



Your local Arboriculture Specialists

# Tree Range News

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Issue 1



## Welcome to the first issue of Tree Range News.

Here at Tree Range Arborists we thought it would be helpful to the wider community to start a newsletter that focuses on the different aspects of Arboriculture and what they mean for you as a resident, particularly if you live in the Dandenong Ranges.

Each Newsletter will focus on a different aspect and is designed to give the residential community a better insight into topics such as tree care and maintenance, storm readiness, diseases that affect trees in our area and other things that will be relevant to you.

Today we have a blog article from John McKenna that talks about his thoughts on arboriculture in the Dandenong Ranges. John is the Director of Tree Range Arborists and has over 15 years of experience in all forms of tree services. He is one of the leading arborists in the Dandenong Ranges and has worked on some of the most difficult trees this area has to offer. He is a lover of nature and prides himself on working to ensure our forested landscape is treated with the utmost respect it deserves.

Please read on to hear our Director, John McKenna's thoughts..

## My thoughts on tree work in the Dandenong Ranges

The Dandenong Ranges in Victoria, Australia, are renowned for their lush greenery and magnificent tree-filled landscapes, hosting many of the world's giant native trees, and plenty of majestic introduced species also in the area for us to enjoy.

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Whilst we are within a forested environment and we believe it to be the natural order to allow trees to do their own thing in a forest ecosystem, the management of trees and vegetation is often essential for homeowners in this region (though should always be carefully considered), given the risks when we blend the forest environment with residential housing.

The Dandenong Ranges is a beautiful place to call home, but we do have looming threats of extreme weather events involving storms, bushfire, flooding and landslides in certain areas. The vicinity of the trees positioned in your immediate environment can quickly become scary to be around, despite our loving them and the sense of their belonging to our properties.

When deciding how to manage a tree, or the overall vegetation of your property, it's important to understand the benefits and positive impacts or even negative repercussions of how work on one tree can affect its recovery or the response from the other trees within close proximity. A perfect example of this can be when a homeowner is fixated on reducing the height of a gum tree forested backyard for a better view, not realising the trees will shoot out crazy responsive, fast growing and poorly attached epicormic branches that will be hazardous as they break away from the trees in the near future, and will make the view more obstructed than before the cutting!

Or perhaps when a homeowner is adamant a particular tree is sick and dangerous and needs to come out altogether, when all it requires is a pruning visit every few years to prevent it dropping limbs.

An experienced and educated Arborist will be able to differentiate between healthy trees (good stock) and problematic trees (poor stock), and assist residents in understanding what is happening with their trees' physiology with clear logical indicators.

Unfortunately it is difficult for homeowners to find tradespersons who are legitimately experienced and qualified in this field as the industry of Arboriculture lacks regulation or enforcement of standards. This is why it's so common that we see poor practice in tree work carried out in the area we love so dearly.

I've personally felt saddened when I have driven past a property that once hosted a local favourite tree that we pruned and braced for a previous home owner, to see the property has changed hands and the new owner has decided to remove the tree without considering the investment of time and money the previous owners had put in.

The industry on the whole is positively changing, gradually over the last decade or two a surge of knowledgeable and skilled arborists have been leading the way of progression in the industry for the greater good. This is desirable for the professionals in the local industry as we know this leads to more safe work practices with less incidents, a higher standard of tree work and a well maintained landscape in the area of the Dandenong Ranges.

I look forward to writing more about this subject and sharing my thoughts and industry insights with any readers.

Thanks for reading,  
John

