

Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade * No 105 * August 2010



Kirsti in love grass

Committee 2010-2011:

Fire Captain: Graham Povey
Senior Deputy: Nick Goldie
Deputies: Bob Morison, Jeremy Mears, Barry Woolcott
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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 RFSA Delegate: Jeremy Mears

**RFS OPEN DAY
SATURDAY 25 SEPTEMBER**

Call out:

Nil



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.



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, once a month on the second Thursday of the month. Contact Michael Burton (0407 003 392) for details.



Training 2:

On Saturday 24 July, units from Michelago, Numeralla, Smiths Road, Shannons Flat and Bredbo joined forces with Colinton (Kim, Barry, Jacqui, Daniel, Jeremy, Sandra, Kirsti, Nick, Bob, Captain Graham as OIC), to carry out a lovegrass burn on the Predator Paintball property west of the Monaro Highway. The burn was preceded by a BBQ at paintball central. The burn covered an area of about fifteen hectares, in a long paddock parallel with the river, bounded on one side by a road, and the other by uneven scrub. A light southerly took the flames quickly across the grassland, to meet a back-burn north of the

huts and palisades used by the paintballers. (There was a certain amount of unexploded ordnance in the grass, in the form of whole paint-balls ... which were launched again ... and again). A view from above – a helicopter’s-eye-view – would have seen a flawless burn, with the perimeter fires at all times under control, and the flames converging nicely in the centre before dying away.

✍



Daniel on the edge ...

Many of the thirty people attending the burn were new(-ish) members, who had completed their Basic Firefighter course, needing only some practical experience to achieve their certificate.

Early in proceedings, a radio message for Bredbo Captain Sparky told him of a motor vehicle accident near Billilingara Road, so he left to gather a Bredbo crew and head for the accident scene. ✍



After the burn ...

Training 3:

On Thursday, Saturday and Sunday 7,7,8 August, a Basic Firefighter course was held at the Colinton station. About twenty people attended, with many new Bredbo members, and including Colinton members Jo, Gary, Ann and Caroline, as well as instructors Graham, Jeremy and Nick. Cooma-Monaro Learning and Development Officer Mick Holton was in over-all charge, with Bredbo Captain Sparky present in a consultancy role. Thanks as well to Jeanette Holton for her imaginative catering for lunch on Saturday and Sunday.

All present enjoyed the Colinton facilities, most especially the 'climate control' air conditioning, which kept the building at a most comfortable temperature. Practical exercises including ropes and ladders, fire extinguishers and pumps, radio comms, and a small burn, were (reluctantly) held outside in the chill. ↪

Russian fire:

from a BBC and Agence France-Presse report

Global warming is at least partially to blame for a recent bout of hot and dry weather that has triggered wildfires in Russia.

"The Russian heatwave is related to a persistent pattern of circulation drawing air from the south and east (the very warm steppes)," Dr. Jeff Knight, a climate variability scientist at the UK Met Office, says.

"Circulation anomalies tend to create warm and cool anomalies: while it has been very hot in western Russia, it has been cooler than average in adjacent parts of Siberia that lie on the other side of the high pressure system where Arctic air is being drawn southwards," he adds. "Some long-term records have been broken, for example the highest daily temperature in Moscow. We expect more extreme high temperatures as the climate changes. This means that when weather fluctuations promote high temperatures, there is more likelihood of records being broken."

Those record temperatures, some surpassing 38 degrees Celsius, could get even hotter in the years to come, according to WWF Russia climate chief Dr. Alexei Kokorin.

"We have to get ready to fight such fires in the future because there is a great possibility that such a summer will be repeated. This tendency won't stop in the coming 40 years or so, until the

greenhouse gas emissions are reduced," he told the BBC.

"In a few decades, fires may affect the main forest regions of Russia," Kokorin adds. "We can now say that the wave of abnormal phenomena that the rest of the world has been experiencing has finally reached central Russia."

In addition to the Moscow-area wildfires, experts also point out that the flooding in Pakistan that has left millions homeless and similar instances of severe weather over the past several months are also in line with 'with climatic projections in a warming planet,' according to AFP reporter Anne Chaon.

However, according to Chaon's report, one summer's worth of such conditions by itself "isn't sufficient evidence" to either confirm or deny the existence and/or impact of global climate change.

"One cannot conclude 100 percent that nothing like this has happened in the past 200 years, but the suspicion is there. Even if it's only a suspicion," IPCC Vice President Jean-Pascal van Ypersele told AFP, "these are events which reproduce and intensify in a climate disturbed by greenhouse gas pollution. Extreme events are one of the ways in which climatic changes become dramatically visible."

According to IPCC statistics, the length and intensity of droughts and heatwaves like the one currently effecting Russia has increased in correlation with the average temperature of the planet. A report released earlier this month by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) confirms that the planet's average temperature reached record highs during the first half of 2010.

"Whether in frequency or intensity, virtually every year has broken records, and sometimes several times in a week," Omar Baddour of the World Meteorological Organization told AFP.

"In Russia, the record temperature in Moscow (38.2 degrees Celsius, 100.8 degrees Fahrenheit in late July)--which had not been seen since records began 130 years ago--was broken again at the start of August. In Pakistan, the magnitude of the floods is unheard of," Baddour adds.

"In both cases, it is an unprecedented situation," he says. "The succession of extremes and the acceleration of records conform with IPCC projections. But one must observe the extremes over many years to draw conclusions in terms of climate."



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



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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.



Victorian Fires:

The Report and Recommendations of the
Royal Commission into the Victorian fires
are available at:

<http://royalcommission.vic.gov.au/Commission-Reports>



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



Open Day

The state-wide RFS Open Day
2010 will be held on
Saturday 25 September.

This year, Colinton Brigade has
invited members of the Bredbo
Brigade to join us at Colinton, for
a barbecue, and to show off their
equipment and skills.

We invite all members of the
public to come and share the day,
share the barbecue, meet your
local brigade members, and view
the trucks, the equipment, and the
activities, any time from mid-
morning until mid afternoon.

