



The changed Wingello State Forest

Almost five years on and the forest is bare

On 4 January 2020 bush fire ripped through the heart of the Wingello State Forest after the fires crossed the Shoalhaven Gorge, before attacking our village of Wingello.

Most of the visible reminders of the day have been cleaned up in Wingello, with a number of new homes replacing those that were destroyed and most of the blackened and dead trees removed.

I would recommend locals going for a short drive down Forest Road and going into the State "Forest" to the camping grounds.

The area is transformed from a very well covered area to a very dry wasteland - described by some as a "moon-scape".

The clever people working on the mountain bike tracks are only able to work on a much smaller section of the old famous single track system. The old system was devastated by the fires with all the bridges burnt out. Much of the old area is closed as unstable dangerous trees remain and the fire also destroyed the root system, meaning the soil has no stability and has trouble absorbing moisture. This makes regrowth difficult and the ground treacherous.

We should soon start seeing Mountain Bikers back on the newly rebuilt track system, but the old areas won't be able to be accessed for at least 10 years according to those that have been able to assess the area.

This is all a good reminder to remember the goods things we have and plan to be prepared. All areas have their own risks that go with the beauty and charm of where we live. Whether it is city or country, mountain or sea, forest or plains, we all need to understand where we live and make appropriate precautions. We cannot be risk free, but we can be prepared and enjoy the beauty and benefits of the areas



Large areas are still dangerous and off limits



No more camping under the cool shade of the forest canopy

in which we live.

Fire season started 1 October NO FIRES without a permit.	Library Bus Tuesdays 2:15 to 3:15 In front of the park Nov 5, 19 Dec 3, 17
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Bin Collection Mondays November 4 ● Yellow 11 ● Green 18 ● Yellow 25 ● Green	Store Opening Hours Ph: 02 4884 4340 / 0493 521 856 Mon - Fri: 7:00am - 4:00pm Weekends: 8:00am - 3:00pm Public holidays: 8:00am - 10:30am We are open Every Day except Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Christmas, Boxing & New Year's Days.
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Lots of Wingello Events

The Men's Breakfast continues being a great time to gather and chat with no particular agenda. First Saturday of every month at the Wingello Village Store is when we meet to have a general chat and solve the problems of the world - then do it all again next month.

Craft Afternoons

The Wingello Village Association sponsored informal craft afternoons and catch ups continue. Held on the first Saturday of the month in the meeting room of Wingello Hall 1 pm to 4 pm. Bring along whatever craft you are working on and enjoy the company of other crafters or just come for the catch up.

Cost is \$5 to help with cost of hiring the hall and afternoon tea.

Get Ready Packs at the shop

If you missed getting your copy of your Get Ready pack, it is available at the store. It contains excellent resources to plan your actions in case of fire. As the Wingello Fire Captain said, make two plans. One to stay and one to go. That way if circumstances change, you will be ready.



Local Natural Beauty

Thank you to all the villagers making Wingello such a beautiful place. Spring is a great time for all that hard work and preparation come to fruition.

Flowers and plants are all blooming and the colours you roughly envisaged in your minds while planting and pruning have - hopefully - worked as expected or better.

And now that the weather is - on average - getting better and it is lighter for longer, we are enjoying afternoon and evening walks around the village, and if the children join us, a brief (or longer) diversion at the park.



Bees and children enjoying blossoms and nature.



Wingello Fire Brigade News

Last month the bushfire danger period started for our district and for most of the state, with the final 9 LGAs starting this month. The new online permit system is a lot faster and gets your details in to RFS Head office quickly and concisely. Many thanks to all of you who have used it so far.

Did you know that the RFS is the world's largest volunteer fire service with over 70,000 members? Have you ever thought of joining the RFS...what is stopping you? Wingello brigade is currently training multiple new members from all parts of the age spectrum and we would love to have you in our ranks. On top of the training and fire preparedness you also make friendships that will last for years. Come down

to see us any Wednesday night from 7:30pm and find out more.

Starting this month, you may start to see members of the Wingello brigade down at the store in uniform for a Saturday morning coffee. When you see us come chat to us about your Fire season questions, how to prepare yourself and your property, find out how to join us and how you can be involved...or even just say hello. We're looking forward to meeting you.

Online Fire permit

If you intend to do any pile burns you need to obtain a permit. Here is the QR code leading to the online fire permit form.


