



# RFS betrays Wingello and other communities

*The RFS bureaucrats put all NSW at risk in divisive campaign*

This week the NSW Rural Fire Service is starting their Australian Community Engagement and Fire Awareness. The theme is 'Compassion. Grit. Innovation – Engaging with our communities when times are tough'.

Meanwhile after attending AGMs they run away from the opportunity to discuss their policies with actual members of their brigades. It's easy making decisions if you don't have to deal with the consequences.

The RFS Bureaucrats are overseeing a very divisive policy of forcing all volunteers to submit their private medical information. If members of the volunteer RFS brigades across NSW fail to submit their medical information they will be dismissed or placed on "reserve" status. (That means no training or interaction with the brigade.) For the last 12 months or more any volunteer that has stood firm for their rights to medical privacy have been segregated and denied training or qualifications.

*"The NSW RFS has mandated COVID-19 vaccination and status reporting for all NSW RFS staff members, as well as external labour (contractors) located at NSW RFS sites and working in close proximity to staff."*

This policy also applies to volunteers.

Although this policy is officially for "our safety" what is the result?

The destruction of the volunteer Rural Fire Service across NSW. Volunteers with many decades of experience are resigning or being placed on reserve status across the State. Experienced firefighters are being denied any leadership positions, demoted and belittled. The RFS Bureaucrats are even forcing brigades to re-do their Annual General Meetings if they discover non-compliant members have been elected by their brigades to active positions.

This vindictive, cruel and divisive enforcement of a meaningless mandate is resulting in many brigades handing back the keys to abandoned fire sheds, firetrucks with insufficient drivers or firefighters to attend calls and the loss of generations of invaluable experience.

Many brave villagers join their fire brigade to defend their homes and those of their neighbours. They willingly faced the tremendous fires that devastated so much of Australia in 2019-2020 and other bush fire seasons. They give up their time every week for continual train-



ing, risk jobs and impact their careers as they once again race to help others.

And their reward?

They are effectively told: Abandon your old fashioned (pre 2020) principles of medical privacy, ignore that old Nuremberg code and submit to the RFS Bureaucrats or get sacked.

The RFS does not care that you are experienced, fit and ready to face danger at a moment's notice. No, you must do as the RFS bureaucracy commands. The RFS wants to make you think you are silly if you believe in individual rights, and will punish you and your community for doing so.

This has been going on for over 12 months but members hoped that the RFS would regain their senses. But no. They are doubling down on the stupidity and will destroy the volunteer fire brigade system rather than back down from their divisive and inhuman policies.

You can contact the RFS at: Email: <a href="mailto:safety@rfs.nsw.gov.au">safety@rfs.nsw.gov.au</a> Telephone: 02 8741 5555	<b>Library Bus</b> Tuesdays 2:15 to 3:15 In front of the park <b>Jun 7, 21 Jul 5, 19</b>
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**Bin Collection**  
**Mondays**

**June**

7	● Yellow
13	● Green
20	● Yellow
27	● Green

**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.

## School News

The kids have been enjoying a busy Term 2, with life getting back to some kind of normal meaning there is more opportunity for them to participate in many of the activities that have been sadly missing for the past couple of years.

The beginning of the term saw the Wattles class have the exciting opportunity to attend a three day camp at Lake Jindabyne. The kids had a wonderful time, participating in a range of activities from survival skills to archery.

Week 4 was jam packed with great educational and fun activities, starting with a Ride to School day, the district cross country and a Walk to School safely day, which ended with a delicious and healthy breakfast provided by the P&C.

The highlight of the week was definitely the Bush Tucker Garden working bee, finishing off the design created by Pat Hall. The school was delighted to be able to enlist the help of the Wingello Village Association on the day, and we thank those who were able to attend for all of their hard work.

*Information provided by Wingello School Parents*

## Wingello Events

### Monthly Men's Breakfast



**4th June 9am:** The Men's Breakfast will be on at 9am at the Wingello Store. There is no agenda, just a time for men of the village to catch up and connect. Buy your own coffee/breakfast/brunch but there is no obligation to buy anything. Just turn up and enjoy the company of fellow villagers.

**FINISHES  
30 JUNE**



The WVA hosts a

# TRIVIA NIGHT

**Wingello Hall**  
**Saturday 4 June 7 pm**

\$10 per person (children 12 and under free)  
book at <https://www.trybooking.com/BZGYN>

Get together a table of 8 or link up with others on the night  
Bring your own nibbles and drinks

## Wingello Fire Brigade News

The Wingello RFB Annual General meeting was held in the Wingello village hall this year and it was great to see friends and brigade members from past and present all together. At the AGM, the members of Wingello Rural Fire Brigade who fought through the 2019/2020 black summer fire season where honoured with the National Emergency medal and certificates. The formal AGM was held at the hall and then a wonderful time of catching up over food and drinks back at the station. Overall, a great and special night.



After years of post-fire forest closures and COVID it was also great to see the Wingello Endurance Ride back again for 2022. Wingello RFB loves to support this event by providing and keeping water troughs and containers full for the horses.

The weather continues to be wet and windy as we progress into winter, and the brigade keeps training and getting qualified to help the community in times of need. Again, Wingello brigade has hosted the Navigation component of the Advanced Firefighter Qualification and members from other brigades in our district have come along to learn the skills while navigating to simulated incidents in our forest areas.

Please continue to be careful while driving and aware of falling trees weakened by the wind and soaked ground.



*Information provided by Wingello Rural Fire Brigade*