

Why be
anywhere
else?



The Crab Apple blossoms are out at the Wingello Village Store

Are you ready for this fire season?

Very dry Winter and Spring means higher fire risk this Summer

As you can see from the rainfall chart below, up to the end of September we have only had 480mm of rain. Not as bad as the 2019 drought, but certainly a dry spell, particularly after the nice and wet last 3 years.

That rain has re-greened all our burned areas with so much lovely new growth of trees, bushes and undergrowth. There is much concern at the level of new growth quickly drying out with the warmer weather. Add some hot days and this quickly becomes Fuel.

It is great the Council and other disaster response agencies now have a plan in place regarding co-ordination and action when a natural disaster strikes, however there has been little on the ground action and funding to reduce the actual local risk and fuel build up.

We have seen a number of hazard reductions over the last few months, but the area which caused such danger and devastation in Wingello in 2020 has not been ad-

dressed. Council roadsides and Crown Land reserves are once more FULL of fuel in the form of branches, leaves and dead trees.

The accompanying image we created just after the 2020 fires graphically demonstrates the issue. Locals did a great job preparing their homes and properties by clearing undergrowth, removing dead branches and trees, keeping grass mowed short, removing fuel near their houses. But the fire raced along the roadsides as it was able to burn all that lovely fuel.

Look around your home now and think what would burn. Then mow the grass, remove overgrown plants near the house, trim and cut back dead wood and more. Move the firewood away from the house. Houses that were prepared were NOT as badly impacted by the 2020 fires. Many homes were saved because the fire couldn't get close enough.

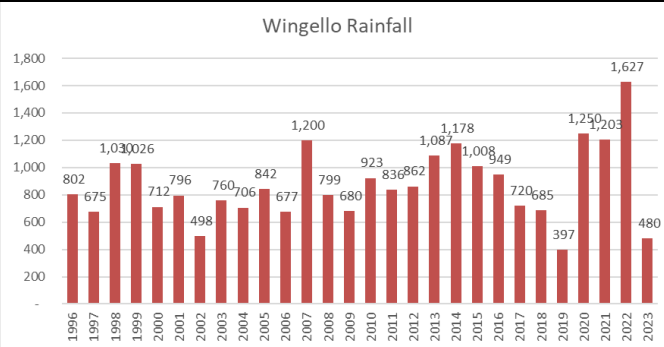


Each unmaintained roadway gives fire a straight path to our homes.

We have a problem as residents are forbidden from clearing the roadside edges. Too dangerous. I suppose it is better to have a raging bushfire do it?

At the end of the day the risk is to you and your fellow villagers. Over the next few issues we will be publishing more information about getting prepared and what to expect.

The RFS website and the local fire brigade has lots of good information about preparing your home. They can also arrange for a visit from some of the experienced members to review what you should consider to make your home safer.



Fire season started
1 October
NO FIRES
without a permit.

Library Bus
Tuesdays 2:15 to 3:15
In front of the park
Oct 10, 24 Nov 7, 21

Bin Collection
Mondays
October
2 ● Green
9 ● Yellow
16 ● Green
23 ● Yellow
30 ● Green

Store Opening Hours
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 **Every Day** except
Good Friday, Easter Sunday,
Christmas, Boxing & New Year's Days.

Wingello Events

Hume Highway diverted through Wingello

Roadworks on the Hume Highway on **Monday 16 October to Wednesday 25 October (10 days)** Northbound traffic will have to use Murrimba Road to access Tallong and Wingello. No Highland way entrance. Lots of vehicles!

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.

Craft Afternoons

The Wingello Village Association sponsored informal craft afternoons and catch ups continue. Held on the first Saturday of the month in the meeting room of Wingello Hall 2 pm to 4 pm. Bring along whatever craft you are working on and enjoy the company of other crafters or just come for the catch up. Cost is \$5 to help with cost of hiring the hall and afternoon tea.

Shire and Council Updates

YOUR Answer MATTERS

2023 Referendum

Location: Wingello Public School

Saturday 14 October 2023

8am to 6pm

The school will be running a sausage sizzle so you can get the traditional "democracy sausage" experience.

Community Tulip Bulb Collection.

Come along to Corbett Gardens on 11 October from 8:30am until 3:00pm, with your own bag and receive up to 10 FREE mixed Tulip bulbs.

Keep them cool and dry at home ready to plant in your gardens next year! Expect flowers the following year. *(For local residents only)*



Get Ready for the Fire Season

A Fire Permit is required for burning activities during the Bush Fire Danger Period that started 1st October.

Fire Permits help ensure fire is used safely and minimise the danger to you, your property and the community.

Once you have a permit, you need to let the RFS know before you light up. You can notify them of your activity using the online form available at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fire-permits/burn-notifications>.

Some things to remember:

You need a fire permit if it's the Bush Fire Danger Period. Permits help ensure fire is used safely.

Getting a permit is free and easy. Contact the Wingello Fire Brigade so they can check proposed fire, preparations and location.

There are heavy penalties if you don't follow restrictions or rules.

Tips for Pile Burns

1. Get a Permit during bush fire season (Now)
2. Notify the RFS you are having a burn. This means that if a call comes in, the RFS can say they know about it and saves a call out.
3. A small pile is good. You can then feed it from a larger pile. Also, a small pile is much easier to reach with marshmallows on a stick
4. Have plenty of water nearby, easy to dowse the fire. One or two hoses are best.
5. Make sure the surrounding area is dirt or very short grass. A fire can get away VERY quickly
6. If it is windy, cancel the burn. Fire can race and spread faster than you can stomp it out, especially with a lovely wind to help it along.

