

Snake Awareness

Be snake aware this Summer

Summer can be a great time to be outdoors, however the warm weather can bring out snakes in search of food, water and warmth. Snakes and other reptiles hibernate through the cool winter and venture out when the weather begins to warm.

Snakes are a natural part of living in Australia and it's very important to be snake wary and take relevant precautions so that we can enjoy the outdoors safely.

Common venomous snakes found in the Camden area include the Red-bellied Black Snake and the Eastern Brown Snake. Sighting a snake can be an alarming experience, but there are steps you can take to stay safe.

If you see a snake:

- Remain calm
- DO NOT approach the snake
- Walk away slowly
- Keep a safe distance so the snake does not feel threatened

All native snakes in NSW are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and it is illegal to harm these animals. Never try to kill or capture a snake as most bites occur while attempting to do this.

If you are concerned about snakes on your property, remember that most snakes are likely to be passing through and will leave your property in time. Only licensed snake collectors can remove snakes from private properties. To contact a licensed snake collector, call your nearest National Parks and Wildlife Service office (4632 4500).

To discourage snakes from straying onto your property:

- Keep your lawns mowed and gardens free of overgrowth
- Keep your property free of rubbish and debris
- Control rats and mice on your property



Eastern Brown Snakes (*Pseudonaja textilis*) are recognisable by their brown colour but do vary in shade, particularly as babies when their heads are almost entirely black.



Red-bellied Black Snakes (*Pseudechis porphyriacus*) are easy to identify by their shiny black backs and red belly scales.

They prefer semi-aquatic habitats such as dams and rivers, they specialise in eating frogs but they will also eat lizards, mammals and birds.

Snakes are very important to local food webs and assist in reducing mouse and rat populations. Remember that snakes are found naturally in various habitats in Australia and it is important that we understand their place in the ecosystem.

For further information, phone 4654 7777 or visit Camden Council's website www.camden.nsw.gov.au.

If you are bitten by a snake, apply first aid immediately and call '000' for ambulance assistance.

