

## Wingello - The Recovery

*There are so many organisations and people offering to help Wingello rebuild - thanks.*

Over an eight day period in February we received 400mm of rain, a deluge greater than our total rainfall from all of last year. This put out the fires near us and the terrible black mark on the FiresNearMe app disappeared.

The anxiety we had been pushing down and ignoring evaporated and suddenly we were all able to concentrate on our daily tasks with clearer heads knowing the fires would not suddenly return for a second attempt.

Looking around Wingello we still see the scars left by the savage fires from the night of 4th January. Blackened trees, destroyed homes, sheds and gardens, a changed treescape are all the negatives from the 2020 fires.

However, we don't want to linger on that as the good news is very good indeed. So many individuals and groups and organisations have stepped in to provide all sorts of assistance. As we expected, none of the millions of dollars raised in the flashy fund raisers have made it down to Wingello villagers or the Wingello fire brigade.

Here is a list of the main sources of support. There are more and we have lists and contacts at the store.

**St Vincent de Paul Society** - Moss Vale Vinnies has been fantastic. They called us on the day we returned to the shop on 6th January and gave us their contact details and told any affected villagers to call them. Then visit and they will help fill in the forms. I am arranging for them to visit the store on a Saturday soon to make the process even easier. You can get a grant of \$1000 to \$4000 if you have suffered loss of house, shed, goods or fencing.

**Lions Club** - They have visited the store twice and will do so again soon. If you have lost something and get a quote for the replacement up to \$1,500 they will write a cheque for the business and send it to you. Very helpful people and we have their forms at the store.

**Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment.** A payment of \$1,000 per adult and \$800 per child. Call 180 22 66.

Everyone in Wingello and Penrose and Tallong will most likely have suffered smoke damage to all your soft furnishings - curtains, bedding, carpets and rugs. We are used to it but when someone from out of town visits they will probably tell you that the house smells like

smoke. Tell the friendly people on the phone you have tried washing the affected soft furnishings but they still smell and will have to be replaced. Then just prove who you are and the payment is made. Easy.

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/nsw-bushfires-september-2019-australian-government-disaster-recovery-payment>

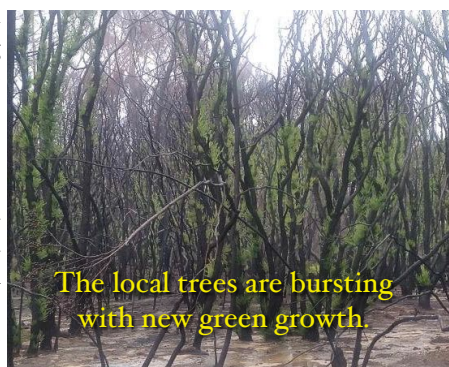
**Red Cross** - Their volunteers are very helpful and understanding. If you have lost your house or had major damage to the house, you are entitled to \$20,000. For more information go to: <https://www.redcross.org.au/grants>

**Service NSW Cleanup** - Make sure you sign up with the Cleanup register to get all the fire damaged stuff on your property cleaned up. This is covered by the State and Federal governments.

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-opt-nsw-bushfire-clean>

**CityServe** - They are a collaboration of the Shellharbour and Wollongong regional churches and are providing volunteers to help us clean up our properties, put in fences, plant gardens and so on. You provide materials and guidance and they will provide some willing volunteers. Pick up the form from the shop to share your needs and they'll be in touch. Very friendly people that

want to help us rebuild.



The local trees are bursting with new green growth.

Fire season Started  
**1 September**  
No open fires  
without a permit.

**Library Bus**  
Tuesdays 2:15 to 3:15  
In front of the park  
Mar 3, 17, 31 April 14, 28

### Bin Collection Mondays

March	
2	Yellow
9	Green
16	Yellow
23	Green
30	Yellow

### Store Opening Hours

Phone: 02 4884 4340

Mon - Fri:	7:30 am - 6:00 pm
Weekends:	8:00am - 3:00pm
Public holidays:	8:00am - 10:30am

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

## School & Community News

The school year has started off with great gusto.

We warmly welcome back our returning students with the addition of 5 new families joining our school's community this year.

Structurally, there has been a revamp in the year 3-6 classroom with new carpet and installation of a felt covered wall, with the most noticeable improvement being brand new fencing and gates to our exterior.

Many more improvements and upgrades to our school's playground are planned for this year as a result of our P&C's successful grant application with the sum of \$13,000 being awarded through the Local Schools Community Fund.

In addition to the set curriculum, Japanese lessons have commenced for all students. This is a fantastic opportunity for the students to learn another lan-

guage and also about another culture. Along with music, choir and tennis lessons the children certainly are busy little bees.

Story time is also returning this year and will commence on Friday the 7th of March at 10:30 am. This is a fun and engaging informal session for preschool aged children and a great way to become familiar with the school environment.

We would like to thank Wingello Village Store for once again providing the Friday lunch box to the children this year.

### Regular Craft Group Saturday 14 March

The monthly Craft Group will meet on Saturday 14th March at 2pm in the Wingello School Library. All welcome to join the group with your current craft work or simply for the company and a friendly cup of tea. \$5 donation is appreciated. For inquiries please contact secretary.wva@gmail.com.

## Fire Relief Fund

We have created our own Wingello Fire Relief Fund. We know that much of the millions raised will not make it down here. Even our council needs to be pushed to provide assistance.

The purpose of the fund is to assist with the privation caused by the gap between what is covered by insurance and what is needed. As at the end of February we have been donated just over \$14,000 so far. It's not much but we will manage it and there are no administration fees and the funds will go directly to Wingello residents. Once the dust settles with insurance and other support is finalised, we will be allocating the funds.

More info: <https://wingello.blogspot.com/2020/01/wingello-fire-relief-fund.html>

You can EFT funds to: BDCU, BSB: 802-101, Acc: 100077285, Name: Wingello Fire Relief Fund

### St Florian

A reimagining of the patron saint of Firefighters and floods.

St Florian died on 4th May 304 AD which happens to be the International Firefighters Day.

**\$30 - available from Wingello Village Store**

Profits donated to Wingello Rural Fire Brigade.

*Original Artwork by Peter Bruggerman, Wingello*



## Wingello Fire Brigade News

Well what a season this has been! Unfortunately it's not completely over, yet. We would like to remind you that should you have green waste on your property that you'd like to remove using a pile burn, permits are required. This can be done by contacting our Captain, Mark Wilson.

The fortitude of the people of Wingello has been amazing. Thank you for having a plan and acting on it. Thank you to those of you who were physically and psychologically prepared to stay and fight for doing so and for helping out your neighbours, too. A very special thanks to those of you who decided to leave and leave early. This makes life so much easier for our firefighters.

Well done residents of Wingello!



This event has encouraged a lot of Wingello residents to become interested in joining the Wingello Brigade. If you are considering joining, we would like to encourage you come on Wednesday nights. We commence meeting at 7pm and start training 7:30pm. If you would like to join in a support role and do not wish to become an 'Active Member', we would encourage you to come along anyway.