



Council makes locals do the dirty work

The work arising from a dereliction by Council is passed onto a local group trying to clean up Crown Land.

A group of locals combined to form the "**Wingello Garden Initiative**" (WGI) over the last 18 months. The club has been allocated a 4 acre parcel of land adjacent to the cricket oval and tennis court which had previously been used or known as pony club. The parcel of land has deteriorated in the last 10 years from legacy programmes. A 5 year lease exists which the entity will work towards making a new social space in the village. The primary activity of the club is to attempt a large scale level of food sustainability. Organic and eco friendly methods of management are the key underlying principles of the group. Secondary usages includes an event location for the villagers.

The parcel of land has a high fire rating due to a significant amount of ground fuel, close proximity regrowth and deposited waste. Their initial task is very aligned to hazard reduction.

Project status:

- Phase 1 = Establishment (complete)
- Phase 2 = Cleanup (underway)
- Phase 3 = DA for infrastructure (in progress)
- Phase 4 = Deployment (2016)

The group has come quite a long way in its progress and had organized an open day to have a meet and greet, information session and social gathering for Sat Nov 14th back in August. In addition they had set a date of Sat 7th to Sun 8th November (*the week prior*) to facilitate a working bee for preparation activities.

Several formal prerequisites were important to have completed prior. These were communicated from their Wingecarribee Shire Council representative accordingly. The advice was they were required to have operational manual, policies, handbook, and

insurances all documented and signed off. This task was completed weeks prior to the date of the open day.

One week prior to our event day they were contacted by a Highland Fling organiser to advise the Fling required access onto the parcel of land for bicycle access. The route required was through the location of the working bee zone. The WGI's advice to the Highland Fling organiser was to seek clarity from council and get them to contact WGI. Within one business day WGI were notified that the Highland Fling were entitled to traverse the zone. This then led to the working bee being deferred.

A series of communications with council followed regarding the WGI event being illegal to conduct until a formal DA has been approved. Effectively the event had to be cancelled.

The advice to the WGI has always been that the DA was to cover infrastructure deployments, never for any access or meeting gatherings on site. WGI's advice from the representative at Council was our documentation prepared was ample and correct. The legal sentence which inhibited the activity was "fire prone zone"... Within a submitted DA the review conducted will highlight what is necessary to be corrected for safety. **This is particularly ironic as the parcel is Crown Land managed by council, hence the state of degradation and need for fire hazard reduction should be borne by them rather than a volunteer group.**

Several engagements followed with Mayor and General Manager.

The fault here is agreed between both parties to be communication. As such council have a heightened awareness amongst executives for the forthcoming DA submission.

The WGI aim to have an opening early next year when the DA is approved.

If you are interested in helping as a volunteer or wish to know more, please contact the WGI at Aubads@gmail.com

Store Opening Hours
Phone: 02 4884 4340

Mon - Thu:	7:30 am - 6:00 pm
Fridays:	7:30 am - 6:00 pm
3rd Friday of Month -	Open till 8:30pm
Weekends:	8:00am - 2:30pm
Public holidays:	8:00am - 10:30am

We are open **Every Day** except Good Friday and Christmas.

Bin Collection Mondays

December

7	● Green	Green
14	● Yellow	Yellow
21	● Green	Green
28	● Yellow	Yellow

Library Bus

Tuesdays 2:15 to 3:15
In front of the park
Dec 8,22

Fire season started on
1 October
No fires without
a permit.

Search Fires Near Me Fires

Download the app for your mobile device

News Snippets

15-19 Bumballa Rd - Pine Tree Piles:

Over the last 18 months the pine tree piles up to 2 stories high have sat idle - a lovely home for snakes and a fire danger. A project is underway to dispose of them. The only method approved is to mulch them onsite. The activity is due to start early December and targeted to finish by Xmas.

Murrimba Rd / Railway Crossing:

Several residents have engaged council directly and independently to raise the profile / highlight the safety concerns on Murrimba Rd and the railway crossing intersection.

Murrimba Rd:

Currently trucks need to traverse over the double lines to avoid tree limbs. In addition, the several patched sections of road are continually breaking up and growing larger. Council has confirmed both matters will be resolved by Christmas or close after. There is a followup exercise in the New Year where an interim solution of widening the corners will occur. The entire Murrimba Rd bigger picture solution is a 2017 solution according to WSC.

Railway Crossing:

The concept of placing stop signs on both sides of the railway crossing has been suggested. Both at Murrimba Rd joining Kareela Rd intersection and on Highland Way, with arrow notification identification indicators on the bitumen.

Wingello Fire Brigade News

Over the past month all of the indicators are starting to present themselves confirming that we are likely to have a challenging fire season ahead. This will result in your brigade becoming very busy with not only looking after the local area but being requested to assist other districts and possibly interstate.

We have seen horrific fires in both Western Australia and South Australia resulting in far too many deaths and loss of property, crops and stock. In the south-eastern part of the continent we are witnessing the rapid curing (drying) of grass fuels. We have seen prolific growth in these grass fuels as a result of the long periods of rain which are now behind us.

All residents are advised that as from the 1st December Fire Permits will not be issued and this is likely to continue till the end of February.

This is a clear indication of the drying of fuels and the soil and this contributes to erratic fire behaviour and the very high chance of pile burns escaping and causing extensive damage. The only exemption will be for the removal of a dead animal carcass.

Monthly Dinner at the shop

We have brought back our regular once a month dinners at the shop. These will be held on the 3rd Friday each month with a Roast as the main meal and a special entree and dessert for a fixed price of \$29. This month's dinner will be **Friday 18th December**.

When you book you can select to be on a special "Meet and Greet" table where individuals, couples or small groups can join others on one large table. It's a great way to meet new people in a convivial atmosphere.

Entrees are served at 6:30pm.

Entree: Special Pasta Salad.

Main: Glazed Ham and Glazed Turkey with tasty Potato and Green salad.

Dessert: Individual Pavlovas.

BOOK NOW

Christmas Carols. Monday 14 Dec 5:30pm

The Penrose Community is having Christmas Carols at the Penrose Hall with all welcome to come, sing and celebrate. Please bring a plate to share for supper after the carols.

Charity donations can be made on the night to help poverty stricken families via Oxfam.

Santa Claus will visit on Christmas Eve.

The Wingello Rural Fire Brigade will be driving Santa around the village again this year. Details will be on the shop window.

There are a number of Questions that all residents must ask themselves.

Do you know the Level of Risk of where you are living? Wingello and surrounding areas are identified as 'Extreme' in the Wingecarribee Bush Fire Risk Management Plan. Remember that Wingello was severely impacted by the 'Chatsbury Fire' in 1965 where 44 homes were destroyed and 3 lives lost.

What does this mean for you? You need to ensure that you are properly prepared and this includes your family and your property. You need to ensure that you have a current **Bush Fire Survival Plan (BFRMP)** and that you have sat down with ALL members of your family and had a discussion on WHAT you will do and WHEN you will do it. The BFRMP is available for download from the NSW Rural Fire Service website or you can pick up a copy from the Wingello Village Shop. Also log onto www.myfireplan.com.au and complete it online.

Copies of a number of Fact Sheets giving additional information about Bush Fire Alert Levels and Preparing your Home are available from the Wingello Village Store.