



IT'S A STEP BACK IN TIME,
BUT NOT THAT FAR AWAY

WELCOME



We're so glad you're here!

This mostly off-grid retreat was created as a quiet place to unplug, slow down, explore, and reconnect - with nature, with each other, and with yourself.

About the Shack

Our cabin is almost fully off-grid, which means:

- Water is precious (use mindfully)
- The toilet is septic – so no nasties please
- Nights are wonderfully dark and peaceful

You may notice the sounds of wind in the trees, birds at sunrise, and perhaps distant wildlife.

That's part of the magic. There's very little urban noise here—just quiet.



Enjoy the Experience

- Step outside at night and look up—the stars are incredible
- Take a slow morning with a cuppa on the porch
- Leave your phone on airplane mode and breathe
- Browse through this folder for hints and tips on getting the most out of your stay



A Few Gentle Reminders

- Be mindful of water consumption
- If using the ~~bbq~~^{wood}, please clean it when finished
- Pack out what you pack in and help us keep this land pristine
- Be mindful of our neighbours, distant though they are

Settle in, unwind, and enjoy the stillness

Thank you for treating our Shack with care and respect. ❤️



WIFI PWD: SAVME#2704

GUEST INFORMATION KIT

THE LAY OF THE LAND

- where you've landed, and where to find things

THINGS TO DO

- it's so lovely and quiet, so what's next?

OFF GRID LIVING (ALMOST)

- How it all works

SAFETY

- the really important stuff about how it works

USER GUIDES

- the modern day stuff about how it works

The Lay of the Land

The Shack is co-located with The Barn – which hosts occasional events, plus St Albans Village Market on just 10 Sundays each year.

Wherever possible, you will have been advised in advance of any booked events, and the Market dates, but it is always possible that there will be an event occurring during your residency. You might well be the organiser or a participant!

Roads & Ferries

St Albans Rd (all sealed) is accessed via the Webbs Creek Ferry (turn LEFT at the bottom of Old Northern Rd) if coming from Sydney.

Settlers Rd (8km unsealed) is accessed through Wisemans Ferry village to the Wisemans Ferry, or (if from the Central Coast) directly, via Mangrove Mountain Rd.

Both **free** Ferry Services operate **24/7** except for one monthly Maintenance break:

- Webbs Creek Ferry – 1st Tuesday of the Month 9am-1.00pm
- Wisemans Ferry – there are 2 ferries, so no maintenance downtime needed.



Check In & Check Out

Check In	3pm	Please find and return the key to the locked box located next to the rear sliding door. This opens the front door.
Check Out	10am	The code will have been provided with your booking confirmation

Cleaning Fees

A once only cleaning fee of \$50+gst applies to all bookings upon departure, which covers basic cleaning and laundry. Added wear and tear (or damage) will be charged after departure, if necessary.

When in doubt, please call to talk before you leave, or call to advise an issue on your arrival. Text a photo to 0419 977 535 (which will then be date & time stamped).

Contact Details

- **Shack, Barn & Market**

Ph: 0419 977 535 (please text first)

E: info@stalbansvillagemarketandevents.com.au

- **Local Emergency Services**

Emergency	000
SES	132 500
St Albans Rural Fire Service	4568 2011
Windsor Police Station	4587 4099

Food, Drink & Other Services

St Albans

- Settlers Arms Inn (directly opposite the Shack)
 - Entertainment, drinks, meals, basic groceries 4568 2111
 - Open every day, till late
- The Pickled Wombat (a short walk behind the Shack)
 - Licenced café 4568 2078
 - Friday: 4pm – 9pm
 - Saturday: 8am – 9pm
 - Sunday: 8am – 3pm

Wisemans Ferry Services

- Beautician
- Fuel
- Meat, Groceries & Liquor
- Hairdresser
- Hotel
- Medical Centre
- Pharmacy
- Post Office
- Solicitor

Linen

All linen and towels are provided.

The King size bed also has electric blankets in the colder months.

Use of the sofa bed must be booked in advance and a \$50 + gst per day fee applies – max 2 persons.

Undisclosed guests will not be covered by insurance and will be asked to leave.

Noise

The Shack is surrounded by open space, but it is not isolated, so please keep noise to a minimum after 10pm in consideration of local community members.

Parking

Single vehicle parking is only permitted at the rear of the property, also offering best access to the Shack back door for unloading.

Entrance is through the double gates at the rear entrance to the Barn (off Bulga Street).



Remotes – please return both remotes to these locations when departing

- Air Con – on wall next to glass sliding back door (user guide at the end of this folder)
- Smart TV – on the cabinet under the TV (user guide at the end of this folder)

Waste Disposal

Please sort kitchen waste into the 2 bins located under the kitchen sink.
Spare bags are in the bottom drawer.

Recycling

- Clean glass bottles & jars
- Aluminium cans
- Rinsed plastic containers

General Waste

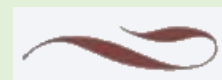
- Food wrappers
- Meat scraps (unless otherwise advised)
- Anything not recyclable

Please use the Council red and yellow bins at the back of the Shack when these are full.



The NO List

(at least it's short)



- No Parties – dinner parties are more intimate and so much easier to clean up! 😊
- No smoking or vaping inside – on the front or back porch is good though
- No open Fires anywhere ever (it's a timber house) – but do use the bbq provided
- No pets (sorry)



THINGS TO DO

Cemetery Rambles

St Albans Old Cemetery - via Bulga Street/Settlers Road, this is one of the earliest, established in the 1820s, around 8km south of St Albans

St Albans Cemetery – via Wollombi Rd, a few kms north of St Albans

Convict 100

Following the historic Convict Trail, starting & finishing in St Albans, this annual mountain bike event is held on the first Saturday of May each year, offering 100km, 67km and 48km courses. <https://convict100.com.au>

Free Cardio Class – Fridays 9.30am - check dates with Fiona on 0467 720 887

St Albans School of Arts Hall, 7 Upper MacDonald Rd

Fishing & Camp Oven Cooking Competitions – St Albans Common

This annual Springtime event is aimed at preserving the good health of the Common lake through the removal of the invasive carp species, with the Saturday Camp Oven Cooking Competition being an awesome way of bringing all the competitors and community together for a sumptuous evening meal.

www.stalbanscommon.com.au/fishing-competition

Games & Books – look under the TV for a great range of traditional games that will get you all off your devices and give a lot of enjoyment.

If you take a book, that's ok, but try and leave one too!

Hikes & Trails *(take care in researching the degree of difficulty for each)*

The Great North Walk Convict Trail

<https://wisemans.org.au/the-great-north-road-the-convict-trail/>

Jacks Track

<https://hikingtheworld.blog/2024/09/17/aboriginal-and-european-history-along-jacks-track/>

Finches Line

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/australia/new-south-wales/finchs-line-via-old-great-northern-road-and-settlers-road>

Howes Trail

<https://bushwalkingnsw.com/walk.php?nid=793>

Shepherds Gully Circuit

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/walking-tracks/shepherds-gully-circuit/visitor-info>

Historical Display

The Dharug & Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society has a permanent but evolving display inside the Barn aimed at stimulating enquiry and membership – on show every Market day, or by request 0419 977 535.

Personal Training

Book direct with Eshref Eyiam (also the yoga instructor) 0424 221 511

Playground, Rock Garden, BBQs & Yarning Circle

By the river, opposite the Settlers Arms Inn

Religious Services

St Alban the Martyr Anglican Church, Wharf St, St Albans (up the hill)

St Phillip's Anglican Church, Upper Macdonald, 1737 Upper MacDonald Rd, Higher Macdonald

Service times for both Churches: www.stalbanthemartyr.org

St. Mary's Anglican Church, 3025 River Rd, Wisemans Ferry 4572 3262

Settlers Arms Inn Special Events

There's something on every month, so call for more details if not yet listed.

<https://www.settlersarmsinn.com/calendar>

4568 2111

Shahzada 400km Endurance Horse Event

Billed as 'The Ultimate Test of Endurance' this is a week long annual event held in the last week of August. It is headquartered in St Albans, and entries open in July each year.

<https://www.shahzada400.com/>

St Albans Common Drive – continue past the village up Wollombi Road for 6km to enter the southern edge of the Common, which runs for 8km to its northern boundary. Watch out for wildlife, plus cattle and horses. This is a beautiful outing, and the annual Fishing & Camp Oven Cooking Competition is a fantastic event, being the only time each year that camping or fishing is allowed on the Common.

The land was set aside in 1824 and formally granted by Queen Victoria to the local residents in 1853. Make sure to read the History sign at the southern entrance.

<https://www.stalbanscommon.com.au/>

St Albans Folk Festival

Held annually over three days and two nights on the weekend closest to the Anzac Day public holiday in St Albans. <https://www.stalbansfolkfestival.com.au>

St Albans Village Market

Held 10 times per year. See website and socials for this year's market dates.

<https://www.stalbansvillagemarketandevents.com.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansVillageMarketandevents>

<https://www.instagram.com/stalbansvillagemarketandevents/>

The Pickled Wombat Special Events

These pop up events (mostly on Saturday nights) are always a hoot, and visitors are made very welcome.

There's also a local history reference library provided by the Macdonald Valley Assn.

<https://www.thepickledwombat.com.au/>

4568 2078

Tennis

The Council owned tennis courts are a short walk behind the Shack and open to all at no charge. BYO all equipment.

Yoga – every Saturday 8am,

\$20pp, all equipment is provided (if needed), and visitors are welcome.

St Albans School of Arts Hall, 7 Upper MacDonald Rd

OFF GRID LIVING

(ALMOST)

Power

The Shack has full grid supplied 3 phase power, but the valley does get occasional power surges during electrical storms, so always disconnect any precious devices if there is thunder around, or you are concerned.

⚡ Occasional Power Surges

If the power cuts out:

- Wait a few moments — it often resets itself.
- Avoid running multiple high-power appliances at the same time.
- The Shack powerboard is located in the bathroom.
- Use the Telstra payphone nearby to call 0419 977 535 if you lose power completely.

💧 Tank Water Only

The shack runs on filtered **tank (rain) water**, so every drop counts.

Please:

- Keep showers short.
- Turn off taps fully after use.
- Don't leave water running unnecessarily.
- Use water mindfully when washing dishes by hand, OR stack the dishwasher fully for each load.

We rely on nature to refill the tanks, so conservation helps ensure there's enough for everyone.



Thank you for respecting our
off-grid water system 🌿

Septic System – Please Read Carefully

We are on a **septic system**, which means it's very sensitive.

Only human waste and toilet paper may go in the toilet.

-  No wipes (even “flushable” ones)
-  No paper towels
-  No feminine hygiene products
-  No diapers
-  No trash of any kind

If it's not poo, pee, or toilet paper — please place it in the trash bin provided.

Thank you for helping us protect our off-grid system and avoid costly repairs.



Waste

Please sort kitchen waste into these bins located under the kitchen sink:

Recycling

- Clean glass bottles & jars
- Aluminum cans
- Rinsed plastic containers

General Waste

- Food wrappers
- Meat scraps (unless otherwise advised)
- Anything not compostable or recyclable

Please use the Council red and yellow bins at the back of the Shack when these are full. Spare bags are in the bottom kitchen drawer.

Wi-Fi

Telstra is the only (limited) mobile service operating in the Macdonald Valley. So we offer a Starlink free wifi service – StAlbansMarket
The Guest Password is SAVME#2704



SAFETY

The Macdonald Valley is a wonderful slice of the Australian bush, not far from urban life – but it is definitely in the bush.

We get snakes, bugs, fires and floods – thankfully not all at once, or not often! But they do happen, so we all need to be prepared.

Here are some resources that aim to give you some peace of mind, and some equipment, should they be needed.....

Contact Details

- **Shack & Barn** 0419 977 535

- **Local Emergency Services**
 - Emergency 000
 - SES 132 500
 - St Albans Rural Fire Service 4568 2011
 - Windsor Police Station 4587 4099

Fire Extinguisher & Fire Blanket – and Evacuation signs

These are clearly visible inside the Shack. Make note of them.

Emergency Kit

This is in a clear plastic tub in the tall cupboard in the bathroom with a First Aid Kit, Snake & Spider Bite Kit, plus torches & spare batteries.

Please let us know if you have used anything, so that we can restock it.

Community Emergency Radio Network

The local Progress Association has invested heavily in establishing a valley-wide UHF Network.

The UHF handset sits near the fire extinguisher and fire blanket in the loungeroom.
The local Emergency channel is Channel 9

It is turned off when you arrive.
Please ensure it remains in the charging station, and connected to mains power.

Instructions on how to use it are provided in the User Guide section at the end of this Guest Information Kit.

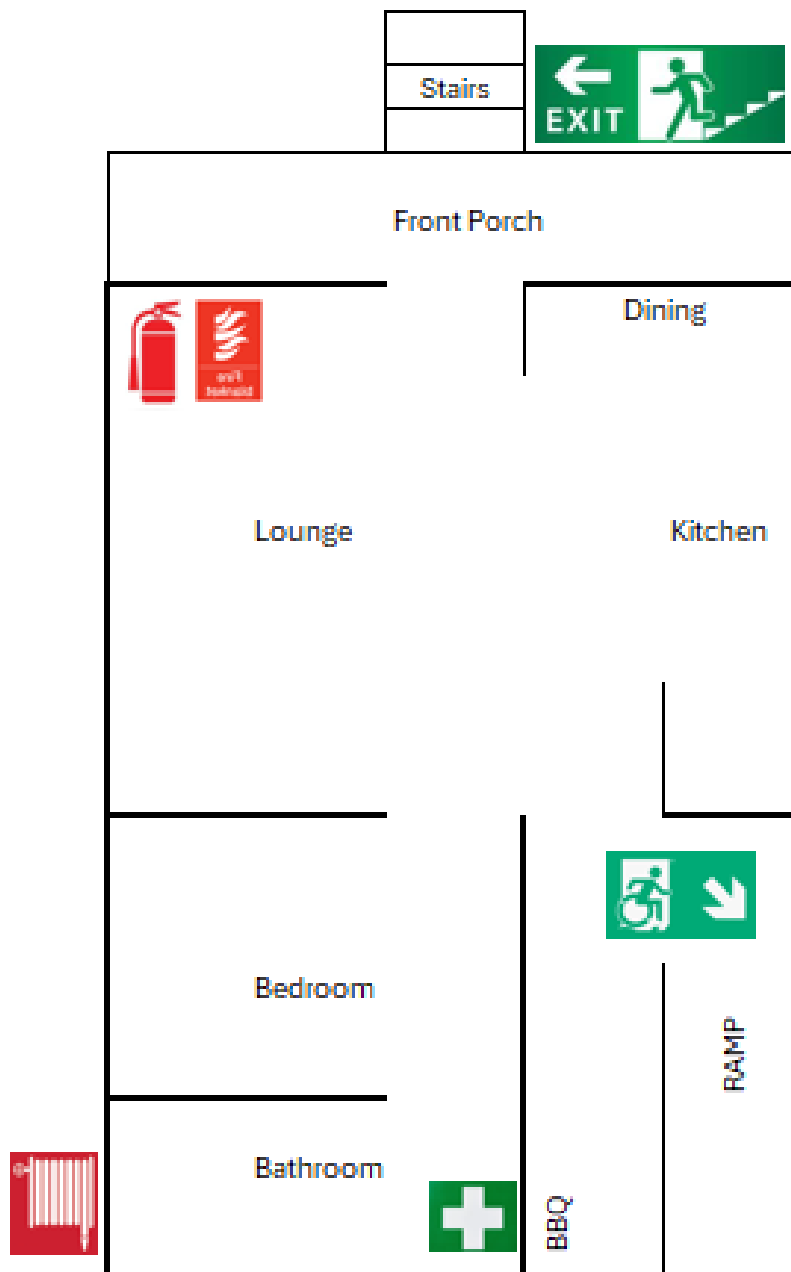
It is likely there will be no power, and no exit for a few days after the river has broken its banks, and the ferries are often offline for a few days after a flood subsides.



In the event of severe weather, please leave it turned on, and also monitor official alerts and warnings on TV and Radio.

LEAVE well before roads become inaccessible.

Emergency Evacuation Diagram The Shack 2 Wharf St, St Albans



Powder
Fire
Extinguisher



Fire Blanket



First
Aid
Kit



Front Door
Stairs Exit



Back Door
Ramp Exit



Fire Hose
Reel



To Enquire

Ph: 0419 977 535

E: info@stalbansvillagemarketandevents.com.au



A Stunning Timber Barn for Weddings & Celebrations

Set in a beautiful natural setting, our handcrafted timber barn offers a warm, character-filled space to celebrate life's most special moments. With soaring wooden beams, open-plan flexibility, and a timeless rustic charm, it provides the perfect backdrop for weddings, parties, and unforgettable gatherings.

Whether you're planning an elegant wedding reception, a lively birthday celebration, or a relaxed family event, The Barn at St Albans can be styled to suit your vision — from fairy-lit romance to modern country chic. Spacious yet inviting, it comfortably accommodates dining, dancing, and entertainment, while the surrounding grounds offer wonderful photo opportunities.

Equipped with a Servery and exclusively yours for the day, our timber barn combines countryside charm with practical comfort, allowing you to celebrate freely and make the space truly your own.

**Celebrate your way,
In a place full of warmth, character,
and an unforgettable atmosphere.**



USER GUIDES

[Air Con](#)

[Air Fryer](#)

[BBQ](#)

[Dishwasher](#)

[Hot Water System](#)

[Microwave Oven](#)

[Cooktop](#)

[Oven](#)

[Smart TV](#)

[UHF Radio](#)

[Vacuum Cleaner](#)

[Water Filtration System](#)