

Why be
anywhere
else?



Checking out the
Robertson Show

Support your local shops

Or they will go away and never return

Tallong, Wingello and Penrose all have their own village stores which provide a variety of services for their villagers. Each store has its own different blend of services and does its best to provide many personalised services for their local area by providing:

- A meeting place
- Local knowledge
- Basic essentials
- Food and coffee
- Local employment
- and other specialist services.

All three village stores offer irreplaceable services.

All three shops provide a place that cares about the local village because it is part of the village. Establishments in nearby towns do not care about Penrose, Wingello or Tallong - naturally they are primarily interested in their own locations.

Unfortunately, local support for each store is barely sufficient to provide a reasonable living for the owners. If each store had to rely on support from their own village, we would have no local village stores. Even the Australia Post support for Wingello and Penrose is only a fraction of the minimum wage.

We are fortunate that each store sees their mission as more than just a money making enterprise. That is because the store is more than just another business. It is a cornerstone of the village.

Imagine if your Village Store closed down.

That milk that was slightly cheaper is still over an hour's return drive away. That continually updated local bulletin board and information source now has nowhere to be. That place where you could pop in during your walk around the village and get an ice-cream, coffee or meal is just another abandoned building. The daily newspaper will cost about \$5 in petrol and 30 minutes return drive.

The nearest restaurant to bring your friends to is now a lot further away.



Luckily we live in such a splendid part of the world, and many tourists travel to and through our villages providing much needed additional income. In Wingello we have the mountain and road cyclists, the campers in the Forest, tourists who just want to experience an Australian village and travellers who are looking for a break in a long drive.

"But," some say, "The store did not give me the service I expected, so I won't go there again."

In all retail enterprises, there are times when a service has been less than excellent. When this happens in a big store in a faceless city, most of us still buy from that shop. But with a small store, where there is personal rapport with the customers, often we tend to take errors personally.

However, any errors are not personal. They may happen due to an oversight, a misunderstanding, a flaw in training or global warming. Why would a business that aims to provide personal service deliberately make errors?

Unfortunately, in many cases the error is not reported to the business in question so it can be corrected. Instead, the business is left wondering what happened to that customer. All three stores do not want their local customers - who they all know by name - to stop visiting the shop. Not just because of the lost business, but because each store wants to be a hub for all the community.

I know that whenever we are told of any mistakes we have made, we have made the changes to correct the error. Not surprisingly, errors of which we have not been told, may remain uncorrected.

Your Village needs the Village Store

If you want your village to be more than just an empty residential village, you need to support your local village store. It is at the store you will meet many of your neighbours, and that knowledge of who your neighbours are transforms our villages from nameless housing tracts to a home worth living in.

When we had the Catastrophic fire day, it was the combination of the fire brigade and store which kept everyone informed of local conditions.

Support Local.

Clean Up Day - Done!

Clean Up day success!

Thank you to all the volunteers who joined in the Clean Up day on 17 March. Having Council support made the job much easier with bags provided and rubbish collection catered for.



The deferred date was perfect for collecting rubbish - bright and clear but not too hot. Next year we can do it again to help our village be a cleaner place to be.

Want full time work?

Now that Jacob has succeeded in getting an apprenticeship with Petersen's Garage, we are looking for a young person - 16 to 19 years old - who would like to work during the week at the Wingello Village Store.



We provide full training in Australia Post, cafe, restaurant, retail, food safety and all aspects of our rather diverse business. Also, we arrange for each person to complete a fully accredited Level III certificate in Retail Management, which counts as a TAFE qualification and can be used as qualifying education for University entry. In the last four years our staff have completed 3 level III certificates, one Level IV and Tim and James are currently working on their certificates.

Full award wages are paid, as well as proper superannuation and workplace conditions.

If you are interested, call David on 0400 690 214 or pop in and see us at the Store.

Wingello Fire Brigade News

Well, March has come and gone and we have had mixed weather throughout the month, but thankfully no fires around Wingello or close by. We had only one call out during this month and that was for a tree down along Highland Way at around 5:00 am that blocked the road completely. Not a good time to be called out but better than 2:00 am. Along with the Shire council and the police who were in attendance, the road was cleared fairly quickly with no damage to any property or person.

Other than that, our brigade has been busy with training - that is one thing that never changes as the more training we have the better we are equipped to deal with any incident.

A recent night's training was organised by our training officers to simulate a real call out. The pagers went off as we were supposedly doing what we thought was a map training exercise and half way to the designated map points we were called to attend a car fire. This was again set up to simulate a real call out. It turned out to be a very good exercise and we all appreciated the effort our training officers put in to make it feel authentic. All in all, a quiet month and let's hope it stays that way for some time.

The Brigade was busy for the Brigadoon weekend and apart from assisting in some HR's within the shire within the next

few weeks it looks as if the fire season will be soon over. But always keep in mind that fires can occur at any time especially with the onset of winter. Talking about winter let's hope all those who have fuel fires have done their maintenance before the winter starts and taken the precaution to clean out their chimneys before the cold comes along. Many fires start in the winter time from fuel fires within the house along with radiators and such like. So please take care.

We have had another of our new Brigade members go through his Basic Fire Fighting course and has just his assessment to complete to be classified as BF. So far Scotty Carpenter has proven a willing learner, well done Scotty.

The others Heidi, Fran and Ron will go through their basic in the next few months.

Until next time take care and remember:

Prepare. Act. Survive.



Store Opening Hours

Phone: 02 4884 4340

Mon - Thu:	7:30 am - 6:00 pm
Fridays:	7:30 am - 9:00 pm (Restaurant till later in the evening!)
Weekends:	8:00am - 2:30pm
Public holidays:	8:00am - 10:30am

We are open **Every Day** except Good Friday and Christmas.