



Why be anywhere else?

Lots of Autumn leaves in Wingello

# The Wingello State Forest is Open

3 years after the fires of 4 January 2020, the forest is reopened.

## The State Forest is now open to the public.

After the bush fires devastated the Wingello State Forest on 4 January 2020, cleaning up started very quickly. Unfortunately, this only lasted about 3 to 4 months until the government Covid restrictions hit and no work could be done. Then we had lots of rain and by the time the logging trucks were ready to return, any movement off the trails resulted in an almost certain bogging. When one logging truck got stuck up to its axles in mud, it required a 40 tonne recovery vehicle to pull it out to the road.

Finally the trucks were able to get back in and clear most of the burnt and dead trees. Most of the State Forest is Pine trees, and these trees do not like fire. Add in a waterlogged ground and many of the trees died as they stood. On windy days locals living nearby can hear one tree fall, followed by a domino effect of others being pushed over by the first.



Forest Open - but with cautions

That is why the Forestry Commission have the "OPEN - EXERCISE CAUTION" sign. If it is a really windy day, I wouldn't visit the Forest.

But for activities on most days, we are seeing a marvellous return to normal. Dog Sled racing, trail bikes, camping - all are coming back.

Very hard work by the Mountain Bike people is transforming the bike tracks. It would have been a relatively easy task just after the fires, but in three years, lots of wattle and other trees have taken over the old paths. Luckily those clever Mountain Bike Trails people were able to plan the track recovery before they were hidden by new growth. Every bridge was destroyed by the fires, but some new routes became visible. It is an exciting time.

There are also plans for a rebuilding of the camping area and an adventure park. Lots happening over the next few years.

We look forward to seeing visitors to the forest. As one camper told us, "I like civilised camping. We camp under the trees and stars and then have a nice coffee and breakfast with someone else washing up!"



## PO Boxes Available

We have Post Office Boxes available at the Wingello Village Store. These provide 24/7 access to your mail and you can pick up your parcels at any time we are open. Signing up to Mail2Day gives you an email if you have mail in your box.

And we also do banking and all other Postal services.

A small PO Box is only \$72 with yearly renewal of \$52

This is a special concessional rate as Wingello, Penrose and parts of Tallong don't have street delivery.



Fire season ended <b>1 April</b> Check if you can burn on your property.	<b>Library Bus</b> Tuesdays 2:15 to 3:15 In front of the park <b>May 9, 23 Jun 6, 20</b>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<b>Bin Collection Mondays</b> May 1 ● Green 8 ● Yellow 15 ● Green 22 ● Yellow 29 ● Green	<b>Store Opening Hours</b> Ph: 02 4884 4340 / 0493 521 856 Mon - Fri: 7:00am - 4:00pm Weekends: 8:00am - 3:00pm Public holidays: 8:00am - 10:30am  We are open <b>Every Day</b> except Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Christmas, Boxing & New Year's Days.
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## Wingello Events

**The Men's Breakfast** continues being a great time to gather and chat with no particular agenda. First Saturday of every month at the Wingello Village Store is when we meet to have a general chat and solve the problems of the world - then do it all again next month.

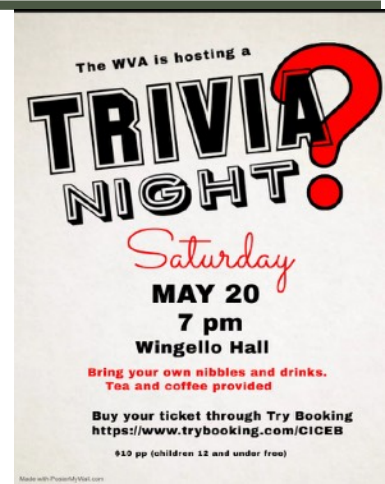
**Story Time** is gathering traction as youngsters enjoy a very interactive story time reading from a great collection of good books. Every Tuesday at 10:30am at the Wingello Village Store.

**Trivia Night.**

**Saturday 20 May, 7pm, Wingello Hall**

Tickets \$10 per person (children 12 and under free)

<https://www.trybooking.com/CICEB>



## Family Fun Day - Success!

Despite a huge rainfall over the weekend of 29 April (over 75mm - 3 inches) the Family Fun Day went ahead. And it was a great success! If Wingello villagers cancelled every time it rained or was inclement weather, we'd never get anything done.

A huge thank you to the Wingello Public School for allowing us to hold the event on the school grounds. The covered walkways and open areas, as well as schoolrooms meant most things were able to go ahead.

I could hear the laughter of families watching the puppet show in one of the classrooms from outside. Bad jokes, silly humour and fun routines all made for a perfect puppet show. Thank you to the Sydney Puppet Theatre from New Berrima.



The rock climbing was able to be used even in the rain. And it was used non stop throughout the day with children of all ages going up and down and up and down!



We saw lots of people enjoying scones and tea from the Devonshire Tea, classic yummy sausage sandwiches from the Wingello Rural Fire Brigade, Ice creams from the ice cream van, and lots of yummy cakes and

slices from school parents and other Wingello locals. There were market stalls provided free to locals showing off their amazing talents and we had the reptiles display, our local Wombat Man, face painting and more.

We estimate around 200 people attended.

If you missed out, next time you know that if it is an event at the school, it will probably go on and be well worth attending.

Thank you to Resilience NSW for funding the event, allowing the Wingello Village Association to provide everything to locals for free. The purpose was to improve community connections and it was a success at doing that based on so many smiles and conversations throughout the day.

### Otterly Refreshing

Ariel was able to display her new business of custom soaps, bath products and candles at the Family Fun Day. Her products are now available at the store.

These are all custom made and she will be able to make customised soaps. The logo is an Otter providing his seal of approval.

More details from the shop.

