

Why be
anywhere
else?

The natural Yellow of
Christmas in Wingello

Dead Trees Don't Increase Fire Fuel Load

Our Council has not learnt from last season's devastating fires

Last Summer Australia experienced a terrible bush fire season. Wingello was hit and a dozen homes were destroyed and about a third of the village lost substantial portions of their property to the fires that raced into the village on the night of 4th January.

In the aftermath Wingello rose from the ashes a closer community having shared the common existential threat of the fires. As we approach the anniversary of the fire, all of us are experiencing various triggers that bring back memories. A smell of smoke from a back burn or yard clearing, the first hot and windy day of Summer, watching bushfire scenes in the excellent Australian film, "Rams", or just hearing the siren of the local brigade attending to various call-outs.

These triggers are not necessarily a bad thing as they allow us to process the memories we may have put aside. When a memory pops up, remember where you are now - in a much better place. Most of the fire debris and dead trees have been cleared, rebuilding has started on a number of the destroyed houses, fences and sheds and mostly restored and the best news of all - we are all here.

So while all of us that were affected by the fires have learned the lessons from the evidence all around us, it seems our council has not.

In August we had trees come down and as per council instructions these were cut down and moved to the edge of the road. In the recent winds even more dead trees fell down, at one point blocking access to Wingello on all three access roads.

I lodged a request for the August trees to be removed using the excellent "Snap Send Solve" phone app with a picture similar to the above (*the children were not climbing on the photo I sent*). Their response:

At time of inspection, large diameter timber was identified on westbound side of Murrimba Rd (Opp. 487) cut and left on site away from road edge by Council's contractors as instructed. These works were carried out as part of the August rain storm works and the large diameter wood retained on site has been assessed and does not add to bush-fire fuel load. No further action required.

Ah. So wood doesn't burn. The drone footage we took 4 weeks after the fires shows a different story. Look at the fingers of fire reaching into Wingello along Council unmaintained verges. **The council has not learned.**



Fire season started

1 October

NO FIRES

without a permit.

Library Bus

Tuesdays 2:15 to 3:15

In front of the park

Dec 8, 22 Jan 5, 19

Bin Collection Mondays

December

7 Yellow
14 Green
21 Yellow
28 Both

Store Opening Hours

Phone: 02 4884 4340

Mon - Thu: 7:30am - 4:00pm
Friday: 7:30am - 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 Day.

Excellent Concert

The **Wingello and District Community Concert** was held on the grounds of the Wingello Public School on Saturday, 28 November. It was a very hot and windy day with everyone utilising the fine shade of the trees at the school. Thank you to all the bands that played for us.

Paul Mallia of the **Stringline Band** played for us at the concert. He is from Balmoral and remembered the brave Wingello Firies who came to his street and saved his house and others nearby. As a thank you he wrote the song "**Heroes in Yellow**"

Please be warned. The linked video contains scenes of last Summer's fires and will probably trigger memories, but this song is a good thank you to those who put themselves in harm's way.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFerzvfExr8>



Wingello Fire Brigade News

Wingello has yet again been hit by severe weather. This means that rather than responding to fire, our local Fire Brigade has been busy cutting up trees to maintain the thoroughfares into the village. It was very disappointing to see that many of the trees that had fallen across the roads were marked with a white "X". This was an indicator that the tree had been weakened by the fire event in January - almost a whole year ago.

Should you have any concerns about trees in your area, it would be best to contact council on 4868 0888 or email mail@wsc.nsw.gov.au or for further information go to <http://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au>. If it appears that a tree may be interfering with powerlines, it would be prudent to contact Endeavour Energy on 133 718 or in an emergency call 131 003.

On the 19th of December 2019, Horsley Park 1 Alpha was struck by a falling tree whilst responding to a fire call in the Buxton/Balmoral area. Tragically, this killed the Driver and Crew Leader, Geoff Keaton and Andrew O'Dwyer. Wingello was on scene this fateful



evening. In turn, Wingello was honoured to attend the opening of the Memorial Playground at Buxton. The event was attended by many dignitaries, including the Prime Minister of Australia Scott

Morrison, the Premier of NSW Gladys Berejiklian, the Commissioner of the RFS Rob Rogers and the Commissioner for Resilience NSW Shane Fitzsimmons.

The formalities were opened by the traditional custodians of the land and closed with a traditional cleansing smoking ceremony. It is a beautifully designed playground and is well worth the trip if you have children. A beautiful reminder of our future.

The Black Summer Fires affected Santa's ability to visit last year. This year COVID-19 may have slowed him down - but it will not stop him! Santa will be escorted by our Fire Trucks this Christmas Eve, departing the Wingello Fire Station at 4pm. The route is yet to be finalised, so please keep an eye on the 'Wingello Rural Fire Brigade' FaceBook page. It should be available from the 20th. As Santa is restricted from human contact, could all the grown-ups assist their children in catching their lollies. ...and don't forget the Wingello Village Association Carols in Casburn Park afterwards. See you there.



Information provided by Wingello Rural Fire Brigade Facebook Page