



Why be anywhere else?

Going for a Summer walk in Wingello

Memories of Community Togetherness

Two years on and we remember the Village working together against a common foe

On the night of Saturday 4 January 2020 the community of Wingello stood together against a common foe - the bushfires. The warning we had on New Year's Eve when the village was smothered in thick smoke proved a blessing as it made everyone face the reality of our risk. Neighbours worked with each other to make sure that those who were unable to defend their home were able to go somewhere safe. Groups of neighbours banded together and pooled resources to improve their defences. The fire brigade were as ready as they could be with water and other resources nearby, but at the start of that evening we only had two trucks available.

The massive Pyro-Cumulus cloud above the fire front collapsed moving the fire front many kilometres from the Shoalhaven Gorge to the edge of the village in a very short time. Our brigade took a deep breath and were ready to do what had to be done. Then in the old fashioned tradition of "mateship" fire trucks from other brigades began turning up and joining in. Wingello had helped many of them win the preceding weeks in Balmoral, Buxton and other areas and they wanted to help us in our time of need.

Although the brigade had to fall back, they were able to maintain a "You shall not pass" line at the railway tracks to stop the fire crossing onto the Western side of the village.

Outside this defensive line, many unsung local villagers defended their homes and their neighbour's, working throughout the night with relief from the brigades once the fight at the main defensive line subdued a little.

In the days that followed everyone pitched in to help repair, rebuild and recover - not just from the physical destruction, but also the mental stresses. It's not every day one is faced with an existential threat even for those with training.

The true spirit of Australia showed on that night and the following months, as we all worked together to help each other, from both locals and strangers. We never asked if those wishing to help had some special qualifications or permission. "Thank You" was our response and we all went to work.

As we start the new year of 2022, surrounded by our lovely green countryside, our hope is that we can continue to live together as a village without distinctions in the well known Australian tradition.



Helping feed the services on the day after the fire.



Brothers in Arms. In front of the Village they helped save

Fire season started 1 October NO FIRES without a permit.	Library Bus Tuesdays 2:15 to 3:15 In front of the park Jan 18 Feb 1, 15
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Bin Collection Mondays January 3 ● Yellow 10 ● Green 27 ● Yellow 24 ● Green 31 ● Yellow	Store Opening Hours Ph: 02 4884 4340 / 0492 966 558 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 Day.
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Wingello School News

The school community would like to welcome Mrs Louise Pratt as the new principal of Wingello school. We look forward to an exciting year ahead, with Louise at the helm!

A big thank you to all who bought tickets in our Christmas fundraiser. The P&C raised \$557, which

we look forward to putting towards excursions for the children in 2022.

Congratulations to the Geddes, Conroy and Spackman families who each won a fabulous Christmas hamper.

Wishing the Wingello community a wonderful summer break and look forward to exciting times for the school in 2022!

Information provided by Wingello School Parents

Christmas Fun in Wingello

Wingello villagers were out in force on Christmas Eve to join in the annual Christmas Carols in the park. This year the Wingello Village Association had sponsorship from Wingecaribee Shire Council to spread some Christmas Cheer which went towards the Christmas lights, Carols booklets, food, drinks and more.

Santa Claus popped in to the park after his Wingello RFS sponsored run through the village spreading good cheer (and lollies), where there were a variety of larger than life games followed by Christmas Carols.

Well over 100 villagers and visitors of all ages gathered and had a great time, with many singing with the fantastic encouragement of our very shy MC, Kevin Fitzgerald, and talented musicians Barbara, Daphne, Mackenzie and Anthony.

In typical Wingello fashion we had thick fog rolling in, but were able to complete

the carols before visibility had reduced too much! It was a great community gathering. We'll do it all again next year!



A white Christmas Carols in the park.

Wingello Fire Brigade News

December was a quiet month for the brigade after what has been a quiet year in comparison to previous years. December was spent doing brigade training and maintenance, theoretical grass fire exercises and acclimatising our newest qualified members to the trucks and the tools we use to keep the community safe.

Although callouts were low in December, they were interesting with the brigade assisting other services when a hiker was hurt, as well as a motor vehicle accident and other Community First response calls.

And then The Big Man arrived! Wingello brigade escorted Santa on his yearly run around Wingello. Every year it is exciting for us to see the kids' reactions to the big red truck with Santa on board. The smiles, the waves, the excitement.....which we're sure has nothing to do with the bags of lollies ☺

Thanks to all the Wingello community for your support and en-



couragement over 2021. As we all look back and remember January of 2020 it is encouraging to look at our village still standing strong, and it is an honour to be part of the community we fought to save.



Information provided by Wingello Rural Fire Brigade