



# Vale Ken McDonald

*The Stonemason's Trail is his legacy to the Southern Highlands*

Ken McDonald passed away in June 2026. He was a well-loved local stonemason whose creations have been immortalised in "The Stonemason's Trail," established in July 2020.

Back in January 2020, Ken was putting the finishing touches on his masterwork near his home in Penrose when he saw the forest just down the hill burst into flame, smoke billowing upwards. There was a large open area between him and the fire, but the smoke was a concern. Hearing a noise, he looked up and watched as a helicopter flew overhead, dumped water onto the flames, then turned around and went back for more.

Ken created the amazing statues that locals and visitors see throughout Bundanoon, Penrose and Wingello, memorialising the flora and fauna native to this part of the Southern Highlands.

The Wingello Village Store wanted to let everyone know that he was the master craftsman behind these local treasures, and commissioned Ken to make a statue of the local Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo. Ken poked around the Bundanoon quarry and found a piece that gave him the right inspiration. He had it delivered near his home and began working on it over a twelve-month period. The result is the magnificent **Kenneth the Cockatoo**, which stands over two metres tall, capturing the intensity of a local Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo gnawing intently on banksia seed pods. Detailed front and back, it begins as two-dimensional carving at the base, becoming three-dimensional as it winds up to the top. You can almost hear the cocky digging into his supper.

Ken was very generous with his time and was involved with many people across the Southern Highlands.


It's well worth a small trip to explore the southern villages and enjoy the creations of Ken McDonald - one of his many legacies to the rich tapestry of the Southern Highlands.



## Update on The Most Important Tree

The Council has doubled down regarding the misplaced tree. Lessons we have learned:

1. If the Council does anything stupid, it **MUST** be complained about immediately. Otherwise, they will say you didn't notice, and now it's permanent.
2. Master Plans are only advisory for the Council, but **YOU** must obey their requirements.
3. Even a stupid decision will be defended tooth and nail by those in lovely offices nowhere near those affected.
4. A tree providing no use for locals cannot be moved.

<p><b>The Stonemason's Trail</b></p> <p>Have a scenic drive of the Southern Villages and enjoy the statues Ken McDonald has carved.</p> <p><a href="https://www.visitsouthernhighlands.com.au/trip-ideas/the-stonemasons-trail/">https://www.visitsouthernhighlands.com.au/trip-ideas/the-stonemasons-trail/</a></p> 	<p>Fire season ended <b>1 April</b></p> <p>Check if you can burn on your property.</p>	<p><b>Bin Collection Mondays</b></p> <p><b>July</b></p> <p>6 ● Green 13 ● Yellow 20 ● Green 27 ● Yellow</p>	<p><b>Store Opening Hours</b></p> <p>Ph: 02 4884 4340 / 0493 521 856</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Mon - Fri:</td> <td>7:00am - 4:00pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weekends:</td> <td>8:00am - 3:00pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public holidays:</td> <td>8:00am - 10:30am</td> </tr> </table> <p>We are open <b>Every Day</b> except Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Christmas, Boxing &amp; New Year's Days.</p>	Mon - Fri:	7:00am - 4:00pm	Weekends:	8:00am - 3:00pm	Public holidays:	8:00am - 10:30am
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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. 9:00am on the 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: 6 June, 4 July, 2 August)*

### Craft Afternoon

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. Book the date.

### Bush Babies Play Group

The Wingello Village Association has started a Wingello Play Group for Mums and babies.

It is every Tuesday during school term from 10am to 12 Midday at the Wingello Village Hall. Lots of children at every meeting. Great signs for the future of Wingello!

## Fire Brigade News

The past two months have been a busy period for Wingello Rural Fire Brigade. An increase in district training, inter-brigade training and operational callouts has kept our members actively engaged both in the field and within the community.

Over the past eight weeks, our brigade has responded to 13 incidents, including:

- 1 structure fire
- 2 vehicle fires
- 6 motor vehicle accidents
- 4 fire calls

We also recently held our Annual General Meeting, where members reflected on another successful year and recognised the outstanding commitment of our volunteers.

Congratulations to Carlyle Seers, Rudy van Acker and Mark Mazzini, who were each presented with the Premier's Citation in recognition of their front-line operational service during the 2021-2023 flood emergency.

The AGM also saw the election of Wingello Rural Fire Brigade's officers for the 2026/27 season. *(as per picture Left to right)*

Deputy: Sam Thomas

Deputy: Johnny Luke

Deputy: Carlyle Seers

Captain: Mark Mazzini

Senior Deputy Captain: Ben Grosskreutz

Deputy: Kev Fitzgerald

Deputy: Mark Wilson

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MONDAY 13th JULY | 11am-2pm

65 RAILWAY PARADE, WINGELLO

SCAN TO BOOK YOUR SPOT!



Congratulations to all our incoming officers. We look forward to another safe and successful season serving our community.





NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

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