

# SNAKES COMMONLY FOUND IN WYNDHAM



## Eastern Tiger Snake

**Colour:** Varies in colour from grey, brown, black, red and yellow. Commonly banded, but not seen in all snakes. Belly can be cream, yellow, grey or olive green. Head is usually darker than the rest of the body.

**Size:** Up to 6ft (2m).

**Preferable habitat:** Swamplands, creek lines, grasslands near swampy areas, rivers and other bodies of water. Also rocky areas located near water.

**Young:** Live born.

**Behaviour:** Eager to get away from threats, but will bite if provoked or touched.



## Eastern Brown Snake

**Colour:** Varies in colour but is usually a light to tan brown colour but may be blackish or reddish. In juveniles, the head has a black patch with a black band behind it.

**Size:** Up to 6ft (2m).

**Preferable habitat:** Open grasslands, rocky areas and near waterways. Mostly found in rural areas.

**Young:** Lays eggs.

**Behaviour:** Alert and swift moving when threatened, but when cornered can be very defensive.



## Little Whip Snake

**Colour:** Light brown with a black patch on its head.

**Size:** Up to 50cm.

**Preferable habitat:** Open grasslands, rocky areas and near waterways. Mostly found in rural areas.

**Young:** Live born.

**Behaviour:** The Little Whip snake is commonly mistaken to be a juvenile Eastern Brown snake.

# FUN FACTS ABOUT SNAKES

- Snakes are great at swimming and climbing trees.
- Snake scales are made of keratin, the same as your fingernails.
- Juvenile snakes are just as venomous as adults.
- Snakes are cold-blooded so will often lay in a sunny place to maintain their body temperature.
- Snakes cannot hear sound but feel vibrations in the ground and smell with their forked tongue.
- Some snakes lay eggs and some give birth to live young.
- Snakes have no eyelids.
- A juvenile Eastern Brown Snake looks very similar to an adult Little Whip Snake.

# TREAT ANY SNAKE AS IF IT WERE VENOMOUS

## Contact us:

Wyndham Civic Centre  
45 Princes Highway Werribee  
(PO Box 197) Vic 3030  
1300 023 411

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

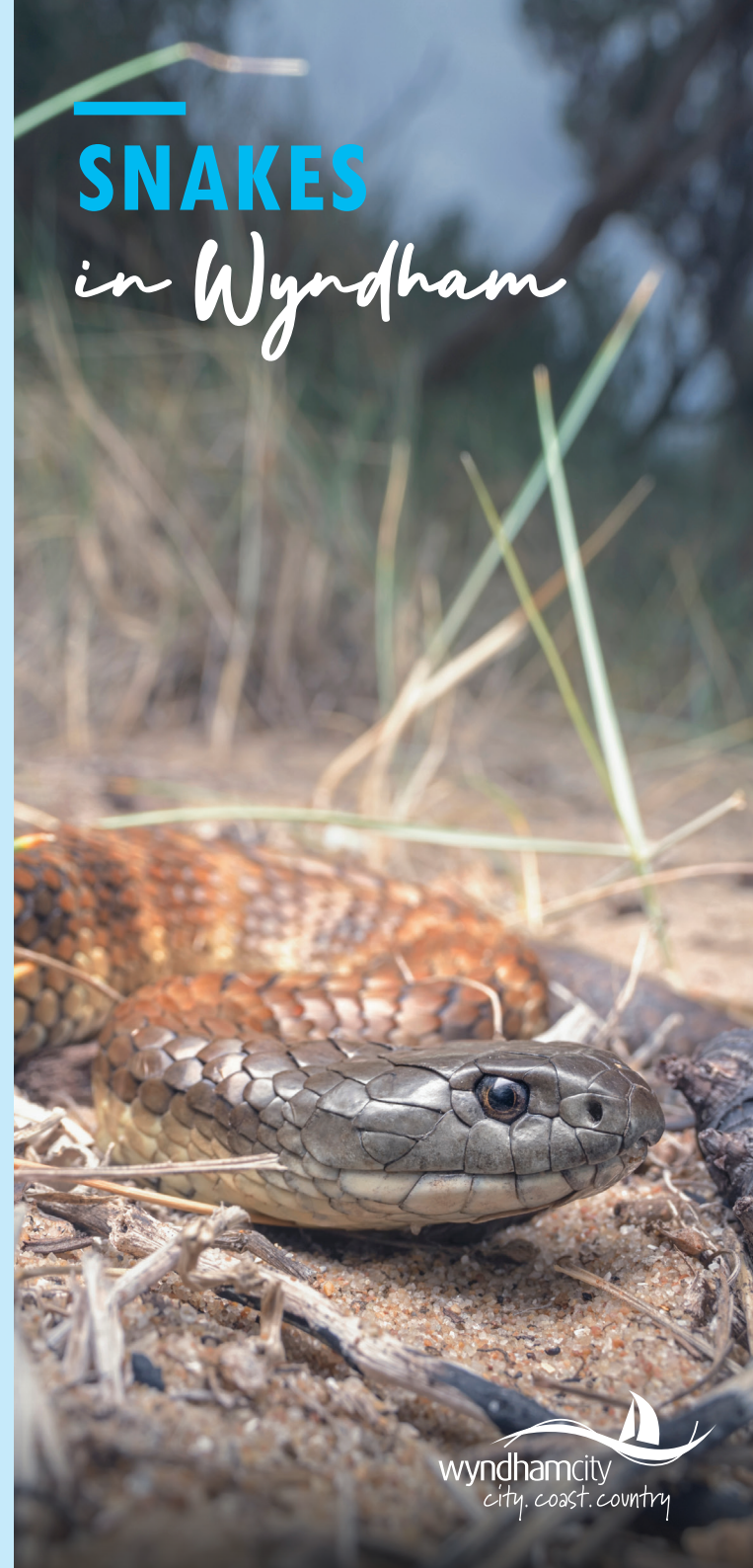
[mail@wyndham.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@wyndham.vic.gov.au)

Translating & Interpreting Services  
13 14 50



# SNAKES

## in Wyndham





# SNAKES IN WYNDHAM

Snakes play an essential role in maintaining a balanced food web within our natural ecosystems, they are both predator and prey. They play a significant role in controlling populations of mice and rats and are a food source for many birds of prey. In Australia there are 127 species of land snakes and of these, 74 are venomous.

In Wyndham the most common snakes are the Tiger Snake, the Eastern Brown Snake and the Little Whip Snake. The Tiger Snake is the most common snake in suburban areas, especially near water and more vegetated areas such as creeks, wetlands and native bush lands.

As urban development increases in Wyndham, it is important that we find ways to live safely alongside these majestic animals as they lose more and more of their natural habitat.

## Snake myths debunked

### Blue-tongue lizards keep snakes out of your garden – **False**

Snakes and Blue-tongue lizards will happily coexist in the same space if the habitat is suitable.

### Juvenile snakes are more lethal than adults – **False**

There is no evidence to show that the venom of a juvenile snake is stronger than that of an adult, however research has shown that they can differ due to the different types of prey they target at certain ages.

### Snakes are aggressive – **False**

This myth has come about due to a misinterpretation of the defensive behaviours of snakes. When threatened, many snakes will give a warning such as neck flaring, raising their head off the ground, or opening their mouths; however, a snake won't attack unprovoked.

### Snakes can't swim – **False**

Snakes are very good swimmers and use the same body motions to do so as when moving on land. They will often swim to escape from predators or to hunt.



## How can I stop snakes entering my property?

Unfortunately, there is no sure way of completely preventing snakes from moving onto your property, but to reduce the chance, preventative measures such as those outlined below, can be taken.

- Keep grass and vegetation short and tidy.
- Do not have piles of wood, tin or tiles near the house.
- Remove all rubbish and debris.
- Keep aviaries free of spilled seed which will attract mice.

## What to do if you find a snake on your property

If you find a snake on your property, watch it from a safe distance and do not disturb it.

Phone Wyndham City Council on 1300 023 411 and a qualified snake catcher will attend and remove the snake. This is a FREE service for residential properties and can be used 24 hours a day, every day of the year (including Public Holidays).

Remember, most people are bitten when attempting to capture or kill a snake themselves.

**Snakes are a native animal and are protected under the Wildlife Act 1975. It is illegal to capture, harm or kill these protected species.**

## Steps to avoid snake bites

It's important to remember that snakes are naturally shy animals, wary of predators including humans. They will react defensively if cornered or caught off-guard and will often flatten their necks to appear larger when threatened.

To avoid snake bites, use common sense and:

- Wear sensible clothing – closed toe shoes, socks and jeans are usually adequate.
- Never reach into or under hollows, logs or thick grass without looking first.
- Stay on footpaths when enjoying Wyndham's natural areas and open spaces.
- Watch where you are walking and supervise young children and pets.

## First aid for snake bites

If you have been bitten by a snake, seek immediate medical assistance.

Phone 000 for an ambulance and advice on what first aid can be applied. Hospitals now have stocks of anti-venom.

## Snake safety for your pet

- Keep cats indoors.
- While out walking your dog, keep them on a lead.
- Stay on paths where snakes are more obvious.
- Don't allow pets to explore long grass or dig in groundcover.
- If your pet seems unusually interested in something hidden in the grass, back off until you know what it is.
- If your pet is bitten by a snake, seek immediate veterinarian assistance.



EASTERN TIGER SNAKE