

Your essential guide to summer on the Mornington Peninsula

Summer is for everyone

December 2025 – February 2026



**Mornington
Peninsula Shire**

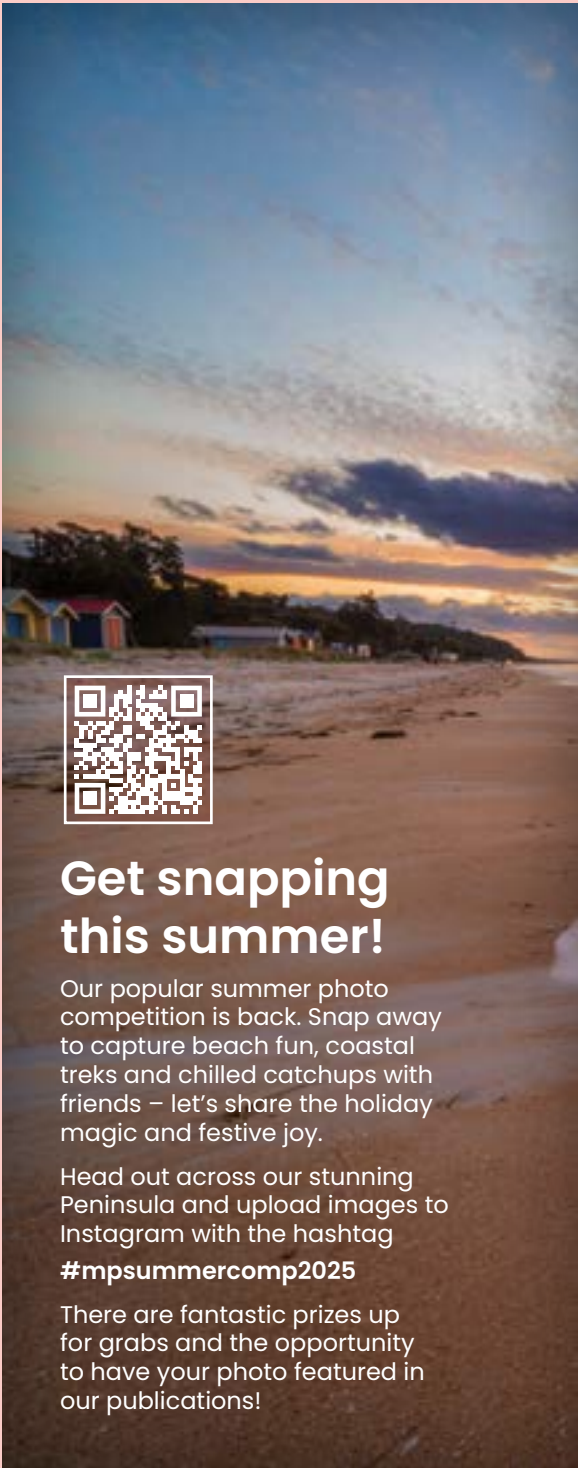
Cover image taken at Dromana Beach circa 1970s. Courtesy Dromana Historical Society.

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Acknowledgement of Country

Mornington Peninsula Shire acknowledges and pays respect to the Bunurong people, the Traditional Owners of these lands and waters.



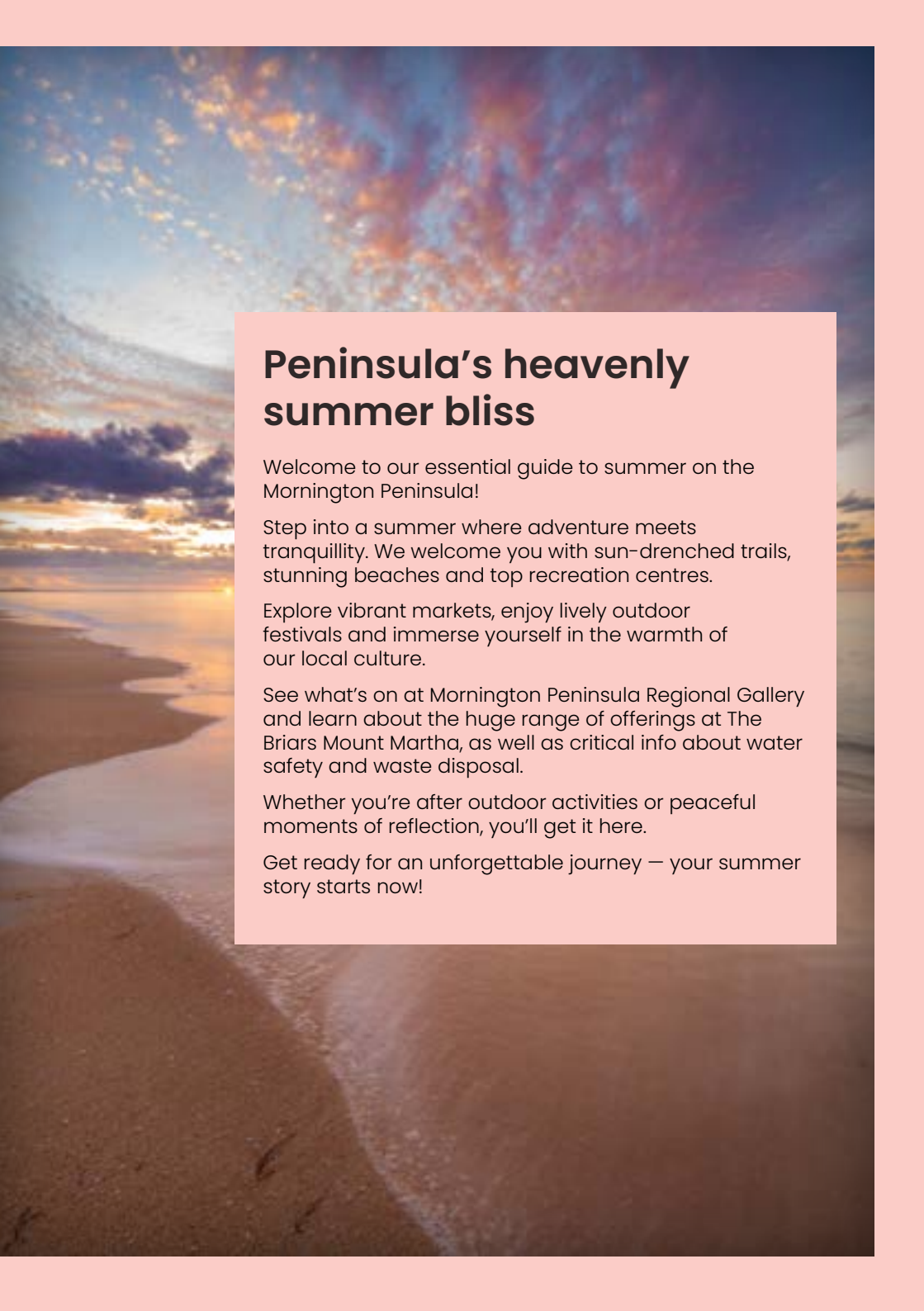


Get snapping this summer!

Our popular summer photo competition is back. Snap away to capture beach fun, coastal treks and chilled catchups with friends – let's share the holiday magic and festive joy.

Head out across our stunning Peninsula and upload images to Instagram with the hashtag **#mpsummercomp2025**

There are fantastic prizes up for grabs and the opportunity to have your photo featured in our publications!



Peninsula's heavenly summer bliss

Welcome to our essential guide to summer on the Mornington Peninsula!

Step into a summer where adventure meets tranquillity. We welcome you with sun-drenched trails, stunning beaches and top recreation centres.

Explore vibrant markets, enjoy lively outdoor festivals and immerse yourself in the warmth of our local culture.

See what's on at Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery and learn about the huge range of offerings at The Briars Mount Martha, as well as critical info about water safety and waste disposal.

Whether you're after outdoor activities or peaceful moments of reflection, you'll get it here.

Get ready for an unforgettable journey — your summer story starts now!

Jingle bells!

There's no shortage of Christmas spirit to enjoy thanks to free community festivals and carols across the Peninsula. Embrace the festive season and share the goodwill.

5 December 5.30pm – 9.30pm

Sorrento Christmas Carols
David McFarlan Reserve

6 December 9am – 2pm

Red Hill District Lions
Christmas Tree Festival
Red Hill Recreation Reserve

13 December 4pm – 8.30pm

Community Carols in the Park
Mornington Park

20 December 6pm – 9.30pm

Rosebud Christmas carols
Rosebud Village Green

21 December 8.30pm – 9.30pm

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
All Saints Anglican Church Rosebud

23 December 7.30pm – 9pm

Carols by the Bay
Mount Martha Parade Lawn

24 December 6pm – 7.30pm

Carols by Candlelight
Dromana Park



Ring in the New Year on the Peninsula!

Our New Year's Eve webpage has everything you need to plan ahead – from transport and safety info to local updates. Check it out before you head out and help make it a safe, fun night for everyone.

mornpen.vic.gov.au/nye



Image courtesy Dromana Historical Society

Australia Day events

However you choose to spend 26 January, let's pause to reflect on our history, respect the stories of others and celebrate our nation, its achievements and its people.

Our townships at Rosebud, Dromana and Mount Eliza are hosting community celebrations with loads of family fun, food and entertainment.

Dromana Australia Day 2025

Dromana Recreation Reserve
8.30am to 1.30pm

Rosebud Australia Day Fun Run and Festival

Rosebud Village Green
8am to 5pm

Australia Day in Mount Eliza

Howard Parker Reserve
8.30am to 1pm

Read your way to great prizes!

Keep the kids entertained and learning these holidays with the BIG Summer Read.

Children are encouraged to read 10 or more books over summer to go in the draw to win some amazing prizes. All kinds of books count – including picture books, audiobooks, graphic novels and more. Visit any of our four libraries – Mornington, Rosebud, Hastings or Somerville – to sign up and get started or visit our website.



library.mornpen.vic.gov.au/bigsummerread

Unfolding: First Nations Works on Paper

29 November 2025 – 15 February 2026

Unfolding is a major exhibition celebrating the diversity and dynamism of works on paper by First Nations artists in the MPRG Collection.

Major cultural centre

The Shire's major cultural facility and the largest public gallery in the southeast region, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery is renowned for its exhibition program of Australian and international art. Entry is free.

MPRG's retail store stocks a selection of books, cards and gifts with a focus on local Peninsula made products.

mprg.mornpen.vic.gov.au



Djakanju Yunupingu, Gurmilili
- *Tears of the Djulpan* 2024.



Best by par at Mount Martha

Indoor. Immersive. Seriously addictive. Who cares about the weather? That's just scratching the surface of what you'll get with Mount Martha Public Golf Course's new golf simulators.

This isn't just for the pros. It is golf meets gaming, the perfect hangout spot and it's made for everyone. Yes, even the kids!

While you're there, why not check out the stunning 18-hole course that often surprises visitors with its lush couch fairways and meticulously maintained greens!

mtmarthapublicgc.com.au



Market buzz

Experience the vibrant buzz of a Mornington Peninsula market – bursting with fresh local produce, handmade treasures and unique finds!

mornpen.vic.gov.au/markets

Local food heroes!

Time to eat? Discover Best Bites – a celebration of local food heroes who value safety, healthy living, eco practices and welcoming everyone. Excellence assured. Check out our Best Bites list to find a great café, restaurant, takeaway or retailer, and relax knowing they are a Best Bites accredited food business.

mornpen.vic.gov.au/bestbiteslist



Best Bites

Live the local experience podcast



Insider's guide

Discover the Peninsula through the voices of those who know it best – our local tourism operators. Live the Local Experience shares their stories, tips and favourite places to visit, offering an authentic look at what makes this region so special. Listen to all 24 episodes at:

mornpen.vic.gov.au/local-experience-podcast

Free summer discoveries!

This summer, create your own adventure across the Peninsula. Pick a coastal walk, a shady trail or a quiet spot to pause. There are so many free places to explore that you're bound to uncover a new favourite.



Southern Peninsula

Coastal trails, historic sites and hidden natural spaces

Eastern Sister Pathway

Walk between Camerons Bight and Sullivan Bay and take in the Collins Settlement Historic Site, the location of Victoria's first European settlement in 1803.

Point Nepean National Park

Take a photo from one of the many lookouts at the very tip of the Peninsula, where the bay meets the open ocean.

Rye Pier

One of the Peninsula's best underwater experiences. Look beneath the surface for stingrays, seahorses and other marine life gathering around the pylons.

Moonah Waren Bushland Reserve, Rye

Home to one of the Peninsula's important coastal Moonah woodlands. Follow the short circuit trail beneath twisting trunks and native shrubs.

Northern Peninsula

Colourful coastlines, creative spaces and nature close to town

Mount Martha Beach

Home to some of the Mornington Peninsula's most photographed bathing boxes. Stretching for two kilometres, the beach is divided by Balcombe Creek and backed by a vegetated bluff.

Mornington Botanical Rose Gardens

Located at Civic Reserve, this rose garden of international significance features over 4,000 roses surrounded by native trees and open lawns.

Moorooduc Quarry Flora and Fauna Reserve

A 22-hectare reserve in Mount Eliza known for its striking cliffs, circuit walks and lookouts.





Hinterland

Trails, views and a taste of the Peninsula's produce

Red Hill Rail Trail

Follow the former railway line between Merricks and Red Hill, once used to carry apples to market.

Arthurs Seat Summit

The Peninsula's highest viewpoint, with sweeping views across Port Phillip Bay to the city skyline.

Hinterland Farm Gates and Markets

The Hinterland is home to some of the Peninsula's freshest seasonal produce, including orchard fruit, vegetables, local preserves and cheese.

Western Port

Fishing and boating, calm waters and rich wildlife

Hastings Foreshore

Cast a line from the jetty or watch the boats at the marina. The calm waters and visiting pelicans make it a favourite for fishing and boating.

Balnarring Beach

A quiet spot for beachcombing and paddling. Look for shells, seaweed and the changing patterns left by the tide.

Coolart Wetlands and Homestead

Set within a late Victorian farming estate, the 1895 homestead is surrounded by gardens, wetlands and walking trails.



Savour the season: summer flavours of the Peninsula



Berry delight

Picking your own cherries and berries is a quintessential summer adventure. Wander through the sun-drenched orchards hunting for the best red cherries and fields for plump, sweet strawberries, blueberries and raspberries. A hands-on experience that delights all ages!



Food lover's paradise

Summer on the Mornington Peninsula is a food lover's paradise, where every road leads to a fresh discovery.

Farm gates brim with seasonal produce, homemade preserves, freshly caught mussels and much more.

Yes way, rosé!

Wineries and cideries pour local pinots and crisp ciders, perfect for long, lazy lunches paired with local, seasonal produce that celebrates the Peninsula's rich soil and seas. Exploring the hills, hinterland and coastlines of the Mornington Peninsula is a delicious journey of freshness and flavour.

For more information, visit the website or drop by the Visitor Information Centre.

mpp.mornpen.vic.gov.au



**MORNINGTON
PENINSULA
PRODUCE**

Summer days at The Briars

The Briars is a much-loved conservation park at Mount Martha. The perfect haven on a summer day, there's plenty to see and do.

Walk among wildlife

The Wildlife Sanctuary celebrates the unique flora and fauna of the Peninsula. Follow the trails through 90ha of woodland and wetlands, animal spotting along the way. Entry is free.



Collect plants for summer

The Briars nursery specialises in beautiful plants indigenous to the Peninsula, along with a range of Australian natives.

Open Wednesday – Friday, first Saturday of the month.



Bragging rights for kids

The Briars runs a fabulous school holiday program for children aged 7 –13 years with a range of activities designed to help kids connect to their natural environment.



Our events

Enjoy the Enchanted Twilight Market with market stalls and food vendors on 3 January, from 3pm – 8pm. Our Survival Day includes Indigenous bush foods, cultural workshops, dancing and more. Delivered by Our Songlines on 26 January.



The Briars, 450 Nepean Highway, Mount Martha
mornpen.vic.gov.au/Briars

Picnic among heritage gardens

The gardens surrounding The Briars homestead are among some of the oldest on the Peninsula. A charming space to lay out a picnic rug and take in the views!



Summer BBQs

Under the dappled shade of the gums is The Briars BBQ area. The barbecues are free to use but if you want to secure a space for a larger catch up, a sectioned area is available for hire. Nearby, you'll find some old fashioned fun with lawn games for all ages.



Visitor centre

The discovery continues in The Briars Visitor Centre, where you'll find butt breathing turtles, tupongs, a short-finned eel and frogs! There are also gifts, toys and books to browse, plus cold drinks and snacks.



Summer celebrations

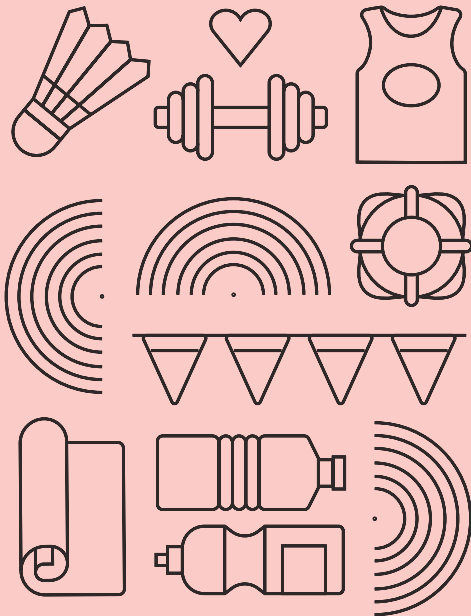
Got a special event or milestone moment coming up? The Briars has a charming marquee set among the heritage gardens with sweeping views of the valley, available for hire.



Summer fun at our recreation centres

This summer, the Shire is your go-to destination for family-friendly fun, fitness and adventure!

With three aquatic centres and two indoor stadiums, there's something for everyone – from toddlers splashing in the pool to teens tackling obstacle courses and adults enjoying a social game or swim. Stay in the loop with the latest events, activities and updates by visiting your local centre's website or following them on social media.



Crib Point Pool

31 Governors Rd, Crib Point
cribpointpool.com.au

Crib Point Pool features a 25m pool, toddler pool, shaded picnic areas and BBQ facilities, it's the perfect spot to cool off. This season marks 50 years since the pool first opened –celebrate with us by checking out our special anniversary events online!



Yawa Aquatic Centre

100 Besgrove St, Rosebud
yawa.com.au

Rain or shine, Yawa is your all-weather aquatic destination. Kids will love the splash pad and waterslides, while older swimmers can enjoy the learn-to-swim pool or 50m lanes. Don't miss the inflatable obstacle course returning for the school holidays – fun for all ages!

Pelican Park Recreation Centre

2 Marine Pde, Hastings
pelicanparkrec.com.au

Fresh from revitalisation works, Pelican Park now features a brand-new Pelican slide for toddlers and an inflatable obstacle course for older kids. With a nearby cafe, playground, skatepark and open green spaces, Marine Pde is the ultimate family day out.



Somerville Recreation Centre

14 Edward St, Somerville
somervillerecreationcentre.com.au

Whether you're into basketball, pickleball or just looking for a place to stay active, Somerville's four-court stadium has you covered. Enjoy a jam-packed school holiday program, grab a coffee at the onsite cafe and stay tuned for exciting venue upgrades coming soon!



Civic Reserve Recreation Centre

350 Dunns Rd, Mornington
civicreccentre.com.au

Civic Reserve is your hub for indoor sports, fitness classes and community fun. With a welcoming atmosphere and versatile facilities, it's the perfect place to stay active and connected this summer.



Stay Connected

Follow your local centre on social media or visit their website to explore programs, book activities and get the latest updates. Let's make this summer one to remember — active, fun and full of family moments!



**Mornington
Peninsula Shire**

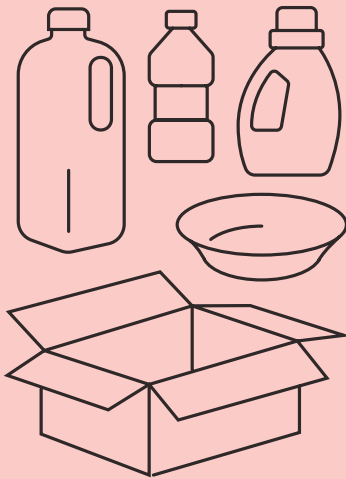
Active

Recycle right this summer

We all want to do the right thing when it comes to recycling, but sometimes the rules can feel confusing. To make it easier, here are some simple tips to keep in mind:

Empty it. Rinse it. Recycle it.

Always make sure containers are empty and given a quick rinse before going in the recycling bin. Clean recycling has the best chance of being turned into something new.



Yes, you can recycle these things!

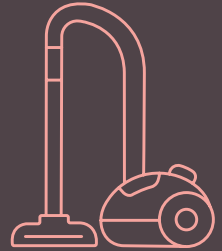
Your kitchen and laundry are home to plenty of recyclables. Think milk bottles, cardboard boxes, pasta sauce jars, detergent bottles, laundry cartons and ready-made meal trays. The key is to keep them loose (never bagged) and clean.

**Bin it right
Future's bright**

mornpen.vic.gov.au/binitright

Want a free trip to the tip?

Some things just don't belong in your kerbside recycling bin. But the good news is, you can drop off tricky items like broken vacuums, old tools, coat hangers, roasting tins and textiles at the tip for free!



Plan your summer recycling

Weekly recycling collection:
From 22 December to 30 January, recycling bins will be collected weekly across the Peninsula.

Earn 10c per container: Return eligible drink containers through the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) for a refund. You'll also find dedicated CDS baskets alongside public rubbish bins in foreshore reserves and popular parks, making it even easier to recycle on the go.

Did you know? Christmas wrapping paper ends up in landfill because it can't be recycled. This year, try wrapping presents in fabric or reusing old paper instead.



Wherever you litter it ends up here



Litter dropped in the streets ends up in our waterways, harming wildlife and their habitats.



Off to the beach

With thousands of visitors expected to flock to our beautiful beaches, bays and waterways this summer, it's important to put safety first. Whether you're a local or visiting, keep these water safety tips in mind.

Stay between the flags: Always swim at patrolled beaches and between the red and yellow flags. Lifesavers are there to help keep you safe.

Supervise children: Keep kids within arm's reach at all times around water.

Be aware of conditions: Check weather, tides, rips and warnings before heading out. Conditions can change quickly.

Avoid alcohol around water: Alcohol impairs judgement and swimming ability.

Look out for each other: Swim with a buddy and check in with friends and family, especially those who may be less familiar with local water conditions.

Know your limits

Not all beaches are safe for swimming. If in doubt, stay out or ask a lifesaver for advice.

Before you go, check the BeachSafe app or website for real-time updates on patrol times, beach conditions, hazards and safety advice. Download the app or visit the website:

beachsafe.org.au

Let's all do our part to make this a safe, enjoyable summer on the Peninsula.

mornpen.vic.gov.au/Water-Safety

Patrolled beaches

Surf beaches

Portsea, Sorrento, Gunnamatta, Point Leo.

Bay beaches

Mornington (Mills Beach), Mount Martha (South Beach), Dromana, Rosebud-McCrae.

Dogs on beaches

Exercising your dog on the beach is a great way to get outdoors, however please remember dogs are prohibited on many beaches from 10am to 6pm during summer time. Make sure you keep your dog on a leash at all times, except when at a designated leash-free area.

mornpen.vic.gov.au/dogs

Jet ski with care

Jet skiing at Peninsula beaches is exciting but carries risks if not handled responsibly. Remember to 'Ride Right' by staying to the five-knot speed limit, stay clear of designated swimming areas and respect our marine mammals and wildlife.

safetransport.vic.gov.au

Beach matting

The Shire has five locations offering beach matting. Visit our website for more information about the matting and MobiChair access.

mornpen.vic.gov.au/accessiblerecreation

Be fire ready

If you're staying on the Peninsula this summer, you need to make sure you're fire ready.

- Download the VicEmergency app
- Check the fire danger rating every day
- Learn about bushfire places of last resort
- Have a bushfire plan and leave early.

emergency.vic.gov.au

cfa.vic.gov.au

Considering burning off?

During the declared Fire Danger Period, open-air burning of any kind on any property, regardless of size, is not allowed. Open-air burning differs from cooking with barbecues, pizza ovens or heating in braziers or chimineas. During a Total Fire Ban, lighting fires or solid fuel heaters and barbecues is illegal. Let's keep our community safe!

mornpen.vic.gov.au/firedangerperiod

mornpen.vic.gov.au/openairburning

Beat the heat

Heat related illness can be serious. When a heatwave strikes, it's important to stay cool and hydrated. Never leave anyone – kids, pets or adults – in a hot car. Seek out cool places like shopping centres or libraries and remember to

slip, slop, slap if you must be outside. Watch out for others and check in with friends and family who may be vulnerable during extreme heat. For more tips:

mornpen.vic.gov.au/beattheheat

More information

Shire emergency information

mornpen.vic.gov.au/emergencyinformation

 **Vic Emergency**
emergency.vic.gov.au

 **Buruli Ulcer**
mornpen.vic.gov.au/beatthebite

 **Thunderstorm asthma**
betterhealth.vic.gov.au/thunderstormasthma

 **Mental health**
headtohealth.gov.au

Customer service

Our Customer service officers are here to help you.



**Mornington
Peninsula Shire**

Via phone or web chat:

1300 850 600

Web chat:

mornpen.vic.gov.au/contact-us

8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday

In person at our Service Centres

Rosebud office

9am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday
90 Besgrove Street

Mornington office

9am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday
2 Queen Street

Hastings Office

1pm to 4.30pm Monday to Friday
21 Marine Parade

In person at Your Local Connection Points

Somerville Library

10am to 5pm Monday to Friday
1085 Frankston – Flinders Road

Dromana Visitor Information Centre

10am to 4pm Wednesday
359B Point Nepean Road

Red Hill

9am to 5pm Thursday
Shop 3, 137 Shoreham Road

Sorrento Community Centre

9am to 5pm Friday
860 – 868 Melbourne Road

**All services centres and local
connection points are closed
on public holidays**

Contact us online

You can email:

customerservice@mornpen.vic.gov.au

Message us via Facebook:

facebook.com/mornpenshire

Or make a report via our website,
including adding a photo:

mornpen.vic.gov.au/reportit

24 hour emergency contact

If you need to contact us outside
of our normal operating hours, you
can give us a call 24 hours a day,
7 days a week:

1300 850 600

Mornington Peninsula Visitor Information Centre

To connect with our local tourism
experts at the Mornington Peninsula
Visitor Information Centre, please
call or email for the most up to date
information to plan your experience.

5950 1579

info@tourism.mornpen.vic.gov.au
tourism.mornpen.vic.gov.au

Open daily 10am to 4pm,
closed Christmas Day