

Fire

The balance between managing fire risk and protecting our natural landscapes is a challenge that is taken very seriously by Frankston City Council. Maintaining fuel breaks (reducing fine fuels) helps reduce the risk and potential impacts of wildfire on neighbouring properties. Being prepared for fires, however, does not stop at the reserve boundary!



What you can do

Prepare your property well before the summer period, to reduce fire risk:

- 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 7.5cm.
- Clearly display your property number.
- Join or start a local Community Fireguard Group (CFG).

Contact the CFA for details about your local CFG and for information on preparing your home for the fire season: www.cfa.vic.gov.au

For more information about Council's fire prevention work, contact the Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officer on 9784 1918 or visit www.frankston.vic.gov.au

Friends Groups

Friends Groups consist of members of the local community who care greatly about our natural reserves. Frankston City Council currently works in partnership with 16 Friends Groups who volunteer their time and enthusiasm to work "on the ground" to make a positive difference to our local environment.

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

So come on, get involved NOW!

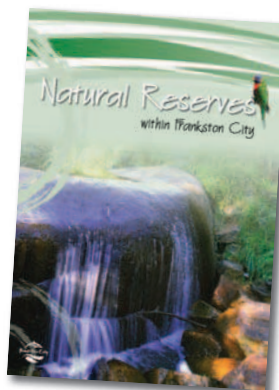
Phone Frankston City Council on 9784 1768 for details of a Friends group near you, or visit www.frankston.vic.gov.au/Environment/Groups_and_Places.

Natural Reserves

Information about our natural reserves.

Frankston City Council's booklet '*Natural Reserves within Frankston City*' contains maps and details of 16 of our most outstanding natural reserves.

Collect your **free** copy at Council outlets or the Visitor Information Centre at the Frankston Waterfront.



Wildlife rescue

If you find injured native animals or birds, contact:

• A.W.A.R.E.

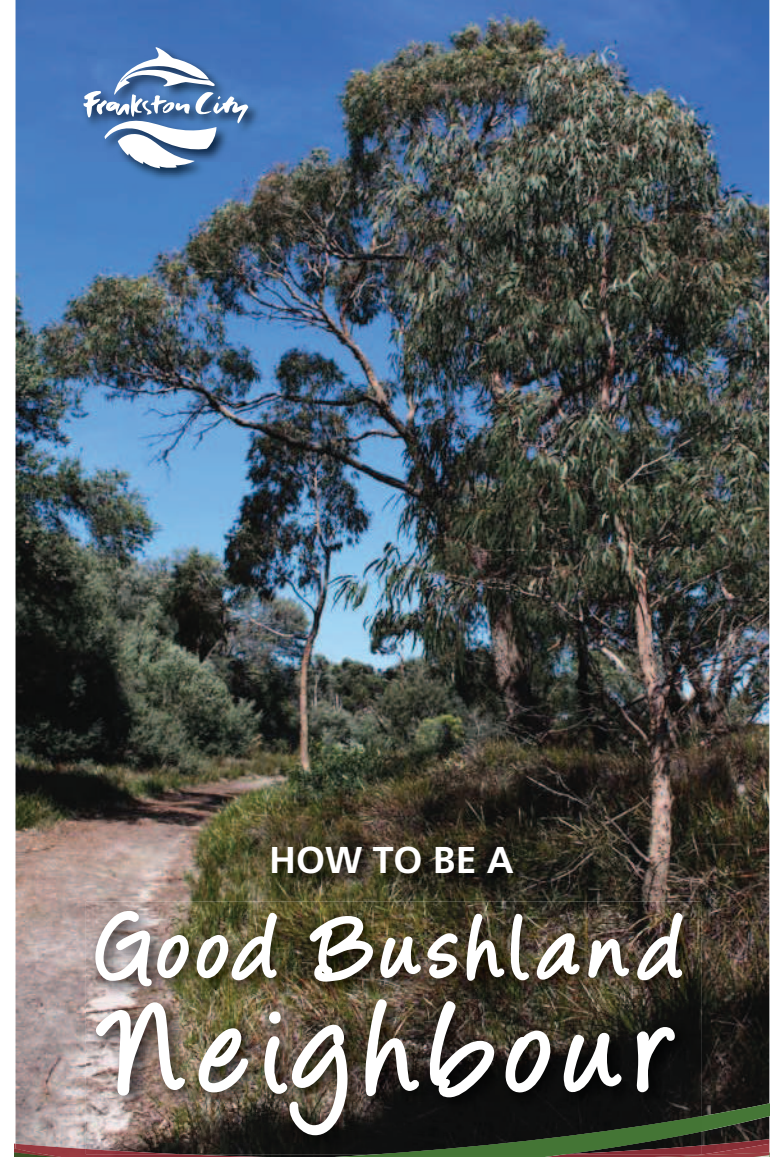
0412 433 727 (24 hour hotline)
www.awarewildlife.org.au

• Wildlife Victoria

1300 094 535 (24 hour hotline)
www.wildlifevictoria.org.au

Key Contacts

For further information about how to be a good bushland neighbour, contact
Frankston City Council on 1300 322 322
www.frankston.vic.gov.au



HOW TO BE A

Good Bushland Neighbour

Frankston City is blessed to have over 50 natural reserves. These remnant areas of bushland are complex living environments that provide food and shelter to support many species of protected flora and fauna. Our precious natural reserves need to be protected from threats to ensure they are there for future generations to enjoy.

Your garden

Preserve bushland barriers

Please keep your lawn and plants inside your own boundary. Weeds easily invade our reserves and compete with indigenous plants. A large proportion of bushland weeds result from exotic plants that have escaped private gardens or have been part of green waste dumped in our reserves.

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.



Sweet Pittosporum (weed)

Frankston's **Indigenous Nursery** has a wide range of these plants at very reasonable prices. The nursery is in McCulloch Avenue, Seaford, next to the SES (Melway Ref: 99 F8).

Opening hours:

Wednesday, 9:00am - 3:00pm
First Saturday of the month, 9:00am - 1:00pm
or by appointment. Ring 9768 1513 for more information.

Garden waste

Dumping garden waste and lawn clippings into bushland reserves causes great damage. It creates fire hazards, smothers native plants and spreads weeds. Dumping in reserves or beside the road is against the law.

What you can do

Dispose of garden waste correctly. Green waste collection is available from Council.

If you see someone illegally dumping rubbish please contact Council immediately. Heavy penalties apply to those who leave rubbish in bushland areas.

For more information visit www.frankston.vic.gov.au/Rubbish_and_Recycling/index.aspx

Bush habitat

Dead wood, whether lying on the ground or still standing, provides precious habitat. Logs on the ground provide shelter, breeding and feeding opportunities for insects, birds, mammals and reptiles, as well as nutrients that are returned to the soil. 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 reserves or roadsides as this can have direct impacts on the plants and animals living in our reserves. It is illegal to remove dead wood from natural reserves without written permission from Council.



Domestic Animals

One of the most important ways to preserve our native wildlife is by being a responsible pet owner. Cats and dogs are valued family members, but it is the owner's responsibility to control their wandering habits.

It can be traumatic to see your cat or dog with dead native animals.



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

What you can do

Cats: By law cats must be kept within your property boundaries at all times. Did you know that cats that are kept inside at night are often healthier and live longer? They avoid injury and stress and have a much lower risk of contracting diseases from encounters with other cats.

Dogs: Dogs must not be allowed to roam the neighbourhood and are prohibited in many bushland reserves. Dogs leave a predator smell that can disrupt the feeding, breeding and movement patterns of wildlife. 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 and free roam areas for dogs, refer to the Council's website www.frankston.vic.gov.au