

Summer is near. Are you ready?

Now is the time to prepare and enjoy the seasons

The place name "Wingello" is the local Aboriginal word meaning "The Burning Place" or something similar. That gives us a good clue that bushfires are a thing for the area going back centuries.

Many residents of Wingello have arrived since the 2020 fires and may not have looked into life in a bush fire prone area. Historically we get medium fires every 10 years, big fires every 20 and really bad fires every 40. Or so.

The severity of a fire is normally related to the extent and duration of drought in the years beforehand. In 2017 and 2018 we had 80% of normal rainfall, then 2019 was only 40% of normal. That left everything tinder dry - the kind of weather our local gum trees love as they like to propagate through fire.

Over the years, locals have learned what works best to enjoy the lovely Wingello Summer and prepare themselves, their families and their homes in case the bush fire threat becomes a reality.

The RFS has a "Bushfire Ready Pack" *(available at the Wingello Store and part of the new residents' Welcome Pack)* and it covers the four critical steps:

1. **Discuss what to do if a bush fire threatens your home**
   In 2019/2020 we had a number of family discussions, outlining the possible sources of bush fire threats and what we would do. When it all hit on 4 January 2020, we simply put our plan into action.
2. **Prepare your home for bush fire season**
   Clean up all the stuff around your home that can catch fire. Trim the trees and keep the grass low.
3. **Know the bush fire Alert Levels**
   The Hazards Near Me app is excellent. Set your home and the 20km around as your "Watch Zone", and you will get an alert if a fire starts.
4. **Keep up to date with Bush Fire information**
   The Hazards Near Me app, RFS websites, information screen in the shop *(which the local brigade uses if fire threats are high)* and the store Facebook page are all good sources of local news.

In addition, if you are considering staying and defending your home, make sure you are properly prepared:

1. **Mentally** - bushfires are loud. The smoke, flames and wind make it hard to see, hear and breathe, even with the right protective gear.
2. **Community** - plan any defence with others such as family, friends and neighbours. Defending your home on your own is very dangerous. When we defended our home in 2020, we took regular breaks, tag-teaming inside and outside. One local defended his home when a huge branch, caught by the heavy wind, smashed down right beside him. He realised then that if it had hit him, he would be on his own, and no-one would have known.
3. **Protective Gear** - Non-flammable clothing and footwear *(shorts, thongs and Crocs don't count)*, head coverings, sealed eyewear, P2 or better masks, and so on. The most prevalent danger is ember attack, with burning embers, leaves, twigs and branches carried in all directions by the wind.
4. **Equipment** - A fuel-powered generator is essential. Power will normally be one of the first things to go, and you need power to get water from your tanks or bores. Good hoses that won't melt. Buckets, shovels and more.

In 2020 our fire brigade and all the others who rushed to help us from near and far mounted a great defence of the sudden bushfire that went through Wingello. Many pockets of Wingello were also saved by those who were properly prepared and defended their homes and those of their neighbours. It was an excellent team effort.

Wingello is a great place to live. Prepare you, your family and your home to enjoy it to the fullest.

Fire season started
1 October
NO FIRES
without a permit.

Library Bus
Tuesdays 2:15 to 3:15
In front of the park
Nov 3,17 - Dec 1,15

Bin Collection
Mondays
November

2	Yellow
9	Green
16	Yellow
23	Green
30	Yellow

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.

Lots of Wingello Events

The Men's Breakfast continues to be a great time to gather and chat with no particular agenda. We meet at 9:00am on the first Saturday of every month at the Wingello Village Store for a general chat and to solve the problems of the world, then do it all again next month.

(Next: 5 December, 2 January, 6 February)

Craft Afternoon

The Wingello Village Association's informal craft afternoons and catch-ups continue. Held on the first Saturday of the month in the meeting room of Wingello Hall from 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 cover the hall hire and afternoon tea. Save the date.

Bush Babies Play Group

The Wingello Village Association has 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!

The Hallowed Eve Lolly Walk

The Wingello Village Association organised a community event called the "Hallowed Eve Lolly Walk."

Parents and children had the opportunity to dress up in all sorts of costumes and as a group follow a pre-organised route and collect lollies from various homes where stands had been set up.

It wasn't Trick-or-Treat. It was "Thank you for the lollies".

Afterwards we had a little "Best Costume" competition based on a community vote and many enjoyed a barbecue and playing in the marvellous Casburn Park. There were around 100 children and about the same number of parents and friends. It was great fun for young and old!



Fire Brigade News

With warmer weather approaching, it's important to stay informed with real-time alerts for bush fires and other emergencies in your area. Use the Hazards Near Me app to set a Watch Zone and get notified about incidents near the places that matter most to you.

For more information or to download the Hazards Near Me app visit https://www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/hazards-near-me-app

If you'd like advice on preparing your property or creating your Bush Fire Survival Plan, feel free to have a chat with one of our officers or come down to the Brigade Station on Wednesdays from 19:30.

