

The Yarra Valley and the Dandenongs Ranges is one of Victoria's most popular destinations. Within one hour's ride of Melbourne's CBD, the region is home to some of Australia's most attractive public gardens, National Parks and towering Mountain Ash forests. The Yarra Ranges is renowned for its award winning wineries and restaurants and popular tourist attractions including Healesville Sanctuary and Puffing Billy Railway.

This brochure has been developed by the Shire of Yarra Ranges Motorcycle Safety Working Group, to assist fellow motorcyclist to ride safely and enjoy the region.

The enclosed map highlights a choice of scenic and enjoyable rides for motorcycle riders.

### **SAFE RIDING PREPARE YOUR BIKE FOR THE RIDE**

#### **What is the condition of your bike?**

It is a good idea to check over your bike before you head off for a ride. That way you can concentrate on enjoying your ride and have confidence in the capability and performance of your bike. The following simple checks could save your life in an emergency.

Check:

- Tyre pressures & tread depth
- Chain wear and tension
- Brake operation
- Oil Chain (if applicable)
- Brake pads (shoes if applicable)
- Engine/Gearbox oil
- Brake cable and lever
- Two-stroke oil (if applicable)
- All nuts tightened
- Cooling water (if applicable)
- Your fuel tank is full

**In an emergency situation you do not want the road test your bike!**



#### **Roadsafe Melbourne Eastern Ranges**

Private Bag 4  
Mt Waverley Vic 3149  
T 9881 8019  
F 9887 7590



**Have a Safe Ride in the  
Shire of Yarra Ranges**



#### **OUR THANKS TO:**

- Victoria Police
- Yarra Valley, Dandenongs & The Ranges Tourism Board
- RoadSafe Melbourne Eastern Ranges
- OpenRoad Tourers motorcycle club
- All motorcyclist who have assisted with project



# **Motorcycling in the Yarra Ranges**



**...enjoy the ride.**

The Shire of Yarra Ranges has developed this leaflet in the interests of motorcycle safety. No responsibility or liability is accepted or implied.

A Road Safety initiative of the  
Shire of Yarra Ranges



## SAFER GEAR

Weather and road conditions can change dramatically during the course of a ride. With conditions quickly going from blazing hot to driving rain and slick roads. So when you are considering your riding gear – think protection and not just weather!

Top quality and well maintained gear is essential for you and your pillion. If you are unlucky enough to have an 'off' you will soon appreciate just how important your safety gear is. Start at your solid boots and work your way up and bear in mind that shoe laces can be hazardous. Wear gear that has extra protection and support for your back, elbows, shoulders, knees and ankles. New, well fitting helmets should be worn, avoid second hand helmets as you don't know what they have been through. Wear scratch and bug free visors, quality gloves and always pack wet weather gear.

## THE RIDER & FATIGUE

The real cause of many crashes is sleep deprivation. It's not merely a case of how long your trip is, it is also a case of how much sleep you have had the night before. Riding without sufficient sleep is like riding intoxicated. Your ability to concentrate will be greatly affected.

### • Rider Fatigue

Fatigue can be a killer. Riding a motorbike is far more tiring than driving a car. Fatigue can affect your ability to control your bike. To decrease the chance of becoming fatigued: protect yourself from the elements, dress warmly and make sure you take regular rest breaks at some of our great attractions.

A break will give you a chance to revive. But remember if you are fatigued the only remedy is sleep – even a 15 minute Powernap will help.

Townships throughout the area provide attractive rest and refreshment facilities, such as:

**Warburton** (The Valley Bakery and Coffee House),  
**Marysville** (The Marysville Country Bakery, Yarra Track Coffee Shop, Oscar), and **McMahons Creek**.



## ROAD SAFETY

Yarra Ranges' roads can be challenging. Large numbers of domestic and overseas tourists, winding bends and changeable road conditions means extra care needs to be taken.

Set your speed according to your surroundings:

- Holiday homes mean kids
- Towns mean locals & tourists
- Farm buildings mean animals
- Trees mean dampness
- Leaf litter can mean slippery conditions

Damp sections can pose particular problems for motorcyclists. Moss can form in the centre of the road between car tyre marks. Gravel road shoulders can result in a build up of loose stones, especially on winding or steep roads. Always be alert and take extra caution in these conditions.



Watch out for oncoming traffic, especially on tight corners. And don't cut across double lines. Experienced riders will tell you it's important to take a wide line until you can see through the corner. Cranking it over in a corner is not fun if you end up wearing a truck or car.

Statistics show that first time and novice riders, especially those unfamiliar with local conditions, are often over represented in crashes. If you are inviting others to join you on a ride bear in mind their level of expertise. If you are concerned about their ability talk to them about it. Consider rider training courses for yourself, club or group.

This especially applies to 'born again bikers' whose riding skills may not be what they once were. There are great courses available to update your skills. By taking part in one of these you may even qualify for a rebate on your insurance.

The Shire of Yarra Ranges also conducts a series of instructor led motorcycle rides through some of the more popular parts of the shire between October and ... for more information contact Mark McGuire on 1300 368 333.

## Police

Police play a key role in helping reduce fatal and serious crashes in our region. Local police know the roads and understand the issues affecting motorbike riders. They are also committed to safeguarding all road users and to this end will not tolerate speeding or reckless driving or riding, or behaviour that puts others at risk.

## IN AN EMERGENCY

Mobile phone coverage is limited in some parts of the Yarra Ranges. In an emergency you may not be able to call 112 (GSM mobile phones) or 000 (CDMA mobile phones). For this reason we suggest you ride with a friend



## ROAD CONDITIONS PHONE LINE

If you encounter dangerous road conditions or hazards please report it to the Shire of Yarra Ranges on **1300 368 333 (24 hours a day 7 days a week)**

## YARRA VALLEY & THE DANDENONGS

Our region's winding mountainous roads stretching from Healesville, Kinglake, Marysville and through to Warburton are second only to the Great Ocean Road in popularity among recreational motorcycle riders and are listed on many motorcycle club websites as a 'must ride' destination.

Each weekend between October and late April thousands of motorcycle riders visit the Yarra Ranges for the riding experience. And while we are happy to host them, we want to make sure they have an enjoyable ride and return home safely.



## ROAD HAZARDS

Motorcyclists account for just one percent of road users and yet they represent about 14 percent of fatalities on the state's roads. All roads are potentially dangerous. Factors such as high tourist traffic volume and the windy nature of many of our roads can pose increased risks.

Common hazards to be aware of are:

- Road debris including rock slides
- Loose gravel
- Oil, diesel and debris from roads
- Water across the road
- Wildlife
- Ice and snow in winter...

**Not to mention other road users**

## HOLIDAY MAKERS

In the Yarra Ranges weekends, holidays and warm weather mean sight-seers, tourist buses, cyclists, motorbike riders and pedestrians – the conditions that make riding a challenge. It is worth noting that Fridays and Sundays are over represented in motorcycle crashes.

## HAZARDS FROM OTHER PEOPLE

Inconsiderate and careless drivers, speeding, drink driving, motorists crossing double lines, and motorists overestimating their abilities are some of the more common factors involved in crashes.

Look Out - Especially at Intersections

Many car-motorcycle crashes on our local roads are often caused by drivers failing to see, or not seeing a motorcyclist in time to avoid a crash.

## WHAT A DRIVER CAN DO

### • Consider the Motorcyclist

Motorcyclists face more difficulties in traffic than you. In a crash a rider has far less protection than car occupants.

### • Leave Space

Give the rider space on the road and room to move. This will help both of you to stay out of trouble in an emergency – following too closely is tempting fate.

### • Drive Smart - Anticipate

Motorcyclists may have to respond rapidly to objects that, while they may not threaten you, could prove lethal for a rider. Be prepared for a rider's evasive actions.

## ENTERING & EXITING CORNERS

When cornering the most important factor for any rider is to enter at the correct speed. Early braking, good down-changing to the appropriate gear and the correct road position will allow a rider to lean the bike, negotiate the bend under smooth acceleration until the exit can be visualised, and accelerate through to the exit.

Extreme road camber, double apexes, double back corners and decreasing radius corners are all common on our roads.

There is no room for error - if you accelerate into, or brake late into a corner, it may have serious consequences for you.

## CORNERS

The region's windy mountainous roads are a major factor attracting motorbike riders here; but they can also be a major hazard. Clearly signed speed and advisory speed signs have been installed for your safety. It is imperative that you observe and understand these signs.

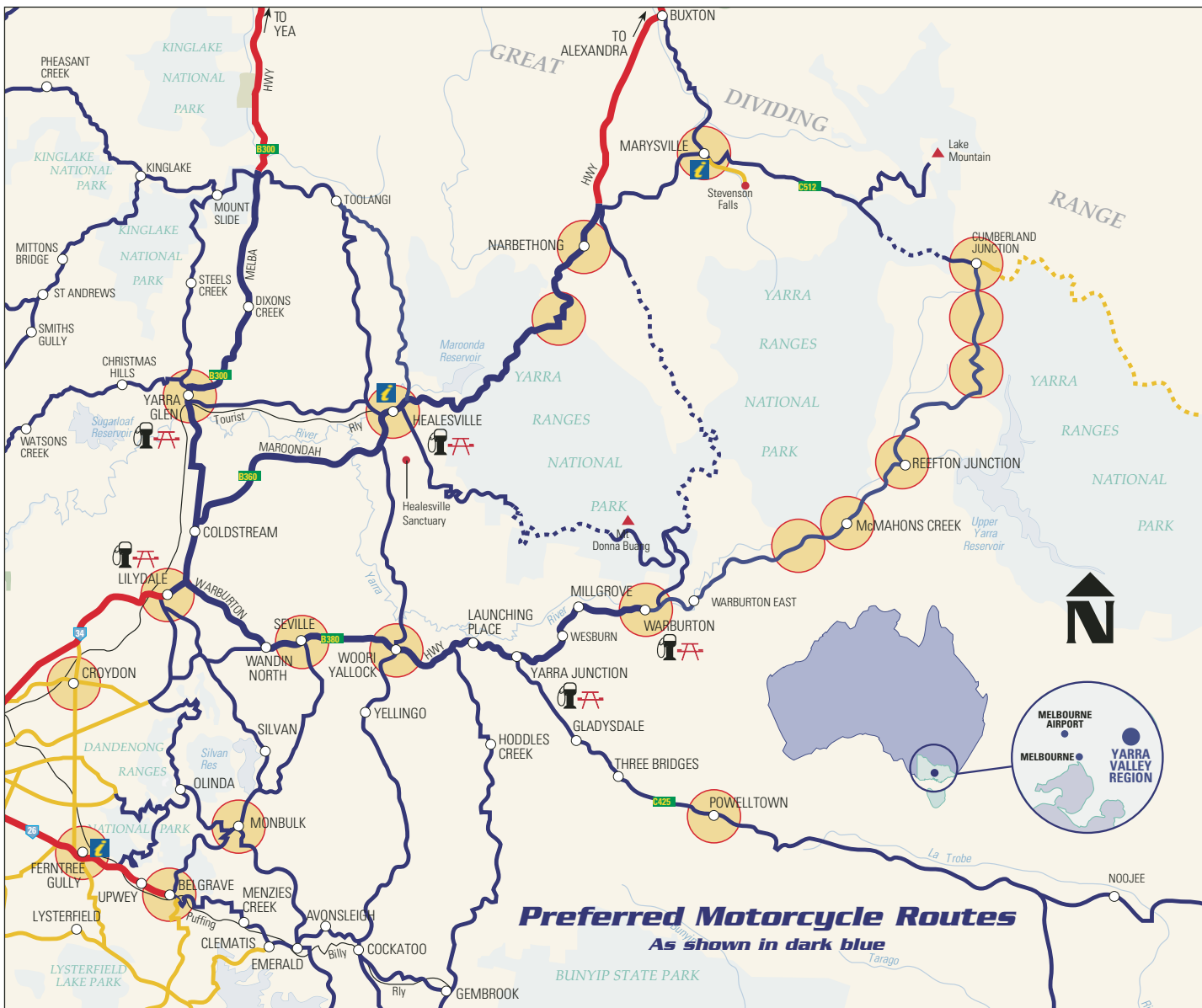
On windy bends and sharp corners bear in mind the likelihood of oncoming traffic and the possibility they may be encroaching on your side of the road. Being aware of your body and head position when you are cornering, ensuring you are not too far over the white line will go a long way to helping you keep your head.

Remember you cannot see around corners so ride to your ability and your sight line, you never know what is around the corner!



## COMPOUND CORNERS

The topography of the shire's mountainous areas means many of our roads have compound corners, double apexes or decreasing radius that cannot be seen on entry. These curves can place a sudden high demand on your riding or driving skills. Sight distance is the key to safe cornering so adjust your speed accordingly.



**Keep Left:** Overseas visitors - remember to drive or ride on the left side of the road. **A 15 minute powernap can save your life.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION LOOK FOR THE VISIT VICTORIA INFORMATION SERVICE OR VISIT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CENTRES

**Yarra Valley Visitor Info Centre**  
Harker St, Healesville  
T (03) 5962 2600 F (03) 5962 2040

**Warburton Ranges Tourism Inc.**  
335 Warburton Hwy, Warburton  
T (03) 59 665 996 F (03) 59 665 996

**Dandenong Ranges Visitor Info Centre**  
1211 Burwood Hwy, Upper Ferntree Gully  
T (03) 9758 7522 F (03) 9758 7533

**Marysville Visitor Information Centre**  
11 Murchison Street, Marysville  
T (03) 5963 4567

[www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au) [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

## Yarra Valley

With mountains framing the horizon and valleys lined with rows of vineyards, the Yarra Valley offers breathtaking scenery. The Yarra Valley is one of Australia's finest food and wine destinations with plenty to tempt the palate. If you follow the Maroondah Hwy from Lilydale you will find the townships of Yarra Glen and Healesville. Both offer gourmet food and wine, shopping and accommodation.

The Warburton Hwy winds its way from Lilydale through Warburton - a small hamlet nestled in the foothills of the mountains. Here Melbourne's Yarra River has its genesis in picturesque surrounds.

## Dandenong Ranges

Roads wind through lush forests in the Dandenong Ranges. With its charming villages lining the way, there are plenty of opportunities for a refreshment stop, a browse through shops and galleries or take a forest walk. The Dandenong Ranges is one of Melbourne's most well known day trip destinations. Well-known townships in the Dandenong Ranges include Olinda, Sassafra, Belgrave, Kallista and Kalorama. And each has something to offer visitors - from Devonshire teas, to natural experiences. The Dandenong Ranges is also well known for its Bed and Breakfast accommodation.



**Ride Safe and Enjoy the Ride  
in the Shire of Yarra Ranges**

## The Yarra Valley, Dandenongs & the Ranges Tourism Board

237 Maroondah Highway, Healesville VIC 3777

T (03) 5962-5996 F (03) 5962-4997

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