customer Service Centre
1300 850 600
www.mornpen.vic.gov.au

What to do with injured wildlife

- **Contact your local veterinarian** - injured wildlife may be treated by a vet in an emergency
- **Wildlife Victoria** - a voluntary care service for injured or orphaned native wildlife Ph. 0500 540 000

Useful websites

- **Australian Museum**
  www.austmus.gov.au/factsheets
- **Department of Sustainability and Environment**
  www.dpi.vic.gov.au Ph. 13 6186
- **Environment Australia**
  www.erin.gov.au Ph. (02) 6274 1111
- **Field Naturalists Club of Victoria**
  http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fncv Ph. 9877 9860
- **Melbourne Water**
  www.melbwater.com.au Ph. 9235 7100
- **Parks Victoria**
  www.parkweb.vic.gov.au Ph. 13 1963
- **R.S.P.C.A**
  www.rspca.org.au Ph. 5978 6706
- **Trust for Nature**
  www.tfn.org.au Ph. 9670 9933
- **The Victorian Frog Group Inc.**
  www.frogs.org.au/vfg Ph. 9354 4718
- **Victorian Law Today**
  www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au/l2d/tthome.html

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MORNINGTON PENINSULA Shire

COMMITTED TO A SUSTAINABLE PENINSULA