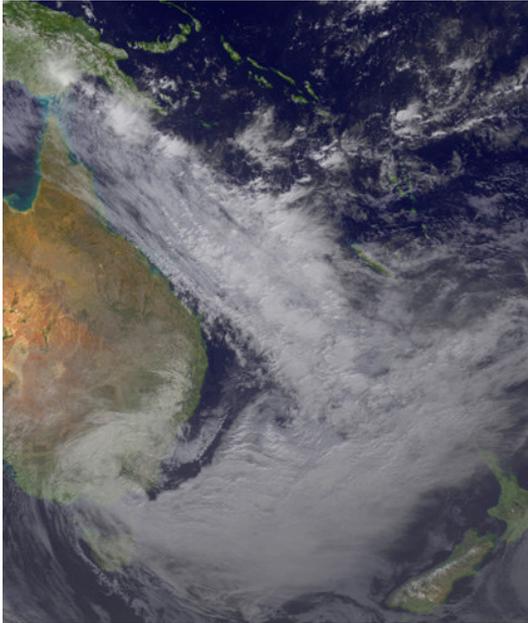


Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade * No 103 * June 2010



Weather patterns and wind (BoM pic)

Committee 2010-2011:

Fire Captain: Graham Povey
Senior Deputy: Nick Goldie
Deputies: Bob Morison, Jeremy Mears, Barry Woolacott
President: Martin Hughes
Secretary: Nick Goldie
Treasurer: Bob Morison
Training Officer: Jeremy Mears
Equipment Officer: Michael Burton
Community Awareness: Nick Goldie
Fundraising: Sandra Lauer
Permits: Graham Povey
NSW RFS Delegate: Jeremy Mears

Call out:

At 0530 on the (frosty) morning of *Friday 11 June*, there was a pager call for a structural fire. The fire was in a small building on the Rothlyn Road, south of Bredbo. Colinton *One* (Graham, Barry, Jacqui) joined Bredbo *One* and *Seven*, and a unit from the NSW Fire Brigades, while a crew for Colinton *Seven Alpha* was on standby (drinking tea). The fire was quickly controlled by the NSW crew and the RFS units were stood down within an hour. 

Membership:

Membership: please pay by cash at training, or cheque to The Treasurer, Colinton Rural Fire Brigade, 88 Weemala Lane, Michelago NSW 2620.

Membership fees: \$15.00 for adults, \$5.00 for juniors. Donations are always welcome. Please provide a return address so a receipt can be mailed to you. 

Membership (2):

adapted from the Monaro RFS website

There have been a number of cases where financial members of local brigades have incorrectly assumed that they automatically are full members of the RFS.

Many brigades have people who contribute financially to that brigade without ever becoming a member of the RFS. This situation becomes a problem when those people nominate for a course or make other claims relating to RFS service or membership benefits.

Anyone who needs to upgrade their membership status can complete a new membership form

or an existing membership form (depending upon the circumstances). Your local fire control centre staff can help with this process. (Note: consult your local Executive first.)

Pre-Requisites

For each qualification there are a number of competencies that must be assessed before the qualification can be awarded. Sometimes these competencies are awarded as part of previous training and assessment. Competencies that have been awarded as part of earlier training and assessment are known as pre-requisites.

How does the nominations process help?

An early nomination to attend a training event gives our Learning and Development Officer enough time to review the nomination to ensure that:

- The nominee is indeed a member of the RFS
- All of the pre-requisites have been addressed.

The problems associated with failure to nominate

Members who attend organised training courses without first nominating can create problems such as:

- Membership status may not be up to date (insurance concerns).
- Insufficient pre-requisites that may void the qualification.
- Insufficient resources to run the course (instructors, food and training material)

It is particularly unfair when others have been turned down then a

member who did not nominate expects to be included.

In fairness to all of our members we will be tightening up on this issue. ↪

A trip overseas, anyone?

Adapted from the Monaro RFS website

The RFS is calling for nominations from volunteers wishing to be considered for overseas deployment. Nominations, using the correct nomination form, must be received by the end of June.

Applicants need to have a current passport, and the permission of their manager or employer (and presumably, their spouse or partner). Selection will be based on training qualifications and physical fitness (not seniority), and then matched to any request for assistance from an overseas agency.

The assessment known as “the arduous pack test” will be carried out. (This consists of a 4.83km walk on level ground, within 45 minutes, while carrying a pack weighing 20.4kg. This is a pre-requisite for overseas deployment, and is required - in pounds and miles - by all fire fighting agencies in the USA.)

Note that previous deployment selections have been drawn from staff and volunteers with a well developed number of qualifications, particularly qualifications related to fire management and also qualifications related to aviation. ↪

Water bombers:

from the Weekly Times, June 17, 2010
by Cimara Pearce

A DECISION to include a multi-million dollar aerial water bomber in Victoria's fire fighting armoury won't be made until later this year. The Bushfire CRC is conducting a scientific assessment on Vicki, the DC-10 converted passenger plane from the US, which was on trial in Victoria earlier this year.

A review of the aircraft's effectiveness in fighting Victorian bushfires will be handed to the State Government in coming months. The water bomber was housed at Avalon airport as part of the \$10 million trial. More than 40,000 litres of retardant was dropped in the Enfield State Forest, southwest of Ballarat, during a March trial.

A second test was conducted at a private farm near Shelford in which the DC-10 dropped two half loads of retardant on a paddock of stubble.



All aviation is not helicopters ...

Training:

The Colinton Brigade conducts training every month on the second Saturday, at two o'clock, at the Station at Colinton. Everyone is welcome.

The Junior brigade is in action, every second Thursday night. Contact Bob Morison, Tony Campbell or Michael Burton for details.



Items for **The Colinton Courier** to Nick Goldie at

horehound@yless4u.com.au

02 6235 9190

by the first Saturday each month, or to any Committee member. For production assistance we are grateful to:

*Noel Teys Real Estate 0428 625 307
and



Corporate Design
& Print Solutions

The Colinton Courier is also available at

www.michelagoregion.org.au/bushfire/brigades.htm

Views expressed in The Colinton Courier are not necessarily those of the editor, the Brigade, or the RFS.



Training (2):

Some courses of interest, all in Cooma, but see the Monaro RFS website for updates and courses at other centres. Please let Training Officer Jeremy know, if you are interested in attending any of these courses.

Tuesday 22 June – Sunday 27 June, TFT (Trim and Crosscut Felled Trees),

Also TFI (Tree Falling Intermediate)

Thursday 5 August – Sunday 8 August, BF (Bush Firefighter)

Thursday 19 August – Sunday 22 August, VF (Village Firefighter)

Training (3):

(from the Monaro RFS website)

Another excellent training opportunity has become available as part of an agricultural Lovegrass burn. Colinton brigade is planning to conduct the burn

on 24th July 2010 with the backup date set as the 31st July 2010. Firefighters from other brigades are welcome to attend this burn to assist and / or to complete their BF training.

Colinton Captain will be the IC.

We need to know who can assist before Wednesday 21st July for catering purposes. Fire crews should contact their Captain in the first instance then pass on the details of their availability to Colinton Captain. Individuals who are seeking assessment are requested to discuss their participation with their Captain and Training Officer before contacting Mick Holton (L&D Monaro Team) or nominating online.

Out of area crews may also be interested in this event if they have not experienced a Lovegrass fire.

We will be meeting at the Colinton Fire Shed at midday (final times may need to be revised). 

Blowin' in the wind ...:

(This may come as no surprise – but it's nice to have it scientifically proven ...)

Wind speed plays a bigger role than temperature in creating dangerous conditions for bushfires, says Dr Andrew Dowdy a physicist from the Bureau of Meteorology.

His work with the Bushfire CRC has led to new possibilities for predicting bushfire conditions based on the weather. It was presented for the first time in public in June at *Fresh Science* – a national science communication event at the Melbourne Museum.

Andrew is one of 16 winners from across Australia.

In fact, temperature is the third-ranked factor in predicting severe bushfire weather conditions behind wind speed and low humidity, Andrew says. He hopes that a greater understanding of weather conditions associated with bushfires will

result in better preparation, faster response and a reduction in the damage they cause.

“In future, we hope people will be thinking, ‘Tomorrow is going to be **windy**, dry and hot so it could be dangerous for bushfires’ rather than just focusing on the temperature,” he said.

As a practical outcome of this research, a publicly available website has been set up with maps of bushfire weather forecasts throughout Australia, together with ratings in terms of local climate.

It is at http://www.cawcr.gov.au/projects/fire_wx/index.php. 



Essential numbers

Emergency 000

Fire:

***Cooma Monaro Fire Control
(24 hrs)
1 300 722 164
02-6455 0455***

Fire:

***Captain and Permit Officer:
Graham Povey***

***02-6454 4150
0419 406 908***

