

# Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade \* No 111 \* February 2011



*Australia Day: Martin and Jeremy with  
Cindy Pan at Colinton Rest Area*

## Committee 2010-2011:

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

## Call out:

On *Saturday 22 January* Seven Alpha (Michael, Nick) responded to a smoke sighting along the highway near Baroona Road. The landowner was burning serrated tussock, in light drizzle, and was reminded of the need to hold a permit for any outdoor fire.

*And heard on the radio:* a truck roll-over somewhere near Berridale, which was complicated by the fact that the truck was full of beehives, and crews responding to the incident were forced by indignant bees to maintain a respectful distance ...

## TOBAN:

The first **Total Fire Ban** for the year was declared for *Tuesday 1 February*, and another for *Friday 4 February* (which was revoked the following morning).

A reminder: during a TOBAN, there is *total ban on any sort of outside fire*, even where permits have been issued.

Machinery such as slashers and welders which can cause sparks are also prohibited.

TOBANs usually run from midnight to midnight. When in doubt, ask your local brigade, or Cooma Fire Control Centre

**1 300 722 164**

## TOBAN 2:

We note that an off-duty policeman has been charged with lighting the Perth fire which destroyed 72 houses – the fire was started by sparks from an angle-grinder he was using, during a Total Fire Ban. He faces a fine of \$25,000 and a year in prison. 

## 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. ***If possible, crews are asked to arrive at 1330 to check the trucks before training.***

The Junior brigade is in action, once a month on the second Thursday of the month. Contact Michael Burton (0407 003 392) for details. 

## Snakes:

With many snakes emerging in the recent hot weather, it was timely that Colinton member Michael attended a snake handling course at London Bridge near Googong. There were about forty people attending the course, says Michael, of all ages and shapes and sizes, though one of the qualifications for being able to do the course was 'to be able to comfortably reach to the ground' - as well as a number

of enthusiastic snakes (copperhead, black, and brown).

Michael's take-home message:

*Discourage snakes from visiting your garden by removing piles of timber, rubbish etc. If you see a snake in close proximity to your house or garden, stay calm as it could be just passing through. Before ringing for help make sure someone is watching the snake - we need to know exactly where it is if we are to catch it.*

**NEVER TRY TO CATCH OR KILL A SNAKE YOURSELF.**

*You can contact WILDCARE Queanbeyan 6299 1966 (24 hours) or one of the two trained snake catchers in the Colinton area, Michael Burton 0407 003 392 or Gill Robinson 6235 9334.* 

## Social networking:

*Our friend Bruce of the Numeralla Brigade sent us the following information:*

The RFS has accounts on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. It's a great way of getting first hand information that is reliable, accurate and timely.

Facebook - NSWRFs:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/NSW-Rural-Fire-Service/320415532584>

Facebook - RFSmajorfires:

<http://www.facebook.com/nswrfs>

Twitter - NSWRFs:

<http://twitter.com/nswrfs>

Twitter - RFSmajorfires:

<http://twitter.com/rfsmajorfires>

YouTube - NSWRFs:

<http://www.youtube.com/nswrfs> 

## RFSA calls for hazard reduction audit:

*December 2010*

The Rural Fire Service Association (RFSA), the representative organisation for Rural Fire Service volunteer fire fighters

and staff, has released its NSW State Election Policy for 2011 entitled *Building a Rural Fire Service for 2030* in which it calls for an annual hazard reduction audit, and warns that hazard reduction must be continued in fire prone areas despite the recent floods, or the State could face a devastating fire season next year.

RFSA President Brian McKinlay says hazard reduction is one of a number of key issues addressed in the Association's State Election Policy for fire management in NSW, including supporting employers of volunteers, Rural Fire Service funding and fire district boundaries.

"While the current flooding across the State has put hazard reduction further from the public's attention, it's vital that hazard reduction is top of mind, given the dangers we face as early as the middle of next year with significantly increased fuel loads as a result of all this rain," Mr McKinlay says.

The State Government needs to act immediately, says Mr McKinley, to establish an audit process to assess the true position of all fire prone areas in the State, and to develop a comprehensive strategy to ensure that all necessary precautions are taken.

"The RFSA is calling for an annual audit for all State and Local Government land management agencies regarding the appropriateness, completeness and adequacy of the hazard reduction, fire trail construction and maintenance, and other bush fire risk mitigation activities of all agencies.

"This should be conducted by the Commissioner of the Rural Fire Service, given the RFS's experience and expertise across all bushfire risk management and mitigation areas," Mr McKinlay says.

The Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission Reports recognised that bushfire hazard reduction and the impact of climate change

are linked, according to Mr McKinlay, and that all State and Local Government land management agencies have a responsibility to respond.

✎

*Items for **The Colinton Courier** to Nick Goldie at [horehound@yless4u.com.au](mailto: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](http://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.*

✎

### **Australia Day Driver Reviver:**

Dr Cindy Pan, medical practitioner, best-selling author and television presenter, accompanied by her two children Anton (7) and Jeremy (5), was one of two Australia Day Ambassadors allocated to Cooma-Monaro Shire for the Australia Day celebrations.

Cindy dropped in to the Colinton Rest Area on her way from the Michelago Village Australia Day BBQ breakfast to the Bredbo Village celebrations. The brigade was supporting the Driver Reviver station set up at the Rest Area by the Michelago Region Community Association.

Cindy enjoyed talking to the volunteers and also some overseas travellers who had

stopped off for a break at the Rest Area. Her two boys were thrilled to have a ride in the tanker and were reluctant to get down from the cab. After being entertained by the Bredbo community, Cindy went on to Cooma for the official Australia Day ceremonies held in Centennial Park. ↪

trade skills (carpentry, welding, painting, digging holes) to assist with this project. Contact Nick (6235 9190) or Jeremy (6100 1100) if you can help. ↪

### **Vale Francis:**

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Francis Goodwin.

Francis was a long serving and very valuable member of the Rural Fire Service, He was well known and liked by his fellow firefighters and friends.

He recently had some heart trouble and succumbed to a heart attack on February 3rd, whilst preparing his truck to load some stock near Braidwood.

Francis was an active member of the Numeralla Brigade for over 50 years and Captain for 27 years. ↪

↪  
**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**

↪

### **Hot house:**

As we mentioned in a previous issue, the Colinton Brigade and the Berridale Brigade were each fortunate to receive substantial funding from the Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme, Emergency Management NSW, each to build a 'hot house' for training volunteers.

The plan is to build a two-storey metal structure, with an associated concrete slab, where 'structural' and MVA scenarios can be realistically carried out. Other brigades (and indeed other agencies) will be encouraged to use the two facilities.

Funding is now available, and work will begin soon. We are asking anyone with



*Francis Goodwin, Tea Tree Swamp, 2007*