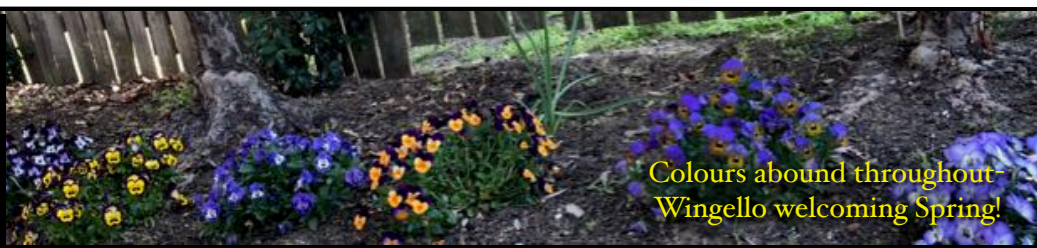


Why be  
anywhere  
else?



Colours abound throughout  
Wingello welcoming Spring!

## Australia Post Profit Based on Slave Labour

*Those who actually provide front line postal services are reimbursed well below minimum wage.*

You may have heard rumblings of discontent in the media recently regarding Australia Post. The discontent is a direct result of Australia Post's Management and their business model relying on using slave labour under the guise of contracts and franchises.

Over two thirds of the Australia Post retail network is run by Licensed Post Offices (LPO) and most of the mail deliveries are run by contractors. The only Corporate Post Offices in the Southern Highlands are Moss Vale, Bowral and Mitagong. The rest are LPOs. There is much public confusion and misinformation assuming that the poor showing of Australia Post is due to inefficiencies or issues at the delivery end of the process.

Almost ALL of the problems with Australia Post come from the top and middle management.

Wingello is a typical small LPO and we have the responsibility to be open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and on Saturday from 9am to 12pm. However, we also need to be available for receiving mail deliveries on Monday to Friday from 7:30am.

We have run the LPO in Wingello since 2009 and have seen the steady decline in remuneration to those who actually do the work while management happily award themselves bonuses and million dollar salaries. How does Australia Post make a profit?

Contractors are paid small piece-rates which barely cover the labour required to deliver the mail. We hear complaints that the driver didn't wait after knocking at the door. Based on how he is paid, waiting means he will be penalised for not meeting delivery standards. When you analyse his contract, he is being paid below minimum wage with all the risks and lack of security of a contractor. Australia Post will promptly award his contract to the lowest bidder when renewals come around. No loyalty any more from Australia Post.

LPOs have had their payments whittled away over the last 10 years, especially during the time of the previous CEO who was never slow in awarding bonuses to himself and his friends.

We are effectively paid an hourly rate of \$15.26 to provide fully trained and experienced Australia Post staff, sort and deliver mail over the counter and to PO boxes, put up with abuse for not delivering mail that was never sent, accused of hiding mail, blamed for not giving mail to one customer even though another member of their household picked it up earlier and more fun. Australia Post does not pay towards the rental of the area for the Post Office and storage or the rates, power and other costs to open the doors.

The minimum award rate for casual labour including on costs is around \$28 an hour. If Australia Post employed us directly their costs would double. Now when you hear Australia Post announce a profit, you know how they did it. By deliberately underpaying those who are actually providing the front line service across the country.

As an LPO we provide local Banking after all the banks have pulled out of Moss Vale, we provide mail and full postal services at all hours we are open and provide the expertise to help you send your letters and parcels around Australia and the world.

Luckily we have developed a world class cafe and restaurant which actually provides a base living, covering the shortfall from Australia Post's slave labour system.

Many LPOs have decided to stop doing a lot of the tasks Australia Post requires but do not pay for. This minor method of getting the point across to Australia Post is only for those services that won't impact customers, but will impact Australia Post costs, which seems to be all that they are concerned about.

Meanwhile the

### Glimpses of Wingello

This fascinating collection of historical and other bits of Wingello is available from the Wingello Village Store and WVA events.



### Bin Collection Mondays

October

1	Yellow
8	Green
15	Yellow
22	Green
29	Yellow

Fire season started  
**1 September**  
NO FIRES  
without a permit.

### Library Bus

Tuesdays 2:15 to 3:15  
In front of the park  
Oct 2, 16, 30 Nov 13, 27

### Store Opening Hours

Phone: 02 4884 4340

Mon - Thu:	7:30 am - 6:00 pm
Fridays:	7:30 am - 6:00 pm
Weekends:	8:00am - 2:30pm
Public holidays:	8:00am - 10:30am

We are open **Every Day** except  
Good Friday, Christmas & Boxing Day.

## Wingello is on the Artists Trail

Local artist, **Sandra Passerman**, will be part of the upcoming Southern Highlands Art Festival 2018. Her newly built art studio will be open for the Art Studio Trail on the 3rd and 4th and 10th and 11th November from 10am to 5pm each day.

Come and visit the studio to see the original art works for sale, including many potential Christmas gifts. You can meet Sandra and inquire about her upcoming workshops. A table with craft materials will be available under parental supervision and at a cost of only a coin donation to contribute towards materials.



More information and a trail map can be downloaded from <https://shaf-com.au> or you find them on Facebook at The Southern Highlands Arts Festival.

## Melbourne Cup Event

### Melbourne Cup Day 6 November

A joint Wingello/Penrose event will be held this year at the Penrose Hall, Kareela Road, Penrose.

Come and watch the big race - Enjoy a sumptuous AFTERNOON TEA from 2 - 4pm at a cost of \$10.00 per person.

Join in the fun with sweeps, raffles and a prize for the best hat.

For bookings - SMS to 0427 353 380

Enquiries to [secretary.wva@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.wva@gmail.com).

## Wingello Happenings

### Regular Events

**2nd Saturday 2-4pm:** Craft Afternoon.

Bring your spinning, knitting, embroidery, or whatever you're working on, enjoy a cuppa and biscuits

*(\$5, tea and biscuits included)*

## Wingello Fire Brigade News

A quiet-ish month was September with only three fire calls, two being for Pile burns and one MVA. As we know all permits were and still are suspended until further notice. So be aware that no burning off can be done until this ban has been lifted otherwise you will get a visit from a big red truck.

The Wingello Get Ready day was a good day with plenty of Sunshine. A goodly number of adults 23 and a multitude of children 31, attended the station to see what we had for them. Quite a few requested information about the fire season and were given the right information from our crew members. The giant slide was a lot of fun for the children along with the sausage sizzle that we had with all monies going to the Farmers fund. The crew members put on a live display on how to treat a fat or oil fire in the kitchen and what not to put on them. We saw the difference of the right chemicals to use to do the job and what water does when sprayed onto the oil fires. Never use water on a fat or oil fire. All in the day was successful and those who attended I am sure gained some good information from our members.

During this month I had the opportunity to attend with Wingello the Cadet program run by the Southern Highland RFS. Along with Volunteer instructors and in conjunction with Bowral High school, nineteen students started out on a ten week course, with only one dropping out. Last week was



their graduation day and it was impressive to see that the training that they had been going through over the weeks paid off as they performed their displays with skill and precision. At the end of the day the students were given their graduation certificates and a big round of applause for their efforts.

Training within the Brigade continues as always with more new members now going through the BF assessments, we wish them well. As we all know we look like having a long hot and dry summer so please take care, keep an eye on the FDR indicator and your "Fires Near Me" app. We have had already a number of High, Very High FDR days and one Severe Day. So be aware and stay safe.