

Wondai is a great place to live in because:

1. The local community recognises the traditional ownership of the land by the Wakka Wakka tribe and demonstrates harmonious co-operation principles.
2. The town is named after the Aboriginal word for “wild howling dingoes” that used to inhabit the area. To recognise this name we have 2 bronze statues that are at the entrance to the town.
3. The town and district has a rich tradition of community organizations, which have endured for long periods.
4. The Wondai Chamber Of Commerce has a ninety-two year history.
5. The Wondai show was first held in 1911 and has continued ever since. To allow for travelling in earlier times it was held on days nearest to the full moon to allow for safer travelling. It is now held annually on the last weekend in August or first weekend in September.
6. The Rifle Club has operated for almost one hundred years and boasts one of the finest ranges in Australia outside a metropolitan city.
7. In Wondai there are at least 6 Churches of different denominations for people to attend.
8. The Wondai State School will be one hundred in 2005 and caters for students from Preschool to Year 10.
9. The first one hundred years of horse racing will be celebrated in 2007. A number of Race Meetings are still held throughout the year.
10. The town of Wondai is the geographical centre of the South Burnett.
11. Wondai is set in a rich agricultural and pastoral region.
12. The town is located on soil that is excellent for construction and living.
13. The climate is pleasant- especially the nights during summer as a result of our altitude. Winter days are usually sunny.
14. Water supply is assured even in current drought conditions
15. The town lies within 3 ½ hours of seven cities- Brisbane, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Gympie, Maryborough, Hervey Bay, and the Gold Coast all on quality sealed roads.
16. Wondai is a pleasant 3-hour trip from Brisbane making it the perfect day trip.
17. Services not available in Wondai are generally available at nearby larger towns.
18. People living in Wondai can readily commute daily to Murgon or Kingaroy. There is also a daily bus service to Brisbane.
19. The township is small enough to permit walking to all facilities.
20. The town has a fine array of services for everyday living-doctors, hospitals, chemist, accountants etc., a range of shops, clubs and hotels. Tradespeople in the town are varied and very competent.
21. A lot of people now prefer Wondai’s relaxing country lifestyle to retire in rather than the previously popular seaside
22. For what would only be the deposit for a house in the city you can purchase a 3-4-bedroom brick home in Wondai
23. Our population numbers are increasing as people realise the beauty and benefits of living in Wondai. Subsequently there is a building boom. Whereas 20 years ago on average there only used to be around 2 houses built per year there are currently 18 houses under construction.
24. There are different types of building blocks in Wondai to cater for individual needs of home owners.
25. All new blocks have underground power for extra safety and beauty in Wondai.

26. Wondai receives comments for its lovely gardens and overall cleanliness throughout the town.
27. The townsfolk of Wondai are friendly, caring and have lots of community spirit and pride. This is shown by their willingness to get in and help. The School tennis and basketball courts were all built by volunteer labour as well as the towns' timber museum, squash courts and grocery shop.
28. The district contains quite diverse scenery, much of it very appealing.
29. Wondai is close to 3 local dams: Boondooma, Bjelke- Petersen and Gordonbrook
30. 5km from Wondai is the Ficks Crossing camping and recreational area run by the QLD Government. Cabin and camping accommodation is offered as well as swimming, canoeing or sunbaking for groups by appointment. The Allan "Snow" Huston Memorial Park is open to all.
31. Wondai Shire is a large producer of cattle and pigs whilst agricultural crops include peanuts, canning beans, maize, sorghum, oilseeds, cotton, wheat and barley.
32. Horticulture and wine production are growth industries. Dubosia, a native tree now cultivated to produce drugs used in pharmaceuticals, is another industry that injects some millions into the local economy
33. The industries of the area have produced very low levels of pollution of our environment
34. Living in Wondai is a pleasant experience. The streets are wide, attractive and have kerbing and channelling. There are many trees in the town to enhance it.
35. When crime happens in Wondai, which is very rare, it is mainly classed as "petty juvenile crime"
36. Great recreational facilities in Wondai include
 - Golf- Wondai has its own 9 hole golf course and Club house
 - Pool-25 metre with a baby pool. Aqua aerobics, learn to swim classes and squad training are also on offer
 - Parks- with walking tracks and swings
 - Tennis Courts and Clubhouse
 - Netball Courts-4 sealed and 4 grass
 - Bowling Greens
 - BMX Club
 - Karate Club
 - Body- Combat Classes
 - Squash Courts
 - Sportsground where sports such as cricket, ruby league, touch and soccer are played
 - Camping area at 2 local dams.
37. The Timber Museum is a major tourist attraction and is free to enter. Life size sculptures and the silhouette of a timber cutter are the products of local residents. The local woodcrafters have regular displays and exhibitions at the Woodcrafters Workshop, adjacent to the Information Centre/Timber Museum.
38. Approximately 1500 tourists a month visit the Information Centre. People come from all over Australia and some even from overseas.

39. Wondai Shire Council has recently taken over the facilities at Boondoomba Dam and spent over \$1 million on upgrades. Attractive lakeside cabins, powered sites and fish stocking are a part of the upgrade.

40. Wondai Hospital has many modern facilities, which include:

- X-ray department
- Visiting Physiotherapist
- 10 hospital beds Huge Kitchen
- Nursing home
- Red Cross (Palliative Care) Unit
- Child Care Room
- Out-patients Department

41. Wondai has been able to adapt to changing times while retaining much of its past charm, as shown in the historic hotels and other well-kept older buildings.

42. Wondai Hospital can cater for emergencies such as heart attack victims without having to send patients to larger towns.

43. Wondai Hospital has received an excellence award for Community Nursing Outcomes.

44. Wondai has its own community radio station CROW FM.

45. CROW FM broadcasts with 5 kilowatts and they broadcast all the way to Gayndah

46. CROW FM broadcasts music that suits all ages and all music interests. They are famous for their Brekkie Show and also have a lunch show, which explores local issues. They have many varieties of Music Shows including 60/70s, Classical, Country, TOP 40 and many more.

47. As Wondai State School is smaller in numbers than a lot of schools there is more potential for students to show leadership qualities.

48. In state competitions Wondai State School students perform above average in mathematics.

49. Wondai State School has fantastic sporting facilities including a beach volleyball court, 2 basketball and tennis courts, 2 large ovals, cricket nets and play swings for the juniors.

50. During World War II part of the 'Brisbane Line' came through the site of the school. Army Units were also stationed in Wondai during the war so the town has an interesting history.

51. One of Wondai State School's past students, Nikki Nijskens won the National Dorothy McKellar National Poetry Competition.

52. Wondai State School has produced many State Champions in athletics

53. Past students have followed such careers as doctors, dentists, engineers, vets, lawyers and scientists.

54. Frank Martin, a past student of Wondai State School, is the worldwide Chief of BP Solar Energy Division.

55. Wondai State School is a *Sun Smart* School. In order for students to play outside they must wear a hat. Those students without hats can choose to sit under one of 5 new large sunshades, which have been recently purchased by the P&C, which appreciates the importance of sun protection.

56. Wondai State School is now closely working with the Kingaroy TAFE College in order to recognise and award student work. Students can now complete TAFE competencies at school in Technology and Business.

57. Wondai State School has 1 computer for every 3 students.

- 58.** The year 9 Science Class recently won the Queensland “Our Water, Our Future-A challenge to Youth” Competition. Students had to collect data from farmers around the district, organise and participate in forums and present their findings to scientist and other competitors.
- 59.** Wondai State School is proud of the diversity and range of secondary options considering the numbers of students and teachers. A few of the options include Rural Studies, Publicity, Animation, Drama, Metal and Woodwork, Graphics, Fab Fabrics and Information Technology.
- 60.** Wondai is cultural. It has its own Art Gallery and School of Arts. Wondai has adopted the slogan “The Art Heart of the South Burnett” and is proud of the fact that new exhibitions open once a month featuring local artists work.
- 61.** The art gallery, one of the towns’ major attractions is free to enter and is open 10am-4pm each day. A team of volunteers runs the Gallery.
- 62.** The Art Gallery recently won the Access Award allocated by those with disabilities. The fact that the gallery is free of stairs and has a fully functional shower and toilet for those with disabilities helped them win the award.
- 63.** Local artists have been congratulated by visitors over their effective “Art on Poles” displays. This is unique to Wondai.
- 64.** In 2002 Wondai won the Community Action Award in the Tidy Towns Competition. In 2003 they won the Cultural and Heritage Award.
- 65.** In 2002 and 2003 the Timber Museum won the Heritage and Cultural Award in the Fraser Coast South Burnett Award for Excellence.
- 66.** Wondai is serviced by a regional aerodrome with night landing facilities.
- 67.** The historical Boonoomba Homestead and Museum is worth the short drive out of town.
- 68.** The Wondai Garden Festival is an annual event that attracts visitors from all over Australia. In 2002 the Garden Festival won a Fraser Coast South Burnett Award for Tourism Excellence in the Festivals and Events Category.
- 69.** Wondai hosts country markets every 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the months. Local arts, crafts and produce are on sale.
- 70.** One local eatery, Dimities, won a regional tourism award in 2002. Dimities beat towns from Bundaberg to Blackbutt and was judged according to the preparation, taste and value of their food.
- 71.** On the outskirts of town is Burnett South’s Up Country which offers great B&B facilities, sites for motor homes and operates Constellations Restaurant. They also have their own wine label “Southern Skies”.
- 72.** The Wondai Heritage Museum houses an array of historical memorabilia. On site at the Museum is the original Wondai hospital theatre built in 1929.
- 73.** Renowned country and western singer, Chad Morgan, was born in Wondai.
- 74.** The recent Centenary Celebrations saw more than 70 floats enter the Street Parade. Two QLD Mounted Police Officers, the Wondai Band and local Cadets, led the procession. Interstate antique cars and tractors were a highlight.
- 75.** During the 2004 Easter holidays Wondai is hosting the Kiwi Woggle. This is a statewide camp for Scouts with 300 Scouts and their leaders attending
- 76.** The Wondai Shire Council listens to its youth. By Christmas 2003 there will be a new BMX track and skate park. Through the Youth Council, the young people of Wondai have had a large say in its operation and design.
- 77.** At present the Council is investigating the possibility of setting up an all- terrain recreation park in the nearby forest. There will be walking tracks, BMX tracks and a place for unlicensed motor- bike riders to navigate

- 78.** Our Mayor recognises the need to be involved in local ventures and has been a member of the Fraser Coast Tourism Board for over 20 years, on the Electricity Board and the South Burnett Hospital Board.
- 79.** The Mayor of Wondai was awarded the prestigious Order of Australia in the 2003 Australia Day honours.
- 80.** The Mayor has also been awarded the John Craig-Gardiner Memorial Award for his contribution to tourism.
- 81.** For 3 years in a row Wondai Shire Council has won the QLD award for the best Annual Report beating every council in QLD and other public utilities such as Ergon Energy.
- 82.** Not long ago the Council further developed the Industrial Estate. The blocks almost immediately sold out and a further two stages are being planned. Businesses as far away as Sydney and Melbourne have shown interest in the blocks.
- 83.** Unlike other shires that charge residents up to \$20 to dispose of their rubbish Wondai's tip is free.
- 84.** Wondai has its own Taxi Service, which is especially beneficial to elderly folk who don't own cars.
- 85.** Rates in the shire are the envy of many.
- 86.** The Wondai Saw and Planning Mill has recently spent over 1 million dollars on renovations and expansion. Hardwood is exported Sydney, Melbourne, Japan and New Zealand.
- 87.** There is a lucrative trailer making business set up in the Industrial Estate in Wondai
- 88.** An innovative Brisbane businessman has recently set up a new business in Wondai realising that the big city was not a necessity to success and is effectively selling his health aids here in Wondai.
- 89.** Wondai's Sawmill is among the largest sawmills in the state and employs over 50 people plus sub-contractors.
- 90.** We may be two and a bit hours from the coast but we have the freshest seafood around which is provided to residents every Friday.
- 91.** The Wondai newsagency is convenient for shoppers selling toys, stationery scratch-it and cards. Newspapers are delivered daily in town.
- 92.** Over 400 people shop at the local supermarket every day.
- 93.** The local supermarket keeps up with the times. It has recently undergone refurbishment, which included new lights and equipment and polished floors.
- 94.** The Wondai Diggers Memorial Club is the place for a great, cheap meal. The club offers meals Friday and Saturday nights and the most you will pay is \$10-. The average meal is a low \$8, which includes vegies, salad and complimentary tea and coffee.
- 95.** The residents of Wondai have always been an extremely kind bunch of people. The first soldier to die in World War 1 was Mr W. Grace. Townsfolk rallied around his widow and built a home for her.
- 96.** The Hospital Auxiliary and Red Cross are still active in Wondai. Until the late 1990s the Red Cross branch in Wondai operated the Blood Donors service. Wondai was reported in the QLD Newspaper, *The Courier Mail* as being the best 'bloody' town in the whole Southern Hemisphere! This was awarded because Wondai, as a town, outnumbered all other towns in the numbers of blood donations made per head of population.
- 97.** A local resident, the late Gordon Iszlaub, was captain of Australia's Rifle Shooting team.

98. Carl Rackerman is a famous Australian cricketer who attended Wondai State School.

99. Wondai gained a place in the honour roll of many Australians as the home of Merv Reinke's famous pace, "Wondai's Mate" one of Australia's greatest winners in harness racing.

100. A current Wondai State School student, Alan Gscheidle, has represented Wide Bay at State Trials in numerous sports. These include swimming, basketball and athletics. His current goal is to make Nationals in three strokes of swimming. Best of luck to Alan. At school Alan is the current record holder for discuss, shot put, javelin and 400m. In the water he is the school record holder for butterfly, breaststroke, freestyle and backstroke.