

Why be  
anywhere  
else?



Wingello Village Store  
elves sorting over 2,000  
parcels in December!

# Wingello Remembers the 2020 Fires

*The Miracle of Wingello reminds us of the good life in our village*

On 4 January 2020 the Moreton Fire swept through Wingello. The Southerly wind collapsed the PyroCumulus cloud that had formed above the Currowan Fire raging on the other side of the Shoalhaven River gorge, effectively sucking the fire up and dumped it just behind our village with tail winds of around 80kph, pushing the fire straight at us. A great many people jumped in to defend lives and homes starting with the very over-worked local fire brigade, the addition of so many other brigades sending their vehicles and support, and many locals defending homes of their own and their neighbours.

Due to the ferocity and suddenness of the direct fire, about a dozen houses were lost, as well as many barns and sheds with much loved memories and possessions - but no-one was killed or injured in Wingello. All those losing their homes were insured and had places to stay.

Wingello villagers all pitched in and helped each other, both physically clearing and cleaning, as well as socially with support and camaraderie, and the very important assistance with negotiating with various relief organisations and fighting for the support that was promised to be actually delivered.

It is important at the 5 year anniversary to remember that many lessons have been learned. New organisational structures are now in place to hopefully provide better coordinated responses to a natural disaster, as well as awareness at all levels - individuals, families, communities and the greater Shire, State and Federal levels - that Australia is a great land which has always had natural challenges of droughts, fires and floods and we are called to live in a way that co-operates with the natural cycles of our marvellous home.



Just when the PyroCumulus cloud  
collapsed at 7:20pm on 3 Jan 2020



Moments before we evacuated  
Wingello at Midnight

Fire season started <b>1 October</b> NO FIRES without a permit.	<b>Library Bus</b> Tuesdays 2:15 to 3:15 In front of the park <b>Jan 14, 28 Feb 11, 25</b>
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<b>Bin Collection</b> <b>Mondays</b> January 6 ●● Both 13 ● Yellow 20 ● Green 27 ● Yellow	<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.
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## Lots of 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. (*Next: 4 Jan, 1 Feb, 1 Mar*)

### 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 1 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.

### Christmas Carols a great community event

On Christmas eve, Santa delivered lollies to the children around Wingello and arrived at Casburn Park to see **over 250 villagers, family and friends** getting ready to enjoy our annual Christmas Carols.

Family groups were arrayed on picnic blankets on the Community Green facing the Hall extension where our excellent local team led us all in Christmas Car-

ols. Also, throughout the park, those with smaller children were able to sing along while their children were all over the playground and pump track. Neighbours and friends were sharing Christmas greetings, enjoying their free sausages and drinks sponsored by the Wingecarribee Shire Council.

Thank you to the Wingello Village Association for providing another great community event. Seeing so many villagers of all ages gathering and socialising made many of us realise Wingello has a future - and it is good.



Community Christmas Carols excellently performed by these locals.

## Wingello Fire Brigade News

Happy New Year! Welcome to January of 2025. As has been mentioned in the newsletter, January marks 5 years since the 2020 fire season where the Currowan Fire that had been burning for some time, became the Moreton Fire and directly impacted our village.

As a brigade, we have been remembering the events of that summer 5 years ago, the hours and days on firetrucks, the death of comrades, the efforts by all brigades and locals in defending against a relentless fire season, the generosity and pulling together of everyone....Even now, there are still some triggers and unbidden thoughts that arise.

We encourage you to talk about these things with friends and other villagers. Remember also the fact that we survived, lost no lives, and Wingello banded together to prove how wonderful country living can be.



Traditionally, January and February are when fire events happen around our area, and this year is no different. As a brigade, we ended off the year with a number of call outs to grass fires, structure fires, and motor vehicle accidents. While the expectation is still for an average fire season, we encourage you all to be vigilant and if you see smoke, don't hesitate to call 000. On behalf of the whole brigade, thanks for the support through 2024, and we wish you a wonderful and safe new year.

### Online Fire permit

If you intend to do any pile burns you need to obtain a permit. Here is the QR code leading to the online fire permit form.

